



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

**National Report regarding the Bologna
Process implementation
2009-2012**

Georgia

Part 1.0 BFUG Data Collection: administrative information

For which country do you fill in the questionnaire?

Georgia

Name(s) of the responsible BFUG member(s)

Tamar Mamukelashvili Head of International Relations Division, Public Relations Department, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Ekaterine Chikhladze Chief Specialist, International Relations Division, Public Relations Department, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Email address of the responsible BFUG member(s)

t_mamukelashvili@mes.gov.ge echikhladze@mes.gov.ge

Contributors to the report

Government representatives = Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE) under Ministry

Contributors to the report

Employer representatives = N/A

Contributors to the report

Student representatives = representatives of student self- government bodies of HEIs of Georgia (public and private)

Contributors to the report

Academic and other staff representatives = academic staff of HEIs of Georgia

Contributors to the report

Other (please specify) = N/A

Part 1.1 BFUG Data Collection on Context and Structures

1. Do your steering documents for higher education policy explicitly take account of demographic projections for your country?

Yes

2. How do these projections affect higher education policy planning?

Among priorities identified in higher education policy is access to higher education for citizens of Georgia who are not native Georgian speakers (including ethnic minorities). For these groups one preparatory year for higher education programme, with training courses in Georgian Language, was added upon successful completion of which they will continue their studies on bachelor degree programme (240 ECTS). Needs-based state grants programme is implemented for underrepresented social categories of students. The categories of students eligible for needs-based grants include students from highland areas and ecological migrant students; IDP students from Abkhazia and South Ossetia; graduates from minority schools; students of the KIA and MIA military families; Decedents of deported minority groups; orphans and students from large families (four and more siblings); Students impacted by Russian aggression, August, 2008 Facilitation of admission at higher education institutions of students coming from abroad is achieved through the special procedures - the school-graduates who received secondary general education or education equal to it abroad and during last 2 years have been receiving general education abroad or students who have been living abroad during last two or more years and study at higher educational institution recognized by the legislation of that country are eligible to be admitted at accredited higher education institutions without passing unified national Exams pursuant regulations established by the ministry of education and Science of Georgia. www.mes.gov.ge Georgia faces shortage of qualified personnel in engineering, technologies, applied and natural sciences that is of outmost importance for the development of these sectors and the country as a whole. Ministry of Education and Science has launched programme that will enable Georgian students to take their masters courses in the above-mentioned fields in worlds leading universities abroad.

3. Which of the following statements correspond to your higher education system?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher education institutions can be either academically or professionally oriented | According to the "Law on Higher Education of Georgia" higher education institutions are entitled to implement professional education programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher education institutions are only academically oriented | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher education institutions are either public or private | • According to the "Law on Higher Education of Georgia" higher education institutions can be established as legal entities of public or private law. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All higher education institutions are public | |

4. What is the number of institutions in the categories identified?

There are 63 accredited HEIs in Georgia. Out of which 21 are public, 42 are private. There are 8 colleges implementing first cycle programs only, 30 teaching universities implementing first and second cycle programs and 25 universities that are implementing all three cycle programs.

5. GENERAL DATA ON HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

5.1. Please provide the (approximate) percentages of first cycle study programmes across the following categories:

180 ECTS = 0

240 ECTS = 100

Other number of ECTS = 0

5.2. Please provide the (approximate) percentage of the total number of first cycle students enrolled in programmes of the following length:

180 ECTS = 0

240 ECTS = 100

Other number of ECTS = 0

5.3. Do degree programmes exist outside the typical Bologna 180-240 ECTS first cycle model (and/or calculated in years rather than credits)?

These may include integrated/long programmes leading either to a first or a second cycle degree.

Yes

5.4. In which study fields do these study programmes exist?

Medical Education, Veterinary Medicine.

5.5. What is the typical length of these degree programmes outside the Bologna 180-240 ECTS model?

300-360 credits

5.6. What (approximate) percentage of all students studying for a first degree (including students enrolled in the Bologna cycle structures) is enrolled in these programmes?

7%

5.7. Please provide the (approximate) percentage of second cycle (master) programmes of the following length:

60-75 ECTS = 0

90 ECTS = 0

120 ECTS = 100

Other = 0

5.8. Please provide the percentages of the total number of second cycle students enrolled in programmes of the following length.

60-75 ECTS = 0

90 ECTS = 0

120 ECTS = 100

Other = 0

5.9. Do second cycle degree programmes exist in your country *outside* the typical Bologna model (i.e. other than 60-120 ECTS and/or calculated in years rather than credits)?

No

5.10. What is the typical length of these second cycle programmes outside the typical Bologna model?

5.11. What percentage of all second cycle students is enrolled in these programmes?

0

5.12. In which study fields to these programmes exist?

5.13. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding general data on your country's higher education system.

6. PROGRESSION BETWEEN CYCLES

6.1. What percentage of first cycle programmes give access to at least one second cycle programme?

100%

6.1.1. Please provide a source for this information.

"Law on Higher Education of Georgia"; National Qualifications Framework of Georgia for Higher Education

6.2. What percentage of first cycle students continue to study in a second cycle *programme* after graduation from the first cycle (within two years)?

>10-25%

6.2.1. Please provide the source for this information.

National Education Quality Enhancement Center under Ministry; National Examinations Center under Ministry

6.3. What are the requirements for holders of a first cycle degree to access a second cycle programme?

All students (Scale 1) Yes No Some No answer

All students (Scale 2) Yes No Some No answer

Holders of a first degree from a different study field (Scale 1) Yes No Some No answer

Holders of a first degree from a different study field (Scale 2) Yes No Some No answer

Holders of a first degree from a different higher education institution (Scale 1) Yes No Some No answer

Holders of a first degree from a different higher education institution (Scale 2) Yes No Some No answer

6.3.1. When you selected 'some' in any of the answers above, please explain.

6.4. What percentage of all second cycle programmes give access without further studies to third cycle studies?

100 %

6.4.1. Please provide a source for this information.

Law of Georgia on Higher Education

6.5. What percentage of second cycle graduates eventually enter into a third cycle programme?

15%

6.6. Is it possible for first cycle graduates to enter a third cycle programme without a second cycle degree?

No

6.6.1. Under which criteria is this possible?

6.7. What percentage of third cycle students enter into that cycle without a second cycle qualification?

0%

6.8. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding the progression between cycles.

7. LINKING BOLOGNA AND NON-BOLOGNA PROGRAMMES

7.1. Is access to degree programmes outside the typical Bologna model organised in a different manner than for Bologna first cycle programmes?

Please choose..

7.1.1. Please explain the differences.

7.2. Is access to the second cycle specifically regulated for students holding a degree from a programme outside the typical Bologna model?

No

7.2.1. Please specify how it is regulated.

7.3. Is it possible for graduates of a first cycle degree outside the typical Bologna model to enter a third cycle programme without a second cycle degree?

No

7.3.1. Please specify for which graduates.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD CYCLE PROGRAMMES

8.1. What types of doctoral programmes exist in your higher education system? (These may include, but are not restricted to, traditional supervision-based doctoral education, structured doctoral programmes, professional doctoral programmes etc).

Doctoral programs in Georgia are structured, supervision based, consisting of study and research components.

8.2. Do doctoral and/or graduate schools exist in your higher education system?

No

8.2.1. What are the main features of these schools and how many doctoral schools are there?

8.3. Is the length of full-time third cycle (PhD) study programmes defined in your steering documents?

Yes

8.3.1. Please specify the number of years.

It is defined in credits (180credit)

8.3.2. What is the average length (in years) of full-time third cycle (PhD) study programmes?

3

8.4. Are doctoral studies included in your country's qualifications framework?

Yes

8.5. Are ECTS credits used in doctoral programmes?

Yes

8.6. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding development of third cycle programmes.

9. TREATMENT OF SHORT CYCLE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

9.1. In your system, do short cycle programmes linked to the first cycle of higher education exist?

Yes

9.2. How are short cycle higher education programmes linked to the Bologna structures? Please tick the most appropriate case(s) for your country.

Holders of short cycle qualifications when continuing their studies in the same field towards a bachelor degree....

- gain full credit for their previous studies
- gain full credit, but only if there is agreement between the institution providing the short cycle programme and the institution where the bachelor programme is taught
- gain full credit for their previous studies but in professional bachelor programmes only
- gain substantial (>50%) credit for their previous studies
- gain some (<50%) credit for their previous studies
- gain little (<5%) or no credit for their previous studies

9.3. Are short cycle programmes legally considered to be an integral part of your higher education system?

Yes, part of higher education

9.4. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding the treatment of short cycle higher education programmes.

10. INTERNATIONAL JOINT DEGREES AND PROGRAMMES

10.1. Does national higher education legislation mention joint degrees?

Yes

10.1.1. Please provide a reference to the legislation and/or cite the relevant articles.

Law of Georgia on Higher Education

10.2. Does higher education legislation allow:

- Establishing joint programmes Yes No Legislation not clear Legislation doesn't mention joint degrees
 No answer
- Awarding joint degrees Yes No Legislation not clear Legislation doesn't mention joint degrees
 No answer

10.3. Please estimate the percentage of institutions in your country that award joint degrees / are involved in at least one joint programme.

- Award joint degrees > 75-100% > 50-75% > 25-50% > 10-25% > 5-10% > 0-5%
 0% No answer
- Participate in joint programmes > 75-100% > 50-75% > 25-50% > 10-25% > 5-10% > 0-5%
 0% No answer

10.4. Please estimate the percentage of students in your country that graduated in the academic year 2009/10 ...

- with a joint degree < 10% > 7.5-10% > 5-7.5% > 2.5-5% > 0 -2.5% 0% No answer
- from a joint programme < 10% > 7.5-10% > 5-7.5% > 2.5-5% > 0 -2.5% 0% No answer

10.5. Do you have information about study fields in which joint programmes / joint degrees are most common?

Yes

10.5.1. Please explain briefly.

Business Administration and Banking, Applied Biology, European Studies, American Studies

10.6. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your joint degrees and programmes.

There are around 51 joint programs

Part 1.2 BFUG Data Collection on student-centred learning

1. Do your steering documents mention the concept of student -centred learning?

Yes

1.1. How do steering documents in your country define student-centred learning in higher education?

Learning environment responding to the needs and interests of students and academic staff facilitating learning process. Besides, higher education system is aimed at development student-centred approach through implementing student-centred financing model, through introduction elective courses, main emphasis on interactive learning, etc.

1.2. How important ('1' not important, '5' very important) are the following categories in your steering documents and national policies?

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Independent learning | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Learning in small groups | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Initial or in-service training in teaching for staff | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Assessment based on learning outcomes | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 5 |
| Recognition of prior learning | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Learning outcomes | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 5 |
| Student/staff ratio | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 5 |
| Student evaluation of teaching | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |

1.3. Are there any other important concepts on student-centred learning in your steering documents?

Yes

1.4. Please specify.

Improving Students Foreign Language skills.

2. Please provide a reference for your steering documents covering student-centred learning.

National Qualifications Framework

3. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding the student-centred learning.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

4.1. Are learning outcomes defined in your national steering documents? If so, please provide the definition.

Learning outcome is qualification acquired through successful completion of academic program and is certified with diploma issued by higher education institution. National qualifications framework of Georgia describes in detail skills acquired on each cycle of higher education. Based on the international experience, it offers general recommendations for the determination of the learning outcomes of an educational programme. Respectively, based on the mission and goals of a specific higher education institution (“institution”) the educational programmes specify and extend the generalised “learning outcomes”.

4.2. Are ECTS credits linked with learning outcomes in higher education programmes in your country?
(This means that learning outcomes are formulated for all programme components and credits are awarded only when the stipulated learning outcomes are actually acquired.)

In all programmes

4.3. Does national policy steer and/or encourage the use of learning outcomes in developing curricula?

Yes, this is done through compulsory measures (law, regulations, etc.)

4.3.1. Does your country provide specific support measures on the national level?

NQF makes mandatory defining learning outcomes for each academic programme. National Education Quality enhancement Center regularly provides trainings and seminars for representatives of higher education institutions in order to support using concept of leaning outcomes in curricula development.

4.4. Does national policy steer student assessment procedures to focus on learning outcomes?

Yes, this is done through compulsory measures (law, regulations, etc.)

ecree of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia N3 (2007) defines students assessment procedures incorporating learning outcomes component.

4.5. Is there an offer of training programmes on topics such as student-centred learning and learning outcomes for academic staff?

- Compulsory Yes for all academic staff Yes for some academic staff No No answer
- Voluntary Yes for all academic staff Yes for some academic staff No No answer

4.5.1. Please specify for whom and give approximate % that participate.

4.6. Is the use of learning outcomes in curricula development and student assessment monitored by Quality Assurance procedures?

Yes

4.6.1. Please explain how, and provide a reference to further information.

Use of learning outcomes is monitored by Education Quality enhancement center using such tools as self-assessment reports prepared by higher education institutions.

4.6. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding learning outcomes.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER AND ACCUMULATION SYSTEM (ECTS)

5.1. In your country, do you use

ECTS

5.1.1. Please provide details of how it is linked to ECTS (when applicable) and its main characteristics (e.g. how credits are calculated and whether the system is based on learning-outcomes).

5.2. In your country, what percentage of higher education institutions use ECTS for accumulation and transfer for all elements of study programmes?

100%

5.3. In your country, what percentage of programmes use ECTS for accumulation and transfer for all elements of study programmes?

100%

5.4. In the majority of higher education institutions and/or programmes, what is the basis to award ECTS in your country?

Combination of learning outcomes achieved and student workload

5.4.1. Please specify.

5.4.2. For student workload, is there a standard measure for the number of hours per credit?

Yes

5.4.3. What is the number of hours per credit?

25

5.4.4. What is the number of student teacher contact hours per credit?

0

5.4.5. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding ECTS implementation.

6. DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

6.1. Is the Diploma Supplement issued in higher education institutions and to students in all fields of study?

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| All students | <input checked="" type="radio"/> >75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 50-75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 25-49% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0-24% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0% | <input type="radio"/> No answer |
| Some students | <input type="radio"/> >75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 50-75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 25-49% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0-24% of HEIs | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 0% | <input type="radio"/> No answer |
| Upon request | <input type="radio"/> >75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 50-75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 25-49% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0-24% of HEIs | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 0% | <input type="radio"/> No answer |
| In certain fields of study | <input type="radio"/> >75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 50-75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 25-49% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0-24% of HEIs | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 0% | <input type="radio"/> No answer |
| No students | <input type="radio"/> >75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 50-75% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 25-49% of HEIs | <input type="radio"/> 0-24% of HEIs | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 0% | <input type="radio"/> No answer |

6.1.1. Please identify those fields.

6.1.2. Please specify to which students.

6.2. Is there any monitoring of how employers use the Diploma Supplement?

No

6.2.1. Please provide the most recent results regarding the level of satisfaction of employers.

6.3. Is there any monitoring of how higher education institutions use the Diploma Supplement?

Yes

6.3.1. Please provide the most recent results regarding the level of satisfaction of institutions.

All higher education institutions actively use diploma supplement as it is mandatory for all institutions to use diploma on completion of each cycle together with standard supplement. Respective template is approved by the decree of the minister #149.

6.4. In what language(s) is the Diploma Supplement issued?

Georgian and English Languages

6.5. Is the Diploma Supplement issued

free of charge

6.5.1. Please provide the amount and the reason for the fee.

6.6. Please provide an example of your national Diploma Supplement (in pdf or similar format) and send it to data.collectors@ehea.info

6.7. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your diploma supplement.

7. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS (NQFs)

7.1. Have you started the process to develop a National Qualification Framework in your country?

Yes

7.2. The BFUG working group on qualification frameworks has developed the following steps to assess the progress made in establishing a national qualification framework.

Please choose below the stage that best describes your national situation.

6. The NQF has been adopted in legislation or in other high level policy fora

7.2.1 Please provide the date when the step was completed.

10.10.2010

7.2.2. Please provide a reference for the decision to start developing a NQF.

The legal basis for elaborating national qualifications framework was law on higher education (2004).

7.2.3. Please provide a reference outlining the purpose of the NQF.

7.2.4. Please provide a reference to a document establishing or outlining the process of NQF development. Please also report, which stakeholders have been identified and which committees have been established.

7.2.5. Please provide a reference describing the agreed level structure, level descriptors and credit ranges.

7.2.6. Please provide a reference outlining the form and the results of the consultation. Please provide a reference for the design of the NQF as agreed by the stakeholders.

7.2.7. Which stakeholders have been consulted and how were they consulted?

7.2.8. Please provide a reference document for the adoption of the NQF.

N/A

7.2.9. Are ECTS included in the NQF?

7.2.10. Please provide a reference for the decision to start the implementation of the NQF, including a reference to the roles of the different stakeholders.

7.2.11. Please provide a reference for the redesign of study programmes based on learning outcomes.

7.2.12. Please provide a reference outlining how qualifications have been included in the NQF.

7.2.13. Please provide a reference to the self-certification report.

7.3. Does a website exist in your country on which the National Qualification Framework can be consulted?

7.3.1. Please provide the link to that website.

8. RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

8.1. Which institution/organisation makes final decisions on recognising foreign qualifications for the purpose of academic study and work in your country?

- Recognition for academic study Higher education institution Central government authority (e.g. ministry) Regional government authority (e.g. ministry) National ENIC/NARIC centre Regional/local specialised independent institution Social partner organisation (employers' organisation, trade union etc) Individual employers Other No answer
- Recognition for professional employment Higher education institution Central government authority (e.g. ministry) Regional government authority (e.g. ministry) National ENIC/NARIC centre Regional/local specialised independent institution Social partner organisation (employers' organisation, trade union etc) Individual employers Other No answer

8.1.1. Please specify.

8.2. Which of the following statements is specified in national legislation?

Recognition of qualification provided that no substantive differences can be proven

8.2.1. Please provide a reference to the relevant legislation.

According to the law on higher education (clause 1. Article 50.) the recognition of study programs taken in a foreign higher education institution and the results of academic achievement shall take place if the compatibility of such programs with the Georgian higher education institution study program is established.

8.3. What measures exist to ensure that these legal statements are implemented in practice?

N/A

8.4. Do higher education institutions typically:

make recognition decisions at central level

8.5. Are higher education institutions' recognition policy and practice typically evaluated in external Quality Assurance processes?

No

8.5.1. Please explain.

8.6. What measures exist to ensure that higher education institutions have fair recognition procedures for study and training periods abroad?

According to the law on higher education (clause 1. Article 50.) the recognition of study programs taken in a foreign higher education institution and the results of academic achievement shall take place if the compatibility of such programs with the Georgian higher education institution study program is established. Besides, according to the law memorandum must be concluded on recognition of credits acquired between Georgian and foreign HEIs.

8.7. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your system of recognition of qualifications.

Part 1.3 BFUG Data Collection on Quality Assurance

1. CHARACTER OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

1.1. Which situation applies in your country?

A government-dependent agency or ministry has responsibility for quality assurance.

1.1.1. Please explain the main elements of your external quality assurance system. Which ministry or government-dependent agency is responsible for quality assurance? How is this responsibility managed in practice? If there are external evaluations of institutions and/or programmes, by whom are these evaluations undertaken, how often, and how are the outcomes of evaluation used?

National Education Quality Enhancement Center is responsible for external quality assurance. Center issues authorization that entitles higher education programs to conduct teaching activities. Authorization is issued for the whole institution and accreditation envisages reviewing of programs of higher education institution. Decision on granting authorization and accreditation are made by respective councils based on assessment of experts.

1.1.2. Please explain the main elements of your external quality assurance system (if it exists). If there is no system of quality assurance, please state this explicitly.

1.2. What are the main outcomes of an external review undertaken by the different QA agencies?

Please choose..

1.3. What is the main outcome of an external review?

Please choose..

1.4. Does the outcome of an external review normally have an impact on the funding of the institution or programme?

Please choose..

1.4.1. Please specify the normal impact of an external review.

1.5. Does the agency cover:

Please choose..

1.5.1. Collectively, do the agencies cover:

Please choose..

1.6. What is the main "object" of the external evaluations undertaken?

Please choose..

1.6.1. Are all institutions subject to external evaluation?

Please choose..

1.6.1.1. Please specify

1.6.2. Are all programmes in all cycles subject to external evaluation?

Please choose..

1.6.2.1. Please specify

1.6.3. Are all institutions and all programmes subject to external evaluation?

Please choose..

1.6.3.1. Please specify

1.7. How are the positive outcomes of Quality Assurance evaluations made available to the public?

1.8. How are the negative outcomes of Quality Assurance evaluations made available to the public?

1.9. Which of the following issues are typically included in external quality assurance evaluations?

- Teaching
- Student support services
- Lifelong Learning provision
- Research
- Employability
- Internal Quality Assurance/Management system
- Other (please specify)

1.9.1. For those issues that are typically included in external Quality Assurance evaluation, please briefly explain the approach.

1.10. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your external Quality Assurance system.

2. CROSS-BORDER EVALUATION

2.1. Does your national quality assurance system or legislative framework allow higher education institutions to choose a quality assurance agency from outside your country (instead of your national quality assurance agency)?

No

2.1.1. If some institutions are able to choose, please specify which ones.

2.1.2. If no, please go to section XVII.

2.2. Which conditions apply to the choice of a quality assurance agency from another country?

Other (please specify)

Georgian legislation does not allow HEI-s to choose the quality assurance agency outside the country instead of the National Quality Assurance Agency.

2.3. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding Cross-Border Evaluation.

3. EVALUATION OF THE EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM AGAINST THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (ESG)

3.1. Has the agency been evaluated against the European Standards and Guidelines?

- Yes, for the purpose of ENQA membership
- Yes, for an application to EQAR
- Yes, independently of ENQA/EQAR
- Such an evaluation is planned but has not yet taken place
- No

3.2. If an evaluation has been conducted, was the application successful?

4. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

4.1. Is there a formal requirement that students are involved in any of the following? For each answer, please specify the relevant source.

- Student involvement in governance structures of national quality assurance agencies
- As full members in external review teams
- As observers in external review teams
- In the preparation of self evaluation reports
- In the decision making process for external reviews
- In follow-up procedures
- Other, please specify

4.2. Is there a formal requirement that international peers/experts are involved in any of the following:

- In governance structures of national QA agencies
- As full members in external review teams
- As observers in external review teams
- In the decision making process for external reviews
- In follow-up procedures
- Other (please specify)

4.3. Is there a formal requirement that academic staff are involved?

- In governance structures of national QA agencies
- As full members in external review teams
- As observers in external review teams
- In the preparation of self evaluation reports
- In the decision making process for external reviews
- In follow-up procedures
- Other (please specify)

4.4. Are there any formal requirements regarding the involvement of employers in external QA processes.

No

4.5. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding the involvement of stakeholders in external QA.

5. INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

5.1. Are there formal requirements for higher education institutions to develop internal quality assurance systems?

Yes

5.1.1. Please specify these requirements and the relevant source.

According to the "Law on Higher Education" all public higher education institutions are obliged to have quality assurance services.

5.2. Who is primarily responsible for deciding the focus of internal quality assurance processes?

Combination of above

5.2.1. Please specify.

Ministry, Quality Assurance Agency and Higher Education Institutions are involved in deciding the focus of quality assurance process defining standards and requirements for quality of higher education.

5.3. Are there formal requirements for students to be involved in internal quality assurance systems?

Yes

5.3.1. Please go to Question 5.6.

5.3.2. Is there a requirement for students to be involved in the preparation of self evaluation reports?

Yes

5.3.2.1. Is there a requirement for students to be involved in decision-making as an outcome of evaluation?

Yes

5.4. How many higher education institutions have published a strategy/policy for the continuous enhancement of quality in the past 5 years?

50-<75%

5.5. How many higher education institutions have arrangements in place for the internal approval, monitoring and periodic review of programmes and awards?

50-<75%

5.5.1. Please describe what kind of arrangements are in place.

Statutes for awarding qualifications of 2nd and 3rd cycles are the main arrangements. Academic council, Education Department and Quality Assurance services are involved in monitoring and periodic review.

5.6. How many higher education institutions publish up to date and objective information about the programmes and awards offered?

All

5.7. How many higher education institutions publish critical and negative outcomes of quality assurance evaluations?

None

5.7.1. Please provide a source for this information, and links to examples of critical/negative evaluations.

Higher education institutions prepare self-evaluation reports and send to the National Education Quality Enhancement Center.

5.8. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding Internal Quality Assurance.

Part 1.4 BFUG Data Collection on Lifelong Learning

1. Do steering documents for higher education in your country contain a definition of lifelong learning?

Yes

2. How do your steering documents define lifelong learning?

concept of LLL is defined as following - HEIs should ensure study and research opportunities and services for professional and individual development for the different groups of people to support social, economic and cultural development of the region

3. What is the common understanding of lifelong learning in your country?

4. What are the main forms of lifelong learning provision in which higher education institutions are involved in your country?

Main forms include: Units established at higher education institutions responsible for provision lifelong learning and continuing professional development; Some of the HEIs implement adult education programs awarding certificate and some of them have elaborated teacher's professional development programs for persons willing to acquire teacher's profession.

5. Is lifelong learning a recognised mission of higher education institutions?

Yes, of some institutions

6. For which institutions is lifelong learning a recognised mission?

All public accredited higher education institutions have recognized lifelong learning as part of their mission, development and strategical plan.

7. Are there legal requirements for higher education institutions to offer lifelong learning provision?

No

8. Please provide a reference to the relevant legislation or regulation.

9. Are there legal restrictions or constraints for higher education institutions to offer lifelong learning provision?

No

10. Please explain these restrictions, and provide a reference to relevant legislation/regulations

11. Which are the three (maximum) most significant groups of intended users of lifelong learning services offered by higher education institutions?

- Adults in employment
- Unemployed adults
- Retired citizens
- Part-time students

- Adults without higher education qualifications
- Other, please specify

12. Where does the funding of lifelong learning provision in higher education come from?

- general higher education budget
- special budget for lifelong learning Funding was provided as a part of state budget for special target groups, for funding such forms as teacher's professional development programs.
- private contributions from students
- private contributions from business and industry

13. To what degree is the provision of lifelong learning in higher education funded from the public budget?

Part 2.1 BFUG Data Collection on policies to widen participation and increase flexibility

1. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

2. Do individuals that meet higher education entry standards have a guaranteed right to higher education?

Yes in all fields

2.1 Please specify.

3. Which statement best describes your country's policy approach regarding the goal that the student body entering, participating and completing higher education should reflect the diversity of the population?

Underrepresented societal groups in higher education are identified, and specific, targeted measures are taken to counteract underrepresentation.

4. UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

4.1. Please describe how your country's steering documents define underrepresented groups (e.g. based on socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, disability, geography, other).

Following groups are identified as underrepresented in national higher education system of Georgia and they receive state social grants: 1. Students from high mountainous regions and regions of ecological migration; 2. Students from conflict regions 3. Students representing ethnic minorities (Azeris, Armenians); 4. Children of the persons who died or were lost in the war for territorial integrity; 5. Descendents of person deported from Samtskhe-Javakheti region by communist regime; 6. Orphans and children from large families (with 4 or more children); 7. Students from families with socially unprotected status; 8. Students impacted by Russian aggression, August, 2008

4.2. For each of these groups, please briefly describe the national/regional policies and measures that are put in place to address under-representation. These may include, but are not restricted to laws, regulations, campaigns, incentives, other actions etc.

Under-participation of particular social groups have been identified as problematic by the state. Within the structure of the ministry of education and science special unit has been created that is in charge of implementing programs of social assistance to the special target groups. In order to increase the representation of the groups mentioned above Government has taken the following steps: • Unified National Admission Exams had been introduced from 2005 as a transparent and meritocratic procedure of students' admission to higher education institutions. The Unified National Admission Exams envisage the interests of national minorities - the exam tests are available in languages of national minorities living in Georgia - in Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Ossetian and Abkhaz languages. State grants and new financing system "money follows student" model was introduced. Social Program for financial assistance of students enrolled in higher education institutions. The program is implemented since 2005. In order to facilitate integration of the non Georgian-speaking population, a special program has been developed under which non-Georgian entrants have to pass only one exam – general ability test – in their native language (Azerbaijani, Armenian) to be admitted to the higher education institutions on the basis of the examination test results, and after completion of a one-year Georgian language course, students will be able to continue studying at Bachelor or the certified specialty program.

4.3. How does your higher education system determine whether an individual belongs to a particular group (e.g. self-declaration)?

Individuals are requested to submit documents defined by the ministry of education and science based on which it is proved that they belong to particular group.

4.4. Is there any funding reserved for measures to increase participation of under-represented groups?

Yes

4.4.1. Please specify.

The Social Assistance Program aims to support entrants representing various social groups, who have passed unified exams successfully despite severe economic and social conditions, but have not obtained state grants or gained only partial state financing. Since 2005 390 000 GEL was allocated annually from the state budget for this initiative. In 2008 financing of the program increased to 650 000 GEL, in order to include students of higher professional education programs. According to the program terms students of higher education institutions studying at academic (bachelors) as well as professional education programs (three years) are eligible to apply for financing. Due to the events that took place in Georgia in August 2008 additionally 800 000 GEL was allocated for students from occupied territories. 10% of state education grants are annually allocated for the needs-based grants program.

4.5. Do you have national targets/goals for participation of those groups that you identify as under-represented in higher education?

Yes

4.5.1. Please explain these targets briefly and name the groups to which they apply.

Following groups are identified as underrepresented in national higher education system of Georgia and they receive state social grants: 1. Students from high mountainous regions and regions of ecological migration; 2. Students from conflict regions 3. Students representing ethnic minorities (Azeris, Armenians); 4. Children of the persons who died or were lost in the war for territorial integrity; 5. Descendents of person deported from Samtskhe-Javakheti region by communist regime; 6. Orphans and children from large families (with 4 or more children); 7. Students from families with socially unprotected status; 8. . Students impacted by Russian aggression, August, 2008

4.6. Does your country offer more public funding to higher education institutions to stimulate access for underrepresented groups?

No

4.6.1. Please specify and identify variation between different groups, where they exist.

4.7. Is the effect of measures to increase participation of each of the groups monitored in your country?

Yes

4.7.1. Please specify.

At this stage only data on specific groups which have already received special assistance within social programs administered by the Ministry of Education and Science is available.

4.8. Please provide details on how the higher education participation and graduation of each of the groups that you identify as underrepresented is monitored in your country.

N/A

4.8.1. What data is collected?

N/A

4.9. Is there a system to monitor the composition of the student body (in terms of groups identified as under-represented) by subject?

No

4.10. When are data generally collected?

Please choose..

4.10.1. Where an approach different from the general approach is used for any group, please specify.

4.11. Where is information provided by this monitoring system published (provide a reference and link)?

Information is available at the special unit of the ministry of education and science – students social assistance division.

5. GENERAL POLICY APPROACH TO WIDENING PARTICIPATION

5.1. If your country has a general policy approach to increase and widen participation and to overcome obstacles to access, please explain your approach briefly and provide reference to relevant documents.

5.2. How does your country's policy explicitly identify the obstacles that it addresses?

5.3. What are the criteria used to measure and evaluate the success of specific initiatives and measures?

5.4. In your country, is the composition of the student body monitored according to certain criteria?

Please choose..

5.4.1. Who monitors on the basis of which criteria?

5.5. How is this data used in higher education policy?

5.6. How are measures to remove obstacles to access primarily funded? If your country has a mixed system, please choose all adequate boxes. Please only indicate the most important source(s).

- From the general higher education budget
- From a specific budget
- From university budget
- There are no measures to remove obstacles to access

6. DIFFERENT APPROACH TO WIDENING PARTICIPATION

6.1. Please explain the characteristics of your country's policy to achieve the goal that the student body reflects the diversity of the population.

6.2. Does your country's policy approach explicitly identify obstacles to higher education?

Please choose..

6.2.1. Please describe these obstacles.

6.3. Does your country's policy approach make reference to parts/groups in the population?

Please choose..

6.3.1. Please describe these groups.

6.4. What measures does your country's policy take?

6.5. How does your country assess whether its policy has been successful?

7. COMPLETION OF STUDIES

7.1. Does your country have policies aiming to increase the level of completion of studies?

Yes

7.1.1. Please describe the main features of these policies.

According to the law of Georgia on Higher Education (article 43. Clause 12) student's status can be terminated upon the completion of a relevant education program or in any other cases envisaged by the higher education institutions charter. According to the Statute on Unified National Admission Exams the decision making responsibility for restoring students rests with universities (for those who have dropped out due to the non-payment of tuition fees). Students status is not terminated only suspended and restored on the basis of application submitted to the HEI. National Education Quality Enhancement Center is also involved in the process. Besides, Law on Higher Education enables students studying abroad to transfer permitting them be admitted to the accredited HEIs of Georgia without passing Unified National Admission Exams.

7.2. Are student completion rates monitored in your country?

No

7.2.1. What use is then made of the data?

7.3. Are there any incentives for higher education institutions to improve student completion rates?

Yes

7.3.1. Please specify the nature of these incentives.

Students are eligible to obtain state education grant at any stage of study passing unified national exam.

7.3.2. Are there any other incentives (e.g. it is a subject covered in external quality assurance procedures)?

8. STUDENT SERVICES

While higher education institutions offer multiple services, in the following questions, the focus lies on academic guidance services, career guidance services and psychological counselling services.

8.1. What kind of student services are commonly provided by higher education institutions?

- Academic guidance services
- Career guidance services
- Psychological counselling services
- Other
- No services

8.1.1. Please specify.

8.2. Who are the main users of the services?

All students

8.2.1. Please specify.

8.3. Please provide the main source(s) of funding.

University budget, private and international organizations.

8.4. What are the main tasks of the services?

Facilitation of employment of students and graduates.

8.5. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your national policies to widen participation.

9. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

10. Does your country's higher education policy focus on promoting the flexible provision of higher education (e.g. changing the intensity of study programmes according to personal circumstance through part-time study, distance learning and e-learning)?

Yes

10.1. Please provide details of specific policy measures.

Recently amendment was made to the law on higher education and distance learning was introduced. Audio-video visualization of lectures is also the current development aimed at increasing flexibility of higher education.

11. Does your country's policy on flexible provision of higher education contain a special focus linked to the goal of widening participation for underrepresented groups?

No

11.1. Please explain how higher education policy aims to attain this goal.

12. Are there regulations or other policy measures regarding the relationship between employers and higher education institutions in fostering flexible learning?

Yes

13. Please provide details of these measures.

Memorandums are signed between HEIs and employers enabling establishment of more flexible learning methods and process especially in the field of applied sciences.

14. Please describe up to five main access routes to higher education (including, but not limited to, entry with a school leaving certificate, entry with a vocational education certificate, entry without formal certification) and, if possible, provide approximate percentages of students entering through this route in parenthesis (). If less than five main routes exist, please write "n/a" in the remaining fields.

Route 1: = School leaving certificate (certificate can be obtained via external exams Or recognition of study documents in cases defined by law).

Route 2: = N/A

Route 3: = N/A

Route 4: = N/A

Route 5: = N/A

15. Do higher education regulations and steering documents promote flexible entry to higher education, e.g. through alternative access routes?

No

15.1. Please briefly describe these measures.

16. PART-TIME STUDY

16.1. In your country, is there any official status other than full-time student?

No

16.1.1. If yes, what formal status does exist?

16.1.2. How do you define it?

16.1.3. What are the reasons for offering a different student status?

16.1.4. How are these students treated differently (e.g. fees, student support, etc.)?

16.1.5. Please describe the most common understanding/concept of part-time studies.

N/A

16.2. In your country, do you have an explicit policy to encourage part-time study provision by higher education institutions?

No

16.2.1. Please describe briefly the main elements and provide the source.

16.3. Which one of the following statements best describes the current situation in your country?

Other

16.3.1. Please specify

part study studies is not envisaged by Georgian legislation.

17. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

17.1. In your country, is there a legislation regulating recognition of prior non-formal and informal learning?

No

17.1.1. How does your legislation in higher education define prior learning?

17.1.2. Do your steering documents in higher education define prior learning?

No

17.1.3. How do your steering documents in higher education define prior learning?

17.2. In your country, apart from formal learning, what can be taken into account and recognised as prior learning in higher education?

- Prior non-formal learning (e.g. various non-certified courses)
- Prior informal learning (e.g. work experience)
- Other: Recognition of Higher Education obtained on occupied territories is envisaged by law

17.3. Prior learning as defined by your steering documents can ...

- be used to gain admission to a higher education study programme
- be taken into account as partial fulfilment of a higher education study programme (e.g. to reduce the required amount of courses to be taken/credits to be gained)

17.4. Based on your steering documents or legislation, can applicants for higher education have prior non-formal or informal learning assessed and recognised?

Higher education institutions are prohibited by legislation from implementing procedures to validate non-formal and informal learning

17.5. If recognition of prior non-formal or informal learning is permitted by legislation but is not a right, is it:

Please choose..

17.6. What measures are in place to ensure that assessment of learning is based on reliable and valid evidence?

17.7. Is institutional practice in recognition of prior learning explicitly included in the quality assurance processes used to evaluate institutions and/or programmes?

No

17.8. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding flexibility of higher education studies.

Part 2.2 BFUG Data Collection on student contributions and support

1. STUDENT FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The focus of the questions is on students, and is not limited to full-time daytime students. Furthermore, all first and second cycle students are included. Third cycle students are excluded except when explicitly mentioned. Similarly, the focus is on home students or equivalent. International students are only included when explicitly mentioned.

1.1. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

2. In your country, does any higher education home student at a public higher education institution have to pay a fee of any kind?

Contributions to student unions are not included!

Yes

3. In which currency are contributions to higher education institutions and other study costs paid in your country?

National currency - GEL

4. In principle, which home students at public higher education institutions have to pay fees?

- During studies All students Specific groups of students No answer
After studies All students Specific groups of students No answer

4.1. Which main exemptions to this principle exist in your country?

There is no such exemption envisaged by law on Higher Education unless when study cost is covered by state grants.

4.2. Which of the following criteria determine whether a student has to pay fees?

- Need
 Merit
 Part-time/Full-time/Distance learning
 Field of study

5. With regard to fees, are home students in the second cycle treated differently to those in the first cycle?

No

5.1. In principle, which second cycle students at public higher education institutions have to pay fees?

- During studies All students Specific groups of students No answer
After studies All students Specific groups of students No answer

5.2. What main exemptions to this principle exist in your country?

5.3. Which of the following criteria determine whether a student has to pay fees?

- Need
- Merit
- Part-time/Full-time/Distance learning
- Field of study

6. What is the minimum, maximum and most common amount of fees payable by home students in the first cycle? Please multiply any annual fees (including registration, tuition, administration, graduation and other fees) by the most common length of programmes in this cycle and add fees to be paid only once to that amount.

Minimum amount = 1250 GEL

Maximum amount = 10600 GEL

Most common amount = 2250 GEL

6.1. Which home students pay the minimum and the maximum amount in the first cycle? (e.g. students in certain subjects, students in need, students with good academic performance, part-time students, other...)

By law is defined maximum amount of tuition fee that public universities can set. There is no restriction for private higher education institutions. At the following fields engineering and agriculture tuition fees are relatively lower than at others by decision of public universities. There is no other regulation with this regard.

6.2. Please provide the percentage of students paying the minimum and the maximum amount in the first cycle. If precise data are not available, please provide an estimate.

Around 5 % of students pay maximum, 5% of students minimum fee.

7. What is the minimum, maximum and most common amount of fees payable by home students in the second cycle? Please multiply any annual fees (including registration, tuition, administration, graduation and other fees) by the most common length of programmes in this cycle and add fees to be paid only once to that amount.

Minimum amount = 1500 GEL

Maximum amount = 12 000 GEL

Most common amount = 2250 GEL

7.1. Which home students pay the *minimum* amount in the second cycle? (e.g. students in certain subjects, students in need, students with good academic performance, part-time students, other...)

There is no such categories of students, only students who receive state grants based on results of unified master's exams receive state grant in amount of 2250 GEL. State grants are issued according study fields as well. At engineering fields tuition fees are lower than at others.

7.2. Which home students pay the *maximum* amount in the second cycle? (e.g. students in certain subjects, students in need, students with good academic performance, part-time students, other...)

N/A

7.3. Please provide the (approximate) percentage of students paying the minimum and the maximum amount in the second cycle. If precise data are not available, please provide an estimate.

Around 5 % pay maximum amount, 5% minimum amount for tuition.

8. Concerning fees, are international students treated differently in your country from home students?

Yes

8.1. What is the minimum, maximum and most common amount of fees (including registration, tuition, administration and graduation fees) payable by international students in the first cycle?

Minimum amount = 2500 GEL

Maximum amount = 10600 GEL

Most common amount = 2500 GEL

8.2. According to your country's steering documents, students from which countries are considered international students?

Student coming from outside the country without specification.

9. Who defines the fee amounts for any student in the first cycle?

- Each higher education institution defines its own fees
- Higher education institutions can define their fees, but there are limits set by the central/regional authority Limits are set for public higher education institutions and fee can not be higher than maximum amount of state grant
- Higher education institutions can define their fees, but they have to be approved by the central/regional authority
- Central/regional authority defines the value range of fees

10. Who defines the fee amounts for any student in the second cycle?

- Each higher education institution defines its own fees
- Higher education institutions can define their fees, but there are limits set by the central/regional authority Limits are set for public higher education institutions and fee can not be higher than maximum amount of state grant
- Higher education institutions can define their fees, but they have to be approved by the central/regional authority
- Central/regional authority defines the value range of fees

11. Do students have to pay compulsory contributions to student unions/representations?

No

11.1. Please provide the payable amounts and explain differences between cycles and students, where they exist.

12. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

12.1. Please identify the main focus of your country's student support system.

Grants and/or scholarships for students

Since 2005 new financing system – “money follows student” was introduced. Students demonstrating the best results at Unified National Admission Exams gain state grants, the rest of students finance their studies from their own sources. Special state funds secured through merit-based and needs-based education grants provide secondary school graduates with an opportunity to continue their education at higher education level. Besides, 10% of state education grants are annually allocated for the needs-based grants program. Annually 10 mln GEL is allocated from state budget for funding state education grants. How much students have to pay depends what kind of grant they receive. State education grants are differentiated by their type. These are 100%, 70%, 50% and 30% grants. The distribution of grant types among students is based on their performance on the United National Admissions Examinations. From 2011 only 100% grants will be allocated regardless the field (including non-priority fields like law, business administration, journalism, international relations, etc.) students are admitted at. Those who have not received education grants may apply for student loans (Bank of Georgia, TBC Bank, Bank Republic, Basis Bank are offering students loans, cooperate with private higher education institutions in the framework of special agreements individually). From 2009 state grants for Master’s degree students are introduced as well.

12.2. The following questions deal with public grants and loans separately. If there is a combined system of grants and loans in your country, please provide information about your system here. In this case, please still answer the questions on grants/scholarships and loans, keeping in mind the relevant parts of your combined system.

13. PUBLIC GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

13.1. Does any student receive public financial support in the form of grants and/or scholarships?

Yes, students of all cycles

Students of first and second cycle receive state grants whereas third cycle students receive from university.

13.2. Which first cycle students are eligible for grants and/or scholarships?

Specific groups of students

13.2.1. Which groups of students receive grants and/or scholarships?

- Need-based
- Merit-based
- Part-time/Full-time/Distance learning
- Field of study

13.2.2. What percentage of first cycle students receives a grant and/or scholarship?

40

13.3. What is the minimum, maximum and most common value of grants/scholarships available to first cycle students in higher education?

Minimum = 750 GEL

Maximum = 2250 GEL

Most common = 750 GEL

13.4. Which second cycle students are eligible to receive grants and/or scholarships?

All students

13.4.1. Which groups of students receive grants and/or scholarships?

- Need
- Merit
- Part-time/Full-time/Distance learning
- Field of study

13.4.2. What percentage of second cycle students receives a grant and/or scholarship?

30

13.4.3. What is the minimum, maximum and most common value of grants/scholarships available to second cycle students in higher education?

value of grant amounts to only 2250 GEL

13.5. What percentage of all students receives a grant and/or scholarship?

30

14. STUDENT LOANS

14.1. In your country, can any student take out publicly subsidised or guaranteed loans to cover their expenses of higher education studies?

No student

14.2. Are all first cycle students eligible to receive loans?

Please choose..

14.2.1. On what criteria are the groups of first cycle students eligible for loans differentiated?

- Need-based criteria
- Merit-based criteria
- Full-time, part-time, distant learners, etc.
- Field of studies
- Based on cycle the student is enrolled in

14.2.2. What is the minimum, maximum and most common value of loans that first cycle students receive? Please provide the amount per year.

Minimum first cycle =

Most common first cycle =

Maximum first cycle =

14.2.3. Are all second cycle students eligible to receive loans?

Please choose..

14.2.4. On what criteria are the groups of second cycle students eligible for loans differentiated?

- Need-based criteria
- Merit-based criteria
- Full-time, part-time, distant learners, etc.
- Field of studies
- Based on cycle the student is enrolled in

14.2.5. What is the minimum, maximum and most common value of loans that second cycle students receive? Please provide the amount per year.

Minimum second cycle =

Most common second cycle =

Maximum second cycle =

14.3. If different types of loans exist in your country, please provide the details here.

14.4. What percentage of students takes out loans?

In the first cycle = 0

In the second cycle = 0

Of all students = 0

14.5. Are student loans publicly subsidised or guaranteed?

Please choose..

14.5.1. Please explain the form of this guarantee/subsidy.

14.5.2. What conditions govern the cancellation or reduction of a state guaranteed/subsidised debt incurred by students after completion of their study period?

- Income too low
- Studies successfully completed on time
- Exceptional merit in studies
- Age or length of period in debt

- Disability
- Parenthood
- Death
- Early repayment of loan
- No debt cancellation
- No debt reduction

14.6. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your grants and loan system.

15. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

16. Do any student's parents receive tax-related benefits (tax relief of any kind, which is not limited to income tax) for tertiary education expenses?

- 1st cycle Yes No No answer
- 2nd cycle Yes No No answer

17. Which students' parents are eligible to receive such non-tax based benefit?

Please choose..

17.1. What are the criteria upon which eligibility is decided?

- Income of parents too low
- Income of student too low
- Age of student (child)
- Disability
- Parenthood of student (child)
- Other

17.1.1. Please specify.

17.2. Are parents of students in the first or in the second cycle treated differently?

Please choose..

17.2.1. Please explain the difference.

18. Can the parents of any student enrolled at a higher education institution receive tax-based financial benefits (tax relief)?

Please choose..

19. What are the forms and values of the granted tax relief? The information you enter may be an absolute amount or a share of a person's taxable income expressed as percentage.

19.1. Is there a difference for parents whose children are first or second cycle students?

Please choose..

19.2. Please explain the difference.

20. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your benefits for students' parents (including guardians).

21. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

22. Does any student receive tax-related benefits (tax relief of any kind, which is not limited to income tax) for tertiary education expenses?

1st cycle Yes No No answer

2nd cycle Yes No No answer

22.1. What are the criteria to determine who is eligible?

- They are enrolled as a student at a recognised higher education institution
- They are under a certain age (please specify)
- They have another particular civil status (e.g. married, parenthood, other)
- Income-dependent

23. In your country, do any forms of public non-cash student support exist?

1st cycle Yes No No answer

2nd cycle Yes No No answer

24. What forms of public non-cash student support exist?

Subsidised accommodation: 1st cycle

Subsidised accommodation: 2nd cycle

Subsidised health insurance: 1st cycle

Subsidised health insurance: 2nd cycle

24.1. Please specify the details of existing subsidies.

25. Who is eligible to receive such non-cash support?

- Subsidised accommodation All students Specific groups of students based on pre-defined criteria No answer
- Subsidised health insurance All students Specific groups of students based on pre-defined criteria No answer
- Other subsidies All students Specific groups of students based on pre-defined criteria No answer

25.1. What are the criteria to determine who is eligible?

- Income of parents too low
- Income of student too low
- Age of student
- Disability
- Parenthood of student

25.2. Is there a difference in eligibility between first and second cycle students?

Please choose..

25.3. Please explain the difference.

26. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding public non-cash student support.

27. Do you want to answer this section now or later?

Now

28. What is the typical status of a candidate preparing a third cycle (PhD) qualification?

- Student
- They hold and employment contract with a HEI

28.1. Please explain why you selected multiple options?

By law on higher education doctoral students have status of students and at the same time can hold assistant professors position.

28.2. Are there differences between students of different subject areas?

No

28.3. Please explain the difference.

29. What are the main funding sources for candidates preparing a third cycle (PhD) qualification?

The main sources of funding are :university budget and scientific-research institutes that are integrated in universities. Another part of students are funding their studies form their own sources.

30. Please explain any differences in the fees they are required to pay, compared to your answers for first and second cycle students, as well as differences in grants, loans and other support that may be provided.

N/A

31. Please explain the nature of the contracts candidates preparing a PhD have with their higher education institution.

Relationship between candidates studying at doctoral programs and higher education institutions is based on regular contract.

32. Please specify any fees third cycle candidates that are typically neither "fully student" nor "fully employee" have to pay, as well as any support that may be provided.

No specification.

33. Please provide any additional relevant comments for consideration regarding your doctoral education.

Questionnaire on student and staff mobility

A Preliminary remarks

In the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué, the European Ministers responsible for higher education agreed that “mobility shall be the hallmark of the European Higher Education Area”. They called upon each country to increase mobility of students, , to ensure its high quality and to diversify its types and scope. At least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad in 2020”. They also called for mobility of teachers, early-stage researchers and staff. At the same time, the Ministers underlined the importance of more balanced mobility across the European Higher Education Area. The findings of the Bologna Process Independent Assessment which were presented on the occasion of Bologna Ministerial Anniversary Conference in Budapest/Vienna on 11/12 March 2010 again underlined the need for action to enhance and better balance student and staff mobility.

This questionnaire on mobility is part of the general questionnaire used to collect information for the 2012 integrated implementation report. To give the BFUG Working Group on Mobility sufficient time and the necessary material to fulfil its terms of reference of drafting a European Higher Education Area Strategy for Mobility to be decided by the Ministers in 2012, the questions on mobility are being asked a few months earlier than the questions on the other themes. However, when the general questionnaire is sent out in early 2011, each country will have the opportunity to update its responses to the mobility questions should any significant changes have occurred.

When completing this questionnaire, please pay particular attention to the following two points:

- Information provided in this questionnaire should be supported by references whenever they are available. Please include the title and internet links, where available, for all publications and texts (national policy documents, national and/or international empirical surveys etc) which you have used to provide your responses to the specific questions.
- When providing a response for your country, please be aware that different stakeholders in the higher education system may have varying opinions or experience with regard to the issue at hand. Please make every effort to consult with stakeholders before finalising your answers to ensure that a balanced and consensual response is provided.

Please return this questionnaire to the Bologna Secretariat until 30 September, 2010 at the latest. If you have any queries on the questionnaire, please contact: secretariat@ehea.info.

B Details on the completion of the questionnaire

B.1. Who contributed to the completion of this report? Please provide the names and functions.

B.1.a Government representatives

Higher Education Development Division

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Mr. Nugzar Chitaia - Head of Division

Mrs. Nino Svanadze - Chief Specialist

B.1.b Stakeholder representatives

B.1.c Other contributors

C National strategies and action plans

The following questions look at national quantitative targets and at policies aiming to foster mobility.

C.1. Does your country have national strategies or action plans to foster mobility?

Yes

No → please continue with section C.6.

C.1.a If yes, please provide a reference.

In Strategy Document on Reforms in Education System of Georgia 2010-2015 fostering mobility of students and academic staff is identified as one of the main action lines. Besides, by the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia amendments had been introduced to the law of Georgia on higher education in 2008. According to these amendment, a citizen of foreign country alongside with persons without citizenship, also citizens of Georgia living abroad at least for 3 years who have obtained complete general education or equivalent to it or those who study in accredited HEIs abroad may enter HEIs in Georgia without passing Unified National Admission Exams, but through the rules established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. This amendment will significantly facilitate access to HE for citizens living abroad. In addition Visa facilitation agreement negotiated in the framework of ENP and later Eastern Partnership Initiative giving possibility to students and academic staff to acquire longer and multiple visa free of charge, with simplified application process was signed.

C.1.b If yes, when was the national strategy or action plan adopted, and when was the most recent revision?

Adopted: Currently undergoing discussion

Most recent revision:

C.2. Does the strategy include national quantitative targets for the different forms of student mobility in higher education?

Please specify the target, including the date, in the appropriate box (e.g. 20% by 2020).

	All forms of mobility	Credit mobility ¹	Degree mobility ²
--	-----------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

¹ Mobility to a different country in the context of a programme in the home institution for which credits are awarded

² Mobility for an entire degree programme

Inbound			
Outbound			
No target			

C.2.a Please provide a reference for the target.

In order to increase inbound mobility of students (no specific target at the moment) there are plans outlined to increase number of higher education programs in English, to facilitate access of foreign students to Georgian higher education institutions.

Program implemented and funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia envisages financing MA studies in leading universities abroad aims to enhance mobility of Georgian students.

C.2.b Are these targets the same for students in all cycles or are there differences?

- Same
 Differences

C.2.b.i If there are differences according to the degree cycle, please specify.

Currently the program implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia enables students to take master's degree abroad.

C.3. Does your country's national strategy/action plan include staff mobility in higher education?

- Yes
 No

C.3.a If yes, does it include quantitative targets for staff mobility?

- Yes
 No

C.3.a.i If yes, please specify

Georgia National Science Foundation provides travel grants for academic staff as well as collaborative grants encouraging representatives of academic staff to establish cooperation with their counterparts abroad and promoting mobility.

C.4. Does your national strategy/action plan prioritise particular geographic regions for student and/or staff mobility?

- Yes
 No

C.4.a If yes, please complete the following table by ticking the boxes where applicable.

Priority Region	Incoming students	Outgoing students	Incoming staff	Outgoing staff
EHEA		+		
USA/Canada		+		
Latin America				
Australia, New Zealand				
Middle East				
Africa				
Asia				
Other (please specify)				

C.4.b If you have regional priorities, please give reasons.

Program implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia envisages master's degree studies at leading universities that covers mainly the following regions: EHEA and USA/Canada.

C.5. Does your country monitor the impact of your national strategy or action plan?

Yes

No

C.5.a If yes, please provide information on how this monitoring is undertaken. Who is responsible, how regularly is monitoring conducted, and what have been the most recent results?

Monitoring is conducted annually based on the reports of European Commission, Erasmus Mundus, National Reports on Higher Education Reforms Outcomes (2008)

C.6. Are there, in your country, any strategies or programmes below the national level (e.g. regional, institutional) to foster mobility?

Yes

No

C.6.a If yes, please explain and/or give examples.

At institutional level HEIs establish bilateral or multilateral cooperation with foreign HEIs envisaging mobility schemes. 65 % of HEIs take measures to ensure mobility of students and academic staff. 60% of HEIs provide financial support to students and academic staff, 30% provide accommodation. Among other supporting measures, the HEIs outlined: providing information to students and staff on mobility opportunities, intensive foreign language courses, official agreements signed with partner universities and scientific-research centers, exchange programmes for students and academic staff, student's joint conferences, membership to international higher education networks.

C.7. Can national students who study in a higher education institution in another country receive a grant/scholarship under the same conditions as students studying in the country?

Yes, for degree mobility

Yes, for credit mobility

Yes, for both

No

C.7.a If yes, do the following restrictions apply?

	Degree mobility	Credit mobility
Grants/scholarships are restricted to specific countries (if so, please specify which countries, e.g. EU member states, EHEA countries, other countries/world regions)		
Grants/scholarships are restricted to specific programmes (if so, please specify)		
Other restrictions apply (please specify)		
No restrictions apply		

C.8. Has your country implemented any of the following financial support measures to foster student mobility?

Measure	Credit mobility	Degree mobility
loans for incoming students		
grants/scholarships for incoming students		
Loans for outgoing students	<p>Since 2008 by the initiative of the government of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia together with the 5 local private banks launched subsidized graduate student loan program to study abroad.. The loan is given without loan security for 3 years grace period, for 10 years repayment period 9% interest rate annually. 60 students could continue studies at MA level at European and American HEIs mainly in Business Administration, Finances and Law. The annual budget for the programme is 6 mln GEL, half of which was allocated from the Budget of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the other half by the leading banks. After 6 months since the programme started up to 2,5,mln GEL was spent for 60 students.</p>	
Grants/scholarships for outgoing students	See answer C2a	
Other: (please specify)		

C.9. Has your country implemented other support measures or programmes to foster student mobility? (Measures may include, but are not restricted to, accommodation/transport subsidies for international students, improvements in recognition practice, exchange programmes, targeted guidance services etc.)

Law on higher education and Ministerial Decree #120 (16.02.2007) enabling students to have their study periods spent abroad recognized.

D Identifying and removing obstacles to mobility

D.1. Has your higher education policy been informed by any surveys or research that have considered obstacles to student mobility?

Yes

No

D.1.a If yes, please provide references to those surveys and/or research that have influenced your policy on mobility?

Outcomes of Higher Education Reforms (Descriptive Report in Accordance to Bologna Process Indicators) (International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management, 2008).

D.2. In this context, please rank the three most important obstacles to incoming and outgoing student mobility addressed in national programmes and measures? (Most important = 1, second most important = 2, and third most important = 3)

Obstacles to student mobility	Incoming mobility	Outgoing mobility
Funding		1
Recognition		
Language	2	3
Curriculum/Study organisation		
Legal issues	3	
Motivating and informing students	1	2
Other, please specify:		

D.3. Are at least some of the obstacles that you ranked above particularly important in specific study cycles?

Yes

No

D.3.a If yes, please specify.

D.4. Are at least some of the obstacles that you ranked above particularly important in specific fields of studies?

Yes

No

D.4.a If yes, please specify.

D.5. Are the obstacles that you ranked above particularly relevant for credit mobility?

Yes

No

D.5.a If yes, please specify.

D.6. Are the obstacles that you ranked above particularly important for degree mobility?

Yes

No

D.6.a If yes, please specify.

D.7. What measures/programmes has your country implemented to tackle and remove the obstacles to student mobility that you mentioned?

The main measures include as it was mentioned above increasing number of higher education programs in English on one hand, on another implementing the program for master's level studies abroad.

D.8. Has your country monitored the effects of these measures/programmes?

Yes

No

D.8.a If yes, please provide information on how this monitoring is undertaken. Who is responsible, how regularly is monitoring conducted, and what have been the most recent results?

As the measures are only currently introduced no monitoring was implemented so far.

D.9. Has your higher education policy been informed by any surveys or research that have considered obstacles to staff mobility?

Yes

No

D.9.a If yes, please provide references to those surveys or research that have influenced your policy on staff mobility?

D.10. In this context, please rank the three most important obstacles to incoming and outgoing staff mobility? (Most important = 1, second most important = 2, and third most important = 3)

Obstacles to staff mobility	Incoming mobility	Outgoing mobility
Immigration restrictions		
Recognition issues		
Language issues	1	1
Incompatibility of pension and/or social security systems		
Legal issues		
Other, please specify:		

D.11. What measures/programmes has your country implemented to tackle and remove the obstacles to staff mobility that you mentioned?

D.12. Has your country monitored the effects of these measures/programmes?

Yes

No

D.12.a If yes, please provide information on how this monitoring is undertaken. Who is responsible, how regularly is monitoring conducted, and what have been the most recent results?

E Balanced student mobility flows

When looking at global and intra-European mobility flows, significant imbalances between continents, countries, regions and institutions become visible. In the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué, the European Ministers therefore asked the BFUG to consider how balanced mobility could be achieved within the EHEA. With the 2009 Bologna Policy Forum Statement, Ministers from across the world declared that they “advocate a balanced exchange of teachers, researchers and students between [their] countries and promote fair and fruitful ‘brain circulation’”.

The following questions aim at collecting information on the understanding of the term “balanced mobility and on national strategies and measures to achieve more balanced mobility.

E.1. Which of the following situations for student mobility applies to your country?

	Total mobility	Credit mobility	Degree mobility
more incoming than outgoing students			
more outgoing than incoming students	+	+	+
approximately the same number of incoming and outgoing students			
No information available			

E.1.a What is the statistical source for this information? Please supply statistical data.

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

E.2. Is the situation described above regarded as balanced mobility?

Yes

No

E.2.a Please explain and include a definition of “balanced mobility” as it is used in your country.

Flows of outgoing students doesn't exceed significantly those of incoming students.

E.3. Does your country have significant imbalances of student mobility flows with particular countries or regions?

Yes

No

E.3.a If yes, with which countries or regions are mobility flows most imbalanced?

USA and Europe - only outgoing students, Central Asia - only incoming students

E.4. Does your mobility strategy/action plan for higher education address the issues of balance of student mobility flows?

Yes

No

E.4.a If yes, what are the main concerns addressed?

To remove obstacles to outbound (such as financial issues, language) as well as inbound mobility (attract more students from different geographical areas of the world).

E.4.b If yes, which measures have been undertaken to address these concerns regarding the balance of student mobility flows?

Space for Comments: