

Capacity Building in Higher Education

Project Idea for Partner Search

HEI	AKAKI TSERETELI STATE UNIVERSITY
Information on applicant	Akaki Tsereteli State University (www.atsu.edu.ge) in Kutaisi (second largest city of Georgia) is oldest and largest HEI outside the capital with significant international experience: 12 Tempus and 4 Erasmus Mundus projects implemented so far.
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Proposed Project Name (working title)	Role of Universities in the Regional Development
Type of the project	Structural Measures
Type of Partnership	National Project
Suggested local partners	10 Georgian public HEIs from regions Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
Priority	National priority: Category D “Development of Higher Education Sector at Regional Level (in regions of a given country)”
Project objectives	<p>It is well known that institutions of higher education (HEIs) have significant economic, social and cultural impact on local level. In case of Georgia they are often largest regional employers, tax payers and service consumers, at the same time assuring access to higher education for those who cannot afford living in another city.</p> <p>But unfortunately role of regional HEIs in a small country like Georgia is not clearly defined yet – only few of them have reflected particularities of their location and specific environment in mission and strategic development plans, whereas majority is just copy/pasting approaches of larger universities from the capital.</p> <p>We believe that regional universities may and shall play the most important role as basis and centers of regional development, while linking their research and study programs (including training courses) to local needs.</p> <p>Thus the general aim of the project is to make Georgian regional HEIs more relevant to the communities and regions they are located.</p> <p>Project activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redefining mission and strategic development plans for regional universities based on SWOT analysis and local market research; - Developing close collaboration with local authorities and other social partners, enhancing academia-labour market dialogue;

	<p>- Creating network of regional HEIs to build institutional capacity and sustainability through the sharing of best practice in educational delivery, training, research and organizational management, particularly with reference to regional contexts.</p>
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