

Annual Report of the 2017-2018 of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Is prepared in accordance with the long-term and one-year action plan of strategic development of 2011-2017

- ✓ The University successfully continues elaborating, defining/designing and implementing the educational programs. The following programs of the School of Social Sciences were accredited: Bachelor's Program in Economy, Bachelor's Program in Political Sciences, Bachelor's Program in Psychology, Bachelor's Program in Sociology; School of Journalism: Bachelor's Program in Digital Media and Communication, E-Learning & IN-person Learning for the journalists – English language Master's Program for the media specialists of the neighbor countries (pilot version); Exchange program of Law and Politics of the State University of Michigan (Master's Program in International Law).
- ✓ Innovative the level –V technical vocational education program in Occupational Safety and Environmental Technologies was accredited (via authorization). With the support of the Millennium Challenge Account-Georgia the modern, high standard equipment and the latest study materials were purchased.
- ✓ The University is getting ready for the accreditation of 2018. As a result, full mobilization of the resources of GIPA took place in the given reporting period.
- ✓ Control of the internal quality of the University improved significantly, functions of the University intranet (lmb.gipa.ge) were extended, besides the function of financial monitoring it has been added the component of managing/ ensuring the quality in the form of questionnaires and surveys.
- ✓ The project of the new building of the University fitting the modern standards and the respective infrastructure was chosen via competition.
- ✓ Number of the partner universities of GIPA increased and the University offers the students exchange programs alongside the dual Master's and Bachelor's programs. The partner universities are: University of Columbia, George Mason University, Troy University, Wroclaw University, University of Colorado, Business School of Geneva (Switzerland), Turiba University (Latvia), University of Masaryk, University of Salzburg, University of Michigan, University of Wyoming (USA), Free University of Burga, University of National and World Economy, University of Economy of Varna, University of Tartu (Estonia), University of Hanover, University of Hamburg, University of Bocconi, University of Kagiari, Latvia – Schools of Business and Finances, Lithuania – University of Kazimieras Simonavicius, University of Vitavta Magnus, Management

School of Maastricht University, School of Economy of Warsaw, Slovakia – University of Economy of Bratislava, University of Gothenburg, Santiago de Compostela University.

- ✓ Grant programs were successfully carried out; Main donors: State Department of the USA, Embassy of the USA in Georgia, USAID, USDA, EU/EC, IREX, OSI; US CDC, MCA, FAO, AAH, EC/ENPARD.
- ✓ Assets of the University (growth 2015vs2016) – GEL 2915662; grant income (growth 2015vs2016) – GEL 1172419, income of the Center of Trainings and Consultations (growth 2015vs2016) – GEL 259830; income of the corporate consultations (growth 2015vs2016) – GEL 209830.

Maintaining/ Developing the Quality of Existing Educational Programs

With the purpose of maintaining the quality assessment/ monitoring of the existing and new educational programs, implementation of new teaching methodologies are contently in progress. Five new educational programs of the University acquired accreditation. The following educational programs are implemented in the schools during the given reporting period:

School of Government:

- Master's Program of Public Administration
- Master's Program of Local Government
- Master's Program of Public Policy
- Bachelor's Program of Business Administration
- Master's Program of Business Administration
- Master's Program in the Management of Environmental Protection and Policy

School of Journalism and Media Management:

- Master's Program in Multimedia Journalism and Media Management
- Master's Program in Public Relations
- Master's Program in Media Engineering
- Bachelor's Program in Audio-Visual and Media Art
- Bachelor's Program in Digital Media and Communication (new program)

School of Law and Politics:

- Master's Program in International Relations
- Master's Program in International Law
- Bachelor's Program in Law
- Master's Program in Migration – joint program with the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University within the framework of the project Tempus Georgia (new program)

School of Social Sciences

- Bachelor's Program in Social Sciences
- Master's Program in Applied Psychology
- Bachelor's Program in Economy (new program)
- Bachelor's Program in Political Sciences (new program)
- Bachelor's Program in Psychology (new program)
- Bachelor's Program in Sociology (new program)

Implementing the New Educational Programs

- Cyber-security Program for the staff of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia in their mid-careers – School of Law.
- Exchange program of the State University of Michigan and the School of Law and Politics (Master's Program in International Law).
- E-Learning % In-Person Learning for the Journalists – English language Master's program for the media specialists of the neighbor countries (pilot version) – School of Journalism.
- The Center of Trainings and Consultations offered the customer new certified programs in the following directions: Management (coaching, emotional intelligence), Public Relations (PR and SEO tactics), Psychology (psychology of law, vocational program of non-verbal communication) and Law (Business Law and Construction Law). A summer school was successfully implemented.

Implementing the Bachelor's Program

- Bachelor's Program in Digital Media and Communication – School of Journalism and Media Management.
- Bachelor's Program in Economy – School of Social Sciences
- Bachelor's Program in Political Sciences – School of Social Sciences

Perfecting the Existing Bachelor's Program

Perfecting of the existing Bachelor's programs and implementing the modern standards of teaching is constantly going on in the University with the purpose of maintaining and improving the quality.

- Dual Degree Bachelor's Programs (3+1) are carried out successfully

Strengthening Relationships with the Foreign Partners/ Attracting New Partners

- The University constantly tries to attract foreign partners. The given reporting period is marked with one of the highest figures of signed memorandums of cooperation, joint projects of educational and regional development and involvement of the students in exchange programs.
- Exchange Program between the School of Law and Politics and the Law Department of the University of Masaryk (Czech Republic).
- Exchange Program of the State University of Michigan and the School of Law and Politics (Master's Program in International Law).
- The School of Journalism is a member of the European Journalism Training Association (EJTA).

Increasing the Infrastructure/Study Space of the University

- The project of the new building and the respective infrastructure which fits the modern standards was selected and approved via the competition.

Supporting the Statistics of the Graduates

- The University constantly cares about employment of the graduates. The Student Support and Career Development Center is created in the University. GIPA actively participates in the job fairs. Career development campaigns are carried out in the framework of different projects. Memorandums of cooperation of the public and private sectors facilitates internships

of the graduates. Discussion sessions/round table/workshops/practical/introduction practices with the potential employers facilitates employment of the graduates. Hence the GIPA graduates have high figure of employment (% according to the newest data).

Improving the Electronic Database of Administering the Study Process

- Intranet of GIPA (lmb.gipa.ge) with increased functions plays an important role in administering the study process. At the moment the intranet ensures providing all the necessary information to the students. Quality management/ provision component was added to the intranet in the form of the questionnaires and surveys which is a significant part of controlling the quality of GIPA.

Creating/ Publishing the Study Materials Respective to the Educational Programs and Renewing the Material-Technical Base and the Library Fund of the University

- Modern study equipment is acquired for implementing the vocational education program “Occupational Safety and Environmental Technologies”.
- Study literature was translated and published: Foundations of Environmental Protection, ETA Consultancy 2010, NEBOSH NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT; Work Safety, practical guide, author: Vaslterich, ETA Consultancy 2010 NEBOSH unitized IGC; Foundations of Work Safety, author: Vaslterich, ETA Consultancy 2010;
- Management of a Farm Business Foundations of Good Practice, Peterlnathol, www.cabi.org.

Developing and Implementing Necessary Mechanisms for Increasing Qualification and Motivation

- Trainings and consultations were actively carried out in the Teaching Excellence Center in regards of increasing the qualification and motivation of the staff of the University.

Supporting Involvement in Research, Conferences, Different Grant Projects

- The following conferences were carried out with the financial support of the USA Embassy: “Effective Governance – Supporting the Democratic Values and Practices via Educational Activity”, “European Choice of Georgia – I am Georgian and Hence, I am European”, the School of Governance and the Management School of the Maastricht University carried

out a joint conference “Entrepreneurship and Education”, students of the Master’s Program of the Public Governance participated in the international conference (Budapest, Hungary) organized by the NASPAA with the financing of the University; Representative of the School of Journalism participated in the EJTA conference; together with the George Mason University and the University of Georgia GIPA conducted the training “Research Methods for the Georgian Civil Servants and Academics”.

- The following researches were conducted within the framework of the MCA Georgia project “Vocational education for developing the Economy”: “Researching the Market of the Companies Related with the Field of Health, Work Safety and Environmental Protection”, “Prospects of Employment of the Specialists of Work Safety and Environmental Protection in Georgia”.
- The researches (researching the value chain of peach; researching the value chain of walnut) within the framework of the EU/ENPARD project “Strengthening the Modern Research Practice in the Regional Agricultural Institutes”.
- Basic research of the problems and needs of the community for Local Development Strategy of Akhalkalaki was carried out in the framework of the EU/ENPARD project “Promoting New Rural Development Approach in Akhalkalaki”.
- Internal research of the School of Governance “Measuring and Indicators of the Organizational Efficiency of GIPA”, with the organization of the School of Governance and in cooperation with George Mason University the publication “Current Issues of the Public Policy of Georgia” was prepared.
- The research center financed the international conference – “Effective Governance – Supporting the Democratic Values and Practices with the Educational Activity”, third part of the online journal of GIPA, Politics and Democratization was issued; a report “Measurements of Efficiency of the Organization in GIPA” was prepared, the results of the project are used as the secondary data in the issues of strategic development. A network of research organizations of the public governance (PARON) was established. International Transparency – Georgia, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Center of Developing Freedom of Information, Management School of the Caucasian University, Institute of Administrative Sciences and the TSU are its members.
- The following projects were carried out in the reporting period: Erasmus+ project “ABC – Assisting Better Communication”, Summer Academy of 2018 of Young professionals; Open Platform; a project financed by the European Union – Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities; developing the platform of online teaching for the Journalists (Embassy of the USA in Azerbaijan); the School of Practical Politics; “Improving Trust Between the Societies Damaged by the Conflict with the Use of Unified

Approaches Across the Administrative Border – (donor: Embassy of Great Britain/ AAH); the School of Journalism carries out the project – “Multimedia Skills and Education for Ethnic Society”; Project of Monitoring the Violence Against Women (donor: European Commission).

Ensuring/ Internationalizing Inclusion of Foreign or Local Professionals in the Study Process

- Together with elaborating and implementing the new educational programs of different levels, inclusion of foreign and local qualified personnel, invited lecturers or specialists of the field in the study process has increased.

Perfecting the System of Monitoring with the Purpose of Improving the Quality of Study Process

- A three-day training for the teachers of vocational education was carried out on the following topics: Systems and Criteria of Assessing the Students in Vocational education, Gender Analysis of Study Materials and Assessment Systems and Criteria in GIPA.

Perfecting the Systems of Marketing and Public Relations

- GIPA participated in the following events: Education Fair in Expo Georgia; organizing of the student festival and the documentary movie festival GIPA DOCU; organizing charity activities; organizing ski tournament in Gudauri; organizing annual competition of Joshua Freedman and other.
- GIPA website was updated; radio GIPA is still one of the main instruments of marketing activities; the School of Journalism established a computer graphic Graphic MultiLab – the first authorized multiplatform learning center in the Caucasian region; the best movie of GIPA DOCU 2017 was shown at the movie festival of Switzerland.
- An open day was conducted; GIPA joined the international book day and with the initiative of the students a reading space was organized in the subway of Rustaveli; PR and Marketing campaigns are actively carried out with the use of social media; the news are constantly broadcasted by the information agency ipn.ge.

Challenges:

- ✓ Mobilizing and consolidating funds for improving the infrastructure
- ✓ Mobilizing resources for the process of authorization

Planned Activities

- Improving infrastructure
- *Piloting Modern Trading Opportunities in Agriculture through Creation of the Innovative Online Platform – AgroNet (BSB294)*, which foresees the development of 8 additional ITC based tool to support cross-border cooperation and increasing cross-border trade opportunities for agricultural products to support 300 business development organizations.