

# National NCP System in Georgia

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# Association of Georgia to H2020 Program

- **On 29 April 2016 Government of Georgia signed Associated Agreement with Horizon 2020 Program. As far as association membership fee was defined, Georgia was grateful to the European commission firstly for its remarkable 85% rebate, and secondly EU's commitment to reimburse a half of the remaining (15%) financial contribution through EC's financial ENPI instrument – Technical Cooperation Facility.**
- **Georgia's association to Horizon 2020 has opened up substantially new vistas of cooperation in research and innovation for Georgian participants: scientists, researchers, or innovatively-minded people as well as various public or private institutions (universities, research institutions) and companies (SMEs, NGOs, etc.) legally established in Georgia.**
- **We view the Association Status as credible incentive for bringing Georgian science closer to the European Research Area. From now onwards, Horizon 2020 will put Georgian scientists, researchers and innovative entrepreneurs on the same footing with their European counterparts. It is a huge privilege for us and we appreciate it.**



# Some statistics of the Participation

- **In terms of Georgia's participation in Horizon 2020, for the time being Georgia participates in 9 projects. 8 projects were funded before Georgia's association to Horizon 2020; and 1 was funded after the signature.**
- **In previous FP7 program for Research and Technology, Georgia demonstrated remarkable results. Georgian participants were involved in 49 projects.**
- **Over-popularity and substantially altered purpose and structure of Horizon 2020 increased competition among researchers and innovators across Europe and beyond. This led reduction of average success rate down to 12-14% compared to average 19-21% in Horizon 2020's predecessor FP7 program.**

# NCP System in Georgia

- **In order to foster participation of Georgian partners in the calls announced under H2020, the Government of Georgia set up National Contact Point Network that is tasked to provide support service to prospective Georgian applicants to H2020 Program. At present, we have active National Contact Points System (NCP System) in place, who regularly arrange info-days, individual consultations about the rules of participation, ongoing/forthcoming calls, choice of proper calls, support in partner search and the like.**
- **In Georgia, the NCP System has a decentralized setup with 21 National Contact Points from different institutions (ministries, universities, research centers, NGOs, etc.) appointed and coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.**

# Responsibilities of NCPs

**Basically, the role of NCPs is to provide the following services:**

- **Distribution (dissemination) of EC information, also documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals, templates etc.)**
- **Guidance on choosing relevant H2020 topics and types of action**
- **Advice on administrative procedure and contractual issues**
- **Training and assistance on proposal writing**
- **Assistance in partner search**
- **Awareness Raising Activities: Info days, Seminars, websites on work Programmes and Rules of Participation.**

**NCPs are expected to be knowledgeable about all aspects of H2020 beyond their specialist area, thus, allowing effective signposting, when necessary.**

# EaP and other International Programs in Georgia

- According to the initiative of the European Commission there was created the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. It took place in Poznan in November 2011. The main goal of Eastern Partnership was association agreements (DCFTA) including deep and comprehensive free trade agreements with EaP countries. We have National platform in Georgia in which my organization ICARTI is involved from 2013.
- The Eastern Partnership will also promote democracy and good governance, strengthen energy security, promote sector reform and environment protection, encourage people to people contacts, support economic and social development and offer additional funding for projects to reduce socio-economic imbalances and increase stability.
- On the other side there are scientific programs which were quite popular several years ago and now due to various issues (mainly financial aspects and overall activity) are becoming less interesting for our scientists. They are: ISTC, STCU, NATO science programs, GRDF/CRDF, etc.
- Only EC Framework programs, Erasmus Mundus, SNF and others maintained their actuality and interest.

# Main Governmental Structures in Georgia for Development of Innovations

- **The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia**

The mission of this Ministry is to provide stable and high economic growth with effective economic policy which will provide a favorable business environment in the country.

- **The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia** aims at establishing modern and innovative educational and scientific environment in close cooperation with civil society.
- **Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation** promotes: implementation of fundamental, applied and innovative research in a competitive environment, development of knowledge-based society, reinforcement of links between science and education, integration of Georgia into international research area and popularization of science.
- **Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA)** is assigned to coordinate and at the same time to provide development of innovation and technologies in the country.

# ICT and Innovation Strategy

- **Development of information and communication technologies is strong opportunity to build up an information society, they will support further economic and social development of the country and stimulate integration into the Euro-Atlantic space. For this reason the Government of Georgia pays special attention to develop the mentioned sphere - creating new concept of development and rapidly using the innovative techniques and technologies.**
- **At present the efforts to stimulate innovation and ICT sector through policy measures are evident in Georgia, although the process of creation of a coherent innovation policy started only last years in the country. The formulation of such a policy which was elaborated by the relevant actors from World Bank, universities, the public and private sectors could help Georgia make a big step forward in economic development as well as in increasing of international ranking indicators such as the GCI – (Global Competitiveness Index) and Global Innovation Index.**





# World Bank Contribution to Innovation Strategy

- **In 2014 World Bank invited experts from abroad and from Georgia and with the help of them elaborated new innovation strategy for the country.**
- **The primary objective of this strategy was to set-up and existing priorities in the area of ICT, innovation, research, and technological development. The Innovation Strategy will provide an integrated approach to improve the capacity of existing institutions to foster innovation activities in the business sector. It will drive competitiveness and economic development founded on a knowledge-based society towards creativity and technological progress.**



# Achievements in Georgia During 2015-16

- Georgian Government signed Association Agreement with EU
- Georgian Government signed Association Agreement with H2020;
- With the support/assistance of World Bank, Innovation Strategy of Georgia for 2014-20 was elaborated;
- Social Economic Development Strategy of Georgia was adopted;
- The Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) was established;
- The first Techno Park in ICT was created and equipped with the support of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- Georgian Technology Transfer Center (GTTC) was created;
- Innovation council was created in Georgian Parliament;
- Innovation council was established under the office of Prime Minister of Georgia;
- Georgia became the member of Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and two Georgian organizations - Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) and Enterprise Development Agency (EDA) - became contact point organizations of EEN., etc.

# Local information system in Georgia

- In 2015 the Ministry of Education and Science developed Georgian language website on Horizon 2020 ([www.horizon2020.ge](http://www.horizon2020.ge)) with its accompanying social platform on Facebook page. Horizon 2020 Georgia, serving as online Georgian-run gateway for dissemination H2020-related information in Georgian language.
- Web site of the Rustaveli National Science Foundation reflects all activities including H2020 events and news: <http://www.rustaveli.org.ge/index.php?lang=eng>
- ICARTI web site: [www.icarti.ge](http://www.icarti.ge)

I strongly believe that within the Horizon 2020, Georgian participants will engage in collaborative works to produce world-class science and new knowledge. Their participation will not only contribute to economic growth of Georgia, but also will enhance their visibility among European science community and beyond.

***Thank you for your attention!***

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