

# SWOT analysis of the Curricula (Workpackage 1): TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY (TSU)

## INTRODUCTION

From the Regional Priorities list - for the Eastern Neighboring Area (ENPI East) - the ENVIRONMENT was the selected priority for the RETHINK project; however, the underlying theme of the RETHINK project is new, because it is ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY are intertwined with BUSINESS and EDUCATION.

The RETHINK project encompasses these two themes, and also integrates the concept of the knowledge triangle “education/research/innovation” from an environmentally sustainable perspective. The project RETHINK intends to rethink the curricula of the partner HEIs -in the priority area of ENVIRONMENT- through the development of innovative Joint (Masters and PhD) Degrees in the fields of

- 1 - Architecture, Urban planning and
- 2-Climate Engineering/Environmental Sciences

The RETHINK project intends to overcome some of the needs that were listed by the RETHINK's Eastern Partner Countries:

- The need to understand the impact of Green House Gas emissions’ on the Biosphere;
- The need to develop curricula on sustainability based on a transdisciplinary framework.
- The need to know and to apply ecologic solutions to environmental problems.

The expected results will be the:

- Development of a new Joint (Masters and PhD) Degrees in the fields of
  - 1- Architecture/Urban planning and
  - 2- 2- Climate engineering/Environmental Sciences.
- Establishment of a CO2 accounting approach as an indicator of sustainability.
- Knowledge exchange.
- Teacher training.
- Development of teaching materials.
- Promotion of business start-ups.
- Development of mutually agreed standards of quality of education.
- Dissemination of outcomes (sharing of teaching materials and results).

Please fill out SWOT analysis of the Curricula offered by your university (Workpackage 1): critical analysis of the existing Curricula in your university in order to achieve objectives listed above:

Analysis		Internal origin		External origin	
		STRENGTHS Helpful to achieving the objective	WEAKNESSES Harmful to achieve the objective	OPPORTUNITIES Helpful to achieving the objective	THREATS Harmful to achieve the objective
Course content	Master degree: Human Geography – HG (existing)	Existence of a module: Spatial organization in HG Master program;  Courses and programs at TSU in climate and environmental disciplines;	Lack of a program explicitly focusing on urban issues;  Lack of lecturers in TSU (at the moment) capable to cover all subjects in urban studies;  Weak cooperation	Interest and readiness of TSU interdisciplinary center (IC) to adopt and manage program(s) in urban studies;  Recruiting professors/scholars of different	Students’ demand in undertaking programs in urban studies is not assessed;  Uncertainty in job finding – no established cooperation

		Upcoming PhD students studying urban issues (e.g. planning) abroad	between disciplines/departments so far;  Insufficient technical equipment	disciplines at IC;  Possibility of developing some courses or the whole program(s) in English;  Attractiveness of getting a joint degree;  Attractiveness of foreign exchange	with public and private sector
	PhD degree: Human Geography - HG (existing)	Research and doctoral theses on urban issues;  Sufficient number of research grants and projects in urban and environmental studies;  Availability of international networks for cooperation	Lack of special course (on purpose tailored) for those who write PhD in urban studies;  Underdeveloped PhD programs and procedures at TSU (too many and frequent changes, 'heavy' procedures)	Possibility to use TSU IC resources and services; Possibility of taking English language courses;  Attractiveness of getting a joint degree;  Attractiveness of foreign exchange	Uneven English and other (technical) skills of PhD students for working with sources;  Problem of combining work and study/research
Duration, months	Master degree: 4 semesters				
	PhD degree: 6 semesters				
Number of credits, ECTS	Master degree: 120 ECTS				
	PhD degree: 180 ECTS				

Please fill out this table in order to analyze the procedure that RETHINK Project needs to follow for the accreditation of a new Joint Degrees

Accreditation of Joint Degree on the national level	
Name of institution responsible for the accreditation of a Joint Degree	National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement ( <a href="http://eqe.ge/eng/about">http://eqe.ge/eng/about</a> )
Requested documents for the accreditation of a Joint Degree	Is necessary to submit: <a href="#">Self-assessment Report of Educational Programme of Higher Education Institution</a> (a link downloads an application form; see also <a href="http://eqe.ge/uploads/Accreditation/report_HEIs_accr.pdf">http://eqe.ge/uploads/Accreditation/report_HEIs_accr.pdf</a> )

<p>Procedure for the accreditation of a Joint Degree</p>	<p>The accreditation procedure shall include the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Self-evaluation of an application for accreditation and submission of an accreditation application;</li> <li>b) Setting-up of an accreditation expert commission;</li> <li>c) Accreditation visit;</li> <li>d) Preparation of the opinion of the accreditation expert commission and familiarisation thereof to the interested persons;</li> <li>e) Holding of an oral hearing on accreditation related issues;</li> <li>f) Making and publication of a decision.</li> </ul> <p>(for more details <a href="http://eqe.ge/eng/accreditation/procedure">http://eqe.ge/eng/accreditation/procedure</a>)</p>
<p>Expected duration for the accreditation process to be completed</p>	<p>Couple of months</p>

Note: Additionally, I've sent a special request to relevant persons at EQE to advice regarding the questions. I'll update the table as soon as answers would be provided