

The International Conference on the Internationalization of Higher Education:: Strategies and Challenges - IHE 2017 was held at the Georgian Technical University. The conference was organized by The Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design and the Faculty of Business technologies..

The event was organized within the frame of EU grant - TEMPUS RETHINKe project- the reform of education through the international exchange of knowledge (through the International Exchange of Education Reforms).

The conference discussed issues of international relations and the exchange programs of knowledge in the education system.

The rector of the Technical University of Georgia, Mr. Archil Prangishvili, President of the Lisbon Architectural Faculty João Pardal Monteiro (Portugal); Tempus RETHINKe Project coordinator Oksana Ribak - Turchanina (Portugal), Prof. Antonio Castelbroco (Portugal); responsible for academicians part of the project, GTU Project Coordinator - Nino Chachava (Georgia) made a speech and presentation at the conference.

The importance of the project results, including double-degree programs, as the opportunity for knowledge sharing, rethink of national resources, new approach in assessment and role of this platform in the international space of European standards were discussed at the event.

The project coordinators provided the audience with information about the double – degree programs developed within the RETHINK project. Among them were challenges of the new English language Doctoral programs in “Sustainable Urbanism” (Supervisor Nino Chachava) and “Architecture” (Supervisor David Botanashvili) developed in close collaboration with the Lisbon University; and Master Program “Hydrogeology and environmental protection” (Supervisor Nodar Poporadze), developed in close relation with the Coruna University master program in Environmental Science.

Internal university agreements between the Georgian Technical University and the University of Lisbon in double-degree architectural and sustainable urbanism programs were presented, including terms, forms and methods for their implementation. It was mentioned that the PhD program of sustainable urbanism was in the process of national validation and accreditation by the Georgian National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement.

The next successful results of the RETHINKe project was the assignment of the Erasmus + K107 exchange program Document at the plenary session of the conference by the rector of the

Technical University of Georgia - Archil Prangishvili and the president of the architectural faculty of the University of Lisbon - Joao Pardal Monteiro.

After the plenary session, The seminars were developed out the topics of Internationalization, its challenges and strategies in national and European systems, based on comparative analysis, own experience, new technologies, e-learning and other relevant problems in the high education system.

The seminars were represented by the professors, lecturers, students of the faculty and opened by the presentations of prof. . Joao Pardal Monteiro and Antonio Castelbranco. Prof . Joao Pardal Monteiro discribed the Structure of the Lisbon University, the main principles and goals of the architectural education in the Faculty of Architecture, its history and rich experience in International programs, relationship with partner universities.

He introduced the audience in details with the curricula of architectural education in Lisbon University.

The briefing with the students and lecturers was developed.

Professors Joao Pardal Monteiro and Antonio Castelbranco handed the students and professors the gifts prepared by ReTHINK Project.

Prof Antonio Castelbranco described the frame, main achievements of RETHINK project and movement burnt by it.

The presentation of prof.Medea Melkadze illustrated the principles of Architectural teaching-learning process passing the vectors of Psychology, Pedagogy and teaching methodology. At the top of the cornerstone problem , prof. Medea Melkadze develop her own conceptual definition of the problem - childhood thinking apathy, which pointed to the problems of developing the personal skills among now a days students by the verbs of following context and approach –want, have, take or can, work, create!!!

So based on her 25 years teaching experience prof. Medea Melkadze created her own methods how to form the architectural mind and realize it inside the creative work. This approach was presented by the thesis and visual materials.

The presentation of prof. Nodar Poporadze was regarding the 21-st century problems, synergy and crossroads of architectural and hydro geological education.

He spoke about the post soviet regional manufacture Tkibuli-tkvarcheli zones in Georgia.

Based on his own researches the speaker showed to audience the unique materials of argent

bioclimatic condition of the natural environment and its biological imbalance caused by the destruction of this zones during the post soviet period.

The presented visual material clearly showed the disasters developed by the toxic materials created by damaged reinforced concrete sarcophagus of soviet time - when the toxic wastes riched the soils and underground waters, flowed into the rivers and streams. The interesting debates were developed around the problem, when the idea of existing sarcophagus revitalization was developed by the language of landscape architecture and new topics of the subject were fixed.

professor Nino Imnadze develop a presentation about the methods of architectural education in Poland. Where the streamline of disabled people wellbeing – harmonized adaptation through existing anthropogenic environment cross the whole course of the program.

The visual materials demonstrated the rich architectural experience and achievements around the world and in Poland exactly.

Prof dr. George Tsanatskenashvili made a report about his teaching experience in Turkey. He spoke about the problems he met there among students' in the intellectual-creative field and the methods he used for solving these problems, their positive results, when step by step it became possible to work out the more and more comprehensive, hard tasks and projects. His effort was mentioned and highly assessed by his Turkish colleagues, but the political situation developed during the last years in Turkey made him to leave this country.

Other presentations were developed during the conference the contents and absracts of which were put into the book of conference proceedings.