

Information Exchange in Science and Technology between the
European Research Area and Eastern
European/ Central Asian Countries



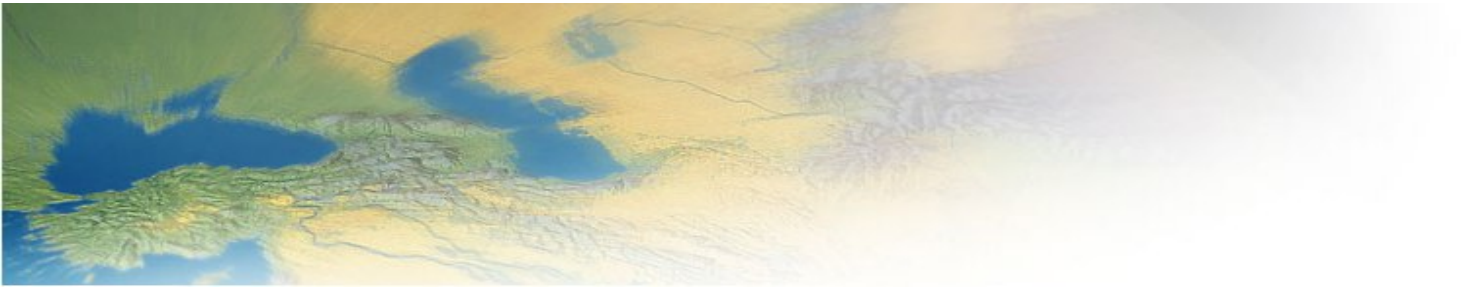
Georgia

Contry Report

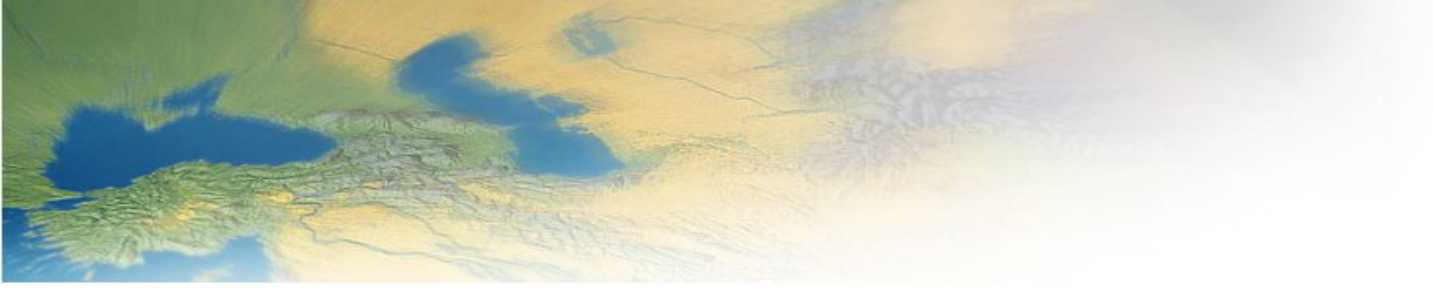
(last updated: 26 November 2009, source: GNSF)

IncoNet EECA



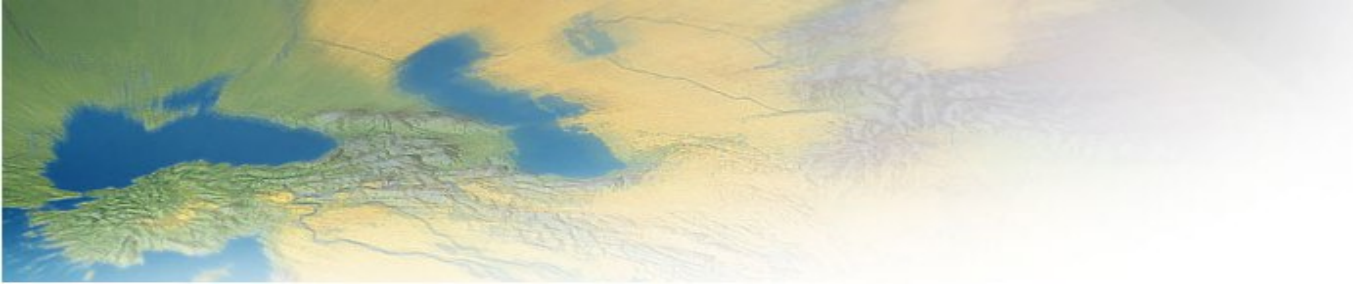


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General information about Georgia:

Official name of the country	Georgia
Population	4,730,841
Area	69,700 sq km
Capital	Tbilisi
System of Government	Unitary semi-presidential republic
Head of Government	President: Mikheil Saakashvili; Prime-Minister: Nikoloz Gilauri
Education & Science Minister	Mr. Nikoloz Gvaramia: Minister of Education and Science of Georgia
Parliament	The Parliament consists of 150 members elected by a proportional system and 85 members elected by a majority system for a term of four years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.
Administrative structure	9 regions, and 2 autonomous republics
Geography	Geographic coordinates: 42 00 N, 43 30 E Map references: Europe Land boundaries: total: 1,461 km border countries: Armenia 164 km, Azerbaijan 322 km, Russia 723 km, Turkey 252 km Coastline: 310 km



Research structure

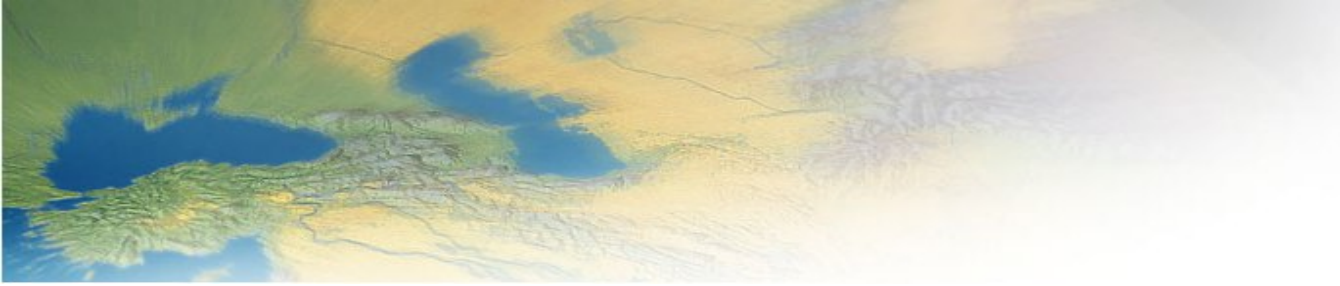
Characterisation of the research system

Policy making and funded functions in Georgia are mainly concentrated in the Ministry of Education and Science, Georgia National Science Foundation (GNSF) and Rustaveli Foundation (Foundation for Georgian Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences). Actually research is performed in public universities (focus of private universities is on education rather than on research) and scientific-research institutes and in less extent in non-governmental organisations (generally involved is social sciences). Georgian Academy of Sciences is the advisory body and plays a leading role in setting of national R&D priorities. Georgia's research system has gone through major restructuring in the last 4-5 years, yet the process is far from being completed. The continuing changes encompass: optimisation of the number and the profile of scientific-research institutes and their integration into the university system, elaboration of new funding models of S&T (including cooperative granting of international programmes and projects), support of young scientists, etc.

Research indicators

S&T of Georgia can be estimated by the following main indicators:

- The number of grants received from European and international programmes and funds. The following international programmes and funds have been mainly involved in granting of Georgian S&T (in USD): EU FP6 - (2002-2006) 15 projects – 2.5 mln ; NATO - (since 1994) 160 projects – around 11.5 mln; TACIS - (1996-2007) 8 projects - 6.0 mln; INTAS - (1993-2006) 250 projects- 8.0 mln; CRDF - (since 1995) 235 projects-7.5 mln; ISTC - (1994-2008) 138 projects - 27.997 006 mln; STCU - (since 1998 - 2007) 60 projects -5.5 mln.
- The number of publications by Georgian researchers in leading international research journals indexed by the ISI Web of Science. The number has increased from 1216 for the period 1995-1999 to 1781 for the period 2000-2005, or from 240 papers per million population to 380 papers per million population.
- The number of S&T institutes/universities. Currently Georgia S&T holds 63 S&T institutes (legal entities of public law) and around 20 private institutes mainly of medical profile. S&T activities are also performed by 6 accredited universities (LEPL).
- Number of scientific personnel and researchers (including persons with scientific degree). Number of scientific personnel of public S&T institutes is around 4858 and more than 50% of them (2527) are researchers. Academy staff members of



public universities (according to their own regulations) are research performers and their number can be estimated up to 3000 persons. Respectively, total number of researchers in Georgia makes some 6000 and 65% out of them have scientific degree.

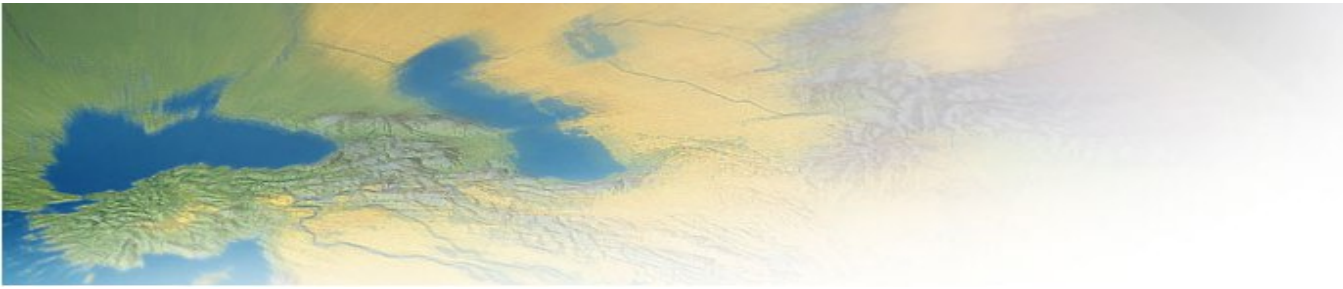
Research performers

The main research performers are represented by public universities, S&T institutes (legal entities of public law) and some private institutes are focused on applied/project activities. Besides, some 20-25 non-governmental organisations are involved in political analyses, socio-economic studies, statistical observations, eco-monitoring.

Research funding system

In 2008, the total funding of S&T from the State budget was around 58 203 500 GEL. Average annual funding for R&D was 29 872 500 GEL which made 0.157% of the country's nominal GDP in comparison with 0,09% in 2007 (country's nominal GDP in 2008 – 19 069 600 000 GEL). Funding from private sector is very limited and of case-to-case character.

Majority of funds from the State budget are allocated by the Ministry of Education and Science. In 2008 the budget was allocated in the form of i) core funding of public research institutions (around 14 509 200 GEL); ii) competitive grants (via Georgia National Science Foundation) – 9 405 000 GEL for all public S&T organisations (including universities) and individual researchers (for GNSF - total amount: 9 906 200 GEL) and iii) competitive grants (via Rustaveli Foundation - Foundation for Georgian Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences) – 2826 900 GEL for all public S&T organisations (including universities) and individual researchers. Besides, the Ministry has provided financial support to Academy of Sciences (2 930 300 GEL) and Academy of Agrarian sciences (533 000 GEL).



Research policy

Context of research policy

The S&T activities in Georgia are regulated by 2 legal acts: “Law on Science and Technologies and their Development”, and the “Law of Georgia on Higher Education”. The Intellectual Property protection system effective at present in Georgia comprises all the elements necessary for its functioning. Georgia is a party to all the main international agreements concerning IPR.

The Government (Ministry of Education and Science) intends to elaborate principles for science and higher education development and main directions for scientific research and ways for integration to the European Research Area. In the process of development of a new system, organisation, administration and financing of S&T the Government cooperate with foreign experts and rely on information and experiences of running scientific systems in EU member states.

Research policy: objectives and priorities

The Government is willing to develop S&T policies, to identify the S&T priority areas for Georgia in order to concentrate resources in these areas, and to enhance linkages between the users of research, whether enterprises or public organisations, and research producers so that outputs can be exploited more effectively.

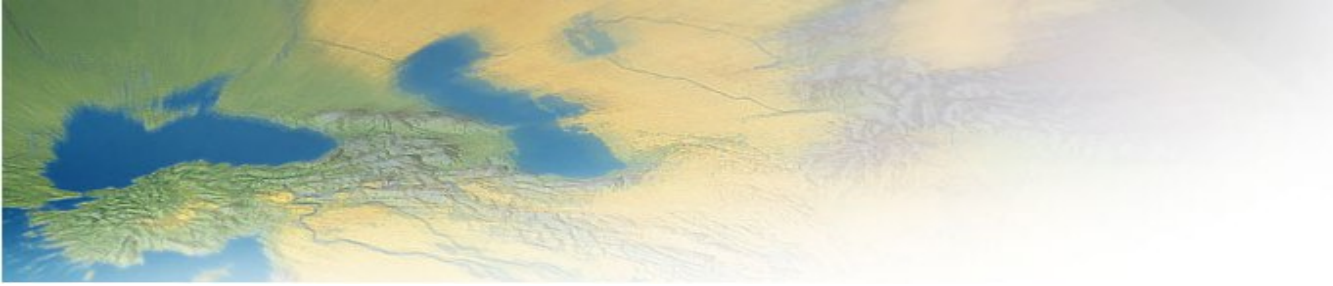
Main objectives and priorities include:

1. Overall assessment and comparative analysis of the existing situation in S&T in Georgia.
2. Drafting a National Strategy on the Development of S&T in Georgia and its adaptation to European standards.
3. Elaboration of a programme for the commercialization of the results in scientific research and for the participation to appropriate European programmes.
4. Elaboration of special programmes to support researchers in their research activities.

Policy making and coordination

The main ministry responsible for S&T policy is the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry coordinates the general horizontal policies and infrastructure development for S&T, as well as for funding research in its area of expertise.

Amendments to “Law on Science and Technologies and their Development” made in December 2004 have initiated changes in structure and management of S&T. In



particular The Georgian National Science Foundation (GNSF) was established by Presidential Decree # 653 (July 2005) as a Public Legal Entity to promote the progress of science by implementing competitive granting system. In May, 2007 Rustaveli Foundation (Foundation for Georgian Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences) was established as a Legal Entity of Public Law.

Around 100 S&T organisations/institutes (most of which at that time belonged to Academy of Sciences) had become independent entities of public law and were given the choice: to proceed their activities in this new status and (having limited basic funding) compete for grants of GNSF; merge each other to joint capacity and efforts; integrate to universities; close down. As a result, number of S&T organisations/institutes reduced to 66 and nowadays the Ministry fulfils general coordination of their activities and provides basic funds.

The participation of universities and S&T organisations in various programmes implemented by GNSF has become effective instrument for optimisation their size and structure since all this programmes are of competitive granting nature.

Essential role in coordination of activities of universities and S&T organisations plays gradually developing system of information-consultation services, especially in facilitation of international cooperation.

A new system of coordination and management of S&T should ensure in-time and effective implementation of policies as well as the existence of permanent feedback and evaluation necessary for making adequate decisions. This system should allow optimal allocation of national financial and technical resources to support S&T as well as for adequate development of S&T community.

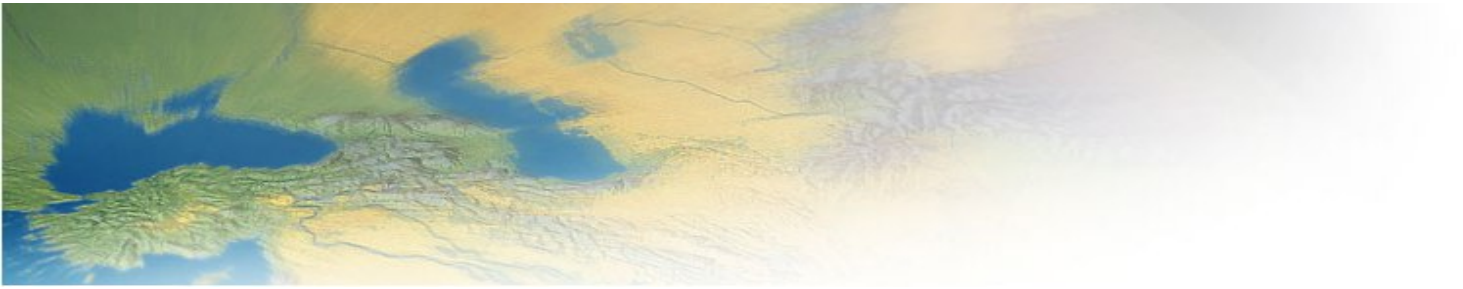
National research programmes

1. Support of Research Activities

- Establishment of Competitive Frame for S&T Development (National Competitive Grants for S&T Projects)
- Provision of State Stipends to Georgian grantees of NATO scientific programmes: "Science for Peace" and "Networking Infrastructure Grants"

2. R&D Commercialisation

- GNSF-CRDF Joint Funding for STEP Business Partnership Projects in 2007- 2008
- GNSF-ISTC Joint Funding for Georgian R&D Projects with innovative potential



3. Support of Young Scientists

- Presidential stipends
- I. Vekua Award in mathematics and ICT; Iv. Beritashvili Award in life sciences
- GNSF-CRDF Joint Funding - Georgian National Science Scholars (NSS-2007) Programme
- State Grants for Organisation of the Summer Schools;
- GNSF-CNRS First Joint Call for Bilateral Research Projects

4. International cooperation

- Cooperative programmes and jointly funded activities with: CRDF, STCU, ISTC, CNRS
- State Grants for Organisation International Scientific Conferences in Georgia

5. Mobility

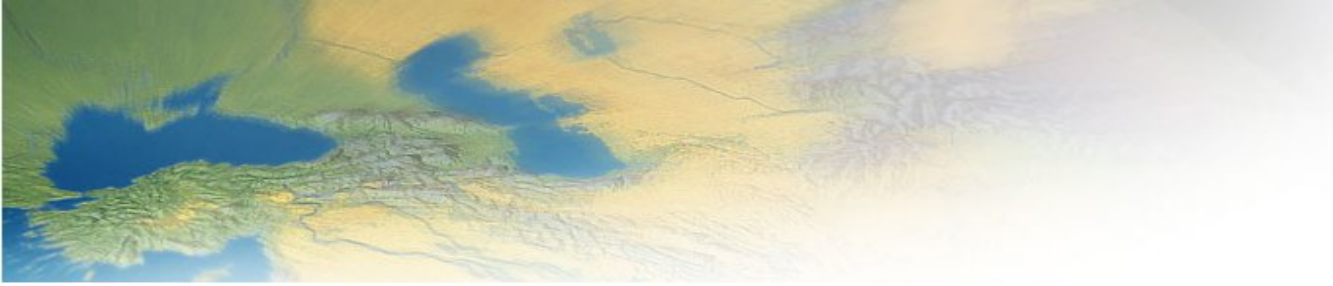
Travel grants to Georgian researchers for participation in international scientific events

6. Development of S&T infrastructure

- Infrastructure Grants
- Grants for Universities Libraries

7. Popularization of science

New Program: "Scientific-Popular Lectures for Public Schools"



International co-operation in research, science and technology

Scope and objectives

Scope of international co-operation in research comprises actually all fields of hard sciences and humanities, predominantly biotechnology and life sciences, physics and material sciences. As to co-operation in technology development it is relatively less intensive and quite limited especially in terms of number of jointly fulfilled projects.

The overall objective of the co-operation is to contribute to steady development of economy and knowledge based society by making Georgia the integral part of international S&T system. Other main objectives are: (i) introduction of best international practices in national S&T policy and management system; (ii) development of new generation of scientists of international standing; (iii) attraction of additional financial means from international programs and foundations (that is quite important in the present situation of insufficient funding of S&T from State budget and national businesses).

Co-operation with EECA-countries

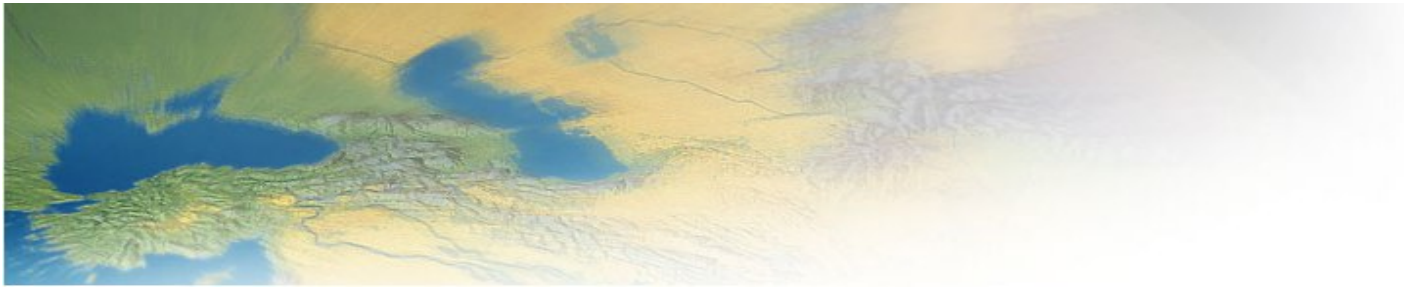
Co-operation of Georgia with EECA-countries is carried out mainly through the direct contacts of the universities and research organisations with their profile partner organisations. The data on such collaboration are not available.

Co-operation with EU-member states and associated countries

In general, multilateral co-operation with EU-member states and associated countries is realised in the frame of EU FPs and INTAS programmes.

As to bilateral cooperation, Georgian researchers have taken part in Swiss R&D programme SCOPES (Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland) as well as in the programme initiated (in 1999-2001 and 2003-2005) by Greece General Secretariat for Research and Technology (Ministry of Development) and Department of Science and Technology of Georgia (Ministry of Economy) to support implementation of joint projects in 3 priority fields: i) Information Communication Technologies, ii) Environment and iii) Cultural Heritage.

One illustration of the co-operation with EU is a participation of representative group of Georgian scientists and engineers in ATLAS programme being implemented in CERN. There are also examples of scientific cooperation with EU-member states and associated countries on the level of individual initiative of scientists and research organisations. On the basis of the Protocol for Scientific Collaboration, signed on June 2008, CNRS, and the Georgia National Science Foundation (GNSF) launch "CNRS-GNSF First Joint Call for Bilateral Research Projects."



EU-funded co-operation/ projects

EU-funded co-operation encompasses such opportunities as FPs, INTAS programmes and TACIS (since 2007 European Neighbourhood Policy Instruments – ENPI).

In FP6 15 projects with participation of Georgian teams were granted, while at the time of its liquidation commencement INTAS has funded around 250 cooperative projects.

TACIS has funded about 10 projects related to S&T of Georgia.

Important role in realisation of reforms of the country S&T has played EU funded project NTacis/2006/123052 "Creating an effective model of science administration" implemented by Archimedes Foundation (Estonia) in 2006-2007 in co-operation with Georgian Ministry of Education and Science and GNSF.

According to available data on the participation of Georgia in FP7 projects the statistics is following:

	CAPACITIES	COOPERATION	PEOPLE	IDEAS	EURATOM	TOTAL
Proposals Submitted	15	47	5	1	1	69
Mainlisted Proposals	7	5				12

Further co-operations

Further co-operations with EU will be held through the FP7 and ENPI as well as on the basis of bilateral joint activities with EU S&T institutes and foundations.

Co-operation with EECA will generally be of bilateral nature.

Currently GNSF is preparing a background for widening bilateral cooperation (jointly funded activities, programmes on exchanging experts and researchers, introduction of best practices, etc.) with EU and EECA (e.g. currently the "CNRS-GNSF First Joint Call for Bilateral Research Projects" is closed. After evaluation 3 successful projects will be funded).

Source:

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Imprint

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