

## QUESTIONNAIRE

(\* ) – mandatory fields

	<b>Details about organization</b>
<b>* Organisation name</b>	Legal Entity of Public Law Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography
Organisation acronym	VBGI
<b>* Organisation Activity Type</b> (RES - Research, HE - University, SME - Small and Medium Enterprise, IND - Industry, OTH - Other)	RES - Research
<b>* Keywords of main research areas</b>	geodynamical processes; water resources; transformation if natural environment; evolution of geoecosystems; tourist-recreation potential; desertification; climate change; dynamic of glaciers.
<b>* Head of organisation (first name, family name)</b>	Dr. Nana BOLASHVILI
<b>* Post code</b>	0193
<b>* Country</b>	GEORGIA
<b>* City</b>	Tbilisi
<b>* Street, House</b>	M. Alexidze Street 1/8
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<b>* Description of organization and its research achievements for the last five years (~ 5000 signs)</b>
<p>Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography, Georgian Academy of Sciences was founded in 1933.</p> <p>Principal Scientific Trends of the Institute are as follows:            Priority I – Research of geodynamical processes of mountainous regions of Georgia;            Priority II – Research and Assessment of Natural Resources of Georgia;            Priority III –Transformation of natural environment and evolution of geoecosystems;            Priority IV – Problems and Perspectives of Development of Tourist-Recreation Potential of Georgia.</p> <p>Main objectives of the institute are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. carrying out of scientific-research, advisory and expert activities;</li> <li>2. promoting scientific-technological progress of the country;</li> <li>3. development of international cooperation;</li> <li>4. participation in training and upgrading of young scientific personnel.</li> </ol> <p>Institute has several permanent establishments in different regions of Georgia.</p> <p>Institute employees participate in different scientific events (conferences, symposiums, seminars, workshops et al. of international or domestic levels).</p> <p>By leadership of the Institute 4 international conferences have been held including 3 Internet conferences. Institute publishes annually Collection of Works of the</p>

Institute. The Institute scientific researchers participate in compilation of manuals for secondary and high schools.

Institute cooperates with other high educational Institutions. The Memorandum has been concluded with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University on participation of Bachelor and Master students in carrying out of Institute scientific topics and in the field trips.

From the last years research achievements of the Institute can be noted the Grants as follows:

1. “Modeling of Climate Change, Dynamics and Discharge of Glaciers in the Caucasus” of INTAS;
2. “National Atlas of Georgia” of Georgian National Scientific Foundation (GNSF);
3. “Study of Tskaltubo (Kumistavi) Unique Cave System” of GNSF
4. President’s Scientific Grant for young scientists on “Paleoglacial and Paleogeographical reconstructions of late Pleistocene and Holocene in the Zopkhitura River basin” of GNSF.

	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>* Contact person (first name, family name)</b>	<b>Dr. Nana BOLASHVILI</b>
<b>* Department / Laboratory</b>	<b>Legal Entity of Public Law Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography</b>
<b>* Position</b>	<b>Institute Director</b>
<b>* Qualification and research experience</b>	<b>PhD; Hydrologist</b>
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<b>International co-operation / Participation in EU RTD programmes or other bilateral / multilateral actions</b>
INTAS, TACIS, TEMPUS, COST, EUREKA, other RTD programmes (please specify programme/s, project title/s and year/s)
1. Program – INTAS Project title – “Modeling of Climate Change, Dynamics and Discharge of Glaciers in the Caucasus” .Project duration – 2 years.

	<b>* Please, use “X” to indicate the scientific area/s of your potential project</b>
CHEMISTRY	
SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES	
ECONOMIC SCIENCES	
ENGINEERING SCIENCE	
ENVIRONMENT	<b>X</b>

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	
HEALTH	
MATHEMATICS	
INFORMATION SCIENCE	
PHYSICS	
NANOTECHNOLOGIES	
ENERGY	
TRANSPORT	
SPACE	

**\* Summary of potential research project envisaged hosting of European researcher for the period of between 1 and 2 years**

**1. Potential research project title:** Potential of Natural-Tourist Resources of Kvemo Kartli and Javakheti: Evaluation and Perspectives of its Application

**Summary of potential research project:** The Project aims to study the natural-tourist resources of Kvemo Kartli and Javakheti, ascertainment of the new tourist routes, their scientific processing and dissemination of research results.

The Project foresees the identification, description and documentation (hard copies, photo and video-documents) of the tourist resources of the research region. Expeditions should be implemented step by step according to the previously desined expedition routes. Collected and processed mateials should be classified in the computer data bank.

The tourist-recreation potential of research objects should be assessed. Criteria for assessment Hill be as follows: originality, attractiveness, healing features, eco-tourist importance, etc. Location of these objects will be analyzed by view of possibilities for infrastructure development

Presented project should be implemented by application of modern phisical-geographical and economic-geographical methods, remote sensing, Geoinformation Systems and digital technologies, which are the basis for exact and comprehensive scientific conclusions.

Project results, in case its implementation, will be reflected on the development of the region's social-economic conditions.

Potential users of the Project's results Hill be the population of the region, tourists, tour-operators, local governance and the society interested in these problems.

This Project Hill be one of the bases for tourist planning in the target regions.

**2. Potential research project title:** Present Geoecological Condition of Kakheti Region And Ways of Its Development

**Summary of potential research project:** Aim of the research is investigation and assessment of conditions of destroyed territories by natural events in Kakheti region by using modern methods, identification of main regularities of their origin and development, revealing of natural and anthropogenic factors of their origin, making forecasts of natural events' development tendences and planning of the effective meausres for their mitigation and neutralization.

Presented Project will be implemented by means of modern methods (remote sensing, geo-information systems, decoding of aero-cosmic materials, exact surveys by means of digital techniques, also stationary field observations) which is a basis for relevant and complete scientific conclusions as well.

Scientific value of the project will be the obtaining of necessary information for definition of conditions of natural landscapes and their dynamic changes.

Project results in case its implementation will be expressed by reduction of that great material loss or by its complete elimination, which threatens annually population and economy of the region and which is reflected at country's economy as well.

Potential users of project results will be as follows: the population, governmental and private organizations and regional administration of Kakheti, by which assistance the special recommendations will be implemented.

**3. Potential research project title: Zopkhito Glacier Mass Balance Monitoring on Background of the Climate Change**

**Summary of potential research project:** Collaborators of the Institute of Geography participated in the INTAS project „Modeling Climate Change, Glacier Dynamics, and Water Availability in the Caucasus” in 2006-2008. And now, our colleagues are very interested in continuing of field observations on the glacier Zpkhito together with the interested European Union colleagues.

**4. Potential research project title: Research of Tskaltubo (Kumistavi) Unique Cave System and Adjacent to it Speleo objects and Prospects of their Economic Utilization.**

**Summary of potential research project:** Cave tourism is one of the major fields of tourist industry. In Georgia there are all preconditions for development of this field. (Cave research and organization by modern and traditional methods). The state of Georgia has admitted tourism industry as indispensable strategy for development of the country. Therefore the tourist objects the country abounds in are so essential for tourist industry. Among these tourist objects we can name not only high mountain peaks, but karst caves as well, in research of which Vakhushti Bagrationi Institute of Geography has a great experience.

Kumistavi is quite a complex water system, of which some ten kilometer long branches have been studied. Before its final organizational works are carried out, the sustainability of rock structure should be observed, climatic peculiarities, seasonal and daily variability of underground water levels and danger of their contamination stated. The amount of tourists the cave could hold yearly, the profitability, reliability and efficiency should be estimated. Some hundred inhabitants of the region will be provided with permanent jobs.

Thus organization of Kumistavi karst cave and its putting in operation will urge prosperity of cave tourism in Georgia.

	<b>Please, confirm your agreement on data publication and dissemination</b>
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<b>I agree with the publication of the data</b> on the web-site <a href="http://www.inco-ecca.net">http://www.inco-ecca.net</a> , and <b>dissemination</b> among Mobility National Contact Points of the EU MS and AC <b>(YES / NO)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>December 11, 2008</b>