

**AN ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH CAPACITIES IN  
THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES IN  
GEORGIA**

*Report to the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN)*

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## **Introduction**

### **i. Report objectives and notes on the selection of disciplines**

The following report is based on the findings of research conducted by a team of researchers between October and December 2009. The aim of the study was to explore the situation related to research in different areas of the social sciences and humanities, to identify problems that are hindering the development of these fields, and to suggest possible measures aimed at solving these problems. An overview of the general policy framework will be presented in the first part of the report, together with an assessment of reforms that are influencing development of these fields. The second part of the report comprises an analysis of the structure and activities of various institutions. While the list of institutions covered by the report is not comprehensive, it encompasses all those institutions in the country with significant research activities. In the third part of the report, problems common to most research centres operating in the humanities and social sciences are described. This part also includes an overview of the capacity-building measures undertaken by different organizations. The final part of the report offers some recommendations based on an assessment of these disciplines in Georgia.

### **ii. Research methodology**

The research process consisted of three components:

Desk research;

In-depth interviews;

Preparation of the final report.

(1) The following types of documents were analyzed during the desk research phase:

- Normative documents regulating scientific research and education in Georgia;
- Reports of those public organizations responsible for financing or monitoring scientific research in Georgia;
- Documents containing expert evaluations of the state of the social sciences and humanities in Georgia.

In addition, information from academic databases such as ISI Web of Knowledge was analyzed as a source of additional data on the state of the art in relevant fields on the basis of research articles published by Georgian scholars in international peer-reviewed journals.

(2) A sample list of research organizations was drawn up prior to conducting the field research. A first tentative list of organizations working in the social sciences and humanities was created. Information on the institutions included in this list was checked using available sources (websites and conversations with experts). As a result, a new list was created that excluded institutions not active in research.

Three types of respondents participated in the in-depth interviews:

1. Representatives of the ‘monitoring bodies’: the Ministry of Education and Science, and the National Academy of Sciences;
2. Representatives of institutions engaged in academic or applied research in the social sciences and humanities (those responsible for the research policy of the institutions, and high level management);
3. Experts in the fields of the social sciences and humanities.

In total, representatives of four public and six private universities were surveyed, together with representatives of five scientific research institutes and seven private research organizations. One representative of the Ministry of Education and Science and one of the National Academy of Sciences were also included in the sample.

Interviews were conducted on the basis of a semi-structured questionnaire. Overall, 28 face-to-face interviews were conducted, including representatives of various institutions and experts. In addition, five questionnaires were completed online.

Several difficulties arose during the research process. One of these problems was related to a lack of information available on the websites of research and academic institutions. While some of those institutions do not have a working website at all, in most cases websites do not provide adequate up-to-date information on the direction and nature of the research undertaken by the respective institutions. Other sources were used to fill this gap, including an analysis of bibliometric data and information provided by donors. Interviews conducted during field research also helped in partly solving this problem.

The decentralized character of the research activities in many institutions was another important obstacle which arose during the research process. Research in many of these institutions is planned and undertaken by individual researchers or group of researchers in the same field. Even within a single faculty (in the case of higher education institutions), the process of planning and organizing research is not coordinated. As a result, it is quite difficult to find one person with sufficient knowledge of the research activities taking place in a particular unit or institution.

### **iii. The social sciences and humanities in Georgia: A brief overview of their development**

Humanities disciplines, such as history, philosophy, ethnology, linguistics, oriental studies, etc., were among the first scholarly fields to be developed in Georgia. The social sciences, unlike the humanities, appear only during the very last decade of the Soviet era and after its demise, with psychology as an exception, its inception dating back to the early twentieth century.

The development of the humanities was initially closely connected to the European scientific community but, later, this situation changed during the Soviet period. Georgian research institutes would get their research ‘topics’ from the All-Union Academy of Sciences, and were assigned to particular tasks and directions in their research. This was particularly true in the exact and natural sciences, and in fields like philosophy. Research institutes in the field of the humanities were more autonomous in their research agendas as a result of the Soviet system of union republics: due to the national – or, in fact, ethnic division of borders and administrative structures in the Soviet Union – the humanities had more opportunities to research indigenous phenomena in the areas of philology, history, local languages, ethnology, etc. However, precisely because of their local and indigenous nature, the humanities were probably the most closely supervised and ideologically monitored area of research in the Soviet Union.

The only permitted theoretical framework for research was that of Marxism, which forced scholars to conceal their own views behind the dominant ideological clichés. At the same time, the humanities played a critical role in maintaining and cultivating nationalist values and attitudes in Georgian society during the Soviet period.

The development of the social sciences during the last decades of the Soviet Union and immediately after independence has introduced a more critical stance into this nationalist

hegemony, although progress is slow due to a lack of infrastructural and human resources. As for the pre-history of the social sciences in Soviet Georgia, their sub-fields were almost non-existent under the Soviet regime. Research in the area of economics was based on Marx's economic theory, revision or criticism of which was forbidden. Sociology, political science and other sub-disciplines of the social sciences were either forbidden or constituted a mere extension of the philosophical study of Marxism-Leninism or of the history of the Communist Party. They were sometimes taught and researched under the disguise of 'criticism of western bourgeois social science'.

The Rustaveli Foundation for Georgian Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, which is the main instrument of the Georgian state for forming and implementing public policy in the relevant disciplines, divides its fields of interest into two major 'scholarly directions':

1. Georgian Studies
2. Humanities and Social Sciences.

Georgian Studies includes the following disciplines:

History of Georgia, Source Study and Historiography of the History of Georgia  
 Georgian Literature  
 Kartvelian Languages  
 Art Criticism  
 Ethnography  
 Historical Geography and Archaeology

The Social Sciences and Humanities are classified in the following way:

History  
 Literary Criticism  
 Linguistics  
 Classical Philology  
 Medieval Studies / Byzantology  
 European Studies  
 Oriental Studies  
 American Studies  
 Cultural Studies  
 Archaeology  
 Art Criticism  
 Religion Studies  
 Philosophy  
 Anthropology  
 Economics  
 Geography  
 Law



Political Theory  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Education Science  
Sustainable Development

## Chapter 1: General institutional and policy framework

### 1.1. Overview of key players

Today, research activity in the social sciences and humanities is concentrated within the following three types of institutions: (1) higher education institutes, (2) research institutes, and (3) non-governmental organizations. The latter mostly undertake applied research, whereas academic research is concentrated in universities and research institutes. We will discuss all three types separately below.

#### 1.1.1. Higher education institutions

Of all the higher education institutes active in Georgia today, only 62 have passed accreditation<sup>1</sup>. Most accredited universities run education programmes either in the social sciences or in the humanities, with humanities disciplines greatly outnumbering those of the social sciences. Of all the social science fields, economics, law and international relations are the most widely represented disciplines, while only two universities offer a BA programme in sociology.

Georgian universities can be divided into two types. The first are ‘legal entities of public law’, the reorganized heirs of universities from the Soviet period. There are around twenty such universities. They have all been founded by the State, which is also their major source of funding<sup>2</sup>. Research projects are also mostly funded by government grants. However, unlike other components, research projects attract external actors (foreign donors and private structures). Research projects are usually initiated by individual professors and cross-faculty coordination is rather low.

**Table 1** below illustrates the number of state research grants obtained by universities and research institutes in the fields of Georgian studies, the social sciences, and the humanities<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> According to National Centre of Education Accreditation (see: [http://nea.ge/?action=page&page\\_id=171&lang=geo](http://nea.ge/?action=page&page_id=171&lang=geo)).

<sup>2</sup> In 2008, 54 million GEL (approximately 32 million USD) was spent on higher education in Georgia. Most of this funding comes to the universities in form of a) base financing aimed mainly at covering costs related to infrastructure maintenance and salaries, and b) government-funded study grants on a student per capita basis.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Foundation for Georgian Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities. 2007-2008 Report.

	Number of Projects	Budget (GEL)
<b>State Universities (total 5)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2 392 217</b>
Tbilisi State University	12	
Ilia State University	6	
Tbilisi State University of Economic Relations	2	
Akhaltshikhe State University	1	
Tbilisi State Medical University	1	
<b>Research Institutes and the Academy of Sciences (total 15)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3 672 250</b>
<b>NGOs (total 3)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>268 172</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6 332 639</b>

As Table 1 demonstrates, university activity is relatively low in the fields under consideration. Only five universities succeeded in attracting government funding in 2007-8 in the social sciences and humanities. The majority of available funds went to the research institutes.

The second type of university is represented by higher education institutions that have the legal status of ‘entities of private law’. They are financially more constrained; unlike the state universities, private universities only receive state funding in the form of an educational grant on a student per capita basis. This may explain the fact that private universities have poorly developed research capacities compared with state universities. There are some exceptions to this rule: highly prestigious universities with very high tuition fees. In this case research projects are funded by donors and private business. Both applied (mostly marketing-related) research and enquiries into social and political issues are sponsored. As for teaching, those disciplines in the social sciences and humanities are offered that are in greatest demand by students (journalism, public administration, international relations, etc.).

The main university administrative structure is the faculty. As a rule, teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities is carried out in the following faculties: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Economics, and Faculty of Law. The social sciences and business faculties are sometimes merged with each other.

### 1.1.2. Academic research institutes

One notable trait of the Soviet academic system was a very sharp division between research and teaching. Research was mainly conducted in research institutes subordinated to the Academy of Sciences, whereas most teaching, especially at the undergraduate level, was

concentrated in the universities<sup>4</sup>. During that period, these research institutes were part of the Georgian Academy of Sciences. Today, research institutes exist independently, and the Georgian Academy of Sciences has lost its crucial role and importance.

Experts note that, unlike workers in the natural sciences, researchers in the humanities were quite independent in determining their research interests, but they paid dearly for the autonomy they had won. The institutes that worked in the fields of social sciences (the Institute of Sociology and Demography, and the Institute for Political Sciences) appeared only during and after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. It must be noted that these Institutes were unable to assume leadership in their respective fields, a fact which is partly explained by the poverty of their material and technical bases, as a result of which they were less attractive to graduates from social science faculties.

Base financing for the existing research institutes in the humanities and social sciences comes from the state. Specific research projects are also mostly financed from state funds.

In terms of its typical structure, a Research Institute is divided into Departments ('Directions'). Departments are further divided mostly along thematic lines within the various disciplines. In some cases, however, these divisions are based instead on the competencies of the staff available in the Institute in question. The Director is the overall manager who oversees administrative affairs at the Institute. Research priorities are determined and approved by an elected Scientific Council.

### **1.1.3. Non-governmental organizations and research centres**

Since the early 1990s Georgia has witnessed the development of the non-governmental sector. The non-governmental organizations that comprise this sector are focused on a number of issues, including the rule of law, human rights, ecological problems, the support of socially vulnerable groups, etc. Research occupies an important role in the activities of these NGOs. As a rule, research carried out by these organizations is applied in its nature and aims to identify effective solutions for problems diagnosed. In most cases, donors and/or foreign partners have the upper hand in initiating, planning and implementing projects. Therefore, the main research directions are mostly also suggested by the donors.

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<sup>4</sup> Levan Tarkhnishvili. 'Institutional Setting, Policy Instruments and Organization of Research Funding for Social Sciences and Humanities in Georgia'. In *Global SSH Project Background Report*, 2007.

In very general terms, non-governmental organizations active in Georgia can be divided into:

(1) ‘watchdogs’ advocating the interests of various social groups and monitoring government policies, and (2) think tanks. The latter are mostly preoccupied with researching pressing social issues and appropriate remedies. According to 2005 data, there are a total of 40 think-tanks in the country, the majority of which are presumed engaged in some kind of research activities<sup>5</sup>. One can be confident that most of these organizations are inactive, as only a handful of think tanks work on a regular basis.

NGOs differ significantly from each other in their organizational structure. Research in these organizations is, as a rule, conducted by ad hoc teams specifically within the framework of a given project. Research undertaken by NGOs in Georgia is characterized by a low level of professionalism. Qualitative – and sometimes even quantitative – research is conducted by inexperienced staff. Most NGOs do not have any specialized research staff at all. In some cases, research is outsourced to an external organization, especially when quantitative studies are required.

## 1.2. State policy

Scientific research is regulated by the following four laws:

- The Georgian *Law on Higher Education* (adopted in 2005);
- The Georgian *Law on Science, Technologies and their Development* (important changes were made in 2006);
- The Georgian *Law on the Georgian Academy of Sciences* (adopted in 2007);
- The Georgian *Law on State Grants*.

According to the *Law on Science, Technologies and their Development*, there are four main participants in the development and implementation of state strategy toward the scientific sector in Georgia. The President of Georgia is responsible for drafting this strategy, while the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for its implementation, which is effected through specially created programmes aimed at the development of particular scientific fields in the country. The Academy of Sciences should be actively involved in both stages of this process in the

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<sup>5</sup> Source: *Directory of non-governmental organizations working in the field of public policy*. Tbilisi: Institute for Policy Studies, 2005.

capacity of advisor. At this stage, no strategic documents exist regarding the development of the social sciences and humanities.

The Ministry of Education is the only state body which is involved in research in Georgia in the social sciences and humanities. The amounts of state funds allocated to higher education institutes, research institutes and public foundations (including the Rustaveli Foundation) is included in the state budget as separate items. These items are not related to the Ministry of Education and Science budget, which is determined separately. The Ministry plays a supervisory role over the activities of the Rustaveli Foundation, as the representative of the State and the Foundation's sole founder.

Current state policy in the spheres of science and education started to take shape following the Rose Revolution of November 2003. Reform of higher education was declared a priority by the new government elected in 2004. Radical changes also impacted the field of research.

As a result of reforms, research institutes that were part of the Georgian Academy of Sciences were given the option to leave the academy system and transform themselves into legal entities of public law. A majority of research institutes availed of this option, which meant that the internal management of these institutes is now based on the principle of self-governance. In order to make this principle work, scientific councils were elected by the staff members of the various institutes. The Georgian Academy of Sciences has been maintained as a structure but, in reality, it has lost its function of administrating science and its role as a major policy-making player in the field.

Another goal of state policy is to bring research institutes and universities closer together, merging them where this can be done without a high political cost. This process has started in some cases. Scientific research institutes are signing contracts with universities to engage in the joint preparation of future researchers. Synergy between the scientific-research institutes and the universities usually operates at a personal level. More and more staff members of the institutes are active in teaching, but at this point it is hard to evaluate the intensity and scope of this process.

A further important reform which should have serious implications for the formation of a new generation of scholars was the introduction of PhD programmes in higher education institutions. This was done in the context of Georgia joining the Bologna Process and the restructuring of higher education into a three-level system (BA, MA and PhD). Several higher

education institutes have set up programmes for doctorate students in the social sciences and humanities.

The following is a list of universities running PhD programmes in the social sciences and humanities:

Tbilisi State University	Tbilisi State University of Economic Affairs
Ilia State University	Tavartkiladze University of Economy and Law
Free University of Tbilisi	International Black Sea University
University of Georgia	Batumi State University
Georgian Institute of Public Affairs	Kutaisi State University
Caucasus University	Telavi State University
IB Euro-Caucasian University	Gori State University
Grigol Robakidze University	

It should be noted that, notwithstanding the doctoral programmes, many of these institutions are undertaking very little research or none at all.

In the view of experts, the lack of proper mechanisms for funding doctorate programmes creates significant problems. On one hand, the number of universities where PhD programmes are offered for free is very low. This factor is a substantial barrier for students who wish to pursue PhD degrees. On the other hand, the number of doctorate programmes including research grants is even smaller. Because of this, young researchers are faced with the problem of allocating extra time to conduct research. There is usually a consensus at most seminars on the issue of introducing PhD programmes into Georgian universities that proper funding mechanisms are badly needed<sup>6</sup>.

Yet another issue faced by doctorate programmes in Georgian universities is that effective quality control mechanisms are not in place. This problem further aggravates the situation, against a background of difficulty in attracting and preparing qualified young people interested in the social sciences.

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<sup>6</sup>*The results of the Higher Education Reform in Georgia (Descriptive report according to Bologna Process).*  
International Institute for Educational Policy Planning and Management.

**Table 2.** Areas of specialization of PhD graduates in 2007 and 2008<sup>7</sup>

Graduating PhD students (total )	142
Humanities and Arts	12
Social Sciences, Business and Law	17
Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Technologies	20
Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Construction	47
Healthcare	44

### 1.3. The funding system

One of the most important reforms in the field of scientific research is related to growing state financing and to changes in the financing system itself. Increases in finance were made possible by Georgia's growing budget incomes. By 2004, the State was spending 4 million GEL on science; by 2007, the sum had risen to 22.5 million GEL.

A goal of state policy towards financing science was the creation of a competitive environment for scientific research groups and for individual researchers. Those driving the reforms maintained that this would lead to a greater adherence to principles of objectivity and transparency. In this regard, the key change was the introduction of a state scientific grants programme. The process of competing for a grant included an expert evaluation component. Evaluators are both local and international experts. Experts judge this system of financing as differing drastically from the previous one, when the fate of a given project to be financed was dependent on an individual institute and on friendly relationships at the Georgian Academy of Sciences. As these experts put it, the involvement of international experts in evaluating grant applications is an especially positive tendency. At the same time, the principle of base financing is still partly maintained. This allows research institutions to keep infrastructure up and running and to develop it. According to the plans of those behind the reforms, by 2009 the budget allocated for scientific research will be allocated in the form of scientific grants. According to the *Law on Science, Technologies and their Development*, those scientific institutes which do not apply for state funding over a three-year period, or who are not awarded grants over a period of five years, may be closed.

State policy was articulated by the Ministry of Education and Science, which remains the key player in this field to this day. State finances are mainly allocated through the Rustaveli

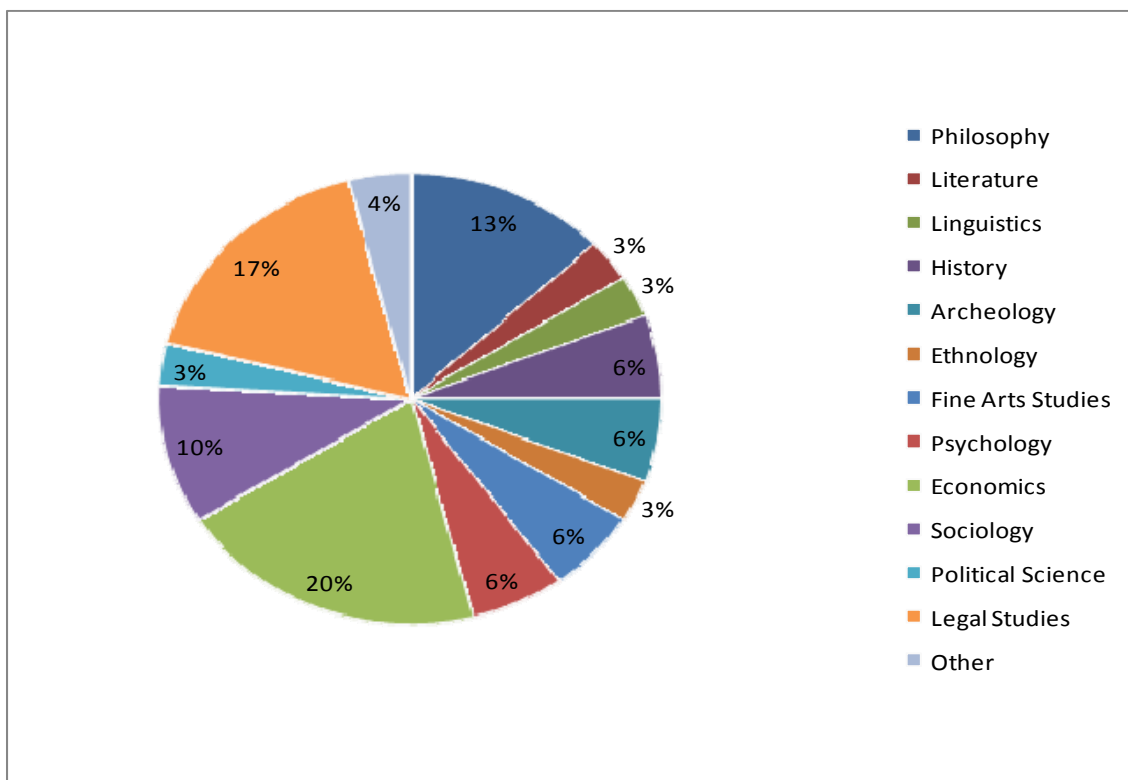
<sup>7</sup> Source: Department of Statistics data, <http://www.statistics.ge/main.php?pform=81&plang=2> accessed 26.10.09



Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2007 to support research in Georgian Studies, Social and Humanitarian Sciences (before 2007 these and similar disciplines had been financed from the National Fund for the Sciences). Besides allocating scientific grants, the Foundation supports certain events and awards scholarships. In 2008, the total budget of the Foundation reached 2,826,900 GEL, 89% of which was earmarked to support science and scholarships. Ninety percent of all monies allocated for science support were distributed in the form of research grants. The Foundation is managed by a Director and the Administration of the Foundation. General supervision is conducted by a Science Council, whose members (fifteen in total) come from the Georgian Academy of Sciences (5), the Universities (5), and the Government of Georgia (5).

Projects funded by the Rustaveli Foundation cover a range of issues in the social and humanitarian fields, but research conducted in the area of Georgian studies is a stated priority. The official documentation of the Foundation states that ‘Georgian Studies is a priority due to national interests. This determines the general orientation of the Foundation’. Of all projects financed in 2008, sixteen were in the field of Georgian studies, and the other fifteen were in economics, management, ethnology, sociology, demography, and other fields. Of all projects in the field of Georgian studies, 33% and 34% of the funding went to Georgian language and literature, respectively. The remainder went to support history, ethnology and other sub-fields of Georgian studies. Resources were allocated as follows to disciplines other than Georgian studies:

Figure 1. Allocation of project funds (excluding Georgian studies)



International or bilateral research projects are alternative sources for financing scientific research. During the past decade, monies received from participation in international research projects made up 15-20% of the total budget of research projects conducted in Georgia<sup>8</sup>. The majority of these projects were implemented in the natural sciences and technology development, while the social sciences and humanities are relatively modestly represented in the framework of international cooperation. Certain donors are financing projects aimed at developing the social sciences in Georgia, but the number of such projects is very low. Such support is provided, for example, by the South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, which runs a scholarship programme for young scholars. But research undertaken within the framework of this programme is more policy-oriented and less academic. The projects carried out by the Caucasus Research Resource Centre are another noteworthy example, specifically the award of scholarships, and projects aimed at making available a variety of data (household surveys, etc.) in all three countries of the South Caucasus. These projects play a significant role in raising the bar for standards of quantitative research in Georgia.

<sup>8</sup> *Science and Technology in Georgia (Brief Overview)* accessed at “[http://www.eeca-ict.eu/EECA\\_Documents/research\\_information\\_docs/Research\\_Information\\_Georgia.pdf](http://www.eeca-ict.eu/EECA_Documents/research_information_docs/Research_Information_Georgia.pdf), at 03.11.09

Grants allocated for specific projects are a further form of international support. The recipients of these are usually local non-governmental organizations and research centres. Part of the budgets of these projects goes to research. We may have only an approximate view of the number and scope of those projects whose major components are research oriented. The budgets of several analytical centres, whose activities are geared mostly towards research, range anywhere from 60,000 to 2 million US dollars.

Business support for the social sciences and humanities is sporadic at best. The exact magnitude of this support is unknown; however, it is clear that it amounts to only a fraction of total budget available for research in Georgia. The Bidzina Ivanishvili Foundation appears to be the main player, supporting certain publications financially.

## **Chapter 2: Key institutions in the fields of the social sciences and humanities**

### **2.1. Ministry of Education and Science**

Address: 52, Uznadze St. Tbilisi 0102

Website: <http://mes.gov.ge/>

E-mail: [pr@mes.gov.ge](mailto:pr@mes.gov.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 438819

Fax: (+995-32) 438812

Minister: Dimitri Shashkin

The Ministry is the main state agency responsible for the development of the fields of education and science in Georgia. One deputy minister is in charge of science in general and, in particular, of the Department of Academic Education and Science Development. There are three divisions in this Department:

- Division for the Social Aid of Students and Scientists
- Division for the Harmonization of Higher Education and International Integration
- Division for Georgian Language Policy

The Ministry does not play an important role in creation of a state strategy for the development of science. The absence of such a strategy is making the Rustaveli Foundation the main public body which is directly in touch with research in the social sciences and humanities in Georgia. The Ministry is also responsible for approving the internal regulations of scientific institutes.

### **2.2. Georgian National Academy of Science**

Address: 52, Rustaveli Ave. Tbilisi 0108

Website: <http://www.science.org.ge/>

E-mail: [academy@science.org.ge](mailto:academy@science.org.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 998891

Fax: (+995-32) 998891

President: Dr. Tamaz Gamkrelidze

The Georgian National Academy of Sciences was established in 1941 as the organizational union of Georgian scientists. The Academy consists of nine structural units: Science Departments, two of which (the Department of Social Sciences and the Department of Language, Literature and Arts) are charged with monitoring research conducted in the areas of the social sciences and humanities.

Up to 2008 the Academy included all research institutions existing in the country. Today, these research institutes are independent, although there is still a relationship between them and the Academy: these Institutes, as well as higher education institutions, are obliged to report annually to the Academy, which in turn evaluates these reports and presents them to the Government for follow-up. In reality, however, the majority of the Institutes no longer think of themselves as part of the Academy and do not actually report to the Academy. Against this background, it cannot be said that the Academy plays a significant role in the development of the social sciences and humanities in the country.

## **2.3. State universities**

### **2.3.1. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)**

Address: 1, Chavchavadze Ave. Tbilisi 0128

Website: <http://www.tsu.ge/>

E-mail: [rector@tsu.ge](mailto:rector@tsu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 225944; (+995-32) 225107 – Rector's office

Rector: Dr. Giorgi Khubua

Tbilisi State University (TSU) was established in 1918 and is the oldest Georgian university. In Soviet times, this was the only higher education institution which combined faculties in the social sciences and humanities. While inferior to the Academy of Sciences in terms of its research capabilities and output, Tbilisi State University had become a leading institution in terms of preserving nationalist sentiments and historical memory. These sentiments were present mostly in the humanities faculties, especially among philologists and historians. This is how, despite its limited research capability, Tbilisi State University became a leading and very respected Georgian national academic institution in Soviet times.

The University houses six faculties. There are several research centres in each faculty. In total, TSU is an umbrella covering nearly sixty scientific-research laboratories and

centres<sup>9</sup>. Teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities is carried out in the following faculties:

- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Humanities

TSU partners with Asian, European and US universities and research centres. It hosts international conferences. The University runs its own publishing house.

The main source of funding for the University comes from the state budget. The State provides not only base financing, but also funding in the form of study grants on a student per capita basis. The University derives additional income from tuition fees paid by students.

### **2.3.1.1. Faculty of Humanities**

Address: 1, Chavchavadze Ave. Tbilisi 0128

Website: <http://www.humanities.tsu.ge/>

E-mail: [humanities@tsu.ge](mailto:humanities@tsu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 250485

Dean: Prof. Darejan Tvaltvadze

The Faculty of Humanities was created in 2006 as a result of the merger of several faculties that existed in the University prior to the reform. It now combines what were previously known as the Faculties of History, Ethnology, Philosophy, Philology, Foreign Languages, Oriental Studies and Cultural Studies, as well as several study programmes concentrating on select regions and countries.

The Faculty of Humanities lists 180 academic staff members and up to 3,900 students. It runs 14 Bachelor's, 39 Master's and 43 PhD programmes.

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<sup>9</sup> While conducting the present study, we discovered that in some cases available statistical data on the University is not accurate and sometimes contradictory. This report therefore only offers approximate statistical data, based on the accessible factual findings.

The Faculty hosts 21 institutes and science centres (Institutes of Georgian Language, Georgian Literature, Linguistic, Comparative Literature, Caucasus Studies, Georgian History, Archaeology and Ethnology, World History, Classical Philology, Oriental Studies, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Arts, Visual Arts, Pedagogy, European Languages and Literature, Russian Studies, Ukrainian Studies, Polish Studies, and American Studies). Each sub-unit is practically autonomous in terms of its research priorities. Some of these have become generators of the core curriculum at the Faculty. For example, the Institute for Cultural Studies is one of the most active research centres in the Faculty.

### **The Institute of Cultural Studies / UNECSO Chair of Intercultural Dialogue**

Address: 3, Chavchavadze Ave. Tbilisi 0128

Website: [www.culturedialogue.com](http://www.culturedialogue.com)

E-mail: [tsuculturologia@yahoo.com](mailto:tsuculturologia@yahoo.com)

Tel: (+995-32) 290844

Head of the Chair: Dr. Nino Chikovani

The Institute of Cultural Studies was established in 2003 within the History Faculty. The Institute aims at popularizing new methods and theories of cultural studies. The Institute is active in several fields:

(1) Intercultural dialogue. This is carried out together with the ‘Intercultural dialogue’ chair which was established to research multiethnic and multicultural states.

(2) Research into the cultural peculiarities of Georgia and the entire South Caucasian region. In this context professors have partnerships with their Eastern European colleagues. They conduct comparative studies of the Caucasian region and the states of South-East Europe and the Balkans.

(3) Research into collective and historical memory. This is related to conflict issues.

There are six professors at the Institute of Cultural Studies. They run BA and MA programmes in cultural studies specialties.

The Institute publishes an annual journal *Civilization Enquiries* (in Georgian). Publications are also prepared within the frameworks of various projects.

The Institute is engaged in close partnership with UNCESCO, and has implemented projects with the International Visegrad Fund and the Czech Association for International Relations.

### **2.3.1.2. Faculty of Social and Political Sciences**

Address: 1, Chavchavadze Ave. Tbilisi 0128

Website: <http://www.social.tsu.ge/>

E-mail: [social@tsu.ge](mailto:social@tsu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 230053

Dean: Prof. Nodar Belkania

The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences hosts 101 academic staff members (13 Full, 35 Associated and 53 Assistant professors). The Faculty has 7 BA, 21 MA, and 8 PhD programmes.

The following disciplines are taught at the Faculty:

- Political Sciences
- Sociology / Social Work
- Journalism
- Social Geography
- International Relations
- Psychology

The Faculty concentrates mostly on teaching rather than on research. Its budget is primarily earmarked for financing teaching. Academic personnel are able to carry out empirical research, but this is not be seen as an alternative to university teaching, so it has to be separate from the teaching load.

The Faculty comprises six Departments ('Directions'): Sociology, Psychology, Journalism, International Relations, Political Science, and Social Geography. Each Department is organized as a faculty and is responsible for curriculum development.

The Faculty frequently carries out research for special purposes and to order. These studies cover education policy and measuring the effectiveness of the reform carried out in the



education system, research and surveys in the healthcare field, etc. Its largest clients are political parties, non-profit organizations, various foundations, etc.

From 2005 to 2012, with the support of a grant won by the Faculty, European Commission funding became available to build a social work programme.

### **2.3.1.3. TSU Centre for Social Sciences**

Address: 3, Chavchavadze Ave. TSU, building 2, III floor, Rooms # 334-339, Tbilisi 0128

Website: <http://ucss.ge>

E-mail: [contact@ucss.ge](mailto:contact@ucss.ge)

Tel.: (+995-32) 252781 / 10 27 81

Fax: (+995-32) 29 13 34

Director: Prof. Marine Chitashvili

The Centre for Social Sciences was launched as a spin-off of the Soros Foundation's (Open Society – Georgia Foundation) Social Science Support Programme. The founders were the Foundation and Tbilisi State University.

The activities of the Centre are focused on the following fields: (1) Creating new Master's programmes for the TSU Social and Political Science Faculty. With the efforts of the Centre, currently three Master's programmes are running there, including two where the language of instruction is English. Both Georgian and foreign students study there. (2) Support for the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences' academic personnel in preparing new courses. (3) Developing PhD programmes at TSU.

The Centre conducted several research projects in the fields of mass communications and gender studies. These projects were carried out by professors, teachers and students associated with the Centre.

### **2.3.2. Ilia State University**

Address: 3/5, Cholokashvili Ave. Tbilisi 0162

Website: [www.iliauni.edu.ge](http://www.iliauni.edu.ge)

E-mail: [info@iliauni.edu.ge](mailto:info@iliauni.edu.ge)

Tel: ( + 995-32 ) 231026

Rector: Prof. Gigi Tevzadze

Ilia State University was founded in 2006 following the merger of two existing state universities: the Ilia State University of Culture and Languages and the Sulokhan-Saba Orbeliani Pedagogical State University. From 2006 to 2009 several other universities and research institutes became part of the newly founded University, which exemplifies in the eyes of the public one of the chief results of the higher education reform.

Ilia University has adopted elements of liberal arts education, which means that undergraduate teaching takes place at two faculties: the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty of Business and Law.

Graduate level teaching (MA and PhD) and research in the social sciences and humanities takes place in the following Faculties.

### **2.3.2.1. Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences**

Address: 3/5, Cholokashvili Ave. Tbilisi 0162

Website: [www.iliauni.edu.ge/](http://www.iliauni.edu.ge/)

E-mail: [social@iliauni.edu.ge](mailto:social@iliauni.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 220648

Dean: Archil Abashidze

The Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences conducts research, manages graduate and postgraduate programmes, and organizes academic programmes for undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. There are 150 students involved at the graduate level of studies, 50 PhD students, and around 900 students enrolled in the Faculty's undergraduate programmes. The Faculty staff comprises 25 professors, some of whom systematically publish their works in international publications. The faculty has a library and four research centres. Four research projects are currently being implemented. These projects are focused on the following topic areas: the democratization process in Georgia, the evolution of sexual behaviour in Georgia, the revival of political theology, and the psycho-social conditions of IDPs. The Faculty offers three graduate programmes:

- Regional Studies (international politics and social studies) – A graduate programme which offers a unified curriculum as well as specialized modules in three areas: sociology, international relations, and European studies

- The Caucasus in European and Global Contexts – An English and Russian language Master’s programme focused on regional studies (the South Caucasus and Russia). Students explore different aspect of social and political life in the region. The programme is trying to attract students from the North and South Caucasus through scholarship schemes.
- Christian Theology – A programme which offers a broad curriculum in different areas of Christian theology
- Social Work – A Master of Social Work programme, modelled on analogues programmes in US universities. It provides postgraduate training mainly in clinical social work, but also in research methods, social administration and social policy

### **2.3.2.2. Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies**

Address: 3/5, Cholokashvili Ave. Tbilisi 0162

Website: [www.iliauni.edu.ge/](http://www.iliauni.edu.ge/)

E-mail: [humanities@iliauni.edu.ge](mailto:humanities@iliauni.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 231018

Dean: Dr. Giga Zedania

The Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies has three main objectives:

- a) to conduct research;
- b) to administer graduate and postgraduate programmes;
- c) to co-organize – at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences – undergraduate programmes related to its profile.

The Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies has 28 MA and 37 PhD students. There are also 160 BA students who have chosen programmes offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies.

The Faculty staff comprises 39 professors, many with an educational and research background acquired at leading Western universities. There are five research centres at the Faculty and four graduate programmes:

- Medieval Studies and Caucasian Studies

- Archaeology
- Political Anthropology
- Linguistics

The Faculty is involved in cooperation with several Western universities to improve the quality of both teaching and research, including the University of Pisa (Italy), the University of Deusto (Spain), and the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

From 2010, the University will be re-structured with the aim of conducting better quality research. The University faculties will be quite strictly divided between those that can produce quality research (in addition to some teaching) and those that will concentrate exclusively on undergraduate teaching without any research obligations. The future structure of the faculties and research institutes at the University is still in planning.

### **2.3.3. Telavi State University**

Address: 1, University St. Telavi 2200

Website: [www.tesau.edu.ge](http://www.tesau.edu.ge)

E-mail: [info@tesau.edu.ge](mailto:info@tesau.edu.ge); [rector@tesau.edu.ge](mailto:rector@tesau.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-350) 72401; (+995-350) 73264.

Rector: Giorgi Gotsiridze

Jacob Gogebashvili Telavi State University (TESAU) is one of the country's oldest higher education institutions. In 1999 it was awarded the title of State University some 60 years after its foundation (it had previously been a branch of Tbilisi State University).

There are six faculties at the University, including the Social Sciences, Business and Law, the Humanitarian Sciences, and the Pedagogy Faculties. These Faculties are further divided into Chairs. In addition, there are more than thirty laboratories in the University, as well as the Centre for Sociological Research.

The teaching staff of the University comprises 45 professors, 47 associate professors and 8 assistant professors.

Many students and academic personnel of Telavi State University participate in exchange programmes, such as Erasmus Mundus.

Telavi State University has several centres dedicated to the study of the cultures and literatures of different countries: German, Francophone, European Studies, American Studies, etc.

### **2.3.3.1. Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Law**

#### **Sociology Department**

Contact Person: Tinatin Zurabishvili

The Sociology Department carries out two studies, each of which has already become a tradition: The TESAU Junior Student Survey, is undertaken annually in December. Its goal is to establish what student expectations are and their levels of dissatisfaction regarding the University. The second research item is a representative study to arrive at an understanding of what students think of the teaching process in general, and what values they attach to higher education. This is research on educational issues and education reform, where students themselves are active in the field as well as maintaining a database. Large-scale scientific research is not conducted at Telavi University.

From 2001 to 2004 the University carried out a study of population attitudes, funded by the Civic Education project. As part of this project conferences were hosted and printed publications prepared. The project was halted after changes in the field of civic education altered the priorities of the donor organization.

Neither the Sociology Department nor the University itself has any cooperation with foreign donors funding research activities.

### **2.3.4. Rustaveli Batumi State University**

Address: 35, Ninoshvili St. Batumi 6010

Website: <http://www.bsu.ge/>

E-mail: [info@bsu.edu.ge](mailto:info@bsu.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-222 ) 71780

Fax: (+995-222 ) 71787

Rector: Aliosha Bakuridze

Batumi University is one of the youngest universities in Georgia. It was established in 1990 on the basis of the State Pedagogical Institute. Since 1990 it has witnessed substantial reorganizations, as part of which some scientific institutes were merged with the University. Today, the University has eight faculties, each subdivided into smaller units.

#### **2.3.4.1. Faculty of Humanities**

Website: <http://humanitaruli.bsu.edu.ge/>

E-mail: [humanitaruli@bsu.edu.ge](mailto:humanitaruli@bsu.edu.ge)

Tel./ Fax: (+995-222) 71797

Dean: Marina Giorgadze

#### **Department of History, Archaeology and Ethnology**

This Department carries out research in the following fields: History of Georgia, World History, Archaeology, and Ethnology. Problems of Georgian historical science are given priority. The unit participates in running Bachelor's and Master's programmes.

The Department comprises 10 Professors and up to 20 invited lecturers. Works by staff members appear in most Georgian journals that cover the topic of history and in the Department's own periodical publication.

#### **Department of Philosophy**

There are several areas of interest in this Department, including Practical Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Theoretical Philosophy, and others. The Department offers one Bachelor's and one Master's programme. It collaborates with the Tsereteli Philosophical Institute of Georgia. As to teaching activity, there is a joint Master's programme in the Philosophy of Life (Lebensphilosophie) in collaboration with Robakidze University.

The Department has five academic staff members and up to ten invited lecturers.

#### **2.3.4.2. Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Jurisprudence**

Web-site: <http://socialuri.bsu.edu.ge/>

E-mail: [socialuri@bsu.edu.ge](mailto:socialuri@bsu.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995 222) 7 64 58

Fax: (+995 222) 7 17 87

Dean: Merab Khalvashi

### **Department of Social Sciences**

The Department of Social Sciences was established three years ago. It unites three programme directions: Political Science, Psychology and Journalism. The unit offers three Bachelor's and three Master's programmes.

Of twenty academic staff members, ten are professors and ten are invited lecturers. Large-scale research projects are not carried out at the Department. Research is limited to individual grants and to projects by academic staff members. Their works appear in the collection of works published by the Department and in other periodicals.

#### **2.3.4.3. Faculty of Economic Sciences**

Unlike other faculties, the Faculty of Economic Sciences runs two PhD programmes in addition to Bachelor's and Master's programmes. There are several teaching and research directions: Business Administration, Finance, Banking and Insurance, Economic Policy, and Contemporary Theories.

The Faculty has sixteen permanent academic staff members, half of whom are engaged in research activities, in addition to teaching. Like the Faculty of Social Sciences, here too research is limited to the individual activities of the academic staff.

## **2.4. Private universities**

### **2.4.1. Sul Khan-Saba Orbeliani University of Humanities**

Address: 4a, Gia Abesadze St. Tbilisi 0105

Website: <http://sabauni.edu.ge>

E-mail: [zizostvis@yahoo.it](mailto:zizostvis@yahoo.it) (Chancellery)

Tel./Fax: (+995-32) 989516

Rector: Vazha Vardidze

This University was founded in 2002. Its establishment was to a great extent made possible by different structures connected to the Catholic Church. In its first years the University planned

to work in the field of theological education only. As time passed, however, the curriculum started expanded as various subjects from the social sciences and humanities were added. Currently, the University offers BA and MA programmes in the humanities (concentrating on theology) and law. There are approximately fifteen academic and invited staff members in the university.

The University concentrates on teaching. However, it publishes an annual almanac and a journal, devoted to theological issues and to problems of relationships across confessions.

#### **2.4.2. The Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)**

Address: 2, Marie Brosset St. Tbilisi 0108

Website: [www.gipa.ge](http://www.gipa.ge)

E-mail: [admin@gipa.ge](mailto:admin@gipa.ge); [misha@gipa.ge](mailto:misha@gipa.ge) (Executive Head)

Tel: (+995 32) 931466; (+995 32) 934346

Fax: (+995 32) 931466

Executive Head: Mikheil Chachkhunashvili

The Georgian Institute of Public Affairs was established in 1998. At that time it was the only higher education establishment in the country providing graduates of Georgian universities with training and education in the field of public administration.

The establishment of the Institute was made possible by the joint efforts of representatives of the Georgian political establishment and US higher education institutions. In its initial phase, support in the form of grants played a critical role, as well as the support of the Government of Georgia.

The aim of the Institute is to train individuals for Master's degrees in the fields of public administration, journalism and law.

Three schools are established in the Institute:

- School of Public Administration – MA programmes in Public Administration, Local Governance and the Analysis of Public Policy.
- Caucasian School of Journalism and Media Management – programmes in Media Management and Public Relations



- School of Law and Politics – International Politics and Law.

The Institute cooperates with the US State Department, the Rural Affairs Department, USAID and the Open Society – Georgia Foundation.

There are 92 academic staff members at the Institute. Research projects are mostly carried out within PhD programmes in the fields of political science and media studies. In the past, the Institute conducted several research projects in the fields of public administration and international relations, but these projects were sporadic.

### 2.4.3. Caucasus University

#### 2.4.3.1. The Caucasus School of Business

Address: 1, P. Saakadze St. Tbilisi 0132

Website: <http://cu.edu.ge/>

E-mail: [info@cu.edu.ge](mailto:info@cu.edu.ge); [dean@csb.ge](mailto:dean@csb.ge); [blezhava@cu.edu.ge](mailto:blezhava@cu.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 313224; (+995-32) 44 16 18; (+995-32) 31 32 25 (Dean)

Fax: (+995-32) 313226

Dean: Boris (Buba) Lezhava

The Caucasus School of Business (CSB) was established in 1998 by a consortium of various Georgian universities. Its major goal was to create programmes at Bachelor's and Master's level in the field of business administration that could easily be placed at the level of international standards. Georgia State University (USA) J. Robinson Business School ensures compliance with such standards. The school also partners with Atlanta University, Grenoble University and Chester University.

The Caucasus School of Business offers PhD, dual Master's, Master's, dual Bachelor's, and Bachelor's programmes as well as courses in professional higher education in the fields of general management, financial management, marketing, tourism, healthcare, etc.

Currently the University has 120 staff members. The overwhelming majority of these are academic staff (including invited lecturers). Some research projects are in the area of market research, while others focus on social and political subjects that are close to the Institute's profile (the Georgian economy, the business climate, etc.). Funding for market research comes from private companies, while social and political research is undertaken with donor

money. Currently the Institute is engaged in a corruption and organized crime research project, where a local think tank and Washington American University are partners.

#### 2.4.4. University of Georgia

Address: 77a, Building 5, Kostava St. Tbilisi 0161

Website: [www.ug.edu.ge](http://www.ug.edu.ge)

E-mail: [ug@ug.edu.ge](mailto:ug@ug.edu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 364665; (+995-32) 241145;

Rector: Dr. Manana Sanadze

The University of Georgia was established in 2002 with a mission to prepare specialists equipped with modern theoretical, methodological and practical knowledge that will contribute to the transformation of an underdeveloped, non-democratic society into a modern one.<sup>10</sup>

The University has the following Higher Education Schools:

- The School of Economics, Business and Governance;
- The School of Social Sciences;
- The School of Public Healthcare;
- The School of Law;
- The School of Humanities;
- The School of Mathematics and Information Technologies.

Teaching in these schools is conducted in Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes. The University also runs the Centre for Professional Education and Training, and the Centre for Languages, which offer the public a great variety of short-term courses with the purpose of enhancing qualifications.

Research at the University is conducted only within the framework of the PhD and Master's programmes. However, individual invited lecturers – who make up the majority of the

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<sup>10</sup> Other universities in this research that made it to premium class are: GIPA, CSB and Black Sea University

academic staff at the University – are individually engaged in research or do research for other organizations simultaneously.

#### **2.4.5. International Black Sea University**

Address: 2, 13<sup>th</sup> kilometre, David Aghmashenebeli Alley, Tbilisi 0131

Website: [www.ibsu.edu.ge](http://www.ibsu.edu.ge)

E-mail: [info@ibsu.edu.ge](mailto:info@ibsu.edu.ge)

Tel: (+ 995 32 ) 595005

Fax: (+ 995 32) 595008

Rector: Dr. Ahmet Çetin Can

This University was established in 1995. It is a unique institution in Georgia, since the majority of students are foreign, coming from Turkey, as well as from other Black Sea countries. The University is closely connected with Turkey. The language of instruction is English.

The University hosts three faculties:

- Business Administration and Social Sciences (business administration and international relations);
- Humanities (American studies, Georgian studies, English philology);
- Computer Sciences and Engineering.

American Studies is one of the most advanced fields at the University. The University runs PhD, Master's, and Bachelor's programmes in this specialization. An annual conference is hosted by the University, where academic staff and students present the results of their research.

#### **2.4.6. Free University of Tbilisi / Institute of Asia and Africa**

Address: Nutsubidze Plateau, I District, Tbilisi 0183

Website: <http://www.iaa.freeuni.edu.ge/>

E-mail: [gchikovani@iaa.freeuni.edu.ge](mailto:gchikovani@iaa.freeuni.edu.ge) (Rector)

Tel: (+ 995 32) 231 873; (+ 995 32) 233 008

Director: Dr. Guram Chikovani

The Institute of Asia and Africa was established in 1991 in Tbilisi on the basis of the G. Tsereteli Institute for Oriental Studies. It is the only institution in the Caucasus region where complex teaching of Near and Far Eastern histories, economies, cultures, languages and literatures occurs. Since 2007 the Institute is a part of Tbilisi Free University, while maintaining some of its autonomy.

Structurally, the Institute: it has eight language Divisions (Arabic, Indian, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese and Korean) and two Faculties – Humanities (area studies, with emphasis on the languages and cultures of the Middle and Far East) and Social Sciences (international relations and international economy, with the countries of Asia as the main area of expertise).

The Institute runs programmes at all three levels of higher education. The total number of students is 189. There are 64 academic staff members.

The Institute actively cooperates with higher education institutions in Eastern countries, including Turkish, Lebanese, Egyptian, Syrian, and UAR universities and research centres.

## **2.5. Academic Research Institutions**

### **2.5.1. The Institute of Political Science**

Address: 87, Paliashvili St., Tbilisi 0162

Website: <http://politicalscience.ge>

E-mail: [info@politicalscience.ge](mailto:info@politicalscience.ge); [malk@politicalscience.ge](mailto:malk@politicalscience.ge) (director)

Tel: (+995-32) 253152

Director: Dr. Malkhaz Matsaberidze

The Institute of Political Science was created in 2000 as part of the Georgian Academy of Sciences. Its major research interests lie in regional security and foreign policy in general. Currently, the Institute is active in researching Georgian-Russian relations, both past and present.

The Institute has published several collections of readings and textbooks for students of political science. Additionally, in recent years, several books were translated from French and English. The Institute also publishes individual works by staff members and research outcomes conducted by Master's and PhD level students at the Institute.

#### **Completed Projects:**

- 2008-2009 – Ethnic and religious identity issues and the challenges to civic integration in Georgia (funded by the Foundation for Georgian Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences).

### **2.5.2. Javakhisvili Institute of History and Ethnology**

Address: 10, Melikishvili St., Tbilisi 0108

Website: <http://ijhei.wordpress.com/>

E-mail: [ijhei@hotmail.com](mailto:ijhei@hotmail.com); [vazhakiknadze@yahoo.com](mailto:vazhakiknadze@yahoo.com) (director)

Tel: (+995-32) 990682

Director: Dr. Vazha Kiknadze

This Institute was established in 1941 as a spin-off from the Institute of History and Material Culture. During its history it underwent major transformations and changes to its name. Its current structure and form were given to it in 2002. The Institute works on all aspects of Georgian history and covers all periods. However, at this stage, research into the history of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are priorities. Management believes that these studies are necessary counter-attacks against the falsifications of Georgian history.

The Institute has six divisions: History of Ancient East, Middle Ages, New and Contemporary History, Ethnology of Georgia, and Ethnology of Caucasus. There is an Anthropological Centre (a laboratory that studies organic materials).

The Institute is financed through grants from the Rustaveli Foundation. It has already received five grants, which makes it a leader among other institutes. In past years it also received several international grants. The Ethnology Department has been most active in attracting funding. However, it must be noted that most projects are conducted on the basis of individual, and not institutional research grants.

### 2.5.3. Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature

Address: 5, Kostava St. Tbilisi 0108

Website: [www.litinstitutu.ge](http://www.litinstitutu.ge)

E-mail: [litinst@litinstitutu.ge](mailto:litinst@litinstitutu.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 995300

Director: Dr. Irma Ratiani

The Georgian Institute of Literature conducts fundamental and applied research into Georgian literature, literary theory and folklore. It works (and provides support) to apply the results of its research in practice.

The Institute has three Divisions: Georgian Literature, Folklore, and Theory and Comparative Studies. It also has two Research Centres. These Centres are researching two classic Georgian authors, Shota Rustaveli and Galaktion Tabidze in their respective literary and cultural contexts.

The Institute hosts and organizes local and international academic conferences, owns a publishing house where it prints quarterly journals, conference papers and staff monographs. Seven periodical publications and up to twenty collection of works are published by the Institute.

### 2.5.4. Gugushvili Institute of Economics

Address: 5, Kostava St. Tbilisi 0108

Website: n/a

E-mail: [ramazabesadze@yahoo.com](mailto:ramazabesadze@yahoo.com)

Tel: (+995-32) 996853

Director: Ramaz Abesadze

This Institute<sup>11</sup> was established in 1944. Its official goals are:

- to carry out fundamental and applied research in the field of economics;

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<sup>11</sup> The Institute does not have a website, so the only source of information available is an interview with the Director. Unfortunately, the respondent was negatively disposed to this process. He is of the view that some persons are attempting to shut down the Institute, and believed that the interviewer was part of this plot. It was therefore impossible to conduct a complete interview.

- to provide consultancy and expertise;
- to support scientific and technical progress in Georgia;
- capacity building of academic personnel.

The Institute has six Divisions:

- Economic Theory
- Macro and Microeconomic Research
- Business Research
- Innovations and International Competition
- Entrepreneurship Development and Regional Economic Development
- Public Economy

In 2008 the Institute received a scientific grant from the Rustaveli Foundation. In addition, researches are able to secure individual grants. The Institute hosts conference and prepares publications.

### **2.5.5. Tsereteli Institute of State and Law**

Address: 3, Kikodze St., Tbilisi 0105

Website: [www.isl.ge](http://www.isl.ge)

E-mail: [administration@isl.ge](mailto:administration@isl.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 983245, (+995-32) 983206

Fax: (+995-32) 998614

Director: Lasha Bregvadze

Established in 1991, the Tsereteli Institute of State and Law is an exclusively research institution. It engages in fundamental research only, and does not contribute to developing curricula at teaching institutions.

The Institute has four Divisions:

- Criminal Law and Criminology

- Private Law
- Constitutional and International Law
- History and Theory of Law

The Institute has won grants from the Rustaveli Foundation and the European Commission. The Institute is engaged in expert and consultancy work. Staff members have contributed to the development of Georgia's Criminal and Civil Codes. With the support of international donors (GTZ, OSGF, KAS), they publish educational and academic literature. They also hold seminars for the general public.

The Institute has a fully furnished academic library.

### **2.5.6. Institute of Demography and Sociology**

Address: 5/7, Pushkin St., Tbilisi 0107, Georgia

E-mail: [poliongle@wanex.net](mailto:poliongle@wanex.net)

Tel: (+995-32) 9958 95

Contact Person: Dr. Giorgi Tsuladze

This Institute is a successor to the Soviet-era Institute of Demography and Social Research. It was created as independent entity of public law three years ago, although agreement had already been reached on its merger with Ilia State University. This plan has not been realized as yet and, according to a senior researcher from the Institute, it is experiencing numerous problems related to a lack of financial and material resources.

Most members of the research staff (around twenty, all of them PhDs) working in the Institute are demographers. Some associates are sociologists, but they are not actively involved in the research undertaken by the Institute. Thus research is focused on demographic problems, with a predominantly quantitative approach. Most research projects are undertaken individually by researchers working in the Institute. Among these is a demographic yearbook published with the support of UNFPA. Research on reproductive health undertaken with the support of the same agency should also be mentioned. Due to a lack of financial resources, the Institute does not have any opportunity to conduct surveys. As a result, most of the research done by members of its staff is based on existing data, mainly from the State Department of Statistics.



The results of this work are published as a collection of articles on an irregular basis (once every two or three years).

Another important problem for Institute is a lack office space. Currently, the Institute occupies two rooms, sufficient to host the Director's office and to hold weekly staff meetings.

## **2.6. Non-governmental organizations / Think tanks**

### **2.6.1. The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development**

Address: 72, Tsereteli Ave. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Tbilisi 0154

Website: [www.cipdd.org](http://www.cipdd.org)

E-mail: [info@cipdd.org](mailto:info@cipdd.org)

Tel: (+995-32) 355154

Fax: (+995-32) 355754

Chairman: Ghia Nodia

The CIPDD is one of the leading think tanks in Georgia. It combines research with capacity building work (trainings and fellowships) and publications. Its main areas of focus are the media, ethnic minorities, security studies, and political parties. Several projects in other areas have also been implemented in the past. The overall number of staff is thirty, including administrative and project staff. Its annual budget varies according to the number of projects, ranging from 300,000 US dollars to 1 million US dollars over the past four years.

Various kinds of research projects have been implemented by the CIPDD over the last fifteen years. The overwhelming majority of these projects were applied in their focus, addressing important issues facing society in the process of the transition to democracy. Some of this research is organized as background studies prior to the implementation of new projects. Policy research aimed at producing policy papers has become more frequent over recent years.

### **2.6.2. Georgian Young Lawyers Association**

Address: 15, Krilovi St. Tbilisi 0102

Website: [www.gyla.ge](http://www.gyla.ge)

E-mail: [gyla@gyla.ge](mailto:gyla@gyla.ge)

Tel: (+995-32) 952353

Chairperson: Tamar Khidasheli

The Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) is one of the strongest non-governmental organizations in Georgia. It brings together a majority of the lawyers active in the country. One of the fields of activity of the GYLA is that of education. At the same time, the Association works as an advocacy group, whose goal is to protect the rule of law and human rights in Georgia.

As an advocacy group, the GYLA is part of various projects, some of which also include research components. Research conducted is usually the monitoring of government bodies or enquiries into a specific problem.

### **2.6.3. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)**

Address: Chavchavadze Ave. #10, 6th entrance, 2nd floor; PO Box 158 (4) Tbilisi 0108

Website: <http://www.ips.ge/>

Tel: (+995-32) 220060; (+995-32) 912743

Fax: (+995-32) 220060

Co-director: Nana Sumbadze

The Institute for Policy Studies is a non-governmental organization established in 1992, having as its major goal the analysis and formation of public policy. The organization works in several directions, such as democracy and participation, gender problems, forced migration (the Meskhetian Turks and refugees). The majority of these are research projects aimed at problem analysis and programme evaluations. The organization also plans to work in the areas of education and healthcare policies.

Currently the Institute is working on a project entitled 'A Barometer of Public Opinion', studying public attitudes nationwide and touching upon such topics as democracy, governance, the economic situation, healthcare, values, foreign orientation, tolerance and gender.

The Institute is an active partner of UNDP, OSI, and the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and is a frequent sub-contractor to the World Bank. The organization is completely dependent on donor support.

There are six staff members at IPS.

#### **2.6.4. TASO**

Address: 15, Rezo Tabukashvili St., Tbilisi 0108

Website: [www.taso.org.ge](http://www.taso.org.ge)

E-mail: [info@tasog.org.ge](mailto:info@tasog.org.ge); [marina@tasog.org.ge](mailto:marina@tasog.org.ge) (chairperson)

Tel/Fax: (+995-32) 920595

Chairperson: Marina Tabukashvili

The TASO Foundation is a spin-off of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation (Soros Foundation) Women’s Programme. TASO has been independent since 2007, but it continues to work for the objectives and mission of the OS-GF Women’s Programme. The Foundation aims to support gender research and development. The goal is to foster gender equality by means of various projects. The Memory Research Centre was established as an integral part of the TASO Foundation. The Centre operates by collecting and publishing the oral histories of women throughout the whole of Georgia.

The Foundation is currently financed by the Open Society - Georgia Foundation. It cooperates with the local Soros Foundation, as well as with OSI New York.

#### **2.6.5. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)**

Address: 3a, Chitadze St. Tbilisi 0108

Website: [www.gfsis.org](http://www.gfsis.org)

E-mail: [gfsis@gfsis.org](mailto:gfsis@gfsis.org)

Tel: (+995-32) 473555

Fax: (+995-32) 985265

President: Dr. Alex Rondeli

This Foundation is one of the leading think tanks in Georgia. Its main activities are related to education (providing training) and projects aimed at capacity building. Apart from these, staff members prepare analytical material within the areas of their expertise, mostly policy papers. The Foundation cooperates with leading specialists in the fields of international relations and economics. Research is conducted mostly through the individual efforts of its staff members.

The Foundation is completely dependent on donor grants, mostly provided by foreign donors.

Research directions: conflict resolution, European and Euro-Atlantic integration (Eastern partnership and ENP), national and regional security.

### **2.6.6. Caucasus Research Resource Centre**

Address: 16, Zandukeli St. Tbilisi 0108

Website: [www.crrc.ge](http://www.crrc.ge)

E-mail: [crrc@crrc.ge](mailto:crrc@crrc.ge)

Tel./Fax: (+995-32) 505290, (+995-32) 505291, (+995-32) 505292

Country Director: Koba Turmanidze

The Caucasus Research Resource Centre (CRRC) is a network of resources and training centres that cover the capitals of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The goal of these Centres is to contribute to the development of research into, and the analysis of public policy and the social sciences.

Among the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the CRRC are researchers in the areas of the social sciences, university professors and lecturers, specialists working in applied fields of public policy, and other professionals from the non-governmental, private and state sectors.

CRRC services and activities aim:

- to provide high quality up-to-date resource for academics and practitioners to conduct research in their respective countries;
- to reinforce the research capacities of local researchers, academics and practitioners in the fields of the social sciences;
- to enhance, foster and facilitate networking among academics, researchers and practicing professionals to contribute to public policy analysis and formation in various areas of life

The major focus of the Centre's activities is on quantitative research. The organization stands out for the quality of research. This has earned it a high reputation among governmental and non-governmental organizations. These are the organizations that become the clients of CRRC and require research projects from it.

Currently, the Centre works in the following directions:

1. An attempt to gather all kinds of data and to create a unified database and make it universally available.
2. Preparing young researchers. The goal of the Centre is to prepare a group of researchers whose members will be later able to use this knowledge (data collection and analysis skills) in their respective workplaces.

In the past, the Centre was engaged in organizing educational activities, including methodological seminars conducted by local and international experts. The Centre also administers the Carnegie Foundation Scholarship Programme in Georgia.

### **2.6.7. Georgian Centre of Population Research (GCPR)**

Address: 6, Vukol Beridze St., Tbilisi

Website: <http://www.gcpr.ge/>

E-mail: [gcpr@gol.ge](mailto:gcpr@gol.ge)

Tel.: (+995-32) 923731

Director: Irina Badurashvili

The GCPR is a national research institution, operating as a non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1998 and has functioned independently up to the present. The research area of the GCPR covers Georgian population development in a Caucasian and European context. The major research directions include the long-term demographic development of the country, its peculiarities in the period of transition, mortality and fertility trends, migration issues, reproductive behaviour, population ageing, and interactions between demographic and socio-economic changes in the transition period.

The Centre's activity is focused on preparing scientific analyses of the peculiarities of the demographic development of Georgia on the basis of existing statistical data and special population surveys conducted by the GCPR.

In the course of implementing its various projects, the GCPR has collected a large amount of long-term statistical information on Georgia that is available on its website.

The staff is rather small, consisting of four people (two PhDs and two MAs).

## **2.7. Donor Organizations**

### **2.7.1. Rustaveli Foundation**

Address: 68, Uznadze St. Tbilisi 0102

Website: <http://rustaveli.org.ge/>

E-mail: [info@rustaveli.org.ge](mailto:info@rustaveli.org.ge)

Tel.: (+995-32) 953321

Director: Ms. Tinatin Bochorishvili

This Foundation was set up in 2007 as a public body whose mission is to support the development of the social sciences and humanities. The Foundation is funded from the state budget and is closely controlled by the relevant state bodies. It is run by a Scientific Council, which takes decisions on the distribution of funds and supervises the activities of the Foundation. In setting the priorities of its work, the Foundation is quite autonomous from government bodies. One third of Council members are appointed each by the President, the main public universities, and the Academy of Sciences, respectively. The administrative head of the Foundation is its Director, nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the President.

The goals of the Foundation are realized through the distribution of various types of grants. These include grants for research projects run by groups of researchers (the majority of funds are distributed through this scheme), various individual scholarships, and travel and conference grants.

### **2.7.2. Heinrich Böll Foundation South Caucasus Regional Office**

Address: 38, Zovreti St., Tbilisi 0160

Website: <http://georgien.boell-net.de/>

E-mail: [info@boell.ge](mailto:info@boell.ge)

Tel.: (+995-32) 380467 / 68; (+995-32) 913739

Fax: (+995-32) 912897

Director: Dr. Iris Kempe

This Foundation is a branch of a political foundation that is closely linked with the German Green Party. The South Caucasian Office aims at strengthening democratic values in Southern Caucasian societies by means of dialogue, and at creating a common platform for Southern Caucasian states.

One of the activities contributing to the development of the social sciences is the young researchers' support programme running since 2005. Within the framework of this programme, young researchers are able to undertake research in disciplines such as history, sociology and urban development. Individual projects last for one year. Thematic priorities are determined by the Foundation, but individual researchers have a rather wide range of possible choices available. The majority of research is in sociology and urban development. Historical research is somewhat underrepresented. The best works based on the research undertaken in the framework of the programme are published annually by the Foundation.

Apart from these annual collections of works, the Foundation prepares publications on topical social and political issues in the South Caucasus.

### **2.7.3. Open Society - Georgia Foundation**

Address: 10, Chovelidze St. Tbilisi 0108, Georgia

Website: [www.osgf.ge](http://www.osgf.ge)

E-mail: [contact@osgf.ge](mailto:contact@osgf.ge)

Tel.: (+995-32) 250463

Fax: (+995-32) 291052

Director: Ketevan Khutsishvili

This Foundation is part of the network created by George Soros. Its aim is to support transformation processes leading to the creation of an open society. The Foundation implements both network (together with other members of Soros network) and national programmes. While in most cases it does not support academic research per se, research constitutes an integral part of many projects financed by the OS-GF. Through its publishing programme, the Foundation has made an important contribution to the development of the social sciences and humanities in Georgia. At the same time, it is actively involved in cooperation with higher education institutes, with the aim of developing the social sciences and humanities in Georgia.

#### **2.7.4. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung**

Address: 4, Chavchavadze 1<sup>st</sup> lane, Tbilisi 0719

Website: [www.fes.ge](http://www.fes.ge)

E-mail: [stiftung@fesgeo.org.ge](mailto:stiftung@fesgeo.org.ge)

Tel: (+995 32) 25 07 28; (+995 32) 91 26 15; (+995 32) 91 26 95

Fax: (+995 32) 22 67 27

Country Director: Ia Tikanadze

In Georgia, the activities of the regional office of this Foundation, which is affiliated with the Social Democratic Party of Germany, revolve around three thematic priorities: the development of a social market economy, increasing political participation, and conflict resolution. The Foundation does not have any special programme focused on research. However, it is financing policy research within its areas of interest. Several publications, mainly proceedings of conferences and seminars, have been prepared with the support of the Foundation.

#### **2.7.5. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

Address: 2, Peristsvaleba St. Tbilisi 0103

Website: <http://www.kas.de/proj/home/pub/122/22/index.html>

E-mail: [katja.plate@kas.de](mailto:katja.plate@kas.de)

Tel: +995-32-459111

Fax: +995-32-747887

Director: Katja Plate



This Foundation is represented in the South Caucasus mainly through its programme of political dialogue. Its main thematic priorities are similar to those of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, although the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is also directed at the development of free media. It regularly organizes workshops and seminars for young economists, lawyers and journalists. These events are led by German experts and are aimed at sharing experiences with local professionals. The Foundation also organizes conferences in which representatives of the three countries of region can share their views on various political problems. At the same time, it runs a scholarship programme for young social scientists who share the values and commitments of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

## **Chapter 3: The state of research in the social sciences and humanities**

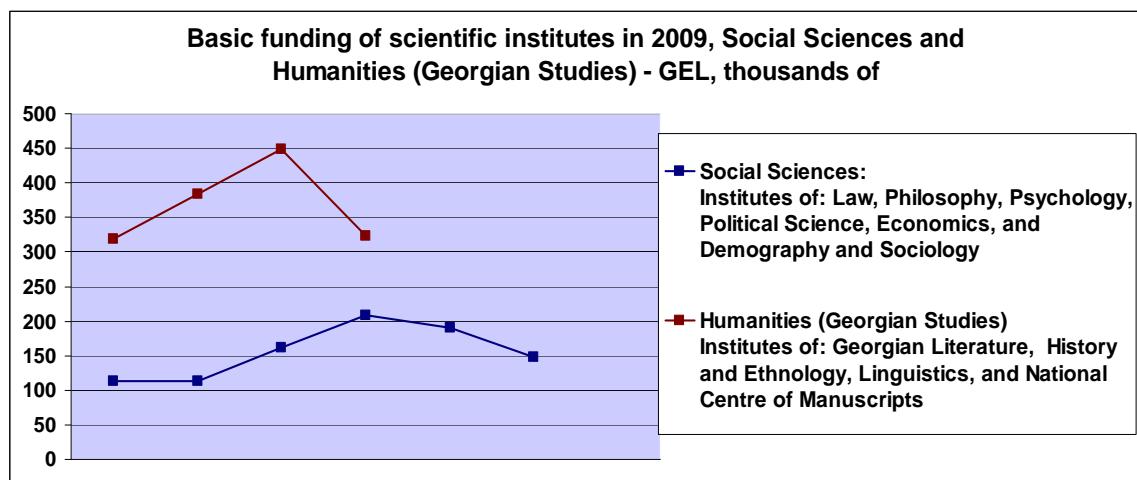
### **3.1. An analysis of research activities in the social sciences and humanities**

#### **3.1.1. Scientific institutions**

In research institutions, the main research directions are determined by the choices made by the scientists themselves. However, the choice of research subjects – above all in foreign-sponsored research projects – is also largely dependent on funding (grant) priorities. For instance, the Director of the History Institute made it clear in an interview that the Institute had deliberately tried to align its priorities with those of foreign foundations.

As a matter of fact, the current state funding system is quite flexible, providing researchers with a fairly large degree of freedom in choosing the subjects of research. A majority of the grant programmes of the Rustaveli Foundation do not require research topics to be specified in the grant applications. However, as the Foundation gives priority to Georgian studies, institutes that focus on this field enjoy a significant advantage over other institutions. For instance, the History and Ethnology Institute, which specialises in Georgian studies, received four state research grants last year, while the Institute of Political Science was awarded none. But this situation has also to do with their respective competencies in the disciplines. The disciplines of Georgian studies have been cultivated since the Soviet period as an area of the conservation and construction of national memory and culture, while the social sciences could not be developed because of ideological pressure.

**Chart 1.** Allocation of basic funding among scientific institutes. (Institutes working in the



field of Georgian studies are significantly more successful.)

Basic state funding makes up the largest part of the budgets of research institutions. This funding is spent mainly on maintaining infrastructure and paying salaries. The budget of the Institute of Political Science illustrates this funding scheme. The Institute, which employs about thirty personnel, has not received any grants this year. Its annual budget in 2009 totalled 208,000 GEL, with which money the Institute was able to pay salaries, cover office expenses, publish some articles, and carry out several small-scale research projects. Basic funding remains the main source of funds for the budget of a research institution even when that institution succeeds in obtaining grants. For instance, basic funding accounts for more than half of the budget of the Literature Institute, where funding is provided by the Rustaveli Foundation and some other sources. The Institute spends part of this money on publications and conferences. It is noteworthy that research institutions have in recent times attempted to engage in scientific cooperation (grants and joint projects) with foreign partners and to raise additional funds as a result.

It is worth noting that the results of research carried out by scientific institutions are rarely applied in practice. This is usually the case, not only when the specificity of the field makes practical application of research results difficult (philosophy, classical philology, etc), but also in such spheres as the economy, for example. The Institute of Law is an exception to this rule. One of its main activities is the preparation and publication of commentaries on statutes. Significantly, some institutions are actively involved in discussions on the problems facing the Georgian State. As a rule, they take a pro-State or 'patriotic' position in these discussions.

For instance, a considerable number of the research projects at the History Institute deal with the history of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In the words of the Institute's Director, the main objective of the research is to 'refute the separatists' arguments'.

An analysis of the research projects implemented by social science institutes reveals a noticeable shortcoming: the lack of empirical research. A large number of these projects are based on secondary data, partly because of tight research budgets. Although there are several examples of quantitative research, experts assess their quality as rather low. One expert privately described how a research institute conducted an opinion poll within the framework of quantitative research in which casual passers-by were sampled at random in the street and the sampling results then presented as representative of the country's entire population.

As far as the publications of Georgian research institutions are concerned, these can be grouped into several categories: (1) scholarly journals; (2) books; (3) annual collections of articles; (4) collections of articles published for a special occasion (for instance, an anniversary of the institute or of a prominent researcher); and (5) conference proceedings. Publication activity varies greatly from institute to institute. From this viewpoint, some social science spheres stand out from the others. There are no stable scholarly journals in Georgia today publishing articles in the fields of the social sciences or humanities. Although there have been numerous attempts in the past to publish such journals (and this continues into the present), an inability to ensure their sustainable development remains the main problem faced by these publications. Quite often, only a number of issues are published and then the journal closes, either temporarily or permanently. Several journals have been published in the past, of which some are still active, but with a limited circulation and with a very small target audience. Examples of these are *Akhali Paradigmebi* (New Paradigms), *Tsivilizatsiuli Dzebiani* (Civilization Studies), *Kultura da Pilosopia* (Culture and Philosophy), *Kartuli Psikologiuri Zhurnali* (Georgian Psychological Journal), and *Pilosopiuri Ganazrebani* (Philosophical Reflections). As a rule, social scientists publish their articles in semi-scientific journals and newspapers, or on the Internet. But these articles usually reflect the authors' personal views, rather than the results of scientific analysis, although their topics may touch upon very pressing societal problems. Institutions specialising in the arts and the law produce quite a few publications. Some of these, including the Institutes of Literature and History, are seeking to make their publications suitable for the Thomson database. However, in their words, foreign databases show little interest in research projects carried out in Georgia.

Besides, becoming a member of the Thomson database is linked to quality and discipline requirements that are difficult for Georgian research institutions to meet.

Approximately 93 articles in the fields of the social sciences and humanities by Georgia-based researchers could be found in the Thomson database. Of these, the majority are by researchers in the field of psychology, reflecting the strong position of this discipline among the different branches of the social sciences and humanities in Georgia.

**Table 2.** Distribution of articles from Georgian researchers in the Thomson Database (by discipline)

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Number of Articles</b>
Psychology (including Clinical Psychology )	68
History	8
Political Science / International Relations	10
Ethnology	1
Literature Studies	2
Philosophy	1
Total	90

Another serious weakness of the social sciences and humanities in Georgia is the gap between local and Western scientific discourses. The theoretical and methodological bases of research in Georgia do not always comply with international standards. This problem is especially pressing in the field of the humanities, as in Georgia this sphere has a relatively long history with embedded traditions. For instance, historical studies are still dominated by the Ranke School approach going back to the nineteenth century, as Georgian historians know little about other approaches<sup>12</sup>. Many scholars explicitly or implicitly acknowledge that this problem really exists. For example, the incumbent Director of the Institute of Literature believes that at the present stage the Institute's main objective is to integrate Georgian literary studies into world science.

A further drawback of the research institutions is their difficulty in integrating a younger generation of scholars. As a result of the education reform which has radically transformed the system since 2004, they cannot run their own doctoral programmes, a consequence of the

<sup>12</sup> For an overview of the situation in the field of history, see for example Giorgi Maisuradze, *Time Turned Back: On the Use of History in Georgia* at <http://georgien.boell-net.de/downloads/CaucasusAnalyticalDigest08-1.pdf>

strict separation of research and teaching in a situation where the older generation has difficulties in coping with new challenges.

### **3.1.2. Higher educational institutions**

One of the main conclusions to be drawn from an analysis of the scientific activity of higher educational institutions is that most of them have little research in the areas mentioned above. This is mainly because these institutions have to allocate their limited resources to a range of priorities. For instance, the budgets of regional educational institutions (in Batumi and Telavi) do not have any research funds at all. Although Tbilisi-based educational institutions have some funds for research, these are insufficient and/or must be divided among several priority spheres (which rarely include the social sciences and humanities). Besides, the lack of research at the university level is a legacy of the Soviet past with its division of functions between educational and research institutions. The main objective of the higher education reform, which began in 2004, was to improve the education process rather than to encourage research in higher educational institutions. One of the aims of the reform – to merge research institutions with higher education institutions – ran into insurmountable resistance from the management of the research institutions and so could not be implemented consistently and successfully.

The majority of the research projects in the universities are funded by donor organizations, mainly by the Rustaveli Foundation and by foreign donors. On rare occasions, research is funded by governmental institutions, mainly by the Ministries of Education and Healthcare. Due to the dependence on donors, priority is usually given to applied research. As regards purely scientific projects, these have a better chance of getting funding if they address urgent social or political problems. Joint projects with foreign research institutions provide another fundraising opportunity.

Research funds (grants) are usually raised through the efforts of a professor or a group of professors. Students are often given an opportunity to take part in research as a way of improving their knowledge and skills. Faculties do not have any strategy for the selection of research topics. There is also little, if any, cooperation among researchers in different fields working in the same faculty. As a rule, researchers are not aware of what research projects their fellow researchers from the same faculty are working on.

Research grants are unevenly distributed among different subjects, largely because university researchers studying various fields are not all equally active. Compared with other fields, far

fewer research projects are conducted in the spheres of the social sciences and arts. One explanation is that representatives of these fields, mostly social scientists, are much more often employed in non-educational institutions, since there is a demand for their expertise in the public and private sectors, in non-governmental organizations, etc., in all of which they are better rewarded than the academic sphere.

Higher educational institutions are quite active in organizing scientific conferences and workshops. International conferences are usually organized by those educational institutions that maintain close links with foreign universities or have gained a good international reputation.

Universities publish periodicals in various fields. Several universities have their own publishing houses and can themselves publish handbooks and articles by their professors.

### **3.1.3. Non-governmental organizations / Analytical centres (think tanks)**

The first non-governmental organizations emerged in Georgia in the late 1990s. More than twenty of these are involved in research, although some of them are more active than others. Some focus almost exclusively on research activity, while others regard research projects only as a way to augment their main activity. The former can be called think tanks in line with accepted practice in the West.

Dependence on donor organizations is one of the main features of think tanks and the NGO sector in general. Think tanks receive funds mainly from foreign donors or partner organizations, and for many of them it is their only source of funding. The choice of research topics is largely influenced by donors and partners. International organizations are usually the only end-users of the research results. These players determine how the research can affect state policy. Governmental agencies rarely commission NGOs to carry out research projects, although there are already a few precedents.

According to NGO researchers, dependence on donors has both negative and positive effects. On the positive side, it provides relatively high salaries and adequate material and technical resources. Another important factor is the ability to cover a wide range of topics. Research topics are listed in the table below.

**Table.3** Topics of research projects implemented by non-governmental organizations<sup>13</sup>.

Note: The percentages do not add up 100% as projects can belong to more than one category simultaneously.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Topic as a percentage of the total number of research projects</b>
Democratic processes	60%
Public opinion	40%
Education	32.5%
Economy	30%

As the interests of donors and partner organizations cover a wide range of issues, NGOs enjoy a substantial degree of freedom when choosing research topics. But donor priorities change over time, leading to changes in the subjects of research. This factor can play a negative role, as frequently changing priorities prevent NGOs from gaining expertise in a particular field. Besides, financial dependence on donors limits the ability of NGOs to influence government policies and has a negative impact on their prospects for sustainable development. According to one participant in the research, his organization becomes active only when a sufficient number of its projects are financed by donors and the projects implemented are within its employees' areas of interest. Only rarely can it afford the luxury of conducting research for colleagues' satisfaction.

NGOs usually publish the results of their research on their websites or in special bulletins. Their research reports differ in form, although in recent years NGOs have tended towards preparing policy papers.

### **3.2. Capacity building measures**

The majority of those projects having capacity building as a goal are supported by foreign donors. Coordination among donor organizations is exceptionally weak. However, due to the limited number of projects and their scope, cases of overlap are relatively rare. Project management training is an exception to this rule. Different non-profit organizations (including foundations) frequently carry out training, usually targeting employees of NGOs. Capacity building measures can be divided into several groups. These are: (1) scholarship programmes;

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<sup>13</sup> Source: *Directory of non-governmental organizations working in the field of public policy*. Tbilisi: Institute for Policy Studies. 2005.



(2) training in project management; (3) increasing access to data; (4) training in research methodology, data analysis and data presentation; (5) creating infrastructure (libraries); and (6) publications.

**Scholarship programmes.** During last few years, numerous scholarship programmes have been put in place to enable individual research. These programmes let participants engage in individual research work. As a rule, the programme fellow works on a selected topic together with a supervisor and, on completion, prepares a paper for publication. Scholarship programmes are run by the local offices of different foundations (such as the Open Society – Georgia Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Ebert Foundation, and the Adenauer Foundation) and by other organizations. Two better known and larger scale scholarship programmes are discussed here.

The Caucasus Research Resource Centre (CRRC Fellowship) programme. This programme enabled representatives of various organizations to conduct research on topics of importance for the formation of state policy. The budget of individual projects was several thousand US dollars. Collaboration between two scholars was acceptable. The scholarship programme is currently halted as management and other interested parties undertake a critical evaluation of the programme experience.

Some researchers believe that the conditions for participation in the programme were hard to meet. One such precondition was that the research should have been published in an international peer-reviewed journal. The application review process was equally complicated, something the CRRC management maintains was in place in order to avoid low-quality research proposals. However, some potential applicants never completed the application documentation simply because the application procedure required too much effort. In the end, the organization refused to continue the scholarship programme since it did not contribute adequately to the development of social science research. Well qualified fellows with an appropriate level of education and experience did not produce quality research due to a lack of spare time. Currently, the CRRC has a Junior Fellows programme. This programme envisages training recent graduates in quantitative research methodology and data utilization.

A further programme for young researchers is run by the Heinrich Böll Foundation Regional Office. Researches work on a topic together with a supervisor assigned by the Foundation. Topics reflect the Foundation's priorities. Those behind the programme have considered the difficulties that young researchers face, specifically the issue of spare time for research. They

offer a partial solution by providing a scholarship. Some interesting pieces of research have come out of this programme. The experience of this programme suggests that the unequal qualification and experience levels of fellows are an issue. With some participants, inadequate knowledge of research methodology and difficulty in accessing literature are additional obstacles. Most of the research is concentrated on policy issues.

The Academic Fellowship Programme offered by the higher education support programme of the Open Society Institute (with which the local Open Society – Georgia Foundation is affiliated) makes scholarships available to junior scholars having Western graduate degrees. Fellows are assigned to various university departments, are coached by international supervisors and integrated into their respective institutions through various support mechanisms. However, the main emphasis of the programme is on teaching and on updating curricula, research being a welcome but not a necessary component of the scholarship.

**Training in project management.** This type of training is conducted by various organizations and also by donors. In some cases, training is financed through grants. Sometimes training fees are fully or partly paid by participants. The training sessions in project cycle management offered by the Training and Consultation Centre (CTC) are a good example. This course has garnered a good reputation in the community. Its fees, excluding initial charges, are fully covered by participants.

**Increasing access to data.** The Caucasus Research Resources Centre has carried out some important work in this regard. A major focus of the work of this organization is on collecting quantitative data. Within the framework of its Data Initiative Project, the CRRC collects various data which are then made available to interested parties and researchers. One of the top managers from the Centre explains that the goal is not so much to engage in data analysis, but to increase access to high quality raw data. This task has added value and importance against a background of widespread distrust in official statistical data. Additionally, the Centre is trying to publish research data acquired privately, but this is entirely dependent on the goodwill of clients. Unfortunately, the Centre representative explains, Georgian researchers are not greatly committed to using quantitative data, and the majority of Centre's database users are foreign researchers and Georgian marketing companies.

The TASO Foundation is engaged in recording women's oral histories. However, information about the use of this data by other researchers is missing. Also, it has to be noted that there is

a wealth of ethnographic data available that requires attention and analysis from the perspective of modern anthropological theory.

**Training in methodology and data presentation.** Training in methodology is mostly on quantitative data methods. Such training is frequently on the basics of market research and is geared towards the potential clients and those developing polls. In some cases, the targets of such training are representatives of non-profit organizations and public officials. In such cases, the training aims at increasing the critical data analysis skills of participants.

Several commercial organizations offer basic training in market research and statistical analysis. The Institute for Polling and Marketing (IPM), the largest marketing firm in Georgia, is one of these. The training offered by IPM attracts mostly marketing department employees of various private entities and students. As for the other direction mentioned above, here the CRRC is a major player as the organization believes that it should spread knowledge about research methodology and data analysis. The CRRC provides training for professional researchers and also for representatives of non-profit organizations who need quantitative data in their daily work. Training of professional researchers is often conducted by foreign experts. However, as a Centre representative frankly stated, expectations far surpass the actual outcomes of these seminars.

**Libraries.** There are three relatively large social science libraries in Tbilisi, all set up with the support of the foreign donors. One such library is located at Ilia State University, another at the CRRC, and the third was established within the framework of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation’s Social Science Support Programme. Currently this library belongs to the Centre for Social Sciences. The majority of its customers are Tbilisi State University professors and graduate students. In recent years, the libraries of the leading universities also saw a significant boost made possible by the increased budgets of these institutions.

**Publications in the social sciences and humanities.** For a long time a substantial proportion of academic and textbook titles was published with the support of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation. The Foundation supported the publication of textbooks (written by local authors, as well as translations) and the works of classic and modern authors. Until very recently, accessing contemporary manuals was the main difficulty. Fortunately, this challenge has been partly overcome by textbook titles published by local universities (both original and translated). However, there is a severe lack of translated scholarly literature in the Georgian

language, and Georgian publications in the social sciences and humanities are also scanty and often do not comply with international standards.

## **Chapter 4: Recommendations**

### **4.1. Assistance to universities in the development of doctoral programmes**

Inadequate training of young researchers in the social sciences and humanities raises serious obstacles to the development of these sciences in Georgia. As scholarships are unavailable to doctoral students, the latter are unable to spend sufficient time on high-quality research. At the same time, doctoral programmes are ill planned and inefficient. Doctoral students, having been inadequately prepared at MA level, are rarely given theoretical and methodological training. This aspect also negatively affects the quality of their research and their doctoral theses.

For these reasons, Georgian universities need assistance to improve the quality of their MA and doctoral programmes in the social sciences and humanities. MA and doctoral programmes must be based on clear-cut standards, while the required level of knowledge for participants in these programmes should be strictly determined.

### **4.2. Development of university-based research programmes**

The lack of research programmes in the social sciences and humanities is a serious weakness of Georgian universities. At the same time, many of the researchers employed by the universities have close links to Western scientific discourse and, for their part, are capable of high-quality research. It is important to sponsor academic, rather than applied, research programmes, since the universities get foreign financial assistance (grants) mainly for applied research. Two mechanisms may prove useful for this purpose: the allocation of research grants (scholarships) for individual researchers or teams of university researchers, and the implementation of joint research programmes by Western researchers and Georgian universities.

### **4.3. Development of a theoretical and methodological research framework**

The development of the social sciences and humanities requires improving the theoretical and methodological frameworks of research. Very often, extensive empirical data obtained during research projects are not analysed properly. Sometimes the research has a rather vague theoretical and philosophical basis. In some cases, researchers make contradictory philosophical assumptions when researching the very same subject area. It is also important to

improve the methodological basis of research. Since some steps have already been taken to improve the quality of quantitative research, attention should be focused on the methodology of qualitative research. At the same time, the low quality of quantitative research remains a problem that should not be ignored. The following measures can help improve this situation: (1) training workshops for researchers in the theory and philosophy of the social sciences and humanities; (2) training workshops for researchers in qualitative and quantitative research methodology; and (3) the translation and publication of handbooks in both of these fields.

#### **4.4. Promotion of pluralism in historical research**

Historical studies play an important role in Georgia both as an element of the humanities and a factor in the development of public consciousness. It is noteworthy in this respect that Georgian historians are not fully aware of the link between theoretical, philosophical and methodological problems and the historical sciences. Historical studies are still dominated by old-fashioned approaches and nationalistic ideology. This means that Georgian researchers have little understanding of history as a multi-paradigmatic science and need appropriate training. Encouraging alternative research with the help of financial incentives (grants), holding training workshops, and publishing relevant literature can be instrumental in achieving this goal.

#### **4.5. Publication of social science journals**

The absence of social science journals seriously impedes the development of the field. To get a scholarship, for instance, researchers need to provide a list of their publications in scientific journals. The lack of such journals in Georgia creates a nearly insurmountable obstacle to social scientists and researchers studying the humanities (except those who keep in touch with Western universities and research centres). What is more, the availability of such journals in Georgia would become an additional stimulus for researchers working in universities and other institutions, encouraging them to carry out more research and to publish their results. Furthermore, English translations of articles by Georgian authors would give foreign researchers studying Georgia a valuable insight into the country's science and culture. Journals might either cover a broad range of subjects or specialise in one particular discipline. It is important to ensure the widest representation of subjects and university centres on journal editorial boards.

#### **4.6. Development of research standards in line with international norms and standards**

In most cases, the quality of research in Georgia falls far short of Western standards. Although such problems are often caused by actual circumstances (for instance, sampling problems in quantitative research are partly related to the absence of an adequate sampling base), experts believe that there is sufficient potential for improving the quality of research. It is necessary to collect and distribute information about Western research standards, including ethical standards. At the same time, it is essential to adapt these standards to the Georgian context. To this end, it is necessary to encourage a debate on these topics among Georgian researchers by means of special workshops and publications.

## Annex 1. List of informants

**Ministry of Education and Science:** Nugzar Chitaia, Head of the Department of Academic Education and Science Development

**Georgian National Academy of Sciences:** Guram Tevzadze, Vice-President

### Public universities:

- Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
  - Faculty of Scientific Research and Development: Giorgi Gvedashvili
  - Institute of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities: Professor Nino Chikovani
  - Faculty of Social and Political Sciences: Professor Iago Kachkachishvili
- Ilia State University
  - Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies: Professor Nodar Ladaria
  - Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences: Archil Abashidze, Acting Dean
- Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University
  - Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Law: Professor Tina Zurabishvili,
  - Faculty of Humanities: questionnaire completed online by Faculty
- Shota Rustaveli Batumi State University
  - Faculty of Humanities: questionnaire completed online by Faculty
  - Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Jurisprudence: questionnaire completed online by Faculty

### Private universities:

- Sul Khan-Saba Orbeliani Humanitarian Sciences University: Vazha Vardidze, Rector
- Institute of Asia and Africa, Free University of Tbilisi: Guram Chikovani, Director
- Caucasus University: Boris Lezhava, Dean of the Caucasus School of Business



- University of Georgia: Korneli Kakachia, Dean of the School of Politics and International Relations
- GIPA: Giorgi Margvelashvili, Head of the Research Department
- IBSU: Tamar Shioshvili, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

**Research (scientific) institutes:**

- Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature: Maka Elbakidze, Deputy Director
- Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology: Vazha Kiknadze, Director
- Institute of Political Science: Malkhaz Matsaberidze, Director
- Gugushvili Institute of Economics: Ramaz Abesadze, Director
- Tsereteli Institute of State and Law: Temur Tskitishvili, Deputy Director

**NGOs/ Think tanks:**

- The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development: Gia Gotua, Researcher
- The Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies: Vladimer Papava, Senior Fellow
- Caucasus Research Resource Centres: Koba Turmanidze, Country Director
- Public Policy Institute: Nana Sumbadze, Co-director
- Georgian Young Lawyers' Association: Giorgi Chkheidze, Executive Director
- TASO: Tsisana Goderdzishvili, Deputy Director
- Georgian Centre of Population Research: Shorena Tsiklauri, Researcher

**Experts:**

- Simon Janashia (education)

- Lika Glonti (education)
- Irakli Sakandelidze (sociology)