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**Internationalization policy,  
mechanisms and evaluation of their effectiveness**



## Introduction

Internationalization is an important component of the comprehensive strategy of European University. Essentially, it implies giving the local teaching and research activities an international character, subsequently strengthening the competitiveness of our alumni and researchers at the local and international levels.

### a. Main accents:

Internationalization policy implies that:

- European University will be attractive in terms of teaching and research for local as well as international audiences;
- Our intercultural environment will open up new possibilities for the advancement of our international students and researchers
- International cooperation will enable our students and academic personnel make great strides towards their professional success.

### b. International Profile

Enhancement of an international profile is key to improving the rankings, reputation and trust of European University at the local and international levels. To meet these objectives, European University employs the following mechanisms:

#### c. Thematic collaboration with the strategic partners

Strategic partnership implies special cooperation in terms of the co-management as well as teaching and research activities with the partners with which European University shares the same vision. Strategic partnership is often about upgrading already existing relationships to a new level.

#### D. Thematic partnership with the European and American universities

Cooperation with the European and American education areas is one of the most important elements of the thematic partnership objective. Such partnerships could translate into the increased awareness of European University as a brand, as well as contribute to the initiation the joint educational and research projects.

#### E. Pervasive internationalization

The International Relations office is at the forefront of the internationalization process, although, in essence, it develops at the level of educational programs and university faculties. International Relations office plays a coordinating role between the students, academic or administrative staff and foreign partners involved in the process. All initiatives are considered at the faculty level and those that are deemed valuable are financially supported through the budget allocated to the International Relations Office. Pervasive internationalization encompasses all spheres of university life.

##### a. Mission

European University is the higher education institution based on European values and oriented towards sustainable development. European University has as its mission to:

- • Provide student-centered, high-quality education;
- • Prepare competitive workforce for the local and international labour market;
- • Develop research / scientific work and creative activities;
- • Contribute to the formation of the knowledge society and knowledge-based economy in Georgia;
- • Encourage the self-realization and creative activities of local and international students as well as the academic staff by enhancing their critical thinking, innovative and academic skills;
- • Ensure the academic freedom of students and academic personnel;
- • Commit itself to the community development, provide lifelong education, promote tolerance mutual respect and intercultural dialogue within the context of the Corporate Social Responsibility.

## B. Vision

By 2025, the European University is an open academic space that develops modern, well-equipped, comfortable and adapted educational, scientific and work infrastructure, maintains financial sustainability, attracts and effectively retains highly qualified human resources, encourages their professional development and self-realization processes and promotes international academic mobility of students and academic personnel.

- Within the context of the corporate social responsibility, European University promotes lifelong learning, participates in the environmental and community development activities, continuously cares for the welfare of the society within and outside of the university;
- The University offers a wide range of locally and internationally accredited educational programs and commits to their continuous development;
- The University has both Georgian and international students that possess the skills and motivation needed to obtain high-quality education;
- The University is successfully implementing effective selection process of student contingent through direct communication, well-targeted projects, devotion to the European University brand development, commitment to enhancing its reputation worldwide and well-established relationships with local and international partners.
- The University is distinguished by the innovative / modern teaching methods and proper quality control system;
- The University promotes research and scientific activities, works towards their internationalization and engages young researches in them.
- The University enjoys good reputation and is known as a reliable brand.

## 2. Main directions of internationalization policy

The main directions of internationalization policy of European University are the following:

- Internationalization of educational programs;

The goal of the internationalization policy regarding educational programs is for the new knowledge and methods accumulated worldwide to find reflection in the educational programs of European University, which is to be implemented through the various mechanisms listed below. This would give an opportunity to the academic community of European University and, first of all, the students, to gain up to date knowledge in the field of their interest and get acquainted with the latest approaches to mastering the profession of their choice.

- International mobility of students and academic personnel;

The goal of international student and academic staff mobility is to raise awareness about the innovations and trends in the world of education and to share their global achievements in different areas. Getting acquainted with the latest teaching and learning methods allows the academic personnel to share the information and knowledge with colleagues. Academic staff and students that gain international experience, subsequently contribute to the introduction of new approaches into the European University educational process and the Georgian labour market, respectively. In addition, international mobility encourages intercultural exchange beyond the professional activities and offers informal networking opportunities, that usually lead to successful international collaborations.

- Internationalization of scientific- research activities;

The aim of the internationalization policy with regard to the scientific-research activities is to translate the research potential of the local academic community into the international research projects within the relevant fields. At the global level, contributing to the creation of new knowledge in any direction is a difficult but important task for a country like Georgia, in order for it to be able to rapidly adapt to the latest developments happening worldwide.

### 3. Mechanisms of internationalization

In coordination with the International Relations Office, the main educational units (faculties) and the relevant structural units of the institution, ensure the implementation of the declared internationalization policy of European University through the following mechanisms:

- Mechanisms for the internationalization of educational programs are the following:
  - ✓ Developing / executing joint educational programs with the American or European universities;
  - ✓ Incorporating separate international modules into the European University educational programs;
  - ✓ Providing for the international accreditation of English-taught educational programs of the University;
  - ✓ Building international awareness and improving the image of the English-taught educational programs offered at European University;
  - ✓ Enriching the educational programs of the University with the latest literature in English language;
  - ✓ Introducing courses taught in English into the curricula of the educational programs offered in Georgian language;
  - ✓ Engaging foreign professors into the European University educational programs;
  - ✓ Translating the foreign literature into the Georgian language.
  
- Mechanisms for the international mobility of students and academic personnel are the following:
  - ✓ Establishing / deepening close and targeted relations with the relevant foreign universities according to the needs of the existing or planned educational programs of the European University;

- ✓ Implementing exchange programs within the framework of bilateral agreements;
- ✓ Providing for the international exchange of students and academic personnel through the Erasmus +International Credit Mobility program and other relevant grant projects;
- ✓ Increasing the English-taught component within the European University educational programs, to allow the flexibility in the international student admission process or the incoming mobility;
- ✓ Strengthening the English language teaching component in the Georgian-taught educational programs;
- ✓ Involving the academic personnel into the international educational projects and relevant events;
- ✓ Inviting foreign professors to execute the short-term educational activities at European University, such as holding the trainings, leading the workshops and delivering public lectures for the local students and the academic personnel;
- ✓ Engaging European University students in the international educational activities and other relevant events, including the international summer / winter schools;
- ✓ Organizing international summer / winter schools by European University;
- ✓ Submitting the applications for various international grant projects that would include the European University students, academic personnel and the administrative staff as beneficiaries.

• Mechanisms for the internationalization of the scientific-research activities are the following:

- ✓ Preparing and submitting scientific research projects to the local and international funds;
- ✓ Involving the academic personnel of European University in international research projects;
- ✓ Organizing international scientific conferences;
- ✓ Facilitating the participation of European University students and academic personnel in the international conferences;
- ✓ Attracting foreign scholars to publish at the European University scientific journals, in order to increase their international citation index.

#### 4. Mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of internationalization

In order to evaluate the effective implementation of the internationalization policy, to measure the results, identify the areas for improvement and share the best practices, the University has introduced the following mechanisms:

. Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan - The implementation of the University's internationalization policy and mechanisms is ensured by the University's 3-year Action Plan. The action plan itself is subject to quarterly and annual monitoring, which evaluates the implementation of the tasks and activities listed in the action plan according to the reporting period, their performance indicators and sources for their verification. This process is regulated in detail by the "European University Ltd. Strategic Development and Action Plan Monitoring Mechanisms". The process is coordinated by the European University's Strategic Development Office.

Survey measuring the student satisfaction level about the Internationalization activities - Every year, the European University Quality Assurance Service conducts a student satisfaction survey about the international activities carried out by the University, as well as about the level of awareness about them. These mechanisms are regulated by the General Student Satisfaction Survey;





Satisfaction Survey of Academic and Invited Personnel in the direction of Internationalization - Every year, the European University Quality Assurance Service evaluates the satisfaction level of academic and visiting personnel with the internationalization activities, as well as measures the awareness about them. These mechanisms are regulated by the document "General Satisfaction Survey of Academic and Invited Personnel".

