



*Approved by the University Governing Board,
№ 5 Protocol of APRIL 17, 2019
Amendments made by the University
Governing Board, № 9 Protocol of May 4,
2020*

Strategy for the development of scientific-research activities of the European University for 2019-2025

2019

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1. Introduction

Strategy for the development of scientific-research activities for 2019-2025 is a document that sets out a vision to support scientific-research activities at the European University.

2. The mission of the European University

European University is a higher education institution based on European values, focused on sustainable development. Its mission is:

- to promote self-realization and creative activities of local and international students and academic staff by developing critical thinking, innovative and academic skills;
- to offer student-centered quality higher education;
- to actively participate and contribute to the formation of a knowledge-based economy in Georgia;
- to develop scientific/research and creative activities;
- to train competitive personnel for the local and international employment market;
- to ensure the academic freedom of students and academic staff;
- to care for the development of society within the framework of social responsibility, to provide lifelong education, to promote tolerance, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue.

3. The vision of the European University

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, promotes their professional development and self-realization process and promotes mobility of academic staff and students through active involvement in the internationalization process.

4. Procedures for developing strategy of scientific-research activities

Scientific-research strategy activities were carried out with the participation of the academic and administrative staff of the University. Adherence to the principles of participation, teamwork, transparency and fairness was ensured in the strategic planning process.

The strategic planning process took place in the following main phases:

a. The initiation phase

The process was aimed at developing a strategy document for the development of scientific-research activities for 2019-2025 in accordance with the strategy of the University for 2019-2025.

A working group was formed by the order of the Rector to develop a scientific-research strategy.

The working group consisted of: Rector, Vice-Rectors, Head of the Center for Support of Scientific-Research

Activities, Heads of Research Institutes, Head of Quality Assurance Department, Head of Financial Service, Head of Legal Service and Deans of Faculties.

b. Strategic plan preparation and review phase

The Center for Support of Scientific-Research Activities provided the formation of a future vision for the development of scientific-research activities at the European University and determined its compliance with the "European University Strategy Document for 2019-2025"

The working group developed the initial version of strategy for the development of scientific research activities at the European University and the university academic staff together with the students was given the opportunity to express their views and receive feedback from the members of the working group developing the document. It should also be noted that in a number of cases the comments and suggestions made were taken into account and with the active involvement of the university community, the final version of the document was adopted.

c. The strategic plan approval phase

The working group developed the draft strategy for the development of scientific research activities 2019-2025 of the European University, the strategy document was accepted and finally approved by the Governing Board.

5. Goal, objectives and activities of the scientific-research strategy

a. Purpose

The aim of the scientific-research strategy is to implement an effective system to promote innovative research activities and to share best research practices in collaboration with local/international partners.

To achieve this goal, the University plans to initiate result-oriented, both internal and joint and interdisciplinary research activities with international partners, including research centers, universities and donor institutions; to interest young, progressive scientists, stimulate the involvement of students in research activities, create textbooks and literature in Georgian, as well as develop translation activities; to introduce public, transparent and fair internal funding procedures for research and to provide maximum assistance to the attracted researchers in obtaining the necessary funding and conducting relevant scientific activities in accordance with the relevant standards; also to develop and implement mechanisms for the commercialization of research results, so that the university can contribute to the development of new knowledge, visions, approaches and perspectives in the fields of law, psychology, business and economics, to share this knowledge with the public and to occupy the desired place in the international ranking system of universities.

b. Objectives

In order to advance scientific-research activities and accumulate valuable knowledge, the University has developed the following objectives for 2019-2025:

- Assessment of the research potential of the university and setting priorities;
- Development and internationalization of the Scientific-Research Institute of Law;
- Development and internationalization of the Research Institute of Economic and Social Issues of Globalization;
- Facilitation of interdisciplinary research;

- Facilitation of individual research projects initialization;
- Stimulation of the involvement of students in scientific-research activities;
- Development of scientific-research activities in the field of medicine;
- Development of scientific-research activities in the field of international relations;
- Support of the commercialization of the scientific-research activities.

c. Activities

In order to fulfill the tasks envisaged by the scientific-research strategy of the University for 2019-2025, the following activities were defined in the short-term (3-year) period:

5.1 Assessment of the research potential of the university and setting priorities

The following activities were planned to assess the research potential of the university and to set priorities:

- Evaluation the resources of material and academic staff at the University in the field of scientific-research activities in order to optimize scientific-research activities;
- Defining and funding relevant scientific research priorities for scientific research resources;
- Sharing research profiles and prioritization among all stakeholders.

5.2 Development and internationalization of the Scientific-Research Institute of Law

The following activities have been identified for the development and internationalization of the Scientific-Research Institute of Law:

- Further increase of the rating of the scientific journal "Law and the World";
- Obtaining internal funding for legal research;
- Applying for legal studies to obtain funding from international and local sources;
- Expanding the area of activity of the institute, increasing the role of the institute in public life and strengthening its social function.

5.3 Development and internationalization of the Research Institute of Economic and Social Issues of Globalization

The following activities have been identified for the development and internationalization of the Research Institute for Economic and Social Issues of Globalization:

- Further increase of the rating of the scientific journal "Globalization and Business";
- Obtaining domestic funding for research on the economic and social issues of globalization;
- Applying for research on the economic and social issues of globalization to obtain funding from international and local sources.
- Expanding the area of activity of the institute, increasing the role of the institute in public life and strengthening its social function.

5.4 Facilitation of interdisciplinary research

The following activities have been identified to facilitate the initiation of interdisciplinary and individual studies:

- Improving and introducing a systematic and effective system for informing academic staff about research grants;
- Holding informational meetings with academic staff to obtain research grants;
- Assessment of the research-scientific potential of the existing human resources of the university and creation of the appropriate groups to initiate the acquisition of research-scientific grants;

- Establishing close relations and cooperation with scientific research institutes.

5.5 Facilitation of individual research projects initialization

The following activities have been identified to facilitate the initiation of individual research projects by academic staff and students:

- Improving and introducing a systematic and effective system for informing academic staff and students about individual research grants;
- Holding information meetings to obtain individual research grants;
- Funding the participation of students and academic staff in individual research activities.

5.6 Stimulation of the involvement of students in scientific-research activities

The priority of the University is to interest students and young scientists in academic research activities through planning and implementation of research projects, events and other activities; also, to support the scientific staff of the institutes, to get acquainted with the working principle of national and international scientific foundations promoting scientific research and development, and to grasp the key moments of the preparation of scientific grant projects.

The University tries to develop the students' ability to look at their profession on a large scale, the scientific-research tasks facing them and helps them to master the modern technologies accompanying any research.

The following activities were planned to encourage student involvement in research activities:

- Development and implementation of a mechanism to encourage the involvement of students and young scientists in research activities;
- Funding research activities of student and researchers;
- Improving the quality of teaching research methods;
- Implementation and promotion of the project "Best Researcher Student".

5.7 Development of scientific-research activities in the field of medicine

The following activities have been identified for the development of scientific research activities at the Faculty of Medicine of the European University:

- Establishing a medical journal and obtaining rating;
- Evaluation of the research potential in the field of medicine and identifying priority areas;
- Initiation of applied scientific research activities in accordance with the defined priorities;
- Obtaining internal funding for research;
- Partnership initiation with medical research bases and agreement on the implementation of the joint research projects.

5.8 Development of scientific-research activities in the field of international relations

By signing the Grand Charter of Universities (1988), the Lisbon Convention (1997), the Sorbonne Declaration (1998) and finally the Bologna Declaration (1999), Georgia expressed its readiness to participate in the establishment of the Common European Higher Education Area, including the internationalization of higher education. Accordingly, the European University takes on this challenge and sets one of the strategic goals of internationalization of scientific research activities in cooperation with leading European universities and scientific research centers.

The internationalization of research will be facilitated by the mobility of academic staff and students, the acquisition

of international research grants and the implementation of research projects in collaboration with leading European universities; also, preparation and publication of joint scientific research results in cooperation with them in high-ranking and high-factor international scientific journals.

The following activities have been identified for the development of scientific-research activities in the field of international relations:

- Participation in international academic projects;
- Ensuring the involvement of foreign partners in educational activities;
- Creating additional opportunities in terms of academic exchange projects;
- Strengthening the University's academic and visiting staff in collaboration with foreign partners.

5.9 Supporting commercialization of scientific research activities

The following activities were planned to promote the commercialization of scientific research activities:

- Assessment of the feasibility of commercializing the results of scientific research;
- Studying and selecting of the various mechanisms necessary for the commercialization of the results of scientific-research activities;
- Exploring relevant markets and finding potential partners.

6. Mechanisms for conducting scientific-research activities

Various institutional, financial, legal and incentive tools have been created at the University in order to carry out scientific-research activities effectively. Their combination creates a flexible and comfortable environment to support research activities. These tools are:

6.1 Institutional mechanisms for implementing and facilitating scientific research activities

At this stage, there are three organizational structures in the field of scientific research at the European University. These are the following:

a. Center for Support of Scientific-Research Activities, which promotes and effectively implements scientific research, carries out the following activities:

- promoting scientific-research activities in the university in all directions;
- coordination of scientific-research activities throughout the university;
- ensuring the involvement of university students and academic staff in research processes, their research-creative and consulting activities;
- strengthening the research component within the university;
- ensuring the development of international scientific cooperation with the relevant structural units;
- promoting research conducted within the University;
- supporting the departure of students and academic staff to participate in scientific events, seminars and conferences;
- study and analysis of the university research resources;
- finding institutional and individual grants;
- establishing consistent and professional relationships with potential donor organizations;
- coordination of group(s) working on grants within the University;
- managing the process of finding funding for scientific research activities;
- planning strategies, specific events and ensure their implementation; developing proposals for finding and receiving grants.

b. The Scientific-Research Institute of Law is an independent structural unit of the European University, which carries out research activities in the field of law.

The Institute cooperates with foreign educational and scientific-research institutions, attracts professors and teachers from abroad and organizes their lectures at the European University, publishes scientific journal in the field of law, both in print and in electronic form, translates and publishes foreign textbooks in Georgian. The Institute helps students to get involved in research grant projects, local and international conferences, and various scientific research events.

c. The Research Institute of Economic and Social Issues of Globalization is an independent structural unit of the European University, which conducts research in the field of economic and social issues of globalization.

The Institute cooperates with foreign educational and scientific-research institutions, attracts professors and teachers from abroad and organizes their lectures at European University; publishes the scientific journal "Globalization and Business" in both print and electronic form. The Institute conducts seminars, discussions, conferences, training courses, presentations, competitions and various types of activities; cooperates with various public organizations, governmental structures, international and local organizations; participates in projects and competitions, and also initiates projects and competitions.

d. The Research Institute of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine has established a Research Institute of Medicine, which operates on the basis of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases. The Institute promotes the development of the research potential of the faculty staff and students and their involvement in research projects. The Institute organizes international and local conferences, seminars, symposia as well as scientific trainings. In addition to participating in local and international science grant projects, the Institute plans to establish and publish a scientific journal "Journal of Biomedicine and Medical Sciences".

6.2 Mechanisms for financial support of scientific-research activities

6.2.1 The rule of research funding

In order to create a unified system of funding at the European University, to build the trust of those involved in scientific activities, to establish transparent and impartial procedures and to introduce the principles of rational spending of funds, an internal legal act is being created at the university "The rule for funding research". This Act establishes the rules and procedures for funding research activities that determine the initiation of research activities by the University, decision-making and appeal procedures.

6.2.2. The rule of affiliation

Affiliation means a written agreement between the University and an academic position holder, by which each academic person determines his or her affiliation only with the European University, participates in the development of society, and shares knowledge on its behalf. The rule and conditions for the affiliation of the academic staff of the European University, the rights and responsibilities of the academic staff and the University in connection with the affiliation are regulated by the University Internal Act "The Rule of affiliation".

6.3 Mechanisms for protection of academic integrity in scientific-research activities

The European University has developed a document "The procedures and mechanisms of plagiarism detection,

prevention and response”, which aims to promote the objective implementation of teaching and research at the University, academic freedom and impartiality, the establishment of the principles of academic integrity, to promote the level of scientific/academic activities and internal responsibility at the University, to raise the prestige of the university in the university community, to regulate the norms of behavior for the introduction of high academic standards and to establish forms of responsibility. The requirements of the document apply to the academic, invited and scientific staff employed at the University, as well as to the students of the University and to the persons involved in the scientific conferences.

7. Mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of scientific research activities

In order to increase the productivity of the academic staff, including affiliated staff, as well as to raise the qualification and professionalism of the staff and to stimulate creative initiatives, the University annually evaluates the scientific research activities of the academic staff and conducts further events based on the results. The mentioned issue is regulated by the internal legal act of the University "The Rules for the Evaluation of Scientific-Research and Academic Performance of Staff.