

Annual Report of the 2014-2015 of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Is prepared in accordance with the long-term and one-year action plan of strategic development of 2011-2017

- ✓ The given reporting period is distinguished with the following achievements of institutional development of the University: functions/ responsibilities of the central administration were improved and defined; procurement procedure, control, planning of the budget, analysis and forecasting have been improved; Trainings and Consultancy Center (TCC) was created as a separate unit; the Georgian Rural Development Program transformed into the Georgian Rural Development Department; Research Department was created within the Research Center; the first multiplatform educational center, computer-graphic MultiLab was created in the Caucasian Region.
- ✓ The University successfully continues elaborating, defining/designing and implementing the educational programs. New Master's and Bachelor's programs were created: Bachelor's Program in Business Administration, Master's Program in Business Administration, Master's Program in Media-Engineering, Master's Program in Applied Psychology, Master's Program in Migration, Bachelor's Program in Audio-Visual and Media Art; the curricula of the program were created and developed with the involvement of the partner universities and foreign experts;
- ✓ A special multifunctional program of intranet was created – lmb.gipa.ge; the research component is strengthened within the three-year partnership with the Troy University; the quality assurance system was renewed and new forms of student and lecturer assessment were implemented.
- ✓ Partner universities of GIPA are: University of Columbia, George Mason University, Troy University, Wroclaw University, Colorado University, Business School of Geneva (Switzerland), Turiba University (Latvia), Masaryk University.
- ✓ The grant projects are successfully implemented; main donors are: State Department of the USA, USAID, USDA, EU/EC, IREX, OSI, CJS; US CDC;
- ✓ The assets of the University increased by GEL 379047; grant income increased by GEL 832479; total commercial income increased by GEL 1401532; the commercial income increased by GEL 574304.

Maintaining/ Developing the Quality of Existing Educational Programs

With the purpose of maintaining the quality assessment/ monitoring of the existing and new educational programs, update and implementation of new teaching methods are constantly in progress at the University. The University started implementing new Bachelor's and Master's programs. The following educational programs are implemented in the schools during the given reporting period:

School of Government:

- Master's Program of Public Administration
- Master's Program of Local Government
- Master's Program of Public Policy
- Bachelor's Program of Business Administration (new program)
- Master's Program of Business Administration (new program)

School of Journalism and Media Management:

- Master's Program in Multimedia Journalism and Media Management
- Master's Program in Public Relations
- Master's Program in Media Engineering (new program)
- Bachelor's Program in Audio-Visual and Media Art (new program)

School of Law and Politics:

- Master's Program in International Relations
- Master's Program in International Law
- Bachelor's Program in Law
- Master's Program in Migration – joint program with the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University within the framework of the project Tempus Georgia (new program)

School of Social Sciences

- Bachelor's Program in Social Sciences
- Master's Program in Applied Psychology (new program)

Implementing New Educational Programs

- Master's Program in Business Administration has opened within the School of Governance; programs of Public Governance and Public Policy have been assigned dual Master's degree within the memorandum signed with the George Mason University.
- Program of Applied Psychology opened within the School of Social Sciences.
- Master's Program in Media Engineering opened within the School of Journalism and Media Management in partnership with the Columbia and Maastricht Universities.
- Program of cybersecurity has been developed which is designated for the professionals of the Ministry of Defense in the middle of their career development. Partner: Webster University.
- In cooperation with the Troy University the existing curricula of the Program of International Relations and the joint distant Master's Program in International Development is being developed;

Implementing the Bachelor's Program

- Within the framework of the School of Governance the curriculum of the Bachelor's Program in Management is being developed and it is being prepared for the accreditation of 2016.
- A memorandum has been concluded between the Universities of Troy and GIPA on implementing the following dual degree 3+1 Bachelor's programs: School of Law – Political Sciences/ International Politics, Public Governance/ International Politics; School of Social Sciences – Bachelor's Program in Social Sciences.

Implementation/ Perfection of the Existing Bachelor's Program

Perfection, improvement of the existing Bachelor's program and implementation of the modern teaching standards is constantly going on in the University with the purpose of maintaining and improving the quality.

- Curricula of the Public Governance and Public Policy Programs was renewed and updated

Deepening Relationships with the Foreign Partners/ Attracting New Partners

- The University cooperates with the following foreign partner universities: Columbia, Wroclaw, Troy and George Mason, Colorado Universities.
- The University cooperates with the following international institutions and programs: Tempus, IREX, USAID, USDA, EC/ENPARD, Mercy Corps, Center of Diseases Control and Prevention of the USA (CDC), Center of European Journalism, State Department of the USA, CJS, OSI, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.
- The School of Law and Politics concluded a cooperation memorandum with the Law Department of the Masaryk University for carrying out joint scientific, research and educational activities, exchange programs for students and lecturers.
- The School of Journalism became a member of the Training Association of the European Journalism.
- Troy summer school – offers 50% discount to the GIPA students wishing to learn English.
- Negotiations are in progress with the leading industrial corporations of China in regards of supporting and popularizing international business internship of the University.

Infrastructure of the University/ Expanding the Study and Auxiliary Premises

- The University rented a premise with the respective infrastructure (1652.12 sq.m.) in 7b Ietim Gurji Street, Tbilisi, where the administration, School of Government and the Georgian Rural Development Department are located.
- IT Infrastructure – is modified and updated. A server with new capacity was purchased. Special server room was created. Internet and other services work without hindrance.

Supporting the Statistics of Employment of the Graduates

- With the purpose of supporting the career growth of GIPA students, a special project – GIPA graduates for the existing students of GIPA – “Networking” was created.

Improving the Electronic Database of Administering the Teaching Process

- A special multifunctional program of the Intranet was created – lmb.gipa.ge, that will improve communication of the administration, lecturers and students and managing the existing information regarding the graduates.

Creating/ Publishing the Study Material Respective to the Educational Programs and Updating the Material-Technical Base of the University and the Library Fund

- Two books were translated with the financial support of the USA Embassy: “Psychology of Communication” and “Practitioner’s Guide – Financing Health”.

Developing and Implementing the Mechanisms Necessary for Increasing Qualification and Motivation

- “EXTERNSHIP” activities were carried out for the lecturers of the business direction of GIPA. It facilitates involvement of the academic personnel of the business direction of GIPA into the field activities and helps in developing more practical skills via cooperation with different representatives of business.

Supporting Involvement in Research, Conferences, Different Grant Projects

- Research Department was created within the Research Center. Scientific-educational program, mission and strategy of the program were devised. The Department acquired financial independence.
- Quarterly online scientific journal was issued in the first half of 2014 where the academic and associated partners of GIPA publish researches.
- Carrying out joint research projects in cooperation with George Mason University and the School of Governance were planned.
- First part of the research of the School of Governance, “Challenges of the Public Governance” was published in November of 2014.
- Academic journal of GIPA, “Journal of Politics and Democratization” is successfully issued and publishes the articles of the researchers of GIPA and Troy.
- Strengthening of the research component is in progress within the framework of the three-year partnership with the Troy University.

- The World Bank financed the project of the School of Governance which aims monitoring and evaluation of the public servants.
- The USA Embassy financed the project Enriching Modern Georgian Literature.
- The Administration of the President of Georgia financed the School of Governance which carries out the project “State Formation” and “Discussion Club”.

The Georgian Rural Development Department carries out the project “EU ENPARD - Empowering Modern Research Practices of Regional Agriculture-Related Institutions” financed by the European Commission.

Ensuring/ Internationalizing the Foreign or Local Professionals in the Study Process

- GIPA hosted the international students from Troy, Wyoming, Masaryk and Wroclaw Universities.

Perfecting the Monitoring System with the Purpose of Improving the Quality of the Study Process

- Quality assurance system was updated by implementing the new forms of evaluation of the students and the lecturers.
- EXTERNSHIP activities started for the lecturers of the business direction of GIPA.
- Trainings were carried out for the University lecturers within the modern teaching center with the purpose of supporting development of the teaching skills and their personal development.

Perfecting the Systems of Marketing and Public Relations

- 20 years’ anniversary of GIPA was celebrated.
- Marketing campaign of 2014 was directed at increasing awareness about the institute.
- A special project – GIPA SUPPORT was created with the purpose of increasing the social responsibility of the corporation.
- Short videos were created about GIPA
- Advertisements of GIPA were regularly placed in different internet media and websites: as a priority at jobs.ge; hr.ge; edu.aris.ge; forum.ge; newscafe.ge; marketer.ge; imovies.ge, etc.
- GIPA officially became a member of TWITTER, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM and FLICKR and carries out active campaign with the social media means.

- GIPA took part in different activities and events: Education Fair in Expo Georgia; organizing documentary movie festival GIPA DOCU and student festival; organizing charity activities; organizing skiing tournament in Gudauri; organizing an annual competition Joshua Freedman, etc.
- Different debates are conducted in Frontline Club the purpose of which is increasing awareness of the public regarding different important topics of the country and inclusion of the civil society. All of these is carried out within the framework of the program “Open Platform”. The Club successfully hosts the journalists, politicians, partner organizations and other representatives of the civil society.
- Radio GIPA is still one of the main instruments of the marketing activities. A website of the radio was created for listening to the online stream and the mobile application was created in the start of 2015 as it was planned.
- The School of Journalism created a computer graphic Graphic MultiLab - the first authorized multiplatform study center in the Caucasus region.

Challenges:

- ✓ Improving the infrastructure of the University and creating respective conditions for the students with disabilities
- ✓ Supporting the creation of the student self-government
- ✓ Updating the financial regulations and administrative documents

Planned Activities

- Curriculum of the Master’s Program in Environmental Protection is under development and is being prepared for accreditation in 2016 – partners: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and GIZ.
- Developing the curricula of the Bachelor’s programs in management within the School of Governance – preparing for 2016 accreditation.
- Developing, implementing and institutionalizing level-V technical vocational education training (TVET) and internationally recognized certificate programs in occupational safety and environmental protection technologies at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, financed by Millennium Challenge Account-Georgia.
- Developing dual Master’s program in International Development (with the active use of the electronic teaching component).

- Publishing the second part of the research of the School of Governance “Challenges of the Public Governance” in 2015/16.
- Updating, perfecting and matching with the modern standards the financial regulations, reporting, administrative and organizational documentation.