**PAWER - Paving the way to interregional mobility and ensuring relevance, quality and equity of access**

**Ilia State University, June 2019**

Ilia State University acts as the country coordinator institution for the PAWER project. Within our capacity ISU coordinates activities of Georgian partners and communicates with the Ministry of Education Sciences, Culture and Sports of Georgia. ISU coordinated data collection within WP1 from the Georgian partners (Akaki Tsereteli State University from Kutaisi and Shota Rustaveli State University from Batumi) and production of the questionnaire regarding national and institutional systems, ECTS distribution, credit transfer, mobility recognition. Questionnaire on ISU has been prepared in cooperation with the Quality Assurance office to verify data and obtain information on ISU’s practices. The short overview document has been later discussed with the ISU team members. Based on the collected data from the partners, ISU also prepared the national presentation on Georgian HE system including HEI types, Bologna Process and Mobility Recognition rules at the national level. ISU presented all collected data on the kick-off meeting in Wroclaw, Poland in February 2017 and submitted questionnaire to WP leader.

Withing WP2 ISU participated in 3 pilot training weeks in EU. Ilia State University has been represented by five staff members that were selected under WP 2.1. Two staff members attended the training week in Middlesex University, UK organized in October 2017. 1 staff member participated in the week at Wroclaw University of Life Sciences, Poland in November, 2017. And additional 2 persons took part in study week in Hungary, at Szeged University in November 2017.

Participating staff members prepared joint presentation on Ilia State University’s credit system and ECTS, alignment with the Bologna Process, student mobility processes and support services, credit transfer and grade conversion process which also included national regulations, etc. All 5 participants attended 5 day trainings on various topics related to student mobility from different perspectives. Involved staff developed their personal training portfolios based on the content of the training sessions and their personal learning outcomes.

Training participants have also developed draft plan for conducting in-house trainings at Ilia State University and identified potential participants. In-House training was conducted on July 27, 2018. 17 staff members from Faculty QA Offices, Curriculum Experts, Law Office and QA Office received training regarding Organization of International Mobility of Students. The topics included 1) Policies and procedures concerning international mobility, such as student’s status regulation, financial conditions and regulations, participation restrictions and requirements, national regulations on exchanges, possible changes and adaptability, procedure formation; 2)Organization of international mobility of students, namely selection procedures, pre-selection period (information dissemination, curriculum advising), after selection (ECTS, mapping learning outcomes, developing Learning Agreement, counselling on internal procedures, PDO, student’s status procedures), during the mobility period (advising, counselling, mobility agreements), after the mobility period (recognition procedures, credit transfer, grade conversion, internal procedures for status change, financial rules); 3) Supporting international mobility, where issues like support services, mechanisms, dissemination activities, recognition mechanisms, monitoring and quality enhancement were discussed.

As part of WP4 ISU identified 6 pilot courses from 2 degree programs that match proposed disciplines. The course descriptions were prepared according to general Bologna Process guidelines and principles, detailing aims and topics of the course, prerequisites, instruction methods, distribution of hours and ECTS, course objectives, learning outcomes, generic and subject-specific competences, assessment system, schedule and resources. Comparative scheme of grades and credits is to be developed by the WP leader.

ISU participated in the 1st Regional Conference that was held in Azerbaijan, at Khazar University on October 5, 2018. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Baku Engineering University, Ilia State University, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Batumi State University and Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture of the Republic of Georgia were represented at the conference. The aim of the conference was to disseminate information about project achievements. Additionally, issues such as student mobility within Erasmus+ and other projects and credit recognition were discussed. ISU and Khazar University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate further cooperation and possible exchange of students and staff in the future.

The 2nd Regional Conference will be held at Ilia State University on June 28th, 2019. Representatives of 5 partner HEIs from Georgian and Azerbaijan, along with the relevant ministries will attend the event. Additionally, training on international mobility will be delivered by the representatives of the Middlesex University.