

## **Annual Report of the 2012-2013 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 Georgian Institute of Public Affairs successfully continues bringing up the qualified professionals with modern education and knowledge, elaborating and developing higher education programs together with the foreign partners. New graduate and postgraduate programs have been elaborated. During the current reporting period the dual master's degree has been assigned to the postgraduate programs of Public Policy/ Political Sciences and International Relations/ Political Sciences in partnership with the University of Wroclaw. The short course of online-distant teaching has been conducted for the first time. With the purpose of increasing qualification and improving the quality of studying process, the Teaching Excellence Center has been opened. The University has been handed over computer laboratory by the Laboratory SMART SAMSUNG.
- ✓ The partner universities of GIPA are: George Mason University, Troy University, Wroclaw University.
- ✓ The United States of America remains the main donor, however, the projects financed by the European Union in the reporting period of the current year take significant share. The main donors of the University are: The State Department of the USA, USAID, USDA, EU/EC, IREX, OSI, CJS.
- ✓ The assets of the University have increased: the premise (130 sq. m.) located in 62 L. Asatiani Street has been purchased where the frontline club will be located.
- ✓ According to the audit report of 2012, the assets of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs has increased by 271579 Georgian Lari; In 2012 the grant income has increased by GEL 181027; In 2012 the total commercial income has increased by GEL 574304.

### **Maintaining/ Developing the Quality of the Existing Educational Programs**

With the purpose of maintaining the quality, evaluation/ monitoring, update, perfection of the existing and new educational programs and implementation of the modern standards of teaching are constantly in progress. The following educational programs are conducted during the current reporting period:

### School of Government:

- Master's Program in Public Administration
- Master's Program in Local Government
- Master's Program in Public Policy

### School of Journalism and Media Management:

- Master's Program in Multimedia Journalism and Media Management
- Master's Program in Public Relations

### School of Law and Politics:

- Master's Program in International Relations
- Master's Program in International Law
- Bachelor's Program in Law

### School of Social Sciences:

- Bachelor's Program in Social Sciences

### **Implementing New Educational Programs**

- The direction of business has developed within the School of Government, bachelor's and master's programs in business are being developed, the Master's Program in Local Government (accredited in January of 2013) has been opened.
- The direction of art has developed within the School of Journalism and Media Management, Master's Program in Media Engineering is being developed in partnership with the Columbia and Maastricht Universities.
- Master's Program in Public Policy/ Political Sciences has been assigned dual degree (partner: The University of Wroclaw);
- Master's Program in International Relations/ Political Sciences has been assigned dual degree (partner: The University of Wroclaw).
- Online-distant learning (short-term courses) of GIPA has been implemented and the server and equipment needed for the distant learning have been installed with the financing of the European Union.

### **Implementing the Bachelor's Program**

The School of Law and Politics accepted the first students to the bachelor's program in Law.

### **Implementing/ Improving the Existing Bachelor's Program**

Improvement, update of the bachelor's program in Social Sciences and implementation of the modern standards of teaching is constantly in progress with the purpose of maintaining and improving the quality.

### **Deepening the Partnership with Foreign Partners/ Attracting the New Partners**

- Within the three-year partnership with the Troy University the research component is being strengthened, existing curriculum of the program of International Relations is being updated, joint distant master's program in International Development is being developed.
- The university is cooperating with the following foreign partner universities: Columbia, Wroclaw, Troy and George Mason Universities.
- The University cooperates with the following international institutions and programs: Tempus, IREX, USAID, USDA, EC/ENPARD, Mercy Corps, Center of European Journalism, State Department of the USA, CJS, OSI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

### **Infrastructure of the University/ Increasing the Teaching and Auxiliary Spaces**

The University purchased a premise (130 sq. m.) in 62 L. Asatiani Street with the respective infrastructure where the frontline club (which it established in 2010 together with the Open Society and it is the only partner of the Global Frontline Club existing in London in the region) and two new studios of the Radio GIPA will be located.

### **Creating/ Publishing the Study Materials Respective to the Educational Programs and Updating the Material-Technical Base of the University**

The University received the first grant of the business company and the Laboratory SMART SAMSUNG handed over a computer laboratory to GIPA.

### **Devising and Implementing the Necessary Mechanisms for Increasing Qualification and Motivation**

- In 2013, based on the agreement between the quality assurance department and the administration of the institute, the modern teaching center (**Teaching Excellence Center**) has been created within the Research Department. It has a purpose of improving the academic quality in the university which implies constant upgrade and perfection of the modern methodologies of teaching and learning.
- The training and consultation center of the University is actively involved in developing and implementation of the mechanisms of increasing qualification.

### **Supporting Research, Conferences, Participation in Different Grant Projects**

- 15 new Doctorates joined the directions of Public Policy and Economy and Journalism of the Doctor's program of the Research Department of the University. The University offers the trainings within the program of the modern teaching center (**Teaching Excellence Center**) to its staff with the purpose of increasing the qualification. Active works are going on for issuing the quarterly scientific magazine.
- The schools of the University and the Georgian Rural Development Program are actively involved in different international donor funded grant programs and successfully implementing the projects in different regions of Georgia.

### **Ensuring Inclusion of the Foreign and Local Professionals in the Educational Process**

The Lecturers invited from the partner Universities, experts and field specialists from respective local and international institutions are actively involved in the educational process as well as carrying out the projects.

### **Improving the Systems of Marketing and Public Relations**

- Branding of **GIPA**: new logo was created and the **Brand Book** has been devised;
- Using the tools of direct marketing for the Master's Programs increased the number of submitted applications (**19** applicants at **1** place);

- In relation with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **GIPA** the events' calendar has been prepared; with the purpose of improving the public relations and communication the campaigns increasing public awareness about the University have been planned and respectively the marketing strategy of the University has been updated.
- Student website – **Newscafe.ge**; the radio shows of **GIPA** have been renewed; the second **GIPA DOC** festival has been conducted; **GIPA Friedman** prize has been handed over;

The Centers of Cultural Heritage and Local Government have been created at the University.

#### **Challenges:**

- ✓ Improving the infrastructure of the University and creating the respective conditions for the students with disabilities
- ✓ Improving the regulatory and administrative documentation
- ✓ Supporting the student government
- ✓ Improving the electronic database of administering the study process and the respective mechanism

#### **Planned Activities:**

- ✓ Developing and implementing the new BA and MA programs
- ✓ Accrediting the new educational programs and the related issues
- ✓ Attracting partner universities and concluding the memorandums of cooperation
- ✓ **Assigning** dual Master's and Bachelor's **degrees** together with foreign partner universities
- ✓ Improving the electronic database of administering the study process
- ✓ Institutional strengthening of the University
- ✓ Attracting international donors with the purpose of carrying out the projects
- ✓ Carrying out active marketing campaign