

**Coordination institution:** University of Lisbon (Faculty of Architecture) – Portugal

Experience in coordination of the EU projects (funded by the EACEA):

TEMPO (Erasmus Mundus programme)

INFINITY (Erasmus Mundus programme)

RETHINK (TEMPUS programme)

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### **New proposal for Capacity Building – Structural project**

**Project title:** Partnership for Higher Education Reforms (to be confirmed later).

**Coordination institution:** University of Lisbon (Faculty of Architecture) – Portugal

#### **Consortium:**

University of Lisbon (Faculty of Architecture, Portugal)

University of Coruna (Spain)

University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

Georgian Technical University (Georgia)

Tbilisi State University (Georgia)

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (Georgia)

Donbass National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (Ukraine)

Donetsk National Technical University (Ukraine)

O.M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv (Ukraine)

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Ukraine)

**Project duration:** 3 years.

#### **Regional priorities:**

- Internationalization of Higher education institutions
- Definition, implementation and monitoring of the reform policies

#### **Short description: objectives, results**

“The best universities in the world are truly global institutions”. Indeed, the international component of universities’ ratings is a worldwide accepted way for classifying Higher Education Institutions (HEI). In general, this international component is worth between 15% to 20% of the value of any HEI’s rating. An international degree is an official degree that is either jointly issued by two universities from different countries (joint degree) or that entitles students to obtain a second degree from a foreign university (double degree).

That is why it is so important to include international degrees in a HEI's academic offer, because it provides a highly positive repercussion on its reputation. But being able to discover, to design, to negotiate, to implement and to manage international degrees is a difficult and a costly challenge for HEIs without previous experience on the matter. Our proposal is to set up a new **center** whose objectives are, precisely, to provide to HEIs and educational authorities the services, the information and the guidance they may need in order to design, negotiate, approve and manage international degrees. The service center we are proposing intends to encourage and to facilitate the internationalization of Ukrainian and Georgian HEIs but on the ministerial and rectorate levels.

However, for this center to be effective, to be useful and to be sustainable it will have to have the involvement of – not only - the Ukrainian and Georgian HEIs but also the Ministry of Education of Ukraine and Ministry of Education of Georgia.

### **Role of the Ministry of Education**

Indeed, we foresee the role of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine/ Ministry of Education of Georgia in this project as having 2 components:

- **The first is to engage in fulfilling the agreements** set forth in the Association Agreement (EU-Ukraine/Georgia) and “A European Agenda for Reform EU-Ukraine/Georgia” signed between the European Union and Ukraine/Georgia. Namely, by:
  - Implementing EU projects and simultaneously having the opportunity to familiarise the Ministry of Education with EU working methods and policies.
  - Carrying out joint work and exchanges with a view to promoting Ukraine's/Georgia's further integration into the European Higher Education Area.
  - In this sense, the Ministry will be taking on the role of facilitator in the process of implementation of the project by understanding the need for structural reforms and means by which these reforms will be achieved.
- **The second is to diversify the links and to deepen the bilateral relations between the Ukrainian/Georgian Ministry of Education and the European Union HEIs.** Thereby, encouraging travel from Ukraine/Georgia to Portugal, Spain and Slovenia (and vice-versa). To establish direct contacts, to invent new forms of collaboration - thus helping to ensure the sustainability of the European Project.