**Dissemination of the project ASSET**

**and mechanisms for formative assessment**

On November 2, 2018, dissemination of the project ASSET ("Assessment Tools for new learning environments in higher education institutions") financed by the EU Program Erasmus+ in 2017 was held at Sokhumi State University and mechanisms of formative assessment elaborated within the project were presented. The meeting was a kind of report of the members of the SSU team before the ASSET consortium's international meeting in Linz (Austria).

The meeting was opened by the Rector of Sokhumi State University, Ambassador of Georgia Professor Zurab Khonelidze, who spoke about the importance of EU projects and their role in institutional development, in the activities of new curricula, teaching courses and learning-practical activities in terms of implementation of modern teaching tools (mechanisms). The Rector promised full support in the implementation of the project and and wished the Project members success.

Romeo Galdava, Head of Quality Assurance Service of Sokhumi State University spoke about the programs of EU programs Tempus and Erasmus+, which underlined the necessity of similar projects for further integration in the European education system and development.

Prof. Lia Akhaladze, Dean of the Faculty of Education and project coordinator at Sokhumi State University made a presentation about the activities carried out by the SSU. Lia Akhaladze emphasized the role of the ASSET project and the new opportunities offered to the university academic personnel (Faculty of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Faculties of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science) to get involved in the process of curriculum development in terms of elaborating new assessment instruments.

The teaching courses developed in the framework of the previous project DOIT focused on innovative teaching and incorporated many innovations that are already successfully implemented in the university Bachelor's and Master’s programs. However, at this stage it is necessary to introduce relevant innovative tools and methods to assess the student-oriented courses in the teaching process. We consider that the ASSET project is an important means to eradicate this flaw, said the reporter.

In the framework of the project, testing of formative assessment and preparatory activities of appropriate mechanisms were conducted on several faculties: faculty of Education, faculty of Humanities and faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Piloting testing of the project was conducted in both Bachelor's and MA programs: Teacher’s Preparatory Bachelor Program (primary level), Bachelor's and Master’s Programs in History, Turkology Bachelor Program, International Relations (Additional) Program. For the first time the piloting work began in small groups, because the experience was less and in the process of testing, the mechanisms of implementation were carried out at the site. The team members have translated foreign language literature that has been developed by the team members to familiarize with the system of assessment and assessment mechanisms. In the current teaching semester (2018-19) the formative assessment is implemented together with summative assessment in the Teacher Education Program (primary level), Bachelor and Master programs in History, Philology, International Relations, Mathematics. The courses are: Multicultural Education - Multiethnic and multicultural Georgia (35 students), Sociology of Education (28 + 5 = 33 students), History of the State of Georgia (22 students), Epigraphics (28 students), Near Eastern History (26 students), International Relationships in New Periods, General Math Issues, English Language Teaching Methods (6 students).

Among the activities carried out, the speaker talked about the new course - Modern Mechanism of Assessment, which was created specifically within the project and passed the accreditation on 8 October 2018. Presentations related to the formative assessment made by the SSU team at national and international conferences are important. On June 30, 2018, dissemination day was held, attended by a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science, Professor Rhonda Sofer, one of the leaders of the project and Dr. Justina Pierzinska of the University of Warsaw.

For the academic staff attending the 2 November meeting, it was crucial to introduce new mechanisms of formative assessment developed by project members. Professors Tamar Shinjiashvili, Lia Akhaladze, Kakha Kvashilava and Omar Ardashelia, teachers Nino Tsulaia and Levan Kvaratskhelia spoke about new mechanisms and methods of its implementation. All of them spoke in detail about the methods and techniques that were developed during testing process and will be fully piloted from the semester of the spring of 2019.

At the end, the project members announced about national and international trainings among the future plans, in which all applicants from the academic staff will be eligible to participate.