



GEORGIA

ICT ENVIRONMENT, INNOVATION POLICIES & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

EECA CLUSTER

This report is a compilation of information and data collected in the framework of the EECA cluster work. It is a part of three wider reports on EECA countries ICT priorities, Innovation Policies and Strategies and International Cooperation.

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Georgia

ICT Environment

1 Overview of the main trends in the National ICT Sector

1.1 Recent Trends in Macroeconomic and Market Developments

An important basis for the economic development in Georgia is a stable macro-economic environment, which is mostly stipulated by low unemployment rate, independent monetary policy, price and financial sector stability (at present population of Georgia is about 4.5 million). One of the main aims of public policy is to promote an attractive business and investment environment, which in turn leads to the creation of new working places and the increase of population's incomes.

In recent years, Georgian GDP has positive growth tendency. In 2012, real GDP growth amounted to 6.1%. In 2013, the tendency of real GDP growth has been maintained.

There are significant changes on the labour market. In recent years, labour force and the number of employed people increased. Accordingly, in 2012 the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1% compared to 2011 and equalled to about 15.0%.

Indicator	National performance		EU 27 (28) Average	
	2009	2013	2009	2013
GDP per capita in PPS (EU25=100)	2455.2 \$	3 519.6 \$	100	100
Real GDP growth rate (% change previous year)	-3.8%	6.1%	-4.5	0.1
Labour productivity per person employed (EU25=100)	17 000 \$	26 173 \$ in 2012 Year	100	100
Inflation rate (average annual)	1.7%	- 0.5%	1.0	1.5
Unit labour costs (growth rate)	14.8%	5.6%	3.3	0.6
Unemployment rate (as % of active population)	16.9%	14.6%	8.8	10.8
Foreign direct investment intensity	658.4 mln \$	914.4 mln \$		
Business investment as a percentage of GDP	12%	12.4% (2012 Year)		
ICT Expenditure (% of GDP)		2.81% in 2012		
Broadband penetration rate (% population with broadband access)	22.7%	41.4%		
Amount of mobile-cellular subscriptions	64.46	115.03		
Percentage of individuals using the internet	20.07	43.10		
Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions (% population)	3.41	10.24		

Source: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>



Below there are some micro economic characteristics which were announced by the Ministry of economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia²¹.

In 2012, nominal GDP of Georgia amounted to 26 138.9 mln. GEL (15 829.7 million. USD) and GDP real growth reached 6.1% compared to the previous year. In 2012 GDP Per Capita amounted to 5 811.7 GEL (3 519.6 USD). At the same time, in April 2014 the monthly inflation rate in Georgia amounted to 0.3 percent. In 2011, unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percent point and equalled to 15.1 percent. In 2011, the number of active population amounted to 1 959.3 thousand persons and increased by 0.7% compared to 2010, and employed persons amounted to 1 664.2 thousand and increased by 2.2% compared to the previous year. Value added in industry sector reached 3 857.6 mln. GEL at current prices, In 2012, real growth in industry sector reached 3.9% and in 2011 the indicator equalled to 4.9%.

Recent Trends in ICT Performance

The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia is responsible for the policy development in the field of ICT. In 2000, the Georgian National Communication Commission (GNCC) was established as the first independent telecommunications regulator. The policies of the GNCC promote innovation in the communications service sector. By the successful implementation of the reforms in the country in the field of ICT there are growth rates of GDP, attraction of investments into the national economic, growth of population prosperity and reduction of poverty. All this are one of the most important preconditions for acceleration of political and social-economic development and integration of Georgia into Euro-Atlantic structures.

On the Internet Service Providers Market works 18 internet service providers. Four providers offering wireless broadband services for individual and business users. Customers are free to choose a provider. ISPs are subject to class authorization.

TV broadcasting covers about 100% of the whole population of Georgia. It is considerable, that 80% of population receives three or more TV programs.

As for development of electronic services in Georgia, positive tendencies are observed in this direction in 2010. Two institutions of the Executive Government appear to be leaders in this sector - Ministries of Finance and Justice. Many electronic services are accumulated on the official website of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia (www.mof.gov.ge): calculation of the cost of vehicle customs clearance, online system of calculation of property tax rates and coefficients, activation of completed registration forms by web camera, option of online completion and sending of declaration, completion of a public institution declaration, electronic customs clearance of mail, online auction and online payments.

A number of positive tendencies are observed in Georgia in e-Transparency direction. Creation of electronic resource of state tenders is a part of the approved National Anticorruption Strategy of Georgia (www.procurement.gov.ge). One more important project directed at improvement of accountability and transparency quality is implemented in public management sector. The Civil

²¹ Ministry of economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, <http://www.economy.ge/en/economic-review/macroeconomics>, 28.07.2014.

Service Bureau has made the declarations of property completed by public officials electronically available (www.csb.gov.ge). The same Bureau administers a specially created webpage (www.jobs.gov.ge) which facilitates increase of awareness level among seekers of employment in public sector.

There is progress in the direction of e-Governance development. Modern informational technologies are introduced in practice and significant electronic projects are planned. In the Ministry of Justice data exchange Agency was established. They are engaged in the process of introduction of e-Governance in Georgia. The aim is to develop a strategic plan of e-Governance development and coordinate interaction between various agencies in this direction.



Georgia has obtained a high level of compliance with international standards with regard to its telecommunications sector. Telecommunications is one of the fastest developing industries in Georgia; however Georgia lags behind Europe with improving public access to ICT due to outdated infrastructure which has left many people in rural areas without access to ICT. While 38% of residents in the capital city of Tbilisi use the internet, that percentage is much lower for residents in rural areas and even in other major cities (21%).

Georgia is ranked 93 out of 133 countries on the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) with a score of 3.38 which is slightly lower than the score in 2009-2010 of 3.48. The NRI identifies enabling factors for ICT readiness and provides governments and stakeholders with the assessment of a countries past performance. The key parameters include energy efficiency, productivity, scalability, security, and availability for ICT firms. ICT Development index (IDI) in Georgia in 2012 was 4.59, which corresponds to the rank -71.

The Ministry for Economic Development is working on a National Development for the ICT sector covering the issue of electronic governance and specific areas of education, culture and health of the Georgian society.

Developed information and communications and postal union spheres are strong opportunities to build up an information society, it will support further economic and social development of the country and integration into the Euro-Atlantic space. For this reason the Government of Georgia pays special attention to develop the sphere rapidly using the innovative techniques and technologies. There are attractive investment environment in the country and special measures that support the development of entrepreneurship and competitiveness, as well as improvement of existing service types using information and communications and postal unions and implement new ones.

Objectives and Targets of National ICT Policy

The governance of ICT sector in Georgia is conducted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. Namely, inside of the ministry there is the department of communications, which is responsible for ICT development and management. At the same time



Georgian National Communications Commission - GNCC) is a high level coordination structure making regulation and coordination of legislation in ICT sector.

Only recently there was formulated ICT research program/policy in Georgia by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (quite ambitious program), according to which in 2020 Georgia must be take leading positions in ICT in the world. For these purposes there are planned all the necessary actions (in the mentioned document) how to reach this level.

At present it is essential to underline that with the help of the experts of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) the policy of digital broadcasting transition have been elaborated in Georgia: “Digital Broadcasting Transition policy” and “Legislative Action Plan for Digital Broadcasting”.

As it was mentioned European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) together with the Government of Finland and group of European experts prepared a project for the Digital Broadcasting Transition policy and plans for its implementation in Georgia. The project consists of important technical, technological, economic, social and legal issues for the development of digital broadcasting.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) together with the Government of Finland cooperate very closely with the Ministry and Georgian National Communications Commission, the leading European experts continue work on multi-month program: “Georgia: information and communications policy and regulation development”, the main aim of the program is to prepare complex project documentation for the development information and communications policies in Georgia, that will provide up-to-date networks of information and communications and innovative development of the service in the country;

Law “On Postal Union” is being worked on. The goal of the project is to determine the principles for legal basis, government regulations and create competitive environment in post filed in Georgia; determine rights and duties of physical and legal entities owning postal union networks and support the set up of information society.

The objective of the state that analog broadcasting in Georgia is completely switched off by June 17, 2015, while implementation of digital broadcasting switchover plan will be completed by that date. The above date has been set by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Those circumstances mean that after June 2015 the existing analog television stations will no longer be legally protected from coverage of the stations from neighboring countries.

The digital broadcasting switchover policy is based on the following principles:

- Consumer rights protection;
- Facilitation of information society development in Georgia;
- Ensuring freedom of expression and media pluralism;
- Facilitation of media freedom;
- Facilitation of competitive markets development;
- The most effective use of exhaustible frequency resources;
- Adherence to international standards;
- Implementation of obligations undertaken at international level.



One of the objectives of Georgia’s digital broadcasting switchover strategy is to develop digital terrestrial broadcasting as a competing platform along with the existing broadcasting technologies.

Apart from the better quality broadcasting programs, digital broadcasting users will be in a position to enjoy new generation of interactive services, educational or other types of information services and products that cannot be provided through analog network. Digital broadcasting switchover will create preconditions for television program diversity, audio visual media and service providers. Provision of additional and new generation services based on digital broadcasting network will be restricted within a digital broadcasting switchover period.

The objective of digital broadcasting switchover strategy rests with creation and maintenance of good and attractive conditions for investing in broadcasting and telecommunication market with purposes of ensuring minimal financial participation of the state in the switchover process.

The strategy of the Government of Georgia sets additional terms and criteria for priorities of allocating digital terrestrial television network in transitional and following periods. The strategy defines rules for commercial broadcasters’ access to multiplexor resources in case of a restricted resource²².

²² Georgia’s Digital Broadcasting Switchover Strategy, <https://idfi.ge/en/georgia-s-digital-broadcasting-switchover-strategy>, 28.07.2014.

Annex 1: Overview of ICT Policy Documents

Main policy documents concerning ICT policy adopted/published since 2010-2011

Title of document	Date	Organisation responsible	Legal status
Law of Georgia On the Creation of the Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) – Data Exchange Agency	17.07. 2009, # 1536-RS Tbilisi, Georgia	Ministry of Justice of Georgia	The purpose of this Law is the establishment of the LEPL – Data Exchange Agency (hereinafter “Agency”) under the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) of Georgia, and the determination of main principles of its functioning, organizational-legal setup, powers and main functional directions.
e-signature legislation	24.11.2010, №145/01 Tbilisi, Georgia	Ministry of Justice of Georgia	Statute for the conducting the electronic signature in tax administration and capital issues system (GPSS) implies: to provide for legislative construction and definitions; to authorize the use of electronic signatures instead of written ones and provide for the legal effect of such usage; to provide for authority for encouraging the conduct of governmental and private sector business using electronic media and provide for powers and duties of the Georgia Information Technology Policy Council; to provide for pilot projects; to provide for the Electronic Commerce Study Committee and its membership, allowances, duties, and powers; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
Law of Georgia On Unified State Registry of Information	25/05/2011 Tbilisi, Georgia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	The purpose of this Law is to facilitate establishment of a unified state registry of registers, databases, services and information systems within the public sector of Georgia, as well as, pursuant to the principle of technological neutrality in receipt, transmission and interoperability of information in the public sector, regulate basic principles of establishment, use and alteration of registers, databases, services and information systems, standardize rules on maintenance of registers, databases, services and information systems, and define main directions of state information policy on registers, databases, services and information systems.

Title of document	Date	Organisation responsible	Legal status
Law of Georgia on Information Security	01.07.2012 Tbilisi, Georgia	Ministry of Justice of Georgia	The purpose of this Law is to facilitate effective and efficient enforcement of information security, provide information security rights and obligations in public and private sector, and define state control mechanisms for implementation of information security policy.
The Law of Georgia on Electronic Communications	20.11.2013 # 1591 Tbilisi, Georgia	The Georgian National Communications Commission	The present law shall establish legal and economic grounds for the pursuit of activities by means of electronic communications networks and facilities in the territory of Georgia as well as principles for the development and regulation of competitive environment in this sector, define the functions of the national regulatory authority (the Georgian National Communications Commission), specify the rights and obligations of natural persons and legal entities owning, using or providing services by means of electronic communications networks and facilities.

Annex 2: Overview of ICT Policy Measures

IPM Number	Title of measure	Overview
1	Strategy of the Digital Broadcasting	The Government of Georgia, noting national interests of the state in developing both digital broadcasting and telecommunication and broadcasting fields, develops guidelines, strategic objectives and tasks for Georgia's for digital broadcasting switchover.

1.2 Recent National Policy Trends

In the period 2003–2008 there were a number of reforms in the field of telecommunications, aimed at liberalization and integration with the international telecommunication community – one of the priorities of the country.

Since 2006, the main tendency in Georgian ICT market has been the creation of an infrastructure. For that reason communications occupied the attention of all governmental and non-governmental organizations.



In 2008, the processes of global economic integration created the demand for horizontal development and expansion of the telecommunication infrastructure at national, sub-regional and international levels.

Government of Georgia declared the telecommunications sector among its priorities in the program for 2004–2009.

The Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia launched a web-platform – Electronic Governmental Resources. This web portal is a gateway to the Georgian electronic governmental services. The aim of the portal is to streamline the citizens' interaction with various electronic services provided by different governmental organizations. Different ministries and their subsidiaries provided diverse E-services, which made customer's interaction with the governmental organizations a lot easier.

Rising telecom revenues have seen a corresponding and significant increase in investment in infrastructure. Despite some recent positive news for the telecom sector, there remains much to be done. Since 2003, telecommunications has become one of the fastest growing sectors in the Georgian economy. The share of telecommunications in the country's GDP has reached around 7%, a significant increase over levels achieved in the not too distant past.

The mobile segment of the market in particular has been booming. Coming into 2013, mobile penetration had reached 130%, subscriber penetration having increased tenfold in nine years (13% in 2003). MagtiCom was awarded Georgia's first 3G license in 2005, followed by a further two licenses 3G in 2006. Mobile communication systems have become increasingly important for Georgia since the fixed-line networks in many parts of the country remained outdated (particularly in rural and remote areas) and the mobile network represented the only means of communication, especially as mobile coverage has now been provided for virtually the whole of Georgia.

An encouraging feature of the telecom market in Georgia is the high level of internet usage; there was an estimated user penetration of around 35% into 2012. However, internet subscriptions have been lagging somewhat behind the user numbers in relative terms. Nevertheless the gap is being bridged quickly, with fixed broadband internet having achieved considerable market presence in the last few years. Broadband now comprises some 80% of all fixed internet subscriptions.

Future plans of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development:

- Create new information and communication spaces through Georgia to Europe and Asia;
- Construction of digital broadcast network;
- Provide socially unprotected people with individual digital broadcasting receivers in the digital broadcasting transition process;
- Create ICT technology park and ICT business incubator;
- Create national maintenance system of communications, television and radio broadcasting networks, operational and technical management and critical infrastructure communications for emergency situations;
- Create the legislative normative base and development system for electronic commerce;



- High Speed internet for everyone and construction of national infrastructure super highway”;
- Support the development of Georgian postal union.

Lessons from the Evaluation of ICT Policy Measures

In the period 2003–2008 there were a number of reforms in the field of telecommunications, aimed at liberalization of this field and making integration with the international telecommunication community. ICT became one of the priorities and the fastest growing sectors in the country and today it plays an important role in the development process of the economy.

Since 2006 many initiatives and support from international organizations were oriented towards the creation of Internet and communication infrastructure, and thus towards the development of an Information Society. In this situation, software companies did not have a strong external support and had to survive on their own. Speaking of information society development, Georgian industries recognized the need of investment in IT solutions in order to improve their performance but they faced the steep challenges of the mainly horizontally oriented companies and the financial and telecommunications sectors being the leading purchasers of software.

In 2010 the Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia launched a new web-resource – Electronic Governmental Resources. The main e-government projects that were implemented in 2010 and made accessible through the website are: e-notary, e-treasury; e-filing (used by 99% of taxpayers), e-procurement; e-auction, e-auction on land. In 2012 all e-services available for citizens and the business were united in the portal www.my.gov.ge.

One of the latest initiatives in the field of information technologies launched by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development is the IT Startup Days in Georgia. The program aims to promote and support competitive startups and hence the development of IT innovations. Students of business schools and IT departments have the opportunity to present their projects to experts and potential investors. Leading companies both from Georgia and abroad such as HP, CISCO, UGT, expressed their willingness to participate in the program. The first session of the IT Startup days ended in December 2010. 4 out of 8 projects were chosen in the final stage. Leading companies like UGT, and Synergy expressed their willingness to invest in the projects.

The process of installation of electronic services goes on. The web-pages providing various digital services are being created and launched with high activity. Public administration (e-government) is expected to be the key driver of demand for ICT in the future.

Although the interest in internet in Georgia is clearly high, subscription numbers remain modest. With internet user penetration running at around 45% by end-2012, fixed internet subscriber penetration was a relatively low 10%. In the meantime, mobile broadband has been offering a cheap effective means of accessing the internet. By 2012 broadband constituted about half of all internet access subscriptions.

In order to create an image of a favourable IT destination Georgia should use the advantage of being an international communicational highway connecting Europe and Asia.



Developed information and communications and postal union spheres are strong opportunities to build up an information society, it will support further economic and social development of the country and integration into the Euro-Atlantic space. For this reason the Government of Georgia pays special attention to develop the sphere rapidly using the innovative techniques and technologies. There are attractive investment environment in the country and special measures that support the development of entrepreneurship and competitiveness, as well as improvement of existing service types using information and communications and postal unions and implement new ones.

Review of Good Practice- Summary of good practice cases in Georgia

Year	Title of good practice case	Justification for selection
2010	First ATLAS-South Caucasus Software/Computing Workshop & Tutorial	On October 25 2010, at Georgian technical University GTU was opened the First ATLAS-South Caucasus Software/Computing Workshop and Tutorial – SCSWT’2010. SCSWT follows on from the establishment in 2009 of the academic network links between the South Caucasus countries and the European Geant2 network infrastructure and aims at establishing and fostering contacts between ATLAS collaborators and computing people in the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) countries and experts in ATLAS software and Grid computing technologies.
2011	GEORGIAN GEOGRAPHIC SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE	On May 22 The National Agency of Public Registry held a seminar about the establishment of Georgian geographic spatial data infrastructure. INSPIRE directives are aimed for regulating the issues about the protection of environment, avoiding catastrophes, agriculture, self-defense, infrastructural projects, extraordinary situations, communication and aerial navigation system management, and effective functioning. Despite the fact that Georgia is not an EU member country, it is the first country in the Caucasian region to create national spatial data infrastructure in accordance with the European standards, which will help the country with integration in the EU.
2012	THE NATIONAL AGENCY OF PUBLIC REGISTRY	The National Agency of Public Registry began working on the “Cloud Technology” in 2012. At this stage, migration occurs from technical infrastructure of the agency to the “Cloud” infrastructure, which reduces the price of data keeping system and without any cost makes it possible to receive fast and flexible server service. Such volume of information as Public Registry’s Geo-informational systems, electronic maps, electronic programs for registering the real estate and businesses, electronic data of technical bureau and national archive are already saved in the agency’s “Cloud” and are managed by the Cloud Technology. The Agency was the first among public organizations to use open source, which provides easy and quick access to

Year	Title of good practice case	Justification for selection
		desired services for the users.
2013	10 new e-services in Georgia	<p>In 2013 the portal MY.GOV.GE will suggest users several new services. It is planned to add about 10 new services to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Agency for the Development of State Services, National Agency of Public Registry and Revenue Service. The preliminary plan for adding potential services has been worked out. Unified Trade Network project will be finished in 2013. Project implies working on container forwarding, import-export procedure management system in Georgia. This system will help importers, for-warding lines and others to make import-export procedures easier, minimize exchange of paper document, save funds and simplify getting information at any stage of the process. Priority will be given to further development and support of data exchange infrastructure. Data exchange infrastructure, Georgian governmental gateway is a hardware/software complex which creates geographically distributed united information system throughout the state. Entities connected to this system are able to exchange information through e-services. Important projects are ongoing in the direction of information security. In accordance with the law, the fulfillment of obligations “about information security” will be continued, for this purpose introduction of appropriate norms in different state and private organizations will be monitored. Working on Georgia’s cyber-security strategy will also be continued and information policy documentation and information security ISO standards will be adapted to Georgian reality.</p>
	E-Governance TWINNING project	<p>Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia together with Austria’s European Integration and Economic Development Agency started the TWINNING project in December 2013 with the budget about 1.2 million EURs. The goal of the TWINNING project was to strengthen the development of e-governance in Georgia and provide long-term cooperation in this direction, to help Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia to elaborate and effectively implement the e-governance strategy. This strategy was prepared as a result of active cooperation between the European experts and the representatives of public sector of Georgia in the scope of the TWINNING project. E-Georgia strategy is prepared for years 2014-2018. TWINNING project also helped Georgian side share the best practices in e-governance issues adapted in EU countries and establish business contacts.</p>
	Cyber security strategy	<p>According to the order of President of Georgia released in May 17, 2013 Georgia’s cyber security strategy has been approved along with the action plan. Georgia’s cyber security strategy is the main document determining the</p>



Year	Title of good practice case	Justification for selection
		<p>state policy's concern with cyber security issues, it reflects strategic goals, main principles, develops action plans, and tasks.</p> <p>Main objective of the strategy is to ensure government's coherent action and active cooperation between public and private sectors, as well as strong international involvement. Cyber security strategy combines 5 core directions: research & analysis; legislative framework; international coordination for ensuring cyber security; public awareness & education; international cooperation. It's worth to note that the strategy gives equal importance to land, air, naval and cyber protection.</p>
	E-CHANCELLERY PROGRAM IN MUNICIPALITIES	<p>Two year ago the Agency for the Development of State Services, National Agency of Public Registry, Data Exchange Agency and 7 municipalities formed a memorandum of cooperation.</p> <p>According to the memorandum, municipalities of several Georgian regions will be engaged in the e-chancellery program of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.</p> <p>After the e-chancellery program is enacted, all types of correspondences, including statements by the citizens, will be sent electronically to the municipalities, which makes it easier to send documents to the addressees, process those documents, and control and react to them.</p> <p>Any citizen will be able to send a letter, request, or complaint to and receive responses electronically from the municipalities included in the e-chancellery program without having to leave house or office.</p>

Updated National ICT R&D priorities towards H2020

Topics-areas
ICT in 'Excellent science'
Research infrastructures
Development, deployment and operation of ICT-based e-infrastructures
ICT in 'Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies'
Future Internet
Smart optical and wireless network technologies
Advanced Cloud Infrastructures and Services
Content technologies and information management
Technologies for better human learning and teaching
Micro- and Nano-electronic technologies, Photonics
Generic micro- and Nano-electronic technologies
ICT Cross-Cutting Activities
Cyber security, Trustworthy ICT



Topics-areas
ICT in 'Societal challenges'
SC1: Health, demographic change and wellbeing
<i>Advancing active and healthy ageing</i>
Advanced ICT systems and services for Integrated Care
SC3: Secure, clean and efficient energy
New ICT-based solutions for energy efficiency
SC6: Europe in a changing world – Innovative, inclusive and reflective societies
ICT-enabled open government
Innovative mobile e-government applications by SMEs



Innovation Policy

National innovation system and innovation governance

On 2 July 2010 the Government of Georgia adopted two governmental programs “United Georgia without poverty” and “State Strategy on Regional Development of Georgia for 2010-2017”. First Program implies development of infrastructure (energy, road and water supply), rural development towards development of agriculture, revitalization of Georgian cities and recreational territories, minimizing a risk of natural catastrophes pursuant to early notices. Second program considers technologies as one of the priority directions in the sustainable development of regions. The growing competition in the world makes it clear that Georgia’s economic development and security require the creation of a regional economic strategy which is oriented towards a knowledge of economy, innovations and new technologies. Support to the creation of Regional Innovation Centres is one of the tasks planned in the Strategy.

Georgia is actively involved in the technology transfer negotiation process and welcomes the idea of establishment of regional centres of excellence. Conducting the national level technology needs assessment process is being considered by the Government of Georgia to the development of indigenous know-how and transfer of climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies within the framework of international process.

The governance structure of the national innovation system represents the concerted efforts at many levels in many different organizations, including interfaces with the business sector and society at large, which together generate integrated innovation policy. The multidimensional and multispectral nature of innovation activities calls for integration or collaboration of a large number of different policy areas: economic, financial, industrial, education and science, employment, regional, social and health, and environmental policies.

Regarding the Governance of Innovation and ICT sector in the country it must be underlined that the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development is responsible for policy development of the indicated fields. At the same time the mission of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development is to provide stable and high temps of economic growth with working up and implementation an effective economic policy. The government of the country is implementing consistent structural and institutional reforms with aim to provide most favorable business environment.

From 2014 a new independent “Agency of Innovations and Technologies” started functioning in Georgia under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The main goals of the agency are: to create knowledge and innovation based economy; to convert intellectual products, innovations and technologies into an export product (give them export face); to support the penetration of the ICT and innovations in all spheres of economy and consequently to increase the competitiveness in respect of new reality; to conduct the unitary governmental policy and on the base of this policy to facilitate the strategy and targeted programs for the creation of innovation ecosystem in the country; implementation of the other measures for the development of innovations and technologies, etc.

Innovation policy, technological development and business sophistication by the private sector has been largely ignored during the last decades in Georgia. As Georgia strives to continue



growing economically, it is important to the country to boost growth and competitiveness of its private sector as the main source of jobs, prosperity and economic growth. Georgia should develop and enforce comparative advantages in new, non-resource based sectors (such as medium and high tech products and services) and areas (skills, knowledge, products and ideas) to sustain country's longer term competitiveness of the existing sectors of economy and create new sectors of economy with sustainable and better paid jobs.

An analysis of the national innovation system of Georgia reveals the following challenges:

- Georgia is significantly lagging behind in core efficiency enhancers and sophistication indicators (science commercialization, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication and innovation) and technological absorption.
- The innovations level in the country is still unsatisfactory and both government and private sector spending on research and development are still low, which is reflected in various international evaluations and ratings.
- During the past four observed years of 2009-2013 Georgia demonstrates stagnation or even deterioration in labor market efficiency, business sophistication and innovation (limited capacities of research institutions (mismatch between university outputs and industry needs); Insufficient propensity to innovate in the business sector; Inadequate framework for knowledge transfer; Lack of co-ordination of policy-making and policymakers.

Assessment of the National Innovation System

Despite the fact that a national competitiveness is substantially linked to globalization, only a few studies have linked these subjects from the perspective of developing countries, which presents complex challenges to policy makers and researchers. The principles of national competitiveness have not been yet translated into concrete policy and legislative changes in Georgia, which is required to tackle the specific aspects of this model in a more effective way. Numerous reports provided by international organizations indicate an alarming inefficiency of institutional infrastructure, public policy, higher education and research institutions, which results in political crisis, economic instability, poverty, social disparity and brain-drain in Georgia. As a country of economic transition, Georgia must create the necessary framework to promote education and research activities and encourage innovation in products and processes. This requires sufficient investment in research and development, high quality scientific research institutions, collaboration in research between universities and industry, protection of intellectual property and innovation stimulation through government procurement.

Today, the Commission provides an assessment of bilateral relations between the EU and Georgia, reflecting progress under the existing Partnership and Co-operation Agreement and describing the current situation in different areas including economic and social reforms that will create new opportunities for development and competitiveness. The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the funding instrument of the ENP, plays a crucial role in the development of a new innovation policy in Georgia. ENPI priorities reflect the role of innovation systems in a country's development. Among other priorities, for instance, ENPI aims at facilitating the development of innovation policies in Georgia, which would help the country to achieve and maintain sustainable economic growth. Besides, some other ENPI priorities are indirectly relevant to the development of a national innovation system and strategy. Namely, they aim to improve

the business environment, systematically review the reform strategy, reform the management system of education and science, and improve the quality of statistical data.

The road from the past to the future should lead Georgia through the development and implementation of a strategy to improve the country's competitiveness. A comprehensive multi-component plan of Georgia's strategic development should ultimately aim to bring the country's economic, political and social standards into line with Euro-Atlantic and EU norms. That is why a new Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Georgia for 2020 was created and all the necessary actions for the acceleration of the innovation processes are reflected in it.

In the way of development of its capacity for innovation and competitiveness in knowledge-based economy, Georgia must renew its national commitment to innovations and to reinforce the values of life-long learning. Special importance should be paid to ensuring economic growth, competitiveness, establishing stable social protection systems, reforming the higher education system and encouraging research and innovation. Georgian universities need to acquire increasing importance as an instrument of economic, social, and cultural development and also as a means of bringing about change in the community in which relationship between education, science and business is receiving increased attention.

On the basis of this analysis country can achieved the main goal—the main driving force of national competitiveness in the era of globalization is a synergetic partnership among government, the business sector and higher education/research institutions, based on knowledge economy and innovation policy. Therefore, it is crucial for the government to create the environment for knowledge commercialization and innovation technology, which facilitates the trans-nationalization of national business and brings national income.

Table 1 - Selected Innovation Indicators, 2014

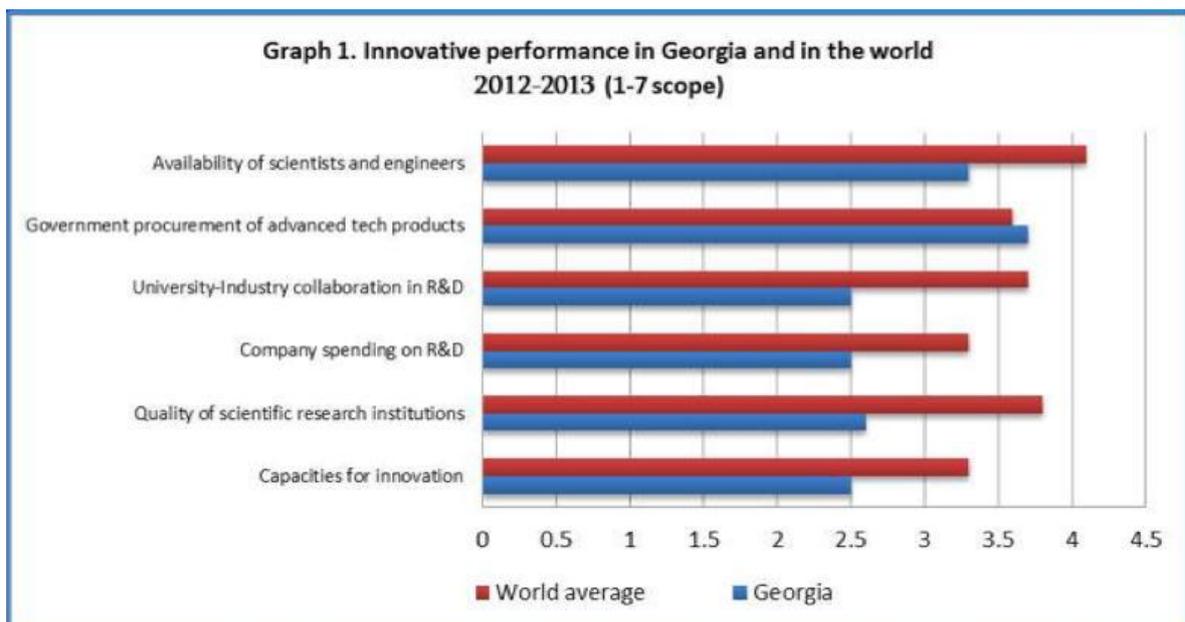
GCI Innovation and Technology Related Fields	GEORGIA		MACEDONIA		ESTONIA		LATVIA	
	RANK	VALUE	RANK	VALUE	RANK	VALUE	RANK	VALUE
9th pillar: Technological readiness (in total 7 indicators)								
Availability of Latest Technologies	100	4.4	80	4.7	35	55.8	45	5.3
Firm Level Technology Absorption	117	4.1	121	4.0	36	55.4	68	4.7
FDI and Technology Transfer	101	4.1	92	4.4	31	5.1	85	4.5
11th pillar: Business sophistication (totally 9 indicators)								
Local Supplier Quantity	136	3.7	79	4.6	63	4.8	114	4.2
Local Supplier Quality	129	3.6	81	4.3	28	5.1	53	4.7
State of Cluster Development	116	3.2	96	3.5	80	3.7	103	3.4
Production process sophistication	119	3.2	88	3.5	53	4.1	66	3.8
12th pillar: Innovation (totally 7 indicators)								
Capacity for Innovation	118	3.0	94	3.2	28	4.3	66	3.5
Quality of Scientific Research Institutions	124	2.8	86	3.4	25	4.9	58	3.9
Company Spending on R&D	128	2.5	91	2.9	45	3.5	70	3.1
University-industry collaboration in R&D	132	2.7	81	3.4	36	4.4	67	3.6
Availability of scientists and engineers	126	3.2	92	3.8	95	3.7	106	3.5

Framework conditions, innovation policies and instruments

The Government of Georgia's medium-term development vision is articulated in the Socioeconomic Development Strategy 2020 (SDS). The overarching objective of the SDS is to achieve faster, inclusive, and sustainable growth averaging 7 percent each year and resulting in a

per capita income of GEL 13000 (~5400 EUR) in 2020, compared to GEL 5812 (~2400 EUR) in 2012. These projections assume that deep structural reforms will support rapid growth in investment, employment, and firm productivity and also ensure the realization of potential benefits associated with the Deep, Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA agreement with Europe) in terms of higher exports and FDI. The Government plans to work more closely with the private sector to help it develop into the engine of growth and, at the same time, emphasizes the need to strengthen the focus of public policy on job creation, sustainability, and inclusion. The role of the state will be focused on addressing market failures and relieving binding constraints that are cross-cutting. The renewed focus on private sector competitiveness is balanced with a redefined role for the state that facilitates growth and inclusion through better delivery of public services for citizens. The SDS also intends to establish an evidence based policy framework, supported by monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to ensure that policy interventions are relevant and have impact, and to enable course correction.

The primary objective of Georgia’s Innovation Strategy is to set-up and present priorities for the nation in the areas of innovation, research, and technological development. The Innovation Strategy will provide an integrated approach to improve the capacity of existing institutions to innovate and to foster innovation activities in the business sector. The Innovation Strategy will drive competitiveness and economic development based on a knowledge-based society driven by innovation, creativity and technological advances.



Recently World Bank took responsibility to assist Georgian experts for the creation of country Innovation Policy for 2014-2020. For these purposes number of foreign experts visited country and together with Georgian experts elaborated the mentioned strategy.

In order to meet its main vision of becoming a knowledge based society, Georgia needs to improve its research capacity and to strengthen the innovation capacity of local companies. A number of horizontal measures and specific instruments that will foster both, the supply of innovation related support but also the demand for such support, are suggested in the Strategy. Commitment of the Georgian Government to continued sound macro-economic and prudent fiscal management sets the appropriate pre-condition for inclusive and sustainable growth. The



Government has set out its public expenditure targets which are aligned with a prudent fiscal framework. While the breakdown of capital and current expenditures will shift in favor of the latter, with renewed focus on social expenditures, this will require a more rigorous prioritization of capital expenditure. At the same time the investment funds, in particular the Partnership Fund (created in Georgia recently) and the Georgia Co-investment Fund, may also support increased private investment in the country. This is accompanied by a focus on developing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in order to leverage higher levels of private financing and strengthen private participation in the provision of high quality and accessible public services. Various measures to support national savings and promote longer term and local currency credit instruments will also support fiscal consolidation and strengthen the transmission channels for monetary policy. The Government's commitment to working with the World Bank and the IMF on fiscal and external consolidation, together with a continued focus on deep structural reforms, will create an environment that is supportive of FDI growth, so long as policy certainty is established and maintained.

Continued strengthening of Georgia's infrastructure platform is setting the foundation for longer-term economic competitiveness and sustainable growth. Developing roads and energy connectivity is allowing Georgia to benefit from its critical location between Europe and Central Asia, with the goal of maximizing its transit and trade potential. The focus of the Government's efforts to date in transport has been on developing the East-West highway – the “back-bone” of growth in Georgia – which connects the ports of Batumi and Poti on the Black Sea with neighboring countries, including through Azerbaijan to the Caspian Sea ports. Developing further this critical road will allow Georgia to lower transit costs and become more competitive as an international transit route. The Government is also planning to strengthen rural and secondary roads infrastructure, which is expected to spur economic activity through reduced cost of transporting freight and passengers, cheaper and better access to production inputs and expansion of non-farm opportunities. With the increasing adoption of labor-intensive methods, roads construction and maintenance activities are also expected to increase employment among the rural poor. Because of women's greater transport burden and limited mobility, it can be expected that rural roads improvements will likely stimulate women's economic activities.

Key areas of the development of country include:

- a. A stronger regulatory framework and institutions that facilitate the integration of Georgia into the global and regional economy through strengthened export promotion, trade and transit facilitation, customs reforms, and an improved quality and standards infrastructure;
- b. The regulatory capacity of the state is strengthened to support sustainable institutional arrangements that encourage private sector development focused on energy, innovation and ICT, property rights (especially IPRs) and competition;
- c. Access to finance expands, especially for firms in the SME sector;
- d. Providing Infrastructure and Services to Facilitate Growth;
- e. Strengthening skills and labor market performance, etc.

Annex 3: Overview of Innovation Policy Documents

Title of document	Date	Organisation responsible	Legal status
Georgia 2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy	Approved in June, 2014	Ministry of Finance	Strategy
Georgia 2020 Innovation Strategy	June 2014	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	White Paper is under development



Annex 4: Overview of Innovation Policies

Policy Measure Fiche: overview

IP Number	Title of measure	Overview
1	Establishment of the Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) February 13, 2014	GITA was established by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development with the mandate to implement innovation policy in Georgia. GITA will serve as a centralized institution or a one-stop shop for innovation support to reduce the burden on firms and provide them with better information. Such an agency could also ensure for more efficient capacity building (e.g., through technical assistance and twinning projects with relevant innovation agencies in the region and from the EU) and play a pivotal role in the development of the national innovation policy and the National Innovation System
2	IT Garage January 9, 2014	IT incubator established by the National Intellectual Property Center (Sakpatenti) in Georgia to promote the start-ups in IT and creative industries.
3	Georgian Technology Transfer Center (GTTC) September 2012	Established by main Georgian universities, German foundation GIZ and Sakpatenti to promote commercialization of R&D and technology transfer.
4	Georgia Innovation Week and IT events (Game Jam) 24-26 April 2014	Organised by GITA (with participation of Foreign and local IT specialists).

International Cooperation

Relations between the European Union (EU) and Georgia started in 1992 just after Georgia regained its sovereignty. The EU was one of the first to assist Georgia in the difficult early years of transition. The European Commission (EC) opened its Delegation to Georgia in Tbilisi.

The cornerstone of EU-Georgia relations is the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The PCA provides for wide-ranging cooperation in the areas of political dialogue, trade, investment, economic, legislative and cultural cooperation.



In 2003-2004 the EC proposed a new foreign policy for the EU - the “European Neighbourhood Policy” (ENP) - with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned.

The EU – Georgia ENP Action Plan was adopted on 14 November 2006. The Action Plan is a political document laying out the strategic objectives of the cooperation between Georgia and the EU. In spring 2009, the EU launched the Eastern Partnership with the objective of supporting political and socio-economic reforms in Georgia, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The Eastern Partnership foresees stronger political engagement with the EU namely the prospect of a new generation of Association Agreements and far reaching integration into the EU economy with Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas.

The European Union through its Financial and Technical Cooperation supports Georgia’s ambitious reform agenda. More than 100 projects are currently being carried out in Georgia. EU assistance focuses on the support of the following sectors: Justice, Freedom and Security; Human Rights, Democratization and Civil Society; Conflict Resolution; Economy, Trade and Public Finance Management; Infrastructure, Environment and Rural Development; Education, Health and Social Development. EU funding for projects in Georgia is provided in the form of grants, contracts and increasingly budget support.

Georgia and the European Union have been cooperating since Georgia re-gained independence in 1992. This began with a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and now the more ambitious Association Agreement

The EU and Georgia completed the negotiation of an Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) element, in July 2013 and initialed the Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit of November 2013. On 17 June 2014 Association Agreement (AA) with Europe was signed and at present 28 EU countries and the European Parliament are in the process of ratification of AA which will be completed in 2015. However, Georgia could benefit from some trade aspects of the Agreement immediately after signature if agreed by both Georgia and the EU.

The Association Agreement is aimed at deepening political and economic relations between the EU and Georgia. It is based on common values and describes the gradual improvements needed in areas such as

trade, the environment, agriculture, tourism, energy, transport, and education to bring Georgia in line with EU standards. Overall, the process is focused on democracy and the rule of law, human rights good governance, and economic development.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is the instrument used to enhance Georgia's trade and economic growth through bringing its legislation closer to that of the EU. It will also improve remove the existing barriers on the trade of goods and services with the EU. This will create better opportunities for Georgian businesses to trade with the EU, and for European businesses to invest in Georgia. It must be underlined that according to the DCFTA Agreement visa liberalization action is anticipated for Georgian citizens during the nearest period.

Table 1: Overview of bilateral Georgia - EECA agreements

Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation
Agreement between Georgian and Armenian Governments for the collaboration in the field of communication technologies.	May 19, 1993 till now	Armenia – Georgia/ Governments	Agreement/ Representatives and specialists from both sides
Protocol of Intent	2013	Azerbaijan - Georgia/ Institute of Linguistics named after Nasimi (ANAS) - Tbilisi Governmental University of Linguistics	Protocol of Intent
Agreement between Governments of Georgia and Azerbaijan for the collaboration in the area of telecommunication, radio, post service and communication technologies	28 July, 2000 till now	Azerbaijan – Georgia/ Governments	Agreement, Working group, Specialists
Memorandum of understanding	2012	Azerbaijan – Georgia/ Institute of Oriental studies named after Z.M.Bunyadov - Georgia University	Memorandum
Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Republic of Georgia on Scientific and Technical Cooperation	1993	Ukraine - Georgia / Governments	Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation
Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) jointly announce the 2014 call for proposals within the framework of the Targeted Research & Development Initiatives (TRDI) Program in the following priority areas: 1. Biotechnologies and Life Sciences 2. New Materials and Nanotechnologies 3. ICT	2010-2014	Ukraine – Georgia/ Science and Technology Center - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation	Joint Calls
Agreement between Georgian and	April 13, 1993	Ukraine – Georgia/	Agreement/



Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation
Ukrainian Governments for the collaboration in the field of communication technologies		Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Working groups
A lot of examples of Cooperation among Georgian main universities and European universities		See university web sites: www.tsu.edu.ge www.gtu.ge www.iliauni.edu.ge/ www.tsmu.edu/eng	Cooperation

ICT policies and programmes facilitating co-operation with the EU

The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development is responsible for policy development in the field of ICT. Since 2003 Georgian government implemented tax reforms and liberalized the economy. These measures resulted in significant foreign investment, including investments from neighboring Russia and Kazakhstan. Georgia's strategic position makes the country an important route for the oil and gas pipelines connecting the Caspian Sea with the West one of which is the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline.

The EU-Georgia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) entered into force in 1999. An Action Plan was adopted in November 2006, with the aim of further strengthening the economic integration of Georgia with the EU.

Three innovative features of the ENPI need to be highlighted. The first innovation is the CBC component, under which the ENPI finances joint programs, bringing together regions of Member States and partner countries sharing a common border. The second innovation is the introduction of a Governance Facility which provides resources to creative partners which have shown the will to carry forward essential reforms related to improving good governance. The third innovation is the Twinning and the TAIEX instruments which can be defined as a cooperation tool between a public administration in a partner country and the equivalent institution in an EU Member State. These instruments which aim to upgrade and modernize the institutions of the beneficiary eastern and southern neighbouring countries have already proven their efficiency.

Regarding Nuclear Safety, it must be mentioned that projects in Eastern and Central Europe which were implemented through the former TACIS programme are now covered by a new Nuclear Safety Instrument.

In 2007, €24 million in Community assistance was allocated for Georgia to focus on the reform priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan. The overall allocation for 2007-2010 is over €120 million, under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument.

Since 1992 Georgia has received €505 million of Community assistance.



FP7

List of Georgian CSA projects from FP7 are demonstrated on <http://cordis.europa.eu/>. From these projects we can underline participation of Georgian organizations in such projects as: INCONet, ERANET, IDEALIST, BSI, etc.

Horizon 2020 NCP System in Georgia

In H2020 program Georgia has 17 NCP in the following fields:

1. National NCP coordinator National NCP coordinator
2. Legal and Financial Aspects
3. SMEs
4. Future and Emerging Technologies
5. Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development
6. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
7. Nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing
8. Space
9. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
10. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy; & Biotechnology
11. Secure, clean and efficient energy
12. Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
13. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies - Spreading excellence and widening participation - Science with and for Society
14. Security
15. Euratom
16. Joint Research Centre
17. European Research Infrastructures

NCPs were appointed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Also Georgia participates in Cross border programs, Erasmus Mundus program and Tempus program. Georgia was involved in Tempus projects since 1995 and during this period has created a solid basis for the successful implementation of the Bologna principles, while supporting curriculum development, the introduction of quality assurance mechanisms and lifelong learning. In Georgia, more than 70 % of Tempus projects have been implemented in the field of curriculum development and modernisation, covering the subject areas of medicine, biology, law, engineering, agriculture, environmental studies, European studies, economics, veterinary medicine, library and information sciences and social work. In the framework of Tempus, new programmes have been developed for Bachelor, Master and doctoral levels of higher education, using ECTS. Implementation of modern teaching, learning and assessment methods have led to the development of curricula compatible with European standards.

Considering the results achieved, the interest in Tempus projects is growing and an increasing number of Georgian HEIs, in particular in the regions, are applying to participate in Tempus projects, also as coordinators, building national and regional networks of higher educational institutions. Currently, two Georgian universities (Ilia State University and Tbilisi State University) successfully coordinate Tempus multi-country projects. Universities motivation to coordinate Tempus projects is strongly supported by



local authorities, since it's considered to be one of the best tools for capacity building of Georgian HEIs²³.

ICT Policy Measures facilitating co-operation with the EU

N°	Title	Organisation responsible
1	<p>DSFTA Agreement</p> <p>The European Union and Georgia have been engaged in an ambitious process for more than one year and a half towards reaching a «Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area».</p> <p>This has become one of the most important issues in the political agenda of Georgia.</p> <p>DCFTA agreement will be signed on 27 June 2014.</p>	Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2	<p>European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) together with the Government of Finland cooperate very closely with the Ministry and Georgian National Communications Commission, the leading European experts continue work on multi-month program: “Georgia: information and communications policy and regulation development”, the main aim of the program is to prepare complex project documentation for the development information and communications policies in Georgia, that will provide up-to-date networks of information and communications and innovative development of the service in the country (this project started in 2012).</p>	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
3.	<p>From 2014 a new independent “Agency of Innovations and Technologies” started functioning in Georgia in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The main goals of the agency are: creation knowledge and innovation based economy; to convert intellectual products, innovations and technologies into an export product (give them export face); to support the penetration of the ICT and innovations in all spheres of economy and consequently to increase the competitiveness in respect of new reality; To conduct the unitary governmental policy and on the base of this policy to facilitate the strategy and targeted programs for the creation of innovation ecosystem in the country; implementation of the other measures for the development of innovations and technologies, etc.</p>	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
4	<p>From 2014 was established the Techno Park in ICT by the support and initiative of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development</p>	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

²³ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating_countries/overview/georgia_tempus_country_fiche_final.pdf

Table 2: Overview of bilateral Georgia – EC agreements

Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation agreed
Agreement between Governments of Georgia and Bulgaria for the collaboration in the field of post service, electronic communications, and communication technologies	April 27, 2010	Bulgaria-Georgia/ Governments	Agreement for the collaboration in the field of post service, electronic communications, and communication technologies / Representatives and specialists from both sides
Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Georgian and Estonian Governments for the collaboration in the field of ICT (cooperation in e-government, e-health, e-infrastructure, etc).	January 21, 2010	Estonia – Georgia/Governments // Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in Georgia	Memorandum of understanding/ Georgian and Estonian Specialists
International Exchange Program: Grants for joint research and exchange of young scientists (including IT)	2011-2013	France – Georgia/ The French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - The GNSF	Joint Calls, Short-term Visits
Collaborative Bilateral Research Projects (including IT)	June 24, 2011	France – Georgia/ The French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSF) and	Joint Calls, Short-term Visits
Joint Research and Education Programme, Grants for joint research with participation of Georgian Master and PhD students (including IT)	February 28, 2012 – till 2013	Germany - Georgia/ Forschungszentrum Jülich - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation	Joint Calls, exchange of scientists
Agreement between Governments of Georgia and Greece for the collaboration in the field of post service and telecommunications	July 27, 1996 - till now	Greece - Georgia/ Governments	Agreement for the collaboration in the field of post service and telecommunications// Specialists from both sides
International Exchange Program: Grants for joint research and exchange of scientists (including IT)	August 22, 2011 - 2013	Italy – Georgia/ The National Research Council of Italy (CNR) - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and	Joint Calls, exchange of scientists
Call for Research	March 10, 2010	Switzerland - Georgia/	Joint Call, exchange of



Title of document	Date	Country/Organisation	Scope of cooperation agreed
Proposals The Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (AscN) ²⁴		Gebert Rűf Stifun foundation - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation	scientists

According to the World Bank and local experts (who recently elaborated innovation strategy of Georgia for 2020) Georgia today is driven by the necessity to catch-up with technological trends in the global economy, seeking opportunities to develop an innovative, knowledge-based economy where innovation-led growth will foster increased economic productivity and growth.

From 2014 a new independent “Agency of Innovations and Technologies” started functioning in Georgia in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The main goals of the agency are: creation knowledge and innovation based economy; to convert intellectual products, innovations and technologies into export product (give them export face); to support the penetration of the ICT and innovations in all spheres of economy and consequently to increase the competitiveness in respect of new reality; To conduct the unitary governmental policy and on the base of this policy to facilitate the strategy and targeted programs for the creation of innovation ecosystem in the country; implementation of the other measures for the development of innovations and technologies, etc.

Making resume it must be mentioned that Georgian Government pays quite a serious attention to the development of ICT sector in the country and probably will follow up the innovation policy suggested by World Bank experts. At the same time association agreement with Europe is quite a big stimulus and motivation to accelerate country development.

²⁴ It is a 5-year program aiming at promoting social sciences and Gebert Rűf Stiftung, a Switzerland-based private foundation aiming at supporting science humanities in the South Caucasus and funded by