



## Center for Social Sciences

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*Center for Social Sciences  
invites academics, university administrators and stakeholders:  
government agencies, higher education institutions, professional organizations,  
private sector representatives, international and national organizations  
involved in higher education to participate in the*

### **International Conference**

### ***Rebuilding Research Universities: Towards European Higher Education and Research Area, Bologna 2010***

Tbilisi

June 29-July 1, 2006

Venue: Tbilisi State University

#### **Preamble:**

Willingness of the countries of new Europe to get involved into the European Higher Education and Research Area as full-bodied members with standards of education and research adequate to European level must be considered as the major strategy of higher education development of Central and East European countries.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2005, in Bergen, Norway, Georgia joined the Bologna Process. Membership of the European Higher Education Area presumes the reconsideration of their missions by Georgian Universities.

Tbilisi State University, as the country's oldest institution of higher education, considers its mission to be its reestablishment as a modern research university, with a main goal to generate new knowledge, teaching and facilitation of the formation of new knowledge-based society and economy.

Tbilisi State University considers the preparation of a new generation of young academics, involvement in the international research networks, and internationalization of research and teaching as tasks of first priority.

In 2006-10 Tbilisi State University must integrate research with teaching, raise the quality of teaching and create preconditions for mobility of students and professors and their employability on international market of research, especially in the European Higher Education and Research Area.

It is possible to carry out these tasks with the introduction of a new teaching program – PhD studies and by employing knowledge and best practices that have been implemented with support of international donor organization – the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Institute during the last three years by the Center for Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of Tbilisi State University.

#### **Aim of the conference:**

In order to support the ongoing reforms at Tbilisi State University as well as to introduce its main project to international community and to foster the dialogue, the Center for Social Sciences is honored to invite

you to an international conference *Rebuilding Research Universities: Towards European Higher Education and Research Area, Bologna 2010*. The working areas of the conference are the following:

- Higher Education Reform: Institutionalization of Achievements;
- International Community and Higher Education Reform in Georgia
- Higher Education Reform in Georgia: Comparative Analysis
- Bologna 2010: Prospects for Georgian Universities
- Developing Academic Potential: PhD Studies
- Funding Research: Strategy and Planning

Center for Social Sciences will present its project *Development of Graduate Programs in Social Sciences*. Participants will discuss the conditions of development of the higher education system in Georgia and analyze it in comparison with the other states. Representatives of Tbilisi State University and, specifically, the Faculty of Social and Political studies will present their views for the further development. Emphasis will be put on the preparation of the new generation of academics as well as the contents of the new doctoral program, identification of concrete tasks and the ways and risk factors of their fulfillment, internationalization of the doctoral program as the first step on the way of developing research and research-based teaching, the role of the University in development of research programs and research funding.

We have honor of inviting you to participate in our conference.

We would appreciate you sending us the title of your presentation as well as a 500-word abstract.

Sincerely Yours,

Marine Chitashvili  
Director of the Center for Social Sciences  
Professor of Psychology, Tbilisi State University