

Strategy Research Development Strategy

Approved by the Academic Council

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Reason for the Change

1. **Preamble**

LEPL - Akaki Tsereteli State University (hereinafter referred to as the- "University") Research Development Strategy is based on the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, regulatory documentation in force at the University, the University Mission and the Strategic Development Plan for 2018-2024. This document provides the University with a vision for how it envisions research implementation, promotion and development.

Akaki Tsereteli State University realizes its high social responsibility to the society, aims to contribute to the development of the country through its activities, for which it carries out research activities supporting the development policies and processes of the country as a whole, and especially of the Imereti region. Considering its diversity (faculties / programs / research interests / potential), the current research priorities of the University are the implementation of **interdisciplinary and regional studies**, the full integration of research results into the teaching / learning process, for its successful implementation, HEI is committed to cooperating with local (Georgian universities, public sector, business organizations, non-governmental sector, individuals) and international (partner universities and research centers, international donor organizations, university associations, etc.) partners.

1. **Strategy aim**

The aim of the research development strategy is to define research-related approaches at the university, to promote the development of research activities among students and academic staff, and to identify the bodies / individuals responsible for these activities; as well as to increase the authority and awareness of Akaki Tsereteli State University as a research university, regionally and internationally.

1. **Strategy development, approval and implementation**

This document was developed in collaboration with the Vice Rector of the University, the Center for Research Support and Development (hereinafter referred to as the "Center") and the Quality Assurance Service. Representatives of all faculties and self-assessment groups operating at the university participated in the creation of the document. The process of working on the document was transparent, public and anyone interested could participate.

The document is approved by the Academic Council with a relevant resolution and the administration of the university / faculties and the Research Support and Development Center are designated as responsible for its implementation.

The other procedures and specific steps to be followed for the implementation of the strategy-defined approaches, vision and research are governed by the University research policy, strategic development plan and other regulatory documents in place at the institution.

1. **Basic principles of strategy**

Based on its mission, the University is committed to conducting innovative, fundamental and applied studies that is achieved through the involvement of four key actors:

* University;
* Industry and Business;
* State governance and the public sector;
* Civil society;

Herewith, considering the high productivity of research and the motivation for a multifaceted practical contribution to state or public development, the main driving force for the formation and development of relevant partnerships is the faculty as the main academic structural unit. Accordingly, the basic ***principles*** of the research development strategy at the University are based on the n management ***decentralization*** and a ***systemic*** approach to further development.

* 1. **Decentralization**

The decentralization process at the university involves the transfer of responsibilities, opportunities and rights in terms of management and decision-making from the central circles, to the subjects of teaching-learning and research activities - the faculties.

Akaki Tsereteli State University position and vision is based on offering a broad framework of action for faculties to enable them to accurately identify their needs, plan and implement the activities apt for their development.

The faculty, based on the assessment of the existing factual circumstances, forms a research profile, is authorized to conduct fundamental, applied and creative research, establish research units, make decisions on funding both faculty and inter-faculty research projects, and assist academic staff in conducting research.(With targeted funding, promoting the publication of scientific articles in high-ranking scientific publications, through the purchase of laboratory equipment, business trips to international conferences, the publication of textbooks, the organization of conferences, the financial and non-financial support of researchers, etc.) and to encourage student involvement in research projects.

The faculty shares and adheres to the principles of academic integrity and seeks to integrate research findings into the teaching-learning process.

The faculty monitors the quality of research activities and evaluates the scientific productivity of the staff with appropriate criteria and indicators. During the evaluation, it takes into account the recommendations issued by the regulatory documentation available at the university.

* 1. **Systemic Promotion of Research Development**

In parallel with its decentralization policy, the University pursues a policy of systemic research development support based on promoting fundamental and applied research at the university level, collaborating with partners locally and internationally, and integrating research results into the learning / teaching process.

In order to support the research development systematically, the University:

* Creates a **positive organizational climate** for teaching-learning and research, based on the principles of fair, academic good faith in the institution, in accordance with the legislation in force in Georgia.
* Establishes a **structural unit** (in this case the Research Support and Development Center) to support the organizational and technical support of the research process and, in particular, the work of young researchers whose activities are regulated by the relevant regulation. The aim of the center is to facilitate the development of research activities among academic staff and students. The center supports academic staff to develop projects and win grants, find partners, discover new opportunities and directions in any field of research, identifies the research needs of the organization and submits relevant recommendations to the governing bodies of the university, plans and implements various activities for the professional development of academic staff, etc.
* Establishes links with various training organizations in order to **strengthen internationalization and cooperation at the local level**; Promotes university involvement in research networks and encourages interdepartmental, regional and interdisciplinary research;
* Advocates for the principles of **academic good faith** and conducts periodic activities at the University to combat plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Focuses on raising public awareness, prevention and detection, rather than on punishment and sanction;
* Implements measures to support the **professional development of academic staff**, based on the recommendations offered by the Center and / or other types of expert evaluation;
* Promotes the **integration** of **research results** into the learning / teaching process and the involvement of students in various research projects;
* With the help of **targeted funding**, it creates the conditions to form an in -university space as a research development facilitating area.
* Supports innovative research and research initiatives, particularly involving doctoral students and supporting young researchers.

**Monitoring and assessment**

The University Administration, in connection with the Research Support and Development Center, monitors the research development strategy and evaluates ongoing processes. In terms of process monitoring and evaluation, the University distinguishes between qualitative and technical evaluation of research activities.

***Research Quality Assessment***

* Qualitative evaluation of fundamental, applied and creative researches is performed directly by the bodies (faculty, research unit) under which the mentioned activity is carried out;
* The criteria for assessing the quality of research productivity are determined by the faculty through fair and transparent procedures.
* In establishing criteria for evaluating the quality of research productivity, the faculty takes into account the university administration and international recommendations.

***Research development process monitoring and technical evaluation***

* The research process is monitored and technically evaluated by the Research Support and Development Center in collaboration with the university administration, faculties and the Quality Assurance Service;
* The Center collects, groups and describes the received information within the scope of its authority, conducts operational research and submits relevant recommendations to the governing bodies of the University.

Adherence to the principles set out in the strategy is mandatory for academics and students affiliated with the University, both in the institution and at the national and international level in the case of research activities carried out on behalf of Akaki Tsereteli State University.