



GOVERNMENT REPORT TO CITIZENS OF GEORGIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE
AND SPORT OF GEORGIA



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, CULTURE
AND SPORT OF GEORGIA

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CHALLENGES FACING THE MINISTRY

IN RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES CAUSED BY COVID-19

- In all areas of Education, Science, Culture and Sport - The Ministry was guided by the decisions and recommendations provided by the Interagency Council
- All relevant protocols were developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health
- The Ministry ensured the creation of a safe environment in the educational, scientific, cultural and sports disciplines at all stages of the pandemic
- The Ministry managed to maintain continuity, superb quality, and accessibility of education
- Despite the pandemic, the Ministry's infrastructure projects continued unhindered



DISTANCE LEARNING



- The Ministry instantaneously implemented distance learning
- The Ministry offered various distance learning platforms to schools including [Microsoft Teams](#) and [Feedc Edu](#)
- An [evaluative assessment](#) model , tailored to the students' interest and needs was launched
- A large-scale educational project - [TV School](#) was launched In cooperation with the First Channel of Georgia, thus establishing a new TV channel - "[First Channel Education](#)"



“TV-SCHOOL” – (“TELESKOLA”)



- “TV-School” (“Teleskola”) curriculum encompasses all grades I-XII
- The project provides a special hour designated for the entrants
- All lessons are adapted to **Sign language** for students with hearing impairment
- All lessons **support** the interest and needs of students with special educational needs
- For the representatives of ethnic minorities, subjects are taught in **Armenian and Azerbaijani** languages
- Both **General Academic** and **Business English** lessons are provided for the viewers with different interests
- **Sign language** lessons were introduced



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



- June 2020 witnessed important legislative changes in General Education, officially recognizing distance learning as a form of education
- The distance learning rule was approved prior to the start of the new school year, thus ensuring an unhindered implementation of distance learning component from September
- Schools were monitored and their preparation was evaluated
- Washrooms and toilets in about 800 public schools were fully renovated
- Schools were equipped with the appropriate equipment – face masks, remote thermometers, sanitizers, disinfecting floor mats and dispensers
- Schools were tasked to develop an individual plan for students who needed the utilization of appropriate distance learning facilities



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



- The first semester study format was determined according to the current epidemiological situation in the regions, **with an individual approach**
- Upon return of the students to classrooms in large cities, the Ministry offered the public **the opportunity to choose distance learning** as an option
- The double workload of teachers was reimbursed in those schools, where the students switched to distance learning at the parents' request
- An **electronic journal** was introduced to refine distance learning
- **Special subject support groups** have been actively working with the regional schools to improve distance learning practices
- Amidst the pandemic, due to the quarantine measures announced in the penitentiary institution, the beneficiaries are provided with a continuous remote form of educational services



DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMS



- Projects: **iSchool** and **Web School** were launched
- A complex digital assignment bank was created and published on **el.ge**
- **Teacher webinars** were held - 20750 teachers received services during the year
- **Microsoft Educational Portal** and its entire content were **translated into Georgian**
- The Ministry provided access to **certified e-textbooks** for students
- A multidisciplinary team of psychologists (48 specialists) and school special teachers (1500 special teachers) offered **counseling services to parents**
- At this stage, Microsoft is integrating interactive Georgian-language **Chat-Bot** and an **e-journal**
- **Minecraft pilot project** was introduced throughout Georgia
- Many important projects created during the pandemic **will remain in the education system**



INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION



- Microsoft praised the **continuity of education** in Georgia during the pandemic and named it as one of the best examples



- The Head of the **UNICEF** Georgia Office praised the measures taken by the Government of Georgia to overcome the challenges in the field of education



- The head of the **OECD** Directorate for Education named **Georgia** and **Finland** as **leaders** of education system adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic and successful implementation of distance learning



CHALLENGE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- All vocational education programs were analyzed and the components that could be **delivered remotely** were identified
- **Hybrid learning** approaches were introduced
- The National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement authorized more than **100 programs** through **electronic processing**, resulting in an **additional 4,400 seats** in the system
- Admission of students to vocational programs ran unhindered, **enrolling a total of 9500 students** in 2020
- Those citizens, who were not able to attend the exams, due to the virus outbreak, **were given the opportunity to be enrolled in vocational programs.**
- The development and **implementation of adult training programs** have not ceased



NOVELTIES IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



- The **hourly** remuneration of vocational education teachers was increased by **30%**
- A program for further reform support in vocational education was developed in cooperation with Asian Development Bank (ADB), allocating nearly **\$70 million** for the project
- In 2020, the **implementation of regulations on Vocational Education** continued, and up to **15 by-laws** were drafted
- Work on the **strategy** for the years 2021-2026 has started
- Large-scale **survey** of regional and industrial needs was conducted to increase access to vocational education in the regions of Georgia



NOVELTIES IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



- A **unified strategy** for professional career management at all levels of education was developed
- 36 legal entities obtained the right to implement **102 training/retraining programs**
- New authorization standards were **approved for vocational schools based on the European quality indicators**
- Integrated programs were launched, after the completion of which the graduates will be given a **diploma equal to the full general education certificate**
- According to the amendments of 2020, vocational school students will have their **military service postponed** until the end of their studies



PANDEMIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education institutions carry out the educational process remotely, except for the practical / laboratory / clinical components of medical education programs
- The Ministry distributed various distance learning applications and online platforms to Universities from the very start of the pandemic.
- Curricula and the assessment system were modified according to the e-learning format
- Higher education institutions were recommended to follow the principles of internal quality assurance developed by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ([ENQA](#))
- LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement has developed an [e-learning quality support document for Universities](#)
- A training course "Covid-19" was developed, which trained 1844 medical school seniors in medical education programs. The trained students have already volunteered to be involved in the Covid-19 management process



ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION



STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Universities were advised** to apply a tuition fee exemption policy - tuition fees were deferred, or a flexible individual payment schedule were offered
- Owing to the initiative of the Prime Minister, tuition fees for up to **15,000 vulnerable students** with scores of 150,000 and less **were funded**
- Within the **social program framework of the Ministry**, various vulnerable groups received state training grants in 13 categories
- Despite the pandemic, more than **130 scholarships** were issued to students seeking to study abroad



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KUTAISI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



KUTAISI
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

- Despite the pandemic, the country's main mega-project - **Kutaisi International University** was officially opened
- The new state University is **being developed by Western standards**. It is the first University campus-type higher education institution in the region
- Academic programs at Kutaisi International University are analogous to the programs of **Munich Technical University**
- The **Honorary President of Kutaisi International University** and members of the Advisory Board are world-renowned scientists from around the world
- Foreign **scientists from world's leading universities** read lectures at Kutaisi International University along with Georgian professors



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IMPORTANT NEWS

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- The first students were enrolled in the Georgian-French University this year. The consortium is made up of six French higher education institutions
- TSU Educational Programs are Accredited for American Engineering and Technology Accreditation Board (ABET) for the first time in the region
- Extended Academic Mobility Support Programs: [ERASMUS +](#), [Fulbright](#), [DAAD](#)
- In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the South Caucasus branch of the European Public Law Organization was established at TSU to support educational and research projects



Erasmus+



FULBRIGHT

DAAD



2020 EXAMS



- The 2020 exams were conducted in coordination with other agencies, in an unprecedentedly complete academic environment, with full protection of the health and safety of each participant, regardless of the scale - up to **70,000 registered applicants**
- In accordance with the recommendations of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, as well as the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), **special rules were in place at 24 testing centers across the country to prevent further spread of COVID-19**
- Each work desk was equipped with a **transparent protective barrier** from the front; The distance between the tables - at least 2 meters, the distance between the tables arranged in a row - at least 1 meter
- Physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mandatory use of face masks, and safe arrangement of examination rooms strictly adhered



PANDEMIC AND SCIENCE



- A group of Georgian scientists participated in the international interdisciplinary project supported by the Pandemic Prevention Platform "Georgian Reality: Sustainability of Scientific Research during the COVID-19 Pandemic"
- Several scientific research institutes were reorganized and actively involved in the production of products required for COVID-19 prevention measures
- In 2020, Georgia joined the night of European researchers for the first time, with a victorious "Science is Captain" project of the EU program Horizon 2020
- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health was awarded for an outstanding contribution to COVID-19 oversight and management in the country



SCIENCE



IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Hadron Therapy Research Center** to be established at Kutaisi International University
- The center will house **two cyclotrons**, which are currently being manufactured by one of the world's leading companies (IBA)
- Increased involvement of Georgian scientists in the Horizon 2020 framework program
- Preparations have begun for the **Horizon Europe program**, paving the way for full integration into the European Science Area, including a full membership of the European Association - **COST**
- Expanded existing cooperation with **CERN** - International Particle Physics Information Group



EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE



- Construction of 20 new public schools completed by 2020 by the LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency, the Municipal Development Fund and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)
- The ongoing construction of 60 schools will be completed in 2021
- In 2020, the construction and renovation of vocational schools was completed in Kutaisi, Shuakhevi, Marneuli, Chokhatauri, Kaspi and Telavi. Work is underway to create new infrastructure or improve the existing ones in Khashuri, Borjomi, Tskaltubo, Zugdidi, Batumi, Kobuleti, Lanchkhuti, Ambrolauri, Tsalenjikha, Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe.
- Full renovation of TSU second building is underway



THE SUPPORT FOR GEORGIAN CULTURE



- Up to 6,000 jobs in the public cultural sector were fully retained during the pandemic
- Remuneration of theatre and museum employees was increased by 100 GEL
- 16 competitions were held - 161 private and non-governmental cultural organizations were funded, about 4500 artists were involved in the projects
- More than 1000 online events were held within the scope of the "Culture for You" campaign
- Up to 50 theatrical performances were prepared, some of which will be premiered in the open air, some will be held online, and some will be premiered in the future
- 30 new plays were staged in regional theaters
- Social arts, cultural-educational projects were implemented, including the inclusive theater performance - "Beyond the Mysterious the Mountain", "Cinema - for adolescents with visual and hearing impairment" and many others



CULTURAL EVENTS



- **31 art festivals were funded** in the field of literature, theater, music, fine arts, cinema and folklore, some of which were held either online or in open space
- Dea Kulumbegashvili's film "**The Beginning**", already praised at the **Cannes and San Sebastian International Film Festivals**, was nominated for an **Oscar**
- The **first mobile application of cultural routes was created** to promote cultural tourism
- **16 albums were released** as part of the anniversary events
- Funded by the **Cartu Charitable Foundation**, under the leadership of Anzor Erkomaishvili, a scientific paper on national culture "**Georgia. History. Culture. Ethnography**" - a unique English language edition was published. The edition in three volumes is already being distributed to various libraries and universities around the world
- **13 jubilee events were held** for prominent artists
- Georgia won the right to host the **Council of Europe Forum on Cultural Routes in the Fall of 2021**, which will be attended by more than 200 high-ranking guests from the cultural tourism industry and international institutions from the majority of European countries



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საგარეო ურთიერთობების
სამსახური

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RENOVATION PROJECTS



- Georgia is the only country in Europe where two new museums were opened during the Pandemic: [Vani Archaeological Museum of the National Museum of Georgia](#) and [Bolnisi Regional Museum](#)
- The construction of Mtskheta Archaeological Museum was completed
- Renovation of the [Academy of Arts](#) is now completed, the buildings of [ensemble “Rustavi”](#), [Musical Drama and Comedy Theatre](#) are being completed
- Restoration-renovation, conservation, and archeological study of [45 monuments](#) have started throughout the country
- Complete renovation of [97 cultural heritage monuments](#) were carried out by the Cartu Foundation in cooperation with the Cultural Heritage Agency



SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS



- Despite the pandemic, Georgian athletes **won 145 medals at the international arena, including 43 gold, 44 silver and 58 bronze**
- Rugby national team got the right to compete in **Eight Nations Cup**, a great recognition of Georgian sport
- The draft law on **physical education and sport** has been developed and is ready to be submitted to the Parliament
- The Ministry **developed a strategy and an action plan for the development of mass sports**, which will be submitted to the Government of Georgia for approval



PANDEMIC AND SPORT



- As a result of the effective work of the Ministry and relevant sports federations, a **temporary protocol for professional sports** was developed, through which the training and competition process was resumed
- With the help of the Ministry, the sports federations managed to transfer the **possible activities online** in the shortest time
- **Sports doctors** were involved in the fight against Covid-19
- National federations **conducted online seminars** for Georgian coaches



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შპს სპორტის განვითარება

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



- Batumi Football Stadium for 20,000 spectators was built in compliance with **UEFA standards** - One of the large-scale sports infrastructure projects in Georgia
- **Football centers** were built in Tbilisi and Poti
- **Football academy** opened in Lanchkhuti municipality
- A 10,000-spectator **basketball hall** is being built in Tbilisi
- Construction of Batumi **multifunctional sports complex** is underway, which will serve up to 20 different sport disciplines
- The construction of a **football center** in Tbilisi continues
- **Football academies** are being built in Kutaisi and Zugdidi
- **Zugdidi rugby base** is being built, fully financed by the **Cartu Foundation**



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GEORGIA – THE HOST COUNTRY



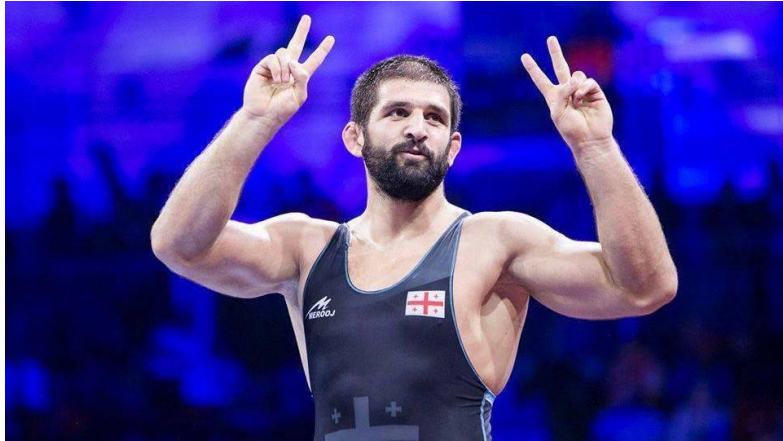
- **2022** – European Basketball Championship - **EUROBASKET 2022**
- **2023** - World Championships in freestyle skiing and snowboarding
- **2023** - **UEFA European Football Championship (U21)** - The final match will be hosted by the newly built stadium in Batumi
- **2025** - **European Winter Youth Olympic Festival**
- **2021** - Georgian athletes will participate in the Tokyo Olympic Games



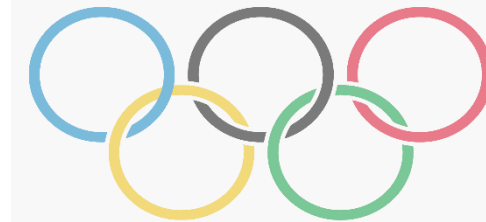


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PREPARATIONS FOR THE TOKYO OLYMPICS



Georgian Athletes will participate in Tokyo 2021
Olympic Games





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THANK YOU



2020

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