

# NEWSLETTER #1

DECEMBER 2020



## Welcome to the new I2Q Project newsletter



We are pleased to share the insights of our new quarterly newsletter, keeping you up to date with all the latest news from I2Q Project.

**2020** was a challenging year personally and professionally for everyone. COVID-19 crisis changed the world and affected our everyday life.

The pandemic created the real challenges to the education. We adopted new reality - remote working and distance learning. Despite of pandemic situation could not interrupt the implementation the Project supported by the World Bank is in active implementation phase.

The Project development objectives are to expand access to preschool education and improve the quality of education and the learning environments and enhance relevance of higher education programs.

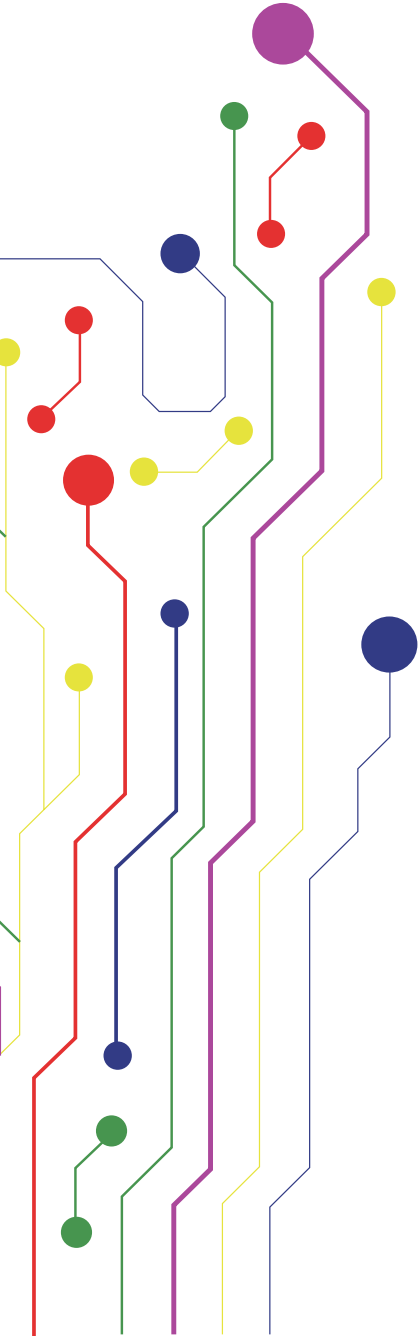
We believe, 2021 will be better for the world.

I2Q team is doing its best to make education in Georgia better.

Best Regards,  
Tamar Sanikidze  
Executive Director

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture  
and Sports of Georgia

Georgia Innovation, Inclusion  
and Quality Project (I2Q)



## Key Facts

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- The legal basis for implementation of Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project is Loan Agreement No 8955-GE between Georgia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), dated, June 18, 2019.
  - The loan amount is 90 million Euros.
- The Project implementing partners are the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia (MoESCS) and the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia (MDF).

## Important Project Dates

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- The Loan agreement was signed in June 18, 2019
- Project was ratified by Parliament in October 16, 2019
  - Loan became effective in November 27, 2019
- Official project launch event was held on March 5, 2020
  - Project implementation period: 2020-2026
- Restructuring the loan agreement August 30, 2020 and became effective on October 15, 2020

## The Project Operation Manual (POM) Describes the following Five Components:

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1. Improving Quality of and Access to Early Childhood Education (ECE)
2. Fostering Quality Teaching and Learning in General Education
3. Strengthening Financing Options and Promoting Internationalization in Higher Education
4. System Strengthening and Stakeholder Communication
5. Supporting Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation



## Implementation Support Mission

During the period July 6-17, 2020 a World Bank task team conducted the implementation support mission for Georgia Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project.

The key objectives of the mission were to: i) discuss the ongoing project implementation including staffing and readiness for execution in both implementing entities (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and Municipal Development Fund); ii) carry out comprehensive technical discussions with the key staff on key focus areas targeted under the project; iii) discuss and agree on accelerated plan to launch rehabilitation of the first batch of schools under the project; iv) discuss and facilitate the COVID related interventions including possible amendment of the Loan agreement: the procurement of IT equipment in the amount of about 4.7 million is envisaged before end August 2020, and v) conduct a review of ongoing and planned activities.

### Procurement of IT equipment in response to COVID19

Technical equipment for general education schools procured with the World Bank Support to ensure smooth online learning in the context of pandemic. The package will include computers, projectors, Wi-Fi equipment, and virtual labs. The package is estimated at 4.7 million USD.

### Revised Procurement Plan

After the implementation support mission of the World Bank for Georgia Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project PMU revised Project Operation Manual and Procurement Plan. The documents were approved by the World Bank at the end of 2020. The PP is published on the World Bank's [website](#).

### Steering Committee Established

Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project Management Unit initiated the establishment of a project steering committee for transparent and smooth operation of the project. PMU will regularly report to the steering committee about the project progress, key issues, risks and discuss jointly mitigation strategies.

PMU held the first official steering committee meeting on December 15th. The Project Executive Director briefed the Board on the activities carried out under the project. Executive Director provided information to the Board on the ongoing procurement dates.

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### Distance Education Survey

Per MoESCS request, PMU hired distance education consultant, who developed comprehensive report on: "Importance of Distance / Online and Blended Teaching-Learning, Modern Perspectives and Challenges".

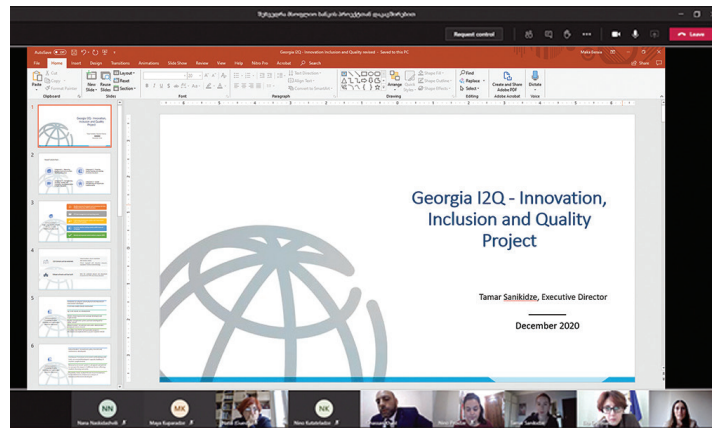
Deliverable on distance education developed by the Consultant was presented to the MoESCS. During the meeting, main findings from the study together with the recommendations were discussed and next steps defined. Ministry of Education, Science, culture and Sports intends to use the findings and recommendations in planning capacity building of schools to better employ e-platforms.

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## Coordination with Key Donors and Stakeholders



I2Q Project team, MoESCS and WB representatives met with USAID, KFW, UNICEF and ADB representatives with the aim to encourage coordination and avoid overlapping and duplications on an operational level. At the meetings, the status of implementation of current projects of donor organizations and future perspectives discussed and goals for further strong partnership and cooperation were set.



Within the initiative of top management of San Diego University, meeting was held with I2Q project Executive, Tamar Sanikidze and MoESCS Deputy Ministers Ekaterine Dgebuadze and Nunu Mitskevich. The Project Executive shared the information about the project and planned key activities. The university representatives expressed their deep interest in future cooperation and involvement in the I2Q project activities.



I2Q project Executive director participated in several meetings covering the issue of New Education Sector Strategy since, MoESCS addressed the I2Q project to assist in drafting new education strategy and WB expressed its willingness to support MoESCS. The team with I2Q project Executive, foreign experts (within the scope of EU PAR project, UN Resident Coordinator Office, WB) and MoESCS representatives started working on the road map on drafting of education strategy.



Several working meetings were conducted with the initiative of different external stakeholders including Pearson, Save the Children and Center for Training and Consultancy (CTC).



Working meetings were held with USAID representatives and in details were discussed LMS and Formative Assessment. It was agreed with USAID that the working groups would be set up for close cooperation during the project implementation phase.





## Recent Procurement Activities

### In Progress

#### Consulting Services for Study and Evaluation of Trends in General Education in Georgia

**Objective:** to conduct an education system diagnostic which will include elements of governance, alignment and efficiency, quality and delivery of education, teacher/staff policies, financing, resources, and student outcomes.



#### Developing General Education Infrastructure and Physical Environment Standards for General Education Institutions (Schools) of Georgia

**Objective:** development of the new, diversified and modern infrastructure standards in Georgia for General education institutions which will support 21st century teaching and learning, student centered pedagogy with creation of learning spaces which facilitates students' development.



#### Consulting Services for Diagnostic Assessment of Education Management Information System (EMIS), Data Integration and Analytic Systems

**Objective:** to provide research and advisory services for Data Driven Decision Support, available to the entire education system. Improve data collection, data and system management, and data use in decision-making, thereby improving different elements of the education system and contributing to the end goal of improving learning for all children and youth.



#### Supply and Installation of Wi-Fi Networks in 121 Schools Located in East and West Parts of Georgia

**Objective:** to enable computers to connect to the Internet from any classroom. Accordingly, students/ teachers could use online educational resources in the teaching and learning process.



### Done

#### Diagnostic Study of Early Childhood Education/ECE Sector (access, quality and needs) in Georgia

**Objective:** to conduct a comprehensive diagnostic assessment of ECE sector and provide recommendations for improvement.



#### Consulting Services for the Development of New Model for Higher Education Financing

**Objective:** to develop a new funding model with diversified funding mechanisms that includes performance-based funding options for higher education financing, aligning with the current Government's strategic priorities and good international practice.



#### Procurement of Technology Equipment for Schools (Laptops and Projectors)

**Objective:** to collect information in a single space, easily exchange lesson plans with colleagues, maintain their own communication channels, be able to disseminate information independently, hold remote teaching lessons.

