

# NEWSLETTER #3

JUL-SEPT 2021



Welcome to the new I2Q Project newsletter

#FORBETTEREDUCATION

## I2Q Project – Facilitating Education Reform Agenda in Georgia

The legal basis for Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project - Georgia is the Loan Agreement No 8955-GE between Georgia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), dated, June 18, 2019.

The Project is supported by the World Bank and its implementing partners are the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia (MDF).

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

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

Georgia Innovation, Inclusion  
and Quality Project

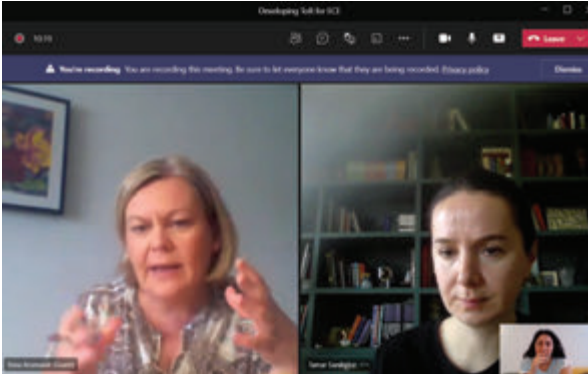
Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia



## NEWS

### Works has Begun to Improve the Management System of Pre-school Education Institutions

Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project provides improvement of the quality of ECE programs in Georgia. To achieve this, the project will conduct a diagnostic study of the ECE sector, including professional development system of ECE professionals, ECE quality monitoring system, utilization and coordination mechanisms for ECE sector, school-based preschool services and other relevant directions, to generate a comprehensive picture on the demand and supply related challenges to design project envisaged quality interventions. International short-term consultant Mrs. Trina Arsenault will design the terms of reference for the development of Terms of Reference on Improving ECE Institution Management System and Enhancing the Quality of Programs Across the Country.



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### ECE Data to be Integrated in EMIS Unified Database

With the aim to improve the quality of ECE programs in Georgia works are underway. Systematic and robust preschool data reporting and consolidation mechanisms will be established and incorporated with the EMIS systems to strengthen intra- and intersectoral coordination for ECE. Concerning this issue, an online meeting was held between the representatives of the I2Q Project, international consultant Mrs. Trina Arsenault and a joint venture of international companies working on the EMIS diagnostic assessment.



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### International Consultant Eve Eisenschmidt Visited Georgia

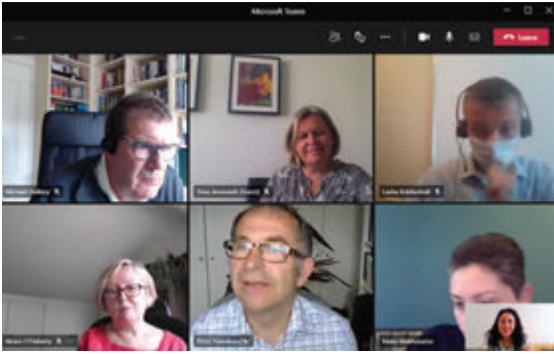


International expert Eve Eisenschmidt (Estonia), together with local consultants, Ketevan Chachkhiani and Nato Panchulidze, is developing Early Childhood and General Education Strategy and Action Plan.

Eve Eisenschmidt visited Georgia at the beginning of July and held meetings at the MES with various representatives of the Ministry. On July 1, Eve Eisenschmidt met I2Q Project executive director Tamar Sanikidze and project team members. The sides talked about the role of the I2Q Project in developing the Education and Science Strategy 2022-2032 and the action plan.

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## EMIS Diagnostic Assessment is Underway



Within the scope of the I2Q Project Diagnostic Assessment of the Education Management System is already underway. The assessment aims at improving the capacity of the EMIS. The joint venture of international companies – EdTech Ventures Ltd (Ireland), H2 Learning (Ireland) and Conscience IT (India) are implementing the assignment.

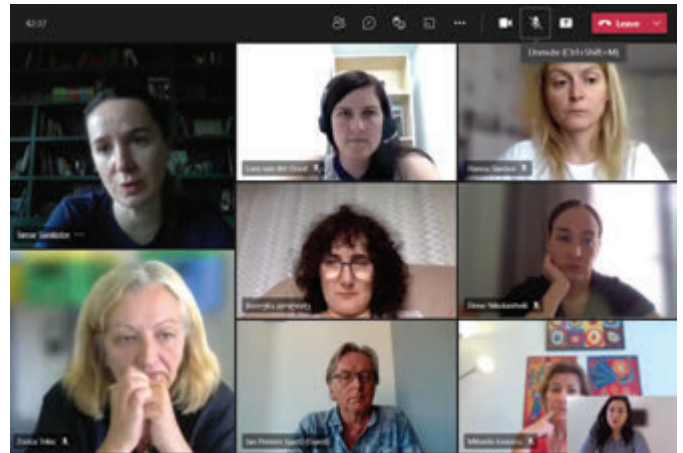
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## Diagnostic Study of ECE Sector has Started

ECE sector diagnostic study is conducted by the joint venture of PPMI Group, UAB (Leading Member)/Lithuania, International Step by Step Association (Member)/Netherlands and Ilia State University – Centre for Preschool and Inclusive Education/ Georgia (Member). Highly qualified 4 international key experts and one national key expert are implementing the assignment. On July 28, the consultant company held an online introductory meeting with PMU representatives. They discussed the content and technical issues of the study, also an upcoming work plan and the importance of collaboration and sharing experience.

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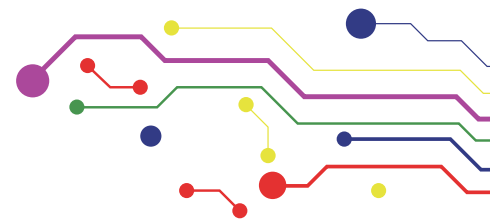


## Mikheil Chkhenkeli: MES is Developing New Financing Model of HE with the WB Support



Mikheil Chkhenkeli, Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, held a presentation on the 10-year development of MES. He presented the vision of the Ministry to the public. The Minister spoke in detail about the new model of higher education financing. He noted that the Ministry is Developing a New Financing Model of HE with the WB Support, which means the basic funding for state universities. According to Mikheil Chkhenkeli, as a result of the introduction of the new model, universities will be able to plan strategic development directions, modernize educational programs and laboratories, fund scientific research and improve the system of professors remuneration. The new model will consider the needs of regional universities.

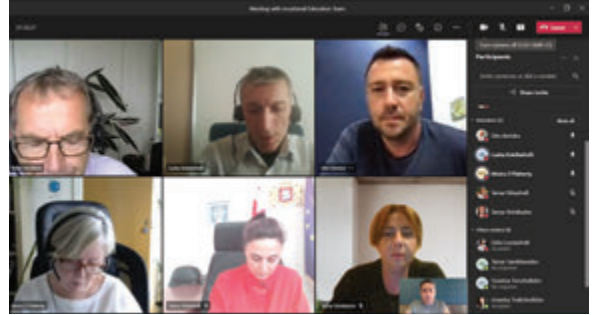
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## Work on EMIS Diagnostic Assessment Continues

Within the scope of the I2Q Project Diagnostic Assessment of the Education Management System is already underway. The joint venture of international companies – EdTech Ventures Ltd (Ireland), H2 Learning (Ireland) and Conscience IT (India) are implementing the assignment. On July 29 and 30, the companies held online meetings with the World Bank and MES units' representatives. The meetings aimed at ensuring relevant stakeholder engagement and revealing their needs in detail.

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## Final ToR on Improving ECE Institution Management System and Enhancing the Quality of Programs Across the Country to be Completed



Within the scope of the first Component (Improving Quality of and Access to Early Childhood Education), the I2Q Project started developing on ToR for tendering basic activities for improving the ECE institution management system and enhancing the quality of ECE programs across the country. The assignment aims to cover the grounds of ECE in almost every aspect. For that matter, the services of the highly qualified international consultant and the national short-term consultant were procured through ICS competition. The consultants held several meetings with stakeholders for discussing primary work, tools of execution, stakeholders, necessary policy documentation, etc.

The consultants Mrs. Trina Arsenault and Mrs. Nino Pruidze submitted the draft version of the terms of reference (ToR) of the abovementioned assignment. At the end of September, the final version of the document will be ready and activities planned within the component will be accomplished according to the ToR.

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## Coordination Meeting held on Education and Science Strategy Document



With the support of the World Bank within the scope of the I2Q Project, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is developing Education and Science Strategy 2022-2032 and an action plan 2022-2023. For the finalizing document purposes, on the 16th of September 2021 was held an online meeting between the Head of ECE Component at the I2Q Project, International expert Eve Eisenschmidt (Estonia), together with a local consultant, Ketevan Chachkhiani.

The participants discussed further development and expected work, the technical input from the consultants' side for developing the final document, also the format and finalizing the Education and Science Strategy 2022-2032 and an action plan 2022-2023, which is expected to be delivered in October 2021.

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## The World Bank Regular Implementation Support Mission



The World Bank Regular Implementation Support Mission for Georgia Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project was held on 6-17 September. The kick-off meeting was held on September 6 between the World Bank and I2Q representatives. Ekaterine Dgebuadze, the first deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia also attended the meeting.

The purpose of the I2Q Project mission kick-off meeting was a discussion over mission objectives, project progress presentation and critical issues to be covered. Tamar Sanikidze, the I2Q Project executive director held a detailed presentation about the project's ongoing main activities and progress achieved.



On September 7, the World Bank representatives held an online meeting with Tamar Tchkonია, the I2Q Project Early Childhood Education Component Lead.

At the meeting, Tamar Tchkonია overviewed ongoing and planned activities within the scope of the Component 1. She talked about the progress and achievements, such as ECE Diagnostic study, the inception report of which is already submitted to the PMU.

In her presentation, Tamar Tchkonია also mentioned that Draft of the Strategy and Action Plan is already developed and submitted by the short-term consultants hired within the I2Q Project.

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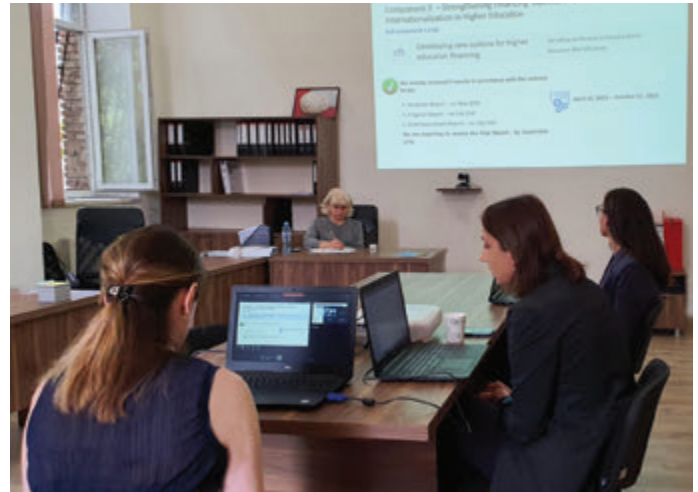


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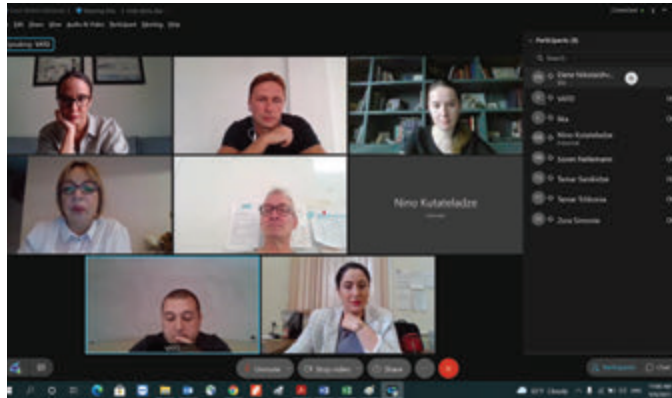
On September 10, the World Bank representatives held an online meeting with Nino Begiashvili, the I2Q Project Higher Education Component Lead.

Nino Begiashvili said that developing new options for higher education financing is in progress and is expected to end in the nearest future. 2024 will be the first year of the full-scale implementation of the new model of HE financing.

As for the Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF), works are in progress and the regulating documentation is being prepared. The CIF will be implemented in 2 phases – a pilot in the first year (2022) for around 5 projects followed by a further about 35 in the following years (2023-2024).

Nino Begiashvili also talked about promoting the internationalization of higher education. As she mentioned the I2Q Project will support the development of a joint doctoral program, the students' entrepreneurship skills and English language skills considering discipline requirements.

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On September 9, the World Bank representatives held an online meeting with Vakhtang Babutsidze, the I2Q Project Infrastructure Project Coordinator – Engineer.

Vakhtang Babutsidze held a presentation about ongoing and planned activities in infrastructural directions. As he mentioned working on improving the school infrastructure and physical standards will start soon. The contractor company is already selected and the contract will be signed in the nearest future.

Within the I2Q Project, the ECE component includes building from 2 up to 10 model schools with the combined physical and educational environment for school readiness program (SRP) and elementary education beneficiaries. The General Education component supports the construction of up to 8 new model buildings using the revised standards.

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On September 10, the World Bank representatives held an online meeting with Maka Makhatadze, the I2Q Project ICT/Data Integration manager.

Maka Makhatadze held a presentation about ongoing and planned activities within the scope of the System Strengthening component. She said that diagnostic assessment of EMIS, Data Integration and Analytic Systems is already underway. Data collected within the assessment will be used to improve data collection, data and system management and data use in decision-making. International experts will propose recommendations and several options for capacity building of the EMIS, to strengthen and reorient the EMIS as a set of operational processes increasingly supported by digital technologies.

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## Earlier Newsletters



# 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)

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