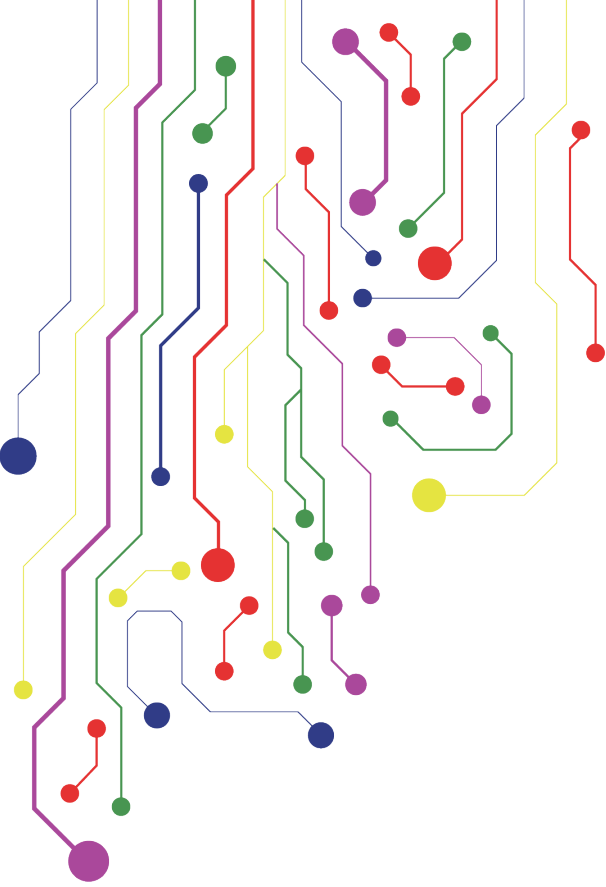




Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF)

Success Story

Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) supports and provides grant funding for higher education institutions' (HEIs) competitive initiatives with World Bank support in frames of the I2Q project.



Strategic objective of the Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) is to foster modernisation of higher education programs and learning environment and to strengthen the labour market linkages.

CIF enables HEIs to develop priority fields and introduce innovative methodology, fully aligned with their strategic development plans.

Systemic development of education is a fundament of society's social-economic development. Introducing innovative learning-teaching methods and strengthening linkages with the labour market is of strategic importance to Georgia. This in turn stands out as a guarantee for tangible results and success.

Introducing innovation in education enables constant advancement and quality and proficiency enhancement. It assists HEIs to meet academic needs of students and staff and to adapt to the rapidly developing world.

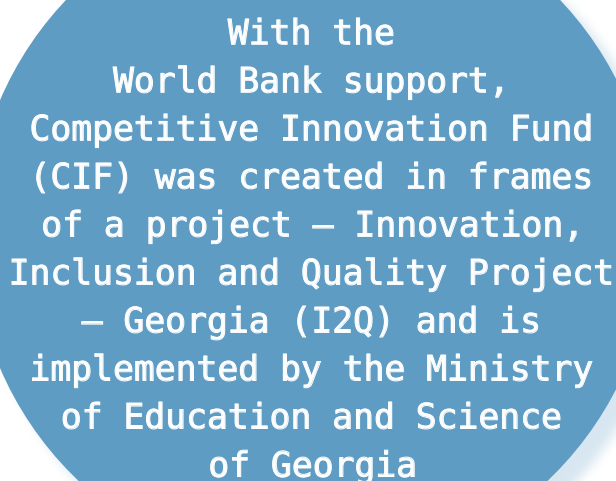
To this purpose, with support of the World Bank, Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) was created in frames of a project – “Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project – Georgia” (I2Q).

Innovation is a baseline of the Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) that is implemented by a Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Strategic aim of the fund is to foster modernisation of higher education academic programs and learning environment and to promote cooperation with private sector.

CIF is an alternative source of funding for the HEIs, encouraging cooperation and competition among different actors/ stakeholders. CIF speeds up constructive changes and institutional modernisation process with regards to higher education system demands.

CIF enables HEIs:

- To implement their strategic development plans aligned with the priorities and strategic fields of the state and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MES);
- Upgrade academic programs to international standards and to labour market needs;
- Establish innovative practice in academic and research environment.



With the World Bank support, Competitive Innovation Fund (CIF) was created in frames of a project – Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project – Georgia (I2Q) and is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

CIF 1st Call for Proposals

CIF 1st Call for Proposals was announced in 2022. Based on available budget and evaluation results, 13 proposals were funded with 2,1 million USD.

COMPETITIVENESS

Healthy competitive environment was created throughout the first grant competition with an involvement of public and private higher education institutions.

In overall, 21 HEIs participated in the competition, 10 of which represented 6 regional universities (total number of applications: 30).


14 public/LEPL (including 8 regional) and 7 private HEIs were among the applicants.

CIF encouraged mutual cooperation among the universities and forming partnerships with the private sector.

A VARIETY OF FIELDS

Every academic field had an equal opportunity to participate in the CIF's first call for proposals. As a result, the funded projects contribute to the development of the disciplines as follows: Social Work and Psychology, Medicine, Healthcare, Business, Music Education, Engineering, Law, Computational Social Sciences, Entrepreneurial education.





**CIF's main goal and a principal guarantee
of the funded projects' success
is a prioritisation of significant aspects, such as:
innovation, encouragement of cooperation,
and sustainability of project results.**

INNOVATION

Encouraging innovation in the higher education institutions is a cornerstone of the Competitive Innovation Fund and a guarantee of its effectiveness.

Implementation of the projects funded in the first call will result in establishment of:

- innovative research components;
- new academic programs and courses;
- multidisciplinary learning practical laboratories (hub) promoting employment of people with disabilities;
- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Somatic Therapy Method Implementation for Enhancing mental health;
- OSTE stations, etc.

Consequently, CIF grant funding will contribute to modernisation of the academic environment, development of learning-teaching methodology and strengthening the labour market linkages.

PARTNERSHIP

Along with creating a healthy competitive environment in the higher education system, CIF aims to promote cooperation among local and international public and/or private universities, as well as to foster the partnership of HEIs with the local and/or international research, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

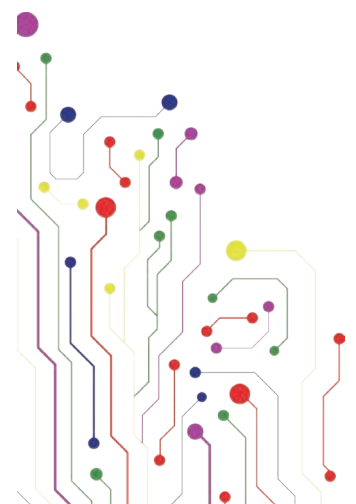
CIF grants were awarded to the projects elaborated in frames of consortia comprising both public and private, local and international universities. The Georgian HEIs cooperate with San Diego State University (USA), Keele university (England), Linkoping university (Sweden) and Terassa University (Spain).

Noteworthy is that in frames of the CIF grant proposals, important partnerships were also established with the private sector representatives.



SUSTAINABILITY

Systematisation of the best practices (introduced in frames of the CIF grant competitions) is one of the key indicators of the fund's success. As the projects' implementation finishes, elaborated/upgraded academic programs and the acquired equipment will further contribute to creation of new knowledge, development of modern teaching methods and laboratory/research components.



November 30, 2022

The First CIF Call for Proposals announced for HEIs

Priorities for the 1st Call:

- Elaboration/development of academic programs in cooperation with a foreign higher education institution recognized in accordance with the legislation of a foreign country for the purpose of awarding joint/double academic degrees and/or promoting international accreditation.
- Development of educational programs tailored to the labour market needs (including specific needs of the Georgian regions) (Smart Specialisation, Third Mission etc.).
- Development of practice oriented educational programs.
- Supporting cooperation with industry/private sector (creation/development of joint educational programs tailored to employers' needs (joint teaching/practice, research/other initiatives on different levels of education, including structured doctoral programs).
- Initiating projects/programs developing/enhancing entrepreneurship education.





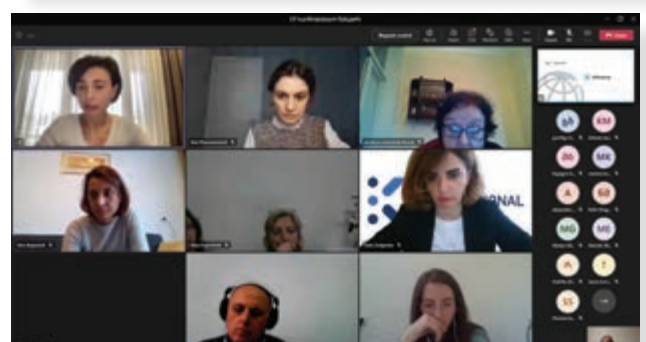
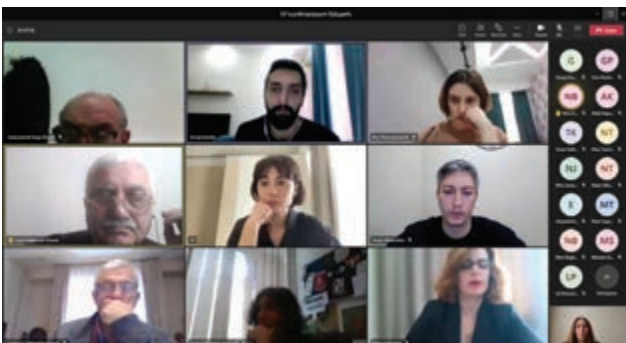
October 17-19, 2022

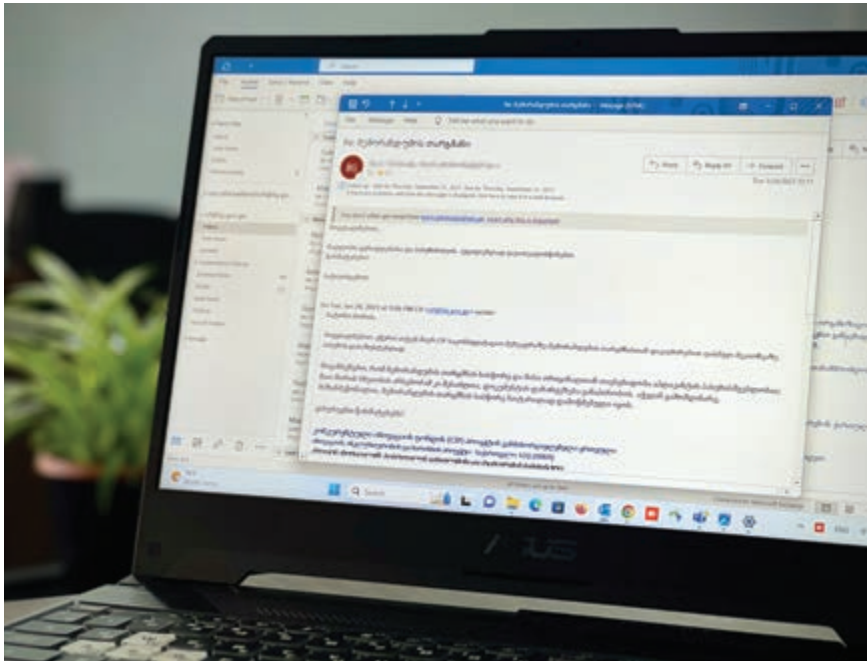
The first working meeting was held with the representatives of higher educational institutions (HEIs) to introduce the CIF and to share its goals, main principles and planned activities.



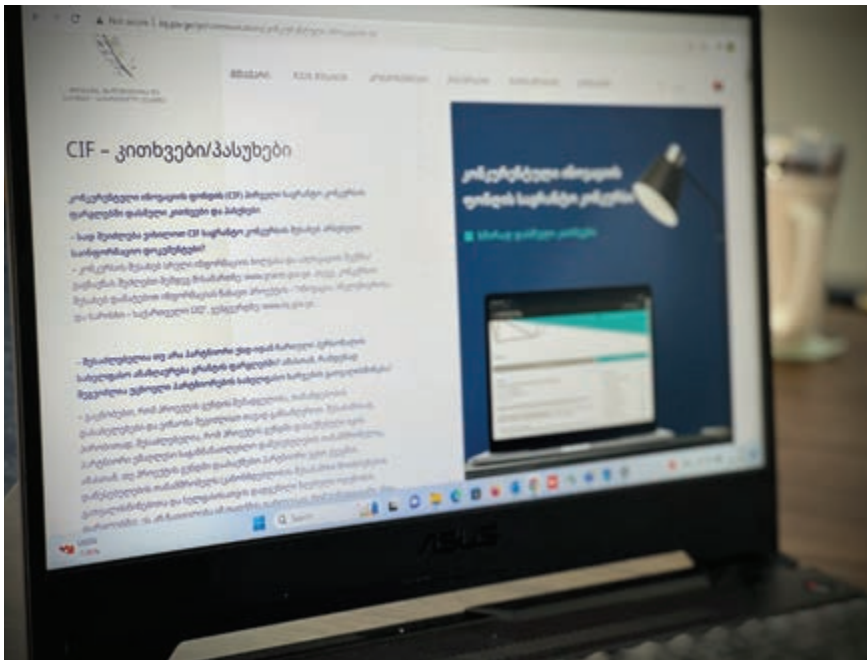
October, 2022 - January, 2023

Consultation meetings cycle with the representatives of HEIs.





The interested parties were continuously and comprehensively informed about the first call for proposals.



July 5, 2023



The Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Giorgi Amilakhvari, awarded certificates to the representatives of the HEIs that obtained CIF grants.

In the first CIF grant competition, 13 grant proposals received funding of up to 2.1 million USD, in total.





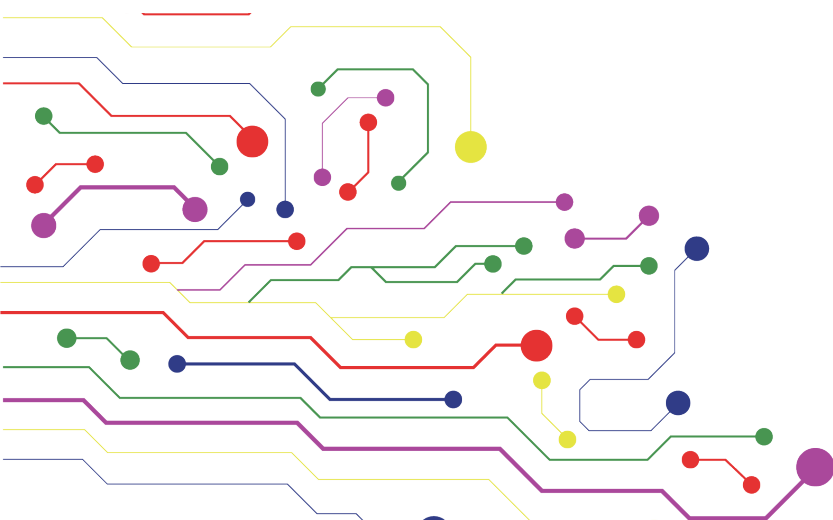
In the first CIF grant competition, 13 grant proposals received funding of up to 2.1 million USD, in total.



The second call for proposals announced in September 2023.

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (APPLICANT)	PROJECT NAME
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</p> <p>LTD Caucasus International University</p> <p>LTD Grigol Robakidze University</p>	<p><i>Development and Implementation of a Modern Translational Neuroscience Program in Georgian Universities for the Improvement of Higher Medical Education</i></p>
<p>LEPL – Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire</p>	<p><i>Beyond Borders: Fostering the Innovations by Building on Traditions of Higher Music Education</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</p> <p>LEPL Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>	<p><i>Development of the concept of the public administration law master’s program</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ilia State University</p> <p>LEPL Gori State University</p>	<p><i>Learning Labs for Equal Rights</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Samtskhe Javakheti State University</p> <p>Caucasus University LLC</p>	<p><i>Entrepreneurship Education - Pathway for Innovation, Inclusion & Quality (EPIIQ)</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ilia State University</p> <p>Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy</p>	<p><i>Innovation and Technology for Medicine</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ilia State University</p> <p>BAU International University Batumi LLC</p>	<p><i>Education for better employment: A partnership in innovative healthcare</i></p>

<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ilia State University</p> <p>LEPL Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>	<p><i>Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Somatic Therapy Method Implementation for Better Mental Wellbeing and Enhancing Mental Health Education in Georgia</i></p>
<p>LEPL Georgian Technical University</p>	<p><i>Research and Innovation Support Program to Stimulate and Improve Cooperation with Enterprise in Engineering Education</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University</p> <p>LLC International Black Sea University</p> <p>LEPL Akaki Tsereteli State University</p> <p>Linköping University</p>	<p><i>Computational Social Sciences for Development</i></p>
<p>LEPL Batumi State Maritime Academy</p>	<p><i>Implementation of teaching mechatronic systems at Undergraduate (Bachelor's) and Master's learning levels and also at Vocational levels in educational programs of BSMA</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Ilia State University</p> <p>San Diego State University, Georgia</p>	<p><i>Fostering University Enterprise/ Entrepreneurship Education (EE) Reform for Boosting Engaged Learning in Creativity</i></p>
<p>Consortium:</p> <p>LEPL Tbilisi State Medical University</p> <p>Georgian American University LLC</p>	<p><i>Introduction of OSTE-stations in Georgian HEIs</i></p>



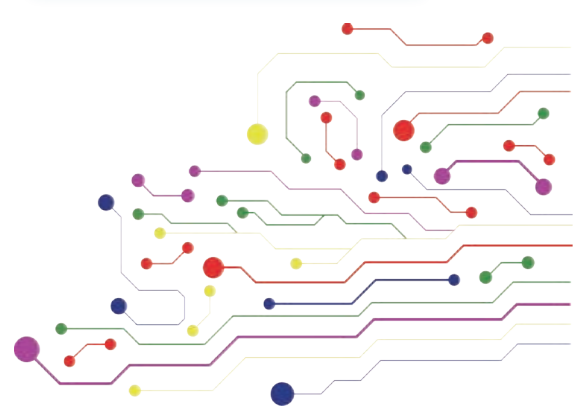
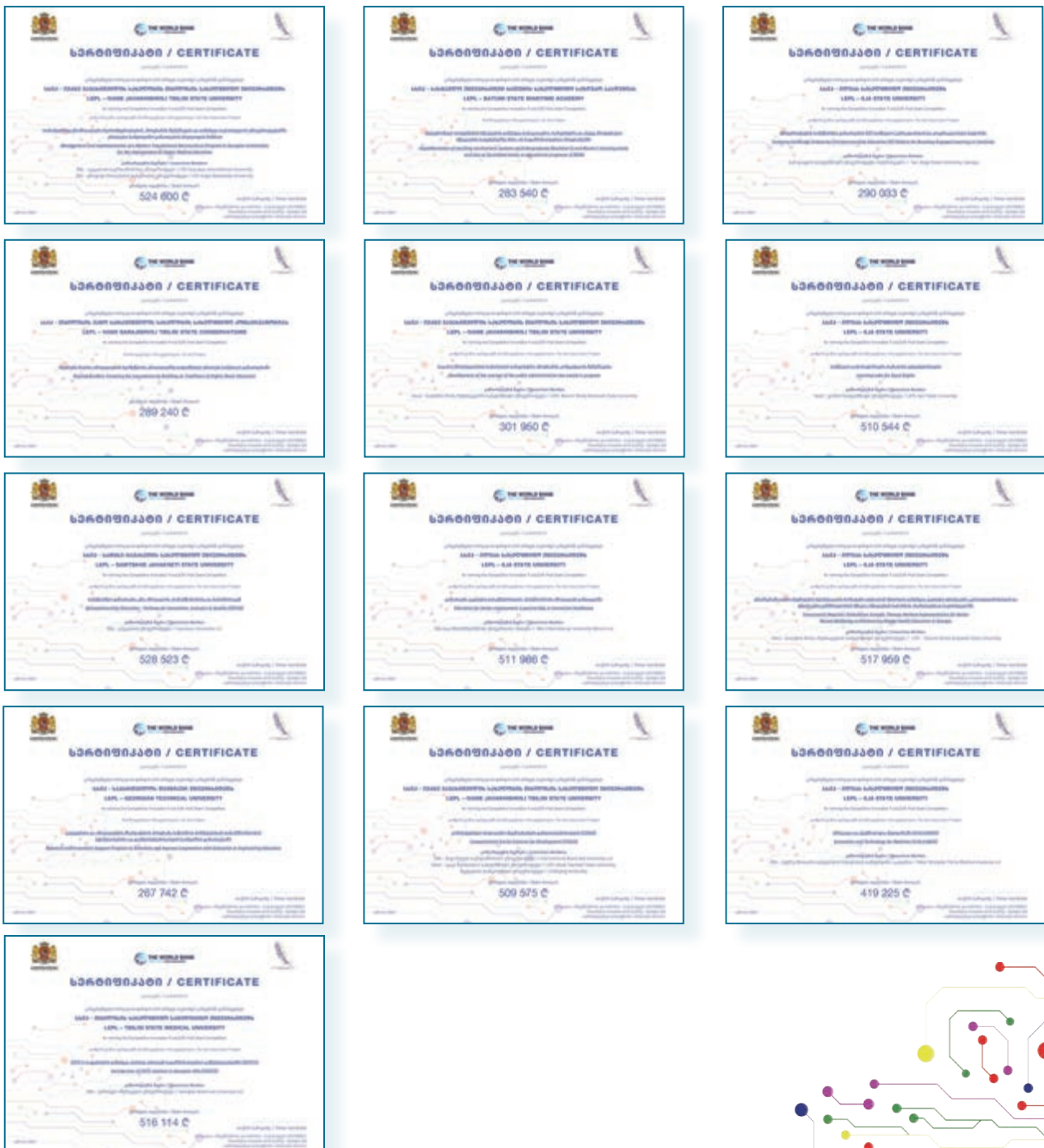
CIF

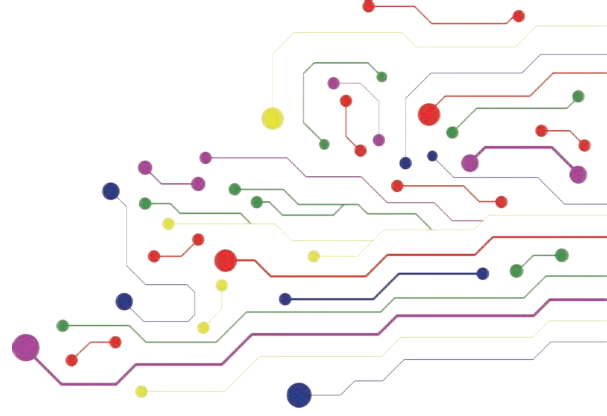
THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

13 HEIs received funding in the first grant competition.

Among them:

- 10 public HEIs;
- 7 private HEIs;
- 3 individual projects;
- 10 consortia projects.





Elaboration of Regulatory Documentation
October, 2021

CIF Team Recruitment
May, 2022





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE OF GEORGIA



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