

## 2015-2016 Academic Year Report by the Rector of ATSU, G. Gvartadze

Dear Distinguished members of the academic Board,

A year after my second term, we can sum up the major achievements and challenges we have faced in the last period of time. It can be said, that a lot has been done within this period of time, which was reflected in the report of Quality Assurance Office to certain degree approved on 27 April. Many of our achievements are accumulated in the report of the head of University Administration that is to be presented by the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, I only present the main novelties that aren't inferred in above mentioned reports and I regard these reports as worth considering due to their significance.

Thus, during 2015-2016 a range of institutional novelties, which took place at ATSU, are as follows:

### 1. There is a significant step forward in ATSU foreign (international) relations.

A number of agreements, memorandum of understanding were signed and new relationships have been established with governmental structures, various academic organizations, private companies, etc.

#### 1. Memorandums and Agreements

- **Memorandums:**
  - ✓ Administration of the President of Georgia;
  - ✓ Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia;
  - ✓ Ministry of Agriculture of Autonomous Republic of Adjara;
  - ✓ Administration of Municipalities in Imereti Region;
  - ✓ Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Georgia;
  - ✓ Higher educational institutions accredited to Georgia - 25, in total; in the current year - 3 memoranda;
  - ✓ secondary schools- 5 in total, including 4- in the current year;
  - ✓ The Collage of Vocational Studies - 1 (New Wave, Kobuleti).
- **International Memorandums:** 45 in total, 8 out of them were signed in the current year.
- **Practice bases:** about 70 in total; including 34 agreements signed in the current year;
- **International and non-governmental organizations:**

There were two memorandums which were signed in the current year with

- 1) Education Development and Employment Center, Kutaisi-based NGO
- 2) International Association of Information Education

#### 2. Foreign Students:

The students registered with the University of ATSU in the current year are as follows:

a) Erasmus 3 students from the following countries: Lithuania, Poland, Germany:

b) In the current year we had 12 Turkish students enrolled in a bachelor's degree, 7 student going in for the second cycle of higher education and over 50 students expressed their wish to study One-step educational program – Medicine. In the next academic year, we are expecting:

- ✓ Around 100 applicants to English language programs "Medicine" and "Pharmacy"
- ✓ About 10 applicants to Master's program – "Leadership and Management in Higher Education".

- ✓ In addition to this, there are reliable predictions about the Russian-language doctoral program of engineering;

It is noteworthy, that applicants to all active foreign language programs are characterized by a growing tendency.

**1. University involvement in international and national projects is still increased. For the first time in the history of the University we have become a grant project applicant and furthermore project coordinators.**

Substantial progress is seen in international projects in the field of involvement of the university. Namely:

**1. International Projects**

**1.1. Erasmus + and Tempus projects**

Among them the following projects seem to be noteworthy:

1. Universities presented the project within the framework of the program Erasmus+: "The Role of Regional Budgets in Regions Development" with all the Regional University of Georgia and several leading European higher education institutions involved. In the coming days, we are awaiting the final answers.

At the request of consortium partners, Erasmus + program winner project "Students Ombudsman" was handed over to the University. These consortium partners are universities we work in cooperation with in the scope of the project "Student Support and Development Services"

At present 5 Tempus and 4 Erasmus Projects are being currently carried out under the coordination of Foreign Relations and Development Office of Akaki Tsereteli State University. During 2015-2016 academic years, the following activities took place within the framework of the project:

**a) The following coordination meetings of Tempus project were held:**

1. BME-ENA - Biomedical engineering;
2. ENGITEC - Improve the teaching of mathematics curriculum in engineering directions;
3. MAHATMA - Management of higher education leaders;

b) The project dissemination and Coordination meeting was held in April of the current year, within the scope of the grant project "Biomedical Engineering",

c) The university trainings were held on 12-30 July at the Summer School with the support of the Czech government and the Prague Life Sciences University,

d) In April, the University renewed the license of the English firm "Delcam" for the students of engineering specialties, our university is the first in Georgia who has received such a license;

e) The university has received 20 new proposals. We are waiting for information about them every day;

f) 5 new projects have been developed in the leading European universities concerning mobility;

The dynamics of nominated and extracted grant projects in recent years are as follows:



1.2. The university first took part in the project "Horizon 2020".

As far as I am concerned, only our university is represented by Georgian higher education at the consortium.

### 1.3. Projects of US State Department and American International Organizations

In 2015, under the initiative of the State departments, USA ambassador first introduced projects for higher education. The University took part in 5 various consortiums within the framework of the project.

Apart from this, we took part in the contest "Vocational education for the development of economy", organized by "Millennium Challenge Fund". Our project, at a total value of about 7000 thousand dollars, went through to the finals. Despite the fact, that the project wasn't financed eventually, the university team acquired a great deal of useful experience. We are going to re-introduce the revised project next year;

### 1.4. Norwegian government grant

Thanks to Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, ATSU was funded by Norway for the first time within the framework of which we will be promoting tourism development, staff and student internships, retraining, etc.

### 1.5. Czech Republic grant

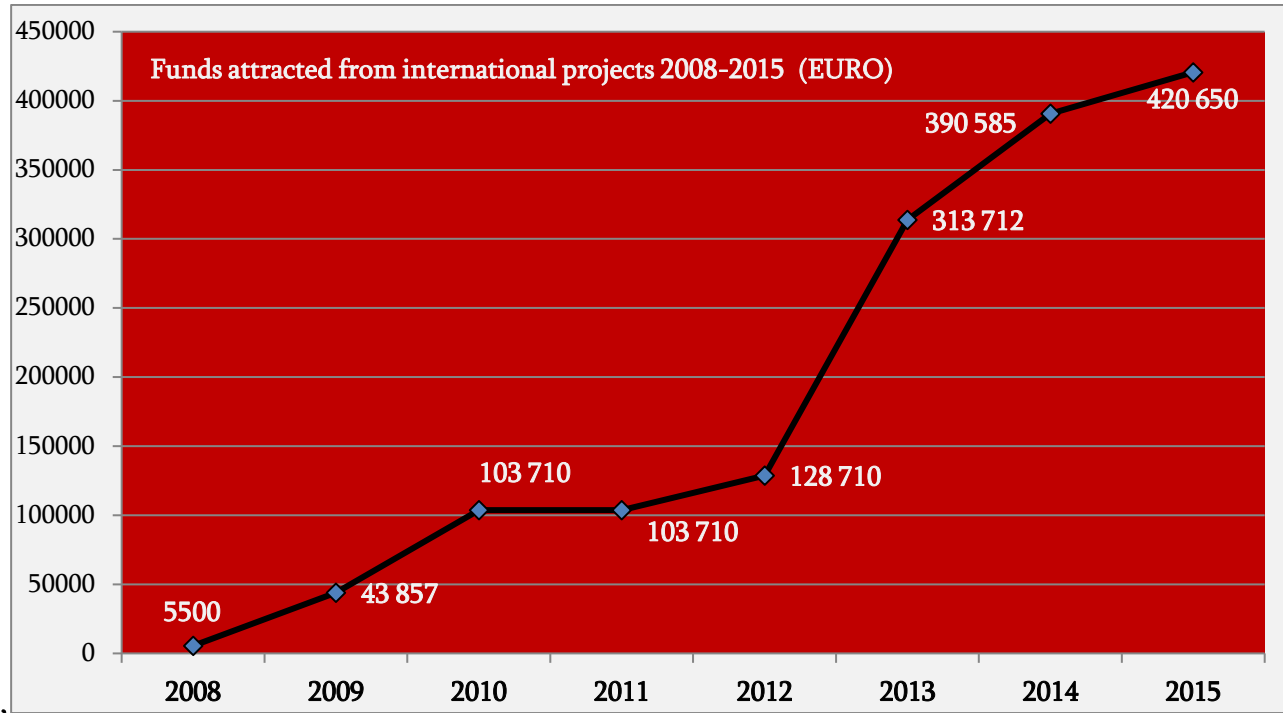
The Agrarian Faculty has been involved in the international project funded by the Czech Republic. The faculty received the first international students in the scope of the Erasmus project.

### 1.4. Estonian Government Grant

ATSU first participated in grant project “Establishing Estonian-Georgian Entrepreneurship Center and Interdisciplinary Course in Innovation Management at Akaki Tsereteli State University (ATSU)” organized by Estonian Government. The funding volume is about 50,0 thousand. Euro.

The project aims at maintaining sustainable development of small businesses considering regional needs, forming close ties with the University and promoting Business Administration, Engineering, Agrarian disciplines on the basis of Estonian 20 years’ experience.

**Importance of international projects is also determined by the funds attracted within them. Namely:**



## **2. National Projects**

2.1. A summer school was organized in Americanistics; the project was financed by the university;

2.2. Along with Quality Assurance Office of ATSU, grant project “Strategic Planning to Improve the Quality of Research in Regional Universities”, was prepared and presented to “Open Society - Georgia Foundation”, which wasn’t financed due to the limited budget of the organization and we plan to re-present the project for the next fiscal year.

1.3. There were two projects developed for students of “Business, Law and Social Sciences” and “Humanities” faculty:

- a) “Promote sustainable development Social and Cultural Sciences in Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University”, within the framework of which a number of meetings were held with high participation of our students and academic personnel.
- b) ATSU students as well as Academic personnel were actively involved in the project “Presidential Collegium for State Arrangement” which is carried out by Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and the Reserve Fund of the President of Georgia.

Both projects aim at holding discussions on important issues related to the state arrangement through public involvement. Professors, students and representatives of non –governmental organisations took part in above mentioned projects.

Within the framework of the project, foreign professors are visiting Georgia, and by the end of the year they will give a series of public lectures at the presidential palace and in other educational institutions.

The lectures deal with Democracy, constitutional and social state, Human rights, recognition and religious philosophy. The lectures involved in the projects are professors of leading universities in the world. They are as follows: Stefan Gösbott, Andreas Arndt, Matthias Kumm, Georg Loman, Theo Kobu, Ludwig Zip, Michael Quante, Marcus Gabriel. The very professors work for the educational institutions such as: **New-York University, Sorbonne University of Paris, Harvard University, Yale University, Free University of Berlin, University of Munster, Otto-von-Guericke**

It's noteworthy, that some of above mentioned professors have already been to our University, but others plan to visit us in the following semester. It is also stipulated to prepare outstanding students as Moderators as co-rapporteurs, etc.

1.4. We presented two projects to the Reserve fund of President of Georgia: 1) Criminalistics Laboratory, 2) Multimedia Laboratory. For each project we requested co-financing of 30,0 thousand Gel. In the end Criminalistics Laboratory was financed and a significant increase in the volume of the mentioned funding is stipulated in the nearest future.

1.5. In addition to this, the university was actively involved in anti-plagiarism campaign, initiated by Erasmus+ Georgian office. Several meetings were held at ATSU and it attracted great interest.

1.6. As a result of competitive selection, ATSU students were allowed to take part in summer school "Revolution" initiated by "Institute of Social and Cultural Studies" and "Open Society - Georgia Foundation"

## **2. Foreign language programs are successfully functioning in the university and their amount increases.**

Current programs are as follows:

- 1) One-step program in Medicine(English)
- 2) Masters Program in the framework of Tempus Project: Leadership and Management in Higher Education (English Language);
- 3) Russian-language Doctoral Program in Engineering

In the current year, another English language program "Pharmacy" was added to the list. Currently, we are working on doctoral program "Education Administration" in collaboration with international partners and for this purpose we will try to obtain grant of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia. Our supporters in this project are Universities of Middlesex, Bath-Spa, South Wales (United Kingdom) and Masaryk University Czech Republic). Within the framework of the US "Fulbright", this program can be joined by an American professor, who is our partner from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The existing approaches are in full compliance with the existing challenges and with the visions of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, which is related to exporting education and further strengthening of the possibilities and potential of attracting international students at University level.

Asit has already been mentioned in the previous reports; further enhancement of these processes has a number of positive results, including:

- Internationalization greatly contributes to attracting foreign students in the university as well as participation in exchange programs;
- The above mentioned has substantial influence on the recognition of the University and its image both on national and international arena.
- Under proper management conditions, these programs can become one of the most demanded and play important role in strengthening relevant faculties through financial support.

### 3. The university is still trying to finance the internships of its professors and the students' teaching abroad as much as possible.

What is more, a number of such employees is dynamically growing, in parallel with the expansion of international university unions. Fortunately, the number of professors either leaving our country or visiting is growing. The numbers arriving in any year will tend to be larger than the numbers leaving.

Analyzing data from past years is as follows:

№	Faculty	Mobility of academic personnel (Internships) according to academic years										
		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		სულ		
		leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	
1	Business, law and social sciences	8		5		6	1	7		26	1	
2	Humanitarian sciences	22		29		34		31		116		
3	Engineering-Technical			2						2		
4	Engineering Technological	2								2		
5	Exact and Natural Sciences	2		2						4		
6	Pedagogical	2								2		
7	Faculty of Medicine			1				2	1	3	1	
8	Agrarian											
		0	36		39		40	1	40	1	155	2

The main sources of financing are: the project Erasmus, Tempus Projects, US Embassy, Embassy of Turkey, Embassy of Egypt, Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, various European universities (based on the signed agreements) etc., Akaki Tsereteli State University is in its role as cofinancer.

At present, the following foreign professors are invited to the university:

- **Ahammad Saadi**, Egypt (Faculty of Humanities), the invitation was made on the basis of a memorandum signed between the Egyptian Technical Assistance Fund and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. It's financed by the embassy of Egypt.

- **Dana Shluptmani**, Germany (Faculty of Humanities); The invitation was made by the German Academic Exchange Service(DAAD), the payment and expenses of staying here is compensated by the German side;
- **Nezam Tonga**, Turkey, (Faculty of Humanities); The invitation was made by Embassy of Turkey in Georgia and **unus Emre Institute**, who select and finance persons. Mr. Tonga left University due to ongoing events in Turkey and we expect new one in the following year;
- **Seid Mohsen Hussein**, Iran, (Faculty of Humanities) invited by the Iranian embassy in Georgia;

A growing tendency is in terms of student international travel. The numbers arriving as well as the numbers leaving are increasing. The expansion of international contacts, increased number of relevant international programs and university's growing international authority all in all positively affect above mentioned data.

№	Faculty	International Mobility of Students									
		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		სულ	
		leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving	leaving	arriving
1	Business, law and social sciences	5		5		6	3	5	4	21	7
2	Humanitarian sciences	28		30		30		33		121	0
3	Engineering-Technical					2		1		3	0
4	Exact and Natural Sciences	1	0	1		3	0	1	0	6	0
5	Pedagogical	1		1		1		1		4	0
6	Agrarian				1		1				2
7	Faculty of Medicine					2	1	2	1	4	2
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>11</b>

The funding is mainly funded by donor international organizations and partner universities.

#### 4. There were Interesting innovations in university scientific research activities

##### a) Modernization of the ATSU Scientific-Research Center is being implemented.

One of the biggest challenges of modern education and the development of higher education and science is maximum approximation of research and teaching; increase the quality of implementation in the research process, quality improvement research results in practical application, internationalization of studies, expanding students' involvement in research activities. It is expedient to carry out all above mentioned at the level of the basic educational unit - faculty.

For this respect, surveying the research directions existing in the scientific research center is implemented step by step under guidance of Faculty administration and faculty boards. Substantial increase in faculty funding occurred in 2015 and instead of 200 000 Gel University budget allocated 600000 Gel to support faculties. We hope this amount

will increase in the future up to a million Gel. Part of this sum is to be allotted for financing research activities in accordance with the decisions of the Board of the Faculty, considering the advantages of current needs and faculties.

As a result of the reform, the function of the scientific research center of the ATSU is limited to the organizing and coordinating activities of scientific-research activities on the scale of University, in cooperation with the Georgian Academy of sciences and various scientific-research organizations and societies, mutual exchange of information, supporting patent activities, facilitating the development of commercialization capabilities of research results.

b) The University is actively involved in the scientific festivals organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

We welcome the fact, our academic personnel as well as professors and researchers constantly endeavor and succeed in the following directions, namely:

- Last year our university was actively involved in the implementation of the scientific festival organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The following events were organized by us:

<b>№</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organizer structural unit</b>
1	International Scientific Conference: "Economic, Legal and Social Problems of Modern Development"	Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences
2	ATSU Fab Lab Presentattion for the Kutaisi Youth	ATSU Administartion
3	esentation of a new collection of rare and unique editions of the AKSU scientific library	ATSU Scientific Library
4	Exhibition of rare and unique editions of the AKSU Scientific Library	
5	Students' Interuniversity Scientific Conference dedicated to Akaki Tsereteli's Jubilee	Department of Georgian Philology of the Faculty of Humanities

- We have already selected and submitted the following events for competitive competitions:

<b>№</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Organizer Strucrural Unit</b>
1	Presentation of the book "Anthology of Poetry Abroad"	Department of Georgian Philology of the Faculty of Humanities
2	ATSU Fab Lab Exhibition	ATSU Administartion FabLab
3	Exhibition of design and technology staff	Faculty of Engineering Technology
4	Presentation - Diabetic products of new generation	
5	Demonatartion of the wheelchair wheels to keep them from bogging in the sand and transportation belt node for swimming	ATSU Scientific-Research Center
6	The sophonic device of self-cleansing the bottom of dam water reservoir and emonstration of the current makette	ATSU Scientific-Research Center, Engineering-Technical Faculty
7	Presentation of works of marine Transportation and modeling staff	Faculty of Maritime Transport



c) Traditionally, the University is quite active in obtaining scientific grants. During the last few years, the staff has submitted a number of scientific grants projects, among which many have made a success and got financed. Namely:

- 3 projects completed in the 2015-2016 academic year, the total value of which is amounted to 487220 GEL
- There are 10 current projects operating the total value of which is amounted to 1529485 GEL

d) A new scientific study in the field of philosophy, law and social sciences is about to be published at ATSU press.

At present, the first issue of the collection is prepared and the work is on the 2nd, which will be released at the end of the year or next year. At this stage 15 articles are presented by Georgian and foreign authors. In the future the authors' area will be further expanded.

e) In addition, Innovation Lab of the Future" (FabLab) was established.

With the support of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Innovations and Technologies Agency, the university has created an innovative laboratory FabLab, where 500 000 Gel worth equipment and machinery is installed. Its main functions are to popularize science (especially natural sciences) in young people, assistance in the development and implementation of innovative projects, promotion inventive thinking and other adequate skills in the young, etc.

#### **4. ATSU libraries and services provided by them were thoroughly implemented.**

**Namely:**

- Electronic library (library.atsu.edu.ge) was created, which allows university students and employees to have an access to electronic books;
- Online booking software was already available in the Library's reading rooms which enables an applicant to book the desired book at the desired reading room without going to the library.
- In 2016 Book Fund reclassification was carried on and new recording were introduced, certain amendments were made to old catalog recording and monitoring was implemented in the electronic catalog (OPAC).

In this direction, nowadays classification and recording of 3187 information resources have been identified or modified;

- ✓ In 2016 the following electronic scientific bases were acquired: EBSCOhost
  - ✓ Cambridge University Press - Journals
  - ✓ BioOne
  - ✓ Royal Society Publishing – Journals
  - ✓ SAGE
  - ✓ ScienceDirect
  - ✓ Scopus
- 
- 5 trainings in terms of electronic bases were held for different target audience (The University employees and students) that aimed to inform participants about the library bases in lectures.
  - The library's book fund was filled with 3347 units, 1450 out of which was donated;
  - On the basis of the recommendation of professors and librarians, the library has released 95 newspapers and magazines in 2016. For one year the press cost is 27872 GEL;
  - The book is permanently filled with educational and scientific books. Since January 2016, books worth 77330,65 GEL have been acquired;

- The authorization-accreditation was conducted by the "Librarian" Professional Program, which was adopted for Spring reception (fully grouped by 22 students);
- on February 23, 2016, the Representative Council of Akaki Tsereteli State University added the structural unit "Museum" to the Library where the collection was collected:
  - ✓ Memorial items
  - ✓ Personal funds and manuscripts of outstanding personalities
  - ✓ Personal letters of famous scientists
  - ✓ Photo Documents
  - ✓ Historical documents related to the establishment and development of the university from October 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016 Akaki Tsereteli State University
  - ✓ From October 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016, 5 students went through the internship at Akaki Tsereteli State University Library. The Internship aimed at :
    - ✓ Students' involvement in library activities;
    - ✓ Introduction and participation in the specificity of the internal work of the library;
    - ✓ Promote development of teamwork, co-operation and communication skills.
- In 1986, a collection of 16 rare books of the Akaki Tsereteli State University Library was published. This process consisted of three main stages, the first stage- the selection of books, the second stage-computer procession, the third stage -Digital transition;
- Book Fund selected periodic editions and the reinforcement works were undertaken, involving binding process and book covering(246 sets).
  - In 2016 References shown in the syllabus were compared with Library Funds. Based on the information provided by the faculty staff, the library staff processed: 4322 records of the 2010 course;
- (Journal Donation Project, The New School, New York).

In 2016, the Journal Donation Project was followed by The New School, New York. The project includes:

- ✓ To donate high academic, reference journals;
- ✓ Subscription to high academic, referencing journals at a discount;
- Akaki Tsereteli State University organized an exhibition of rare books in the framework of the library week, representing rare handwritten and old printed books of the XVII-XIX centuries .
- The library actively cooperates with the Georgian Library Association, the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, partner universities and libraries of organizations in different fields of study.

The library representatives regularly participate in the consortium meetings as speakers and participants; They attend the seminars planned by the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia , etc.

The most important novelty in the life of the university and its scientific library was the fact that, Inter-agency Commission made a decision on the construction design of the ATSU Scientific Library, which cost over 2,5 million GEL.

The tender and construction works were prepared and announced by means of appropriate services. The construction works following appropriate procedures will start in the nearest future.

## **5. Further steps were taken for the betterment of learning process.**

The learning process management service was active, not only in terms of functions and duties specified by the Statute, but also in the implementation of various actions.

It's worth mentioning:

1. Student Admission:

- ✓ As a rule, Personal affairs of freshmen were obtained , the database was processed, and agreements were signed.
- ✓ Admission requirements for the master's degree were worked out, registration of the acceptable contingent was made, the database was created, the contracts were concluded;
- ✓ The university reached the agreement with 189 students enrolled in 2015-2016 2015 – 2016 Academic Year Fall/Spring Semester due to mobility and 132 students who benefited from internal mobility.
- ✓ Electronic registration on minor groups was already available, groups were composed and the organizational order Project was prepared as well as Students' Enrollment Order Project of minority groups

2. Legal Promotion and Monitoring of the Study Process:

- ✓ Analysis and Statistics of Training and Research Report from the Faculties, based on the individual loads of academic staff;
- ✓

Diplomas and annexes to diplomas were uploaded to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement;

- ✓ Rector's order №01-04/40, 24.06. 2016 §.); The procedure for selection of student distribution and modules, free credit and / or elective subjects for additional (minor) programs (Order Rector, No01-04 / 40, 24.06, 2016) was worked out
- ✓ Reimbursement norms of the personnel of the recipient institution (Order of the Rector no. 01-04 / 39, 22.06.2016) of pedagogical, educational, industrial, field and professional practice were defined;
- ✓ Invited specialists workload standards , Norms for remuneration, Students' recommendation numbers in groups according to the components of teaching (Rector's Order No. 85 § 3, 25.05.2016) (Kindergarten educator teacher fifth level and Librarian fourth level) for Spring Modular Vocational Educational Programs of the 2015-2016 academic year were determined;
- ✓ New attendance record keeping journals were introduced for Auditorial work (lecture-practice attendance, activities)either in Georgian or English language for vocational programs;
- ✓ Monitoring of the study process and interim assessment in winter and summer schools was carried out by deans of the faculty to ensure undertake a normalization process in exams.
- ✓ Since 2014-2015 practice of public lectures, cross-reference attendance in auditory work has been practically implemented in accordance with departments.

3. Information about vocational programs and vocational students was put on the website of Education Management Information System such as: The name of the vocational program implementer and vocational student, Personal number, date of birth, gender, nationality, legal and actual address, education, telephone number, e-mail;

**6. The activities of the Continuing Education Center of the Ministry of Education were further expanded.**

During 2015-2016 academic yearthe centre initiated the following activities:

New training courses were introduced and existing one were refined and they were successfully conducted within this period of time.

The trainings which were a success are as follows:

- Educational Training Program for Kindergartens;

- Workin on vocabulary / mental dictionary;
- Modern approaches in preschool education;
- Basics of Electronics and Electricity
- Successful career creation;
- Photography;
- Presentation skills;
- Development of training resources;
- Sales Management;
- Principle of five keys for harmless food;
- Precious metals expertise;
- Interpersonal communication;
- Effective communication, etc.

At the current stage, the Center has already developed more than 70 programs (10 out of them are new). Significant part of them is quite demanding, and consequently, the modules seem to be more appealing.

a) In total ATSU Continuous Education Center trained more than 730 listeners, 60 out of them were our employees were trained as trainers, 30 has improved their English language skills;

№	Year	Amount of trained staff		
		Trainings, qualification raising	Teaching foreign language	The content of the training
1	2015	20*		* Modern assessment methods for Teachin/learning
2	2016	57**	A1-12 B1-7 B2-3 Sectoral level-3	** Incl. 1. Learning Interactive Methods -10 2. Modern approaches in preschool education-17 3. Use of modern technologies in teaching; Modern forms of electronic learning-8 4. Teaching and assessment While implementing modular professional programs-12 5. Adult Learning Techniques-10
	სულ	77	25	

*Note: The table below shows the amount of employees for whom ATSU funded tarinig course in foreign language.*

- b) The Center actively cooperates with the student self-government. The latter financed four training modules (sales management, interpersonal communication, presentation skills, photography) in which 80 students were involved.
- c) Within the framework of the Modular Professional Program - "Kindergarten Teacher", the Center has conducted trainings for conducting personnel "Interactive Methods of Teaching" and "Modern Approaches in Preschool Education".
- d) This year's innovation was to provide various events by the Center. Including the International Day of Down syndrome and International Day of Autism.
- e) The Center was actively involved in organizing and participating in various conferences. In particular, they were: "Inclusive Education Constructed Practice Conference" and "Current Issues of Teaching and Training". The "Pedagogical Clinic" existing at the Continuous Education Center was actively used for the work of the Conferences.

## 7. Significant progress in marketing activities, projects in management of events

The University's "Marketing, Project and Measurement Management Service", based on the functions prescribed by the Statute, has been an organizers, supporters and facilitators for a number of events and projects during the reporting year

- in the reporting year the service prepared and published leaflets in Georgian and English language
- In March 2016, the university first took part in an international educational exhibition "Education without Borders", which was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. More than 100 universities from different countries (UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Czech Republic, France, China and others) participated in the exhibition. For this purpose print and visual material (brochure, triplets, and banners) was prepared.
- On March 9, an open door was held at the University, which was attended by over 500 entrants from Kutaisi and Imereti region. The entrants got acquainted with the specifics of working with FAB LAB (Innovation and Technology Laboratory) and inspected the innovative projects created by students.
- On April 22, under the guidance of the organization an open door day was held for the entrants interested in accurate and natural sciences. Specially for this day, the university arranged an Art-Day installation and competition between schools (for the most creative visual project). 10 public schools participated in the competition. About 350 entrants attended the event.
- More than 15 meetings were held for entrants during spring semester. ATSU was periodically visited by 9 and 11 graders of Kutaisi, Vani, Baghdati, Samtredia, Abasha, Kharagauli, Martvili, Tsageri and Khoni public schools.(In total over 300 visitors)
- Under Service Initiative and Coordination Training was conducted "For the purpose of improvement of scientific and written skills for young academic personnel"

In addition to the above, the following events were organized with the organization's support:

- Event dedicated to the beginning of the new academic year
- 3 December - Event dedicated to persons with disabilities
- 9, 10, 11 December - Events organized by the French Solidarity Week to celebrate the terrorist attack in Paris
- 30.12.2015 - Administration's meeting with Merited employees to congratulate them on the new year
- New Year's corporate evening 15.01.2016
- On 4 March, under the initiative and guidance of the service and administration, the concert of the famous Georgian singer and composer David Archvadze was held for the University female employees.
- The University has been conducting more than 200 activities, including: 20 scientific conferences, 30 training sessions and workshops, more than 40 public lectures and meetings, among them It should be noted:
  - **Open Lectures:** More than 30 open lectures were given, for example,
    - President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili gave the public lecture on freedom from independence to freedom;
    - 21 October 21 - Mamuka Akhvlediani, Chairman of the Tbilisi City Court, Chairman of the Independent Council of Justice, gave the public lecture on "Court Management and Electronic System of Record Management";
    - October 8 - Public lecture of the Professor of the University of Mississippi Valley (US) Abigail Newseum on "Environment and its Management";
    - December 23 - Journalism and Media Management Master, Media - Trainer and Communication Specialist Natia Sirabidze gave a presentation on Practical Guidance for Public Speeches "Key to Success"
    - January 20 Public lecture of the National Environmental Agency by Tamar Bagrationi;

- January 29- Public lecture of Tamar Medulashvili, director of the "Information Center on NATO and EU"
- On 5 February, Guguli Maghradze, Member of Parliamentary Majority and Permanent Parliamentary Board of Open and Transparent Governance and the Head of Strategic Communication Department, Tornike Nozadze and ATSU students to discuss "Association Agreement with EU and Visa Liberalization"
- On 4 March, Public Lecture and Discussion of David A. Adeishvili, Scientific-employee of Industrial Development Group of the Ministry of Economy, Gia Zhorzholiani, Chairman of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee "Prospects of Industrial Policy Development in Georgia".
- March 29 Public Lecture by Minister of IDPs and Accommodation Sozar Subari
- **Official Reception and Meetings:** more than 20 such as:
  - Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and Meeting with the Students;
  - September 14 - Visit of the Ambassador of Slovakia;
  - Meeting with representatives of International Center for Education
  - January 28 "Strategic Plan 2020" - Public Disclosure by IDFI (Institute for Development of Freedom of Information);
  - January 29 State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, David Bakradze;
  - 3 February - US Culture Attache in Georgia Damyan Womper's visit to Georgia
  - 19May Visit of the cultural attaché of France Embassy
  - Delegation of Welsh Parliament Speaker Rosemary Butler, Kutaisi - Newport Association Delegates and representatives of South Wales University
  - On July 9, "American Lawyers Association - Initiative of Law Rule" meeting with the representatives of the International State Anti-Drug and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) of the US Department of State.
  - Meeting with the representatives of the International Center for Education
- **Acceptance of delegates and representatives of partner universities and research organizations:** up to 20 such as:
  - 10 December - Meeting with Delta State University's Interdisciplinary Information Technology Center Director, Talbott Brooks

The Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies at Delta State University

- March 23 Meeting with the representatives of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Georgia
- Visit of Deputy Rector of Seville University Juan Miguel Martinez
- Visit Norwegian delegations from Norway and Kyrgyzstan

The Marketing, Projects and Events Management Service has conducted a number of researches in the reporting year such as:

- Survey "Eurostudent"
- "Research "Butterflies" - Student and entrants vox pop "I would like to learn at the university where ..."
- "The vox pop of entrants "which university is preferred and why"
- Analysis of students' financing specialties

A number of projects were carried out under the coordination of the service. They are as follows:

- Preparation of a university strategic plan for approval
- Science and Innovations at Tbilisi 2016 Festival presented 8 projects, 7 of which have successfully completed the qualifying stage.

- Two projects were submitted to the Administration of the President of Georgia, as a result only one the Criminal Laboratory was financed.
- Support Project "hakatone"
- Coordinate Rector's Project "I-University"
- Manage Facebook page and implement student internship project
- Project "Anime Thursday"
- Project "Georgian Universities for the Georgian Armed Forces" under the coordination of ATSU

## **7. One of the priority challenges for the university is to deepen the integration of modern technologies in the learning process.**

In recent years, many interesting initiatives have been implemented in this direction. For instance,

- Full licensing of Microsoft products;
- So called "Desktop Applications and Server Products (including Internet Conference Solutions) were introduced
- Microsoft's e-mail service, one of the leading technology in the world, has become increasingly useful

In this respect, during the 2015-2016 academic year some accomplished works are noteworthy :

### 1. Technical support of the learning process:

- The e-learning portal has been conveyed to the local resource (Functioning of the system on the territory of university is no longer dependent on the speed and quality of internet access);
- Electronic Student Attendance Recording System was sophisticated for the Deans' offices, in addition, the opportunity to send students' (bachelor, master) academic results individually to corporate mail (is actively used for faculties of business law and social sciences, humanitarian and pedagogical sciences);
- The forms of electronic registration and the results obtained for the training process management service (students' registration, enrollment and analysis of results on minor programs) have been rectified;
  - The student's registration base is modified (As soon as the students enroll, the contract form is automatically printed along with the corporate email address and its rules of use.) National Examination Results Publication causes certain changes to the database and mail formation.
  - The encryption algorithm was improved in the examination center, accelerating the decryption process itself;

### 2. Support for scientific research activities:

- certain subdomain was created for Conference web pages, for instance,
  - ✓ Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences - "Economic, Legal and Social Problems of Contemporary Development - 2015"
  - ✓ Faculty of Humanities - Modern "Interdisciplinary and Humanitarian Thinking - 2015";
- Conference materials were processed, electronic disks and magazines were created;

### 3. Improvement of technical support:

- For the purpose of controlling the university computer park system configuration manager was introduced (The company "HTS" demanded 20,0 thousand GEL for the implementation of this system)
- The WiFi network operates in test mode on the second floor of the first building
- More than 100 new computers were transferred including new computer labs (Tamar Mephe Street, Akhlagzardobis Ave.)

## **8. The introduction of the project "electronic dean" is initiated.**

The preparation of the project and the preparation of the application was put to an end. His presentation and review have been repeated several times. A present it is tested and it is appropriately used in the pilot mode, For freshmen and gradually it will extend to students of higher cycle of education.

**9. Akaki Tsereteli State University "Center for Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs" has organized many interesting events.**

The centre managed and carried out Universal activities related to culture, sports and youth. It combines both creative groups (Folk ensembles "Kolkha" and "Adila" student-run theater troupe) various Sports sections (Futsal, Mountaineering, Oriental martial arts, athletics, volleyball, tourism and sports orientation)

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the following cultural and sporting events were organized with the support of the Center

- Within 3.05-14.05 , 2016 The "Artistic Week" was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of ATSU's transformation into the university, in the scope of which the following events took place:
  - ✓ The Concert of Folk Ensembles "Kolkha" and "Adila"
  - ✓ An evening of student poetry
  - ✓ Performance staged by Gori State University and Student Theater of Our University
  - ✓ Showcase of models created by students and employees (exhibition) Exhibition of art works
  - ✓ Kutaisi State Symphonic Orchestra Concert
  - ✓ "University Etalon" game was carried out by Media program "Etalon"
- Theater Festival - "Theater Imereti" - 2016, the students' theatrical troupe performed with the performance "The Birds of the Son";
- On May 21, the grand finale of the Georgian national intellectual championship "Etalon 2016" was held in the Sports Palace in Tbilisi, where the delegation of students and staff took part.

It must be mentioned, that folklore ensembles Kolkha and "Adila" are actively involved not only in university, but in republican and international events. Atsu Folk Song Ensemble "Adila" was invited to France on June 3-13, Paris Art University, "Paris 8", at the Festival of Universal Choral Ensemble Days, here the ensemble received universal approval and a lot of prizes; In addition, the ensemble "Kolkha" is invited to Italy, Bergamo, at the International Festival.

The Center actively cooperates with faculty and student self-government, for conducting various faculties or university activities organized by them.

As we have mentioned, the center of the sport is functioning. The University has enough material resources: namely closed sports halls, open sports grounds, sports equipment, and the university students and staff are leading a healthy lifestyle. Each sport type has its own schedule, according to which exercises are underway.

ATSU is a member of Student Sports Federation and Georgian Climbing National Federation consequently; we are participating in the events held under the auspices of these federations. As I have already mentioned, mountaineering clubs "Ushba" is still functioning at University and intensively organizes expeditions to the Caucasus. In the current year two expeditions were held. What is more, President of "Ushba" Merab Nemsitsveridze visited the Himalayan Mountains as head of international expedition.

"In the current academic year 13 sports events (university championship: volleyball, basketball, mini soccer, table tennis, chess) took place, where 1292 students and staff participated. Atsu Futsal team seemed to be



especially interesting. They have been participating in the university championship since 2012; the team is in the highest league. Two students of the University became the owner of the silver medal of the international championships (Greco-Roman wrestling, karate).

#### **10. This year the Rector's Competition was first announced for students "I - University"**

The project aimed at increasing students' involvement in the development of the university, their motivation, cooperation between the university administration and students, considering the challenges the University faces. The project also focuses on the development and management of projects, leadership and team work skills, increasing corporate culture.

Within the framework of the project, students, considering current challenges of the university and future prospects of development, identified the problems, and set their goals to improve the situation. The students presented projects that were considered by the Competition Commission, which included the representatives of the university administration as well as the students and the city community.

Total 5 applications were submitted, two out of which were selected:

1. **Electronic Journal**": Student Studies"-Considering the formulation of a student research journal available online.
2. **"It's your, my and Our Space!"**- stipulating to raise student's awareness and manage sanitary-hygienic and ecological issues at the University;

Both projects will be implemented from the next semester.

What's more, in order to encourage the authors of the winner projects, they were given an opportunity to participate in a summer school in Telavi "Study of Human Behavior with Interdisciplinary Approaches".

#### **11. Rehabilitation of the University Dormitory continued.**

The current phase will be completed by the end of the year; as a result, its capacity will increase to 150 people. Currently, we use the building for international summer and winter schools, Visitor Professors for PhD students from Aktau University. From the current year, under the initiative of the self-government, several rooms will be dedicated to those university students who are in a particularly difficult social situation.

From next year, foreign(English speaking) students expressed their wish about the dormitory.

### **Future Objectives**

- **Actions of Strategic importance:** Care for the formation of University Research Strategy, To prepare the grant project for this purpose and work with donors; Approval and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Vocational Education Development at the University; Development of the University's Didactic Concept;

Faculty's development strategic drafting and implementation, Strengthen accountability of faculty deans before the Academic Board;

**Quality development and management:** great endeavor to further strengthen quality and preparation for Authorization- accreditation processes; promoting existing academic (foreign language) programs and developing new programs if necessary; mobilization for obtaining international accreditation for the university, increasing the minimum competency thresholds of national examinations according to subjects to get better students; Continuation of further development of international ties; popularizing international or national grant projects;

- **International Relations:** Continuation of further development of international ties; Strengthening opportunities for international development work or national grant projects; Deepening cooperation with universities in the neighboring countries, etc; Further activation of University role as the bridge connecting European and Asian Universities;
- **Education Export:** Strengthening support for foreign curriculums; Preparation of new foreign language programs and training courses; Raising the English language competence of academic personnel; Attracting foreign students not only for academic programs but also short-term courses in summer or winter schools; Strengthening of marketing activities, participation in educational exhibitions, promotion of the University on international arena;
- **Student-centered university space:** Promote student support and development services; Annual analysis of students' academic achievements and orientation on the quality and management of training and assessment on the results obtained; Further diversification of student life and comfort; Making multifunction cards for students and employees and creating conditions for their use in the university (Preparation of appropriate grant application and strengthening of working with donors); Thorough completion of the project "Electronic Dean". Development of the possibility of sending academic results individually to students on corporate mails at all faculties; Increase WiFi free access network at the university;
- **University for All:** Promoting the full inclusion of people with special needs and disabilities in the university, further expansion of their oriented space, installation of elevators and special equipment;
- **Upgradation of Qualification of Employees:** Upgradation of the qualification of the academic staff to enable them develop their skills and achieve their active involvement in international exchange programs; organizing Trainings at the university with participation of Georgian or foreign professionals;
- **Variable environmental oriented management:**
- Continuation of the optimization of the university structure and adaptation of the environment; Further improvement of integration of modern technologies in study and research processes; Further deepening of cooperation with preschool and general education institutions; Further deepening of relations with Kutaisi administration in terms of implementing joint projects;