

Unijunior TSU

Aims and goals:

The educational project, called “TSU – Children’s University”, was established at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University at 2007, in order to achieve close cooperation with schools to boost youngsters’ interest in science and knowledge, to raise motivation in learning and improve the quality of school education.

Since 2010, the activities of that project were enlarged – it covers now more than five hundred 12-18 year old pupils, therefore, the name was changed to **Unijunior TSU**.

Since 2011, **Unijunior TSU** is member of EUCU. NET - The European Children's Universities Network, on the basis of maxims of EUCU.NET:

Children's University means

- *Encouraging children to be curious and to think critically – the mainsprings of research and science*
- *Communicating to them the idea of universities and providing insights into academic culture as well as their role in the society at large*
- *Working with young people in such a way as to help universities to be more responsive and open*
- *Making encounters between children and “the university” (as a community of academic staff and students) possible*
- *Enthralling them with diverse scientific fields (from humanities, to social sciences and natural sciences) and with diverse scientific methods unbiased by commercial interest*
- *Giving young people an understanding of their future educational choice and options*

Children's University is based on the aims of

- *Providing access for all children without boundaries and on a voluntary basis*
- *Involving and providing benefit for children from disadvantaged groups (including barriers caused by social or economic, impairment, language or gender)*
- *Providing an atmosphere of respect without pressure to perform*
- *contributing to the enhancement of universities as concerning organizational, didactical and research development*

The message of **Unijunior TSU** is - ***Scientia potentia est.***

Participation of schoolchildren in any scientific and educational events taking place in **Unijunior TSU** is unlimited and free of any charge.

Our activities are highly supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

TSU academic staff is regularly arranging lectures and laboratory studies, scientific conferences, quiz shows, contests and walking trips for pupils.

The activities at **Unijunior TSU** are focused on:

- Familiarize schoolchildren with the subject area “UNIVERSITY” and opportunities of university

education;

- Offering access to exact and natural sciences and other subjects (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, foreign languages, economy, history, medicine) in order to give impulses for new interests;
- Attracting interested pupils to the University, helping them to realize their inherent mental potentialities;
- Getting acquainted with diverse educational programs offered at TSU, assisting them in choosing the future profession;

The main task of today is - to give more schoolchildren possibility to take part in any scientific and educational events of **Unijunior TSU**. For this purpose we transferred many popular programs, conferences and others to schools of the remote regions.

Organization

Organization name	TSU - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Unijunior at TSU's office
Organization type	Academic
City	Tbilisi
Country	Georgia

Activities & Offers

Since	Sept. 2007 Regular: lectures, laboratory studies – every week,
Scheduling	scientific conferences, quiz shows – 1-2 per year, summer schools, walking trips- every year.
Kinds of activities	Lectures, laboratory studies, summer schools, scientific conferences, quiz shows, contests,

walking trips.

Activities per year

About 220-250

Participants & Target Groups (Part 1)

Age of main target groups

For all types of activities, 12 -16 year olds

Activities for other target groups

Yes, for other target groups – some single activities - for ex. “Summer school in chemistry 2011” for 17-18 year olds.

Participants & Target Groups (Part 2)

Effect on the participants

Raising of motivation in learning, interest to science - for ex., 7 participants of “Quiz show in Geography– 2009”, entered Geography direction of Faculty of Exact and Natural sciences of TSU at 2010.

Reliable data concerning the children's social background available

Though, the social background of participants is not available, but the percentage of pupils, interested with our project , is approximately, the same in central and remote schools.

Subjective estimation: Tendencies concerning social background

The attitude to education is earner in remote schools, possibly, as only accessible way to successful future for pupils from periphery.

Specific efforts to include children of every social background / of every social and educational level

To include more schoolchildren of every social and educational level, many popular programs, conferences and other events were transferred to schools of the remote regions.

Documentation available

Documentation is available in Georgian language

Lecturers

Lecturers

Academic staff and postgraduate students of TSU

Universities/Explanation

TSU and Research institutions of TSU (for ex.- Educational sciences)

Lecturers Support

Lecturers support

If needed - TSU pays transportation and daily expenses

Lecturers support is mandatory

Yes

Effect of the Children's University on lecturers

Participation at "XXXXXXXX" activities is taken into account in labour agreement for academic staff and in credit account for postgraduate students

Written material available

Yes

Administration & Cooperation

Organizationally located within a university/institution of higher education

Yes, within TSU - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Venue is a university/institution of higher education

Yes, a part of activities are taken place in TSU, the others – in the remote schools

Cooperation between institution and external partners concerning Children's University activities

Yes, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Cooperation between institution and other organizers of Children's University activities

Yes, regional governmental institutions

In contact with an organization which is intending to start a Children's University

Yes, regional nongovernmental organizations

Cooperation between the Children's University and schools/single teachers

Yes, on a regular basis

Concept & Documentation (in Georgian language)

A policy paper / code of practice / manual is available

Yes, working manual

Evaluation results are available

Yes, yearly report

Publications about or from this Children's University

Yes, TSU's newspaper, web page, mass media

information's

Planning/Organization & Implementation

Thematic Priorities	Exact and natural sciences, foreign languages, economy
Coming up with subjects/topics of activities	Ecology, healthy living
Imitation of „academic life“	Workshops, scientific conferences
Number of people involved in the planning/organization	4 (2 women)
Number of people involved in the implementation	5 (3 women)

Participation

Conditions for participation	Participation is unlimited
How is the Children's University advertised?	
Actively inviting certain groups	Yes, and Informing schoolchildren about all events and programs
Offering incentives to promote regular participation	Yes, offering different kinds of activities - scientific conferences, quiz shows and walking trips
Charges participation fee	Participation is free of any charge

Gender Aspects

Percentage of female participants	Approximately – 50%/50%
Percentage of female lecturers	Approximately – 50%/50%
Subjects/topics are chosen considering gender aspects	No
The Children's University is considering gender aspects concerning the target group	No
Documentation concerning the consideration of gender aspects available	No

