RiHEI

RIHEI RESPONSIBLE AND IMPACTFUL UNIVERSITIES AS SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENTERPRISE CATALYSTS IN GEORGIA NEWSLETTER 5



NEWSLETTER 5

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FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT University of Lodz

TUM int TUM International GmbH The University Company

MARTIN-LUTHER UNIVERSITÄT HALLE-WITTENBERG

KUTAISI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE RIHEI PROJECT NEWSLETTER

This issue provides an update on RiHEI's final implementation phase, with a particular focus on the launch and current uptake of the project's e-learning offer and the participation figures for the Capacity Building Trainings (CBTs) developed for Georgian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

RiHEI's overarching aim remains unchanged: to support the transformation of the Georgian higher education ecosystem into an engine of sustainable and responsible growth, enterprise and job creation by strengthening the links between education, research, innovation and private-sector needs.

In this edition, we summarise the six-module Capacity Building Training (CBT) e-learning offer and present a current participation snapshot, highlighting how the project's digital and educational resources are supporting Georgian HEIs in strengthening their access to European knowledge, capacity-building resources and cooperation opportunities.

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RiHEI

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: Responsible and Impactful Universities as Sustainable Growth and Enterprise Catalysts in Georgia (RiHEI)

Project Duration: 36 Months

Funded By: Erasmus+ Programme, European Union

Co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, this 36-month initiative supports the transformation and modernisation of the Georgian higher education landscape and its closer alignment with relevant European approaches and practices.
This newsletter highlights selected activities implemented to date, current participation data from the Capacity Building Trainings (CBTs), and key outputs supporting the institutional transformation of the participating Georgian universities.

Consortium Partners:

- **University of Łódź (UOL), Poland** - Project Coordinator
- **Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU)**, Germany
- **TUM International GmbH (TUMint)**, Germany
- **Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU),** Georgia
- **Kutaisi International University (KIU)**, Georgia
- **Gori State University (GSU),** Georgia



1. DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY OF THE RIHEI PROJECT

The following simplified development trajectory illustrates how RiHEI has moved from needs identification and capacity development towards training deployment and institutional modernisation:

- **Phase 1: Identification of Challenges and Consortium Formation**
    - During the initial stage, the gap between labour market demands and academic outcomes was evaluated, alongside the existing linkages between industry and academia.
    - Coordinated by the University of Łódź (Poland), a robust international consortium was established, uniting Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), TUM International GmbH (Germany), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Kutaisi International University (KIU), and Gori State University (GSU).
- **Phase 2: Development of Digital Tools and Curricula**
    - This phase saw the establishment of the EU Resource Identification Hub, designed to enhance access to European funding schemes (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, EIT).
    - A specialised six-module Capacity Building Training (CBT) toolkit was developed, covering areas ranging from EU resources and innovation commercialisation to student services, internationalisation and sustainable university transformation.
- **Phase 3: Entrepreneurial University Model**
    - RiHEI's capacity-building approach draws on European frameworks such as HEInnovate and EntreComp to strengthen entrepreneurial university development, technology transfer, innovation support and university–industry cooperation.
- **Phase 4: Structural Transformation**
    - Digital competence development and Quadruple Helix principles form part of the RiHEI capacity-building approach, supporting stronger cooperation between academia, industry, government and civil society.

2. OUTCOMES OF E-LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS (CBT)

Following the launch of the RiHEI e-learning trainings, approximately 1,000 individual users were enrolled across the six CBT modules, with participants able to enrol in between one and six courses.

CBT Statistical Breakdown by Thematic Area:

- CBT1 - Accessing EU resources to improve HEI operational and content quality: **525 course enrolments**
- CBT2 - Innovation commercialisation and regional impact via RRI and young citizen science: **526 course enrolments**
- CBT3 - Public-private investment in HEIs: **344 course enrolments**
- CBT4 - Improving student services & greening campuses: **550 course enrolments**
- CBT5 - Upgrading international relations offices towards European University Alliance values: **425 course enrolments**
- CBT6 - Ecosystem transformation for sustainable and responsible job creation and enterprise: **416 course enrolments**

Total course enrolments across CBT1-CBT6: 2,786. As individual learners could enrol in more than one CBT, this figure includes multiple enrolments by the same user.

Approximately 1,000 individual learners were enrolled in the RiHEI e-learning programme.

RiHEI E-Learning Platform Framework: The six CBT modules constitute the core RiHEI e-learning offer. The wider RiHEI capacity-building content also addresses cross-cutting themes including intellectual property, technology transfer and scouting, entrepreneurial competences and digital competences.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

In its final implementation phase, RiHEI is consolidating a set of outputs and capacity-building mechanisms designed to support the modernisation of the participating Georgian HEIs:

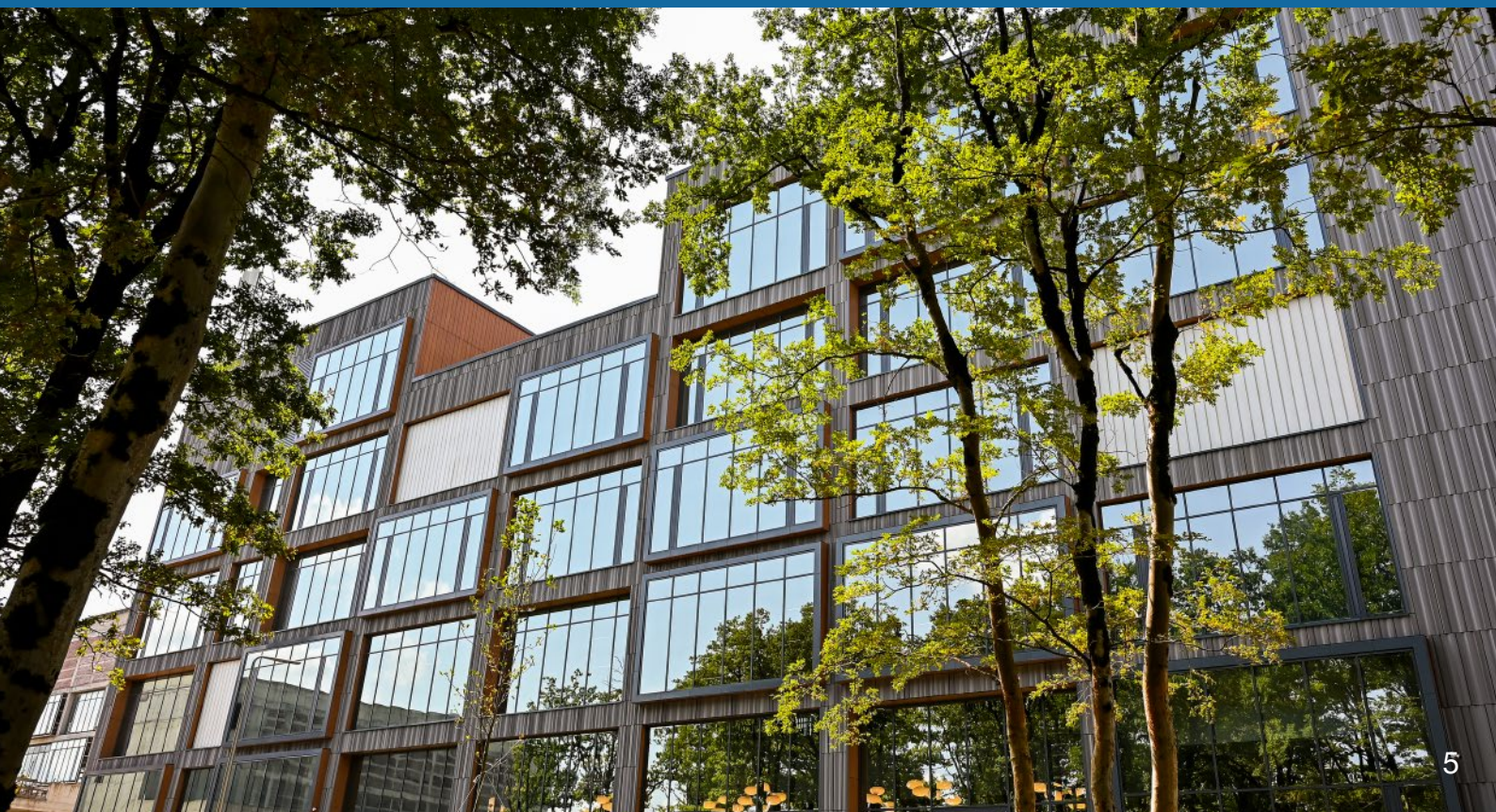
- **Educational Innovation:** The RiHEI microcredential certification framework has been developed to support short, flexible learning pathways linked to the project's capacity-building offer and labour-market-relevant competences.

- **Kutaisi International University (KIU) - Implementation Role:** As one of the three Georgian partner HEIs, KIU has played an important role in the implementation of RiHEI capacity-building and dissemination activities:

  - **Academia–Industry Cooperation:** RiHEI supports stronger links between research, innovation, entrepreneurship and private-sector needs across the participating HEIs.

  - **International Cooperation:** Through the RiHEI consortium, KIU cooperates with TUM International GmbH and the other European partners on university transformation, innovation and capacity-building activities.

  - **Modern Governance Infrastructure:** Utilizing Virtual Data Rooms (VDR), the university supports capacity building in intellectual property management and international project management processes.



4. SUSTAINABILITY AND MULTIPLIER EFFECT

RiHEI is building the foundations for post-project sustainability through three main mechanisms:

- **Human Capital:** The six CBTs are expanding the capacity of academic, administrative and other university stakeholders, while the RiHEI platform is designed to support continued access to learning and mentorship beyond the project period.

- **Digital Assets:** The EU Resource Identification Hub and the e-learning platform are fully operational and prepared to serve future cohorts.

- **Future Horizons:** Cooperation developed among the RiHEI partners can support future joint initiatives and funding applications, including opportunities under Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe.

CONCLUSION & STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

RiHEI is continuing its final implementation activities across the participating universities, with several major capacity-building, modernisation, impact and sustainability actions progressing during the second half of 2026. Current work focuses on completing the e-learning activities, consolidating modernisation recommendations, assessing project impact and strengthening arrangements for the sustainability of RiHEI results beyond the project period.

Through these activities, RiHEI aims to contribute to a Georgian higher education system that combines high-quality education with stronger innovation, societal engagement and sustainable regional impact.

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