Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) Report

07/07/2016

This is our Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) Report on the Implementation of the Principles for Responsible Management Education
Letter of Renewed Commitment

To whom it may concern,

The first university to induct Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Georgia, Caucasus University is committed to the principles of responsible Management Education and strives to develop a learning environment that promotes appropriate corporate and ethical values among the students and alumni.

The report below presents the progress and advancement up to date, in response to challenges and opportunities that Caucasus University faces in attempts to encourage the integral principles of Corporate Social Responsibility in the business and academic circles of Georgia.

With this letter we would like to confirm that we are still committed to the principles of CSR and have made significant advances in that direction.

President of Caucasus University,

Kakha Shengelia

07/07/2016
Tbilisi, Georgia
Introduction

The history of the Caucasus University starts with the Caucasus School of Business (CSB), founded in partnership with Georgia State University (GSU) in Atlanta, U.S.A. in 1998. The university itself was established in 2004 and today, Caucasus University represents one of the most prominent higher educational institutions in the South Caucasus Region, offering high quality education in its ten schools: Business, Law, Media, Technology, Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences, Tourism, Economics and Healthcare, Cinema, and Safety and Security. Of the above mentioned schools, the Caucasus School of Business is the most recognized and has both global significance and far-reaching impact.

With this report Caucasus school of Business renews its adherence to the principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), by declaring its commitment to the PRME and reporting main achievements during the previous months.

Principle 1: We will develop the capacities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy

Caucasus University was the first to introduce the western style higher education in Georgia, following the collapse of Soviet Union, and has since been loyal to its principles. The main way CU faculty can influence the business practices in Georgia is by producing the responsible future managers and business man that comprehend ethical responsibilities of the corporate business. CU is constantly looking for the new improvements and best practices developed by the European educational and corporate circles to stay at the edge of the social and technological development. Being the first University in Georgia to introduce a course on Corporative Social Responsibility (CSR) in 2311 and a course on the Ecology Law, CSB continues teaching CSR in accordance to global standards. CSB strives to provide a number of initiatives and opportunities to students, fostering commitment to civic responsibility, leadership, ethical behavior and integrity in both curricular and extracurricular activities. The examples would include courses on Quality Infrastructure, Total Quality Management and Internal Audit.

Another important venue would be the various events organized by CU and its students that promote CSR both to students and to the corporate world at large.
CSB continues its cooperation with representatives of JSC Alliance Group Holding which provides scholarships for those students who successfully pass the course “Corporate Social responsibility” under the framework of the project. Alliance Group regularly conducts informational meetings with CSB students and organizes award ceremonies for winners.

Students and faculty provided funds, assistance and volunteers during the June 13 tragedy in 2015 when the flood leads to widespread destruction and loss of life in Tbilisi. Due to extreme rains the water flooded unused waterway, washing out the fundament of residential buildings and the city Zoo, drowning people and setting dangerous animals into the city, causing farther deaths. The assistance provided by the CU included funds, appropriate foods, cloths and materials (including university brand) and personal help from both students and faculty.

Under the guidance of the University students’ self-government (Student Union) and in cooperation with the foundation “Iavnana” funds were gathered both by CU and various sponsors to provide support to socially unprotected families. The university had also organized a corporate funded charity soup kitchen, staffed by students, on Easter and CU students participated in the environmental challenge, clearing up the pollution on Lisi Lake in Tbilisi. Charity evening was also organized for both staff and students to support the children suffering from autism and handicapped. The evening was attended by the CSB faculty, staff and students.

The project “Students Supporting Social Entrepreneurship” that takes a form of annual competitions, aiming to popularize the concept of ‘Social Entrepreneurship’ and increase the involvement of the students in it’s development.

The project allows for increasing the expertise of students and providing the with practical experience. Furthermore, the project broadens the interests and knowledge of students by allowing them to interact with various entrepreneurial organizations. Through the project, students get the chance to assist various entrepreneurs in overcoming challenges, establish contacts and receive various prizes, financing and recognition. Project participants are as follows: The European Fund, Eurasian Collaboration Fund, Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia and Social Entrepreneurships: ‘Babale’, ‘Reas Tsikvebi’, ‘Ilorta’, ‘Hera’, ‘Bioveli’, ‘Auto Life’. Student teams from CU had continuously participated in annual competitions since 2012, winning in years 2014 and 2016, with projects aiming to assists the socially vulnerable and limited liability groups in Georgia.
Principle 2: We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

The research done by CU and other parties in the recent years indicates that the business environment in Georgia is developing, with the existing fields stabilizing and new opportunities opening. As studies indicate, entrepreneurship, engineering and agriculture are the fields that are emerging in force. As such, the interest in business education in corresponding spheres is also increasing, with business becoming more and more attractive to the freshman and graduates alike. Correspondingly, Corporate Social responsibility becomes more and more important for Geogrian business companies striving to establish fruitful cooperation with western companies, introduce their products to foreign market and preserve the ecology in Georgia.

As one of the leading educational institutions in the region, CSB sees it paramount to promptly respond to the new development and updates its CSR syllabuses/courses according to latest developments, providing students with a required skills and knowledge, specializing in management decision-making and leadership. Thus, the rates of enrolment in the Business school and employability of CSB graduates significantly increase from year-to-year. Year 2015 was particularly impressive as the student intake skyrocketed for the CU in general and CSB in particular. The course of Corporate Social Responsibility continues to be an integral part of student curricula from year to year.
Principle 3: *We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environment that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.*

Taking into account the lack of required textbooks in Georgian language, Caucasus University Lecturer of CSR, Ms. Lela Khoferia, with the support of CSB Faculty and Center for Strategic Research and Development, had developed and since updated a textbook on Corporate Social Responsibility. The book discusses different aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility and clarifies not only concept, terms, scientific theories, main instruments/channels of regulations and International Practice, but also offers an in depth review of specific themes and components, related to CSR and its establishment and realization in an organization. The manual is based both on the existing scientific literature in the field and the results of local research, taking into account social-political, economic and legal practices and experience of Georgian companies. This textbook had been an integral part of CSR curriculum. Currently CSB is in the process of developing new materials and curricula to address the problems of the CSR better.

The textbook is intended for the students business HEI. Taking into account the lack of required literature locally, it will have a great impact on the development of CSR within Georgian business companies, civil organizations and expert agencies operating in Georgia. The book is fully integrated in learning process at CU and CSB.

Principle 4: *We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic values.*

Scientific Department is the one that manages and conducts the bulk of conceptual ad empirical research at the Caucasus University. This academic research department aims to analyze the priorities and conduct the research to advance the comprehension of the role and impact of corporate business on the society and environment, developing managerial solutions to address the arising problems.

Scientific Department is active involved in collaboration with various international and local organizations, conducting research as part of many global projects. The activities of the department also include the organizations of annual scientific and various international conferences that attract experts from all over the world.
The programs and projects of scientific importance that were vital to the development of the CSR goals at Caucasus University include:

- EU International Cooperation FP-7 project “Perfection of Scientific Work at Universities and the Establishment of International Cooperation in the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia”;
- INTAS’s “Scientific Research and Development, Technological and Innovative Direction”; via Hellenic Aid project “KOMNINOI - Modernization of Georgian Legislation and Training for Georgian Public Officials and Judges”;
- Mason University’s project “Investigating Organized Crime and Corruption in Georgia”, Open Society Georgia Foundation project “East-East”.
- LA MANCHE Project “Leading and Managing Charge in Higher Education”, TEMPUS IV Program of European Commission
- Other important projects, in which CU participates, are funded by USAID, TACIS, DFID, the World Bank and UNDP. By participating in the aforementioned and many other projects, the researches of CU have gained the wide experience needed for training public officials and carrying out reforms.
- Erasmus Mundus Project-HUMERIA, cooperation in the fields of Humanities, Education, research, International Relations and Arts between EU and ENPI HEIs.

List of all on-going projects:

- Erasmus+ “Creation of the Graduate Curricula in Peace Studies in Georgia”
- Erasmus+ “Investing in Entrepreneurial Universities in Caucasus and Central Asia (EUCA-INVEST)”
- Erasmus+ “Advocacy Establishment for Students through Ombudsman Position”
- TEMPUS Project- "European Integration and Employment Relations", EIGER (Masters Degree Program in Social Science)
- TEMPUS Project: QA-TNE: Promoting quality and recognition of transnational education in Armenia and Georgia
- Nuffic - TMT Programme - "Building a Sustainable Agri-business Base at the Caucasus School of Business at the Caucasus University"
To summarize the works of CU academics and present their findings to the scientific community Scientific Department publishes “The Collection of Scientific works of Caucasus University Lecturers”. All research done by the academics of the CU as well as the results of conferences and other scientifically important news are published within this periodical.

**Principle 5: We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly approaches to meeting these challenges.**

To become a successful member of the corporate world, CSB is committed to development professional networks with scientific/educational institutions and leading business organizations, not only in Georgia but also worldwide.

Thanks to CSB’s well-developed network, companies in Georgia benefit from its students and alumni – trained undergraduate and graduate employee candidates. CSB is considered as a main source of human resources in Georgian labor market. Moreover, companies often address CSB for in-service training and expert consultations. At the same time, CSB benefits from cooperation with different companies and government organizations as they provide internship and employment opportunities to students and graduates. Career Development Office contributes to CSB’s link with the corporate world by establishing strong contacts between Georgian and international employers. The mentioned connections help to extend knowledge of labor market needs and challenges to meet social and environmental responsibilities and, in addition, CSB strengthens its corporate connections by its memberships in various international organizations.

**Principle 6: We will facilitate and support dialogue and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.**

As a part of its constant advancement and transformative process, CU routinely invites lecturers and professionals from its affiliated organizations. Internationally qualified lecturers and the leading professionals deliver lectures and familiarize students with both national and global market demands and opportunities.

Various workshops and lectures through the years are open to all interested parties, including students, staff and alumni. The professionals working at CU itself also deliver free lectures open to all. The staff also
participates in various international training processes to constantly hone their competence and stay up to date with the recent educational developments.

Besides, based on the partnership memorandums signed with various institutions, CU cooperates with public institutions, private companies, NGOs, public/private schools, Georgian and International universities and International organizations. To be more precise, CU cooperates with approximately 150 public/private schools, has student and staff exchange programs with 81 International Universities in 35 Countries and works with more than 100 Public institutions, Private companies, International organizations and NGOs.

**Future Plans:**

To continuously advance the school, stay at the top of educational market in Caucasus and fulfill its mission while increasing the value of its graduates for the employers CSB plans to promote following improvements:

- Further increase research capabilities and scholarly publications through both internal and external funding.
- Strengthen Academic programs both through continuous self-assessment and increase of staff quality according to the best global practices available.
- Continue developing international partnerships with various institutes and universities.
- Continue existing involvement of the students and faculty in CSR related activities and projects and promote new ways to raise awareness of PRME in Georgia.