



Within the framework of the "Creative Spark" project, a study visit was held in the UK

Georgian Technical University, as a partner institution, in a collaboration with Keele University, is participating in British Council Grant Program: "Creative Spark: Higher Education Enterprise Program" 2nd years' project. Within the framework of the mentioned project, in accordance with the action plan, on March 1-8, Associate Professor Boris Gitolendia, a Project Management Team Leader at GTU (status in Project – Lead Operational Manager), paid a study visit to Keele University.

The study visit was quite busy and included a variety of activities, including business and official meetings, presentations, observation practices, workshops, intensive training sessions and cultural activities. The purpose of the whole study visit was to get acquainted with the best British practice, and to study for a further implementation of it within the competence of GTU as a project beneficiary institution.

During the visit, at the University of Keele, were held business meetings with the Project Coordination Group, where they discussed the implemented activities and future events envisaged by the project action plan; some specific steps has been outlined to get done in the frame of the 2nd year project; the interim report of the project was summarized and relevant documentations were prepared.



Throughout the visit, has been held an official meeting with the Dean of the School of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Keele, Professor Peter Andras, who is also the institutional coordinator of the "Creative Spark" at the Keele University. Also were held workshops with representatives of the academic community at the Innovation and Technology Hub of the University of Keele, and one-day consultative workshops were held around the Entrepreneurship for Engineers syllabus. It has to be mentioned, that the preparation of the issue as a pilot program is planned within the framework of the 2nd year of the project. The syllabus is based on UK's best practices and involves participation of both academic community and business sector, who are actively collaborating with the Innovation and Technology Hub of Keele University.



Was organized a one-day observational learning practice for the GTU's representative by the hosts, at the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce - UK, where were held informational and practical meetings with the Chamber's Steering Group. The structure, model and specifics of management of the Chamber of Commerce were discussed in detail. During the meeting was also discussed the future prospects of further cooperation and the possibilities of involving persons of relevant competences. (We note here that, the Chamber of Commerce in the UK is one of the largest and most capable institutions in coordination with the UK Government and the business sector on a large scale in terms of business development and improvement of the trade-entrepreneurial ecosystem).



During the study visit, the GTU representative attended a two-day 16-hour intensive training module on Marketing and Sales for Success at the local Mercia Center for Innovation Leadership - MCIL Training Program, on "Development Program for SME Business Leaders", which was held within the framework of the European Union funded program. Upon completion of the training course, participants were awarded with relevant certificates.



A study visit can be described as a successful, varied and productive journey. In order to further disseminating the results of the visit and sharing its best practices, the GTU will conduct extensive reports within the framework of 2nd year's project and will share this knowledge throughout business meetings, presentations and other proven methods to the mostly interested audience.



It has to be noted that, “Creative Spark” is a five-year initiative to support international university and institutional partnerships to develop enterprise skills and creative economy across seven countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan), South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia) and Ukraine through UK support. For more information visit: <https://www.britishcouncil.ge/programmes/education/creative-spark>

The project is being implemented by GTU's International Relations and Standards Office, the project is coordinated by GTU's Commercialization Department. The main partner of the project is GTU's Student Self-Government and the Department of Social Affairs, Sports and Culture. The project is organized by GTU Innovation Centre.