

Georgian-German Science Bridge (GGSB)

A Model for Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The Georgian-German Science Bridge (GGSB) was initiated to act as an umbrella encompassing the multitude of activities between a consortium of Georgian universities (AUG, GTU, ISU, KIU and TSU) and institutes of Forschungszentrum Jülich (IEK, INM, IKP, JCNS, IBG, ZEA). The objective of the GGSB is to connect scientists from both countries via common research projects and students through education and exchange programs, thus fostering mutual Georgian-German cultural relationships.

SMART|Lab Concept

A major new component of GGSB, so-called SMART|Labs, whereas SMART means Science, Medicine, Applied Research and Technology, were proposed for outstanding young, well-educated scientists, allowing them to return to their home country. SMART|Labs will support the further development of the Georgian science system and are therefore funded by the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science; they involve the establishment of laboratory centers at Georgian universities for jointly defined scientific projects. The SMART|Labs are equipped with modern instrumentation by the partners to effectively carry out their activities and meet their (international) objectives within the project. Thematically differently oriented SMART|Labs will be internally linked in order to make best use of synergies at all levels, leading to interdisciplinary SMART|Hubs.

Milestones

- 1992 First contacts between IKP of KFA/FZJ Jülich (O.W. Schult) and HEPI TSU (M. Nioradze)
- 2004 1st "Caucasian/Georgian-German School and Workshop in Hadron Physics" in Tbilisi; start of GGSB
- 2011 Student exchange program between Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSF) and FZJ
- 2013 1st "Autumn Lectures" at Georgian Technical University (GTU); agreement on equipment exchanges
- 2014 2nd round of the SRNSF-FZJ fellowship program; **10 years of GGSB**
- 2015 Delivery of laboratory equipment from FZJ to GTU; 2nd "Autumn Lectures" at GTU
- 2016 Visit of the Georgian Ministry delegation to FZJ, 1st SMART|EDM_Lab established at TSU
- 2017 2nd SMART|AtmoSim_Lab at TSU opened; Quali-Start-up lectures for Georgian students in Jülich
- 2018 Visit of Jülich delegation in Tbilisi – Celebration event of 100th Anniversary of TSU
Visit of a Georgian Science Ministry delegation to FZJ and Aachen, signing LoI for JuLab project
Presentation of GGSB project at Frankfurt Book Fair (October 10 – 14) (Georgia "Guest of Honor")
- 2019 Participation in opening ceremony of KIU, GGSB Day part of the Science and Innovation Festival in Tbilisi
1st workshop for teachers and pupils in Tbilisi (JuLab project)
2nd Quali-Start-up lectures for Georgian students in Jülich (SRNSFG exchange program)

Planned events for 2020

- Spring** Intended visit of a German delegation (comprising BMBF, FZJ, RWTH, ...) to Georgia
- September 7 – 12** 9th Georgian-German School and Workshop in Basic Science (GGSWBS'20)

Vision

One GGSB vision is to create (a) SMART|Hub(s) comprising thematically different SMART|Labs in order to exploit possible synergies and to mirror partly the structure of FZJ in Georgia. Recently the subject of GGSB was focused towards one of the main Grand Challenges facing society ("Health as a Global Challenge – Contributions by the GGSB") – this project is called GGSB-PLUS. It is also intended to involve additional partners within Germany and (possibly) Caucasian countries to extend the Georgian-German Science Bridge (GGSB) to a Caucasian-German Science Bridge (CGSB). Finally, it is planned to support the education of talented Georgian students before entering the universities by a special training concept together with and along the lines of the JuLab of FZJ.