WIST CIS .

Information Society Technologies
Programme (IST)
Accompanying Measure

Information Society

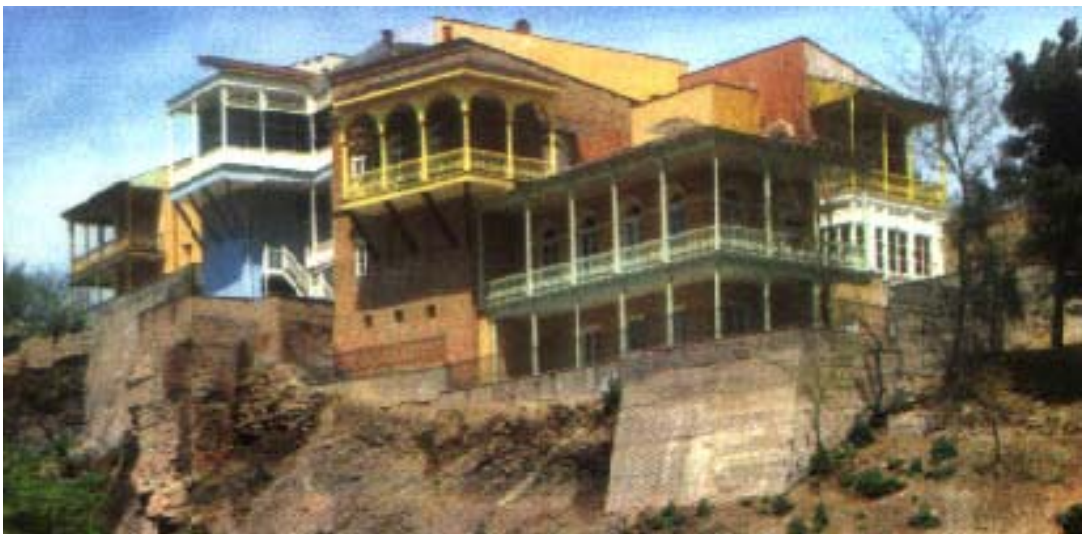|	
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Project Co-coordinator:	**J. Bonnin (EDNES)**
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WISTCIS workshop

"The IST Program and e-Government"

May 29-30, 2003
Tbilisi, Georgia

Funded by Information Society Technologies Programme of the EU

Organized by Business Communication Centre BCC-Tbilisi in the framework of the project WISTCIS co-ordinated by EDNES, France, and in cooperation with Georgian State Department of Information Technologies

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1.   Workshop background

1.1. Introduction

WISTCIS project, as its key action, has a number of practical local workshops and conferences in the CIS countries devoted to presentation and implementation of various telematics products development in Europe by IST programme and other initiatives. The focus of this workshop is teleworking. The reported workshop in Tbilisi was the fifth in this line after successful kick-off conference in Kiev (Ukraine) and workshops in Kishinev (Moldova), Baku (Azerbaijan) and Yerevan (Armenia).

In accordance with WISTCIS work plan (see http://www.ednes.org/wistcis/), the workshop "The IST Program and e-Government" was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in May 29-30, 2003.

The event was funded by the Information Society Technologies Programme of the European Union. The main organisers of Tbilisi workshop were the project coordinator association "Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange" (EDNES, Strasbourg, France) and Company Business Communication Centre (BCC-Tbilisi) in cooperation with Georgian State Department of Information Technologies. The latter was the main Georgian partner of BCC-Tbilisi at the preparatory period and the main scientific actor and evaluator of the workshop.

Due to real serious interest of Georgian Government toward the given event many governmental institutions, agencies, business companies and universities were activity involved in the workshop.

1.2. Grounds for the workshop organisation and running

The workshop preparation actions started after the contract between Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange (EDNES) and Business Communication Centre (BCC-Tbilisi) was signed. The contract became the necessary ground for activation of the preparatory stage of organization of WISTCIS workshop in Georgia.

Particularly, between contractors it was agreed that Business Communication Centre (BCC-Tbilisi) will:

a) Carry out the duties of subcontractor to EDNES as defined in the project "New Methods of Working for Information Society Technologies Programme Promotion to Commonwealth of Independent States (WISTCIS)", executed by EDNES on behalf of the EC DG IST, including:

  ➢ Development of functions, structure and content of Georgian WISTCIS Information Dissemination Centre (IDC) in Business Communication Centre (BCC-Tbilisi) and national WISTCIS IDC Web-site;

  ➢ Submitting to EDNES a report on this matter and an article to WISTCIS Newsletter Vol. 3;

  ➢ Development of plan of establishment a networking channel through which virtual presence toolkits will be efficiently operational to communicate with EDNES offices in Strasbourg and Moscow, PwC office in the Hague, Ulm University and the CIS WISTCIS participants;

b) Equip Tbilisi WISTCIS Information Dissemination Centre (IDC) with a workstation capable to operate in virtual presence environment (CoBrow/VPS

software). Using this workstation ensure regular real time participation of Tbilisi IDC in WISTCIS teleworking meetings with European and CIS partners;

c) Organise and run WISTCIS workshop "The IST Program and e-Government" in Tbilisi, Georgia on 29-30 May, 2003.

2. Main goals and objectives of Tbilisi WISTCIS workshop

The regional South-Caucasian workshop "The IST Program and e-Government" was aimed at strengthening commercial, scientific and technological co-operation between the European Union and Georgia (South-Caucasian CIS countries in general) in the field of IT application to new methods of work. Following the project work plan goals of the workshop were:

- increase awareness about the experienced and newly developed telecommunication and teleworking tools for the establishing and running of fruitful business between EU and CIS countries;

- learn more about the ways of practical implementation of joint research and commercial activities between European and CIS companies in the framework of the IST programme of the EU;

- present participants' ideas and achievements, which would be carefully documented for further development and agreement of co-operation between those participants wishing to implement possible future projects. A list enumerating agreements signed will be published at the WISTCIS Web-site for further development and submission to the future IST Programme and local or regional funding sources;

- find the solutions of co-operation in business and research through Internet and other networks for participants of the workshop.

The workshop objective was to bring together experts and specialists in IT from the South Caucasus for debating the need for national information policies and for exchanging information and ideas on practical solutions in creating the best environment for e-government development in the region.

The workshop objectives were:

- establish collaboration agreements between European, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijan and Russian participants;

- estimate the current state of e-government in the Region;

- discuss practical ways of development of new methods of work;

- identify major technological, social and legal issues of e-government;

- stimulate the use of e-government;

- present final version of WISTCIS training courses;

- present new version of Virtual Presence System developed together by Ulm University (Germany) and Centre of Geophysical Data Studies and Telematics Applications (Moscow, Russia).

The outcomes of the conference are:

- increased awareness of telematics applications, new methods of work, and new business models in the South-Caucasus;

- creation of a platform for co-operation between telematics application providers and users in the Region;

- establishment of contacts of the Region's IT specialists with European and CIS partners, and giving birth to an idea of further joint work;

- revealing legal and other barriers in the way of e-government development in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia;

- demonstration of European IST projects to relevant Georgian audience;

- organisation of round-table to encourage establishment of cooperation agreements between EU and Georgian potential partners;

- discussion on preparation of new project proposals for FP6.

The workshop presented a unique opportunity for Georgian and European companies, scientific and educational communities to exchange successful innovative experiences to improve scientific and technological research and initiate further steps towards co-operation in IST applications.

3.   The workshop programme overview

The venue of WISTCIS workshop "The IST Program and e-Government" in Tbilisi was Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The workshop was opened in the Conference Hall, on 29 of May 2003

The workshop opening: conference-hall of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The presentations were grouped into five thematic sessions. The round table session concluded the previous working sessions. The topics of thematic sessions were:

- Session 1. "IST Programme and IT Development in Georgia"

- Session 2. "Project WISTCIS and State of the Art in Caucasus"

- Session 3. "Teleworking Algorithmic Resources"

- Session 4. "IST Projects and Other European IT Initiatives"

- Session 5. "eGovernment: Applications in Georgia"

WISTCIS Newsletter Vol.3 was published in English and Russian by the time of the workshop. The newsletters were widely disseminated at the workshop. The content was met with real interest and highly evaluated by the workshop participants.

The whole collection of abstracts of the presentations is given in the Annex 4.

The opening session started by the welcoming remarks of Executive Chairman of State Department of Informatisation Mr. Irakli Baramidze and EDNES President Prof. Jean Bonnin. Irakli Baramidze stressed important role of the project WISTCIS in general and the workshop in Tbilisi in particular for promotion of Information Society Technologies Programme to Georgian business, telematics and research communities. The speaker noted the fact that telematics products and networking technologies are actively developing in Georgia itself. That is why the workshop is especially timely and helpful in Georgia. The speaker pointed out significant role of IST Programme support in dissemination of the newest achievements in the field of telematics applications and products. Special thanks were addressed to European Commission, EDNES and local organisers of the event.

Prof. J. Bonnin presented the goals and objectives of WISTCIS. He focused on its implementation by the project as far as Caucasian CIS countries are concerned. J. Bonnin also referred to WISTCIS background and history, mentioned EU TAP project STACCIS that was successfully implemented by UNESCO and EDNES in Georgia and other participating countries.

The first plenary session of the workshop was focused on the European Commission Information Society Technologies Programme and IT development in Georgia. The main speakers of plenary session were Dr O. Shatberashvili (Director of Georgian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information TECHINFORMI, Georgia), Dr. A. Beriozko (EDNES, Russia), N. Chkhenkeli (USA Ambassy Programme, Georgia), Dr. Z. Kirtava (National Information Learning Centre NILC, Georgia, Director), J-J. Royer (CODATA, France), Dr. T. Kancheli (Georgian Development Gateway).

Dr. Shatberashvili presented the computerised tools developed in TECHINFORMI for R&D activity management in Georgia. Among them are: Georgian Science Index, concept of the structure and functioning of Georgian patent system, concept of information support of Georgian government and parliament, concept of registration (accounting) of R&D reports and dissertations accomplished in Georgia, concept of development of techno parks in Georgia, concept of development of free economic zones in Georgia, Draft Law on Scientific and Technological Information.

In the next presentation Dr. A. Beriozko (EDNES, Russia) gave an overview of the most important elements of FP6 and possible FP6 grants applicable to Georgia and to CIS Caucasian countries in general.

Workshop session

Dr. Z. Kirtava (NILC, Georgia) in his presentation entitled "Still Image for Interventional Cardiology – Time- and Cost-effective Approach" demonstrated telecardiography system successfully being used at the Emergency Cardiology Centre (ECC) in Tbilisi. The system is designed to provide Internet-based consultancy with its partner Western clinics from Germany, US and Turkey concerning the optimal strategy for patient treatment. The speaker emphasised outcomes of teleconsultancy. During two years of its implementation, angiograms of 62 patients (4-12 images per patient) were sent for teleconsultation. In 47 cases the optimal intervention was suggested to be performed at ECC, and 14 patients were advised to apply to Western clinics for more serious surgery.

Mrs. Nino Chkhenkeli, Director of Information Resource Centre (US Embassy, Tbilisi), in her presentation described possibilities of using free Internet Resources in Georgia. The most useful are the sources of the access to US Governmental publications:

- Federal Depositary Library Program (FDLP) administered by Government Printing Office (GPO) – the American public's primary source of free access to federal government information;

- Electronic Information Dissemination, which has become a key component of the FDLP (http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess/);

- Electronic Freedom of Information Act (E-FOIA, 1996) contributed to creation of the US federal e-government.

In the next presentation Mr. J-J. Royer (CODATA, France) described International non-governmental organisation CODATA and its activities. CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology, is interdisciplinary Scientific Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). The objectives of CODATA are:

- improvement of the quality and accessibility of data, as well as the methods by which data are acquired, managed, analysed and evaluated, with a particular emphasis on developing countries;

- facilitation of international cooperation among those collecting, organising and using data;

- promotion of an increased awareness in the scientific and technical community of the importance of these activities;

- consideration of data access and intellectual property issues.

In short, the reason for CODATA is to help foster and advance science and technology through developing and sharing knowledge about data and the activities that work with data.

As a result of the event Georgian Academy of Sciences made decision to join CODATA as an official member.

Dr. T. Kancheli (Director of Georgian Development Gateway Union) in his presentation described the project "Next Stage of the Georgia Development Gateway". The mission of the Georgia Development Gateway (GeDG) is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction by reducing the digital divide that separates Georgia and industrialised countries. The goal of GeDG is to support e-development in Georgia, and specifically, as one of its components, create a highly integrated and comprehensive Internet portal to become a part of the Georgian IT network, including information databases, products, services and solutions for all sectors of Georgian and international communities: government, domestic private sector, donors, civil society, international organisations, and domestic constituencies.

The next thematic session was entitled "IST Projects and Other European IT Initiatives". Numerous IST projects (TELESOL, TRISTAN-EAST, TELEBALT,

AEGIS, UsabilityNet, Presence Awareness Service (former Virtual Presence System), eForum, eEurope Awards, SmartGov, Designed Internet Solutions) were presented at the session. A. Gvishiani presented in details the project TELESOL "Telework Solutions for Promotion of EU Cooperation in Business and Research with the Commonwealth of Independent States". The project TELEBALT "Teleworking as a Tool for Information Society Technologies Programme Promotion to Baltic States" was presented by Dr. A. Beriozko. TELEBALT disseminates and promotes IST Programme products and results to three Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) by fast and efficient dissemination and awareness actions targeted at Baltic countries as the states newly associated to European Union. The presentation allowed to introduce to Georgian audience the situation with telematics development in Baltic States.

The second presentation "Usability Net: Case studies and resources to support usability" was made by Mr. Nigel Bevan (Serco Usability Services, UK). It described current results of outgoing IST project UsabilityNet. The questions raised in this talk concerned usability matters. The case studies show potential benefits that can be gained by adopting user centred methods. Design and development has traditionally been focused on achieving technical excellence rather than meeting user and business needs. Usability is thus a key determinant of e-business success. The EU UsabilityNet project has established a network to disseminate information on good practices in user centred design to EU projects, managers and usability practitioners.

The title of Dr. G. Kochoradze's (Tbilisi State University) presentation was "The trends of the EC TRISTAN-EAST project and it's role in IT projects development in Georgia". The project TRISTAN-EAST continues the network character of collaboration between EU and NIS countries NCPs and unites 18 countries, from which five are Member States (France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Austria), Israel and the countries from former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Albania). In such way the project is well balanced with relevant technical expertise and marks out with its strong presence in Europe and in the NIS. The overall objective of TRISTAN-EAST is to enable a wide participation of NIS organisations in the Sixth Framework Programme of the EU and to direct them towards the e-Europe initiatives and the European Research Area.

The overview of some IST and non-IST projects devoted to e-government was done by Mr. A. Soloviev (EDNES, Russia) in his presentation "eGovernment tools on Internet". Among IST projects, the speaker emphasised the projects e-Forum, eEurope Awards and SmartGov. Very useful for specialists involved in designing e-government tools are Internet links to national eGovernment services of the Member States of the EU and other countries. These links are located at the Web-page of "The EU on-line: Information Society".

In the next presentation M. Khoshtaria (International Alliance of Independent Journalists) told about realisation of the Eurasia Foundation project "Economy and Journalism" in the South Caucasian States. "Economy and Journalism" regional project sponsored by Eurasia Foundation due to financial resources provided by USAID is directed to teaching students of different colleges and universities journalistic methodologies and techniques, as well as to development of qualification of journalists who cover economic issues concerning Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The main participants of the project are: NGO "TEAM Research Centre" of Armenia, Association of Women-Journalists of Azerbaijan and Union of Independent Journalists of Georgia. In the beginning of 2002 the project participants started to issue in Internet a joint electronic weekly newsletter "Economy of the South Caucasus" devoted to enlightenment of main economic and financial processes of each of the three states, and

to the perspectives of economic cooperation in the region as a whole. Internet publishing of the newsletter was implemented on the basis of BCC-Tbilisi.

After the coffee break on the same day, the third thematic session "eGovernment: Applications in Georgia" took place. The session presentations were devoted to actual problems of establishment and utilisation of e-government tools in Georgia.

Current situation on developing and implementation of e-government tools in Georgia was described by Mr. K. Demetrashvili (UNDP Government of Georgia, Team Leader) in his presentation "Computerized Administration of Georgian Government and State Chancellery".

The next presentation made by Ms. Julia Kharashvili (UNV) was devoted to the subject "IST Programme and New Approach to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Assistance". The objectives of the new approach are: partnership among UN Agencies and donors; participation of Government – transferring of programme ownership to the Government; conducting specific IDP related assessments; the Georgian Self Reliance Fund; recognise the right to safe return; recognise the right to equal treatment of IDP and advocates for the same rights; foster the self-sufficiency of IDP; integration into host community.

The next speakers of the session Ms. A. Mikadze and Mr. K. Esebua (Council for ICT) in their presentation "E-government development. Recommendations for Georgia" introduced the model "Governments Transforming Through eGovernment Projects". They emphasised five elements of successful e-government transformation: Process Reform; Leadership; Strategic Investment; Collaboration; Civic Engagement.

The next day (May 30) the workshop started with thematic session "Project WISTCIS and State of the Art in Caucasus". The following presentations were made:

- A. Gvishiani, A. Soloviev "The project WISTCIS: state of the art"
- L. Chobanyan (BCC-Tbilisi, Georgia) "The project WISTCIS development in Georgia";
- T. Babayev (Training Centre, Azerbaijan) "E-Readiness in Azerbaijan";
- L. Grigoryan (Arminco, Armenia) "Realisation of the project WISTCIS in Armenia";
- G. Sargsyan (Armenian Development Gateway, Armenia) "Collaboration results in the framework of the project WISTCIS".

WISTCIS was presented in details to the Georgian audience. The presentations described the project content, background, consortium, the project work packages, state of the art and prospective. Special attention was paid to the project events and publications. The project deliverables were disseminated at the workshop along with WISTCIS Newsletter Vol. 2 and Vol. 3. The further development of the system of Information Dissemination Centres and its Web-sites deployed in Georgia and the other six CIS countries was also discussed.

In the framework of the session Mr. Edwin de Vries (PROBUS, the Nehterlands) presented the WISTCIS training course on the EU and IST.

"Presence Awareness Service: collaborative browsing for EU-CIS teamwork at "WISTCIS on the Web" system" was presented by Mr. A. Soloviev (EDNES, Russia).

The last thematic session was "Teleworking Algorithmic Resources". The session was aimed at presentation of results of telematics applications in natural hazard research and monitoring. Seven reports were given at the session:

1) A. Gvishiani "Teleworking Algorithmic Resource and geophysical applications";

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2) J. Bonnin, Z. Javakhishvili "Seismic Risk in Large Cities of Caucasus: NATO project";

3) T. Chelidze "NATO SfP-974320 Seismic Risk in Large Cities of Caucasus. Tools for Risk Management – SeRiCiCau" (main objectives, state of art, future plans);

4) Z. Javakhishvili "Seismicity and Seismic Hazard of Tbilisi. Case Study of Tbilisi Earthquake of April 25, 2002 – Seismological Aspects";

5) "I. Timchenko, M. Otinashvili, G. Lomidze "Case Study of April 25, 2002 Earthquake Epicentre in Tbilisi, Georgia: Ingeneering Consequences and Site Effects";

6) M. Elashvili, T. Godoladze "GIS Technology in Hazard and Risk Assessment";

7) A. Soloviev, F. Cornet "AEGIS: Ability Enlargement for Geophysicists and Information technologies Specialists (IST project)".

The workshop was finalised with the round table discussion. It was devoted to possible new project proposals to FP6 and other relevant EU programmes. The principal goal of the discussion was to evaluate suggestions of Georgian participants and to establish their contacts with potential EU partners.

The results of the discussion have been concluded in 35 preliminary agreements between the EU, Georgian, Armenian, Russian, Azerbaijan institutions, companies and individuals participated in the workshop.

On 30 May the participants of the workshop were invited to Tbilisi sightseeing tour. They were also provided with an opportunity to visit Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia.

The workshop participants in old Tbilisi (from left to right): E. De Vries (PROBUS, the Netherlands), L. Grigoryan (Arminco Ltd., Armenia), A. Soloviev (EDNES, Russia), A. Beriozko (EDNES, Russia), G. Sargsyan (Armenian Development Gateway, Armenia), L. Chobanyan (BCC-Tbilisi, Georgia), N. Bevan (Serco Usability Services, England), A. Gvishiani (EDNES, Russia), J. Bonnin (EDNES, France)

4. Participants of the event

Numerous CIS countries organisations were informed about the workshop in Tbilisi. As a result, representatives from Georgia, Russia and Ukraine actively participated in the meeting. Speakers from European countries (France, Great Britain and the Netherlands) took part in the meeting. Different organisations and individuals from Georgia were widely represented at the workshop. Representatives of Georgian governmental bodies on the one hand and research and educational institutions on the other formed the audience. The group included teachers, postgraduate and graduate students of Georgian universities, professors and teachers, researches, delegates from business enterprises. Numerous IST and other telematics projects that went on in collaboration between EU and CIS countries were presented at the workshop. Representatives of the IST projects as well as of the other EU telematics initiatives were the invited speakers. The full list of the workshop participants is given in Annex 3.

The audience of the workshop also included some people who attended the plenary and thematic sessions of the workshop, but were not officially registered as participants. As a result of this the total number of individuals who attended the workshop exceeded 100 persons. Professionally, the audience included:

- policy makers and governmental administration representatives;
- technology suppliers, telecommunication operators, Internet providers;
- e-commerce and e-work associations;
- tourism organizations and associations;
- research scientists;
- software vendors;
- businessmen and entrepreneurs;
- service providers;
- business development managers;
- university professors and teachers, students involved in distant education and training;
- scientific and educational funds and association delegates;
- agricultural managers;
- librarians.

Programme Committee included:

- Co-chairman – Mr. D. Tarkhan-Mouravi (Georgian State Department of Information Technologies);
- Co-chairman – Prof. Jean Bonnin (EDNES, President);
- Members:
  - ➢ Jacques Babot (Head of E-work sector, European Commission);
  - ➢ Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (EDNES, Vice-president);
  - ➢ Mr. Oleg Shatberashvili (Georgian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information);
  - ➢ Mr. Leri Gigineishvili (Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications, Georgia);
  - ➢ Kakha Demetrashvili (UNDP Government of Georgia);
  - ➢ Levan Berdzenishvili (Georgian State National Library).

Organizing Committee included:

- Levon Chobanyan (BCC-Tbilisi);
- Vazha Magradze (BCC-Tbilisi);
- Tatiana Shuliakovskaya (EDNES, Russia);
- Anatoly Soloviev (EDNES, Russia).

5. Results

The following IST projects were presented at the workshop: UsabilityNet, TELEBALT, TELESOL, TRISTAN-EAST, VPS (Presence Awareness Service), e-Forum, eEurope Awards, SmartGov, AEGIS.

The following preliminary agreements were concluded:

	Organizations	Proposed themes of collaboration
1	Serco Usability Services Business Communication Centre – Tbilisi	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work, employment and social exclusion e-work and mobility Distant training and education
2	Council for ICT EDNES, Russia	e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work, employment and social exclusion Distant training and education Telemedicine
3	Institute of Structural Mechanics and Seismic Stability GEOGRAPHIC	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects
4	Training Centre, Azerbaijan Georgian Internet Academy	e-work and business e-work, legal and social aspects e-work, employment and social exclusion Distant training and education Telemedicine
5	Serco Usability Services State Department of Informatisation	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems New organization at work e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
6	EDNES, Russia TECHINFORMI	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work and mobility Distant training and education
7	Institute of Geophysics Institute of Structural Mechanics and Seismic Stability	e-work and environmental problems New organization at work e-work, legal and social aspects
8	Georgian Development Gateway Armenian Development Gateway	e-work and business e-work, legal and social aspects e-work, employment and social exclusion

		e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
9	TECHINFORMI State Department of Informatisation	e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility
10	Georgian Technical University Institute of Geophysics	e-work and environmental problems Distant training and education
11	Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications Arminco, Armenia	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems New organization at work Distant training and education
13	PROBUS, The Netherlands Business Communication Centre – Tbilisi	e-work and business e-work, legal and social aspects e-work, employment and social exclusion e-work and mobility Distant training and education
14	SAQPATENTI Parliament Research Service	e-work and business e-work, legal and social aspects
15	UNDP Government of Georgia Strategic and International Relations Foundation	New organization at work e-work, employment and social exclusion e-work and mobility
16	Serco Usability Services PROBUS, The Netherlands	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems New organization at work Distant training and education Telemedicine
17	Georgian Centre for Environmental Research CRPG-CNRS Nancy School of Geology, France	e-work and environmental problems New organization at work Distant training and education Telemedicine
18	TECHINFORMI NAVIGATOR	e-work and business e-work, legal and social aspects
19	Tbilisi State University CRPG-CNRS Nancy School of Geology, France	e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
20	Armenian Development Gateway Russian Academy of Sciences	e-work and business New organization at work e-work, employment and social exclusion
21	USA Embassy Program UNV	New organization at work e-work, legal and social aspects Distant training and education
22	GIPI Technics, Computer Communications	e-work and business Distant training and education
23	Training Centre, Azerbaijan	e-work and business

	NILC	e-work, legal and social aspects Distant training and education
24	University of Strasbourg PROBUS, The Netherlands	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
25	Book Chamber Department of Science and Technologies	e-work and business New organization at work e-work, employment and social exclusion Distant training and education
26	GRENA Business Communication Centre – Tbilisi	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility Distant training and education
27	Training Centre, Azerbaijan Business Communication Centre – Tbilisi	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems New organization at work e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
28	TECHINFORMI DACHI	e-work and environmental problems e-work, employment and social exclusion
29	EDNES, Russia Business Communication Centre – Tbilisi	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems New organization at work e-work, legal and social aspects Distant training and education Telemedicine
30	EDNES, Russia Georgian State Department of Information Technology	e-work and business New organization at work e-work and mobility Distant training and education
31	PROBUS, The Netherlands National Library	New organization at work e-work, legal and social aspects Distant training and education
32	Arminco, Armenia Internet Development Group	e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects e-work and mobility Distant training and education
33	Georgian Stock Exchange Georgian State Department of Information Technology	e-work and business New organization at work e-work, employment and social exclusion
34	EDNES, Russia	e-work, legal and social aspects

	Training Centre, Azerbaijan	e-work and mobility Distant training and education Telemedicine
35	TECHINFORMI Armenian Development Gateway	e-work and business e-work and environmental problems e-work, legal and social aspects Distant training and education

At the round table discussion it was decided to prepare a project devoted to implementation of Russian version of CORDIS Web-site at Caucasus with summaries in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijan.

As a result of the workshop, the Georgian Academy of Sciences expressed a strong interest in CODATA activities and applied to become a member of CODATA. The President of the Academy, Academician Albert Tavkhelidze then met with the CODATA representatives to discuss CODATA activities following which the official letter of application was given to CODATA Vice-president Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (Russia). As soon as the administrative steps have been complied with, the CODATA Georgian National Committee will be established.

From right to left: Prof. Jean Jacques Royer (CODATA Treasurer, France), Acad. Albert Tevkhelidze (the Academy President), Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (CODATA Vice-president), Prof. Jean Bonnin (Chairman of the CODATA Task Group on Virtual Laboratories in Earth Physics and Environmental Sciences, France), Dr. Levon Chobanyan (Director of Georgian Business Communication Centre), Acad. O. Natishvili (Secretary of Georgian Academy of Sciences)

6.   Conclusion

As a result of the meeting interest and appraisal toward Information Society Technologies in Georgia became stronger and more target oriented. The organisation of the WISTCIS workshop in Tbilisi once again has shown that the process of rapid development of information technologies, Hi Tech, networking infrastructure and telecommunications has been initiated in Georgia. In comparison with the project STACCIS (TAP SU1116, 1996-1999) the situation with internal networking infrastructure, Internet connectivity, development of digital telephony and communication lines, telecommunications services provided has improved significantly. Yet the level of IT development in Georgia is less than average European and therefore the country stays behind many other states in Europe on the way to Information Society.

Numerous IST projects were presented at the workshop: UsabilityNet, TELEBALT, TELESOL, TRISTAN-EAST, VPS (Presence Awareness Service), e-Forum, eEurope Awards, SmartGov, AEGIS. The workshop has initiated great interest toward IST and many interested parties have shown practical interest aiming at co-operation with European parties in the framework of FP6.

Many Expressions of Interests were signed – both bilateral and multilateral, between Georgian, CIS and European organisations and institutions. 35 preliminary agreements between EU, Georgian, Azerbaijan, Armenian, Russian institutions and companies were signed.

Georgian Academy of Sciences officially applied to be a member of CODATA (Committee on Data of International Council of Sciences) – major European international organisation in the field of scientific and technological data handling and exchange. In September 2003 Georgian Academy was officially accepted as CODATA member.

The workshop promoted the formation of professional motivation of specialists in the spheres of telematics products development and application for environmental and natural hazard research and monitoring, teleworking and distant education, attracted the interest of representatives of the local communities to the latest EU achievements.

The possible project proposals to IST with participation of Georgian and other Caucasian partners have been discussed and planned.