

Introductory Note

on Publication of Theses of the Graduates of the TSU Master's Programme in European Law

For the implementation of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement made between Georgia and the European Communities and their Member States on 22 April 1996¹, the training of specialists aware of the European legislation, modern legal trends and various legal institutions created in Georgia as a result of ongoing reforms, becomes ever more important.

The Master's Programme in European Law established at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Law Faculty and the Faculty of International Law and International Relations in 2001, prepares specialists of European Law. After taking the full course and successful passing the master's examination, participants receive the academic degree of a Master in European Law – L.L.M.Eur (Tbilisi).

The Master's examination consists of the completion of a thesis and final oral examination. Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of European law and an ability to conduct independent research studies. Priority attention is accorded to comparative legal analysis, together with the urgency and practical importance of the theme.

Generally, the key phase for the correct direction of lawmaking processes and particularly of legal reforms is the comparative analysis of the subject-matter of regulation. The study of the modes that various countries have chosen for the regulation of new relations of social life and certain problems may be very helpful both for the preparation of a new draft-law and, generally, for the development of legal culture. Comparative law is the key source for the consideration and further development of individual institutions that exist, or are to be introduced in each field of law.

The existing system of awarding academic degrees in Georgia does not provide for the assessment of merits and demerits, practical importance and contribution to the development of law of an academic thesis, since many are not published and do not become available for the general public. In this respect, the example of European countries is worth mentioning, where the publication of an academic thesis is a necessary precondition for awarding an academic degree. An exemption may be allowed when some universities consider it admissible to award an academic degree after the submission of the

¹ Partnership and Co-operation Agreement concluded between Georgia and the European Communities and their Member States entered into force on July 1 1999. Published in the Legislative Booklet of *Parlamentis Utskebani* (Parliament Herald).

required copies of the thesis (as a rule, at least 200) to the University, which then are circulated among the libraries and thus become available for the public.

The publication of the theses of the graduates of the Master's Programme in European Law of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University for 2002-2003 is a step towards the introduction of European standards in Georgia. Readers will have the possibility to get familiarised with the works of young scientists and assess how interesting and useful are the studies based on comparative legal analysis for the development of legal culture in Georgia. All the theses were written in German and publication of their translation makes it possible for readers to gain access not only to the analyses of certain problems by German or European scientists, but also the author's vision of their introduction into Georgia.

For GEPLAC the promotion of the Master's Programme in European Law is one of the top priorities and the Centre will take an active part in the preparation of European law specialists in Georgia in the future as well.

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