DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DAAD HRK DIES
Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies

HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

Cooperation between Higher Education and the Labour Market

Strengthening Employability and Implementation in Curriculum Development

19–20 October 2026
Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, Georgia



Supported by the
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Programme at a Glance

Day 1 · Monday, 19 October

13:00 Welcome addresses
13:30 Keynotes and discussion
15:00 Coffee break
15:20 Parallel workshops (1st round)
17:00 Panel discussion
19:00 Networking dinner

Day 2 · Tuesday, 20 October

09:00 Recap of Day 1
09:15 Keynotes
09:55 Panel discussion
10:45 Coffee break
11:00 Parallel workshops (2nd round)
12:30 Wrap-up
13:00 Networking lunch

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WELCOME ADDRESS

Day 1 · 13:00

Daniel Busche

Country Director

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

WELCOME ADDRESS

Day 1 · 13:00

Silvia Schmid

Director

DAAD Regional Office Tbilisi

Your Expectations

Join on your phone and share your expectations and questions – answers are anonymous.

https://www.menti.com/
code=64289088

1 **Which group do you represent?**
Multiple choice · university leadership, academic staff, administration / QA, ministry / agency, business, other

2 **What do you expect from these two days?**
Open answer

3 **Which question would you like to see answered here?**
Open answer · upvote the questions of others

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KEYNOTE

Day 1 · 13:30

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Kreulich

Vice President for Innovation and Quality in Higher Education

Munich University of Applied Sciences (HM)

"Employability by Design – Institutional Approaches at German Universities of Applied Sciences"

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KEYNOTE

Day 1 · 13:30

Prof. Dr. Irina Darchia

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Tbilisi State University (TSU)

"How do Georgian graduates transition from university to the labour market? Factors for success and challenges"

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Parallel Workshops · Day 1

Monday, 19 October · 15:20–16:50 · Rooms: […]

1 Same on both days

Strengthening Employabiliy

A World Café exploring programme strengths, development priorities and next steps in Georgian higher education

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Kreulich

- Maturity framework
- World Café format
- Context-specific next steps

2 New topic on Day 2

Integration of Theory and Practice

Linking learning at university and in the workplace

Prof. Kay Wilding (DHBW)

- Linking university and workplace
- Where competencies develop best
- Challenging practical phases

3 Same on both days

Bridging the Gap

How Georgian Universities Can Better Serve Economy and Society

Dr. Niclas Rüffer · Tornike Jobava

- Current methods and gaps
- Start-ups and spin-offs
- Collaborative research

Workshops 1 and 3 run again tomorrow at 11:00 – please switch then. Workshop 2 has a new topic tomorrow.

Panel Discussion

Employability in Practice: Structures, Standards and Partnerships · Day 1 · 17:00–18:30

Prof. Dr. Nino Enukidze	Rector, Business and Technology University (BTU)
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Kreulich	Vice President for Innovation and Quality in Higher Education, Hochschule München
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rusudan Sanadze	Head of Department of Educational Science Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
David Zgudadze	Country Manager Georgia and Armenia Mastercard

Moderation: Dr. Thomas Lichtenberg, ASIIN

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Welcome to Day 2

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

09:00 Recap of Day 1 – key results from the workshops



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KEYNOTE

Day 2 · 09:15

Prof. Kay Wilding

Former Dean of Studies, Head of Electrical Engineering

Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW)

"Dual by Design – Cooperative Education in Higher Education"

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KEYNOTE

Day 2 · 09:15

Dr. Niclas Rüffer

Project Director, [programme name]

GIZ Office Tbilisi

"Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Germany and Beyond"

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Panel Discussion

From Cooperation to Co-Creation: Making University–Business Partnerships Work ·

Day 2 · 09:55–10:45

Tornike Jobava	Project Manager, Innovation and Technology Agency of Georgia (GITA)
Dr. Niclas Rüffer	Project Director, GIZ Office Tbilisi
Prof. Kay Wilding	Former Dean of Studies, Electrical Engineering, Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University

Moderation: Dr. Thomas Lichtenberg, ASIIN

Parallel Workshops · Day 2

Tuesday, 20 October · 11:00–12:30 · Same rooms as yesterday

1 Same on both days

From Employability to Action

Institutional Pathways for Georgian Higher Education

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Kreulich

- Maturity model
- World Café format
- Context-specific next steps

2 New topic today – open to all

Understanding Competencies and Needs

What graduates need today and tomorrow

Prof. Kay Wilding (DHBW)

- Subject, method, social skills
- University vs. industry needs
- Fostering cross-cutting skills

3 Same on both days

Bridging the Gap

How Georgian Universities Can Better Serve Economy and Society

Dr. Niclas Rüffer · Tornike Jobava

- Current methods and gaps
- Start-ups and spin-offs
- Collaborative research

Please join a different workshop than yesterday – Workshop 2 has a new topic and is open to everyone.

Looking Back

Same Mentimeter as on Day 1 – let us see what has been achieved.

https://www.menti.com/
code=64289088

1. **My expectations for these two days were met.**
   Scale 1–5

2. **Which of these questions have been answered for you?**
   Multiple choice · themes from the opening poll

3. **Which question remains open – and what should be the next step?**
   Open answer

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Thank you

Networking lunch from 13:00

Safe travels – and let us stay in touch.