

# **The International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University ISET:**

## **Providing a Constructive Model for Reform**

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# In these difficult times at TSU

We will argue that ISET offers TSU:

- An island of stability
- Resources, primarily paid by international donors
- A way to raise TSU's stature in the region and internationally of Economics and other disciplines
- Research, publishing, learning opportunities for our faculty

# ISET: What it is

## A Modern Graduate School/Research Center

- Two-year English-language Master's program in economics meeting International quality standards
- Research center
- Outreach

# ISET Masters will have

- Teachers - Western-trained PhDs:
  - University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
  - University of Minnesota
  - Purdue University
  - Pennsylvania State University
  - Oregon State University
- Modern Textbooks
- Latest computers and software
- Modern library

# Some who think this important enough to pay for it

World Bank

Government of Georgia

SIDA (Sweden)

BP

Bank Republic

Norway

Open Society

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- Raise quality of Economics training available our students
  - Provide model for other TSU graduate programs

# The approach works

## Existing Centers of Excellence

- Kiev School of Economics (EERC - Economics Education and Research Consortium), Kiev: M.A., since 1996
  - New Economic School (NES), Moscow: M.A., since 1992
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- Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE-EI), Prague, Ph.D./M.A., since 1991
  - Central European University (CEU) Dep't of Economics, Budapest: M.A./Ph.D., since 1991

## Students get good educations and are competitive for jobs: Moscow and Kiev Schools

Graduates competitive for Western PhDs and for jobs throughout their societies.

- Approximately
  - 1/3 in private sector (primarily banking and finance)
  - 1/3 in government or policy-related institutions
  - 1/3 in academia

# Western Imperialism in Education?

## Threat to TSU?

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NO

- Create opportunities for TSU and other faculty/staff
- Will evolve to majority regional faculty and regional management



# Example of NES

- Opened 1992....Western management & virtually all non-Russian faculty

## Today

- 429 graduates
- 15 Russian faculty (the majority)
- Research center which frequently involves non-NES faculty and students

# Example of NES

## Today

- Governance transferred to Russian board
- Funding moving to domestic sources
- Students paying more tuition, with banks extending loans
- Establishing an endowment

**Sustainable and RUSSIAN**

# ISSET

All Western trained PhDs leading courses, but:

- 2 from region ... & searching for more
- Regional faculty involved in team teaching and will be used as TAs and other functions
- TSU and other faculty/students will get access to seminars, conferences, and facilities (as possible).
- TSU and other faculty may take courses (as possible)

# ISET

All Western trained PhDs leading courses, but:

TSU and other faculty will be:

- invited to work on ISET research projects
- invited to participate in teaching process
- able to publish in ISET's journal

# ISET

Within 5 years plans to:

- Be locally managed
- Have majority of faculty from region
- Have more international donors and donors from the region

ISET will be  
Sustainable & CAUCASIAN