

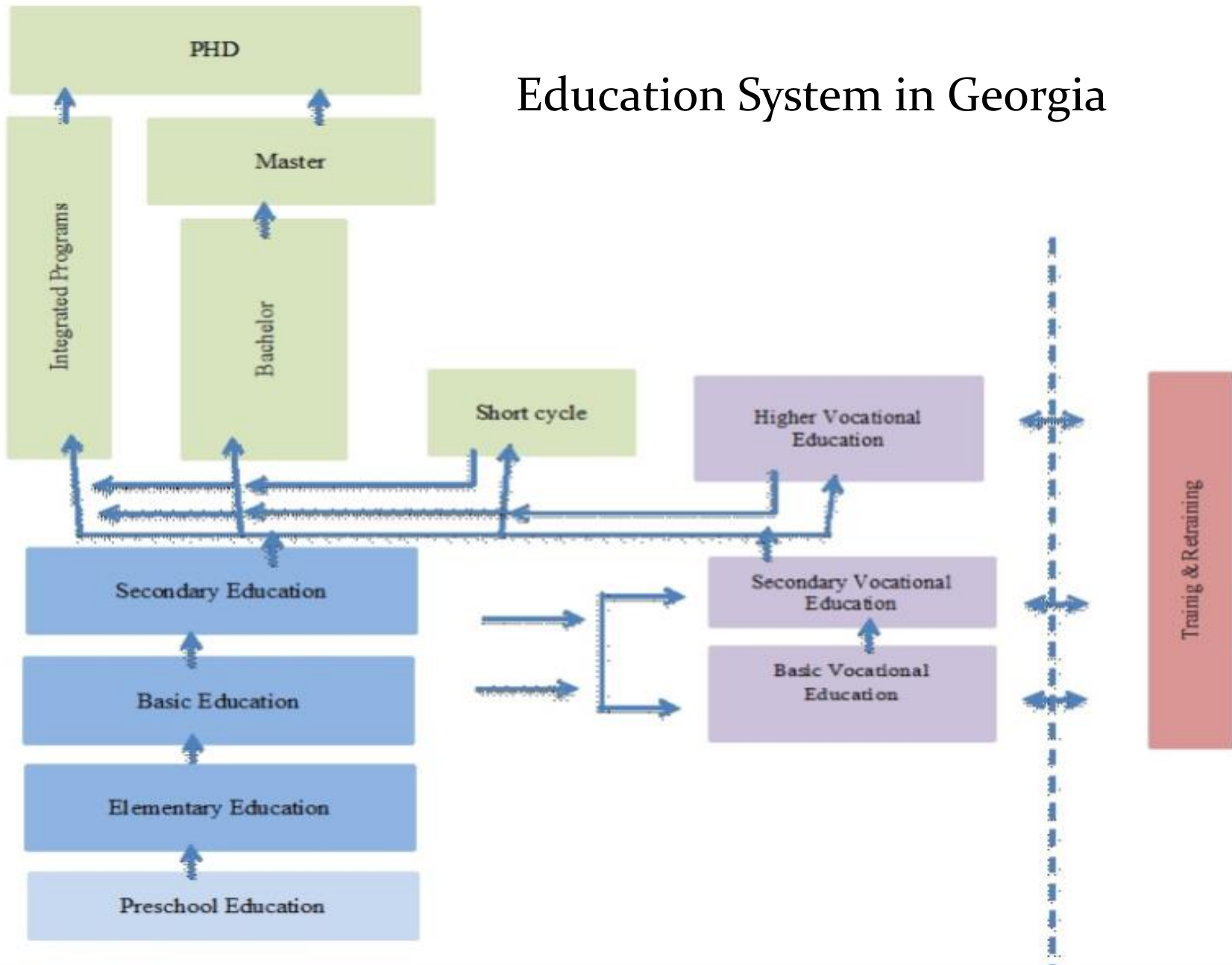


Quality Assurance of Doctoral Study Programs in Georgia

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Quality Assurance Working
Group Meeting
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Education System in Georgia



Legislative Framework

17. Scientific-Research Component / Component Assessment System for Doctoral Education Program:

- a) Excellent (summa cum laude) - excellent work;
- b) Very good (magna cum laude) - the result of which is above all the requirements;
- c) Good (cum laude) - the result that exceeds the demands;
- d) Average (bene) - medium level work that satisfies the basic requirements;
- e) Satisfactory (rite) - the result of which, despite the shortcomings, still satisfies the requirements;
- f) Unsatisfactory (insufficient) - unsatisfactory level work that fails to satisfy the requirements set out due to significant shortcomings in it;
- g) Complete unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) - the outcome that does not satisfy the requirements set out.

Law on Higher Education

- Doctoral Programme – the third level educational programme of a higher academic education, a combination of educational, scientific research components for the training of scientific personnel, which is completed by the granting of a Doctor's academic degree
- Article 30 - Dissertation Council
- Article 49 - Doctoral Programmes

Law on Educational Quality Enhancement (Article 24).

- In the case of refusing or revocation of accreditation:
- c) Higher education institution terminates the implementation of regulated, teacher training and educational programs in the Georgian language, as well as the doctoral educational programs. In such case, students shall have students' status suspended for 5 years and are entitled to use mobility rights.

Decree N3 of the Minister of Education

- 8. The dissertation, master's project / work, creative / performing work or other scientific project / work should be assessed in the same or subsequent semester, when the student will complete the work. Dissertation, master's project / work, creative / performing work or other scientific project / work should be assessed as a single (final assessment). The methodology / methods and criteria for assessing the result must be relevant.

Legislative Framework

Teaching Component

- Research Methods;
- Teaching methods;
- Assistant to the Professor;
- Seminar;
- Field Specific Courses;
- Optional Courses.

National Qualifications Framework

- **6 Competencies** (a. Knowledge and understanding; b. Applying knowledge; c. Making judgments; d. Communication skills; e. Learning skills; f. Values) transformed into **3 Competencies** (Knowledge; Skills; Autonomy and Responsibility);
- 180 ECTS/3 years, up to 60 ECTS teaching component;

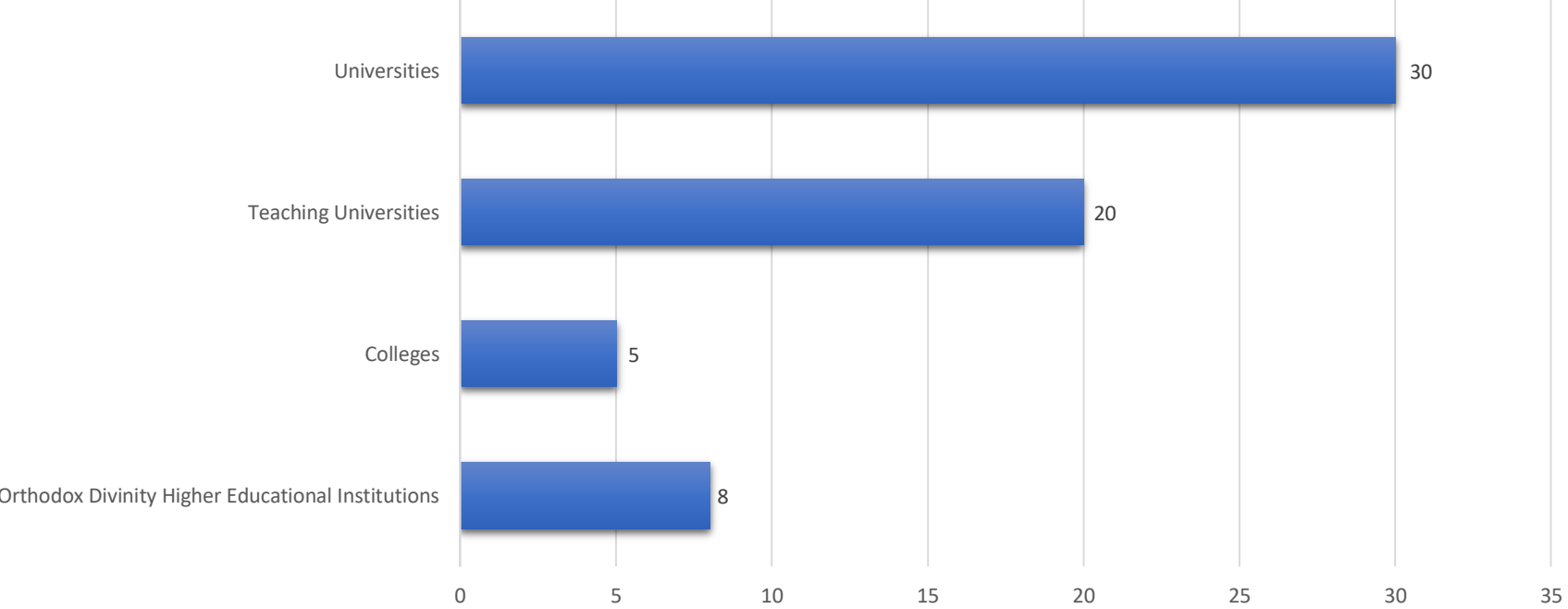
Institutional Authorization (Standard 6. Research, development and/or other creative work)

- Ensure the effectiveness of doctoral research supervision;
- Have public, transparent and fair procedures for the assessment and defense of dissertations which are relevant to the specifics of the field;
- Attract new staff and their involvement in research/arts-creative activities;
- Work on internationalization of research, development and creative activities

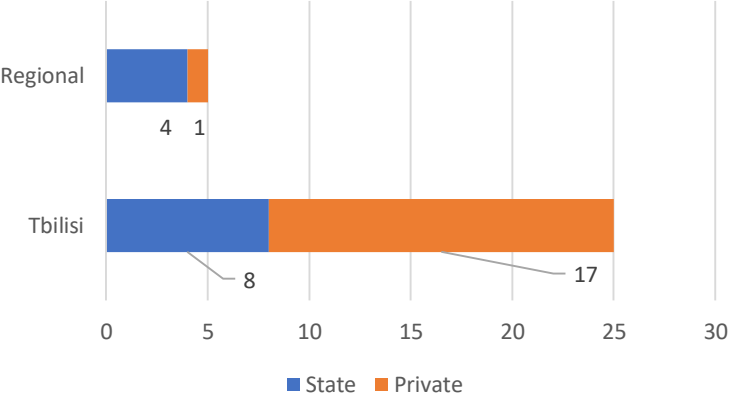
Program Accreditation

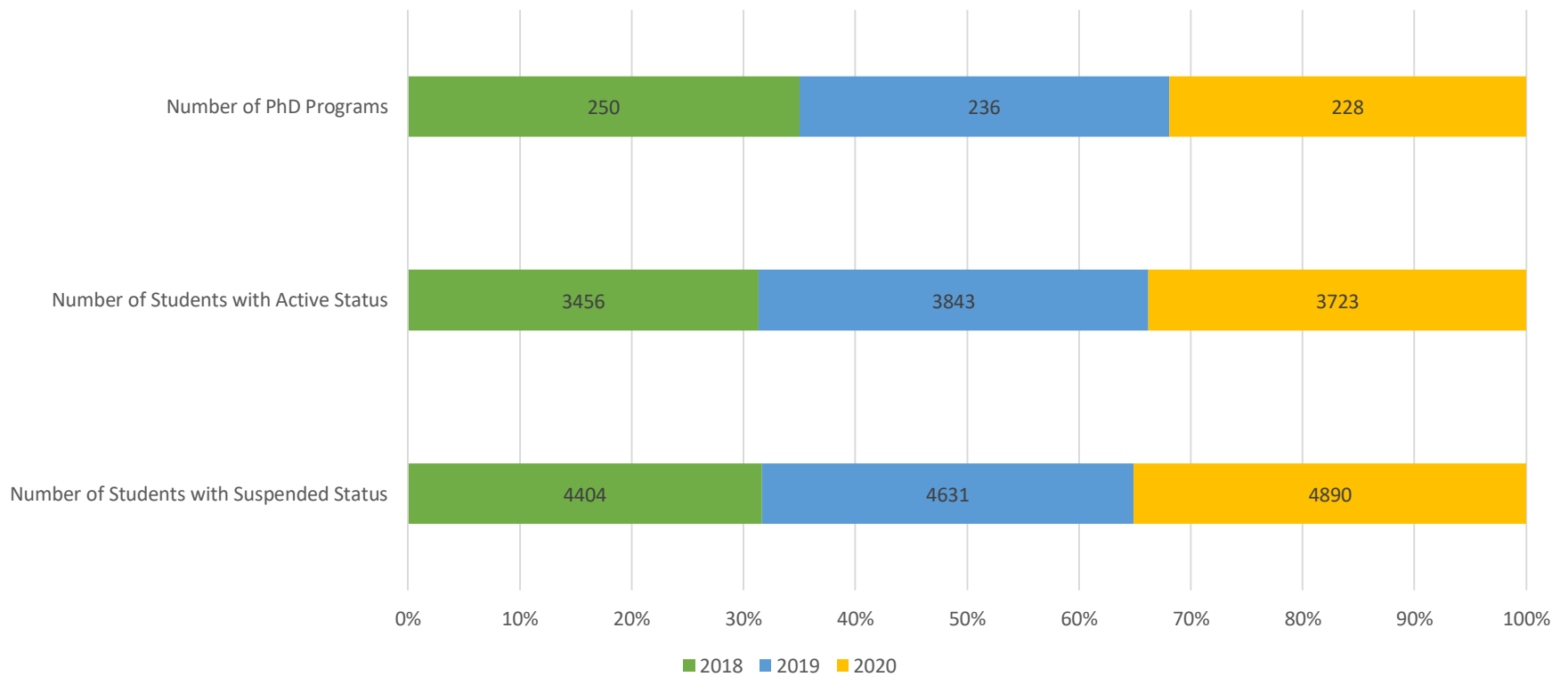
- 2.4 Programme ensures the development of students' practical, scientific/research/creative/performance and transferable skills and/or their involvement in research projects, in accordance with the programme learning outcomes;
- 3.2 Master's and Doctoral students have qualified thesis supervisors;
- 4.1 Supervisor of each Master's and Doctoral student has up-to-dated knowledge, has been actively participating in scientific research and/or has published scientific papers (in the field of arts-creative/performance project), which corresponds to Master's and Doctoral student's MA thesis/dissertation general topic/field.

63 Higher Education Institutions in Georgia



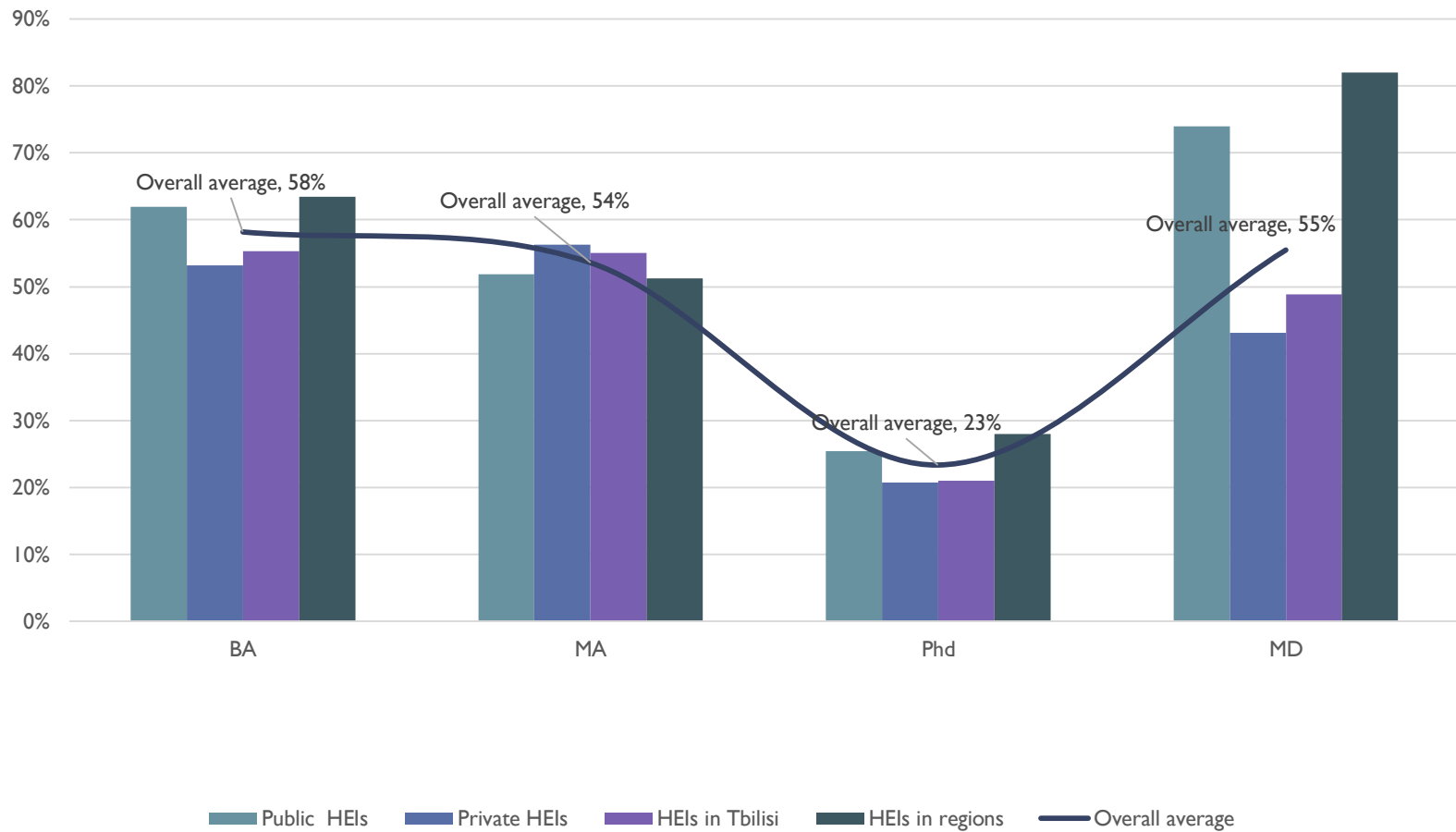
Universities	30
Teaching Universities	20
Colleges	5
Orthodox Divinity Higher Educational Institutions	8





	2018	2019	2020
Number of PhD Programs	250	236	228
Number of Students with Active Status	3456	3843	3723
Number of Students with Suspended Status	4404	4631	4890

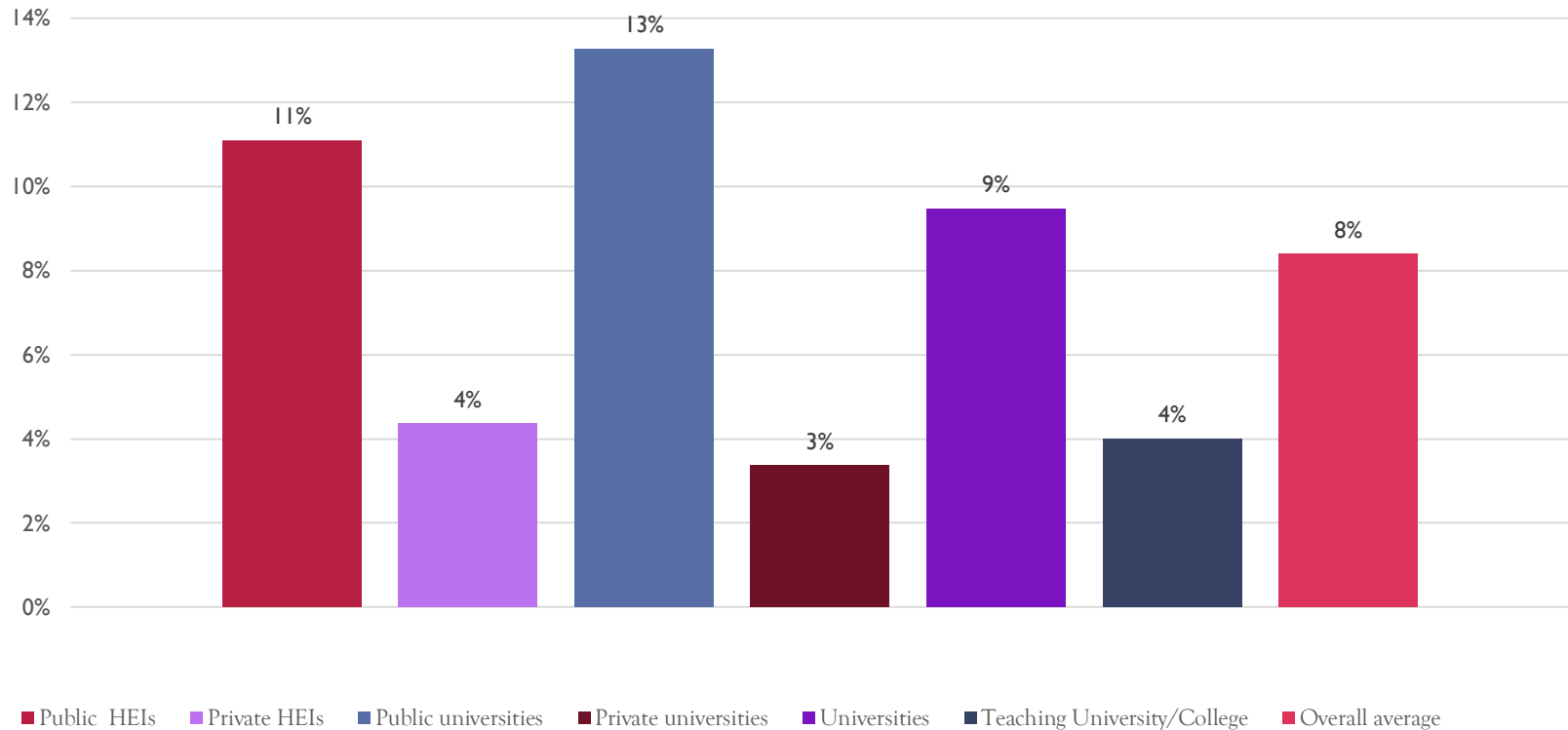
Chart I. Programme graduation rate



“Analysis of Development and Implementation of the Authorization Mechanism for Higher Education Institutions”, Erasmus +, Georgia, 2019, available:

<http://erasmusplus.org.ge/files/publications/Research%20Projects/ENG/QA%20System%20Implementation.pdf>

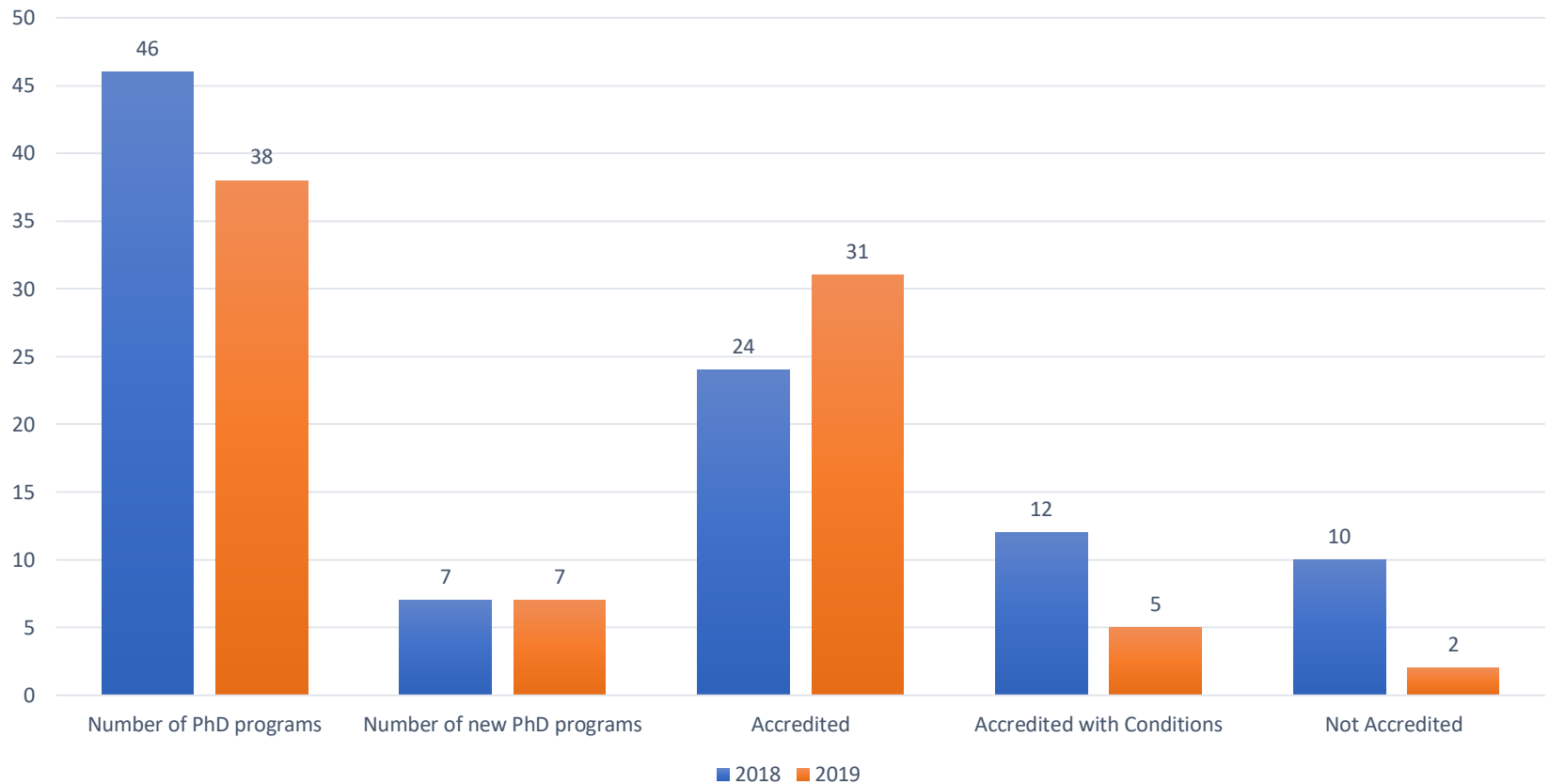
Chart 9. Ratio of the budget allocated for research activities to the total HEI budget



“Analysis of Development and Implementation of the Authorization Mechanism for Higher Education Institutions”, Erasmus +, Georgia, 2019, available:

<http://erasmusplus.org.ge/files/publications/Research%20Projects/ENG/QA%20System%20Implementation.pdf>

PhD Program Accreditation in 2018-2019



	2018	2019
Number of PhD programs	46	38
Number of new PhD programs	7	7
Accredited	24	31
Accredited with Conditions	12	5
Not Accredited	10	2

Analysis of PhD Program Evaluation Reports

Quality Assurance and Internationalization	Content	Faculty Development	Material and Financial Resources	Student Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Learning outcomes cycle. • Expand the international partnership to cover all the scientific fields offered by the PhD programs; • Collaboration amongst others – develop partnerships with educational partners in Georgia; • Invite foreign scholars to deliver international knowledge and experience to PhD students; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program goal: to prepare highly qualified researchers and not professionals; • Communication with the labor market of the graduates; • Interdisciplinarity; • Number of learning outcomes; • Up-to-date articles and literature in foreign languages; • Program admission pre-requisites – language and narrow specialization; • Program learning outcomes and therefore, program content should comply with NQF level requirements; • Actively involve stakeholders in developing research clusters; • Access to Scientific Databases; • Theoretical part or teaching component being too large; • Offering elective courses that would allow students to formulate an individual profile. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resource Management – to train young academic staff (assistant and associate professors) to become the next generation of PhD supervisors; • To increase scientific output of the supervisors; • To increase the number of academic staff and supervisors; • Integration of international co-supervisors or international referee; • To keep the age balance of the involved academic staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for scientific activities; • Scientific resource allocation; • Spaces/offices for PhD students for individual meetings; • Laboratory equipment and facilities; • Learning Management Portal; • Internet-based Plagiarism detection service; • Utilizing more funds for encountering upgrading facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting students with the clear, transparent information about program development; • Include students in university's national and international activities; • Students' psychological service; • Create monitoring and support mechanism that allow students to successfully complete the research phase within dedicative time.



Doctoral Education at TSU

50 PhD Programs;

981 PhD Students with Active status, 1621 PhD Students with Suspended Status;

University-wide Dissertation Board;

Standard requirements for PhD Programs;

Support services, capacity building (PhD students; Academic Staff);

Regulations and internet-based service for preventing and detecting academic misconduct;

PR campaign to raise awareness on Academic Integrity



DISSERTATION BOARD

- Standard requirements for doctoral thesis revised based on Zaltsburg Principles.
- The Dissertation Board at central level was created to ensure:
 - The standard requirements are universally met;
 - The quality of research is systematically upheld;
 - The quality is comparable across different departments.





CHALLENGES OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

- Ratio of Supervisors and Students;
- Significant Number of Students having their Status Suspended;
- Low but Existing Tuition Fees;
- PhD Students attached to Research Projects;
- Lack of Transferrable Skills;
- Rare Supervising Trainings



Thank you for your attention!