IN-COUNTRY WORKSHOP

Strengthening One Health Networks: Advancing Strategic Cooperation Between Georgian and European One Health Sectors

November 5-6, 2026

Objective:

To build a robust framework for scientific partnership and cross-sectoral coordination between Georgian One Health actors and EOHA to jointly address shared One Health challenges across Georgia and Europe.

Hybrid Event

Date: November 5-6, 2026

Location: The University of Georgia, 77a Merab Kostava St, Tbilisi 0171, Georgia.

Event Organizers

Lead Organizers – The One Health Institute (OHI) of the University of Georgia, Georgia; National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands; European One Health Association (EOHA), France.

Co-organizers – The National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; The Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; The G. Natadze Scientific-Research Institute of Sanitary, Hygiene, and Medical Ecology, Georgia.

Event Support and Funding: The in-country workshop is supported through the One Health Strengthening Europe (OHSE) project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and coordinated by the RIVM in cooperation with the EOHA.

Workshop Agenda

DAY 1

09:00 – 09:45 | Registration

09:45 – 10:00 | Opening Remarks
Konstantine Topuria — Rector, University of Georgia (UG)

Thematic Session 1 — *Identifying Major Global and Regional One Health Challenges*

Session Chair: Mamuka Kotetishvili. One Health Institute (OHI), University of Georgia, Georgia.

Speakers and Core Themes

10:00 – 10:30 | George Chakhunashvili. Department of One Health. National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Georgia.

-"Enhancing early warning systems by using genomic surveillance and One Health approach in Georgia"

10:30 – 11:00 | Arjen van de Giessen. European One Health Association and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands.

- "Surveillance, early warning, prevention and response to zoonoses and AMR in The Netherlands: a One Health approach"

11:00 – 11:30 | Levan Tsitskhishvili. Scientific Research Centre for Agriculture, Georgia.

- "One Health Research involving the Scientific Research Centre for Agriculture in Georgia"

11:30 – 12:00 | Davit Pipoyan, Informational-Analytical Center for Risk Assessment of Food Chain, CENS. Armenia

- "The One Health approach in the context of food safety risk assessment (from environment to food)."

12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch

Thematic Session 2 — *Framing Harmonized Scientific Partnerships and Cross-Sectoral Coordination in One Health*

Session Chair: Arjen van de Giessen. European One Health Association and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands.

Speakers and Key Topics

13:00 – 13:30 | Amiran Gamkrelidze. Institute for Global and European Health Education and Studies, University of Georgia, Georgia.

- "Our vision for advancing One Health in Georgia and strengthening international cooperation based on our experience"

13:30 – 14:00 | Vasil Basiladze. World Organization for Animal Health, Regional Representation for Europe.

- "One Health in the WOAH Europe region – from regional coordination to country-level impact"

14:00 – 14:30 | Hein Imberechts. European One Health Association and Sciensano, Belgium.

- "One Health research partnerships in Europe: experiences from OHEJP, EOHA and EUPAHW"

14:30 – 15:30 | Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:00 | Nelly Datukishvili. Faculty of Natural Sciences and Medicine, Ilia State University, Georgia.

- "Harmonizing Molecular Diagnostic Approaches in Food and Environmental Monitoring within the One Health Framework"

16:00 – 16:30 | Laura Hungerford. Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. USA.

- "One Health and Multi-Species Families".

16:30 – 17:00 | Marina Tediashvili. School of Science and Technology, University of Georgia; The G. Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology.

- "Bacteriophages as Alternative to Antibiotics and their Role in One Health Concept"

17:00 – 17:30 | Mamuka Kotetishvili. One Health Institute (OHI), University of Georgia, Georgia.

- "Bridging gaps in scientific data generation, data management, and cross-sectoral collaboration across One Health domains in Georgia and beyond"

17:30 – 18:00 | Roundtable Discussion

Discussion format: A moderated discussion involving the One Health stakeholders, and an interactive session engaging an audience.

Moderator: Arjen van de Giessen. European One Health Association and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands.

18:30 – 20:30 | Inaugural Dinner

DAY 2

10:00 – 10:30 | Welcome Coffee

Thematic Session 3 — *Bridging One Health Policy and Research*

Session Chair: Amiran Gamkrelidze. Institute for Global and European Health Education and Studies, University of Georgia, Georgia.

10:30 – 11:00 | Giorgi Mikadze. The ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Georgia

Topic: Food safety policy and research for advancing One Health

11:00 – 11:30 | Arjen van de Giessen. European One Health Association and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands.

- "Implementation of the One Health approach in the EU"

11:30 – 12:00 | David Chakhunashvili. Department of One Health. National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Georgia.

- "Teaching One Health in practice: International approaches, experiences, and lessons learned"

12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch

13:00 – 13:30 | Final Roundtable Discussion and Workshop Conclusions

Discussion format: A moderated discussion involving the One Health stakeholders, and an interactive session engaging an audience.

Moderator: Mamuka Kotetishvili. The One Health Institute of the University of Georgia. Georgia.

13:30 | Adjournment

Composition of the Local Conference Organiser:

The University of Georgia (UG) (LLC) serves as the lead Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) for the project dedicated to organizing the In-Country Workshop in ONE Health. Supporting co-organizing institutions include the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC; Ministry of Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia), the Scientific Research Center of Agriculture (SRCA, LEPL; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia), and the G. Natadze Scientific-Research Institute of Sanitary, Hygiene, and Medical Ecology (GNHI) (LLC).

Event venue:

A venue for the In-Country Workshop is the Conference Hall at the University of Georgia. This space accommodates 100–150 participants in a theater-style arrangement and can host a larger number in a standing configuration. The hall is fully equipped with modern audiovisual systems, reliable internet access, and provides a comfortable, professional setting suitable for academic and industry events. Importantly, the University of Georgia will make the venue available free of charge in support of the conference and its objectives.

The University is centrally located in Tbilisi, with a metro station within walking distance and convenient access via other public transportation routes. It is also easily reachable by private car, with nearby parking available.

Transport:

The nearest international airport is Tbilisi International Airport (TBS), located within the city of Tbilisi. Reaching the city center or any hotel is straightforward by taxi, with services readily available at the airport. Travel time from the airport to the University

of Georgia is approximately 30–40 minutes, depending on traffic conditions, and may be slightly longer during peak hours.

Accommodation:

A wide range of accommodation options is available near the University of Georgia to suit different needs and budgets. Within walking distance or a short taxi ride from the campus, visitors can find hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs, and short-term rental apartments.

These options range from affordable budget accommodations to mid-range and higher-end hotels, ensuring suitable lodging for both individual travelers and institutional guests. In addition, the university's central location in Tbilisi is well served by public transportation, making it easy to reach the venue even when staying farther away. Overall, sufficient and convenient accommodation options will be available for all workshop participants.