



## წინა კაცი უკანას ხიდიაო

(The one in front is a bridge for the one behind)

*Abstract:* Georgia is a country at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It is part of the South Caucasus, bounded by the Black Sea to the west, by Russia to the north and east, by Turkey to the southwest, by Armenia to the south, and by Azerbaijan to the southeast. The country covers an area of 69,700 square kilometres (more than 20% of which is occupied by Russia) and has a population of 3.7 million people. Tbilisi is its capital as well as its largest city, home to roughly a third of the Georgian population.

In 2002 the first education for occupational therapy teachers started and in 2003 a TEMPUS project to co-create the profession and the education in Armenia and Georgia together with ENOTHE had been approved by the European Commission. At the moment there is one occupational therapy programme at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University with 12 teachers in occupational therapy and 43 students. There are 40 practicing occupational therapists out of a total of 44 graduates.

In the presentation we will go with you on the journey of the development of occupational therapy (education) during the past 20 years. We will start with some facts and figures and the cultural, socio, economic and historical background of Georgia, but we like above all to discuss with you the dilemmas and choices, the cultural gifts and conflicts in this process of development and our personal dialogues and experiences.

We will round up with a vision for the future and with many questions for the audience. We are looking forward to your participation in this journey.

**Nino Rukhadze**, BSc & MSc in Occupational Therapy

Nino Rukhadze is lecturer and the coordinator of the Occupational Therapy Bachelor Program at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and head of child rehabilitation department at Ken Walker University Clinic of Medical Rehabilitation. Her main field of practice is working with children. She is involved as a consultant in implementation of inclusive education and reforms of rehabilitation policies and services in Georgia.

**Hanneke van Bruggen**, Hon.Dscie.,BSC OT, FWFOT

At present Hanneke van Bruggen is Director of a small NGO, called FAPADAG (Facilitation and Participation of Disadvantaged Groups [www.fapadag.com](http://www.fapadag.com)), Consultant and lecturer at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Adj. Professor at Dalhousie University in Canada, Honorary Research Fellow at the Kwazulu-Natal University in South Africa and participating in the coordinating team of ISTTON (International Social Transformation Through Occupation Network).

Hanneke is former Executive Director of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education, and former Director of Department of Occupational Therapy at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam, NL.

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