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Industrialised world rapidly changes its development paradigm which brought most advanced countries on a brink of new industrial revolution, Industry 4.0, which could boost productivity and value added and stimulate economic growth. EU is among the most prominent leaders in this process.

Industry 4.0 is a term applied to a group of rapid transformations in design, manufacture, operation and service of manufacturing systems and products. Technological transformation and operation excellence (including automation, connectivity, robotisation, industrial internet of things etc.) itself do not constitute 4th industrial revolution. Really revolutionary change requires reconfiguration of enterprise's business model in order to assign much greater significance to creation of value from generated data, to give more central role to end-users (customers) and networks that enable value creation.

For economies in countries of former Soviet Union the global industrial transformation poses existential challenge: many existing factories are outdated; even advanced enterprises usually opt for the well proven technologies being reluctant to invest into breakthrough solutions. This greatly relates to predominance of short-term strategies and focus on making fast profit instead of aiming at long-term competitiveness. If this trend is not taken care of properly, technology gap will inevitably grow.

In Ukraine the Industry 4.0 is not unknown and the certain level of awareness has been created notably in relationship to Internet Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and, to some extent, manufacturing. This includes also recently performed EU-funded Erasmus+ project ALIOT (Internet of Things: Emerging Curriculum for Industry and Human Applications, 2015-2018) which focused creation of professional community in Internet of Things, robotics, computer networks and microcontrollers. Some "grassroots" initiatives also are known with most prominent "Industry 4.0 in UA" ([industry4-0-ukraine.com.ua](http://industry4-0-ukraine.com.ua)) created by Association of Industrial Automation of UA. However, all of them focus on technology side.

For Georgia Industry 4.0 is relatively new concept, though HEIn4 participants already had research activities with relevance to this topic. One of main research priorities for HEIs is development of Georgia's Human Capital. Training and research focus on identifying skills and competencies needed for future employability in Georgia and provision of education to meet these needs taking into account the Industry 4.0 paradigm. Georgian participants of HEIn4 plan to work in partnership with relevant Government Ministries and disseminate outcomes of this initiative in order to help them make well informed policy decisions. No any EU funded projects with relevance to Industry 4.0 existed in Georgia so far.

Analysis performed allows to identify COMMON PROBLEM for both Georgia and Ukraine as follows: the disproportion between availability of technologies relevant to Industry 4.0 and lack of the experience in re-setting of business models hinder the comprehensive industrial transformation.

HEIn4 project addresses the identified need of bridging this disproportion by reinforcing the role of HEIs in assisting 4th Industrial Revolution in Georgia and Ukraine through:

- building the capacities in HEIs (human resource and institutional units);
- delivery of tailored courses for the industrial personnel;
- launching the consultancy services for industrial companies (large and SME);
- setting new taught module for Master students.

Through intervention in this sphere HEIn4 project will assist not only wider uptake of new technology but also will help to deliver an added value to a full possible extent and thus enable exploitation of all opportunities the Industry 4.0 delivers.