



The First Jean Monnet International Conference of
the Institute for European Studies of
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Teaching, Learning and Researching the European Union
in Theory and Practice

#Europe Day celebrations

#7 Years of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement



June 24-25, 2021 (Tbilisi Time)

Virtual EVENT

DESCRIPTION

The interfaculty Institute for European Studies was established at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University fourteen years ago with the support of the European Union. The aim was to disseminate the knowledge on the EU as well as its core values within Georgia and beyond in the region, and this main objective became the successful endeavor with the concrete milestones reached: Establishment of the English taught interdisciplinary Master's and Doctoral programmes in European Studies as well as joining the consortium of the Regional



Master's in Human Rights and Democratization/Caucasus programme created the proper academic environment where the excellence developed into the habit.

Over the past years the groundwork had been laid successfully, while the finalization of the process of setting up of the Institute had been assumed via the establishment of the Bachelor's programme in European Studies. The Jean Monnet Project transformed this stage of the Institute's development and growth into the opportunity to organize the International Conference and to bring together and involve the representatives of academia, international and local actors, experts, policy-makers, politicians, NGO sector and students in order to contribute, debate and suggest the best ways of teaching, learning and researching the European Union as well as for the impeccable understanding of the magnitude of the EU-Georgia relationship.

This inaugural conference will be dedicated to the celebrations of the Europe Day and the 7th anniversary since the EU- Georgia Association Agreement.

Building of the new Bachelor's programme coincided with the state-led fourth mandatory re-accreditation period of the Master's in European Studies curriculum. Hence, the conference outcomes will be synergized, and will be beneficial for the process of recognition of the highest standards of the quality by the authorized state institutions.

The online international conference aims at integration of its results within the curriculum of the TSU IES European Studies undergraduate and graduate programmes. In particular, the panel which is dedicated to the impact of the EU on the democratic transformation of Georgia will contribute to the formulation of the broad values-based objectives of the IES' academic curriculums, while the panel on the External Europeanization via the higher education in Georgia as well as the panel dedicated to the impact of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement will bring the substantial note on the actual content and to the future sustainability-aimed actions that are to be undertaken by the staff of IES – the academic unit at TSU with high degree of autonomy.

Some of the submitted conference papers will be transformed into the peer-reviewed publications of the Institute's local bilingual scientific journal.



Agenda

Opening Day, June 24, Thursday Virtual Event

11:30-12:00 (TBILISI Time) Registration

12:00- 12:30 (TBILISI Time) Conference Opening and Welcome Speeches

Rector of Tbilisi State University - **George SHARVASHIDZE**

Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Georgia - **H.E. Andrius KALINDRA**

Deputy Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Georgia - **Catalin GHERMAN**

Head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) Regional Program Political Dialogue South Caucasus - **Dr. Thomas SCHRAPEL**

TSU IES Academic Staff - Director of Institute for European Studies of TSU - **Nino**

LAPIASHVILI (Project Coordinator/Moderator of the Conference), **Vasil**

KACHARAVA, Daniela URSE, Konstantine KORKELIA

12:30 – 13:30 (TBILISI Time) Panel One. Values First: Democratization, Transformation, Democracy Promotion, EU as a Security Actor in Georgia/ EU's Role in Peace-building. Disinformation. Political Dialogue - Impact of the European Union on the Democratic Transformation of Georgia.

Keynote Speech: Prof. Anja MIHR, Program Director at the Center on Governance through Human Rights, HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform; DAAD Associate Professor at OSCE Academy in Kyrgystan.

“Teaching and Grading of Transitology and Democratization in post-soviet space.”

Contributors: EUMM Head of Mission - H.E. Ambassador Marek SZCZYGIEŁ

State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia, Head of Department for Policy Analysis, Planning and International Relations - **Tamar KOCHORADZE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Head of Unit on EU Association, Department of European Integration - **Bidzina JAVAKHISHVILI**

13:30-14:00 (TBILISI Time) Break

14:00 – 15:30 (TBILISI Time)

Opening Speech: Parliament of Georgia, **MP Nikoloz SAMKHARADZE**, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee (Georgian Dream)

Contributors:

European Parliament, **MEP Petras AUSTREVICIUS** (Renew Europe Group)

European Parliament, **MEP Viola VON CRAMON** (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance)

Parliament of Georgia, **MP Giorgi VASHADZE** (Strategy Aghmashenebeli/Charles Michel's Reforms Group)

Break 15:30 – 16:30 (TBILISI Time)

16:30 - 18:00 (TBILISI Time) Panel Two: Impact of Association Agreement on Georgia and Ukraine.

Keynote Speakers: Ghent European Law Institute (GELI) - **Prof. Peter Van ELSUWEGE**

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy - **Prof. Roman PETROV**

University of Westminster - **Prof. Adam LAZOWSKI**

Opening Speech: Secretary General of the ICC Georgia - **Khatia BUKHRASHVILI**

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IES-TSU Nino LAPIASHVILI and the ICC Georgia Khatia BUKHRASHVILI.

Contributors: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Head of Department for Foreign Trade Policy - **Mariam GABUNIA**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the EU Assistance Coordination and Sectorial Integration Department - **David BUJIASHVILI**

International Chamber of Commerce Georgia, Committee Chairman - **Nikoloz KUNDZAKISHVILI**

Managing Director of LTD "Tianety"- **Sarah HANNA**

18:00- 18:15 Concluding remarks/ Closing of the day. Closing remarks by Director of IES/TSU Nino LAPIASHVILI



Day 2, Friday, June 25
Virtual Event

11:30-11:45 (TBILISI Time) Registration

11:45-12:00 (TBILISI Time) Opening Speeches:

TSU Quality Assurance/Head - **Irma GRDZELIDZE**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, *Charge de Affaires*, Embassy of Georgia to Finland–
Tornike NOZADZE.

12:00 – 14:00 (TBILISI Time) Panel Three: External Europeanization via Education in Georgia

Keynote Speech: Collegium Civitas, Warsaw. External Advisor to the development of undergraduate European Studies programme at IES/TSU - Prof. Kerry LONGHURST

“What we teach and how we teach it: European Studies in the Context of a Widening Europe.”

Contributors: Erasmus + Office/HEAD – Dr. Lika GHLONTI

Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) of the Twinning Project at NCEQE – **Cay ETZOLD**

TSU International Relations /Head – **Tea GERGEDAVA**

CENN Project Manager - **Mariam KHERGIANI**

TSU IES Director - **Nino LAPIASHVILI**

14:00- 16:00 (TBILISI Time) Break

16:00- 18:00 (TBILISI Time) Panel Four: The ways to integrate the AA/DCFTA in the core curriculum of the Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes in European Studies. The key challenges Georgia is facing during the implementation of AA/DCFTA under discussion- Competition Law and Policy under review. The Competition law course at IES/TSU- why is that so complicated to involve students in and how to reverse the high dropout rates dynamic?

Opening Speech: Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Estonia H.E. Archil KARAULASHVILI

Keynote Speech: Queen's University Belfast, Prof. Marek MARTYNISZYN

Governing the Ungovernable: the Case of Cross-Border Violations of Competition Law – based on his recent publication in the *Journal of Competition Law and Economics*, “Competitive Harm Crossing Borders: Regulatory Gaps And A Way Forward”, 14 Jan 2021, nhaa034, available at <https://doi.org/10.1093/joclec/nhaa034> or <https://academic.oup.com/jcle/advance-article/doi/10.1093/joclec/nhaa034/6095856>

Discussants: Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Head of the Center of Competition Law and Consumer Protection, former Analytical Department of the Supreme Court of Georgia - Prof. **Solomon MENABDISHVILI**

Chairwoman of the Competition Committee at International Chamber of Commerce Georgia, - **Ana REKHVIASHVILI**

Wishful Thinking session: Recommendations highlighted by the IES students. Reviewing the undergraduate European Studies curriculum. Sharing the thoughts on the mechanisms to integrate the conference outcomes in the objectives of the BA&MA programmes.

IES Students' Committee
TSU IES Academic Staff

18:00-18:15 (TBILISI Time) **Conference wrap-up. Closing remarks by Director of IES/TSU - Nino LAPIASHVILI**



