



Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Institute for European Studies of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration and the Research Center of the Parliament of Georgia

Today on 8th of May, LEPL - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (represented by its structural Unit – TSU Institute for European Studies/IES) in collaboration with the Committee on European Integration of Parliament of Georgia as well as the Research Center of Parliament of Georgia concluded a new tripartite cooperation agreement dedicated to the Europe Days and aimed at strengthening the existing relationship. The agreement in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed by **Davit Songhulashvili**, *Chairman of the Committee*, **Giorgi Khelashvili**, *Director of the Parliamentary Research Center*, **George Sharvashidze**, *Rector* and **Nino Lapiashvili**, *Director of the TSU Institute for European Studies*.

With this new cooperation agreement (MoU) the parties aim at enhancing partnership that was first established in February 2011 under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute for European Studies of TSU, on one hand and the Committee on European Integration of Parliament of Georgia, on the other hand.

Taking into account the common interests of the Parties, by signing this new MoU they declared to undertake the responsibility to fully support and promote activities aimed at rapprochement with EU, implementation of EU-Georgia Association Agreement, transparency and public participation in law-making, good governance as well as supporting awareness raising campaigns on European values.

The MoU revolves around the cooperation in four main directions, primarily:

- Promotion of implementation of the Association Agenda
- Cooperation in legal matters and enhancement of the political dialogue to advance the integration and smooth approximation process with the EU aquis
- Cooperation projects and contribution to countering Anti-Western propaganda

- Increasing involvement of students and researchers into the activities of the Committee on European Integration of Parliament of Georgia

Within the frames of this MoU the BA and MA students as well as PhD researchers of the European Studies programmes of the IES/TSU will get a unique chance to take part in practical projects and internship placements offered by the Committee and the Research Center.