

CONFERENCE AGENDA



DEMOCRATIZATION AND EUROPEANIZATION AGENDA DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES: GEORGIA IN FOCUS

Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi | 02 May 2018

09:30	Registration
10:00 10:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Kornely Kakachia, Director, the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)• Elsbeth Suthers, National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
10:15 11:45	Panel 1: DOMESTIC DRIVERS OF THE DEMOCRATIZATION & EUROPEANIZATION Moderator: Prof. David Aprasidze , Ilia State University Generally, the presence of pro-reform domestic coalitions is considered as the most important precondition for successful democratization that can be further strengthened by external actors. Hence, the first panel will discuss the domestic drivers of the democratization and Europeanization agenda and the interaction between the ideas, opinions and positions of the political elite, expert community, civil society, and the general public. The panel will focus on if and how these groups differ in their attitudes towards the twin processes of Europeanization and democratization and what is the relative degree of influence of each of these four groups on these processes. <u>The panel will address the below key questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are Europeanization and democratization the same or separate processes, and who leads either process?• How and to what extent differ the opinions of political elite, expert community, civil society, and public in general? What is the relative degree of influence of each of these four groups?• Currently, is democratization fatigue an issue in Georgia, and how does it affect Europeanization? Or, conversely, does Europeanization fatigue affect democratization? <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10:15 Tuya Altangerel, Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)○ 10:25 Dr. Bakur Kvashilava, Dean, School of Law and Politics, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIP)○ 10:35 Tinatini Khidasheli, Former Minister of Defence of Georgia○ 10:45 Dr. Barbaza Kunz, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) Paris○ 11:00 Koba Turmanidze, The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) Georgia
11:45 12:00	Coffee Break

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12:00 **Panel 2: GEORGIA'S IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD**

13:30 Moderator: **Nino Gelashvili**, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

The second panel will deal with Georgia's Immediate neighborhood and influences from the non-western regional actors on Georgia's democratization and Europeanization. It will specifically focus on the challenges of democratization in an authoritarian environment. Georgia being part of overlapping regional groupings (such as the South Caucasus, GUAM, EaP Associated countries or Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey strategic axis) worked well until yet but they may become contradictory in the future. This panel will analyze Georgia's balancing act between different regional economic and political alliances and its effect on democratization in Georgia. Further, the panel will also focus on attempts by Georgian governments to detach the country from the South Caucasus and rebrand it as a part of Eastern Europe hence bringing Georgia geographically closer to the EU.

The panel will address the below key questions:

- Is it feasible to democratize while surrounded by authoritarian countries?
- Can Georgia continue to economically/functionally integrate with Turkey and Azerbaijan while continue democratization and Europeanization? At what point do these processes become contradictory?
- Is it realistic for Georgia to politically detach from the South Caucasus to more assertively move towards the EU?
- If the South Caucasus ceases to exist as a regional concept, can Georgia develop a new regional identity?
- How can Georgia balance its position in overlapping regional groupings: The South Caucasus, Trilateral group, GUAM, EaP Associated Countries?

Speakers:

- 12:00 **Dr. Ghia Nodia**, Professor, Ilia State University
- 12:10 **Joseph Larsen**, Affiliated Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)
- 12:20 **Dr. Eka Akobia**, Dean, Caucasus School of Governance, Caucasus University
- 12:30 **Dr. Ivanna Machitidze**, Associate Professor, International Black Sea University (IBSU)
- 12:40 **Dr. Tracey German**, King's College London

13:30 **Lunch**

14:30

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14:30 16:00	<p>Panel 3: INFLUENCE OF WESTERN CONDITIONALITY</p> <p>Moderator: Keti Khutsishvili, Executive Director, Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)</p> <p>The third panel will discuss the influence of western conditionality on the political agenda setting at home by the political parties regarding the democratization and Europeanization of the country. This panel will specifically focus on the essence of conditionality, its effectiveness and limitations especially in uncertain times of absence of attractive ‘carrots’. After achieving the visa liberalization with the EU Georgia has now eaten all “juicy carrots” which raises question of whether Georgia can and will continue its reform process without having new incentives, hence, on the background of weakened conditionality - a key instrument of successful Europeanization. Hence, conceptually the challenge may be whether the process of democratization which is detached from Europeanization or accompanied by weakened EaP can be appealing enough to Georgian rule - makers and rule-takers.</p> <p><u>The panel will address the below key questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the achievement of visa liberalization, how effective is EU conditionality for consolidating democracy in Georgia?• Can democratization occur without Europeanization? Can it occur without new mechanisms of EU conditionality? <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 14:30 Dr. Bidzina Lebanidze, Universität Bremen○ 14:40 Prof. Davit Darchiashvili, College of Arts and Sciences, Ilia State University○ 14:50 Tamar Kekenadze, Secretary General, Free Democrats○ 15:00 Dr. George Mchedlishvili, Associate Professor, International Black Sea University (IBSU)○ 15:10 Ivane Chkhikvadze, EU Integration Program Manager, Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)
16:00	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)</p>
16:15	<p>End of Conference</p>



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GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS



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for Democracy**
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The international conference is organized by the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) with support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)