

# Speakers & Moderators

“Communicating EU: the role of media in Georgia and the Visegrad countries”



## Dr. Kornely Kakachia

Kornely Kakachia is a Director of Tbilisi based think tank Georgian Institute of Politics and a Professor of Political Science at Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area and comparative party politics. He was a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University’s Black Sea Security program, (2009–2010) Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2011) and The Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies. In his capacity as an expert on Georgian Domestic and Foreign policy, Kakachia has appeared on BBC, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Le Monde, Figaro, VOA, as well as on Georgian radio and television stations to comment on Georgia’s foreign policy, regional security and other issues.

## H.E. Petr Mikyska

H.E. Petr Mikyska is an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Georgia. Ambassador Mikyska was born in 1966, in Městec Králové, Czechia. He graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Faculty of International Journalism, Charles University in Prague and Diplomatic Academy of Santiago de Chile. During his career he occupied several posts in Czech Embassies in Latin America, namely Commercial Attaché in Peru, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Political Section in Mexico and Head of Mission – Chargé d’affaires in Cuba. Mr. Mikyska also established Czech Consulate General in Toronto, which he led for almost two years. Between 2010 and 2012 he headed the Territorial Agendas and Macroeconomic Analysis Working Group of the Department of Bilateral Economic Relations and Trade Promotion at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in Prague. At 2012 he opened the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Yerevan, Armenia, where he served as Chargé d’affaires, and since 2015 till 2019 as Ambassador. On July 3, 2019, Mr. Mikyska presented to the President of Georgia, Ms Salome Zourabichvili, Letters of Credence accrediting him as Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Georgia.

## Renata Skardziute-Kereselidze

Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze is deputy director at Georgian Institute of Politics, where she worked since 2012. She is alumna of the On Think Tanks Fellowship Program “Integral Leaders for Global Challenges” (2017). Before joining GIP Renata has worked as a journalist covering foreign policy and European issues in Lithuania, and was recipient of Heinrich Boell fellowship to research EU strategies in conflict resolution in Georgia. Her interests include collective identities, European integration and Eastern Partnership. She earned her MA at Central European University (CEU), Nationalism Studies department (2009); and received BA in Political Science, Institute of International Relations and Political Science (IIRPS), Vilnius University (2008).



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## Ekaterine Basilaia

Ekaterine Basilaia is a lead researcher of the project “Experience-Sharing of V4 Countries to Promote Media Professionalism in reporting Georgia’s European integration” at GIP. She has 14 years of experience in the field of media as a journalist, media analyst and an educator. For the past 8 years Ekaterine has served as a consultant for IREX Media Sustainability Index first as a moderator and since 2014 as a (co)author of the reports on the freedom of the media in Georgia. From 2018 Ekaterine started as a country research consultant for Media Influence Matrix, a project run by the Center for Media, Data and Society at Central European University (CEU). The project is aimed at researching the impact of the government and regulatory space, funding, and technology on the news media and journalism in the country. She is an author of several research papers and a co-author of the book “The Role and Limitations of non-Governmental Policy Advocacy in Georgia: Groups and Media in Agenda-Setting” (2016). Ekaterine Basilaia teaches at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Tbilisi State University.

## Filip Pazderski

Filip Pazderski - A lawyer and sociologist after studies at University of Warsaw, he has also graduated from European Master’s Degree Program in Human Rights and Democratization (E.MA) in Venice. Currently he is finishing his doctoral thesis at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Senior Policy Analyst and Project Manager in the Civil Society and Democracy Program of the Institute of Public Affairs in Poland (a non-partisan think-tank organization established in 1995), where he works on civil society, civic education, public participation, democratic institutions and social enterprises development, being an author of numerous researches, expert opinions and publications on these subjects. Co-author of the Long-term policy on volunteering development in Poland prepared within Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Since 2016 he is responsible for preparation of USAID’s CSOs Sustainability Index report for Poland. He conducted research and wrote reports for such organizations and institutions as the Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Office of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Since 2003 he is active in civil society building, as well as promotion of human rights and democratic standards while cooperating with several different NGOs in Poland and abroad. Vice-president of the European Civic Forum, a network of more than 100 organisations working on the civic related issues. He is also one of the co-founders and since 2009 a president of the Association for the Podlasie Land DRUMLA (based in Poland).



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## Dr. Petra Kuchyňková

Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies, Researcher at the International Institute for Political Science, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. After graduation in International Relations and European Studies at Faculty of Social Studies MU she worked as analyst of European legislation in Centre for the Study of Democracy and Culture (2004-2013). In 2007 she became an assistant at the Department of International Relations and European Studies and since 2010 she has worked here as an assistant professor. In years 2008 – 2009 she worked as an assistant in European Parliament in Brussels. Author and co-author of dozens of articles, e.g. The Conduct of Gazprom in Central and Eastern Europe: A Tool of the Kremlin, or Just an Adaptable Player? (East European Politics and Societies 2018; with M. Jirušek), monographs, e.g. Energetická bezpečnost asijských zemí a Ruské federace (Energy Security of Asian countries and the Russian Federation; Masarykova univerzita, 2014; with H. Kodůusková, A. Leshchenko and M. Jirušek) and chapters in books. Research interests: Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU, EU-Russia Relations, Eastern Partnership, European Integration in Post-Lisbon Era.

## Jan Cingel

Ján Cingel is a Research Fellow and the Head of the European Neighborhood Programme of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Slovakia-based think-tank. He has been in the position since 2016 before he was working as a project manager of the European Neighbourhood Development Programme at GLOBSEC (previously the Slovak Atlantic Commission) for five years. His areas of expertise are: the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, radicalization, violent extremism, NATO, and EU integration related issues and processes. He has run a number of projects in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Before joining the Slovak Atlantic Commission, Ján worked at the Bilateral relations office of the Defence Policy, International Relations and Legislation Department of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic in 2008 – 2010. He is one of the co-founders of the Bratislava Global Security Forum – GLOBSEC. Ján graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia with an MA. degree in International Relations and Diplomacy.

## Giorgi Muchaidze

Giorgi Muchaidze is an Executive Director of the Atlantic Council of Georgia. He has 13 years of public service experience. Among his positions were, Deputy Defence Minister and Charges D'affairs. He has actively contributed to cardinal reformation of the national security system of Georgia, which was widely recognized as a success. Giorgi has both, mid- and strategic level management experience in security sector institution and capacity building, as well as in embedding the democratic checks and balances. He holds master's degrees from Tbilisi State University (LLM with honour) and Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MPA). As the UN Disarmament Fellow and the Research Fellow at Georgian Foundation for



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Strategic and International Studies, Giorgi authored several research papers. He is also an author of Georgian Governmental Communication Strategy on Georgia’s NATO and EU Membership for 2017-2020. Giorgi is a co-founder of the Georgian-German Strategic Forum, a non-governmental platform that brings together security communities of two countries for facilitation of strategic partnership.

## Levan Kakhishvili

Levan Kakhishvili is a Policy Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) and a doctoral fellow at the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS) in Germany. Since October 2018, Mr. Kakhishvili is a DAAD scholar pursuing his doctoral research on political party competition in post-Soviet hybrid regimes. His field of expertise includes democratization, political parties, Georgia’s foreign policy with a focus on Georgian-Russian relations, and issues related to national identity, ethnic minorities and nationalism. Mr. Kakhishvili has obtained two Master’s degrees: MSc in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Oxford, St Antony’s College and MSocSc in Transformation in South Caucasus from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. During 2015-2018, as an invited lecturer, he has taught various courses related to political science at the International Black Sea University, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and Georgian Institute of Public Affairs.

## Lasha Tugushi

From 2012 Lasha Tugushi is a director of Liberal Academy Tbilisi (EI-LAT). He has significant experience of working with civil society. From 1995 till present he is the Editor-in-chief of Georgian daily newspaper “Resonansi”, UNDP hired expert on energy issues, doctor of political sciences at Tbilisi State University, lecturer on media and international conflicts, member of the Media coalition (unites Georgian media organizations and experts), Fulbright fellow, author of various Laws and research papers on media, energy, as well as on conflict issues.

## Nazibrola Rekhviashvili

Nazibrola Rekhviashvili is a member of the FactCheck team and a Regional Analyst for Adjara. She graduated from Kutaisi State Technical University with a degree in Journalism in 2001. From 1999 to 2003 she worked in the Public Relations Department of the Kutaisi Municipality. She worked as a Journalist for the Kutaisi TV channel and wrote for the Ar Idardo magazine as well as other regional print media. From 2012 she has been working for the Adjara P.S. newspaper. From 2015 Ms. Rekhviashvili works for the independent investigative media-studio “REC”. She has participated in various trainings and educational courses on public relations, coverage of intercultural relations and human rights protection, DCFTA implementation process, methods of using the databases etc. From 2015 she has been working for the member organization of the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia. In 2017 Ms. Rekhviashvili participated in the training conducted by the International Federation of Journalists for the Investigative Journalism.



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