



საქართველოს პოლიტიკის ინსტიტუტი
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS



Assessing Polarization in the EaP Countries: Mixed Record

Online (Zoom) Workshop
December 7

14:00 (GMT +4)

Agenda

14:00-14:20 Welcoming Remarks

- **H.E. Maaïke van Koldam**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia
- **Dr. Kornely Kakachia**, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)
- **Dr. Stepan Grigoryan**, Chairman of the Board, Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC)
- **MODERATOR: Iulian Groza**, Executive Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Moldova

14:20-14:35 Polarization in post-electoral Armenia: effects on good governance and democratic process

Larisa Minasyan – former Executive Director of Open Society Foundations-Armenia

14:35-14:50 Ethnic polarization in the Republic of Moldova: how to counteract the discourse and actions instigating to division?

Mihai Mogildea - Team Leader, Europeanisation Program, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Moldova

14:50-15:05 On the Crossroads of Consensus-Based Political Culture: Can Georgia Overcome the Polarization Trap?

Nino Samkharadze – Junior Policy Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP), Georgia

15:05-15:30 Q & A Session

15:30-15:45 Concluding Remarks



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About the event:

All three EaP countries in focus, Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia, have experienced the negative effects of polarization on their political environments, which undermined much of the efforts of consensus-based politics, coalition building, and strengthening of the democratic institutions. While the last year's constitutional changes created conditions for multi-party parliament, Georgia has found itself in the grips of extended political crisis, which has damaging effects for the country's reforms and European integration. In Moldova, geopolitics has been a dividing factor often abused by populist political groups, which prevented seeking tangible progress in the country's development. Recently, ethnic cleavages started dominating the populist agenda to gain popularity. The Moldovan society did not support such attempts to misuse ethnic divisions in the recent elections, but more efforts are needed to combat polarization on ethnic grounds. After the Velvet Revolution in 2018 Armenian society hoped for changes and reforms. But as the Parliamentary elections in December 2018 were carried out with an old electoral code, Armenia elected a Parliament with only three factions where the ruling party has a Constitutional majority. Such distribution of power created challenges for pluralistic and unaccountable governance, which only worsened after the war over Nagorno Karabakh.

The workshop will bring together experts, civil society representatives, and media from Georgia, Moldova and Armenia, in search for successful examples of addressing polarizations, sharing experiences on the challenges to democracy building and ways forward.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

The workshop is a part of a project "EaP Cooperation for Stronger Democracy: Georgia, Moldova and Armenia". The project is run by the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP, Georgia) and project partners are Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE, Moldova) and Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC, Armenia). The project benefits from support through the Netherlands Fund for Regional Partnerships MATRA for regional cooperation in the Eastern Partnership (EaP).