

"PRC's Role in Reshaping the Global Order"





PRC's Role in Reshaping the Global Order

Day one - July 5th

8:00 – Georgian participants travel to Borjomi

11:30 – 12:00 Welcome Coffee in Borjomi

12:00 – 12:20 Opening of the Conference

Tinatin Khidasheli – Chair of Civic IDEA

Mariusz Pietrzak – Chargé d'affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Georgia

12:20 – 13:45 PRC's grand strategy in the Changing World

Cathrene Tai – Center for International Private Enterprise, USA

Plamen Tonchev – Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER)/MERICS

David Aptsiauri – Former Georgian Ambassador to the PRC

Michal Bogusz – Ph.D., Center for Eastern Studies, Research Fellow, China Research Programme

Farkhod Tolipov – Director, NGO “Bilim Karvoni” (“Caravan of Knowledge”), Uzbekistan

Moderator: Nino Gelashvili – RL/RFE Georgia

13:45 – 14:15 Big Data - China Index Presentation

Wu, Min Hsuan - Doublethinklab / Online

14:15 – 15:30 Lunch

15:30 – 16:00 Presentation of the Academy Tracker

Tracking Europe – Chinese Academic cooperation and engagement: scope, risks and sustainability

Matej Šimalčík – Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS)

16:00 – 17:00 Panel discussion
PRC's soft power policy in Academia, CSOs and Media

Matej Šimalčík – Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies
(CEIAS)

Ani Kintsurashvili – Senior Researcher, Civic IDEA

Vusal Guliyev – Fellow, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies,
Harvard University.

Patrycja Pendrakowska – Boym Institute, President of the Institute,
analyst on China, Taiwan, Hong Kong

*Moderator – Sandro Megrelishvili, Georgian Center for Strategy and
Development (GCSD)*

17:00 – 18:00
**Chinese communication Strategy: Information Manipulation,
Challenges, and Lessons to learn from Russia-Ukraine War -**

Tauno Tohk – Policy Officer, European External Action Service

**EU's turn to systemic rivalry with China, amid at Russia's war in
Ukraine –**

Jonas Parello-Plesner – Executive Director, Alliance of Democracies

**18:00 – 19:30 PRC's information warfare - implications/deterrence
strategies under the new NATO strategy, following up to
Madrid Summit**
Presentation of the Georgia Case by Journalism Resource Center

Natia Kuprashvili – Chairwoman

Nino Kheladze – Journalist

Erika Kuenne – US embassy, Prague, Czech Republic

Umedjon Majidi – Anti corruption expert, Sarajevo, BiH

Moderator – Eka Akobia, Dean, CSG, CU

19:30 – Dinner

Day two - July 6th

8:00 – 10:00 – Breakfast

10:00 – 12:00 Panel Discussion: China as a military power - security implications for NATO

NATO liaison office in Georgia

Head of NATO division of MFA, Republic of Poland

Marcin Przychodniak – PhD, China analyst in the Asia-Pacific Program

China's Readiness in Afghanistan & Implication for the Region

Niva Yau – Senior Researcher, the OSCE Academy

Anton Bugayenko and Temur Umarov – the OSCE Academy

Moderator – Tinatin Khidasheli, Chairperson, Civic IDEA

12:00 – 13:00 Indo-Pacific and the China challenge: a view from Europe

Akira Imamura – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia

Samuel M Chu - Founding and managing director of the Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)

Martin Hala – Founder/Director, Sinopsis

Moderator: Patrycja Pendrakowska – President of the Boym Institute, Poland

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Discussion: Is the Chinese Market alternative for the Russian Oil and Gas / EU perspective in the light of the War in Ukraine

Gia Jandieri – Director, New Economic School of Georgia

Denis Cenus – Associated Expert, Think Tank EESC (Lithuania);

Associated expert, Think Tank Expert-Grup (Moldova)

Danila Bekturganov – Director, NGO "Civil Expertise"

Artak Kyurumyan – Researcher, Chairman of the Board of Directors of
Open Society Foundation
Łukasz Gacek – Professor at the Institute of the Middle and the Far East,
Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Head of the Department of China

Moderator: Alexander Kaffka, Caucasus Journal

**15:40 – 17:00 PRC's economic diplomacy- Transportation corridors in
the light of the new regional deal with China**

Andeas Kalindra –Ambassador of Lithuania to Georgia
Jean M. Foster - Economic Unit Chief, US embassy in Georgia
Bakytbek Satybekov – Expert, Co-chairperson, National Open
Government Forum, Kyrgyz Republic
Dominik Mierzejewski – Chair, Centre for Asian Affairs, University of Lodz
Tatyana Sedova – director of TAC Kazakhstan (Transparency
Accountability Consulting)
Gubad Ibadoghlu – Senior Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)

Moderator – Umedjon Majidi – Anti corruption expert, Sarajevo, BIH

17:00 / Check out / travel to Tbilisi

Hosts, Speakers and Moderators



Tinatin Khidasheli

Tinatin Khidasheli heads a Georgian think-tank Civic – IDEA, fighting soviet legacy in Georgia, confronting Russian and Chinese influence operations in South Caucasus and Central Asia and advocating for sound defense and security policy for Georgia. Tinatin is teaching at the Caucasus University bachelor's and Master's programs: Hybrid Warfare and Georgian Defense Policy, as well as a Challenges of 21st century Leadership at the Georgian Institute of Public Administration for Masters Programs students.

Mrs. Khidasheli at different times served as the first female Minister of Defense of Georgia, she chaired the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration as well as the Inquiry Commission into Violations of Freedom of Speech and Telecommunication laws at the Parliament of Georgia. Before that, she was an elected member of the Tbilisi City Council and founder and chair of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association.



Tinatin was a member of the National Anti-Corruption Council for four years, under the president of Georgia.

Mrs. Khidasheli is a lawyer by education. She holds LLM in International Law from Tbilisi State University and MA in Political Science from Central European University in Hungary. She was awarded a Human Rights Lawyers' scholarship and spent a year at the Washington College of Law and as well as was selected as a Yale World Fellow. Mrs. Khidasheli was presented Freedom Fighter Award by President G W Bush and the CEU Impact award for outstanding Career Achievement. She is a fellow at the Prague Civil Society Center and CEVRO.

Ani Kintsurashvili

Has a Master's Degree in International Relations, International Security and Conflict Studies from Tallinn University. Since February 2020, she serves as a Senior Researcher at Civic IDEA, Georgian NGO and Civil Society Institution, working on the issues of China's economic and information influence in Georgia and worldwide.

Previously, Ani graduated with a Bachelor of Political Science at the University of Georgia and during her studies in Estonia; she also visited the University of Bologna for one semester in frames of Erasmus+ exchange program. In 2015-2016 she served as an intern at the US Embassy and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. She was awarded a certificate of appreciation for the exemplary dedication, tireless effort and exceptional resourcefulness in support of US Embassy Regional Security Office. Earlier in 2014, she volunteered for AIESEC in Poland. In 2012, she

held the position of Vice President of Outgoing Global Community Development Program at AIESEC Georgia.

The topics of her research have included the following: the geopolitics of cybersecurity, hybrid warfare and disinformation campaigns, energy security, violent and non-violent conflicts, global terrorism, China and Russia's foreign policies, and the EU-NATO politics.



Ambassador Imamura Akira

Mr. Imamura serves as an Ambassador of Japan to Georgia since 2020. Before arriving in Tbilisi, Mr. Imamura served in Canada, Australia, Russia and the UK, as well as held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Mr. Imamura is a graduate of University of Tokyo, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of International Relations and Completed Certificate Program of Harriman Institute for the Advanced Study of the Soviet Union, Columbia University. He has co-authored a book “Russia and CIS Countries by Maps and Figures” and is the author of various publications on Japan-Russia relations.



Andrius Kalindra

Andrius Kalindra has been assigned as an Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Georgia since October 2020. Previously, he served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Lithuania. In 2015-2020, Mr. Kalindra headed the International and the EU Affairs Group within the Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2012-2014, he was assigned as Minister Counsellor to the UN Security Council and in 2010-2012, to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE. Different times he also served at the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mr. Ambassador holds Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Vytautas Magnus University, and Master's degree in International Law from the Vytautas Magnus University.



Catherine Tai

Mrs. Tai is the Deputy Director for Asia and the Pacific of the Center for International Private Enterprise. Her portfolio of projects focuses on partnering with business associations to strengthen the role of the private sector and mobilize local networks of small and medium enterprises to attract accountable and constructive investments. In addition, she manages regional initiatives that encourage transparent large infrastructure projects.

Tai is a seasoned international development professional with a decade-long experience conceiving, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs in East and Southeast Asia. Previously, Tai was the Senior Program Officer for East Asia at the Eurasia Foundation, where she provided technical assistance to civil society groups and designed new initiatives with local partners. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland – College Park and a BA in Diplomacy from National Chengchi University, the top liberal arts university in Taiwan.



Mariusz Pietrzak

Mr. Pietrzak is a civil servant and a diplomat. He serves as the First Counselor, Head of the Political and Economic Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi. During his diplomatic career he served in the rank of First Secretary, and then Counselor at the Political Section of the Embassy of Poland in Beijing, PRC.



Mr Plamen Tonchev



Mr. Tonchev has been Head of Asia Unit at the Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Greece, since 1998. Plamen is a founding member of the European Think-tank Network on China (ETNC) and sits on the EU Chapter of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (EU CSCAP) committee. Mr Tonchev has published books on Japan, India and Pakistan, as well as articles in academic journals on political/economic co-operation between Europe and Asia.

Plamen's work on China dates back to the 1990s. The list of his recent publications on China includes "China's Road: Into the Western Balkans" (EUISS, 2017); "Along the Road: Sri Lanka's Tale of Two Ports" (EUISS, 2018), "China's Image in Greece, 2008-2018" (co-authored, IIER, 2018); "China's Shift to a New Economic Model: From Quantitative to Qualitative Growth?" (Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 2019); "China's Soft Power in Southeast Europe" (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2020); "Impact of COVID19 on ASEM Connectivity" (co-authored, European Commission, 2020); "Sino-Greek Relations in Greek and Chinese Media, 2020" (IIER, 2021), etc.

Ambassador David Aptsiauri

Mr. Aptsiauri is a doctor of Economics and has been published intensively both in Georgian and International journals. His academic career brought him to various parts of the world. From 1994 to 2013 he was teaching at Columbia and Florida Universities in the US. Currently, he is teaching at the Tbilisi State University and various leading Chinese universities.

His professional career is mostly related to the ministry of Foreign affairs of Georgia, where he served as a deputy minister and at different times as Georgia's ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as to Mongolia, the Republic of Vietnam and People's Republic of China.



Michal Bogusz

Mr. Bogusz, is a graduate of political science at University of Gdańsk (2001) and international relations at Renmin University of China in Beijing (2005). In 2008 he defended a Ph.D. thesis in political sciences. He has spent nearly nine years studying and working in China. His main expertise among other issues, includes: Foreign policy of the People's Republic of China and Internal policies of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.



Dr. Farkhod Tolipov

Dr. Tolipov graduated from Tashkent State University. From 1994 till 2005 he had taught at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, from which he received a PhD in Political Science. His academic career includes teaching at different times at the National University of Uzbekistan, OSCE Academy in Bishkek, as well as at the George Marshall European Center for Security Studies and Geneva Center for Security Policy. He was a Fellow at the NATO Defense College (Rome) in 1997 and 2013; a Fellow at Harvard University (USA) in 1999; and a Visiting Professor at the University of Georgia (USA) in 2004;

Currently he is a Director of the non-governmental Research Institution “Bilim Karvoni” (“Caravan of Knowledge”) in Tashkent and Adjunct Professor at the Webster University in Tashkent. Dr. Tolipov is specialized in geopolitics, regional security and regional integration in Central Asia, nationalism and democratization in Central Asian countries.

Dr. Tolipov is a member of the international editorial board of the journal “Central Asia and Caucasus”. He is also a member of the expert group of the journal “Security Index” of the PIR-Center (Russia) and the Central Eurasian Studies Society.

Wu, Min Hsuan

Wu, Min Hsuan, also known as Ttcat, is co-founder and CEO of Doublethink Lab. He is focused on mapping China’s online information operation mechanisms and facilitating the global CSO network to combat digital authoritarianism. For over a decade and a half, he has committed to LGBTIQ+, environment, open government, and digital rights movement as an activist and campaigner.

Patrycja Pendrakowska

Mrs. Pendrakowska founder and the head of the Boym Institute based in Warsaw and analyst of China's foreign policy and economy. On behalf of the Institute, she works on EU-ASEAN relations within the EANGAGE project coordinated by KAS Singapore and on Betzavta method with the Adam Institute for Peace and Democracy in Jerusalem. She is one of the founding members of the board at WICCI's India-EU Business council based in Mumbai and coordinated the Transcultural Research Group on the Belt and Road Initiative organised by the Leadership Excellence Institute Zeppelin. Ms Pendrakowska is a PhD candidate at the Humboldt University in Berlin, where she researches political philosophy in China. She graduated from the University of Warsaw with a BA in Sinology, Sociology and Philosophy, and holds two master's degrees in Financial Law, as well as Ethnography and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Warsaw.



Matej Šimalčík

Mr. Šimalčík is the Executive Director of the Central European Institute of Asian Studies, a think tank that focuses on foreign and security policy issues related to East Asia. Matej's research looks at China's economic and political presence and influence in Central Europe, elite relations, corrosive capital as well as the role of European legal instruments in mitigating risks posed by China. In 2021, he was listed on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list (Slovak edition) in the category governance and social innovation. He is also a member of the Expert Pool at the European Center of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE). He has a background in Law (Masaryk University, 2015) and International Relations (University of Groningen, 2016).



Vusal Guliev

Vusal Guliyev is a 2020–2022 Fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He is also enrolled as a Ph.D. Candidate in International Politics at the School of International Relations & Public Affairs of Shanghai International Studies University jointly with the SGS Program of Shanghai Municipal Government, where he previously received a Master degree in China Studies under the CSC Program of Chinese Government. While pursuing his Postgraduate Studies, he held a one-semester Fellowship at the Asia-Pacific Research Center of Ankara University in Turkey and attended the International Joint Workshop Series at the Kyushu University of Japan. In addition, he worked as a Research Assistant Intern at the Institute of China Studies of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences during his Master's degree program. Currently, he is an Associate Expert at the Topchubashov Center, a Baku-based global policy think tank and a Contributing Author at the Baku Research Institute. His recent commentaries and op-eds have appeared in international media outlets such as the Geopolitical Monitor, Eurasia Review, Modern Diplomacy, Jamestown Foundation, SISU Opinion, Politicon, Daily Sabah and CACI Analyst. Besides being a contributing author to the numerous scholarly books, he also writes analytical articles in various languages such as Azerbaijani, Turkish, English, and Chinese with a special interest in the regions of South Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific.

Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu

Dr. Ibadoghlu is the holder of a Ph.D. in Economics from the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC).

He commenced his career at the Economic Research Centre, a Baku-based Think Tank that promotes economic development and good governance. He was a member of the Steering Committee of the EU Eastern Partnership Program's Civil Society Forum (2011-2012) and served as a representative of Eurasian civil society's representative to the international board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for the 2013–2019. He was elected the first chair of the Azerbaijan Think Tank Association and Movement for democracy and Prosperities in Azerbaijan. Currently, he is a member of the Advisory Board of CAREC Think Tank Network.

He was a researcher at the Higher Economic School, Warsaw in 1999/2000, a Research Fellow at Central European University, Budapest in 2004/2005, a Teaching fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2008/2009, Visiting Professor at Duke University in 2015/2016, Research fellow at Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 2017/2018.

Before becoming the current Senior Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE), he was an affiliated postdoc fellow in the Rutgers' Centre for European Studies. He taught four courses (International Political Economy, Globalization, Democracy and Contemporary Capitalism, Economics of Transition, Economics of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development) in the Department of Political Science and Economics at Rutgers University during the 2018-2021 academic years.



Tauno Tohk



Tauno Tohk is the China lead at the Strategic Communications and Information Analysis Division of the European External Action Service, focusing on foreign information manipulation and interference. He was previously a member of Cabinet for the European Commission Vice-President for Digital Single Market, being among other things responsible for coordinating EU's work on countering disinformation. Before that he was a media adviser for the Estonian Government and Prime Minister. Tauno has lived in China and given lectures on Chinese contemporary politics in Estonian universities.

Jean Foster



Jean Foster is the Economic Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, where she covers commercial, macroeconomic, financial sector, and trade issues, among others. As a member of the Foreign Service, Jean has served as a Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Center in Washington, D.C.; an Economic Officer in Karachi, Pakistan; and a Consular Officer in Beijing, China. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Jean was a quantitative researcher or engineer at various organizations, including Los Alamos National Laboratory and ExxonMobil. Jean has an MSc in Engineering Science from the University of Oxford and a BSE from Duke University.

Jonas Parello-Plesner

Mr. Parello-Plesner is Executive Director at the Alliance of Democracies Foundation in Copenhagen founded by former NATO Secretary General and Danish Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Jonas has long-standing experience in the Danish Foreign Service including on US, European and Chinese strategic thinking. From 2013-2017 he was head of department for foreign policy at the Danish Embassy in Washington. He also served in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs while studying at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris 2003-2005.



Parello-Plesner has also worked at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) as a Senior Policy Fellow with a focus on European-Chinese relations from 2010-2013. He served as the Danish Foreign Ministry's Senior Advisor on China and North-East Asia from 2005-2009. His co-authored book, *China's Strong Arm: Protecting Citizens and Assets Abroad*, was published in 2015 by IISS/Routledge and launched at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. At Hudson Institute, he published a comprehensive report which conducted broad-based tracking of Chinese Communist party interference and influence in the US. Jonas has contributed to Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Newsweek, American Interest and writes an international column for Danish daily Berlingske.

Samuel Chu



Mr. Chu is the founder and President of the Campaign for Hong Kong. Most recently, Samuel was the founding and managing director of the Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC), the first-ever DC-based organization for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. While leading HKDC, Samuel successfully advocated for the passage of landmark legislation such as the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, and numerous other policies supporting Hong Kong. In direct response, Hong Kong authorities issued arrest warrants against Samuel in July 2020, making him the first foreign citizen targeted under Hong Kong's National Security Law. Previously Samuel served as the national organizer for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, the founding president of the community organizing group, OneLA (Industrial Areas Foundation), and the founding and executive director of California Faith for Equality and California Faith for Equality Action Fund.

A first-generation immigrant from Hong Kong, Samuel is the son of the Rev. Chu Yiu Ming, co-founder of Occupy Central, which led to the Umbrella Movement in 2014. The elder Chu was later tried, convicted, and sentenced on protest-related charges in 2019.

Niva Yau

is Senior Researcher at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Fellow at the Eurasia Program of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. Her work follows Global China affairs with a particular focus on China's foreign policy, trade and security in its western neighbourhood, including Central Asia and Afghanistan. She has conducted a number of commissioned research and brief officials on China affairs in Central Asia, including a congressional hearing for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in May 2022.

Ms Yau is quoted by news agencies globally, such as BBC, The Independent, Nikkei Asia, The Economist, VICE, Le Monde, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera and others. Originally from Hong Kong, Ms Yau has been based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018, she is a native speaker of Cantonese, Mandarin, English and a learner of Russian.



Anton Bugayenko

is a research fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. He is formerly Head Expert of the Chinese and Asian studies program at Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP) under Foundation of the First president in Kazakhstan. He holds degrees in international policy from Fudan University and is an alumnus of Peking University's Dongfang Program.



Umedjon Majidi



Mr. Umedjon Majidi is an independent Anti-Corruption and Governance Consultant and Expert of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. He is a former Civil Society Capacity Building Program Coordinator of the Center for International Development, State University of New York and Open Society Foundation with expertise in Central Asian development analysis and research, civil organizations capacity building and institutional development, is based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He is a Founder and former Chairman of NGO Peshraft, an innovative education support promotion NGO in Tajikistan. Umedjon graduated from the University of Sussex, the United Kingdom in a Master of Arts in (Anti-) Corruption and Governance, Russian-Tajik Slavonic University in International Relations and Diplomacy, and holds a Ph.D. degree in International Relations and Foreign Policy, Tajikistan National University.

Marcin Przychodniak Ph. D.



Mr. Przychodniak is a Senior Research Fellow and China analyst in the Asia-Pacific program at the Polish Institute of International Affairs. His research focuses on China's foreign policy and internal affairs. In 2012 he received a doctoral degree in the field of political science from Warsaw University.

In 2005 graduated from Adam Mickiewicz's University (with M.A. in international relations and journalism). Between 2012 and 2016 - diplomat in the political section of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Beijing.

Nina Kheladze

Nina Kheladze is a Scholar of the KCL, faculty of Strategic Communications. She is a development Director of TOK TV and works actively on the issues related to ethnic minorities and disinformation.

Ms. Kheladze is a board member of the Georgian Charter of Journalistic ethics.



Natia Kuprashvili

Natia Kuprashvili is a CEO of the Journalists resource center. At the same time she serves as a Steering Committee Member at Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

Ms. Kuprashvili is a graduate of Tbilisi State University and studies strategic communications at the King's College London. At different times she worked as Director at Georgian Alliance of Regional Broadcasters and a head of EaP CSF Georgian National Platform.

She is the founder of TOK TV in Georgia.



Temur Umarov



is a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the OSCE Academy (Bishkek). His research is focused on Central Asian countries' domestic and foreign policies, as well as China's relations with Russia and Central Asian neighbors. A native of Uzbekistan, Temur Umarov has degrees in China studies and international relations from the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). He holds an MA in world economics from the University of International Business and Economics (Beijing). He is also an alumnus of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center's Young Ambassadors and the Carnegie Endowment's Central Asian Futures programs.

Martin Hala (Ph.D.)



Mr. Hala is sinologist, lecturer, founder, and director of Sinopsis.cz, a joint project between AcaMedia and the Institute of East Asian Studies at Charles University in Prague.

He studied in Prague, Shanghai, Berkeley and Harvard, taught in Prague and Bratislava and led projects in various countries in Asia. In 2014 – 15, he was the Regional Manager for Asia Pacific at the Open Society Foundations.

Denis Cenusa

Mr. Cenusa is a political risk analyst based in Germany, where he is pursuing his doctoral studies at Justus-Liebig University in Giessen. He specializes in democratization, European integration, sanctions policy, state resilience, critical infrastructure and energy security in the post-Soviet space. He is affiliated with the Eastern European Studies Centre (Lithuania) and the Think Tank "Expert-Grup" (Moldova). He holds a MA degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe (2013) and a MA in Political Sciences from the Moldovan State University (2007). He is an alumnus of the Advanced Program in EU Law and Economics at Riga Law School (2014).



Gia Jandieri

Mr Jandieri is an economist, who has master's degree from two universities in Georgia. At different times he worked at State Audit Office, Central Election Commission, Parliament of Georgia, and Anti-Corruption Office.

In 2001 Mr. Jandieri co-founded and since that time has been the Vice-president of New Economic School – Georgia, a free-market think-tank. Gia is an active member of the Resource Bank, Economic Freedom, Atlas, 4Liberty and many other free-market networks. He is the author of several articles and research papers on economics and public policy.



Danila Bekturganov



Mr. Bekturganov is a Political scientist and heads an NGO "Civil Expertise".

He has more than 20 years of work experience in non-governmental organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Conducted more than 200 trainings, webinars and TOTs for NGOs on the topics of elections, transparency of budgets and extractive industries, digital rights, and transparency of public procurement.

Member of Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) for the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Kazakhstan from Civil Society.

Member of Digital Rights Experts Group, an expert in Digital Rights and Freedoms Landscape of Kazakhstan (DRFL) <https://drfl.kz/ru/author/bekturganov/>

Artak Kyurumyan



Mr. Kyurumyan is an independent researcher with years of experience in public financial management, budgeting, socio-economic development in Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Since January 2020, he serves as a chairman of the board of Open Society Foundation – Armenia. Starting from 2002, Mr. Kyurumyan consulted and was involved in several development projects related to public financial management (including the development of medium-term expenditure framework and program budgeting), public debt management (including the development of medium-

term debt strategy), government securities market development, economic analysis, etc., and financed by the E.U., USAID, DFID, GIZ, World Bank, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank, and other organizations.

Previously, he served in the Ministry of Finance of Armenia (1995-2001) and later was assigned as the Director of the Armenian Deposit Guarantee Fund (2005-2008).

Mr. Kyurumyan received his Master's degree in Engineering from the American University, Armenia (1995), and an MBA from Tulane University (2003).

Łukasz Gacek

Mr. Gacek is a Professor at the Institute of the Middle and Far East at the Jagiellonian University, and the Head of the Department of China. He is a political scientist, and an expert in cultural studies. He has completed research fellowships at Fudan University and Xiamen University in China. In 2017-18, he was employed at KGHM (Shanghai) Copper Trading Co. Ltd., as an Analyst & Business Development Manager. He specializes in modern political systems, security, and international relations in East Asia. The most notable work has revolved around China's energy and environmental policies. He has authored numerous books and research studies on these and other topics, i.e. Green energy in China: Sustainable development – Environmental protection – Low-carbon economy (2015); Ecological civilization and energy transformation in China (2020); China's environmental protection policy in light of European Union standards (2021).



Bakytbek Satybekov



Mr. Satybekov is an expert in public finance, budget transparency and accountability, corporate governance, asset management and pension funds, microfinance, environmental finance, and "green economy". Since June 2018, he is a co-chairperson of the National Open Government Forum in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Satybekov has 25 years of experience in public administration, corporate sector, international development projects, IT-projects implementation, and NGO development. Previously, he also served as a chairman of the Public Council of the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic 2014-2019.

Bakytbek received academic degrees in ICT and business administration.

Dominik Mierzejewski



Mr. Mierzejewski is head of the Centre for Asian Affairs (university based think-tank); Professor at the Department of Asian Studies Department of Chinese language studies at Shanghai International Studies University; recipient of Jan Karski Scholarship (American Center for Polish Culture, Washington D.C.); visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing; Principal investigator in grants supported by the National Science Centre, Horizon 2020, MOFA, and KGHM; specializes in the rhetoric of Chinese diplomacy, the political transformation of the PRC and the role of provinces in Chinese foreign policy.

Tatyana Sedova

Tatyana Sedova is the founder and director of TAC - Kazakhstan (Transparency Accountability Consulting). Currently, she is a country consultant for the World Bank on Kazakhstan Mining Sector Diagnostic and an expert on institutional development for the Eurasia Foundation Civil Society Support Program.

She has vast experience in promoting extractives' transparency and accountability, good governance, and public participation in Kazakhstan, CIS, and globally, having worked on these issues for Publish What You Pay (2018-2019), the World Bank (2009-2018), EITI International Secretariat (2014-2015). She is a freelance adviser to the Minister of Industry and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and a Board member of Zertteu Research Institute (open budgets and anti-corruption).

She has also been working as a business- trainer and expert-consultant on capacity building and organizational development for civil society organizations for several USAID- funded projects and clients from business and government, as well as a researcher and analyst. She has a Diploma in Finance from the Russian Economic Academy n. Plekhanov, Professional Diploma in Management from London Open University Business School and a Bachelor Degree in Sociology for Kazak National University.



M O D E R



Nino Gelashvili

Mrs. Gelashvili graduated from the Tbilisi State University Department of Journalism and worked as a journalist already from university times. She started her career at the daily Georgian newspaper “Droni” and after graduation became affiliated with the Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty Georgian section. From 2003-2005 Mrs. Gelashvili moved to Prague at the HQ of the RFE/RL and after returning to Tbilisi she leads the morning programs on the radio.

Currently, she leads “morning talks” at the RFE/RL.

Eka Akobia

holds a PHD degree in International Relations from the Tbilisi State University. She teaches at both the Tbilisi State University (TSU) and the Caucasus University (CU). Currently, she is the Dean of the Caucasus School of Governance at Caucasus University.

She has garnered her MA degree in International Relations from Baylor University, USA and her BA degree in Political Science from Hartwick College, USA. She worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, since 2005. Among other positions, she has worked as the deputy director of the Department of the Americas (2009-2010), the deputy director of the Political Department (2010-2012) and as the Director of the Asia, Africa, Australia and the Pacific Department (2012-2016). She has extensive knowledge and experience in Georgia's foreign policy and has been one of the key figures in devising Georgia's global outreach since 2008.



ATORS

Sandro Megrelishvili

Sandro is the Organizational Development Manager at the Georgian Center for Strategy and Development (GCSD) and the head of projects – “Fostering Democratic Citizenship in Georgia” and “Towards a Better Understanding of NATO”. Sandro spent most of his professional career at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, where he worked mainly on the development of various documents and reports.

Sandro holds an Honors Degree in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews and a Master's Degree in Political Science from the Ilia State University. Currently, Sandro is a PhD student in Political Science at Ilia State University. His areas of interest include democracy and democratization, regimes, international relations, defense and security.

Sandro is a visiting lecturer at Business and Technology University.



Alexander Kaffka



Dr. Alexander Kaffka is editor-in-chief of Caucasian Journal (CaucasianJournal.org), born in 1966 in Tbilisi. His professional experience includes think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), organizations like NATO Parliamentary Assembly (being a winner of NATO Research Fellowship), as well as companies such as APCO Worldwide.

Alexander organized conferences on international and environmental security; authored works published by Springer and other leading media.



Organizational Matters/ Staff

For Logistical Matters please refer to:



Gvantsa Esakia

(Contracts, reimbursement)



Natia Kobalia

(Accommodation, all other logistics)



Nino Bachilava

(Video recording, photos)



Beka Tsakadze

(Transportation)

List of Participants



1. **Tinatini Khidasheli** – Chair of Civic IDEA, Former MoD
2. **Mariusz Maszkiewicz** – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Georgia
3. **Andrius Kalindra** – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania to Georgia
4. **Akira Imamura** – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia
5. **David Aptsiauri** – Former Georgian Ambassador to the PRC
6. **Khatuna Samnidge** – Member of Parliament, Republican Party
7. **Teona Aqubardia** – Member of Parliament, Strategy Agmashenebeli
8. **Mariusz Pietrzak** – Political Councilor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Georgia
9. **Mr Marek Kręć** – Head of Political Division of NATO, Security Policy Department of MFA, Republic of Poland
10. **Andrzej Klimczyk** – GeoCase, Georgia
11. **Jean M. Foster** – Economic Unit Chief, US Embassy, Tbilisi, Georgia
12. **Nia Lomidze** – US Embassy, Tbilisi, Georgia
13. **Samuel Chu** – Founder and Director, Hong Kong Democracy Council
14. **Martin Hala** – Founder/Director, Sinopsis
15. **Tauno Tohk** – Policy Officer, European External Action Service
16. **Jonas Parelló-Plesner** – Executive Director, Alliance of Democracies
17. **Matej Šimalčík** – Director, Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS)
18. **Plamen Tonchev** – Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER)/MERICS

19. **Ttcat** – Doublethink Lab (Online)
20. **Cathrine Tai**, CIPE (Online)
21. **Ian McGinnity** – National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
22. **Andrew Linder** – National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
23. **Michal Bogusz** – Ph.D., Center for Eastern Studies, Research Fellow, China Research Programme EU / NATO
24. **Patrycja Pendrakowska** – Boym Institute, President of the Institute, analyst on China, Taiwan, Hong Kong
25. **Marcin Przychodniak** – Ph.D., China analyst in the Asia-Pacific Program
26. **Dominik Mierzejewski** – Chair, Centre for Asian Affairs, University of Lodz
27. **Łukasz Gacek** – Professor at the Institute of the Middle and Far East, Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Head of the Department of China
28. **Ani Kintsurashvili** – Senior China Researcher, Civic IDEA
29. **Volodymyr Kopchak** – Center for Army, Conversion and Disarmament Studies (CACDS)
30. **Umedjon Majidi** – Anti corruption expert, Sarajevo, BIH
31. **Bakytbek Satybekov** – Expert, Co-chairperson, National Open Government Forum, Kyrgyz Republic
32. **Tatyana Sedova** – director of TAC Kazakhstan (Transparency Accountability Consulting)
33. **Danila Bekturganov** – Director, NGO "Civil Expertise"
34. **Artak Kyurumyan** – Researcher, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Open Society Foundation
35. **Denis Cenusa** – Associated Expert, Think Tank EESC (Lithuania); Associated expert, Think Tank Expert-Grup (Moldova)
36. **Gubad Ibadoghlu** – Member of the Advisory Board, CAREC Think Tank Network; Postdoc Fellow, Rutgers Center for European Studies

37. **Vusal Guliyev** – Fellow, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.
38. **Farkhod Tolipov** – Director, NGO “Bilim Karvoni” (“Caravan of Knowledge”)
39. **Niva Yau** – Senior Researcher, the OSCE Academy
40. **Anton Bugayenko** – the OSCE Academy
41. **Temur Umarov** – the OSCE Academy
42. **Tamar Kekenadze** – Chairwoman, Free Democrats of Georgia
43. **Gia Jandieri** – Director, New Economic School of Georgia
44. **Eka Akobia** – Dean, CSG, Caucasus University
45. **Nino Gelashvili** – RL/RFE Georgia
46. **Natia Kuprashvili** – Chairman, Journalism Resource Center
47. **Nino Kheladze** – Journalist, Journalism Resource Center
48. **Nino Khitarishvili** – Eastern European Center for Multi-Party Democracy (EECMD)
49. **Medea Ivanaidze** – Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)
50. **Khatuna Lagazidze** – Political Analyst, Civic Initiative and Innovation Center (CIIC)
51. **Valeri Chechelashvili** – Georgian Strategic Analysis Center (GSAC)
52. **Tinatin Bregvadze** – Georgian Center for Strategy and Development (GCSD)
53. **Sandro Megrelishvili** – Georgian Center for Strategy and Development (GCSD)
54. **Tamar Khidasheli** – Democracy Research Institute (DRI)
55. **Sandro Gigauri** – Media Development Foundation (MDF)
56. **Ketevan Gogotchuri** – Program Officer, Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

Notes



