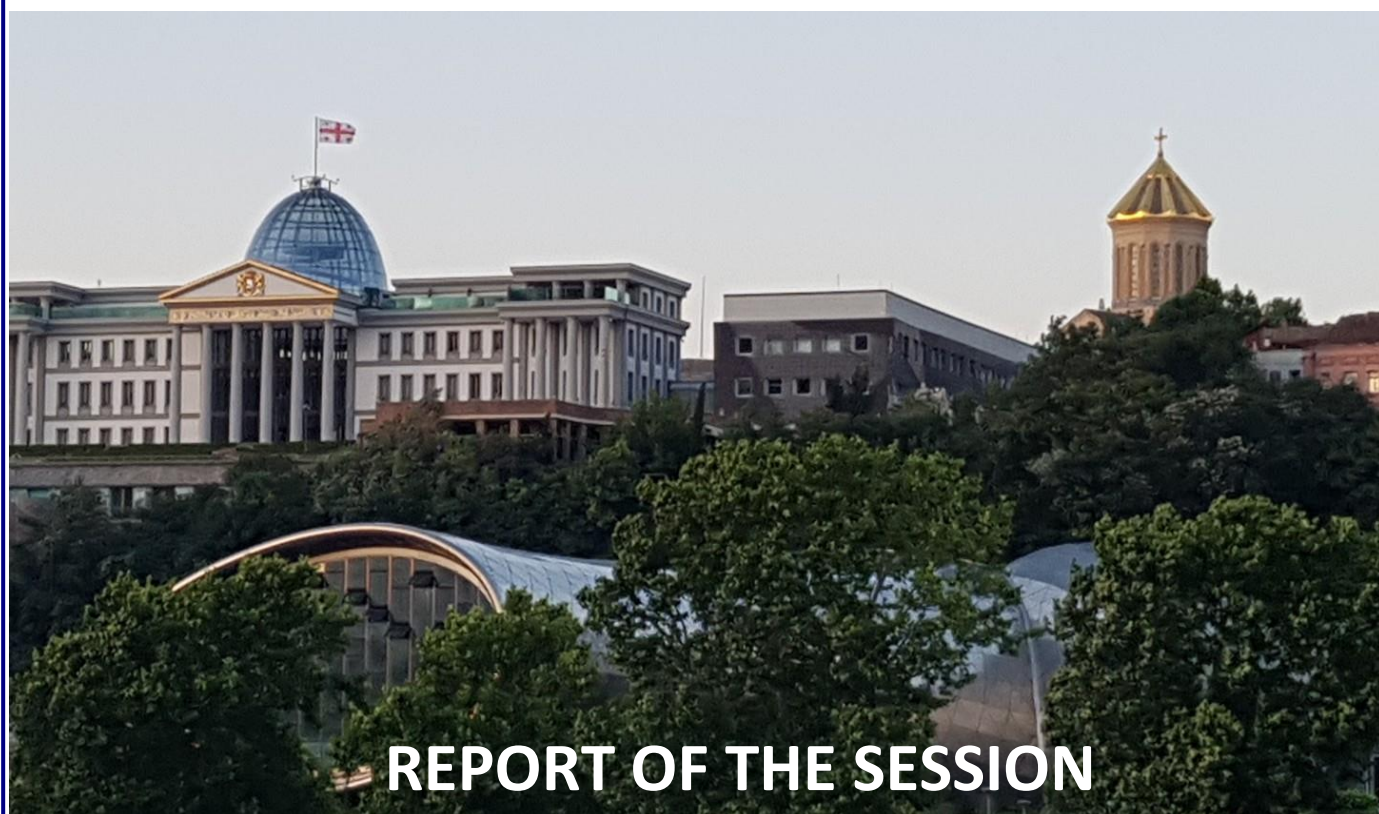




# **BLACK SEA SUMMER UNIVERSITY**

## **“GEORGIA IN THE ENLARGED BLACK SEA REGION”**



### **REPORT OF THE SESSION**

with support of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Georgia



Embassy of the Republic  
of Lithuania to Georgia

**TBILISI (Georgia)**

**July 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*As it is usual now, the Black Sea Summer University was organised in Tbilisi, Georgia, in partnership with the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). Once again, this programme has received the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Georgia.*

*The programme took place from July 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> on the topic "Georgia in the enlarged Black Sea Region". The foreign students who needed accommodation stayed together with the lecturers in a hotel at a very central location in the old town of Tbilisi. As the Georgian students enthusiastically took on the role of tourist guide and made their new international friends discover their capital after class, this location was considered very advantageous. The somewhat longer distance between the hotel and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, where the courses took place, was very manageable thanks to a great taxi service.*

*The academic programme was structured around a lot of topics about the geopolitical context of the Black Sea Region and specially the role of NATO and EU in this region. All the topics were warmly discussed in formal conferences, but with debates and interactive sessions too. The programme contained approximately 30 hours of lectures and discussions. They were conducted in English by international experts from Georgia and from countries both within and outside the European Union.*

*The participants represented 9 different nationalities with a very large part of Georgian candidates. The Georgian candidates immediately were very involved in the organisation of the free time and have facilitated the cultural integration of their foreign new friends. Probably because they were for the first time in a very new country for them, they immediately formed a little family, taking benefit of every free time proposed.*

*All the candidates completed the programme successfully and received a certificate of participation during the closing ceremony. Additionally, those students who presented some supplementary work after the session acquired ECTS Credits. At the end of the session, we also asked our students to fill out the evaluation questionnaire and comment upon our programme. Their observations, which can be found further on in this report, have been of immense value for us, organisers, and showed a great satisfaction.*



*In addition, the participants enjoyed a rich full day excursion out of Tbilisi to the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe and the old city of Mtskheta with its various religious buildings. This excursion was a perfect opportunity for the students to discover other aspects of the host country, such as its history, its religion and its impressive landscapes.*

*All, both students and teachers, considered this experience in Georgia as a great success and Cife warmly thanks the GIP for its involvement in the preparation and organisation of the programme and specially the sponsor (Lithuanian Embassy) for the financial support that has permitted the organisation of a very appreciated programme.*





# PROGRAM

**MONDAY JULY 8, 2019**

Arrival and accommodation of the international participants. Free time

**TUESDAY JULY 9, 2019**

**10:30 h Opening session**

**Presentation of partners and supporters**

**Dr. Kornely Kakachia**, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)

**Marie-France Perdigon**, Director, Summer University Programme, CIFE Nice



**10:45 h “Georgian-French Perspectives on Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic Aspirations”**

**Moderator: Dr. Kornely Kakachia**, Director, GIP

- **H.E. Pascal Meunier**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Georgia
- **Tamar Khulordava**, Chairperson, Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Georgia



**11:45 h Presentation of Participants**

**Lunch together**



**14:00 h “Reinvigorating Cross-Border and Cross-Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea Region: Challenges and Prospects”**

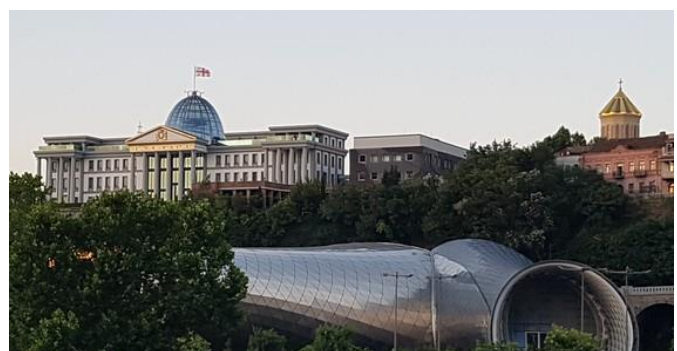
**Dr. Kornely Kakachia**, Director, GIP

**15:15 h “EU-Georgia Relations: Perspectives and Challenges”**

**Ivane Chkhikvadze**, EU Integration Programme Manager, Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), (Georgia)



**Free time and evening**





WEDNESDAY JULY 10, 2019

10:00 h ***"Conflicts in the enlarged Black Sea Region"***  
Ivlian Haindrava, Independent Expert, (Georgia)



11:45 h ***"Thirty Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall: What Went Wrong with Security in Europe?"***  
Prof. Andrey Makarychev, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu, (Estonia)

Lunch

15:00 h ***"South Caucasus: Ethno-, Geo- and Biopolitical Facets of Security in the Region"***  
Prof. Andrey Makarychev, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu, (Estonia)



Free time and evening





THURSDAY JULY 11, 2019



- 10:00 h ***“Regional Security Dynamics in the South Caucasus: the Armenian Foreign Policy”***  
**Dr. Benyamin Poghosyan**, Executive Director, Political Science Association of Armenia

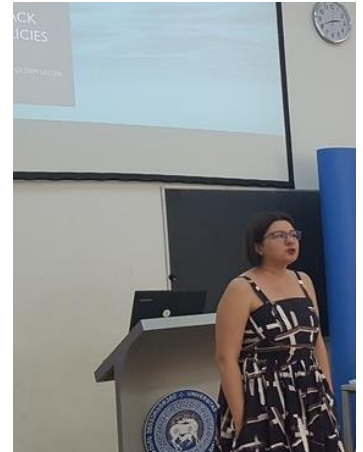
- 11:45 h ***“Georgia-NATO Partnership within Context of the Black Sea Dimension of ‘the New Great Game’”***

**Dr. Lasha Dzebisashvili**, Associate Professor, University of Georgia, (Georgia)



**Lunch together**

- 14:00 h ***“EU’s Black Sea Policies”***  
**Dr. Çiğdem Üstün**, Associate Professor in EU Studies, (Affiliated with the Association of Development, Migration and Social Policies in Izmir (DEMIS).



- 16:00 h ***“China’s Role, Belt and Road Initiative in the Region”***  
**Dr. Benyamin Poghosyan**, Executive Director, Political Science, Association of Armenia

**Free time and evening**





FRIDAY JULY 12, 2019

10:00 h *“Turkish Relations with Georgia and the Enlarged Black Sea Area: Political Economy Perspective”*

**Dr. Çiğdem Üstün**, Associate Professor in EU Studies, (Affiliated with the Association of Development, Migration and Social Policies in Izmir (DEMIS).



12:00 h *Book Presentation: “Europe in Caucasus, Caucasus in Europe: Perspectives on the Construction of the Region” (ibidem Verlag, 2019)*

**Andrey Makarychev**, Professor, University of Tartu (co-editor) and the contributors



Lunch together

14:30 h Exams for ECTS Credits for the students wishing to acquire Credits  
Free afternoon for the others

18:00 h Closing dinner  
and distributing certificates





SATURDAY JULY 13, 2019





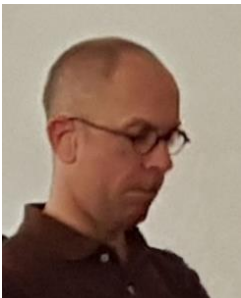

Full day excursion out of Tbilisi:  
Uplistsikhe and Mtskheta









SUNDAY JULY 14, 2019 Departure









## PARTICIPANTS

<p><b>Alania</b> Vakhtangi</p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>valan15@freeuni.edu.ge</p>		<p>Student at Free University of Tbilisi, enrolled in International Relations, Minor-Marketing.</p>
<p><b>Altingoz</b> Mehmet</p> <p><b>Turkey</b></p> <p>altingoz@udel.edu</p>		<p>Doctoral Philosophy Student, the University of Delaware (second year), Master of Science Degree in Water Resources Policy and Management Oregon State University.</p>
<p><b>Aragona</b> Nicole</p> <p><b>U.S.A.</b></p> <p>naragona.teach@gmail.com</p>		<p>Graduated from the University of Florida (BA English), Graduated from the online Master degree of CIFE.</p>
<p><b>Babayeva</b> Fatma</p> <p><b>Azerbaijan</b></p> <p>babayeva.fatma@gmail.com</p>		<p>Freelance Journalist. MA, Media Management &amp; Journalism, Georgian University of Public Affairs, Interpreter / Energy analyst.</p>
<p><b>Bois d'Enghien</b> Koen</p> <p><b>Belgium</b></p> <p>conradini@hotmail.com</p>		<p>Policy officer at the European Commission (employment and education policies).</p>
<p><b>Bossuyt</b> Alexis</p> <p><b>Belgium</b></p> <p>bossuytalexis@gmail.com</p>		<p>Diplomat, Chief commercial and Economic Section (Flanders Investment and Trade).</p>



<p><b>Bravo Rodriguez</b> Guillermo</p> <p><i>Spain</i></p> <p>guille.bravorod@gmail.com</p>		<p>Student in law (French/Spanish law), University of Paris I, Panthéon Sorbonne.</p>
<p><b>Butez</b> Frédérique</p> <p><i>France</i></p> <p>frederiquebutez@yahoo.fr</p>		<p>Master student (second year) in Geopolitics: Territories and Power issues, French institute of Geopolitics, University Paris 8, France.</p>
<p><b>Febbe</b> Eleonora</p> <p><i>Italy</i></p> <p>eleonora.febbe@gmail.com</p>		<p>Enrolled Voluntary Service in Tbilisi for Italian Culture.</p>
<p><b>Jintcharadze</b> Mariami</p> <p><i>Georgia</i></p>		<p>Master Student at University of Pécs, Pécs (Hungary), Faculty of International Relations.</p>
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<p><b>Kvirikashvili</b> Nino</p> <p><i>Georgia</i></p> <p>nini.kvirikashvili97@gmail.com</p>		<p>Student at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Board member at Non-Governmental organization "Young Diplomat's Club of Georgia".</p>

<p><b>Merabishvili Neli</b></p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>likamerabishvili@yahoo.com</p>		<p>Project coordinator, Foundation “Partnership for Road Safety”, Tbilisi.</p>
<p><b>Palazzo Claudia</b></p> <p><b>Italy</b></p> <p>cla.palazzo@gmail.com</p>		<p>Master Student in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe, University of Bologna. Currently Italian Teacher at Istituto di Cultura Italiana in Tbilisi, Georgia.</p>
<p><b>Schnelle Ann-Kathrin</b></p> <p><b>Germany</b></p> <p>schnel25@gw.uni-passau.de</p>		<p>Undergraduate Student, Bachelor in Governance and Public Policy, University of Passau, Currently Intern at the German Embassy in Pretoria.</p>
<p><b>Tchamiashvili Natalia</b></p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>nataliachamiashvili@gmail.com</p>		<p>Graduated in International Studies from Endicott College Massachusetts, Intern, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgia (European Affairs Department).</p>
<p><b>Tsereteli Salomé</b></p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>salome.tsereteli4@iliauni.edu.ge</p>		<p>Bachelor of International Relations, Ilia State University Tbilisi.</p>
<p><b>Tskhakaia Giorgi</b></p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p>gtskh15@freeuni.edu.ge</p>		<p>BA in International relations, Free University of Tbilisi.</p>



**Vakhtangadze Tatia**

**Georgia**

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Student of International Relations, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Assistant at Parliament of Georgia.



**Find all the photos of the session on**  
**[the Facebook page "Summer University Programme-CIFE"](#)**



# EVALUATION

## BLACK SEA SUMMER UNIVERSITY TBILISI (Georgia) 8-14 July, 2019

At the end of the programme, the candidates were invited to fill in an evaluation form covering various aspects of the Black Sea Summer University. When examining the given answers and the general satisfaction rate of 95%, we can only conclude that the programme has been highly appreciated, both on the academic and cultural level as when it comes to the organisation and logistic.

Studying conditions were very comfortable. Classes all took place in the same building of Tbilisi State University. Given the hot weather the students clearly preferred the spacious room with air conditioning over the other, and luckily the organisers managed to arrange that the vast majority of lectures could be followed in the former one. For the working lunches, the group headed to a very nearby restaurant where a table full of delicious, local food was waiting for them. The evaluation forms show that the students were very satisfied with this kind of “seated buffet”.

Especially because of the high number of local students, only a few participants made use of the hotel option arranged by the organisers. Thanks to a handy taxi application, the distance to university was not considered a problem at all. Moreover, the hotel’s very central location in the old town of Tbilisi was very attractive and practical at night, when the Georgian students showed their new international friends around. After class, the Georgian participants enthusiastically made the international students discover their country by showing them around in Tbilisi with, among other things, its monastery and fortress, the Presidential Palace and not to forget the impressive Bridge of Peace. On Saturday, the group went on a full day excursion to the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe and the old city of Mtskheta with its various religious buildings. In between, the participants enjoyed a delicious lunch with typically Georgian dishes. On top of that, the bus rides offered a wonderful view on the country’s impressive landscapes.



The students unanimously agreed that the programme was very well designed. The academic part dealt with very relevant topics and the participants thus went home with a better understanding of and new insights into Georgia, the region and its challenges. In this, the fact that speakers from different countries in the region were invited was considered to be very helpful and enriching. It even encouraged students to suggest also including the point of view of countries on the western side of the Black Sea, such as Moldova or Romania.

### **Evaluation of the lecturers:**

Of course, the academic programme would not have been such a success without the efforts of the lecturers. Both the teachers from Georgia and the foreign lecturers were highly appreciated by the students and more than once awarded with grades of 10 points out of 10. The participants were also very satisfied with the relations with the organisers and the administrative assistance before and during the programme. “Friendly”, “responsive” and “flexible” are some of the qualifications used to describe the approach.

### **General evaluation of the session:**

All the candidates, from Georgia and abroad, enjoyed the Black Sea Summer University very much. They learned a lot about the country and its region, thanks to both the very interesting lectures and to the cultural and tourist activities.

### **CONCLUSION:**

CIFE warmly thanks the Lithuanian Embassy for the financial support, the Georgian Institute of Politics for its amazing involvement and specially Salomé, for her friendly collaboration.



## **SUMMER UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION**

Direction of the CIFE's Summer University Programme

**Marie-France Perdigon**

Director of the Summer University Programme

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## **ORGANISATION AND ASSISTANCE IN GEORGIA**

### **Georgian Institute of Politics, Tbilisi (GIP)**

**Dr. Kornely Kakachia**  
Director  
Georgian Institute of Politics



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**The programme is organized by the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)  
in partnership with the Georgian Institute of Politics  
with support of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Georgia.**