

in partnership with

Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)



BLACK SEA SUMMER UNIVERSITY

**« EU AND BLACK SEA REGION: NEW REALITIES
AND A CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT »**



REPORT OF THE SESSION

TBILISI, (Georgia)

July 20th to 26th, 2017

As it is usual now, the Black Sea Summer University was organized for the third time in Georgia, in Tbilisi, in partnership with Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) and with the support of Open Society Georgia Foundation. The program took place from July 20th to 26th on the topic “EU and Black sea Region: new realities and a changing geopolitical context”.

The foreign students were accommodated together with the lecturers in an hotel close to Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University where the courses took place, just 10 minutes walking between the hotel and the location of the academic program. Even if the hotel might be reach by a very small steep street, it was also close to the famous commercial Rustaveli Avenue and during the long evenings, together with their Georgian new friends, everybody had good opportunities to visit Tbilisi and test its specific gastronomy.



The academic program was structured around a lot of topics about the geopolitical context of the Black sea Region: Economic cooperation, Eastern partnership, Foreign Policy, conflicts, Cross Border cooperation, etc.... The programme contained approximately 30 hours of lectures and discussions. They were conducted in English by international experts from European Union and from Georgia. In addition, one of the session was organised in the building of the Information Center on NATO and EU, one more opportunity to visit an official European institution.

The participants represented 10 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.

In addition, the participants enjoyed a rich full day excursion out of Tbilisi in mountain of Kazbegi including a very amusing van ride on the narrow paths to Mount kazbek. This excursion helped them to savour another identity of the country and the very beautiful view to the highest mountain of Georgia.



All the candidates completed the program successfully and received a certificate of participation. Additionally, those students who presented some supplementary work after the session acquired ECTS Credits. We also asked our students at the end of the session 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.

This new experience in Georgia was considered as a great success and Cife warmly thanks GIP for its involvement in the preparation and organisation of the program and Open Society Foundation for the financial support that has permitted the organisation of the lunches, giving the opportunity to taste the very nice Georgian food.

PROGRAM



Thursday July 20, 2017

Arrival of international participants

Accommodation

Free time

Friday July 21, 2017 Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

10.30 Opening session

Presentation of partners

- **Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)**
M.Kornely Kakachia, Director of the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP), Tbilisi, Georgia
- **Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)**
Mrs Salome Katcharava, representative of OSGF, Tbilisi, Georgia
- **Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)**
Mrs Marie-France Perdigon, Director of the Summer University Programme, CIFE Nice, France



Presentation of participants



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

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

12.30 *Lunch together*



14.30 ***“Wider Black Sea Region in the Global Context”***
S.E. M. Oleg Serebrian, Ambassador of the Moldova Republic in Berlin



16.00 **Optional: Walking tour in the city centre of Tbilisi**



Saturday July 22th 2017:
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University



09.30 ***Economic cooperation in the Black Sea Region***
Dr Natia Daghelishvili, Caucasian Institute for Economic and Social Research.

“The challenges for Eastern Partnership and European Integration”
Interactive lecture
Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)



12.30 **Lunch together**



14.30 *“Black Sea Region security— conflicts and dynamics”*
Richard Giragosian, Director of the Regional Studies
Center (RSC), Yerevan, Armenia



16.00 **Optionnal: Walking tour**



Sunday July 23th 2017 Full day excursion out of Tbilisi:

Departure by bus to Ananouri Castle



After a nice trip in the mountains



Arrival in the parking to rent very "special" cars able to climb to the top of the mountain



It was a very funny experience even if on the top.... nothing to see !



Fortunately..... the Mount Kazbek is such a famous place that we found a postcard !



Monday, July 24, 2017:

Session organised in the building of Information Center on NATO and EU



09.30 **“Georgian identity and its Foreign Policy “**
Levan Kakhishvili, GIP Analyst, Center for Political Research, International Black Sea University.



“Biopolitics in the Black Sea Region and the South Caucasus” (Part 1- Religion) - Prof. Andrey Makarychev, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu, Estonia

12.30 **Lunch together**

14.30 **“Biopolitics in the Black Sea Region and the South Caucasus” (Part 2– Displacement and Citizenship)**
Prof. Andrey Makarychev, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Science, University of Tartu, Estonia

16.00 **Optionnal: Walking tour**



Free time for Dinner

Tuesday, July 25, 2017: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

09.30 ***“The European Union and the Geopolitics of the Black sea”***
Oleg Serebrian, Ambassador of the Moldova Republic in Berlin



“Eastern Partnership Program from Georgia’s Perspective”,

David Aprasidze, Professor, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

12.30 – 14.00 ***Lunch together***



14.30 ***Exams for ECTS Credits for the students wishing to acquire Credits***
Free afternoon for the others

19.00 **Closing ceremony**
at the Tea House Restaurant-Pub

closing speeches



Buffet









and distribution of diplomas



**Wednesday July 26, 2017
Departure of the participants**

PARTICIPANTS

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EVALUATION

The evaluation of the session organised at the end of the program and the examination of the forms proved a great satisfaction of the students regarding the programme as well as the organisation and the logistic. We can consider that the program has been widely praised with a level of satisfaction of 93%.

Even if air conditioned was not available, studying conditions were very comfortable in the building of Tbilisi State University close to the hotel of the foreign candidates, and one working day was organised with success in the building of the Information Centre on NATO and EU, in the area of the old city. The restaurant booked near the university for the working lunches was very tasting and proposed a large variety of food.

The program was very appreciated and judged interesting and useful. All the major topics were covered (economics, security, foreign policy....) with only few complains from candidates wishing more interactive activities and workshops and others who could have appreciated a specific lecture on the Region of Karabakh, Ossetia and Abkhasia. But everyone was very happy to have participated in this program and to have the opportunity of open-discussions with all the teachers.

All the lecturers from Georgia and from abroad were considered as very professional in their area and the best part of the project that made the whole summer school truly useful and beneficial. Some of would have appreciated one more presentation from the Armenian lecturer, Prof. Giragosian.

In addition, the candidates have all noticed a very large satisfaction about

- relations with the team,
- administrative assistance offered before and during the program
- cultural and tourist activities offered outside the program and specially the day trip organized in the mountain region of Kazbegi and the visit of Ananouri Castle.
- and a very, very friendly atmosphere.

All the candidates, from Georgia and from abroad, have largely taken advantage of their free time after the courses and were able to visit, thanks to their Georgian friends, all the interesting places of Tbilisi. The general opinion was that this program is a perfect mixture of leisure activities, lectures and discussions.

Many comments were very complimentary: *"I'm very glad to participate in this excellent programme and to be part of this great team"*, *"I can only recommend to continue on the same level which is quiet good"*,

CIFE warmly thanks Georgian Institute of Politics for its amazing involvement and specially Mariam, for her friendly collaboration and organization and Open Society Foundation for the financial support.

Find all the photos and videos of the session on

Facebook

"Summer University Programme-CIFE" :

https://www.facebook.com/programmedete.ducife/media_set?set=a.10155835110548816.1073741853.617453815&type=3

Georgian Institute of Politics :

https://www.facebook.com/pg/GeorgianInstituteofPolitics/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1383805254990622

and Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVj0JrJ3sQs>



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