Stanford | CDDRL Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law

EPRC Economic Policy Research Center

LAD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

MARCH 1-7
TBILISI 2017

LAD

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OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION
ღია ლია საზოგადოება ჯორჯიაფონდი

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ABOUT THE CENTER ON DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT AND THE RULE OF LAW (CDDRL) AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) at Stanford University has emerged as a convening place for both research and teaching on democracy and governance. Since 2002, CDDRL has collaborated widely with academics, policymakers and practitioners around the world to advance knowledge about the conditions for and interactions among democracy, broad-based economic development, human rights, and the rule of law.

The mission of CDDRL is to understand how countries can overcome poverty, instability, and abusive rule to become prosperous, just, democratic, and well-governed states. This concern for the overall trajectory of national development and for the intricate links among the economic, political, legal, social, and health dimensions of development—sets CDDRL apart from other research centers.

CDDRL is home to a dynamic interdisciplinary research community of innovative and distinguished faculty members and scholars from around the world. Their work spans the globe and bridges the divide between academic research and policy analysis, forging partnerships not only with other research centers but also with international development agencies, governments and civil society organizations in numerous countries.

CDDRL endeavors to engage, learn from, and advise governmental and nongovernmental leaders and organizations that are working to foster effective democracy, inclusive development, human rights, and a rule of law that controls corruption and widens access to justice.

CDDRL's practitioner-based training programs engage emerging civic leaders and social entrepreneurs who are working to achieve or deepen democracy and social justice in some of the most challenging environments around the world. Mid-career practitioners in politics, government, civil society, the mass media, and private enterprise benefit from academic training, mutual reflection, and engagement with the surrounding civic and technology communities. As a consequence, they become empowered to work more creatively and effectively for democracy and development, and CDDRL gains priceless knowledge about and connections with development practice around the world. The Leadership Academy for Development (LAD) is one of CDDRL's leadership programs which CDDRL is implementing in various countries in partnership with a collaborating host institution.

ABOUT THE ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (EPRC)

The Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) is a unique think-and do-tank that brings to light the most pressing economic issues confronted by the society provides thorough analysis on economic issues, offers evidence-based recommendations stimulating public debate and education.

EPRC was established in 2002 and from the very beginning has played an active role in linking civil society and the public sector, providing guidance and advice in various fields of public policy, budget oversight, and monitoring the implementation of the major state and donor funded programs. Since its foundation, EPRC has strived to enhance the quality of economic policy making in Georgia by fostering high quality, policy-relevant economic research, and disseminating it widely to decision-makers in the public and private sectors, and by transferring the knowledge on economic governance and public finance management to representatives of state institutions and civil society organizations in Georgia.

Throughout the past decade, EPRC has earned a reputation of an objective, reliable and non-partisan source of information on the issues related to economic, financial and social policies. EPRC actively encourages diversity of opinion and independent thought in its network, with the result that EPRC output reflects out-of-the-box thinking on a range of perspectives, helping to enrich and enliven policy debates.

EPRC provides a unique forum for the debate and analysis of the most pressing topics for our country and the world by bringing the world class thinkers and intellectuals to Georgia, debating and impacting global economic thinking and influencing policy responses.

EPRC aims to improve the welfare of citizens through expert guidance from decision makers in various issues of economy, capacity building of public institutions, and civil oversight of budgetary expenditures.

ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR DEVELOPMENT (LAD)

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR DEVELOPMENT (LAD)?

The Leadership Academy for Development (LAD) is an executive-level training program which trains government officials and business leaders from developing countries to help the private sector be a constructive force for economic growth and development.

LAD teaches carefully selected participants how to be effective reform leaders, promoting sound public policies in complex and contentious settings. A driving principle of the LAD curriculum is that policy reform is not like engineering or other technical fields that have discrete skills and clear, optimal solutions. Instead, successful reformers must be nimble and weigh a broad range of factors that influence policy outcomes. They must have a solid grasp of country-specific economic, financial, political and cultural realities. Most importantly, they must have a sense of how to set priorities, sequence actions and build coalitions. LAD provides participants with an analytical framework to build these abilities and operate effectively under adverse conditions.

WHO IS LEADING THE LAD PROGRAM IN GEORGIA?

LAD was co-founded by Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). The LAD Program in Georgia will be implemented jointly by CDDRL and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC). LAD in Georgia is supported by the Ilia State University.

The LAD Program in Georgia will be led by Stanford University Professor, Mosbacher Director of CDDRL Professor Francis Fukuyama and Professor Roger Leeds the Director of the Center for International Business and Public Policy at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Besides, LAD Program in Georgia will have distinguished international speakers from academic and business sectors who will enrich the program with their perspectives by holding keynote speeches at the LAD Program.

WHAT DOES THE LAD PROGRAM ENVISION?

The LAD Program in Georgia - *The Role of Public Policy in Private Sector Development* – will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia on March 1-7, 2017. It will offer an intensive, executive-level training program and will teach selected participants - from Georgia and other developing countries where democracy is not firmly established - how to be effective reform leaders, promoting sound public policies in complex and contentious settings.

Participants benefit from lectures and interactive teaching exercises. As part of the course, participants are given assignments that require them to apply the ideas and skills they have gained to specific challenges they are facing in their professional duties.

The training program targets promising up and coming mid-to senior level government officials, private sector and CSO leaders from developing countries who have technocratic responsibilities and knowledge about private sector development issues, but must operate in politically charged environments. The program also works to provide a platform for networking and knowledge sharing among the program's alumni after the program has concluded.

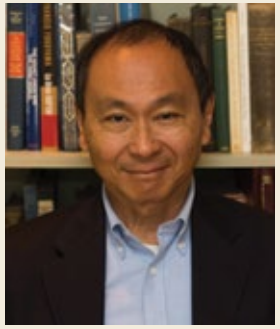
LAD courses are usually based on case studies which are specially designed to encourage participants to think critically about the key decisions that have led to policy reforms. LAD program in Georgia will comprise of several case studies. The case studies are written from the perspective of decision-makers who have designed or executed specific policies and they demonstrate how effective public officials think and act strategically. The case studies show how these leaders address technical obstacles while simultaneously taking into careful consideration the political, cultural and social constraints to reforms.

Also, the performance of the private sector and its role as either a catalyst or an obstacle to economic growth is closely connected to how well or badly government policies are designed and implemented. LAD provides participants with an analytical framework to build these abilities and operate effectively under adverse conditions.

WHAT IS THE CURRICULUM OF THE LAD PROGRAM AND HOW IS IT DEVELOPED?

The Academy has developed a unique, multidisciplinary curriculum. It uses cases studies that are tailor-made to illuminate the challenges associated with enhancing private sector performance in emerging economies. The cases address a wide range of issues – from the risks and opportunities of attracting private sector expertise and financing for high priority infrastructure projects to the nuances of creating a good investment climate. But they are ultimately rooted in real-world stories: specific policy reforms that have taken place in developing countries. Rather than serve as examples of "best practices" or "how-to" guides, the cases are designed to encourage participants to think critically about the key decisions that have led to policy reforms. They are written from the perspective of decision-makers who have designed or executed specific policies and they demonstrate how effective public officials think and act strategically. They show how these leaders address technical obstacles while simultaneously taking into careful consideration the political, cultural and social constraints to reforms.

LAD Program Organizers, Course Leaders and Guest Speakers



FRANCIS FUKUYAMA

Mosbacher Director of the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law

Francis Fukuyama is the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), and Mosbacher director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL). He is also a professor by courtesy in the Department of Political Science. He was previously at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University, where he was the Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy and director of SAIS' International Development program.

Dr. Fukuyama has written widely on issues relating to questions concerning democratization and international political economy. His book, The End of History and the Last Man, was published by Free Press in 1992 and has appeared in over twenty foreign editions. His most recent book is Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy.

Francis Fukuyama received his B.A. from Cornell University in classics, and his Ph.D. from Harvard in Political Science. He was a member of the Political Science Department of the RAND Corporation, and a twice a member of the Policy Planning Staff of the US Department of State. From 1996-2000 he was Omer L. and Nancy Hirst Professor of Public Policy at the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. He served as a member of the President's Council on Biœthics from 2001-2004.

Dr. Fukuyama is chairman of the editorial board of The American Interest, which he helped to found in 2005. He holds honorary doctorates from Connecticut College, Doane College, Doshisha University (Japan), and Kansai University (Japan). He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Pardee Rand.

LAD Program Organizers, Course Leaders and Guest Speakers

ROGER S. LEEDS

Co-founder of the Leadership Academy for Development, Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University and Director of the School's Center for International Business and Public Policy

Dr. Leeds, a co-founder of the Leadership Academy for Development, is a Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University and Director of the School's Center for International Business and Public Policy. He also has taught at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and Columbia Business School. Dr. Leeds' expertise focuses on international financial markets, financial regulatory reform, private equity and venture capital investing in emerging markets, and role of the private sector in development. Prior to joining the SAIS faculty, Roger worked as an international development practitioner for 25 years, including positions as an investment banker at Salomon Brothers in New York, a senior staff member of the International Finance Corporation (World Bank), and a partner at KPMG in charge of the firm's global privatization practice. He also spent two years at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, teaching and heading a research project on privatization in developing countries. He is the author of Private Equity Investing in Emerging Markets, Opportunities for Value Creation and Financing Small Enterprises in Developing Countries, as well as more than 30 articles. Roger has lectured at numerous universities around the world, been a guest commentator on various radio and television programs, including CNN, Bloomberg News, CBS News, CNBC, and National Public Radio, and is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University, and his M.A. and PhD from SAIS.

R. KENT WEAVER

Professor of Public Policy
and Government
at Georgetown University

R. Kent Weaver is a Professor of Public Policy and Government at Georgetown University and senior fellow in the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution. His major fields of interest are comparative social policy, comparative political institutions, and policy implementation. His recent research focuses on understanding how political institutions, feedbacks from past policy choices and strategic behavior of politicians interact to shape public policy choices. Understanding the determinants of compliance and non-compliance with public policy by individuals and businesses across a variety of policy sectors is another major theme in his research.

Weaver is the author of books including Ending Welfare As We Know It and The Politics of Industrial Change, and the editor or co-editor of several others, including Do Institutions Matter? and Guidance for Governance. He has also contributed articles to many political science and public policy journals.

Weaver has been active in creating innovative case teaching materials, including policy simulations, with a focus on developing countries. He has run training programs for case writers and case teachers in universities and government agencies in North America, Europe and Asia.

Weaver has been a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Stockholm, Sciences Po-Paris, the Universiti Brunei Barussalam, Hong Kong University, and the School of Government and Public Policy-Indonesia. He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. He received his B.A. degree from Haverford College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University.

LAD Program Organizers, Course Leaders and Guest Speakers

GIGA ZEDANIA

RECTOR OF THE ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Giga Zedania is the rector of Ilia State University (ISU) and a full professor at ISU's School of Arts and Sciences. Before serving as a Rector of ISU, he was director of the Institute for Modernity Studies at ISU since 2010. He served as a Dean of ISU's School of Arts and Sciences in 2006-2009 and led internal QA processes at ISU as the Head of ISU's Quality Control Office (2005-2009). He also worked at the OSI Georgia as a Coordinator for civic education projects in 2006-2008.

He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany. He did his MA in Middle Ages Studies at the Central European University, Hungary. He has published extensively on societal values and political elites in Soviet and Post-Soviet Georgia, on nationalism, secularization, social capital, modernization.

As a Rector of ISU, Dr. Zedania launched several development and innovative projects and has broadened ISU's national and international reach, enhanced collaboration across academic disciplines and administrative units, launched successful public lecture series, and developed the online lectures delivery and learning tools.

NINO EVGENIDZE

Executive Director
The Economic Policy Research Center

Nino Evgenidze serves as the Executive Director at the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) since 2010. EPRC is one of the oldest and a unique think-and do-tank in Georgia that brings to light the most pressing economic, security and democracy issues confronted by the society, provides thorough analysis on economic issues, offers evidence-based recommendations stimulating public debate and education. She also works as an anchor of daily economic show at Radio Free Europe- Radio Liberty (RFE/RL).

Nino was a visiting scholar at Johns Hopkins University at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a Stanford University Fellow in CDDRL Program. She was awarded the state academic scholarship of the UK Government (Chevening Fellow) and obtained a Master's Degree in Economic Policy Management at London School of Economics (LSE). Nino also graduated from the Joint Vienna Institute, Department of Economic Policy Administration with the scholarship of the WB (Austria, Vienna); Nino Evgenidze is a Doctor of Philology, degree taken at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University; a fellow of Netherlands Government (Nuffic Fellow) and has a diploma of Maastricht University in Management of International Projects.

Nino has an extensive experience both in working in governmental and non-governmental sectors – in various periods of times she was an advisor at the Center for Economic Reforms of the State Chancellery of Georgia (President Administration), Head of Public Outreach Department of the Anti-corruption Policy Coordination Council of Georgia, likewise – Media Coordinator of Parliamentary Assembly Monitoring Missions of the Council of Europe.

LAD Program Organizers, Course Leaders and Guest Speakers

DAVID J. KRAMER

Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy
The McCain Institute for International Leadership

Mr. Kramer served as the President of Freedom House from 2010 to 2014. Prior to joining Freedom House, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States. Before joining GMF, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor from 2008 to 2009. He also was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues. Previously, he served as a Professional Staff Member in the Secretary of State's Office of Policy Planning. Mr. Kramer has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Elliott School for International Affairs at The George Washington University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Halifax International Security Forum.

EDWARD LUCAS

Senior editor at The Economist

Edward Lucas is a senior editor at The Economist, the world's foremost newsweekly. His expertise includes energy, cyber-security, espionage, Russian foreign and security policy and the politics and economics of Eastern Europe.

He is also a senior vice-president at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA).

In 2008 he wrote The New Cold War, a prescient account of Vladimir Putin's Russia. In 2011 he wrote Deception, an investigative account of east-west espionage. He is a strong critic of the fugitive NSA contractor Edward Snowden, and author of an e-book>The Snowden Operation. His latest book is Cyberphobia. He has also contributed to books on religion and media ethics.

An experienced broadcaster, public speaker, moderator and panelist, Edward Lucas has given public lectures at Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and other leading universities. He is a regular contributor to the BBC's Today and Newsnight programmes, and to NPR, CNN and Sky News. He is regularly cited by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the top 100 Twitterati.

For many years a foreign correspondent, he was based in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Moscow and the Baltic states. He is currently in London, as a senior editor at The Economist, responsible for the daily news app Espresso. He also writes obituaries. His weekly syndicated column has appeared since 2005; he also writes for the Times, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, Foreign Policy and Standpoint.

As well as working for the Independent, the BBC and the Sunday Times, he also co-founded an English-language weekly in Tallinn, Estonia: the Baltic Independent. His undergraduate degree is from the London School of Economics and he speaks five languages — German, Russian, Polish, Czech and Lithuanian.

He is married to the writer Cristina Odone and has three children. His father is the Oxford philosopher JR Lucas.

LAD Program Organizers, Course Leaders and Guest Speakers

JOHN MAKINSON

Former Chairman of the Penguin Random House

John Makinson was educated at the University of Cambridge, where he studied History and English. He joined Reuters as a journalist before moving to the Financial Times where he was the Financial Editor and also the editor of the influential Lex column.

John left the Financial Times to work as the vice chairman of the Saatchi & Saatchi companies in the USA. He then established a consultancy, Makinson Cowell, which advises large public companies on their relationships with the investment community. The consultancy is based in London and still bears his name.

John returned to the Financial Times in 1994 as the newspaper's managing director. Two years later he was appointed finance director of the FT's parent company, Pearson. He moved to the Penguin Group, another division of Pearson, as the chairman and chief executive of the company in 2002. He remained in this position until 2012 when Penguin merged with Random House, another major international publisher. John became the chairman of the merged company, a position from which he retired at the end of last year.

John has sat on the boards of many different organisations in the commercial and public sectors. In the UK he has served as the chairman of IPPR, the country's leading progressive think tank, of IRC (UK), a humanitarian organisation, and of the National Theatre, the world's largest public theatre. He has also sat on commercial boards in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Spain and Luxembourg.

John has two grown-up daughters and is married to Nandana Sen, an actress, writer and children's rights activist. He likes to cook, argue and play the piano.

LAD Course Participant Profiles

GIORGI CHITADZE

Head of Trade Negotiations and DCFTA Coordination Division at Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Giorgi Chitadze, is a public servant and currently working at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable development of Georgia as a head of division for Trade Negotiations and Coordination of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade area between the EU and Georgia. His job is very broad and complex, which covers management and coordination not only inside of the ministry but also, with other public institutions involved in these processes. Due to its complexity, Giorgi's job is extremely interesting and allows him to realize himself fully. Successful coordination and management of the work allowed the team to conclude free trade negotiations between China and Georgia in 7 months, even faster than negotiations on free trade agreement between Georgia and EFTA countries, which were concluded in 1 year. The first significant step towards advancing Mr. Chitadze's career was continuation of studies for a master degree at the GIPA (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs). After the graduation from the master's program, in 2007, he started working at the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. From 2009, he was honored to participate in EU – Georgia's pre negotiation process on FTA, later as a member of the delegation, he participated in negotiations on DCFTA, which entered into force from 2014. Giorgi's experience as a manager in public sector started from 2011 when he was appointed as a Director of Standards Department, challenged to create EU shape organization from a soviet style institution and continues currently as a head of DCFTA coordination division which also includes coordination of DCFTA advisory group - one of the first public-private dialogue platform.

RUSLAN DAIYRBEKOV

Senior legal advisor at Anti-corruption Department of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic

Ruslan Daiyrbekov is a member of International Media Lawyers Association (IMLA). His background consists of two Diplomas with honors from International University of Kyrgyzstan, including Master of International Law degree as well as graduation from the Media Law Advocates Training Programme at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies' Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy of University of Oxford.

Also he completed the Draper Hills Summer Fellows on Democracy and Development Program, hosted by the Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) at Stanford University, USA.

Ruslan is a Senior legal expert at the Anti-Corruption Department of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. Since he is a member of the working group of the draft Law of the Conflict of Interest, he was additionally invited by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to participate as a Legal expert on the further development a bylaw on Commission on Ethics arising from the aforementioned draft Law.

Ruslan is involved in the activity in improving the legal and regulatory framework in areas of media law, media freedom and media policy, providing legal consultation for mass media and expert opinions on draft legislation on mass media.

Ruslan worked for Internews Kazakhstan. His responsibilities included: the participation in the creation of a national working group that outlines the vision for media law development in Kazakhstan; coordination of media advocacy campaigns; conducting legal due diligence audit of core media outlets and training of media employees on legal literacy.

Through active collaboration with Government officials of Kazakhstan and Parliamentary representatives Ruslan participated in the Working Group on the Draft Law of Kazakhstan on Information Access and was actively participating in discussion of the draft law at the level of its drafting by the Working Group by providing its preliminary comments and observations. Also he participated in a Working group on drafting amendments to the mass media law of Kazakhstan in 2007.

Ruslan worked as a Protection Assistant for United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to lead and co-ordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. He provided principled, effective and sustainable responses to problems affecting the rights or legal status of refugees and asylum seekers, resettled refugees to the third safe countries.

TAMAZ DAUSHVILI

CEO and Partner at DIO Ltd

Tamaz Daushvili is a co-founder, partner and Chief Executive Officer of a leading Georgian company DIO Ltd in the field of windows, doors and window accessories. Established in 1996, the company grew from a zero founding capital and 3 people to a highly reputable company with 140 employees, offices and dealership network all across the country and a well-equipped factory producing wide range of high quality products.

Mr. Daushvili has an academic background in Economics. He is a graduate of Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili State University. At different times, Tamaz Daushvili participated in business exchange and strategic management programs in the United States of America and in Western Europe. He has also hosted teams of international business representatives to discuss the best practices of the company.

Under Tamaz Daushvili's leadership, innovations in the organizational structure and management of the company were constantly introduced and successfully implemented at DIO Ltd, creating better products and services for the customers and a more enabling and comfortable working environment for the employees. DIO Ltd demonstrates sound practices of corporate social responsibility by regularly supporting the actions for environmental protection, providing assistance to children in need, and supporting involvement of business in education sector development. At numerous occasions, Tamaz Daushvili participated as a guest speaker with youth on the topic of business start-up opportunities and economic development of Georgia.

ANDRO GIGAURI

Founder of the Institute for Non-Violent Communication / PricewaterhouseCoopers Ukraine / UNICEF Ukraine/Lecturer at Free University in Tbilisi

Andro Gigauri is a lawyer and has a Master's Degree in Public Policy. He has been working on public service and law enforcement reforms in Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. Andro served as a Chief of Administration at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (2010-2012) and as a Deputy Chief Prosecutor (2012). He founded Georgia's Crime Prevention Center under the Office of Chief Prosecutor (2012). The Center is tasked to study crime statistics and victimization data. It awards grants to NGOs for projects, aiming to decrease crime level and to close existing safety and security gaps in communities.

Andro was a member of the working group, which developed juvenile diversion and mediation mechanism - an alternative to incarceration for children. Currently, the program counts over 1,800 participants and resulted in less than 4% of recidivism rate.

Previously, Andro served at USAID (2005-2008), covering public service reform. He managed human and institutional capacity development programs targeted at government institutions. Andro co-managed assistance to Civil Registry Agency project, which led to development of Public Service Halls.

Currently, Andro is engaged with development of Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau - a corruption investigation agency. Andro teaches a one year long course on Public Policy Analysis at the Liberal Arts School of Free University in Tbilisi. He also consults UNICEF in Ukraine.

Andro is a founder of Institute for Non-Violent Communication. Currently, the Institute is piloting a Safe School Project and a Financial Literacy Project at secondary schools.

EKATERINA GVELESIANI

Director at Data Research, Analysis and Planning Centre

Ekaterina Gvelesiani is the founder and director of Data Research, Analysis and Planning Center. Currently she has also joined hospitality business as she became partner at EG Holding, company which is constructing a hotel in Mestia, Svaneti.

Ms. Gvelesiani served as the Deputy Director of Defense and National Security Policy Department at National Security Council of Georgia in 2013-2014. From 2011 until 2013 she has been advisor to Deputy Secretary of National Security Council. In parallel, she successfully completed a variety of courses on Capacity-Building of Georgian Leadership Community for Improved Decision-making and Negotiation Skills, Policy Development and Negotiation Techniques, Managing Defense in a Wider Security Context, Regional Integration and Development Issues in South Caucasus, National Security and Public Policy.

Prior to turning into public service, Ms. Gvelesiani has gathered extensive experience in her roles of Marketing Manager at Tbilisi Aircraft Manufacturing company, Assistant International Affairs Manager at Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Kliniken in Germany, Assistant to the branch manager of the Bank Credit Agricole in France.

Ms. Gvelesiani graduated from Caucasus School of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 2007. She then pursued her graduate International Management studies in France. She is fluent in English, French and Russian languages, Georgian being her native.

SHOTA GVINERIA

Ambassador at Large NATO and Security Policy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Since 2001 Shota Gvineria has been working on various positions in Georgia's public sector. Currently he covers NATO integration and security policy related issues as the Ambassador at Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In his previous capacity, he held the position of the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Minister of Defense of Georgia until August 2016.

From May 2010 till June 2014 he served as an Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Alongside with strengthening political, economic and cultural relations between Georgia and the Netherlands, Ambassador was also representing his country in international organizations based in The Hague.

In 2010, Mr. Gvineria was promoted to the position of a Director of European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Prior to that mission, in 2008 – 2009, he served as a Head of NATO Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In the period of April 2006 – October 2008, Mr. Gvineria was posted as a Councilor to the Georgian Mission to NATO.

In 2015 Mr. Gvineria obtained his Master's degree in Strategic Security Studies at Washington's National Defense University. He also earned his Master's in International Relations from Diplomatic School of Madrid in 2005. Earlier he completed his Master's in Public Administration at Georgian Technical University. Mr. Gvineria speaks Georgian, English, Russian, Spanish and some French.

GOGA GUGAVA

CEO at "Dagi Construction Company"

Goga Gugava is a Financial Management specialist with more than 13 years of experience in the Corporate Sector as well as in the Government. Currently he serves on a position of a Chief Executive at DAGI LLC. This company is one of the recognized leaders providing construction services in the local market.

Prior to joining the Company in 2014, Goga Gugava has been working on the Key positions in Governmental Agencies. He has spent 4 years with the Ministry of Justice on the position of the Head of the Economic Department. He has been dealing with Ministry's budget preparation and execution, financial accounting and reporting, planning and managing infrastructure projects. He was personally involved in designing and implementing one of the most successful projects in the Government sector – Launching Public Service Hall concept where hundreds of public services are rendered on the "Single-window" basis. Goga has been researching for innovative technologies, appraising their relevance to the project and implementing facilities and equipment.

Goga Gugava has extensive experience in the Public Finance Management Field from the Ministry of Finance. He has spent several years in the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia starting from the entry level to the Department head. He has contributed substantially to implementation of successful reforms towards improvement of public finance transparency, transformation of public finance accounting system to international standards, establishment of medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) for government spending for all levels of the governance. As a result of these massive PFM reforms finally, Georgia is recognized as a PFM leader in the Region. Goga holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Williams College (USA).

FARRUKH IRNAZAROV

Country Director at Central Asian Development Institute

Farrukh Irnazarov is a Co-Founder and Country Director for Uzbekistan at the Central Asian Development Institute since 2011. He has been working on Central Asia for 14 years and he conducted research projects for the World Bank, ADB, GIZ, OSF, USAID, IOM, Volkswagen and Gerda Henkel Foundations. Previously, Mr. Irnazarov worked for University of Applied Sciences Gœttingen, National College of Ireland, Schwarzkopf and Henkel and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Uzbekistan. Mr. Irnazarov has experience in the area of labour migration, transport and trade, economic transition as well as public policy and good governance. Mr. Irnazarov also delivers master classes on communication and interviewing in difficult environments. In addition, he has a good track record in working with the Central Asian governments. He is completing his PhD in International Studies at the University of Groningen and has two MSc degrees - one in Business Administration and Economics from Stockholm University (2006) and another one in International and European Relations from Linköping University (2005).

GIORGI ISAKADZE

Editor in Chief / Author and Project Manager of TV Shows
Editor in Chief at Forbes Georgia

Giorgi Isakadze has in-depth understanding of media field. He is an Editor in Chief and Managing Partner at "Forbes Georgia". In addition, Mr. Isakadze is a Project Manager and Author of daily TV shows – "Business Contract", "Analytics" and "Business Morning" TV. He was also a Managing Partner at Touch media and CEO at Georgian Media Production Group. He has also a valuable experience in economic policy making and reforming through senior level assignment in public service. Furthermore, Mr. Isakadze specializes in lobbying and government relations, business association building, and mobilizing interest groups of stakeholders. Giorgi Isakadze has an extensive experience working for Governmental agencies as an Assistant to President of Georgia in fiscal and budgetary policy and Deputy State Minister (Vice Prime Minister) covering relations with IMF, EBRD, WB and other worldwide financial institutions. Prior to joining Foundation "Business Media Georgia" (producing TV Shows for TV Pirveli) and Forbes Georgia, Mr. Isakadze worked for Business Association of Georgia as a First Vice President and later, as an Advisor to the supervising board.

ELENE JIMSHELEISHVILI

Systems and Policies Director at Human Capital Management Department,
JSC Bank of Georgia

Elene Jimsheleishvili is a Systems and Policies Director at Human Capital Management Department at Bank of Georgia. Her responsibilities include coordination of design and development of Human Capital Management policy, support of its implementation (guidelines and respective technology), impact and quality analysis to capture opportunities for improvements and constant development. She has more than 10 years of human resources management experience including young talents acquisition, personnel development and training, HRIS (360, PM). She is a Member of SHRM (Society for Human Resources Management), holds MPA (Master of Public Administration) from GIPA (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs).

ARCHIL KARAULASHVILI

First Deputy Minister at the Office of State Ministry on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia

Archil Karaulashvili has graduated from the Faculty of International Economic Relations of Iv. Javakhishvili State University in 1995. He started his career at the State Committee of Foreign Relations of Georgia in 1995, where he worked as a chief specialist until 1996.

From 1996 to 1997 he worked as the Head of Division of Business-Plan Analysis at the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Georgia. In 1996 he was appointed as Deputy Head of the Department of Foreign Investment, Credits and Inter-branch Projects at the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Georgia and worked there until 2000.

In 2000-2004 he was the Director of the Investment Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For the 2004-2015 period he served as the Head of the European Integration Coordination Department at the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. During this time he also was a Secretary to the Governmental Commission for the EU Integration. In March 2015, Archil Karaulashvili was appointed as the First Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

He participated in a large number of conferences and professional trainings organized by the international donors and organizations.

In 2011, Mr. Karaulashvili was awarded with an Order of Honor. He is a co-author of books and researches on the Euro-Integration. He is married and has two children.

TAMAR KEKENADZE

Executive Secretary and Board Member at Political Party "Free Democrats"

Tamar Kekenadze, is a Secretary General of Political Party "Free Democrats". Before joining the party, she was a Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia to NATO and the EU. Prior, she served as a Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Division at the Ministry of Defense of Georgia. Before joining the government in 2009, Ms. Kekenadze worked for five years in civil society organizations on national and international levels in the fields of Security and Foreign Policy, Election Monitoring, Formal and Non-Formal Education, Sustainable Development and Youth. In 2008 Ms. Kekenadze was awarded the "Young European of the Year" Prize for outstanding commitment to fostering international understanding and the union of Europe. In 2009, she was privileged to serve as an intern in International Affairs in the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament in Brussels. Ms. Kekenadze holds a BA in Computer Systems and Networks (2003), and a MA in Computer Engineering, Information Science and Control Systems (2006), all from Georgian Technical University.

TAMAR KVANTALIANI

Deputy Head at Agency of Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Tamar Kvantaliani is an Oxford University graduate awarded by Weidenfeld Scholarship holding a degree in MSc - Nature, Society and Environmental Policy. Currently, she works as a Deputy Head at the Agency of Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia where she supervises international relations and project management direction.

Before the degree at Oxford University where the topic of her thesis was "Governing Protected Areas: State and Non-State Actors in Post-Soviet Georgia" she started her academic educational background with the bachelor's degree in Human Geography (Faculty of Social and Political Sciences) in Georgia directly followed by two-year master programme in the same field.

Tamar has more than 7 years of working experience both in private and public sectors. At first, she started her career in non-governmental think tank which was followed by the position of chief specialist at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia after returning from UK. Later, she moved to the Agency of Protected Areas within the same ministry as a Head of International Relations and Project Management Service followed by the position of Deputy Head where she stands for now - dealing with numerous projects funded by various international organizations.

In addition, Tamar has got some international expertise. She has done a short internship in the Czech Republic at the Ministry of Environment and in 2015, she participated in the International Seminar on Protected Areas Management at Montana University funded by US Forest Service.

NINO KVERNADZE

Project Director at Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Nino Kvernadze has been the director of the Project "Fostering Public Sector Development through Efficient Delivery of Urban and Rural Services" Fostering Public Sector Development through Efficient Delivery of Urban and Rural Services, at Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, since 2015. The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and aims at improving the quality of public service delivery processes and establish citizen oriented approaches, particularly on e-governance and public service innovation.

Nino Kvernadze has accumulated nearly 12 years of professional experience in various public sectors of Georgia, by being involved in decision making, assessment and implementation of governmental policies. She served from 2005 to 2008 as a specialist at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, and as a Head of Sustainable Development Department at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia from 2010 to 2015. Her fields of expertise encompasses all areas related to the natural resources management, environmental policies, economic policies, namely manufacturing, agriculture, waste management, climate change, clean transport, energy efficiency, FDI, Greening SMEs, MDGs, DCFTA/sustainable development and so forth.

Throughout the years she has gained valuable experience by working on the institutional capacity building and empowerment projects of Georgia, delivered through the international assistance, from the main partners of Georgia: EU, ŒCD, UNDP, USAID, GIZ and SIDA. Since 2010, she was involved in building a new form of partnership launched by the EU, with Eastern Partnership Countries (EAP) by participating with various policy discussions, projects and workshops.

As part of her academic background, Nino ha earned the Bachelor of Public Administration from Georgian Technical University and after receiving a scholarship from the Asian Development Bank, she acquired the Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Tokyo, Japan. In the meantime, due to her active involvement in academic and social activities at GRIPS, she became elected as the Head of Social Events (2013-2014) at the International Student's Council (ISC).

IVANE MATCHAVARIANI

Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia

Vano (Ivane) Matchavariani is a Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia. Prior to this, Mr. Matchavariani was an Executive Director in Georgia Development Foundation in 2015-2016. Before he served as an Adviser to the President of Georgia for Foreign Relations. Prior to this, he was a Deputy CEO in charge of External Relations in JSC Partnership Fund. Mr. Matchavariani served as an Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of Georgia to Japan in 2007-2009, Ambassador-at-Large/Special Envoy on Energy Security Issues in 2007. Mr. Matchavariani joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in 1998 and worked in Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations in New York until 2002. In 1996-1998 he was an assistant to Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia on foreign affairs. Mr. Matchavariani holds his Master Degree from SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA, Graduate Diploma in European and International Studies from Central European University, Prague, Czech Republic and Undergraduate Diploma from Georgian Technical University. He was also a fellow in George Mason University. Mr. Matchavariani is a lecturer of Foreign and Security Policy in Tbilisi State University.

MAIA MELIKIDZE

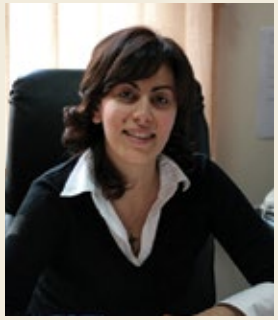
Advisor to the President of Georgia on Economic Affairs

Maia Melikidze is an executive MBA graduate from Harvard University in the field of Global Strategic Management. Furthermore, she has academic education in International Economic Relations; and International Corporate Law. Currently she holds a position of an economic advisor to the President of Georgia Mr. Giorgi Margvelashvili. Before, she gained twelve-year experience of working in a private sector: International Audit Company "Ernst & Young" as a senior auditor; JSC Bank of Georgia – Tax Analyst; JSC Liberty Bank – Head of National Bank of Georgia and IFRS audit cooperation department.

As she shares the values of doing business in a fair, competitive environment she took a role of checks and balances, which means building bridges of relations between business and government. She invests her accumulated knowledge in the process of enhancing business-government friendly dialogue over important economic challenges that Georgia's economy faces.

Simultaneously Ms. Melikidze is involved in educational process and encourages prosperity of new generation. She provides lectures on financial literacy, economic progress, investments, and management for students at Ilia State University; in addition, she is an associated professor at Business and Technology University, which ensures unique educational expertise by integrating business into technology and making innovations. She supports Silicon Valley Tbilisi and works hard in order Georgia to become an exporter of education in the region.

Ms. Melikidze is an author of several publications at Forbes focusing on diminishing unemployment and ensuring economic growth; involvement of Finance Institutions in mobilizing a public wealth.



NINO MIRZIKASHVILI

Director at American Clinic
in Tbilisi

Nino Mirzikashvili is a professional with 14 years of expertise in managing multi-sector programs/projects as a direct implementer (Program Manager), a donor consultant and a public servant. She used to work for multiple international organizations, as well as Government of Georgia. Ms. Mirzikashvili served as a Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA). She has an extensive experience in health care regulation field. Before this position Ms. Mirzikashvili the Head of the Regulation Department at the MoLHSA. She was involved in the different projects funded by Open Society Institute, USAID, DFID, Curatio International foundation, Center for Training and Consultancy" (CTC) and others.

Ms. Mirizkashvili used to teach epidemiology and public health at Tbilisi State University as well as at Private Medical School "Aiety" in 2003-2004. Now she is an invited lecturer at Ilia state University and Tbilisi State Medical University.

MARIANA MORGOSHIA

Director at Agricultural
Projects' Management Agency

Since her appointment as the Director of the Agricultural Projects Management Agency in 2014, Mariana Morgoshia has been leading numerous agriculture development projects across Georgia. Her main responsibilities include managing the lifecycle of the projects from the initiation up to the launch as well as monitoring and evaluating the ongoing and completed projects in line with the global strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia.

Ms. Morgoshia has 16 years of experience in senior roles across business sectors - leading insurance, HR and deposits' projects at an international bank, implementing IT systems and process optimization schemes; managing marketing, public relations, human resources and quality control directions at various private companies (2007 – 2014).

In 2000 – 2007, she was actively involved in primary healthcare development projects in Georgia, while also acting as manager-trainer. Ms. Morgoshia has worked on programs funded by the EU, World Health Organization, and the Department for International Development.

As for her educational background, she graduated from Georgian Technical University (Bachelor of languages and Translation – 1998 - 2002) and at the same time, she started a general management course at DFID Management School (2000 – 2003) and became the certified manager-trainer in primary healthcare sector. Later she obtained the certificate in Business Administration at Caucasus School of Business (Concentration - General Management – 2005 - 2007) followed by The George Washington University School of Business - PMC Professional Program in Project Management (2011 - 2012) and obtained Master's Certificate in Project Management.

GIORGI MUCHAIDZE

Executive Director at Atlantic Council of Georgia

Giorgi Muchaidze is a member of the Georgian Council on Foreign Relations. He started his career in the private sector as a business law consultant. In 1997 he moved to public sector. During next 13 years, as a public servant he held different jobs, including the positions of Deputy Defense Minister and Charges D'affaires. In 2011, he switched to the NGO sector and since then has been serving as an Executive Director at the Atlantic Council of Georgia.

Giorgi has actively contributed to cardinal reformation of the national security system of Georgia, which was widely recognized as a success. He 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 and institutional change.

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. As an acknowledgement of his contribution to US-Georgian strategic partnership, on June 23, 2008, the US Flag was flown in his honor over the Pentagon.

Giorgi holds master's degrees from Tbilisi State University (LLM with honor) and Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MPA). As the UN Disarmament Fellow and the Research Fellow at Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, he authored several research papers on the topical issues of regional and international security.

Among his other special interests are wine, literature, music and rugby.

KETEVAN NADIRASHVILI

Head of Centralized Risk Management Department at National Bank of Georgia

Ketevan Nadirashvili has been working for the National Bank of Georgia since 2000, where she occupied various positions as the deputy head of Financial Markets department, chief specialist at Financial Risk management division, Project manager of Investment Management system implementation and Project manager of Business Continuity implementation. Since 2014 Ketevan is heading Centralized Risk Management Department which supports and enhances the good governance principles in the bank. In her role, Ketevan is responsible for providing the overall leadership and direction for the department as well as implementing an integrated operational risk management framework and Business Continuity planning across the Bank.

Ketevan has been participating in number of international projects and successful reforms followed by consultancy work delivered for knowledge transfer purposes for the Central banks of Post-Soviet countries.

In addition to abovementioned, Ketevan has been involved in academic life since 2009- teaching and supervising students in various Georgian Universities. Currently she is a doctorate student and researcher at Ilia State University. Her research interests span broad range of topics including management and leadership theories, enterprise risk management and business continuity concepts.

She holds a master's degree of Business Administration from Maastricht School of Management, master's degree in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs and Bachelor's degree in Science from Tbilisi State University.

ANA NATSVLISHVILI

Chairperson at Georgian Young Lawyer's Association (GYLA)

Ana Natsvlishvili is a lawyer with 8 years of practical experience in protecting and promoting human right and rule of law reforms in Georgia. Her particular fields of interest include women's rights and gender equality, justice-system reforms, rights of victims of human rights violations and the issues of transitional justice.

Ana holds a BA degree from Tbilisi State University (Georgia) in Public International law and LLM degree from Essex University (UK) in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Currently she serves as an elected chairperson of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), the oldest and the leading human rights watchdog in Georgia. She also chairs national coalition of more than 30 NGOs working on judicial reforms and is the member of a newly established Constitutional Commission of Georgia.

GIORGI NONIASHVILI

Deputy Chairman at Georgian Farmers Association, Head of GFA Junior

Giorgi Noniashvli has a diverse, decade-long experience in private, public and non-governmental sectors, including being a start-up entrepreneur of the company that still runs with success. He is Founder and Director of LTD "Kingsfer Georgia" (distribution company) since 2007. The company is a subcontractor of Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation and Ministry of Internal Affairs. Having its own business, throughout 2012 and 2014, he simultaneously worked as Corporate Banker in Corporate Business Department of JSC "BTA BANK" – developing banking products. In 2015, Giorgi moved to the public sector, to manage a 20 Million Gel entrepreneurship project in Entrepreneurship Development Agency, which subsides under the Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. After 2016, he joined Georgian Farmers Association (GFA) and holds the position of Deputy Chairmen, mainly leading new youth wing of GFA - GFA Junior. Giorgi is an MBA candidate at International Black Sea University.

GIORGI ONIANI

Deputy Executive Director at
Transparency International Georgia

Giorgi started his professional career in 2003 when he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Very soon he was promoted to the position of the Assistant to Minister where he worked almost a year till Autumn 2004. At MFA, Giorgi covered international organizations, Russia and the conflict regions of Georgia. He served as the MFA representative at Joint Control Commission –international negotiation format over the conflict in Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. In 2005 Giorgi moved to the National Security Council to serve as a Senior Advisor with the same area and regional focus. In September 2005, when he was invited to join the foreign policy team of the Prime Minister Nogaideli. Giorgi worked as an Assistant to Prime Minister (for 2 Prime Ministers) till 2008. Giorgi's areas of competencies included support of Prime Ministers in their foreign policy activities, but also, at some point he was entrusted with PR activities of the Prime Minister's office. In 2009, when Giorgi returned from a year-long study break he joined another Prime Minister's team as a Senior Advisor and worked there till 2011. This time, Giorgi's portfolio was larger and apart from foreign relations it included participation in planning of various structural and economic reforms. Some of his accomplishments include participation in successful negotiations and coordinating relevant reforms for opening DCFTA negotiations with the EU, negotiations on Russia's WTO accession, and successful negotiations and background work for US Millennium Challenge Corporation's 2nd Compact (USD 120 mln grant) for Georgia. In 2011 Giorgi was invited to serve as the Deputy Ombudsman at the newly established office of the Business (Tax) Ombudsman, where he basically contributed to the formation if the institution. In 2013 Giorgi left public sector for business and joined a local IT and consulting company Onyx Consulting. There he contributed to attracting a strategic investor – Asseco – the largest IT company of Central and Eastern Europe, and apart from being a Deputy Director, was made a partner with minority shares. In early 2015 Giorgi joined Transparency International - Georgia – one of the largest and most active local NGOs, and a local Chapter of Global Anti-corruption movement.

Giorgi graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO – University) and holds BA in Regional Studies/International Relations and MSc in International Relations/Political Science. Giorgi also holds MA from UCL in Comparative Business Economics. Giorgi is married and has a daughter.

PAVEL PANASJUK

Businessman

After residing and working in Ukraine, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Russian Federation, Pavel Panasjuk has an extensive international business experience and understanding of international and local business contexts in this region. Pavel began his international career as an Assistant Director to Timur Bekvambetov in the Czech Republic. He worked for several international companies, starting from entry-level positions and working his way up to the senior management. Pavel established and successfully launched private companies in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine, ensuring fast profitability and sustainability of newly established ventures. Currently, Pavel leads Central and Eastern European operations for a prominent advertising company, as well as invests in development and research of new energy efficient technologies in Ukraine, working in partnership with the Institute of Semiconductor Physics (ISP) of Ukraine.

Pavel holds a Master´s degree of Business Administration from Ternopil Academy of National Economy, Ukraine (1998) and a Bachelor's degree in Financial Management from University of Utrecht, The Netherlands (1998).

OLEKSANDRA PAVLENKO

Barrister, former First Deputy Minister of health of Ukraine

In the leadership of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (2014-2016) Oleksandra Pavlenko curated regulatory work for the sectors of pharmaceuticals, medical services, market of medical products, etc.

She headed direction associated with the management of the state corporate rights in health sector, developed the area of public – private partnership in medicine, and also provided communication with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, The Administration of President of Ukraine, law enforcement agencies, the public and other authorities.

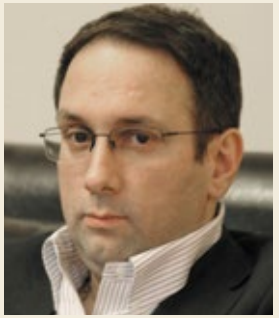
As a lawyer she has been practicing in the field of law since 2000, accompanying business in the resonant litigation, working with politicians and well-known businessmen.

In different years Oleksandra held the position of authorized representative of the candidate in President of Ukraine and of the CEC of a political party in the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Among the well-known and the resonance projects of Oleksandra Pavlenko – judicial protection of the Russian airline company "Siberia" in conflict with the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine; protection of assets of the open joint stock company "Nikopol Ferroalloy plant" in the process of "re-privatization"; consulting and legal support of the President of Ukraine at the signing of international agreements etc.

NIKOLOZ RURUA

Founder/Editor in Chief at English-Georgian Magazine "Iveria"



Nikoloz Rurua is a Georgian politician, and a former member of the Cabinet of Georgia in the capacity of Minister of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia. Mr. Rurua previously served as the Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Defense and Security of the Parliament of Georgia.

Mr. Rurua has graduated from Rustaveli State Institute of Cinematography and Theatre in 1992. Also he holds a JD degree from Georgia State University College of Law (Atlanta, USA) in International Law.

On his return to Georgia, he worked for GEPLAC (Georgian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre), where he headed the project on harmonizing Georgian commercial legislation with that of the European Union. In addition, he has established the daily-newspaper 24 Hours (24 Saati), where took up a job of legal observer and editor of the newspaper's weekly addition The Law. In 2003 published The Law of Freedom, a collection of essays and articles. Mr. Rurua is co-founder of the Web Newspaper „Iveria.biz".

MAIA SIDAMONIDZE

Managing Partner at Protavel Georgia and The Terrace Boutique Hotel and Tourism and Hospitality Consultant at Channel Georgia

Maia Sidamonidze is the former Head of Georgian National Tourism Administration. After obtaining her BBA and MBA Degrees in Tourism and Hospitality from Swiss and UK educational institutions, she pursued her professional career in hospitality industry in Georgia and in the UK. In 2010, she won an open competition to become the Head of Georgian National Tourism Administration at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. She led for three years the tourism industry in Georgia that was determined by the Georgian government as one of the top priority sectors to develop the country. Under her leadership, Tourism became one of the fastest growing industries in Georgia and achieved the highest growth of international tourism in the region according to the UNWTO report. Maia is currently the owner of a hotel and a leading tour operating business in Georgia. Before starting her own business, she was for two years the Dean of the Tourism Faculty at the Caucasus University in Georgia. Recently, she became tourism and hospitality consultant at the Channel Georgia investment consultancy firm and has been elected as the Head of tourism commission at ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) Georgia.

GIORGI VASHAKIDZE

Researcher at Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration in the University of Lausanne

Giorgi Vashakidze has more than ten years of experience as a manager and researcher in good governance, institutional reform, public administration design and democratic development. Throughout his professional life, he has worked extensively with national governments and international organizations. Until recently, he worked as a program manager in the democracy and governance office of the United States Agency for International Development in the South Caucasus. His portfolio encompassed programs to assist the Government to reform public administration, to help the Ministry of Education transform civic education culture in Georgia and to establish Centers of Civic Engagement to support democratic engagement between the local authorities and the population in ten regions in Georgia. Prior to that, he worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Development Program to implement public administration reform in Georgia. He was also engaged with the Netherlands Institute of Multiparty Democracy to design political party capacity building projects. Currently, he is an external researcher at the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP) at the University of Lausanne where he pursues his doctoral studies. Simultaneously, he works as an international consultant for the United Nations Development Program. He holds master degrees in Peace and Conflict Research from Uppsala University in Sweden and in Advanced Studies in Public Administration Design and Development from the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration.

VERA TKACHENKO

International Programme Manager at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

In May 2015, Vera Tkachenko assumed her duties as International Programme Manager of Sub-Programme 2 "Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity" of the Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 that represents the overarching strategic framework under which United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides technical assistance within the Central Asian States. From 2010 to 2015 she served as UNODC International Project Manager leading criminal justice project in the Kyrgyz Republic aimed at strengthening the rule of law through enhanced multi-agency coordination and policy development on criminal justice, crime prevention and penal reform. From January to August 2015 Ms. Tkachenko served as an Officer-in-Charge of UNODC Programme Office in Tajikistan. From 2008 to June 2010 she led the work of a non-political, independent research institute Legal Policy Research Centre (LPRC) based in Almaty that promotes legal reforms through research and pro-active engagement with policy makers in countries of Central Asia. From 2001 to 2006 she served as a Regional Director of Penal Reform International (PRI) for Central Asia. From 1999 to 2000 she worked on implementation of human dimension projects of the OSCE Centre in Kazakhstan. In 2006-2007, as a Chevening Scholar, Ms. Tkachenko has received the degree of Master of Science in Criminal Justice Policy in the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2007 she was a fellow at Stanford Summer Programme on Democracy, Development and Rule of Law. She also has bachelor degree in Law.

TINA (TIKO) TSOMAIA

Chairperson at Baltic to Black Sea Alliance Georgia and Professor at Caucasus School of Journalism and Media / GIPA

Tina (Tiko) Tsomaia is a Professor at the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management (CSJMM) of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA), where she is completing her PhD in Mass Communications. She has a BA and MA in Medicine and an MA in Journalism and Media Management. As a recipient of a Global Faculty Grant of the Open Society Scholarships Program, she was a post-graduate research fellow NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. She is a MC member of the Cost Action IS-1206 Femicide Across Europe and a board member of the Georgian Psychotrauma Society.

She is a Chairperson of the Baltic to Black Sea Alliance – Georgia, a non-governmental organization with the aim to facilitate consolidation of free, democratic, socially and politically vocal society in Georgia. As a human rights activist she is involved in different campaigns in mental health, women movement, access to medicine, palliative care.

Her research topics are: pre-natal sex selection, trauma and addiction, ethical decision making and health communication.

ANNA ZHVANIA

Senior Research Fellow at Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (GISS) / Director at Social Research Lab at Ilia State University

Anna Zhvania is a Head of Social Research Lab at Ilia State University and Senior Research Fellow at the Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (GISS). Social Research Lab aims to conduct research and facilitate public discussion on topics related to self-reflection of Georgian society, statehood building and institutional development, understanding public policy and reforms, their dimensions, development and transformation of society, other issues, which are essential for understanding of the current dynamics and perspectives.

Anna has a diverse work experience in non-governmental organizations, international donor institutions, academia and the government. She started with the Georgian national NGOs working in field of human rights and media freedom, public education and policy analysis. From 2005 Anna worked for different governmental institutions in fields of security and peace building, intelligence, CBRN preparedness and response, education and science, human rights and civic education. As a part of a government team, in close cooperation with partners and stakeholders at domestic and international level, she was involved in needs assessment, evaluation and planning, policy design and actual implementation of different reform elements. During 2005 – 2013. Anna acted as Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Head of Foreign Intelligence Service, special adviser to the President in field of civic integration and Director of Richard G. Lugar Center for Public Health Research. The latter meant to be the unique international center of excellence in field of biomedical research. From 2002 Anna was pursuing her academic carrier, through carrying out different researches as well as teaching and mentoring future social researchers at Ilia State University.

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