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

JANUARY 18-22
TBILISI 2016

LAD

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USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | GGI GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE IN GEORGIA
OMIDYAR NETWORK
USAID | CAUCASUS
ADVANCING CSO CAPACITIES AND ENGAGING SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ACCESS)

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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, CDDRL Director, Francis Fukuyama and Professor Alan Trager of Johns Hopkins 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 January 18-22, 2016. It will offer an intensive, five-day, 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.

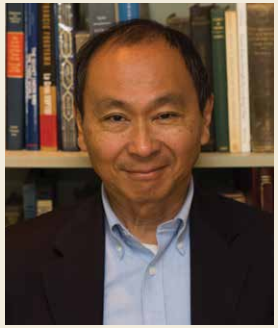
LAD courses are usually based on case studies which are specially designed to encourage participants to think critically about the key decisions that have led to policy reforms. LAD program in Georgia will comprise of several case studies, including three cases about Georgian reforms. These case studies were developed by the Stanford University in cooperation with EPRC specifically for the LAD course. 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

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 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

ALAN TRAGER

Senior Research Professor and the Director of Public-Private Partnerships Initiatives at The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Alan M. Trager is a Senior Research Professor in the International Development and the Energy, Resources and Environment Programs and the Director of Public-Private Partnerships Initiatives at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is also an Instructor at the Leadership Academy for Development. Previously, he was a Senior Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). At HKS, he was also the faculty member who designed, researched and taught the course on public-private partnerships (PPP). He participates in PPP symposiums and executive programs from Beijing, Singapore, Delhi, Cape Town and Washington. He has been a guest lecturer at the Fulbright Economics Teaching Program in Ho Chi Minh City, at MIT Sloan and numerous conferences at Harvard. He is a member of the Faculty Leadership Committee of the Johns Hopkins Water Institute and the recipient of a grant studying water PPP opportunities in Singapore and China. He served as Principal Investigator of the recently completed Mapping PPPs Across Counties (China and India) study. The first convening on the "Mapping Study" will be sponsored by the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C. in November 2015.

His practitioner involvement in partnership issues is extensive and far-reaching. He is Economic Advisor to the Xicheng District, Beijing on economic development projects. He was a consultant to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (PPP Strategy). Previously, he advised the MDR-TB Partnership in China and India supported by the Eli Lilly Foundation. In 2008-09, he served as a Commissioner of the New York State Commission on State Asset Maximization. His private sector experience includes founding and chairing AMT Capital Management, a private investment firm, and creating and managing ventures for Morgan Stanley, where he was a managing director. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, he was manager of planning for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Trager holds an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School. Early in his career, he was a VISTA Volunteer in Texas and worked for mayors in New York City, New Haven, and Boston.

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.

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.

KATHRYN STONER

Senior Fellow at FSI and CDDRL
Faculty Director of the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies at Stanford University

Kathryn Stoner is a Senior Fellow at FSI and CDDRL, and (as of Sep 1, 2010) Faculty Director of the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies at Stanford University. Prior to coming to Stanford in 2004, she was on the faculty at Princeton University for nine years, jointly appointed to the Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School for International and Public Affairs. At Princeton she received the Ralph O. Glendinning Preceptorship awarded to outstanding junior faculty. She also served as a Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, and an Assistant Professor of Political Science at McGill University. She has held fellowships at Harvard University as well as the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

In addition to many articles and book chapters on contemporary Russia, she is the author of two single authored books: Resisting the State: Reform and Retrenchment in Post-Soviet Russia (Cambridge, 2006), and Local Heroes: The Political Economy of Russian Regional Governance (Princeton, 1997). She is also co-editor (along with Michæl McFaul) of *After the Collapse of Communism: Comparative Lessons of Transitions* (Cambridge, 2004).

She received a BA and MA in Political Science from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Government from Harvard University.

GIORGI KADAGIDZE

Governor of the National Bank of Georgia

Giorgi Kadagidze took office as a Chairman of the Board of the National Bank of Georgia on February 26, 2009, for seven-year term ending February, 2016. He simultaneously is the IMF Governor for Georgia, EBRD Alternate Governor and a Chairman of the BSTDB Board of Governors. Mr. Kadagidze graduated from Harvard Business School Program for Leadership Development (Boston, USA, 2014). He studied Public Administration, holds a Master in Public Administration (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, 2005). He is a graduate of Tbilisi European School of Management and Preston University; he received Dual Degree in Business Administration (2001). Mr. Kadagidze held position of Head of the Georgian Financial Supervisory Agency (2008-2009), Head of the Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia (2007-2008). He headed Economic Department and Finance Department at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia and in Tbilisi City-Hall (2005-2007). He was head of Credit Department in the JSC "People's Bank of Georgia" (2003-2004). "The Banker" named Giorgi Kadagidze as the Central Banker of the year 2014 for Europe.

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.

LAD Course Participant Profiles

MAIA BITADZE

Deputy Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection
Tbilisi, Georgia

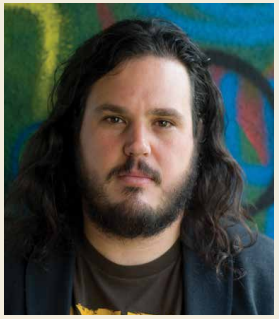
Prof. Maia Bitadze is the author of more than 12 scientific articles on Environmental and Human Rights Law. She works on the issues of Environmental Law for more than 15 years. She has been serving as Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia since 2014. She graduated from Tbilisi State University International Law School in 1999 with Honors and was awarded with the Doctorate Degree in Law in 2007 after defending thesis in the field of Environmental Human Rights Law.

Ms. Bitadze is the Associate Professor of the Environmental Law at the Tbilisi State University and the Caucasus School of Law, she is also an invited lecturer at the Georgian University and Grigol Robakidze University. She worked as a legal expert at UNDP, OSCE and FAO, focusing on environmental topics.

Ms. Bitadze was engaged in various training courses during 2004-2008, including the "Human Rights, Law and Ethics" at the Central European University. St. Budapest, Hungary; United Nations Law of the Sea Tribunal Summer Academy. St. Hamburg, Germany; Introduction to European Community Law (EUSP), Tbilisi, Georgia; Study visit to the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. St. Strasbourg, France; European Integration Processes (UNDP), Tbilisi, Georgia; Workshop within the Stockholm Convention about National Action Plan – Ministry of Environment and National Resources Protection of Georgia, Tbilisi; the European Court of Human Rights Seminar-2004-Acts. Law Institute. Tbilisi; Georgia legislative systems, in Tbilisi (UNDP); and Notary, Civil and Commercial Law - Ministry of Justice. Georgia, Tbilisi; Ms. Bitadze is the Chair of the working group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

DARKO BRKAN

President of the Association of Citizens "Why not"
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina



Darko Brkan, along with a group of young activists and friends, founded UG "Zašto ne" 14 years ago, becoming the president of the organization. UG "Zašto ne" is a Sarajevo-based nongovernmental organization that promotes civic activism, government accountability, and the use of digital media in deepening democracy in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). He also is the president of the board of the regional network Action SEE (Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness in the South-East Europe region).

Darko was a founding member of Dosta! (Enough!), one of Bosnia's most prominent citizens' movements for social justice and government accountability. Darko began his career in civic activism more than ten years ago as coordinator of the Campaign for Conscientious Objection, a network of organizations that promoted peace and conscientious objection to military service in BiH.

He graduated the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Department for Computer Science, and is currently an MBA candidate for Strategic Management of Information at the Faculty of Economics, University of Sarajevo. His professional interests are mainly in the sphere of new technologies, digital and social media, elections and political processes, civic activism and participation, and international relations.

Darko was a Draper-Hills Summer fellow of the Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) in 2013 and a Reagan-Fascell fellow in 2012 at the Forum for International Democratic Studies in Washington, where he researched how new technologies can assist the efforts of civil society organizations. He is also Alumni member of the Council of Europe Academy of Political Excellence from the 2008 generation, Fletcher Summer Institute for Advanced Studies for Non-Violent Conflict from the 2010 generation, and is also a member of the Alumni for exchange student program with the United States after attending the IVLP program in 2009 and a member of the US Alumni Association in BiH.

He is also a member of the board of the Center for Policy and Governance (CPU), the Human Rights Foundation of BiH and Foundation "Ekipa", as well as a founding board member of the Center for Election and Political Studies in BiH. He was also a member of the board of the US Alumni Association in BiH in the term 2011-2015 and member of the ACIPS political council (POLIS) during the 2010 – 2011 mandate.

RABIH EL CHAER

Advisor to the Kuwaiti Parliament
Kuwait City, Kuwait

Rabih El Chær is a Senior Political Advisor and has 19 years of experience in public policy across Europe and the Middle East. Rabih has served as an advisor on speech writing, strategic planning, public affairs programs, media and communications strategy to a number of ministers, public authorities and political parties.

At present Mr. El Chær is an advisor to the Kuwaiti Parliament. Previously, he served as the President of the Lebanese NGO "Sakker El Dekkene" as well as the Senior Public Policy and Media Advisor to the Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Youth.

Prior to that Mr. El Chær was a Professor in Constitutional Law and a co-founder of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Saint Esprit (USEK). He was also the Managing Director of Transparency International Lebanese Chapter.

In 2011 in the wake of the "Arab Spring" he worked as a political and media strategy advisor to a Tunisian newly formed Political Party after the "Arab Spring Revolution". Between 2008 and 2011, Mr. El Chær also served as a Senior Political and Legal Advisor to the Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities. The Ministry team won the UN best public service award for election management in 2010.

Mr. El Chær is a graduate of the National French School of Public Management (Ecole Nationale d'Administration, ENA) and holds two Masters Degrees in Human Rights and Public Law from France. He has also attended and completed fellowship programs at Harvard University, Stanford University, the International Development Center in the UK and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. He was also a lecturer in Public Law at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris.

Mr. El Chær is a founder and a member of several NGOs. Rabih has received numerous recognitions including the Medal of Honor from the Lebanese Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Best Young Journalist award by Annahar Newspaper Lebanon, and he was also selected by the French Foreign Ministry for the 2010 "Personnalités d'avenir" program recognizing future potential international leaders.

NINO CHICHUA

Deputy CEO at EVEX Medical Corporation
Tbilisi, Georgia

Nino has over 14 years of working experience as a management executive with leadership and management functions in different structures of the government and private organizations of Georgia.

She is skilled professional in delivering organizational and structural changes, general management, strategic marketing management, elaborating effective human resources management strategies, designing and marketing of effective service delivery procedures, customer flow management and retailing. Currently she is the Director of Marketing and Services at EVEX Medical Corporation.

Most recently, Nino served as a CEO at the Public Service Hall and previously as the Head of Marketing Department under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, which finally resulted in making Public Service Hall project as one of the most successful government reform in Georgia, which further helped Georgia to be recognized as one of the world's top reformer countries, with its rank of 9th place in the 'World Bank Ease of Doing Business' ranking and receive UN 2012 Public Service Award.

Nino holds a Master's degree in Executive Marketing and Sales Management from ESADE Business School and SDA Bocconi School of Management. Furthermore she has an MBA degree from the European School of Management (FreeUni).

MEDEA CHKHEIDZE

Business Services Team Leader at BP Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

Medea (Dea) Chkheidze has been working in BP Georgia as Business Services Team Leader since 2007. Her responsibilities include but are not limited to: supervision of Business Services Team; Supervision of Maintenance, Travel/Accommodation & Catering contractors' work activities; supervision of all aspects of office maintenance & refurbishment works; supervision of housing accommodation for BP expats; planning and monitoring of Business Services budget, etc.

Initially Dea started to work in BP as an Administrative Assistant as an Agency representative (2002-2007). Before commencing work in BP, her working experience counts several workplaces like: Association for the protection of Landowners' Rights, the International Center for Journalists, Volunteers Corps for Banking Reform, Information Center for Economic Reforms at the State Chancellery of Georgia, Newspaper Georgian Times, and the 1st TV Channel.

As to Dea's studying background, after graduating from the Institute of Foreign Languages and Cultures (1997) Dea has entered and graduated Georgian Institute of Public Administration (GIPA 1998) where she received a Master's Degree in Local Government and Self-Government Administration Program. Dea has graduated from Project Management College at ESI Free University (2010) acquiring George Washington University Master's Certificate. Dea has passed various training courses throughout the time she has worked in BP: Employee Relations for Team Leaders; Risk Management; Supervisory Skills Workshop; Influencing Skills; Scheduling & Cost Control; Incident Investigation; Presentation Skills, etc.

OLGA CHUBRYKOVA

Deputy Director General for Europe 2 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
Kiev, Ukraine

Olga Chubrykova is a Deputy Director General for Europe 2 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, responsible for bilateral relations with the South Caucasus states, Turkey, Romania, Moldova and Belarus. She has been working in the Ministry since 1999, serving twice abroad in the Embassy of Ukraine in Turkey. She also served twice in Minister's Office in the MFA.

Chubrykova took various courses on European and security affairs in Geneva, Vienna, Birmingham (UK) etc.

She is an oriental studies expert and speaks fluent Turkish. Chubrykova is an author of one book – 'Turkey, that we don't know'.

GIGI GIGIADZE

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Tbilisi, Georgia

Gigi Gigiadze graduated with Master's degree the International Relations faculty at Tbilisi State University in 2001. In 2000 he entered diplomatic service and until 2003 was in charge of the bilateral relations with German language countries at the First European Department.

2003-2007 Gigiadze was Counsellor at the Georgian Embassy to the Hellenic Republic covering political and bilateral issues. Within the same period from August 2004 until January 2005 he was an acting head of consular section of the Georgian Embassy in Athens.

From 2007 until 2012 Mr. Gigiadze served at different positions in the European Affairs Department the latest being the Director of the Department. In 2012 was appointed as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Georgian Embassy to the German Federal Republic. Within the same period from February 2013 until January 2014 he was chargé d'affaires ad interim of Georgia in Germany. Since November 2014 Gigi Gigiadze is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia responsible for the relations with the European Union, bilateral relations with European countries and Diplomatic Training Center at the Ministry.

Mr. Gigiadze speaks English, German and Russian languages. He is a passionate swimmer and a former water polo player.

EKA GIGAURI

Executive Director of the Transparency International Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

Eka Gigauri has served as TI Georgia's Executive Director since December 2010. Born on April 14, 1978, she graduated from Tbilisi State University with a bachelor's degree in International Relations. In 2001 Ms. Gigauri graduated from Caucasian University with an MBA degree. She received her second L.L.M degree in International Law from VU University Amsterdam.

Eka Gigauri worked in different state institutions, mainly in the field of foreign affairs, including in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Until 2008, she served as Deputy Head of the Boarder Police of Georgia where she was in charge of legal and International affairs as well as supervising the overall reformation process of the agency.

Ms. Gigauri also has in working for the private sector concentrated in Marketing and Public Relations consultancy.

OTAR GORGODZE

Head of Specialized Groups and
Supervisory Policy Department at
the National Bank of Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

Mr. Gorgodze served as the Deputy Head of Offsite Supervision Department from 2009 to 2010. He held various positions in monetary part of National Bank of Georgia from 2005. Prior to joining the public sector, he worked in commercial banks as a credit officer and investment economic analyst. He also worked as the manager of market research at B-Consulting. Previously, he worked for Polish based NGO CASE-Transcaucasus Foundation to develop its regional economic publication. He also held various teaching positions at Caucasus School of Business, International Black Sea University and Georgian American University and worked as a Junior Researcher in Economics Institute of Czech Academy of Sciences. He has various publications on the topics of economic development/structural transformation and risk management. Mr. Gorgodze holds FRM designation certified by Global Association of Risk Professionals.

BADRI JAPARIDZE

Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Board
of JSC TBC Bank
Tbilisi, Georgia

Badri Japaridze is a prominent Georgian businessman, founding shareholder and Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Board of JSC TBC Bank, leading universal bank in Georgia, who has enjoyed successful career in both public and private sectors. In 1990 he was elected Member of Parliament of Georgia (1990 – 1992) and was a co-signatory of the Declaration of Independence of Georgia in 1991. In 1995, Mr. Badri Japaridze, together with his partners, founded "Georgian Glass and Mineral Water & Co N. V.", now IDS Borjomi, producing famous mineral water Borjomi. Graduate of both Tbilisi State University and Moscow State University, Mr. Japaridze's academic background is in Psychology, where he holds a post-graduate degree from Moscow State University year 1985, he is author of more than 10 research papers.

At present, Mr. Japaridze serves on the Board of Directors of American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia, is Vice-Chairman of the Board of EU-Georgia Business Council, founding partner and member of the Supervisory Board of Georgian Reconstruction and Development Company (GRDC) – leading real estate development company in Georgia, founding partner and member of the Supervisory Board of Geoplant Ltd - tea production company.

ELZA JGERENAIA

Head of Labor and Employment Policy Department at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
Tbilisi, Georgia

Elza Jgerenaia is heading Labor and Employment Policy Department at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social affairs since 2014. During her carrier she served as a project coordinator at the Caucasian Institute for Economic and Social Research, as Chief specialist in the division of State Procurements and Property Management at the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Deputy Head of Social Policy Department at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Elza has also worked at the Ministry of Economy as a Graduate Employee in the department of foreign economic relations. From 1999 to 2008 she was a senior lecturer at the Tbilisi State University, the Ilia State University and the Tbilisi Grigol Robakidze University.

Elza is a PHD Fellow in Business Administration at the University of Minho, Braga in Portugal and a PHD Fellow at the Ilia State University. She holds master's degree in Economics from the Tbilisi State University.

TINATIN KAROSANIDZE

Dean of the Institute of Asia and Africa at
Free University of Tbilisi
Tbilisi, Georgia

Tinatin Karosanidze is the Dean of the Institute of Asia and Africa (School of International Relations) at Free University of Tbilisi and Professor of International Relations (Terrorism and counterterrorism studies); Tinatin gives lectures in Arabic language, the Middle East Religions, International Terrorism, History of the Middle East, and Religion in World policy.

In 1999 Tinatin graduated from Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa, faculty of International relations and History of Middle East Countries (Arabic department). In 1998-1999 she studied Arabic language at Cairo University (Egypt). In 2006 she got PhD in world history, the topic of the thesis was: "Islamic fundamentalism in modern Egyptian politics: Strategy of "Muslim Brothers" and other radical Islamic organizations".

In 2006-2009 Mrs. Karosanidze worked as an Assistant in the near and middle east department at G.Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies. In 2008-2009 she worked at the embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Georgia as an assistant to the Ambassador and translator. In 2013 Tinatin got the Order of Honor from the President of Georgia for contribution in Georgian education and academic field.

She was Carnegie Research Fellow and a visiting scholar in SAIS at Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC in January-May, 2014. The title of her research was: Islamic radicalism in the North Caucasus and ties to the Middle East Islamic fundamentalism.

Tinatin is author of 20 publications and one monograph.

SHIO KHETSURIANI

Chairman of the Public Service
Development Agency
Tbilisi, Georgia

Shio Khetsuriani joined Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia as a Chairman in September 2014. Since then he is working to improve public services throughout the country. As the Chairman of the agency, Shio is managing and overseeing the work of the civil registry, responsible for the issuance of ID cards, passports, civil certificates, residence permits; implementation of e-Governance in Georgian municipalities; development of Community Centers, ensuring access to more than 200 public and private services for the local population; activities of the in-house Innovative Service Lab that generates new ideas to design and deliver improved services for the citizens and different state and public entities; Overall, Shio supervises around 1300 employees of the agency across 75 territorial offices in Georgia.

Before moving to the PSDA, Shio worked at the Bank Republic, Societe Generale and at the Consulate General of Georgia in New York. Shio's diverse professional experience is backed up by the Masters' Degree in Banking from the Georgian Technical University, along with the Masters' of Science Degree in Finance from Baruch College, City University of New York, United States.

Over the past few years Shio has focused on public sector issues – attracting potential investors to Georgia; creating and developing public services, by increasing their accessibility, particularly in the rural parts of Georgia; improving Georgian travel document security and personal data protection, coupled with coordination of migration management processes in the Country and oversight over the implementation of the EU-Georgia Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

AKAKI KHELADZE

Rector of Bank of Georgia University
Tbilisi, Georgia

Professor Akaki Kheladze presently serves as a Rector of Bank of Georgia University (Tbilisi, Georgia) since its foundation. He is a Professor of Management at Grenoble School of Management (Grenoble, France) and distinguished fellow of New Westminster College (Vancouver, British Columbia), a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association at the Caucasus School of Business.

Prof. Kheladze holds a dual PhD degree in Management from Caucasus University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and Georgia State University (Atlanta, Georgia, USA). He earned MBA in Management in 2003 and a BBA in Finance in 2001, both from the Caucasus School of Business at Caucasus University.

Prof. Kheladze possesses more than 10 years of teaching experience, delivering lectures and training in the universities and at local and international private and public institutions. His expertise includes provision of training in the field of project management, decision making, leadership, management concepts, and Business plan development. In various time periods he served as Dean of School of Economic and Business at Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia), Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at Caucasus Business School (Tbilisi, Georgia), Management Professor at London School of Business and Finance (London, UK).

Apart from the academic and higher education management activities, Prof. Kheladze is also actively engaged in training and consulting activities. He has also held leading positions at public and private organizations.

ALEKSI KHOROSHVILI

Chief Executive Officer at the JSC "Liberty Bank"
Tbilisi, Georgia

Aleksi Khoroshvili graduated the faculty of Business Administration in Finance and Accounting from Caucasus School of Business in 2004.

He began his Career in 2003 at ERNST & YOUNG Audit LLC, as an Auditor for Financial and non-financial Services Clients, up until 2009. During his career he held senior positions at ERNST & YOUNG's various offices such as Moscow, Baku, New York and Tbilisi.

Aleksi Khoroshvili joined JSC "Liberty Bank" in November, 2009 as a Chairman of the Audit Committee.

In October, 2015 he was elected as a Chief Executive Officer at JSC "Liberty Bank".

NATA KORIDZE

Head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Coordination Department at the Office of State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration
Tbilisi, Georgia

Nata Koridze is currently head of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Coordination Department at the Office of State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

In 1997 she received a Bachelor's degree from Georgian Polytechnic University. In 1995-1996 Nata won the Freedom Support Act Undergraduate program scholarship and spent one year at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

In 1999 Mrs. Koridze graduated from Georgian Institute of Public Administration/GIPA with Masters of Public Administration. In 2000 she participated at the Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program competition and gained a chance to study for two years in a graduate school in the US. In 2002 she graduated from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs/SIPA with a Master's Degree in International Affairs.

Nata started her carrier as a program assistant in American Councils for Education and Language Studies/ACTR-ACCELS in 1996 and then continued as assistant to European Food Security Network/RESAL country representative in Georgia.

Throughout her diplomatic career Nata worked on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration related issues, relations with UN, OSCE and Council of Europe, as well as conflict-related issues. In 2008-2012 she was posted as Counselor in Brussels, at the Mission of Georgia to the European Union. After returning from Brussels Nata continued working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until January 2013 when she was offered the position of the Head of Euro-Atlantic Integration Coordination Department at the Office of State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

BATU KUTELIA

Vice President of the Atlantic Council Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

Ambassador Kutelia is the Vice President of the Atlantic Council of Georgia and the Next Generation Leader fellow at the McCain Institute for International Leadership. He served as the Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council of Georgia, since January 2011 till November 2013. From 2008 until 2011 he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

In his previous capacities he has been First Deputy Minister of Defense (2007-2008), Deputy Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs (2006-2007) and Deputy Minister of State Security (2004).

From 2005-2006 he functioned as the Head of the Intelligence Service of Georgia. Before this he was the Head of the Foreign Intelligence Department of the Ministry of State Security of Georgia and Director of the Political Security Department of the National Security Council in 2004, also numerous pol.-mil. positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before turning into his diplomatic and political career Mr. Kutelia studied physics and holds a PhD in physics. However, he also holds a master in Public Affairs Administration. Mr. Kutelia is fluent in English, Russian and Georgian languages.

IRINE KVAKHADZE

Deputy Director of the Business
Association of Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

After working in management consulting and commercial banking sectors for 7 years, Irine Kvakhadze embraced an opportunity to work in a local nongovernment organization - Business Association of Georgia (BAG) as a Deputy Director. Business Association of Georgia unites large companies operating in the country and its main function is to hold a dialogue with the government on issues crucially important for the private sector. In this position Irine leads following directions: strategic development projects, research unit, partnerships with International Financial Institutions, Donor Organizations, and think-tanks. Irina acquired her degree, Master of Business Administration from one of the world's top business schools, HEC Paris. During her career in advocacy, she has produced several articles, research papers and participated in local and international conferences as a speaker on the topics relevant to economic development and gender equality.

IRAKLI LAITADZE

Chief Financial Officer at GMT Mtatsminda LLC
Tbilisi, Georgia

Irakli Laitadze has graduated with honors from the department of Economic Geography of the Tbilisi State University in 1993. He has also graduated from Diplomatic School of Madrid (Diploma in International Politics) and from the University of Cambridge (MBA). Irakli Laitadze has also studied the Fundamental Methods of Mathematical Economics at the Lancaster University.

Irakli Laitadze is Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of GMT Mtatsminda, LLC. Previously he has served as the Deputy CFO of the GMT Group, which has its capital invested across four portfolio companies in several industries. He has also worked as a sales executive covering South Caucasus in Belgian "Group Thermote & Vanhalst", which is the trader in a heavy industrial equipment.

Prior to moving to the private sector, Mr. Laitadze has worked in the Georgian Foreign Service including at the Mission of Georgia to the EU in Brussels for more than a decade.

FANIYA MUSSAYEVA

Social and Economic Policy Consultant
Astana, Kazakhstan

Faniya Mussayeva is a researcher and consultant, specializing in poverty, social inclusion, social protection, public finance and democratic governance issues. For the past 8 years, Faniya has worked as a Social Policy Specialist with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan, The Gambia, and Jordan. In the past, she worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

Faniya is a Draper Hills Summer Fellow (2010). She holds an MA in theory and practice of human rights from the University of Essex.

YURY NABUTOVSKI

Member of the board of the
Political party 5 of December
Moscow, Russia

Yury Nabutovski holds Bachelor's degree of Science in Economics from Moscow State University and Master's degree in political science from the same university. During his carrier Yury has worked as a researcher and PR-manager until 2004. In 2005 he entered youth civil movement Oborona, a non-partisan network of youth, Oborona was presented in all big cities of Russia and was famous after its actions and performances aimed at civil problems.

At the same time he became a member of political party Soyuz Pravykh Sil or SPS – the Union of Right Forces. He worked as a coordinator responsible for work with district organizations of Moscow branch of the party.

As an activist and member of Moscow council of Solidarnost, Yury met December 2011 protests on Bolotnaya Square and Academician Sakharov avenue, as a member of the team of organizers of those meetings that finally led to changes in Russian political legislation. The protests started 5.12.2011 so it was decided to try to organize a liberal party with that name, Party of 5 of December, and Yury was among the team of its organizers. Now he is a member of the political council and HR group leader; he is responsible for work with newcomers, organization of internal events and communications.

Yury is also a volunteer at the Center for Interethnic Cooperation, an NGO that works with national and cultural minorities in Russia.

GIORGI NANOBASHVILI

Economic Development Team Leader at the UNDP
Georgia
Tbilisi, Georgia

Mr. George Nanobashvili is an Economic Development Team Leader at the UNDP Georgia Country Office. He is responsible for developing and implementing poverty reduction and economic development projects. In 2006-2009 he served on the position of the Head of Economic Analysis and Policy Department at the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia.

He was Chief Advisor on Economic Security Issues at the National Security Council of Georgia (2003-2006). In 2001-2003 he worked as an Executive Director of Civic Initiatives Center (NGO).

During his leadership at the Ministry of Economic Development concepts on reform of competition regulation, national statistics and technical regulation were developed.

In 2002-2009 he was an elected Board Member of the Association of Young Economists of Georgia. He has published various articles and policy papers.

TAMAR RAZMADZE

Head of Donor Coordination Unit at the Government Administration
Tbilisi, Georgia

Ms. Tamar Razmadze, MBA, is the Head of Donor Coordination Unit at the Government Administration of Georgia as of March, 2014. She has set up the Donor Coordination Unit and streamlined the process of donor coordination from the perspective of policy planning and development within the Government of Georgia. Tamara has over 20 years of work experience in donor organizations, academia and private sector, with almost 15 years spent with different development partners such as USAID, IFC and the World Bank. Tamara's expertise covers communications and marketing management, change management and strategic planning. Ms. Razmadze used to work as a Public Awareness Manager, Head of Marketing and Sales Department, Communications Manager and Business Consultant. She has led different initiatives targeted at the country development, such as Increase of Economic Knowledge and Business Acumen, Marketing and Branding Training Program for Government Agencies, Awareness Increase of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, etc. Tamara's extensive experience covers active participation in transformation process of an organization from NGO to a commercial institution, where through well-targeted marketing efforts the bank successfully penetrated the local market. During her consultancy, Tamara consulted leading local companies active in production, media and marketing fields. Examples include Nabeglavi ("Healthy Water"), Magi Style and newspaper Georgia Today. Ms. Razmadze is an author of more than 100 articles. She also led a Public Relations course in one of the leading business schools (ESM) in Georgia.

MARIAM RAKVIASHVILI

Deputy State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration
Tbilisi, Georgia

Mariam Rakviashvili was born on 6 April 1977 in Tbilisi. She has an academic degree of bachelor with a focus on Architecture and an academic master's degree with a focus on International Relations and European Law.

Mariam started her career in 2003 as a Second Secretary at the Department of Russian Federation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Then she served at the Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Estonia as Deputy Chief of Mission and further pursued her work as a Deputy Head of Department of Asia, Africa, Australia and Pacific Rim. In 2012, Mariam moved to the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration where she is currently occupying the position of the Deputy State Minister.

KATERYNA RYABIKO

Project Coordinator, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
At the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw
Kiev, Ukraine

For over fifteen years Kateryna Ryabiko has lived her passion for democratization and human rights, providing assistance and policy development in political accountability, parliamentary ethics, political participation and electoral processes throughout Central and Eastern Europe. She has worked for international organizations, private sector consultancies and government institutions. Currently, Kateryna leads Ukraine's Civil Society Project at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw. Kateryna was named a USAID Foreign Service National for outstanding achievements in promoting democratic development in Ukraine and her leadership in guiding the U.S. Government's democracy assistance efforts. Ms. Ryabiko holds Master's in Public Administration from the State University of New York (2002) and was honoured by a Stanford University Fellowship for Democracy, Development and Rule of Law (2009). She was recently featured in a documentary about the evolution of democracy, A Whisper to a Roar, and was published in the 2015 European Yearbook on Human Rights.

NIDAL SAWEHLI

Founder of Diwan Research
Tripoli, Libya

Nidal Sawehli is the founder and manager of Diwan Research in Libya, a company that provides quantitative and qualitative research services to both commercial and non-profit organizations. After the 2011 revolution, he was part of the Temporary Financing Mechanism which channeled international funds to the new authority after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. He also took senior advisory roles with the Prime Minister's office, Minister of Civil Society and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Nidal was previously awarded the Chevening Scholarship from the U.K. government and the Fulbright Scholarship from the U.S. government. He graduated with a BA in economics from the American University in Egypt, an MA in economics planning from the University of Glasgow in the U.K., and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

NANA TSIKLAURI

Deputy Chair of the Public Service
Development Agency
Tbilisi, Georgia

Nana Tsiklauri joined Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in August 2013. Since then she is intensely involved in the design and implementation of various projects and initiatives aiming at improving public service delivery in Georgia with a strong citizen-centric approach and focus on e-governance and public service innovation. Currently she is leading the Strategic Projects and Reforms Department of the Agency, while at the same time serving as the Deputy Chair of PSDA.

Before moving to the public sector realm, Nana worked with a number of international agencies and local NGOs in the field of development cooperation. Her experience in the public sector is underscored by a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), along with a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Nana also holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the Tbilisi State University.

Over the last years she has focused on Decentralization and Local Governance issues, agile governance models and citizen-centric public services. As part of the recent and ongoing projects she has been actively involved in initiatives aiming at introducing innovations into the way public services are designed and delivered, fostering e-skills development and application of human centered design to inform public policy.

DENIS VOLKOV

Analyst at the Levada Center
Moscow, Russia

Denis Volkov joined the Levada Center, an independent polling organization based in Moscow, as an analyst and head of the development department in 2007. He is an author of several publications on civil society, protest, and political attitudes in Russia. Denis is a frequent commentator in the media, and has presented at conferences and roundtables on Russia around the world. He contributes his analysis to the Carnegie Center Moscow website. Now he is also a visiting fellow at Chatham House in London and German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin until April 2015. He received his MA in Political Science from the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences and University of Manchester. He was a Draper Hills Fellow Summer Fellow on Democracy at Stanford University in 2013.

NINO ZAMBAKHIDZE

Chairwoman of the Georgian Farmers' Association
Tbilisi, Georgia

Nino Zambakhidze is the founder of L.T.D. "LBN Line Distribution Company", an official representative of Coffee Vergnano and Tea Ronnefeldt in Georgia. Having started farming in 2008 she founded L.T.D. "Georgian Business Zone" (Milk Processing Farm and Animal Food Production Farm) in the village Tsnisi, Akahltsikhe Region where she also acts as an Executive Director. In 2010 Nino founded "Regional Development Association" in Akhaltsikhe and since then has been leading execution of various rural development projects. She became a prize winner for "Woman Entrepreneur of the Year" at the first annual Business-Award "Mercury 2011" ceremony, and was also the first woman leader becoming an honorary coordinator of the organization "Invest for the Future" from 2012, the organization functioning under the patronage of Hilary Clinton. While actively being an entrepreneur, Nino founded "Georgian Farmers' Association" with her partners in 2012, where she serves as a chairwoman of the organization. She is an active advocate of the farmers' rights and the key driving force for the success of the organization. From 2014, Nino became the founder of Georgian Entrepreneurs' Network supporting both beginners and experienced entrepreneurs in business development. Being a proactive person by nature, Nino is a member of almost all key governmental or non-governmental boards and committees active in agriculture and not only. Since 2013 she's also been an advisor in agro-directions at the State Partnership Fund. Nino is an MBA Candidate in Global Management (GGSB) & International Executive MBA (CSB) at Grenoble Graduate School of Business (France) and Caucasus School of Business (CSB).

VALENTYNA ZASADKO

Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies
Lviv, Ukraine

Valentyna Zasadko has 9 year experience in public policy research and is the author of more than 40 scientific publications and policy papers in this field. She co-authored the book "Cross-border Cooperation of Ukraine in the Context of European Integration" (2014). Her academic background includes a master's degree in international economic relations and PhD in economics. Valentyna's academic training and work experience have included both domestic and international perspectives on research and implementation of public services and local policy reform.

Since 2006 she works in a research team of Norwegian-Ukrainian projects devoted to analysis and assessment of local government policy ("Local government reform in Ukraine" (2012-2015), "Local government reform in Ukraine: Program for capacity building and research-policy dialogue" (2008-2009). The projects are joint initiative of the partner organizations – the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR). Besides, she is active in a Lviv-based NGO Center for Social and Economic Research "Initiative".

Currently Valentyna Zasadko is senior researcher at Regional Branch of National Institute for Strategic Studies in Lviv. Her research interests include local governance, cross-border cooperation and urban studies.

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