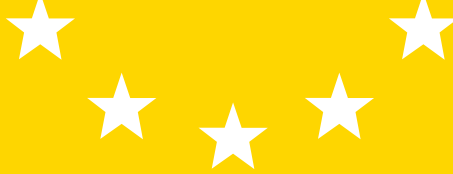


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GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM 2024

Advancing Good Governance:
Best Practices and Challenges
on the Path towards EU Integration



PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 8-9,
2024



HILTON
GARDEN INN



TBILISI,
GEORGIA



WELCOME TO GG FORUM 2024!

Since its inception in 2019, the Good Governance Forum (GG Forum), an international conference focusing on good governance, has been a recurring event in Tbilisi, Georgia. This tradition continues with GG Forum 2024, scheduled for February 8-9, organized by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) with the financial support of The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), with additional co-funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UK Government, USAID National Governance Program, the USAID Economic Governance Program, UN Women Georgia, EU Global Facility on AML/CFT Program, and Open Government Partnership (OGP). The GG Forum serves as a crucial platform for bringing together international experts, government representatives, civil society members, the private sector, and the global community. The Forum achieves its primary goal of advancing the reform agenda for good governance in Georgia by raising awareness, facilitating the exchange of best practices, and fostering robust debate. As an event held annually in Georgia for several years, the GG Forum stands as a testament to the ongoing commitment to promoting good governance on a global scale.

The 2024 Forum seeks to thoroughly explore the ongoing reforms within European Union candidate countries, with a specific emphasis on their efforts to strengthen the principles of good governance. The central objective is to closely examine the primary challenges faced by these countries and to evaluate the importance of these reforms in achieving the goals of democratic consolidation. The Forum will not only discuss global trends, best practices, needs, and significant challenges encountered by Eastern European and Western Balkan countries but also endeavour to uncover innovative methodologies for effectively addressing the inherent challenges in implementing democratic principles within these regions.

The Forum gathers stakeholders from various pertinent fields: major central government institutions, CSOs, activists, and experts, as well as the donor community supporting good government reforms in Georgia and other Eastern Partnership / Western Balkan countries, thereby fostering a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach. Distinguished speakers representing expertise from Georgia, Balkan countries, EU candidates, EU member countries, and the United States contribute to the inclusive discourse. Our dedication to multistakeholderism ensures that the topics addressed encompass the interests of all involved parties.

CONTEXT

On November 8, 2023, the European Commission initiated the 2023 Enlargement Package, recommending to launch a new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, to open negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova, to grant candidate status to Georgia, and to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina once the necessary degree of compliance is achieved. This move by the EU not only reaffirmed the dedication of these nations to EU accession but also underscored the persistent shared challenges and obstacles they face.

As these countries progress towards EU integration, it is imperative that they initiate numerous reforms. Central to this process is the exchange of best practices, coupled with discussions on common challenges, opportunities, and obstacles. A crucial step in effectively addressing and overcoming these challenges is the active engagement of all stakeholders. This collaborative approach guarantees a more comprehensive and efficient response to the shared obstacles encountered by these nations.

THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING KEY TOPICS:

PANEL 1:



Fighting Corruption: Institutional Reforms, Holistic Measures, and Political Will

This panel is dedicated to delving into the European Union's recommendations on combating corruption, with a focus on dissecting the unique challenges encountered by participating countries. We will explore their accomplishments within the framework of European integration and discuss potential measures for the future. The discussion will closely examine the factors influencing successful reforms and, conversely, investigate the key obstacles hindering effective implementation of substantive changes. These hurdles may include issues like insufficient political will, deficiencies in qualifications, and challenges arising from both foreign and domestic sources.

PANEL 2:



Prevent and Counter Organized Crime and Money Laundering: Major Principles, Success Stories, and Lessons Learned

This panel aims to deliberate on the reforms implemented/expected to be implemented in candidate countries, specifically focusing on efforts to prevent and counter organized crime and money laundering. The discussion aims to elucidate the European Union's stipulated requirements, identify the primary challenges encountered by these countries, and draw insights from the noteworthy practices observed in Western and Central European countries. The intention is to learn valuable lessons from the experiences of advanced democracies that can prove beneficial for the new candidate and potential candidate countries in their pursuit of similar objectives.

CONTEXT

PANEL 3:



Public Administration Reform: Achievements, Lessons Learned and Needed Interventions

The proposed panel discussion will delve into the public administration reforms within Eastern European and Western Balkan countries. This intellectual exchange will critically examine the major milestones achieved in the pursuit of administrative enhancements, distilling valuable lessons from the challenges encountered along the way. A paramount objective of the panel is to provide a platform for esteemed experts in the field of public administration to share their insights. These seasoned professionals, possessing a wealth of knowledge and experience, will illuminate the audience on the nuanced intricacies of reform implementation. Their collective expertise will serve as a beacon, guiding EU aspirant countries towards a more informed and efficacious execution of ongoing reforms.

PANEL 4:



Gender Mainstreaming of Good Governance Reforms

The primary objective of the panel is to examine the intersection of gender mainstreaming with the overarching goal of implementing good governance reforms. The purpose of this discussion is to clarify the ways in which gender equality considerations can be effectively integrated into the planning and implementation stages of various governance reforms. The panel seeks to underscore the imperative of incorporating a gender-sensitive lens to ensure that reform initiatives not only promote efficiency and transparency but also substantially contribute to advancing gender equality.

Furthermore, the panel aims to explore practical approaches and methodologies that can be utilized to effectively incorporate gender mainstreaming into governance reforms. Through empirical evidence and insights from prominent local and international experts in the field, the discussion will offer tangible guidance to the EU aspirant countries on identifying and addressing gender-specific challenges that may arise during the EU accession process. This holistic approach aims to foster an inclusive and equitable governance paradigm, wherein the benefits of reforms are distributed equitably across diverse gender identities.

CONTEXT

PANEL 5:



Innovative Mechanisms for Fighting Corruption and Improving Competition: Innovations in Public Procurement and Beneficial Ownership Transparency Standards

This panel aims to explore innovative mechanisms for fighting corruption and improving competition. The discussion will focus on transparency and open data standards in public procurement, beneficial ownership, as well as mechanisms for preventing money laundering. Therefore, the panel will explore the best practices of enhancing public procurement transparency and efficiency within EU countries, aligning with open contracting standards. Additionally, the panel aims to delve into the crucial aspect of Beneficial Ownership Transparency and its heightened significance in the aftermath of the sanctions imposed on Russia following its intervention in Ukraine. The pivotal role of Beneficial Ownership Transparency has come to the forefront, particularly in light of concerns that numerous companies might attempt to circumvent sanctions through offshore entities. We will delve into a broader conversation about optimal practices in these directions, considering the overarching principles, and address the necessary reforms that should be implemented to improve transparency and efficiency and to foster competition through new technologies and best practices.

Additionally, the panel will engage with ongoing debates surrounding directives and standards related to Beneficial Ownership Transparency and Public Procurement. By delving into these issues, the panel seeks to shed light on the current landscape and intricacies of this matter within EU member states and beyond.

PANEL 6:



Civil Society Engagement in Reforms: Transparency and Trust

This panel is expected to address the pivotal role of civil society involvement in the reform process. It seeks to delve into the factors influencing the motivation, trust, and openness of both parties engaged in this transformative endeavour. The discussion will explore the intrinsic significance of transparency, accountability, and trust in fostering an environment conducive to successful reform. Additionally, the panel aims to investigate the determinants of constructive dialogue and the elements contributing to fruitful cooperation between stakeholders. The overarching goal is to comprehensively analyze the dynamics that underpin effective collaboration and communication during the reform implementation process.

AGENDA

GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024



FACEBOOK LIVE LINK:
facebook.com/IDFI.official

09:30–10:00 – REGISTRATION | COFFEE & TEA

10:00–10:40

Opening Remarks

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA



MR. GIORGI KLDIASHVILI

Executive Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)



H.E. MARK CLAYTON

British Ambassador to Georgia



MR. DOUGLAS WEBB

UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Georgia



MR NICHOLAS CENDROWICZ

Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia



MR. ERIK ILLES

Head of Development Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission of Sweden to Georgia



MS. CORINNE ROTHBLUM

Deputy Director, Office of Democracy, Rights, and Governance (DRG), USAID/Georgia



Thursday, February 8, 2024
All times are listed in GET
(UTC/GMT +4 Hours)



Simultaneous English-Georgian
translation will be provided
during the conference



Hilton Garden Inn.
64a Iliia Chavchavadze Avenue,
Tbilisi, Georgia, 0162

PANEL SESSIONS

10:40–12:20

Fighting Corruption: Institutional Reforms, Holistic Measures, and Political Will



MODERATOR

Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli

Chairperson, Civil IDEA

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶



MS. RUSUDAN MIKHELIDZE

Head of the Monitoring Programme, Anti-corruption Network at OECD



MS. SARAH RUPERT

Director, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia



MR. NICHOLAS AIOSSA

Director, Transparency International EU



MR. GIZO UGLAVA

First Deputy Director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU)



MS. TATIANA KHUTOR

Chairwoman, Institute of Legislative Ideas, Ukraine



MS. EKA GIGAURI

Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia/TI Global Secretariat/OGP Steering Committee Member

12:25–14:00

Prevent and Counter Organized Crime and Money Laundering: Major Principles, Success Stories, and Lessons Learned (organized by the EU Global Facility on AML / CFT)



MODERATOR

Mr. Mamuka Jgenti

EU AML / CFT Global Facility Key Expert on Justice / CSOs

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶



MR. SAMUEL GUIRADO-BORREGO

DG FISMA, Policy Officer, European Commission (remote)



MS. ELZBIETA FRANKOW-JASKIEWICZ

FIU of Poland, Former Chair of MONEYVAL (remote)



AMB. JEAN-PAUL LABORDE (REMOTE)

Roving Ambassador for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean



MS. TAMTA KLIBADZE

Head of Methodology, International Relations and Legal Department, Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia



MS. OXANA GISCA

President of COP Cets 198, Republic of Moldova

14:00-15:00 | LUNCH

15:00-16:30

Public Administration Reform: Achievements, Lessons Learned, and Needed Interventions



MODERATOR
Ms. Anna GVENETADZE

Lead, Governing Institutions,
USAID National Governance
Program

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶



MR. ALASTAIR SWARBRICK
Senior Policy Advisor, SIGMA



MS. MARIA STOGOVA
Attache - Team Leader Governance and Human
Capital, EU Delegation to Georgia



MR. JABA DEVDARIANI
Policy and Planning Advisor, UNDP (remote)



MR. ADRIAN ERMURACHI
Co-Executive Director, Institute for European
Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Moldova



MR. MILOS DJINDJIC
Program Manager, European Policy Centre (CEP),
Serbia

16:30-16:45 | COFFEE BREAK

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

16:45-17:30

Public Procurement Workshop




FACILITATOR:
Mr. Giorgi KLDIASHVILI
Executive Director, IDFI

PRESENTERS:

 Ms. Diana Enachi
Economist/Project Coordinator, Institute for
Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul"

 Mr. Oleksandr Shatkovskyi
Independent Consultant

 Mr. Sandro Rochikashvili
Senior Analyst, IDFI

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶

16:45-17:30

Advancing Open Government: A
Practical Toolbox



FACILITATOR:
Ms. Paula PEREZ
Senior Program Officer, Open
Government Partnership (OGP)

ROOM: IRIS ▶

AGENDA

GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024



FACEBOOK LIVE LINK:
facebook.com/IDFI.official

PANEL SESSIONS

10:00–11:30

Gender Mainstreaming of Good Governance Reforms (organized by the UN Women in Georgia)



MODERATOR
Ms. Tamar SABEDASHVILI
Deputy Country Representative in Georgia, UN Women



MS. DOLLY WITTBERGER
UN Women ECA RO Senior Gender Mainstreaming and EU Integration Adviser



MS. ELISO SHONIA
Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department Administration of the Government of Georgia



MS. JURATE JUODSNUKYTE
Attaché – Programme Manager, Labour, Social, Migration, Gender. EU Delegation to Georgia



MS. IRINA AGHAPISHVILI
Head of Analytical Department, Civil Service Bureau of Georgia



MS. BAI A PATARAIA
Head of Union Sapari

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA



Friday, February 9, 2024
All times are listed in GET
(UTC/GMT +4 Hours)



Simultaneous English-Georgian translation will be provided during the conference



Hilton Garden Inn.
64a Iliia Chavchavadze Avenue,
Tbilisi, Georgia, 0162

11:35-13:15

Innovative Mechanisms for Fighting Corruption and Improving competition: Innovations in Public Procurement and Beneficial Ownership Transparency Standards



MODERATOR

Ms. Paula Perez

Senior Program Officer, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶



MR. TYMON KIEPE

Head of Policy and Research, Open Ownership (Remote)



MS. ISABELLE ADAM

Analyst, Government Transparency Institute



MR. VOLODYMYR TARNAY

Senior Manager for Eastern Europe & Central Asia and the Balkans, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)



MR. KAKHA DEMETRASHVILI

Deputy Chairperson, State Procurement Agency of Georgia



MR. VIKTOR NESTULIA

Head of DREAM Project Office, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) (Remote)

13:15-14:15 | LUNCH

14:15-15:45

Civil Society Engagement in Reforms: Transparency and Trust



MODERATOR

Mr. Vano Chkhikvadze

Program Manager, Civil Society Foundation

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA ▶



MS. ESZTER HARTAY

Program Director, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) (remote)



MS. ANA REVUELTA ALONSO

Regional Coordinator for Europe, UNCAC Coalition (remote)



MS. MAKI MESHVELIANI

Resident Senior Program Manager, National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Montenegro



MS. NONA KURDOVANIDZE

Chairwoman, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)



MS. THEA KENTCHADZE

Public-Private Dialogue Advisor, the USAID Economic Governance Program



MS. ANNA ISICHKO

Deputy Director, Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM) (remote)



MS. VERONICA CRETU

Co-founder of the Moldova4EU Diaspora Task Force (remote)

15:45-16:00 | COFFEE BREAK

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

16:00-17:50

Gender workshop



FACILITATORS/SPEAKERS:

Ms. Kaori ISHIKAWA
Country Representative in
Georgia and Liaison for the
South Caucasus



Ms. Dolly WITTBERGER
UN Women Senior Gender
Mainstreaming and EU Integra-
tion Adviser



Ms. Marika JOBAVA
Project Analyst, G&PPL, UN
Women

ROOM: ORCHID & CAMELIA

16:00-16:50

Public Administration Reform
Workshop - The Principles of
Public Administration



FACILITATOR:
Mr. Alastair SWARBRICK
Senior Policy Advisor, SIGMA

ROOM: IRIS

17:00-17:50

Open Contracting Partnership
Workshop



FACILITATOR:
Mr. Volodymyr TARNAY
Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)

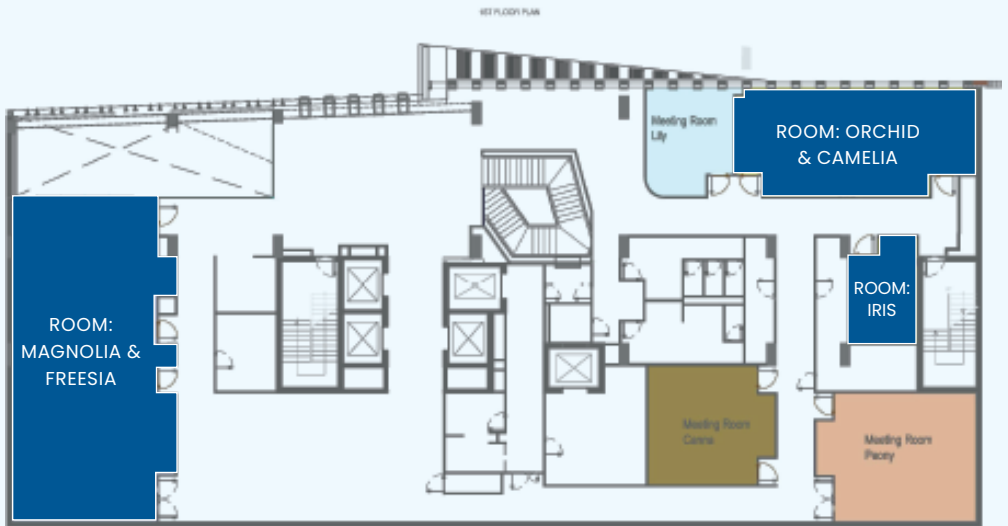
ROOM: IRIS

17:50-18:00 | WRAP UP & FINAL REMARKS

ROOM: MAGNOLIA & FREESIA

VENUE

MAP



#GGFORUM2024



SPEAKER 

MR. GIORGI KLDIASHVILI

Executive Director, Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili is a founding member and Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI). He has over nine years of experience working on openness and transparency issues in Georgia and internationally. He has been carrying out projects, studies, assessments, and trainings for different international organizations and foundations. Giorgi Kldiashvili is the author of a number of publications related to access to information, anti-corruption policy and good governance, accountability and transparency, e-Governance and e-Democracy, open data, civil service and public administration, media and the internet.

In addition to his work in applied policy research with IDFI, as a historian by speciality, he has academic credentials as a researcher, undertaking studies in American and Soviet Studies. He is a professional archive researcher, working in the history archives of Georgia and abroad for more than a decade. Giorgi holds graduate degrees in Contemporary History and worked as a professor of American Studies at the Institute of American Studies at Tbilisi State University.

Giorgi Kldiashvili was a CSO Steering Committee Member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

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SPEAKER 

H.E. MARK CLAYTON

British Ambassador to Georgia

Mr Mark Clayton was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Georgia in August 2020. His previous positions, among others, include:

2018 - present - Cabinet Office, Deputy Director, European Security and Defence

2017 - 2018 - Moscow, Minister Counsellor (Political), and FCO, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate

2014 - 2017 - Dhaka, Deputy High Commissioner

2010 - 2014 - FCO, Deputy Head, Counter-Terrorism Department

2008 - 2010 - Home Office, Head, International Team, Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism

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SPEAKER 

MR. DOUGLAS WEBB

UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Georgia

Douglas Webb is a distinguished development professional with over two decades of experience within the United Nations, specializing in the fields of health and environmental sustainability across the globe.

Prior to his appointment as UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Georgia in October 2023, Mr. Webb served as the Global Health and Environment Advisor for UNDP, stationed in Jordan. In 2020, he took on the pivotal role of coordinating UNDP's global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout his career, Douglas Webb has contributed to multiple UN agencies, including UNICEF, with a primary focus on epidemic response governance and the examination of social determinants of health within the context of environmental change.

His extensive work has spanned across Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, Senegal, Jordan, South Africa, and regions of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.



MR. NICHOLAS CENDROWICZ

Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia

Mr Cendrowicz brings to this job 30 years of experience in the European Commission, focusing mainly on enlargement and neighbourhood regions as well as connectivity, both in terms of policy and of instruments. He was previously the Deputy Head of Unit in DG NEAR^{C1} of the European Commission – the unit dealing with Georgia and Moldova, but also some of the regional aspects of the Eastern Partnership. He was previously the deputy Head of Unit for Regional Co-operation in the Western Balkans.

Before this, Mr Cendrowicz worked in the Serbia and also the Kosovo team in DG Enlargement, having joined from the Romania team when Romania and Bulgaria acceded to the EU. Mr Cendrowicz is also a long-standing expert on energy policy, having worked on this file in the Commission's Energy department. He was the EU facilitator for the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue on both energy and telecommunications matters.

Mr Cendrowicz has a degree in politics from the University of Bristol and a further degree in political science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.

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SPEAKER 

MR. ERIK ILLES

Head of Development Cooperation and Deputy Head of
Mission of Sweden to Georgia

Erik Illes is born in 1963 and has a family with two adult children. Since August 2019 he is serving as Deputy Head of Mission/Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi, Georgia. He has been working for the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency since 1997 and during this period has served at the Swedish Embassies in Laos, Cambodia, Bosnia & Herzegovina. He also has experience from positions in UNICEF in Vientiane and with the European Commission in Brussels. During his career in development cooperation and international relations he has been responsible for areas including democratic governance, human rights, transitional justice, civil society development, sustainable development, and multilateral coordination. Prior to working in development cooperation, he worked as a journalist and as a musician. He holds a BA in Social Sciences from Uppsala University and speaks English, Hungarian, Spanish and Lao.

#GGFORUM2024



SPEAKER 

MS. CORINNE ROTHBLUM

Deputy Director, Office of Democracy, Rights,
and Governance (DRG), USAID/Georgia

Corinne Rothblum is the deputy director of USAID Georgia's Democracy, Rights, and Governance Office. She previously served as deputy director of USAID/Ethiopia's Office of Democracy and Governance and as a democracy and governance advisor in USAID's Center on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. Prior to joining USAID, Corinne worked on local economic and community development for Montgomery County, Maryland and Hyattsville, Maryland, and supported local governance strengthening programs around the globe as a governance advisor at the International City/County Management Association.



MS. TINATIN KHIDASHELI

Chairperson, Civil IDEA

Tinatin Khidasheli leads the think tank Civic -IDEA focused on countering the Soviet legacy in Georgia, challenging Russian propaganda, and promoting robust defence and security policies for the country. As the author of the first Georgian language book on Hybrid Warfare, she imparts her expertise through teaching at the Caucasus University, offering bachelor's and master's programs in Hybrid Warfare and Defense Policy, as well as an anti-corruption class at the Georgian Institute of Public Administration and Ilia University for Master's Programs students. Mrs. Khidasheli, a lawyer by education, has served as the first female Minister of Defense in Georgia and chaired various parliamentary committees, including European Integration and an Inquiry Commission on Violations of Freedom of Speech and Telecommunication laws.

Throughout her career, Tinatin Khidasheli has been an elected member of the Tbilisi City Council, founder, and chair of the largest Human Rights advocacy group in the post-soviet space, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association. Additionally, she spent four years as a member of the National Anti-Corruption Council under the President of Georgia. Mrs. Khidasheli holds a Master of Laws in International Law from Tbilisi State University, an MA in Political Science from Central European University in Hungary, and has been recognized with prestigious awards, including the Freedom Fighter Award by President George W. Bush and the CEU Impact Award for Outstanding Career Achievement. She is married and has two sons.



MS. RUSUDAN MIKHELIDZE

Head of the Monitoring Programme, Anti-corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Anti-corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Mrs. Rusudan Mikhelidze is the Head of Monitoring of OECD's Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, an outreach programme of the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions with a Secretariat at the Anti-Corruption Division. She has led an inclusive process of development of a new indicator-based peer review methodology of the 5th Round of Monitoring of Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan (IAP), a subregional peer review programme with over 20 years of history of supporting anti-corruption reforms in its participating countries. The IAP 5th round of monitoring was launched in 2023.

She is now engaged in the development of Phase 5 monitoring methodology for the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and anti-corruption indicators for OECD members states.

Prior to joining OECD, in 2006-2014, Rusudan has led various anti-corruption and criminal justice reform projects in Georgia. She has served as a Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Council, the Chair of the Open Government Georgia's Forum, Secretary of Criminal Justice Reform Council, and the Chair of the Juvenile Justice working group of Georgia. Her experience includes work at the Crime and Justice Institute in Boston, MA



MS. SARAH RUPERT

Director, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL),
U.S. Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia

Sarah Rupert is the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Director at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia. She manages \$21 million of multi-year foreign assistance funds and directs a ten-person office in implementing rule of law and law enforcement assistance programs.

Previously, Sarah served in Washington, D.C. as the Economic Unit Chief in the Office of the Coordinator for Cuban Affairs, where she served as Senior Economic Advisor on Cuba. She also served in the Office of Central American Affairs, monitoring political and economic developments in the countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Her overseas postings include the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei Office, and the U.S. Embassy in Caracas.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Sarah was a Peace Corps Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator in the Dominican Republic. She received a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia. Sarah's husband is also a Foreign Service Officer, and they have two children. Sarah speaks fluent Spanish and is proficient in Chinese, Russian, and Georgian.

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SPEAKER 

MR. NICHOLAS AIOSSA

Director of Transparency International EU

Nick has been with Transparency International EU for over nine years and is currently the Director. Apart from being responsible for the day-to-day management of the office, Nick oversees the entirety of the policy and advocacy work, having previously led the political integrity team. Nick will lead TI EU through a crucial EU election year, while continuing to push for critical reforms to EU policy in the areas of political integrity, illicit financial flows, and the rule of law.

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SPEAKER 

MR. GIZO UGLAVA

First Deputy Director, National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine

Mr. Gizo Uglava has 15 years of experience in Georgian prosecution authorities, and his last position in Georgia was Deputy Prosecutor General.

He is a co-author of the law on the NABU, a body whose creation and subsequent work is considered the most successful anti-corruption reform in Ukraine.

From the day the NABU was founded until now, which is already the 9th year, he has been holding the position of NABU First Deputy Director.

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SPEAKER 

MS. TATIANA KHUTOR

Chairwoman, Institute of Legislative Ideas, Ukraine

Tetiana Khutor is the chairwoman of the Institute of Legislative Ideas, an independent Ukrainian legal think tank that provides anti-corruption and sanction policy analysis. She is currently involved in the development of legislation on criminalization of sanction evasion and management of seized assets. She is the Head of the Anticorruption Council of the National Agency of Ukraine for finding, tracing, and managing assets derived from corruption and other crimes. She is also a member of Civil Council of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine. Tetiana Khutor is a senior lecturer on anticorruption policy and asset recovery at the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" and is currently working on her PhD thesis focusing on civil confiscation of unjustified assets. Khutor was a legislative director for the Ukrainian Anticorruption Parliament Committee head from 2015-2018.

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SPEAKER 

MS. EKA GIGAURI

Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia, Georgia

Eka Gigauri assumed the role of Executive Director at Transparency International Georgia in November 2010. Under her leadership, TI Georgia expanded its staff, established five regional offices, and executed numerous successful projects. Eka's recognition as a top Director in the TI Global Movement came in 2015. In November 2019, she was elected as a board member of the Transparency International global movement, serving a three-year term and also became a member of the Open Government Partnerships Civil Society Steering Committee.

Eka Gigauri, with a background in International Relations, holds degrees from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University and VU University Amsterdam. Additionally, she completed the Senior Executive Programme at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and became a Fellow of the Stanford University Democracy and Development Programme in 2017. Her extensive experience spans governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors, with a focus on foreign relations, marketing and communications consultancy, and successful oversight of anti-corruption reforms during her tenure as the Deputy Head of the Border Police of Georgia.



MAMUKA JGENTI

Key Expert on Judiciary/CSOs, EU Global AML/CFT Facility

Mamuka Jgenti is the Key Expert on Judiciary and the Civil Society. His responsibilities in the project cover the activities in relation to judges, prosecutors, CSOs and media.

Apart from extensive theoretical and practical experience in the fields of AML, anti-corruption and fight against terrorism financing, Mr Jgenti has profound knowledge of EU values and principles, as well as in the work of the European institutions and EU support activities.

Originally from Georgia, Mamuka Jgenti was involved in approximation of national legislations with the international criminal law standards, as well as in accession of his country to various multilateral treaties and conventions in the criminal field. As a staff member of the Council of Europe, he was responsible for monitoring the implementation of commitments, but also planning, negotiating, implementing, reporting and evaluating the joint EU/CoE programmes of assistance.

In his time as elected official in the CoE intergovernmental structures with the strong participation of EU member states and institutions, Mr Jgenti acquired profound experience in EU legislation in the criminal field. As senior expert in the EU-funded support projects, as well as in his capacity of CSO representative, Mr Jgenti was delivering and presenting EU messages and standards to the institutions of the partner states.

#GGFORUM2024



SPEAKER 

MR. SAMUEL GUIRADO-BORREGO

DG FISMA, Policy Officer, European Commission

Samuel Guirado-Borrego is a Policy Officer at the Financial Crime Unit of DG FISMA, European Commission since 2021. He is an economist with international experience in policy development and data analysis in the public and private sector.

#GGFORUM2024



SPEAKER 

MS. ELZBIETA FRANKOW-JASKIEWICZ

FIU of Poland, Former Chair of MONEYVAL

Elżbieta Franków-Jaśkiewicz is the Deputy Director of the Department of Financial Information (Polish FIU), Ministry of Finance, Poland. Since September 2023, she has been the Interim Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, previously serving as Vice Chair since July 2022. With over 30 years of government administration experience in Poland, she has focused on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing for the past 20 years within the Polish Financial Intelligence Unit. Mrs. Franków-Jaśkiewicz is actively involved in various international organizations and forums, including FATF, MONEYVAL, the Egmont Group, UNODC, OECD, OSCE, the EU FIU Platform, and more. She has served as an expert on EU-funded projects for several countries. Since August 1, 2019, she holds the position of President of MONEYVAL.



AMB. JEAN-PAUL LABORDE

Roving Ambassador to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

As Roving Ambassador to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean in charge of countering terrorism, organized crime, and promoting the rule of law as well as lawyer of the Toulouse Court of Appeal, Jean-Paul Laborde has led a triple diplomatic, judicial and academic career. In the international criminal law field, he served, inter alia, as United Nations Senior Advisor on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Head of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, then in New-York, as Special Advisor to the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, Director of the the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office and Chairman of CTITF and finally as Assistant Secretary General and Counter Terrorism Executive Director at the United Nations Security Council. In the French Judiciary, he was successively Investigating Judge, Public Prosecutor, Head of the Inspectorate of French Prison Services, Presiding Judge of the Financial and Economic Division at the Aix-en-Provence's Court of Appeal, Justice of the Court of Cassation (Financial and Commercial Division then Criminal Division).

He is Adjunct Professor Adjunct Professor of International Criminal Law and Political Sciences at the at the Faculties of Law and Political Sciences of Catholic Institute of Higher Studies.

Finally, he performs the functions of Executive Secretary at the Senior Advisory Board of the EU Global Facility against ML and CFT as well as Senior Advisor of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.

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SPEAKER 

MS. TAMTA KLIBADZE

Head of Methodology, International Relations and Legal Department,
Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia

Tamta has a long-term experience working for public sector in AML/CFT field. Currently in her role of the head of Methodology, International and Legal Department at Financial Intelligence Unit of Georgia, she manages MONEYVAL evaluations processes of the country and serves as a member of Georgian delegation to the Council of Europe MONEYVAL plenary meetings. On several occasions, she has taken a role of an assessor of other countries compliance regimes against international FATF standards.

Her experience also covers developing Country's Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Terrorism Financing National Strategy and Action Plan, as well as National Risk Assessment Report of Georgia.



MS. OXANA GISCA

President of the Conference of the Parties member of the Council of Europe Asset Recovery Convention, CETs 198, Republic of Moldova

Oxana Gisca is the President of the Conference of the Parties member of the Council of Europe Asset Recovery Convention, CETs 198 (Council of Europe Convention on money laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and terrorist financing).

She is the regional representative of the Europe II Region of the EGMONT GROUP of Financial Intelligence Units.

Oxana is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Candidate in the EU project "Legitimation of Newness and EU Agenda for Change" at the University of Oulu's Martti Ahtisaari Institute, Finland.

She has extensive practical experience, acting for more than 20 years, from those five years in a managerial position as a director of the Division in Financial Intelligence Unit, Government of Moldova.

She has an extensive professional background, knowledge, and expertise to implement international standards.

Oxana has international credibility and authority. She has successfully managed teams and projects and has exercised leadership in her home country and at the regional level, making an important contribution to promoting financial integrity, developing cooperation, and sharing expertise.

She has been engaged in technical assistance projects with a range of international and regional bodies.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ANNA GVENETADZE

Lead, Governing Institutions, USAID National Governance Program

Anna Gvenetadze is a highly experienced professional in the field of Good Governance and the Public Administration. With a rich and diverse background that includes managerial roles in the Government of Georgia, leadership positions in the private sector and valuable experience in non-governmental organizations, Anna possesses a wealth of expertise encompassing various areas, including Public Administration Reform, Civil Service Reform, Public Policy Development, and Digital Governance. Currently, serving as the Governing Institutions Lead at the USAID National Governance Program, Anna, along with her program team, provides critical support to the government of Georgia and other stakeholders in their efforts to advance the Public Administration and drive the EU integration agenda forward.

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SPEAKER 

MR. ALASTAIR SWARBRICK

Senior Policy Advisor, SIGMA

Mr. Alastair Swarbrick is a Senior Policy Adviser at the OECD with over 30 years experience in public financial management and audit, good governance, and international cooperation. He currently leads the Public Finance Management Team within the SIGMA programme, and is the Georgia country manager.

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SPEAKER 

MS. MARIA STOGOVA

Attaché - Team Leader Governance and Human Capital,
EU Delegation to Georgia

Ms. Maria Stogova has more than 15 years of experience at the EU Delegations which included work in various fields including Human Rights, Fight against corruption, Visa Free Dialogue and others. She worked at the EU Delegations to Türkiye, Ukraine, Jordan and Morocco implementing projects

and supporting policy dialogues under Neighbourhood and Enlargement Policy fields. Ms Stogova has a Master's degree in Public policies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.

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SPEAKER 

MR. JABA DEVDARIANI

Policy and Planning Advisor, UNDP

Jaba Devdariani has been a Policy and Planning Advisor UNDP Public Administration Reform project from its outset. He is a Senior Partner at Evaluet OG, an Austrian consultancy firm. He has 25 years of experience in conceptualizing and implementing institution-building projects focused on public administration, minority participation, and integration, policy-making, and institution-building. For more than ten years, he served as an international civil servant with OSCE in the Western Balkans. A graduate of the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy, he is also a political analyst, focusing on implementation context analysis in development contexts.

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SPEAKER 

MR. ADRIAN ERMURACHI

Co-Executive Director, Institute for European
Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Moldova

Adrian Ermurachi is a skilled policy analyst with over a decade of experience in policy development, coordination, monitoring, and strategic planning. He is currently serving as the Co-executive director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), where his expertise is instrumental in driving the organization's mission and goals.

Prior to his current role, Adrian served as the Deputy Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, where he was responsible for coordinating the process of public administration reform and drafting normative acts. He was also directly involved in the process of elaborating the strategic planning mechanism at the national level.

Adrian has chaired the coordination committee for preparing the report of the Voluntary National Review of Agenda 2030, highlighting his expertise in sustainable development policy. He has also coordinated the process of developing the Government Action Plan, Law on Public Services, and Government Decision on Strategic Planning, among other key initiatives.

Throughout his career, Adrian has been instrumental in developing public policies in the area of public administration, both at the central and local levels.

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SPEAKER 

MR. MILOS DJINDJIC

Program Manager - European Policy Centre (CEP),
Serbia

Mr. Milos Djindjic is a Policy Analyst with more than 10 years of work in consultancy and the think tank industry, in collaboration with international organisations, public institutions, and civil society in the fields of the EU accession process, public administration reform, and citizen engagement in Serbia and in the Western Balkan region.



MS. DIANA ENACHI

Economist/Project Coordinator, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul"

Diana Enachi is an economist and project coordinator on public procurement monitoring within IDIS "Viitorul". She brings more than 10 years of work experience in project management and consultancy in the areas of public procurement, budgetary transparency, good governance, integrity and anti-corruption.

Over the last 10 years she has successfully implemented over 30 projects providing expertise as national consultant, economic expert, trainer and project coordinator. Diana has also provided consultancy and expertise for other CSOs, government entities, local public authorities, as well as international organizations, such as UNDP, the World Bank, OECD / SIGMA, EBRD. Diana is the author / co-author of more than 30 publications, including policy papers, policy recommendations, studies, analyses, monitoring and evaluation reports, confidence indices, etc.

Currently, Diana serves as the co-President of the National Open Government Steering Committee (OGP). The Committee which includes equally government and civil society representative, is responsible for coordinating the process of drafting, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of the Moldova's Open Government Action Plan 2023 - 2025. Diana is also a member of the Consultative Group on development a new e-Procurement system, established by the Ministry of Finance.

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SPEAKER 

MR. SANDRO ROCHIKASHVILI

Senior Analyst, IDFI

Sandro graduated from Princeton University in 2017 with a degree in public and international affairs, focusing primarily on the post-Soviet space. He has had a variety of experiences being involved with the non-profit sector as an analyst and research assistant, and received the Princeton in Asia fellowship in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Since coming to IDFI, Sandro has worked as an analyst for memory and disinformation studies, and since May 2021, has been managing the Transparent Public Procurement Rating. His responsibilities include managing the network, communicating with existing partners and seeking out new partners, and overseeing and reviewing assessments to be included in the project.

Sandro speaks fluent English and Russian, as well as some Japanese and German.



MR. OLEKSANDR SHATKOVSKYI

Independent Consultant

Mr. Oleksandr Shatkovskiy is the international PP consultant cooperating with OCP, involved in projects financed by EIB, EU and UNDP as well as remaining one of the leading experts on the Public Procurement system development in Ukraine. During last 14 years has been supporting the process of approximation of Ukrainian Public Procurement legislation to best EU and international procurement and contract standards (incl. EU PP Directives and WTO GPA), in particular having participated in the introduction and implementation of PROZORRO e-procurement and DOZORRO monitoring systems in the roles of deputy team leader and team leader of relevant EU PP reform projects. He is also deeply familiar with the e-procurement systems in European and ASEAN countries having worked as transparency consultant with UNDP and OCP.

With general 24+ years of professional experience on public contracting he has 14 years of dedicated involvement as a public procurement (PP) expert and 10 years of civil service including position of the Head of Public Procurement Department in Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

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SPEAKER 

MS. TAMAR SABEDASHVILI

Deputy Country Representative in Georgia,
UN Women

Tamar Sabedashvili holds a PhD (2012) and MA (2002) in Gender Studies from Central European University, Budapest and a BA (2000) and MA (2004) in International Relations from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Tamar Sabedashvili is Deputy Country Representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Georgia working actively in the areas of elimination of violence against women, women's economic empowerment, gender and good governance and women, peace and security. In 2013-2019 Tamar headed the Gender Institute and the Gender Studies Programme at Tbilisi State University, where she also taught in 2006-2019. Tamar's research interests are in the field of gender and development. Her PhD thesis dealt with the specificities of recognition and regulation of domestic violence in Georgia.

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SPEAKER 

MS. DOLLY WITTBERGER

UN Women ECA RO Senior Gender Mainstreaming
and EU Integration Adviser

Ms. Dolly Wittberger has spent 16 years working on gender equality integration in sector governance reform and EU accession in the Enlargement region. She led Albania's first systematic gender mainstreaming project ("Equity in Governance", 2007-2011) funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and was seconded by the Austrian Government as Team Lead for the first UN Women "Gender Equality Facility" initiative in Albania. She's a certified gender trainer and governance expert who has provided technical support for various projects implemented by organizations such as the UN, ADA, GIZ, OSCE, USAID, and the World Bank. Additionally, she served as a gender mainstreaming advisor to the EU Delegation in Albania, focusing on EU programming and implementing the EU Gender Action Plan. Currently, as the UN Women International Senior Gender Mainstreaming and EU Integration Advisor, she supports the replication and roll-out of the UN Women "Gender Equality Facility" approach in Europe and Central Asia. With a PhD in Molecular Genetics from Vienna University, Austria, and an MA in Gender & Development from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, Ms. Wittberger previously worked as a gender expert for the Dutch and Austrian Development Cooperation in India, Kenya, and Yemen. She is Austrian and speaks German, English, and Albanian.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ELISO SHONIA

Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department
Administration of Government of Georgia

Eliso Shonia has an extensive experience in the field of human rights protection. She began her professional career at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in 2012, where her work was focused around human rights reporting, monitoring of investigation, protection of vulnerable groups and detainees, as well as providing guidelines and training for acting police officers. In 2021, she joined the Human Rights Department at the Government Administration, which ensures the coordination of executive branch in the process of elaboration and implementation of the state policies of the Government in the field of human rights. Eliso Shonia holds a Bachelor Degree in Law and Master's Degree in International Relations.

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SPEAKER 

MS. JURATE JUODSNUKYTE

Attaché – Programme Manager, Labour, Social, Migration, Gender,
Delegation of the European Union to Georgia

Jūratė Juodsnukytė is the Programme Officer for labour, social, migration and gender issues at the European Union Delegation to Georgia. She is managing programmes and projects, following developments and reforms, is engaged in policy dialogue with Georgian authorities, civil society representatives and other donors and international interlocutors in her fields of responsibility.

She has public administration degree from Vytautas Magnus University and Master's degree in EU policy and administration from Law University of Lithuania. Since 2003 she has been working at the Ministry of Finance of Lithuania managing European Union pre-accession funds and European Union assistance following Lithuania's membership in the European Union. In 2007 she joined the European Union Delegation to Ukraine and in 2017 she moved to the European Union Delegation to Georgia.

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SPEAKER 

MS. IRINA AGHAPISHVILI

Head of Analytical Department, Civil Service Bureau of Georgia

Since 2013, Irina Aghapishvili has held various roles at the Civil Service Bureau of Georgia. From 2015 to 2018, she led the Department of Institutional Arrangement and Practice Generalization, and since 2018, she has been the head of the Analytical Department.

Engaged in public service reform since 2014, Irina has contributed to activities like strategy development, policy formulation, and training. In 2021, she earned a Doctor of Laws degree from the Georgian-American University, complementing her master's in international law from the University of Vienna and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Currently, Irina is an assistant professor at the Georgian-American University and an associate professor at the University of Business and Technology since 2020. She is an accomplished author with publications in scientific journals and co-authorship of manuals, including "Integrity in Public Service" and "Management and Leadership in Public Service," contributing to ethical standards discourse within the Government of Georgia.

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SPEAKER 

MS. BAIA PATARAIA

Head of Union Sapari

Baia Patarai is a human rights lawyer and civil activist. Since 2013 she chairs prominent women's organization "Sapari". In 2014 Baia Patarai founded Georgian Women's Movement, the largest informal feminist group in Georgia, who perform various advocacy activities and social campaigns to protect women's rights. In 2009-2013 she worked at Ministry of Justice of Georgia on various managerial positions. Since 2008 has been a visiting lecturer at various universities in Georgia. Since 2011 as a national expert Baia Patarai trains judges, prosecutors and lawyers on gender issues, domestic violence and anti-discrimination law in cooperation with international organizations and national training centers. She holds LLM in International Human Rights Law from Central European University (2006) and Master's degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University (2004).

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SPEAKER 

MS. PAULA PEREZ

Senior Program Officer, Open Government
Partnership (OGP)

Ms. Paula Perez is a Senior Program Officer in the Thematic Policy Areas team at the Open Government Partnership.

Paula supports efforts to mobilize cross-country coalitions, strengthen partnerships and provides knowledge resources – working with OGP governments, civil society and other partners to leverage OGP to advance reforms in areas including anti-corruption and digital governance. Prior to OGP, Paula worked at Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and as an independent consultant on fiscal openness, public sector transparency and citizen participation. She holds a degree in Political Science, from Universidad de Buenos Aires, and is a Master in International Affairs candidate at the University Torcuato Di Tella.



MR. TYMON KIEPE

Head of Policy and Research, Open Ownership

Tymon Kiepe is Open Ownership's Head of Policy and Research. He leads the research agenda to help the team collectively develop, test, and refine the organisation's policy recommendations and tools, while also supporting governments in implementing beneficial ownership transparency.

He has spent his career bringing research and evidence to bear on policy making. Before joining Open Ownership, he worked at the Netherlands' leading think tank on international affairs, the Clingendael Institute, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, facilitating the uptake of research into policy processes. Before that he worked at the Rift Valley Institute, of which he remains a Fellow.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ISABELLE ADAM

Analyst, Government Transparency Institute

Ms. Isabelle Adam works as an analyst at the Government Transparency Institute, based in Budapest. She graduated in Global Public Policy at Central European University in Budapest and IBEI Barcelona, focusing on the governance of development. Previously, she studied Global Project & Change Management at Windesheim Honours College in the Netherlands and gathered experience abroad in countries such as Uganda, Madagascar, and Bolivia, conducting field research and working in NGOs. She is involved in various research projects looking at anti-corruption in government procurement and investigating the impact of transparency reforms.

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SPEAKER 

MR. VOLODYMYR TARNAY

Senior Manager for Eastern Europe & Central Asia and
the Balkans, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)

Volodymyr is OCP's Senior Manager for Eastern Europe & Central Asia and the Balkans. His ambition is to boost data-driven decision-making in the region and beyond, proving that governments can get great value out of contracting data.

Before joining the Open Contracting Partnership, Volodymyr was head of the Budget Policy Department at the Ukrainian NGO Center Eidos, focusing on budget transparency, good governance, and public finance management at the national and municipal levels.

He has advocated for open data as a member of working groups under Ukraine's Ministry of Finance and the state agency of e-governance, Open Government Partnership, International Budget Partnership, CoST Ukraine, and the Reanimation Package of Reform Initiative.

Volodymyr has a Master's degree in state finance from Kyiv National Economic University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Academy of Public Administration Office of the President of Ukraine.

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SPEAKER 

MR. KAKHA DEMETRASHVILI

Deputy Chairperson, State Procurement Agency of Georgia

Dr. Demetrashvili, since June 2014, has served as Deputy Chairperson of Georgia's State Procurement Agency, the country's sole public procurement authority. Operating under the Prime Minister's supervision, the agency manages the entire public procurement ecosystem and legal landscape. Dr. Demetrashvili oversees the Georgian Electronic Government Procurement system as a Central Purchasing Body. From January 2013 to June 2014, he was Deputy Head of the Financial-Analytical Service at the Ministry of Finance, focusing on developing the Electronic Public Finance Management System. With over 25 years of experience, Dr. Demetrashvili has held key roles in international public aid and development programs, specialising in areas such as public management, ICTD, and e-Governance for democratic development and good governance. His extensive background includes leadership positions and consulting roles for organizations like UNDP, EU, USAID, CoE, and WB, contributing to various democratic governance programs, civil service reform, parliamentary strengthening, and more.

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SPEAKER 

MR. VIKTOR NESTULIA

Head of DREAM Project Office, Open Contracting Partnership

Viktor leads the Open Contracting Partnership's support for Ukraine's reconstruction post-Russian invasion, utilizing open contracting reforms initiated since 2014 to facilitate the country's recovery. As the co-founder and former chair of Ukraine's RISE Coalition, comprising over 40 organizations, he focuses on integrating open contracting principles into the recovery program. Viktor currently heads the DREAM Project office, collaborating with the Ministry for Restoration and OCP to establish and implement the DREAM ecosystem, fostering collaboration among the government, business, and civil society to showcase Ukraine's reconstruction as a global model for open government and contracting.

Before joining the Open Contracting Partnership, Viktor served as the acting CEO at SOE Medical Procurement of Ukraine, overseeing medical public procurement. From 2015 to 2018, he worked as a Program Director at Transparency International Ukraine, managing initiatives such as ProZorro and e-Health system development. Viktor, with a Master's degree in International Economy from Kyiv National Economic University, has a diverse background in the private sector and government, including roles in agro-holdings and the Ministry of Infrastructure in Ukraine.

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SPEAKER 

MR. VANO CHKHIKVADZE

Program Manager, Civil Society Foundation

Vano Chkhikvadze is an EU Integration Programme Manager at Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), specializing in EU-Georgian relations and advancing projects for Georgia's European integration. With a background as a country analyst for the European Stability Initiative and prior roles at the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and the Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration in Georgia, he has extensive experience in monitoring EU program implementation in various areas. Vano Chkhikvadze also oversees EU projects related to regional cooperation. He holds a Master's Degree from the College of Europe in European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies and another from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in Policy Analysis.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ESZTER HARTAY

Program Director, European Center for
Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL)

Eszter Hartay is a Program Director at the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) with 14 years of experience in creating an enabling legal environment for civil society. She has worked in at least 16 countries across the EU, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and MENA regions, Central Asia and Latin America, leading and supporting efforts in the areas of CSO framework legislation, CSO-government cooperation, participation in policy-making, financial sustainability, climate justice and anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing, among others. She is leading ECNL's work on identifying emerging models for public participation and empowering CSOs and members of society to actively participate in policy processes both at the EU and national levels. She has been supporting the team of the CSO Meter program that systematically monitors the CSO environment in the Eastern Partnership region. She has been supporting efforts to strengthen financial sustainability in Georgia and contributed to the development of the Assessment on this topic. She graduated at the Hungarian Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Law and passed the Bar Exam in Hungary. Before joining ECNL Eszter gained 5 years of professional experience as a corporate lawyer and ran her own law office.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ANA REVUELTA ALONSO

Regional Coordinator for Europe, UNCAC Coalition

Ana Revuelta Alonso is the UNCAC Coalition's Regional Coordinator for Europe. In this role, she fosters a network of over 100 civil society organizations and experts on transparency and anti-corruption across Europe, facilitates capacity building, and promotes joint advocacy for the implementation of the UN Convention against corruption in the region.

She also works as a researcher and reviewer for the Independent Reporting Mechanism of the Open Government Partnership, assessing the quality and implementation of open government action plans of member countries.

In 2008, she joined Transparency International in its Secretariat in Berlin, and later on its Chapter in Spain, where she researched and advocated for lobbying regulation and led a multidimensional, 4-year program to improve access to information and accountability in public procurement and to promote a clean business environment.

In 2021, she was engaged by the United Nations FACTI Panel to convey their recommendations on financial accountability, transparency, and integrity for achieving the 2030 Agenda through thematic briefings in the European region, addressed to government, business sector, and civil society representatives.

Her academic background is in international economics, development studies, government and public administration.



MS. MAKA MESHVELIANI

Resident Senior Program Manager, National Democratic
Institute (NDI) in Montenegro

Maka Meshveliani currently heads NDI Montenegro's portfolios on good governance, election integrity, disinformation, and research, with over 15 years of experience in civil society development, women's empowerment, election monitoring, political analysis, and public opinion research. Previously a Senior Fellow with NDI's global Elections Team, she strengthened election monitoring organizations in Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Guinea. Maka contributed to disinformation and social media monitoring at NDI. From 2018-2020, she worked with international organizations (UNDP, WHO, NDI) and the private sector (EBRD, PwC) on gender-focused programs in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, and Moldova. Maka managed UNDP's gender equality program from 2016-2018, focusing on policy development and grassroots organizing for women's empowerment. In her 2007-2016 tenure at NDI Georgia, she led programs on coalition building, issue-based advocacy, and election observation. As the Andi Parhamovich Fellow in Washington DC, she analyzed communication tactics for women's political participation. Maka actively contributes to her communities and initiated a successful crowdfunding campaign in Georgia in 2014. She was a leader in Georgia's women's movement from 2014-2016 and has won multiple awards, including the Chevening scholarship. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (UK) and a BA in Law from Tbilisi State University (Georgia).



SPEAKER 

MS. THEA KENTCHADZE

Public-Private Dialogue Advisor, the USAID
Economic Governance Program

Thea Kentchadze brings in more than twenty years of professional experience with Georgia's public institutions, a leading think-tank, and various international development programs, covering areas of international relations, good governance, public service reform, parliamentary strengthening, and private sector development.

She joined the USAID Economic Governance Program in Georgia in 2021 to oversee implementation of the USAID funded grant activities that support mechanisms for effective and sustainable dialogue on key economic reforms between public and private stakeholders. This work builds on her prior experience in developing competitiveness of Georgia's private sector, specifically, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as part of the EU-funded projects at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Her professional career also includes working in Georgia's diplomatic service as a senior counselor at the Embassy of Georgia to the United States and managing parliamentary strengthening program for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

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SPEAKER 

MS. NONA KURDOVANIDZE

Chairwoman, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)

Nona Kurdovanidze is a human rights lawyer and researcher with more than 15 years of experience. She has been a chairperson of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) since December 2022. GYLA is a membership-based NGO established in 1994. 30 years ago, following the collapse of the economy and the inexistence of the state institutions, with soaring threats to human rights, GYLA was at the epicenter of combating human rights issues. Throughout the years, GYLA maintained its work at multiple interconnected levels, providing legal aid to over 1 million individuals.

Nona is the author/co-author of up to 10 researches dealing with justice, legislation on administrative offences, ill-treatment, the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, the state policy concerning IDPs, and the right to proper housing. Nona holds a LLM degree. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Russian Studies.

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SPEAKER 

MS. ANNA ISICHKO

Deputy Director, project coordinator of the Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral
Support Activity, Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM)

Anna Isichko is a professional lawyer with a background in International Law; She worked for the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. In 2015 Ms. Isichko started her career in the Ukrainian civil society sector. She is the author and co-author of a range of analytic materials, inter alia in the area of Ukrainian legislation approximation with *acquis communautaire*.

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SPEAKER 

MS. VERONICA CREȚU

Governance and Data4Development Expert, Envoy with the Open Government Partnership, Member of the Access Info Group at the Council of Europe and Co-founder of the Moldova4EU Diaspora Task Force

With over 20 years of experience, Veronica is a leader in open government, data governance, AI, and civil society development. She has made significant contributions globally, impacting regions such as the EU, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, South Asia, Western Balkans, and Africa. Veronica specializes in designing and implementing capacity-building programs for both public and civil sectors, conducting assessments, and evaluations, and shaping public policies in areas like data governance and digital transformation.

Veronica played a pivotal role in Moldova's Open Government initiatives, contributed to global committees, including the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, and is a member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and ICANN. Currently serving on the Committee on AI and the Access Info Group at the Council of Europe, she holds an MA in Contemporary Diplomacy and is pursuing an MA in Artificial Intelligence for Government.

Fluent in English and Russian, with basic knowledge of German and French, Veronica, originally from Moldova, is now based in Vienna, Austria, actively contributing globally in governance and data development.



Briefly about the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

DFI's VISION is an - *informed and empowered society for democratic governance!*

Our MISSION - *We strive for an empowered and inclusive society; we promote human rights and good governance by raising civic awareness through sound informational reports, research, and recommendations; we advocate for initiating & implementing reforms of policies, laws, and practices to enhance democratic governance.*

Our Goal - *Supporting Democratic and Good Governance in Georgia through evidence-based research, monitoring, and advocacy.*

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) is a Georgia-based non-governmental organization that aims to support the development of an informed and empowered society for democratic governance.

Since its establishment in 2009, IDFI has rapidly become a respected leader in advancing open democracy in Georgia and, increasingly, around the globe. IDFI works to access quality information, develop rigorous analysis, and use innovative tools in order to improve governance, advance the rule of law, reduce corruption, promote informed civic participation, expand accountability, spark innovation, and encourage inclusive growth.

To realize this potential, IDFI combines its think-tank capacities with its watchdog activities in pursuit of its overarching strategic goals:

- ▶ Encourage an Informed Public by expanding the public's access to information and quality reporting while sharpening its discernment of competing narratives, past and present.
- ▶ Improve the Quality of Democratic Governance by building open, accountable, and responsive national and local governments, which effectively promote human and civil rights.
- ▶ Invest in a More Equitable Society by promoting policies and practices demonstrated to build political, social, and economic equity and improve overall well-being.
- ▶ Foster an Inclusive Digital Economy - Encourage appropriate access to internet, data, and e-tools to support growth of ICT, tech, and information economy.

For more information about IDFI, visit: WWW.IDFI.GE or follow @IDFIGeorgia and subscribe to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IDFI.official/

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