



Geopolitics of Connectivity in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood

Date: July 1 - July 3, 2024

Location: Tbilisi, Georgia

AGENDA

Day 1, July 1

Arrival: During the day

19:00 Opening dinner with keynote speech & discussion

The transition of Georgian state since the fall of the Soviet Union

- **Keynote: Dr. Julie A. George**, Associate Professor of Political Science, City University of New York; Adjunct Associate Professor, SIPA, Columbia University
- **Moderation: Kornely Kakachia**, GIP

(Restaurant Kopala, 8/10 Mefesalumune Davit King St, Tbilisi. Transportation from Sheraton to the restaurant will leave at 18.40 pm on 1 July 2024. If you plan to come alone and not use the transport, please inform Nino: +995 557 60 32 03)

Day 2, July 3

10:00 – 11:00 Opening and Keynote

Geopolitics of Connectivity: Implications for the EU and the Eastern Neighborhood

- Welcome and Intro by GIP and DGAP
- Keynote by **Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Moderated by **Stefan Meister**, DGAP

Key questions:

- What are the major geopolitical shifts in the EU's eastern neighborhood following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine?
- What are the consequences for the EU's neighborhood policy?
- How could the EU adapt to the changing geopolitical landscape?
- How attractive is the EU's normative agenda in an increasingly transactional environment?

11:00 – 12:30 Trade and Economy

- **Alkis Drakinos**, Director, Regional Head Caucasus, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- **Tinatin Akhvlediani**, Research Fellow, CEPS
- **Wilfried Jilge**, Associate Fellow, DGAP



Moderated by **Milan Nic**, DGAP

Key questions:

- How does Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Western sanctions impact trade and economic relations?
- How have the interests of bigger and smaller countries in the region changed regarding trade and economic relations?
- What are the consequences for major infrastructure investments?
- What is needed and realistic regarding investment from an economic perspective?
- How did Ukraine's economy and trade adapt following the full-scale invasion?

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Break-out Sessions: Discussion of Input Papers

Presentation and discussion on main arguments from research papers. The papers will be shared in advance with all the workshop participants.

- Main thesis
- Key questions and key findings
- Up to 8 minutes inputs

I. Energy Security and Resilience

- **Irina Apostol**, Green City Lab Moldova
- **Mahammad Mammadov**, Topchubashov Center
- **Giorgi Mukhigulishvili**, World Experience for Georgia / Ilia State University
- **Tymon Pastucha**, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

Moderated by **Josef Mayr**, DGAP

II. Security of Digital and Physical Infrastructure

- **Teona Giuashvili**, expert, formerly European University Institute & Georgian MFA
- **Valentin Krüssmann**, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS)
- **Zhanna Vardanyan**, Orbeli.am
- **Aliaksei Patonia**, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies/ German Marshall Fund of the US
- **Stanyslav Yukhymenko,(online)**, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting

Moderated by **Anastasia Pociumban**, DGAP

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Transport, Corridors, infrastructure: Role of China, Russia and the EU

- **Tinatin Khidasheli**, Chairperson, Civic Idea
- **Katja Kalkschmied**, a postdoctoral fellow at the Department for International Economics within the Vienna School of International Studies
- **Jens Gräfer**, Head of International Affairs, Deutsche Bahn



Moderated by **Franziska Smolnik**, SWP

Key questions:

- What are the key trends in the sector in the past two years? What is the impact of the war in Ukraine?
- Middle corridor: ambitions vs. reality—what are the real potential and realistic investment opportunities?
- Is China an alternative for Eastern Partnership countries?
- How has the EU adapted to the new reality? What are the ambitions and the shortcomings?

19:00 – 20:30 Evening session: Navigating New Geopolitical Realities in the South Caucasus

(public discussion, by invitation only)

- **Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali
- **Franziska Smolnik**, Senior fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- **Ghia Nodia**, Professor, Ilia State University

Moderated by **Stefan Meister**, DGAP

Key question:

- What are the current geopolitical shifts in the South Caucasus?
- How is the EU policy adapting to the changing geopolitical landscape in the region?
- How can the EU stay a normative actor in the context where geopolitics and security will play an increasing role in its policy?
- How can the tendencies towards authoritarian regimes in the region be addressed?
- How do Russia, Turkey, and China impact the countries of the region?

Day 3, July 3

10:00 – 11:30 Energy Security: Green or Carbon?

- **Salome Janelidze**, Senior Energy Expert, Energy Community
- **Ana Otilia Nutu**, Energy Policy Analyst at Expert Forum (EFOR)
- **Dato Chipashvili**, Executive Director, Green Alternative
- **Kadri Tastan**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, GMF's Brussels office

Moderated by **Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze**, GIP

Key questions:

- Diversification from Russia – what is the impact and the current reality?
- What is the potential of green transition for the region?



- What is the Black Sea region's potential in terms of energy connectivity? What are the bottlenecks and scenarios for the future?
- What is Turkey's role in the region regarding energy investment?

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 Key Takeaways: The EU's Role in Navigating the Geopolitics of Connectivity

- **Oana Popescu Zamfir**, Director of Global Focus
- **Kornely Kakachia**, Director, GIP
- **Stefan Meister**, DGAP

Moderated by **Anastasia Pociumban**, DGAP

Key questions:

- How are security and connectivity policies interlinked? How can we streamline these critical areas in the EU policies?
- How can the EU increase its role as a geopolitical actor?
- How does the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine impact the security architecture in the region and in Europe?

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 18:00 Cultural Activity, trip to old capital - Mtskheta