



**The European Neighbourhood in Perspective
Public Expert Round Table**

October 7, 2014, 11:00 a.m. – 06:30 p.m.

**Conference Hall (G106), Ilia State University, Cholokashvili str., 3/5, Tbilisi,
Georgia**



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BACKGROUND

MAXCAP features a nine-partner consortium of academic and research centres from all over Europe which investigates the consequences of current and future EU enlargements for the Union's internal and external integration capacity. The project is funded under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7). MAXCAP aims at producing policy recommendations on how to maximize the EU's integration capacity with respect to enlargement and the neighbourhood policy, including specific policy tools and options. During the lifecycle of the project MAXCAP partners attend various policy briefings/seminars targeted at local experts from EU member states, candidates and neighbours. These briefings and seminars will not only give the chance to disseminate MAXCAP's academic and policy-relevant results but also to get feedback on the research findings and their relevance from local practitioners and academics.

The public expert round table "The European Neighbourhood in Perspective" is organized by MAXCAP in cooperation with Ilia State University.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a platform for the review of the EU's integration tools and strategies and their political and socio-economic impact on Georgia and the South Caucasus, as well as to encourage the discussion of fresh ideas and approaches to the subject
- Identify and discuss policy-relevant lessons that can be drawn as regards the EU's future integration strategies
- Bring visibility to the European Union and raise the awareness on its engagement in the Georgia and the South Caucasus
- Strengthen interaction and cooperation among Track II initiatives in the region and linking the contributions that Academia and Civil Society Organization can make to the EU integration of Georgia and the South Caucasus

PARTICIPANTS

Decision-makers and leading members from the central administration, parliament and political parties; academia, civil society organizations, think tanks and media; as well as representatives from the EU Delegation and other European institutions and diplomatic representations in Georgia.

The Conference Language will be English.

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The goal of the expert round table is to discuss policy relevant aspects of issues that touch upon the following questions: To what extent can the EU's policy towards the Eastern partnership countries be characterized as a success or a failure? Does the EU lack a convincing strategy towards its Eastern neighbours and if yes, why? How does the EU effect political and economic change in the Eastern Partnership countries if compared to enlargement and what explains the difference? How do we assess the role of the EU in the current crisis in Ukraine and how can we explain its performance?

A key goal of the expert seminar is to facilitate a discussion between local experts from the South Caucasus and MAXCAP researchers about the role of the EU in the region and factors shaping its capacity to shape political and economic domestic change. Local experts are invited to assess the validity and relevance of MAXCAP's research findings in terms of policy-relevant lessons.

- 11:00 – 11:40 **Opening session**
Giga Zedania, Rector Ilia State University
Tamar Beruchashvili, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georgia
Ambassador Janos Herman, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia, tbc
Tanja A. Börzel, Chair for European Integration at Free University of Berlin
- 11:40 – 13:00 **THE EU'S APPROACH TOWARDS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD –
A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT**
- The inadequacy of the EU's acquis driven approach in the new geopolitical context**
Antoaneta Dimitrova, Associate Professor at the Institute of Public Administration, Leiden University
- The limits of EU conditionality – A view from the Western Balkans**
Adam Fagan, Chair in European politics at Queen Mary, University of London, Research Associate at the European Institute, London School of Economics
Tanja Hafner Ademi, Executive Director, Balkan Civil Society Development Network
- The EU in Georgia and the Ukraine – What context for action?**
Kakha Gogolashvili, Director of the Centre of EU Studies at Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)
- Discussion moderated by Julia Langbein, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for European Integration at Free University of Berlin
- 13:00 – 13:15 Coffee break
- 13:15 – 14:00 **THE EU'S WILLINGNESS AND PREPAREDNESS TO ENLARGE FURTHER:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENP**
- Public opinion and differentiated integration in the EU: How it may affect the ENP**
Dimitar Toshkov, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public Administration, Leiden University
Asya Zhelyazkova, Research Fellow at the European politics group at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zurich
- Q&A session moderated by Bidzina Lebanidze, Ph.D. Candidate, Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies

- 14:00 – 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 – 16:30 **NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE QUESTION OF CHOICE**
- The Security Dimension**
David Darchiashvili, Professor at Ilia State University; MP, Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security, Georgia
- The Political Dimension**
Iryna Solonenko, DAAD/OSF Research Fellow, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany
- The Economic Dimension**
Julia Langbein, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for European Integration at Free University of Berlin
- Discussion moderated by David Aprasidze, Head of Administration, Ilia State University
- 16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break
- 17:00 – 18:30 **NEIGHBOURHOOD IN CRISIS – SOLUTIONS BEYOND ENP AND EAP?**
Panel discussion
- Archil Karaulashvili, Head of European Integration Coordination Department, Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European & Euro-Atlantic Integration
- Vasyl Tsybenko, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ukraine in Georgia, tbc
- Tanja A. Börzel, Chair for European Integration at Free University of Berlin
- Discussion moderated by Yasemin Pamuk, Political Analyst and Consultant on the South Caucasus
- 18:30 Concluding remarks