ბათუმის შოთა რუსთაველის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი
BATUMI SHOTA RUSTAVELI STATE UNIVERSITY

KNOWLEDGE CONNECTS REGIONS

2nd International Conference

NEW HORIZONS 2026

Strengthening Regional Cooperation Across the Eastern Partnership, South Caucasus & Central Asia

CONFERENCE AGENDA

15–16 October 2026

Batumi, Georgia
Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

PEOPLE | IDEAS | PARTNERSHIPS | A STRONGER TOMORROW



BATUMI
GEORGIA
2026

CONNECTING REGIONS
EMPOWERING PEOPLE
SHAPING NEW HORIZONS

FYI

Presentation Protocol

Each speaker will be allocated a total of **7 to 10 minutes** for the formal delivery of their presentation. This timeframe should be strictly observed to ensure the smooth progression of the event and equal opportunity for all participants.

Following each presentation, a maximum of **5 minutes** will be reserved for a **Questions and Answers (Q&A) session**. This segment will allow the audience to engage with the speaker, seek clarifications, and discuss key points raised during the presentation.

All speakers are kindly requested to adhere to the allocated time limits to maintain the integrity of the schedule and to facilitate meaningful interaction within the designated timeframe.

AGENDA

Time	Thursday, 15 October
	Dress code: Semi-Formal
09:30 – 9:55	Reception and Registration in BSU, #55 Auditorium
10:00	**Welcome and Prefatory Remarks, moderating by Giga Phartenadze:** 1. **Mr. Tite Aroshidze** - Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University; 2. **Mrs. Maia Khajishvili** - Minister of the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Ajara A. R; 3. **Ms. Tamar Siradze** - Deputy Rectorate of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University; 4. **Ms Alexandra Sheppard** - Diplomat, The Embassy of UK in Georgia; 5. **Mrs. Erin Hart –** Diplomat,Program Director - Global Minnesota, She served as a Foreign Service Officer and Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. State Department from 2008 - 2016 and 2024-2025; 6. **Mr. Matthew Walsham** - Policy and Campaigns Lead, Partnership for Young London; 7. **Agata Goss** - Adviser, Youth Council City of Warsaw at the Warsaw Centre for Educational and Social Innovation and Training; 8. **Maia Melikidze** - Executive Director, Georgian Renewable Energy Development Association; 9. **Irene Khajalia** - CEO& Founder of English Language Centre ETI-2000, Batumi, Georgia Academic Principal of ETI Holding.

10:30	**1ST Session** **THEMATIC PANEL** **MIGRATION, IDENTITY AND CULTURE** Migration • Identity • Cultural Transformation • Diaspora • Language • Media **Moderating by Nonna Babayan** **Speakers:** 1. **Palina Brodik (Poland) -** Exile as a Form of Local Civic Participation: Belarusian Migrants and Local Democracy in Poland; 2. **Anna Varshanidze (Georgia) -** The Black Sea as a Channel of Western; Civilization's Influence: Cultural and Social Transformation of Southwestern Georgia; 3. **Irine Tsintsadze & Fati Khalvashi (Georgia) -** Migration, Identity and Culture in the Ethical Context of Contemporary Mass Media; 4. **Murman Gorgoshadze (Georgia) -** The Obligation to Know the State Language and the Language of Education in the South Caucasus Countries (According to the Laws "On the State Language"); 5. **Natalia Lazba & Ineza Zoidze (Georgia) -** Muhajirism and the Formation of the Sociocultural Identity of the Abkhaz Community in Adjara; 6. **Vakhtang Endeladze (Georgia) -** From Words to Digital Texts: Language, Discourse and Communication in the Digital Age; 7. **Marine Itriashvili (Georgia) -** Descendants of Abkhaz Muhajirs in the Structure of Modern Turkish Society and the Phenomenon of Preserving Dual Identity in the XXI Century; 8. **Zhuzhuna Gumbaridze, Zeinab Gvarishvili & Nana Mazmishvili (Georgia) -** Identity, Cultural Diversity, and Religious Rights in Academic Migration: From Institutional Neutrality to an Inclusive Environment; 9. **Maka Dolidze (Georgia) -** Georgian Diaspora Identity and Culture on Social Media
11:45 – 12:15	Discussion on the topic, identifying the key takeaways from the theoretical and practical concepts
12:15 – 12:30	**Coffee break**
12:30	**2nd Session** **THEMATIC PANEL** **GREEN TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** Climate Action • Sustainability • Green Economy • Innovation • Education **Moderating by Ana Vardmanidze** 10. **Boris Kiknadze (Georgia)** - Renewable energy and investment; 11. **Nonna Babayan (Armenia) -** American University of Armenia From Silos to Synergies: Rethinking the Green Transition

	12. **Zurab Meshkhidze (Georgia) -** Decentralizing Climate Action: Leveraging Blockchain Technology for Enhanced Transparency and Efficiency in Carbon Removal and Credit Markets 13. **Tinatin Giorgadze (Georgia) -** Sustainable Development Indicators in the National Curriculum **THEMATIC PANEL** **REGIONAL SECURITY, THE BLACK SEA AND THE CASPIAN SEA** Security • Geopolitics • Connectivity • Energy • Regional Cooperation 14. **Bogdan Cozma (Romania) -** Anchoring Connectivity in the Black Sea: The Three Seas Initiative and the Limits of Bilateral Partnership 15. **Adrianna Szubarczyk (Poland) -** Mieroszewski's Thought and the Question of Georgia 16. **Nora Mamulaishvili & Tina Bazhanova (Georgia) -** Baku Oil Rail Transit for Export to Europe 17. **Nora Mamulaishvili, G.Partskhaladze & D. Chkhaidze (Georgia) -** Regional Security of the Black and Caspian Seas in the Context of Oil and Gas Transit 18. **Diana Devadze (Georgia)** - The Dialectics of Separatism and State-Building in Georgia: Examining Identity 19. **Zeinab Asanidze (Georgia) -** The European Union's Smart Power Strategy in Central Asia 20. **Inga Surmanidze & Madlena Davitadze (Georgia) -** Interaction of Static and Dynamic Forces on Ship Stability During Continuous Loading–Unloading Operations
13:30	Discussion on the topic, identifying the key takeaways from the theoretical and practical concepts
14:00	Lunch at BSU
15:00	**3rd Session:** **THEMATIC PANEL - PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES** Governance • Accountability • Public Administration • Public Services • Institutional Reform **Moderating by Ana Vardmanidze** 21. **Jafar Khidirov (Uzbekistan) -** Banking Sector Reform as Public Governance: Uzbekistan's Experience and Lessons for the Region 22. **Fati Khalvashi (Georgia) -** Parliamentary Oversight in the Context of Contemporary Challenges to Political Accountability and Democratic Governance

	23. **Nugzar Phutkaradze (Georgia) -** Administrative Real Acts and Administrative Silence in Public Administration 24. **Givi Abashidze (Georgia) -** The Jury Trial System in Georgia and Legislative Flaws in Its Operation 25. **Myktybek Osmanaliev -** Kyrgyz Republic
15:40	Discussion on the topic, identifying the key takeaways from the theoretical and practical concepts
16:00	End of the day

Time	Friday, 16 October
	Dress code: Semi-Formal
10:00	**4th Session,** **THEMATIC PANEL** **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC POLICY** Youth Participation • Civic Engagement • Digital Mobilization • Public Policy • Democracy **Moderating by Ana Vardmanidze** 26. **Hiroto Aramaki (Japan)** – Youth Engagement and Civil Activism in Japan; 27. **Zoja Skotnicka & Antoni Kordos (Poland) -** Youth Council of the City of Warsaw; 28. **Ismail Karypov (Kyrgyzstan) -** From Online Mobilization to Policy Influence: Digital Youth Movements and Public Policy in Central Asia; 29. **Khatuna Muradishvili (Georgia) -** Youth as Political Actors in the Public Policy-Making Process **THEMATIC PANEL** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE** Artificial Intelligence • Digital Transformation • Law • Media • Public Administration 30. **Tamta Varshanidze and David Varshanidze (Georgia) -** The Silk Road and New Mechanisms of Regional Cooperation – Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence, Digital Technologies, and Georgia's Strategic Role; 31. **Tsira komakhidze, (Georgia)** - Standards for State Action to Combat Disinformation in the Digital Space and Protect Freedom of Expression; 32. **Omar Phartenadze (Georgia) -** Artificial Intelligence in Modern Criminalistics: Opportunities, Risks, and Legal Safeguards; 33. **Ioseb Shotadze (Georgia) -** Algorithmic Decision-Making and the Principle of Equality: New Forms of Discrimination in the Age of Artificial Intelligence; 34. **Tinatin Zakarashvili, Tamari Narindoshvili & Rusudan Machaidze (Georgia) -** Artificial Intelligence and Media Transformation in Georgia: From Journalistic Practice to Digital Governance;

	35. **Emin Jabbarov (Kazakhstan) –** The Geopolitics of the Middle Corridor; 36. **Madona Tebidze (Georgia) -** The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration and Legal Challenges.
11:30	Discussion on the topic, identifying the key takeaways from the theoretical and practical concepts
11:45	Coffee and Snacks
12:00	ZOOM **37. Gular Pashayeva (Azerbaijan) -** Bridging Digital Governance and Sustainable Finance in Regional Cooperation**;** 38. **Ia Makharadze (Georgia) -** The Role of Communications in the Cultural Diffusion of Georgian Migrants 39. **Pablo Ros Peres (Spain) -** University of Murcia, Spain Green Transition and Sustainability; 40. **Kamran Khan (Pakistan) -** A Multidimensional Green Transition Framework for Georgia: Energy, Transport, Industry, Agriculture, and Urban Sustainability; 41. **Giga Pertia (Georgia) -** Green Transformation as a Factor for Improving the Financial Condition and Competitiveness of Small Enterprises: Empirical Evidence. 42. **Ana Alikadze (Georgia) -** Spatial Revision in the Caucasus: Regional Security Challenges in the Context of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict Transformation
12:20	Discussion on the topic, identifying the key takeaways from the theoretical and practical concepts
12:40	Summary of Conference, Farewell speeches, Certificate ceremony and Group photos
13:00	Canape
	Free time
19:00	Evening Event - Gala Dinner (optional)