

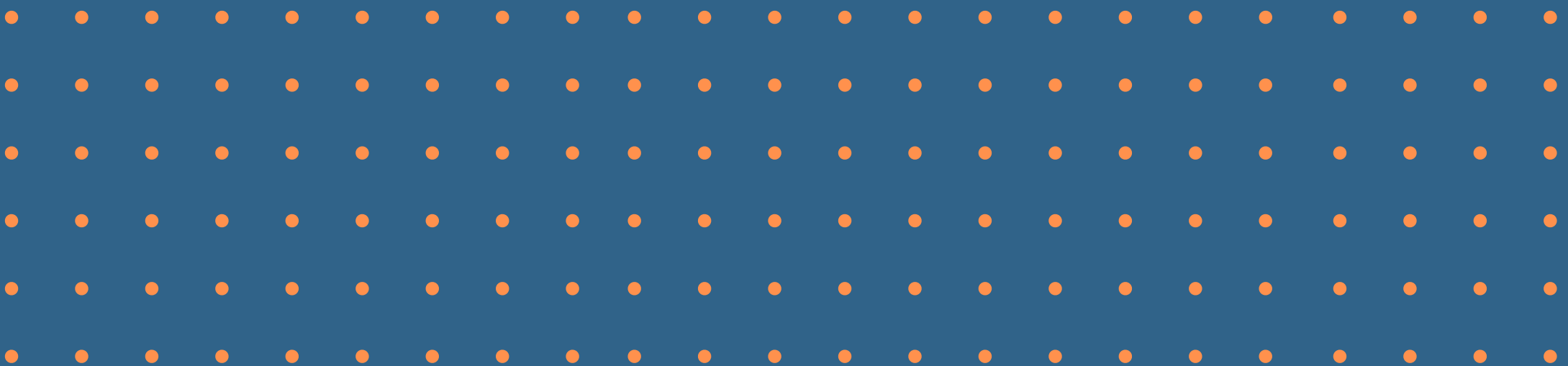


## Conference

# Advancing Human Rights and Safeguarding Minority Protections: International Framework and Domestic legislation

Third annual International Conference in memoriam of an honorable  
Academician Professor Levan Alexidze

October 4, 2024  
Tbiliisi, Georgia





## **International Law Institute Faculty of Law, TSU**



## **Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

# In memoriam of an honourable academician

## Professor Levan Alexidze



Distinguished Scientist  
Full Member of Georgian National  
Academy of Sciences  
Public Figure  
Diplomat and  
The Founder of the Georgian School of  
International law

From the very first days since reinstatement of Georgia's independence in 1991, the Georgian School of International Law was established and developed under the initiative and leadership of Professor Levan Aleksidze (1926 - 2019), Full Member of Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Holder of numerous state Awards, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, globally recognized scholar, state and public figure. Professor Aleksidze served as the responsible staff of Human Rights department in New York and Geneva, UN Secretariat (1970 - 1977), Representative of Georgia at the UN Commission on Human Rights, Member of the Georgian delegation to the UN-led Geneva talks aimed at resolving the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia); Expert on Legal Affairs at the Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court (July 1998); Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance at the Council of Europe (1999 - 2012). He is the author of the first Georgian language textbook in international law (1967), as well as more than 150 works published in Georgian, Russian, English, German, and Spanish languages, including his prominent work - "The Role and Place of Imperative Norms (Jus Cogens) in International Law" (1981).

The theoretical basis of Professor Alexidze's knowledge and attention to historical facts have laid ground for international condemnation of aggressive separatism ideology on the international arena.

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Prof. Alexidze's writings, while indicating the factual circumstances, providing the comprehensive international legal analysis and qualification on the revealed facts of the ethnic cleansing/genocide policy conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and asserting on the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, become a bedrock for the OSCE and CIS Heads of states Summit final documents. His scientific, legal and political assessments of the 2008 Russia's war on Georgia, including the comprehensive legal analysis and critique of the so-called "Tagvliani's Report", is invaluable.

since 1970, Professor Aleksidze delivered lectures on the persisting problems of international law at famous scientific and educational institutions, including the Emory and Boston Universities (the United States); the Humboldt University (Germany); the Hague Academy of International Law; the State Universities of Kiev, Azerbaijan and Armenia; the Academy of Human Rights (Greece); and the State University of Latvia.

Professor Levan Aleksidze has left an indelible mark in the memory of many generations. International Law Institute is proud to continue his legacy.



International Law Institute (ILI) is a structural scientific-research unit operating within the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Established in 1918 as the first European-style University in Georgia and the whole South Caucasus, TSU has been creating local intellectual workforce and paving way for human development.

Nowadays TSU is the biggest university in Georgia with more than 22,000 students and over 215 accredited academic programs on all levels of tertiary education, providing excellent ground for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary teaching, learning and research, international academic and scientific collaboration, currently implementing more than 150 international projects.

The Faculty of Law is one of the largest units within the premises of the TSU with overall enrollment of approximately 3900 students at BA, MA, and PhD levels. Under the umbrella of the Law Faculty, ILI offers special programs in International Law awarding qualifications of "Bachelor of International Law" and "Master of International Law".

As the first and leading Institution for teaching International Law in the region, ILI has served as the model for promotion of human rights, equality, multiculturalism and diversity through numerous educational/research activities.

ILI provides study and research of various areas of public international law (PIL), including humanitarian law, International and European law of human rights with particular focus on minority rights protection, national and international anti-discrimination mechanisms; international criminal law; refugee and migration law; law of the sea; environmental law; air and space law; cyber security law, etc.

ILI has successful record of organizing different extracurricular and advocacy activities of national, regional and international coverage. It successfully cooperates with state and non-state institutions, international organizations operating in Georgia as well as a number of foreign higher educational institutions

With the Support of TEMPUS programme, in 2011, Migration Centre was established within ILI. Since 2020, ILI is the Jean Monnet Chair-holder raising awarenesses on the benefits of EU associate membership, with particular focus on human dimension of EU-Georgia cooperation..



## Joint Conference

# Advancing Human Rights and Safeguarding Minority Protections: International Framework and Domestic legislation

Third Annual International Conference in Memoriam of the Honorable Academician  
Professor Levan Alexidze.

October 4, 2024  
Tbilisi, Georgia

## PROGRAMME

### 14:00 – 14:00 Opening Ceremony

Location:  
Main Hall (2nd floor)  
1st Building, TSU

- Academician, Professor Jaba Samushia, Rector of Tbilisi State University
- Dr. Tamar Zarandia, Dean, Faculty of Law, TSU
- Khatuna Totladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Dr. Irine Kurdadze, Director, ILI, Faculty of Law, TSU

### 14:00 – 16:00 Plenary Session I

The Evolving Landscape of International Law in  
the Modern Era

Location:  
Main Hall (2nd floor)  
1st Building, TSU

Chair/Moderator:

Dr. David Patariaia, Professor, TSU, Head of Migration  
Competence Center

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## Keynote Speaker:

**Professor Dr. Anja Seibert-Fohr, Judge of European Court of Human rights;  
Professor, Director of the Institute for Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory  
and Philosophy of Law at the University of Heidelberg**

## Speakers:

- **Dr. iur. Benedikt C Harzl, M.A. , Associate Professor Deputy Director, Center of East European Law and Eurasian Studies, University of Graz:**

*Neutrality in International Law in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine*

- **Dr. Eka Siradze, Associate Professor, TSU; member of the Management Committee of the COST Action:**

*The place of unilateral sanctions within the international legal order based on rules*

- **Dr. Maia Bitadze , Associate Professor, TSU; Chairperson of the Committee at Parliament of Georgia; Chairman, The Bureau to the Aarhus Convention**

*The Right to Life under Article 2 of the ECHR*

- **Dr. Nino Rukhadze , TSU, member of the Tbilisi City Assembly, delegate of NALAG**

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**16:00 – 16:30**

**Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 18:30**

## **Plenary Session II**

**Location:**  
**Main Hall (2nd floor)**  
**1st Building, TSU**

### **Diversity in Focus: Strengthening Human Rights and Minority Protections**

#### **Chair/Moderator:**

**Dr. Irine Kurdadze, Professor, TSU, Director, Institute of International Law, Jean Monnet Chair holder**

#### **Keynote Speaker**

**Professor Dr. Lado Chanturia ,Judge of European Court of Human rights;  
Professor, TSU**

#### **Speakers**

- **Dr. Konstantine Korkelia, Professor, TSU; Member-elect, Human Rights Committee, ICCPR**

*The Positive Obligation on the Right to Life under the ECHR and the Georgian Law*

- **Dr. habil. Kyriaki Topidi, Senior Researcher, European Center for Minority Issues, Flensburg, Germany:**

*The Margin of Appreciation and the Balancing of Rights as a tool for diversity protection within ECtHR jurisprudence*

- **Dr. Jürgen Pirker, Professor, Head of Department of Global Governance, University of Graz; Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages:**

*Missed Chances or Sleeping Potentials for Diversity Management in Europe: Art 22 of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter*





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- **Dr. Alessandro Bufalini, Associate Professor, University of Tuscia/Viterbo, Law Faculty; assistant editor of QIL-Questions of International Law:**

*The participation of minorities in treaty-making, with a particular focus on indigenous peoples and the principle of self-determination*

- **Dr. Katarzyna Zombory, PhD Senior researcher, Central European Academy Budapest, Hungary:**

*Remedies for the violation of minority and indigenous rights in the practice of international human rights bodies*

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**18:30 – 19.00**

**Closing Remarks**

# Keynote Speaker

## Judge, Dr. Anja Seibert-Fohr



Since 2020, Professor Dr Anja Seibert-Fohr has been serving as the German judge at the European Court of Human Rights. She is the Hengstberger Professor of Public Law, International Law and Human Rights and Director of the Institute for Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory and Philosophy of Law at the University of Heidelberg. As a former member and Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee (2013-2018) her current research focuses the socio-legal dynamics of international norm compliance.

Until her arrival at the Hengstberger chair in Heidelberg, Professor Seibert-Fohr was Director of the Institute for International and European Law and the Chair of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Goettingen. Prior to that, she directed the Minerva Research Group on Judicial Independence at the Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg and acted as a member of the Academic Founding Committee of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. In the course of her academic career, she has been a visiting scholar at Georgetown University and a Herbert Smith Visiting Professor at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. Her research focuses on the Rule of Law, International Human Rights and Dispute Settlement.

Ms. Seibert-Fohr has published a large number of works in the field of International Law, Human Rights Law and Comparative Law, including “Prosecuting Serious Human Rights Violations” (Oxford University Press) and an internationally renowned edited collection entitled “Judicial Independence in Transition”. She is also a co-editor of the “Max Planck Commentary on WTO – Technical Barriers and SPS Measures” and the Liber Amicorum Rüdiger Wolfrum. For many years, she has had practical experience through her engagement in several rule of law initiatives. In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, she directed a joint project on judicial independence, which led to the Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia.

# Keynote Speaker

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Professor Seibert-Fohr holds law degrees from Germany (First and Second State Examination) and from overseas (LL.M. in International and Comparative Law with highest honours). As an alumnus of the prestigious German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), she received her Doctorate in Juridical Science in Washington D.C. (supervisor: Professor Thomas Buergenthal, former judge of the International Court of Justice). The esteemed Max Planck Society awarded her a grant for outstanding researchers for the Advancement of Sciences. The mother of three obtained her qualification as a professor (“Habilitation”) from the University of Heidelberg with a monograph on the function and legitimacy of constitutional court judges in liberal democracies.



# Keynote Speaker

## Judge, Dr. Lado Chanturia



Since January 2018 Professor Dr. Lado Chanturia has been serving as the Georgian judge at the European Court of Human Rights. Dr. Chanturia is a law professor at the Ivane Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi. Previously, he was Member of the Council of Justice of Georgia, Minister of Justice of Georgia, President of the Supreme Court of Georgia, Director of the Project “Civil and Economic Law in the Countries of the Central Asia and Caucasus” at the University of Bremen, Germany, Senior Advisor of the German International Cooperation (GIZ) in field of Legal

and Judicial Reforms in Eschborn, Germany, Visiting Professor (DAAD-Gastdozent). at the Institute for Eastern European Law, Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel, Germany, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Judge, Dr. Lado Chanturia studied law at State University of Tbilisi. He obtained a doctorate at the Moscow Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law. He was a research fellow, at the Faculty of law of the Georg-August-University in Göttingen (DAAD) and of the Humboldt Foundation at the Hamburg Max Planck Institute of Foreign and International Private Law, Germany. He is the author more than 250 scientific publications. Professor Lado Chanturia's contribution to the shaping of Georgian private law is indeed truly exceptional. Professor Chanturia is rightfully regarded as an outstanding and globally recognised scholar in Georgian civil law and, more broadly, modern Georgian jurisprudence. The first commentary to the Civil Code of Georgia, edited by him, was published in six volumes and they marked a ground-breaking event in the realm of Georgian legal academic discourse. Since its publication, the initial commentary on the Civil Code has evolved into a reference source in the field, integral to both practical application and



# Keynote Speaker

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academic discourse. Currently, the TSU Faculty of Law, under the continued editorship of Professor Dr. Lado Chanturia, is still carrying out the civil code commentaries project, ensuring its development into a cohesive textual corpus.

A significantly large number of his academic writings have been published abroad and in different languages. These academic works address, from comparative perspectives, different aspects of legal and judicial reforms, private and public law, Rule of Law considerations as well as the international human rights law.

Lado Chanturia was actively involved in a number of projects aimed at bringing post-Soviet legal systems closer to the European legal family. He was involved in elaboration of the CIS 2010 Model Law on Joint-Stock Companies. With a number of other distinguished German legal scholars, he published a monography on private law in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia (in German).

Lado Chanturia has been member of the Academia Europea and member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.

# Chair/Moderator

## Dr. Irine Kurdadze



Prof. Dr. Irine Kurdadze is the Director of the International Law Institute and the Head of the Bachelor and Master programs in International Law, Faculty of Law, TSU. She has been working at TSU since 1997, and in November 2012, she was elected as a Professor at Faculty of Law. From 2017 to 2021, she served as a member of the Academic Council, the supreme representative body of TSU.

Prof. Kurdadze's expertise spans a wide range of fields within International and European Law. She holds the prestigious Jean Monnet Chair on "Understanding EU Policy for Equality" (UEUPE)

since 2020, and in 2024, she assumed the role of coordinator for the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence "Democracy Resilience in Georgia" at TSU, further solidifying her leadership in EU-related academic initiatives.

Her influence extends beyond academia. In 2004, she was elected as a Member of the Parliament of Georgia, where she served for four years, notably in the Foreign Relations Committee, where she became Deputy Chair in 2006. Her key focus was aligning Georgian legislation with EU law. Additionally, she was a substitute member of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe. From 2009 to 2012, as Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, she played an instrumental role in advancing EU-related education cooperation in Georgia.

Prof. Kurdadze's research has profoundly shaped her academic work, bridging scholarship with practical application. In 2019-2020, she served as an expert for the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), where she contributed to the development of EU law syllabi for higher education institutions across Georgia.

# Chair/Moderator

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A prolific scholar, Prof. Kurdadze has authored numerous publications in both Georgian and English, focusing on the intersection of international law, European law, and domestic law, with a particular emphasis on the human rights of vulnerable populations. She is a key contributor to the International Law Journal published by TSU's International Law Institute and co-author of several notable works, including two of the first Georgian-language legal dictionaries.

Since 2020, she has served on the Advisory Board of the Springer-published book series “The EU and its Neighbours in a Globalised World”.

# Chair/Moderator

## Dr. David Patariaia



Dr. David Patariaia is a professor at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia and the head of the Migration Competence Center of the University. Professor Patariaia has been a practicing lawyer and held certain high-ranking positions in Georgia, inter alia, he served as a member of the State Council of Georgia, a commissioner in the Georgian National Communication Commission, the Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia and the Head of the Administration of the President of Georgia. Together with other professors and

colleagues Ivane Javakhishvili State University, he is the co-author of the Dictionary of Modern International Law, the co-author and editor of the book International law: Selected Issues (2021), also co-editor of the Journal of International Law (which is published since 1996 mostly on a yearly basis). He is the author of many scientific articles and the following books:

- David Patariaia, State Succession in International Law and Georgia, Saar, 2002;
- David Patariaia, International Relations: Discipline and Theory, Tbilisi, Arete, 2015;
- David Patariaia, Rechtsnachfolge im volkerrecht, Dismembration der sowjetunion and Georgien, Jus Press, 2016;
- David Patariaia, Traditional Theoretical Approaches in International Relations, Jus Press, 2017;
- David Patariaia, International Law: Text, Cases and Materials, Routledge, 2021;
- David Patariaia, Public International Law, Book 1, TSU Press, 2023;



# Speaker

## Dr. Benedikt Harzl



Benedikt C. Harzl is Deputy Director of the Centre for East European Law and Eurasian Studies (CEELES) within the Law School at the University of Graz and Associate Professor of International Law, Political Sciences and Comparative East European Law. He serves as General Editor of both the *Review of Central and East European Law* and the *Law in Eastern Europe* book series (Brill Nijhoff). His research focuses on the intersection of law and politics in the post-Soviet space, particularly in the context of international and European law.

Professor Harzl holds a law degree from the University of Graz and a Master's in East European Studies from the Free University of Berlin (2010). He has held scholarly positions at the Institute for European Studies in Minsk and the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. From 2007 to 2012, he was a researcher at the European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen and later served as a university researcher at the Russian East European and Eurasian Studies Centre (2012–2016). He completed his PhD in law at the University of Frankfurt, and his habilitation at the University of Graz. Professor Harzl was also a Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. (2016–2017). Most recently, he was a guest professor at Rutgers University in Camden (2023) and held the distinguished 2024 Botstiber Professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. He has also provided consultancy to the European Commission and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters related to his expertise.

He is the co-editor of *Unrecognized Entities: Perspectives in International, European, and Constitutional Law* (Brill Nijhoff, 2022) and *Diversity Management in Russia* (Routledge, 2013). He is the author of *Secessionist Entities and International Law* (Brill Nijhoff, forthcoming 2024).

# Speaker

## Dr. Eka Siradze



Dr. Eka Siradze is an Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law of the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

She has more than 20 years of experience in practicing, teaching and researching activities in international public law and international maritime law.

Dr. Siradze is visiting lecturer at IMLI, Malta; Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute of MFA of Georgia and Defence Institution Building School of MoD of Georgia, where she delivers the

lectures on various important and sometimes even emerging issues of modern international law for the students from various countries. Her academic activities started back in 2000 when she first joined TSU as the visiting lecturer.

After graduation of TSU Law Faculty she joined MFA of Georgia, and during 1993-2000 was one of the key staff member of the International Law Department. Eka actively participated in the process of concluding bilateral and a number of multilateral agreements of Georgia during that period.

In 2000-2010 she was head of the legal department of the largest Georgian shipping company OSCO.

As a Maritime Law and Consular Crisis Management expert, since 2011 Dr. Siradze has been participating in various projects implemented by the EU, EMSA, IMO and ICMPD in Georgia and abroad. She provided expert-consulting services to the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia, as well as Maritime Administrations of Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Moldova and Ukraine.

In 2024 Dr. Siradze was elected as a member of the Management Committee (MC) of the COST Action "liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea".

Dr. Siradze actively participates in local and international conferences and seasonal schools. She is the author of numerous publications in the various fields of Public International Law, mostly in law of the Sea.

In 2021 Dr. Siradze has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of Georgia for exceptional contribution to the development of the maritime field and maritime education.



# Speaker

## Dr. Maia Bitadze



Prof. Maia Bitadze has more than 25 years of experience in International Environmental Law and Environmental Human Rights Law. During this period, she held several managerial positions, such as the Head of the Legal Department and afterward Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, and Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi. Furthermore, she has worked as a legal expert for various international organizations, such as UNDP, OSCE, and FAO, focusing on environmental topics. Prof. Maia Bitadze was twice elected as the Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the

Aarhus Convention and the Chair of the working group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

Currently, she holds the position of Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, and she is an Associate Professor of Environmental Law at Tbilisi State University. She also is a Member of the Parliamentary Delegation in the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC) and a member of the Parliamentary Delegation in the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly (EuroNest PA).

Prof. Maia Bitadze graduated with Honors from the International Law School at Tbilisi State University, and has acquired master's degree in 1999. She was later awarded a Doctorate Degree in Law in 2007, after defending her thesis in the field of Environmental Human Rights Law. She is the author of the first Georgian-language monograph "International Environmental Law" as well as more than 12 academic articles on Environmental and Human Rights Law. Prof. Maia Bitadze is also a co-author of the report within the framework of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly (Euronest PA): "Green Energy Transition as a Response to the Energy Security Challenges in the Eastern Partnership in the Context of Russia's War of Aggression and Occupation". From 2015 to the present, Prof. Maia Bitadze has been engaged in a long list of scientific conferences and official occasions, representing Georgia as a speaker. The recent ones include but are not limited to the following: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) 13th Parliamentary

# Speaker

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Forum within the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates; 10th EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee session, Brussels, Belgium; 12th EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee session, Brussels, Belgium; Conference on “Air Quality Monitoring: Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions”, Tbilisi, Georgia; 37th meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board, Tbilisi, Georgia; 10th Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels, Belgium (the session of the Energy Security Committee was co-chaired by Prof. Maya Bitadze. At the meeting, the partners presented their views on the energy infrastructure security issues between the EU and Eastern Europe); the National Conference on “Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production as a Means of Green Transition for industrial enterprises in Georgia”, organized within the framework of the EU-sponsored program “EU for the Environment”, Tbilisi, Georgia; CoE Conference on “Public Participation in Decision-Making Processes”, Strasbourg, France; Knowledge Exchange Session on “Environmental Democracy Principles, Open Government Partnership and Aarhus Convention“, Tbilisi, Georgia; UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) online side event, Tbilisi, Georgia.

As Prof. Maia Bitadze is the Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, she is actively involved in the transposition of the EU legislation into Georgian legislation and carrying out the activities outlined in the EU-Georgia Association Agenda. Additionally, through the use of parliamentary oversight mechanisms, such as Interpellation, Thematic Inquiry, Post Legislative scrutiny and Working Groups, she contributes to fostering close collaboration between legislators, civil society, and the citizens, thereby enhancing the Parliament’s role in shaping effective public policy and strengthening democratic governance.

Under her leadership, the office of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia is working on the first draft of the Climate Change Law of Georgia, which is the essential part of the obligations under the Energy Community Treaty and association agreement. The green and white papers on the law are already publicly available.



# Speaker

## Dr. Nino Rukhadze

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Nino Rukhadze is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public International Law of the Tbilisi State University. Her research interests center on issues of general international law, problems of state immunity and human rights protection, international trade law, including the role of human rights in the system of WTO.

In her capacity as a member of the Tbilisi City Assembly, Nino Rukhadze is a delegate of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) to several international organizations, representing local authorities on European and global levels. Through her engagement with European and international municipal platforms, she has become particularly interested in exploring issues, related to increasing role of cities in European and global agendas and how does this development shape the stance of municipalities under international law.

Nino Rukhadze holds LL.M degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She is a recipient of the prestigious Hugo Grotius Scholarship, awarded by the Michigan Law. She gained her Ph.D degree from the Tbilisi State University in 2013. Her doctoral research studied the problem of interrelation of principle of state immunity from civil jurisdiction and human rights, exploring the practice of international and national courts on the issue.

# Speaker

## Dr. Konstantine Korkelia



Dr. Konstantin Korkelia is professor of international human rights law at Tbilisi State University, Georgia. He previously worked as the Ambassador of Georgia to Latvia and Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), the Vice-Justice Minister of Georgia, and the Government Representative to the European Court of Human Rights. Prof. Korkelia has been elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2025-2028). He received master's degree cum laude from

Leiden University, the Netherlands and Doctoral degree from Tbilisi State University. He is a trainer and a consultant working for various international organizations and institutions such as the Council of Europe, EU, OSCE, GIZ, IRZ. Konstantin's interests include international law of human rights, European law of human rights, international treaty law and public international law. In 2020 Professor Korkelia was granted an award for Academic Excellence in Human Rights by the All the universities of Georgia. His recent publications include Human Rights Restrictions in Georgia During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

# Speaker

## Dr. habil. Kyriaki Topidi



Dr habil. Kyriaki Topidi is a senior researcher and head of the research cluster on Culture & Diversity at the European Centre for Minority Issues (Flensburg, Germany). She has lectured extensively and researched in the areas of Public International Law, European Law, Human Rights and Comparative Law. In the past, she has occupied research and teaching positions in various institutions and has been a guest scholar in a number of research institutes and faculties across the globe. Her research interests focus on diversity management

and minority protection rights and mechanisms. She is the author and editor of several edited volumes and scientific articles and a regular speaker in scientific and policy fora. She is the co-editor of the Routledge Advances on Minority Studies book series. Her latest co-edited work focuses on Minority Rights and Social Change: Norms, Actors and Strategies (Routledge, 2024). At the ECMI, she is currently researching on minority identity and digital governance, preparing a monograph on Intersectional Discrimination in Platform Governance (BRILL, forthcoming 2025).



# Speaker

## Dr. Jürgen Pirker



Jürgen Pirker is Professor for Law and Governance and Head of the Department of Global Governance at the Institute for the Foundations of Law of the University of Graz. He is a member of the Council of Europe's "Committee of Experts" of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the steering committee of the Austrian Cluster for Conflict, Peace and Democracy (CPDC), chairman of the board of the Young Forum of the Austrian Commission of Jurists (ACJ) and head of the Curricula Commission for International Study Programs at the Faculty of Law. Previously he was

associate Professor at the Institute of Public Law and Political Science at the University of Graz, substituted a Professorship at Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, was Senior Researcher at the Institute for Minority Rights of the European Academy Bolzano/Bozen (EURAC), University Assistant at the Institute of Public Law and Political Science at the University of Graz and regularly guest lecturer at the University of Klagenfurt and the Pedagogical University of Carinthia. He has held several international teaching positions (including Visiting Professorship at Bar Ilan University, Fulbright Scholarship at University of Denver, Guest Professorship at University of Minnesota, Guest Lectureship at University of Nanjing, Batumi, or Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik) and carried out international/national research projects in the field of diversity management and minority rights (with a specific focus on Austria and the Alps-Adriatic region).

Having graduated in Law and History, his teaching and research include:

- issues of Austrian Constitutional and Administrative Law, as well as,
- interdisciplinary issues at the intersection of Public Law, History and Politics (also empirical studies), particularly in the fields of: fundamental rights protection, minority rights, cultural diversity and interactive conflict transformation in Europe.



# Speaker

## Dr. Alessandro Bufalini



Alessandro Bufalini is an Associate Professor of International Law at the University of Tuscia. Previously, he served as an Assistant Professor (2020-2022) and Research Fellow (2017-2019) at the same university. Before joining the University of Tuscia, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Milano-Bicocca (2014-2016). He holds a law degree (cum laude) from the University of Bologna and a PhD in International and European Union Law from the University of Macerata.

At the University of Tuscia, he has also coordinated the master's program in Security and Human Rights (2021-2024) and the Erasmus program for Law students (2017-2020). Alessandro Bufalini has been teaching Public International Law since 2014 and International Criminal Justice since 2021. He also taught International and European Migration Law (2019-2023) and Global Governance of International Security (2020-2023).

In addition to his roles at the University of Tuscia, he has been invited as a visiting professor at the Université Catholique de Lille, where he taught a course on Global Governance in a master's program on human rights (2019-2021). He is currently the Assistant Editor of QIL - Questions of International Law, one of the leading international academic journals in the field of public international law. He has also served on the Editorial Committee of the ADiMBlog and acts as a reviewer and referee for several academic journals.

In recent years, he has been a Visiting Fellow at the Amsterdam Center for International Law, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in London, and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg.

# Speaker

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He has published numerous articles and essays in collected volumes and leading Italian and international peer-reviewed journals and is the author of a book on the relationship between the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court (2018). His main research interests include international migration law and policy, international criminal law, the international law of state responsibility and immunities, the use of force in international law, and the relationship between peace and justice in the international legal order.

# Speaker

## Dr. Katarzyna Zombory



Katarzyna Zombory, PhD, is Research Director at the Central European Academy in Budapest, previously acting director of the Central European Academy. She graduated from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, with a degree in law, and she has also taken courses at Centre Européen Universitaire de Nancy, The Hague Academy of International Law, the University of Leiden, as well as Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest. She holds a PhD in public international law, and her current research field focuses mainly on international human rights law, in particular with regard to the protection of cultural identity and

intangible cultural heritage, as well as the interrelation between cultural human rights and the protection of world cultural heritage. She is a member of several scientific societies (including the International Law Association – Hungarian Branch, the Central European Association of Comparative Law), and a member of advisory and editorial boards of journals ('Central European Journal of Comparative Law'; 'Law, Identity and Values') and book series ('Legal Studies on Central Europe', 'Studies of the Central European Professors' Network'). She is an author, editor and co-editor of several books and papers, she has published in English, Hungarian and Polish, and has also working knowledge of Spanish and French.

# Notes

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# Notes

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