

Targets of the Tbilisi meeting

• *Science policy
after INTAS*

• *Strategies
proposed by the
network*

• *Discussion of the
LOCLAB results*

• *Publication – state
of the art and work*

• *GOOD –ELE–
PHANTS on the
road*

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Welcome to Tbilisi

Editorial and welcome

Since my reporting about the project “How Georgians view democracy?” in Sophia 2004 many waters flowed under the bridge. The more important that I can welcome you again in Tbilisi.

In fact Georgia has achieved several macro objectives, which include getting closer to NATO, tripling the state budget (for the last three years the Georgian budget has had a surplus), combating corruption, carrying out reforms in several fields, education, health care, law enforcement and attracting foreign investors. However, many things still remain problematic and there is much work that needs to be done to sort them out.

Where does Georgia stand today? What should we do in the Caucasus region, mainly with the project YOUTHLAB (*Youth, labour markets and integration into local societies in Central Asian and Caucasian countries*) as a new initiative?

At this moment Georgia is at the stage to make the real breakthrough and move even faster in terms of reforms and integration to the West. Georgian reforms set a good precedent for neighbouring countries, such as Azerbaijan and Armenia. As an example – right after introducing new traffic police in Georgia a practically not corrupted institution, Azerbaijan “copied” and followed. It is now trying to implement the same model. However, coping institutions without sharing experiences will likely not be successful.



And in this light, I believe that YOUTHLAB could play a driving force. This is especially true if scholars in three Caucasian countries, together with our Western and Eastern European partners would be involved. One of the main objectives shared for the future is that all three countries have inspirations towards entering the European Union. Naturally, this is a long process, and it is always better to start later than never.

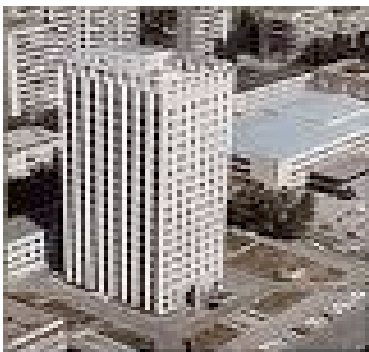
All three countries, apart from the common history, have much in common: conflict zones and unsolved disputes concerning those territories, economy problems and unemployment, and more importantly, informational gaps that should be bridged by scientific approaches and comparative analyzes on what are the public demands and how could the future of our mutual relationships be figured out. The problems and tasks are urgent and very clear.

Tbilisi, 21st of March 2007

Merab Pachulia

The program

<p>27 March 2007</p> <p>Participants arrive to Tbilisi. Welcome, contacts and preparation.</p> <hr/> <p>28 March 2006</p> <p>INTAS Conference A delegation will participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach</i> • <i>Merab Pachulia</i> <p style="text-align: right;">11.00 – 20.30</p> <p>LOCLAB Workshop Part I of publication and results</p> <p>a Presentation and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach</i> <p style="text-align: right;">9.30 – 10.15</p> <p>b Discussion and propositions of the teams to part I</p> <p><i>Moderator: Radek Powsky</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malgorzata Bienkowska (Siematiycze)</i> • <i>Information on Skidel</i> • <i>Nikolay Churilov/ Oleksandr Stegnyj (Chop)</i> • <i>Alexej Levinson (Stupino)</i> • <i>Information on Pernik</i> <p style="text-align: right;">11.00 – 13.00</p> <p>Lunch 13.00 – 15.00</p> <p>TASK GROUP(S) of part I – how to profile part I?</p> <p>Articulating and notifying the – complementing texts – additional parts</p> <p><i>Moderator: Nikolay Genov</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">15.00 – 17.00</p>	<p>29 March 2007</p> <p>LOCLAB Workshop Part II of publication – the qualitative case-studies</p> <p>Presentation Links to part I Integration into part II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malgorzata Bienkowska (Siematiycze)</i> • <i>Information on Skidel</i> • <i>Nikolay Churilov/ Oleksandr Stegnyj (Chop)</i> • <i>Alexej Levinson (Stupino)</i> • <i>Information on Pernik</i> <p><i>Moderator: Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.30 – 12.00</p> <p>TASK GROUP(S) of part II – how to profile part II? – how to coordinate the cases? – additional parts</p> <p><i>Moderator: Nikolay Genov</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">14.00 – 16.00</p> <p>Session open for INTAS From experience to new strategies of the network</p> <p>– Presentation of our experiences as network to Gulnara Roll</p> <p>– Some highlights of cooperation in LOCLAB</p> <p>– Strategies and projects for the future</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17.00 – 18.15</p>	<p>30 March 2007</p> <p>INTAS Conference Innovation & Scientific policy A delegation will participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach</i> • <i>Merab Pachulia</i> <p style="text-align: right;">9.00 – 18.30</p> <p>LOCLAB Workshop Part III of publication: “what can we learn – what should we do?”</p> <p>Presentation and discussions of ideas by each team</p> <p><i>Malgorzata Bienkowska, Radek Powsky (Siematiycze) /Information on Skidel/ Nikolai Churilov, Oleksandr Stegnyj (Chop) / Alexej Levinson (Stupino) /Nikolay Genov (Pernik)</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Alexej Levinson</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">9.30 – 12.00</p> <hr/> <p>31 March 2007 GOOD_ELEPHANTS</p> <p>Presentation of the state of the art under the new conditions (call)</p> <p>The network organisation: How can we find the best solution?</p> <p>Our future cooperation with and/or without GOOD-ELEPHANTS</p> <p>Presentation and moderators: coordinators</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10.00 – 13.00</p>
<p>Cultural events and visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>30th of March, 19:00 the Swan Lake ballet at Tbilisi State Opera and Ballet Theatre</i> • <i>31st of March, a short trip to castle Ananuri and Mtskheta</i> • <i>Visit tour in Tbilisi</i> 		



Georgian Opinion Research Business International (GORBI) was founded 10 years ago as the result of a growing interest in public opinion and market research in the Caucasus region, including Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Our goal is to assist businesses and organizations by providing the most reliable, thorough and relevant information about the Caucasus region and to work with clients through every stage of the research process.

GORBI is a very important partner of the Eastern European network representing the Georgian's path from the socialist path to the future. GORBI has realized the research project „How Georgians view Democracy“, a SCOPES project. The project was discussed in the Sophia wor.shop 2004 Newsletter V www.culturprospectiv.ch/uploads/newsletter5.pdf

It was presented at the Eastern European Day at the University of Fribourg 2005: Understanding Democracy in the NIS - five readings from Georgia. www.culturprospectiv.ch/uploads/georgia_compared.pdf

GORBI coordinated research initiatives for the Caucasian and Central Asian Area, mainly YOUTHLAB.

work in progress: Globalization and its impacts on work and life: Case studies in Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia and Ukraine Contents of the book – LOCLAB 2007

Introduction

Part I: A walk through small and middle centers of Eastern Europe: the comparative and quantitative part

1. Diversity of the communities, its labor markets and socio-tops for life

1.1. The Eastern European semi-periphery: the cases as types of small and middle centers

1.2. Old and new structures: the cases as landscape of firms

Skidel: protected island • Siemiatycze: a “whirl context” • Chop and villages: an open island • Stupino: a merging context • Pernik: a “victimized context”

1.3. Communities as socio-tops perceived and assessed by people

Labour • Primary groups • Local culture • Landscapes

2 Labor and its impacts on people's individual life and communities

2. 1. What happens when the newcomers come?

2. 2. Attitudes to labor and work culture

2. 3. Shaping the future and life perspectives

2. 4. Who is responsible for problems and actions? Insights into the societal models

> Delivered by the coordinators before the meeting (in parts)

Part II: Portraits of the five socio-tops: the qualitative part

The proposition of titles, highlights (according to your first reports):

• Siemiatycze: The shuttle migration between Eastern Poland and Brussels

• Skidel: A closed socio-top near the Schengen border in Belarus

• Chop and Transcarpatian villages: Traditional and open minded

• Pernik: A hard deindustrialization and hoping for a new revival

• Stupino: A boom town with two faces

> Delivered by each team of the five countries to the meetings

Part III: What can we do – what can we learn?

> Chapters discussed in Tbilisi!

> Chapter worked out as disposition in Tbilisi

Under consideration:

The book will be published in the LIT edition in Germany as vol IV of a series World Society Foundation/ World_Drives association

WORLD_DRIVES

Eastern Branch

The four major challenges facing Georgia today**1. Creating jobs via helping small and medium business (SMEs)****2. Reducing poverty, that still remains high and due to the unsynchronized development of economic and agricultural development in rural Georgian regions, which are falling into acute poverty.****3. Solving the problems with secessionist governments of Abkhazia and South Ossetia****4. Russia: regulating the on-going political stand-off with the Russian Federation**

Merab Pachulia

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Merab, Rezo Pachulia (TL)**Previous and ongoing projects***The Eastern European network was created by a series of conferences and projects since the early nineties. Important are the network- and joint research-projects:*

- **REGIONS:** The role of regions in transforming post-communist societies: Belarus, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine as cases for comparison (INTAS-1997-02025)
- **UKRAINE:** Regions in the Ukraine: dynamics, movements and politics (INTAS-94-3938)
- **GEORGIA:** How Georgians view democracy? (SCOPES FGEPj65810)
- **LOCLAB:** Dynamics and social impacts of the labour markets on local communities in Eastern Europe accelerated by the EU-Integration (INTAS-04-79-6799)
- **CHERNOBYL:** The Chernobyl generation. Life situations and perspectives in Gomel, Chernigov, Brjansk (SDC)

Project initiatives

- **GOOD_ELEPHANTS:** Transnational companies challenged by diverging societal contexts: social performance between Western, East-Central and NIS areas for Europe
- **YOUTHLAB:** Youth, labour markets and integration into local societies in Central Asian and Caucasian countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Poland).
- **REBUILDING:** Rebuilding the past for the future. The cultural heritage in people's mind compared between Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Bulgaria and Poland
- **NEW TOWNS** in Eastern Europe: Learning by comparing – a project initiative with ENTP (European New Town Platform)
- **HOW MANY WORLDS?** Joint publication project on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the World Society Foundation 2007 in Zurich (see Newsletter VII "How many worlds?")

Papers and publications of the LOCLAB project:
www.culturprospectiv.ch/upload/uploads/literature.htm