

## **PROGRAM**

### **Shifting Tides: Exploring Conflict Dynamics and European Transformation in the Black Sea Region**

*Black Sea Summer University*

*24-31 July, 2025 | Tbilisi, Georgia*

*Organized by: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) in partnership with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)*

#### **Target group:**

Bachelor students of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (11 participants) and Tbilisi State University (15 participants) from the fields of social sciences, political science, sociology, European studies, history, administrative sciences, law or economics (*plus 4 GET MA students from Ankara*)

#### **Focus Areas:**

**Democratization and Europeanization:** How European values and democratic processes are shaping Georgia and other Black Sea region countries.

**Transformative Politics:** Examining the impacts of populism, corruption and the erosion of the rule of law on European integration and cooperation.

**Security Policy:** Addressing hybrid warfare, energy security, and the EU's strategic challenges in the Black Sea region.

**Civil Society Engagement:** Highlighting the role of civil society for European security and democratization.

#### **Literature:**

The literature relevant to the Summer School will be made available to participants digitally in advance.

## **PROGRAM**

### **Day 1 – July 24th, Thursday**

*The Arrival of the Participants, Accommodation*

### **Day 2 – July 25th, Friday**

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

*1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179*

**9:30 - 9:55 | Registration with Coffee**

**10:00 - 11:00 | Welcoming Remarks**

- **Prof. Salome DUNDUA**, Dean, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University **(TBC)**
- **Prof. Kornely KAKACHIA**, Department of Political Science, Jean Monnet Chair
- **Gebhard REUL**, Head of the DAAD Regional Office Tbilisi **(TBC)**
- **Prof. Silvia VON STEINSBORFF**, Vice Dean for Research, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Director International Relations, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- **Prof. Özlem TÜR**, Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
- **Dr. Claudia MATTHES**, Department of Social Sciences, Jean Monnet Chair, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**11:00 - 12:30 | Europeanization, Foreign Policy and Regional Security Challenges for Small States**

- **Prof. Kornely KAKACHIA**, Jean Monnet Chair, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- **Prof. Özlem TÜR**, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

**12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch**

**14:00 - 15:30 | Democracy and the Rule of Law – Judicial Autonomy in Council of Europe Member States**

- **Prof. Silvia VON STEINSBORFF**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

16:00 - 18:00 | **Organized Walking Tour in old Tbilisi**

**Day 3 – July 26th, Saturday**

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

*1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179*

**9:30 - 10:00 | Registration with Coffee**

10:00 - 11:30 | **Europeanization of South Caucasus and regional Dynamics and Challenges**

- **Prof. Shalva DZEBISASHVILI**, Associate Professor and Head of the Political Science and International Relations Programs, the University of Georgia

11:45 - 13:15 | **Peace and Security – Conflict Resolution in the Black Sea Region**

- **Dr. Stephan MEISTER**, Head of the Center for Order and Governance in Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

**13:15 - 14:30 | Lunch**

14:30 - 16:00 | **Internationalization and societal Collaboration in the Black Sea Region**

- **Prof. Ayca ERGUN**, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

**16:00 - 17:00 | Free Time to Visit Tbilisi**

**Day 4 – July 27th, Sunday**

**Full Day Excursion to Mtkheta and Uplistsikhe**

**Day 5 – July 28th, Monday**

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

*1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179*

**9:30 - 10:00 | Registration with Coffee**

**10:00 - 11:30 | Strategic Challenges in the Black Sea: From Climate Change to Resource Competition**

- **Prof Murman MARGVELASHVILI**, World Experience for Georgia (WEG) *(TBC)*

**11:45 - 13:15 | The Relevance of Societal Resilience**

- **Prof. Zarina BURKADZE**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Ilia State University
- **Dr. Shota KAKABADZE**, Policy Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)

**13:15 - 14:30 | Lunch**

**14:30 - 16:00 | Civil Society in the Black Sea Region**

- **Renata SKARDZIUTE-KERESELDZE**, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)
- **Jakob WÖLLENSTEIN**, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- **Dr. Sonja SCHIFFERS**, Heinrich Böll Stiftung *(pending availability)*

**16:00 - 17:00 | Free Time to Visit Tbilisi**

**Day 6 – July 29th, Tuesday**

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

*1 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, Tbilisi 0179*

**9:30 - 10:00 | Registration with Coffee**

**10:00 - 11:30 | Georgia's European Future and bilateral relations with Germany: Prospects and Challenges**

- **Ambassador Ernst Peter FISCHER**, German Ambassador to Georgia

**11:45 - 13:15 | Black Sea, Caucasus and Türkiye – Challenges for regional Geopolitics**

- **Dr. Daria ISACHENKO**, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin (*online*)

**13:15 - 14:30 | Lunch**

**14:30 - 16:30 | The Black Sea Region – A Reflection on History and Societies**

- **Ninja BUMANN**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen (*online*)
- *Moderator:* **Dr. Claudia MATTHES**, Department of Social Sciences, Jean Monnet Chair, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**16:30 - 17:30 | Closing Ceremony and Distribution of Certificates**

**Day 7 – July 30th, Wednesday**

**Departure of International Participants**