

## FELLOWS

### **Daria Rybalchenko**

Project Coordinator

National Network for Local Philanthropy Development

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Daria Rybalchenko is a project coordinator with the Charitable organization "National Network for Local Philanthropy Development." She raises resources for the organization's projects, does grant-writing and services development. Her position helps grow charity in Ukraine and promote civic participation.

She got this position after a long time of self-education, practice, and working with small non-profit organizations. Some of those organizations achieved significant results, like raising their capacity to work with grant financing or grow their teams.

Daria's background is in engineering, and she deeply cares about ecology. She had a practice in Germany in one of the biggest European solar energy companies and has the skills to calculate the capacity of a solar power station.

She is also interested in promoting Ukrainian culture and history. Daria was a volunteer in a six-weeks project abroad, promoting and sharing Ukrainian traditions for children in schools.

*I'm an open-minded and kind person. I am always glad to help people and share my knowledge and experience, especially about traveling, ecology, or the non-profit sector. In 16, I met the war in Eastern Ukraine and serious propaganda of separatism. Then in University, I joined activists and understood that it all depends on us. From that time, whatever it happens, I always stand for Ukrainian independence and identity.*

*In my free time, I like to explore Ukraine. I am reading, traveling, mapping different sightseeing. Furthermore, I have a map with more than 80 unique places around Ukraine that I am going to visit. And almost all of them are not mentioned in brochures for travelers.*

**Davit Shatakishvili**

Economic Researcher and Analyst

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Davit Shatakishvili is an economic researcher and analyst, with 5+ years of working experience in the private and public, as well as civil society sector. His research interests focus on development economics, macroeconomics, poverty, global competitiveness, and social welfare allocation. He regularly publishes research papers in international scientific journals, as well as review articles in local and regional think-tanks.

Davit has a bachelor's degree from Tbilisi State University in Business Administration and Economics, and a master's degree in Public Administration from Tbilisi State University and German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer. He has also been developing his professional skills by attending various kinds of seminars, conferences, and training sessions in Georgia and abroad. He is fluent in English, German, and Russian.

*As a person, I strongly believe in boundless human potential, the Boomerang Principle, and the sincerity of a glass of wine. I value genuineness, diligence, and empathy in people. From an early age, I was trying to create my own capabilities. I am the author and implementer of several startup business ideas. During this period, I managed to gain worthwhile experience and practical abilities. Additionally, civic engagement has helped me to participate in numerous local and international projects. Right at this time, I won several economic debates tournaments, and conferences. Despite everything, the most important achievement was the people I got acquainted with at that time and we founded an outvalue friendship. From my point of view, rational economic policy can improve the well-being of the people and I want to contribute to this process. I love the Latin motto "Aquila non capit muscas" (the eagle doesn't catch flies), which everyone can interpret differently, but is well suited to my thoughts and attitudes in life.*

**Elizbar Khvichia**

Project Assistant / Regional Coordinator  
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Elizbar Khvichia is a program assistant/ regional coordinator with the European Georgia Institute (EGI). His work focuses on coordinating EGI’s projects in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region. Before joining EGI, Elizbar worked as an election analyst assistant with the International Republican Institute where he supported IRI analysts during pre- and post-election periods and prepared reports and updates on pre-election developments. He has also worked as a contracted researcher with GIZ where he conducted a full needs assessment and gap analysis for the municipality of Zugdidi. Previously, Elizbar held various positions with the NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi, the Georgian Institute of Politics and Transparency International Georgia. Additionally, he was a Comparative Party Politics course assistant at the Tbilisi State University. Since 2017, he has been heading the NGO Progressive Space which he also founded. The NGO is based in Zugdidi, Georgia and its mission is to promote empower youth to become civically and politically active at local level. Progressive Space is also creating safe spaces for the youth living close to the conflict affected are of Gali, Abkhazia.

*I call myself an adventure seeker. In fact, sometimes, I get called Indiana Jones from Samegrelo (Western part of Georgia). I usually start my day with a smile and some motivational activities which help me handle any difficulties. From very beginning I’ve determined purpose to be that of working on systemic problem-solving processes and of contributing towards remarkable social and political changes in Georgia. It sounds utterly bold, however I’m an idea oriented young man. Most of my civil activities are connected to local, municipal development affairs through promoting strong local governance principle and creating opportunities for the youth. Furthermore, I have a keen for research and analysis which can be considered one of my solid advantages, so I enjoy writing articles, analytical pieces, and blogs regarding ongoing challenges in and out of the country. Also, I easily navigate diverse cultural contexts, which I believe comes from my previous academic exchanges- started from the United States under “FLEX” program and continued by the couple of “Erasmus +” bilateral university exchanges. I greatly appreciate and value cooperation and partnership based on mutual understanding and empathy, thus I’m a big supporter of leadership networks that are potentially capable of making huge impacts for our society. I would love to be*

*a real contributor and “doer” who brings tangible outcomes to the table for my community I grew up in and not limited to. I feel I owe a lot to those inspired and supported me.*

**Grigor Janikyan**

Founder & President, “Youth for change” NGO  
Project Assistant, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
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Grigor Janikyan is a founder and president of “Youth for change” NGO, and a Project Assistant with UNDP. As a president of one of the biggest non-governmental organizations of Armenia, he is responsible for design and implementation of projects based on the current needs of the society for ensuring civil society participation and development. The organization’s aim is to develop a community of youngsters from all over Armenia and support them in improving their knowledge and capacity in order to become educated individuals and aware citizens, who are well informed about their rights and responsibilities.

As an UNDP Project Assistant, Grigor assists the management in preparing budget revisions, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual progress and financial reports, liaises with government entities and other stakeholders on consultations, provides information related to the expected project outputs, and support in communication with project partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Grigor puts his whole energy, knowledge, potential, time and effort in the process of making his community a better place for current and future generations of change makers.

*I believe that each of us not only the part of society but also it’s step by step creator. From an early age I have understood that individuals change reality. I want to create the army of prepared individuals to challenge the reality together. During last 4 years I have implemented dozens of community programs, TEDxs, women empowerment programs, collaborated with dozens of local and international organizations, trained several hundred young Armenians, and created employment opportunities for thousands of young people.*

*My passion is to travel, to discover the beautiful places of the world, to meet new people, to acquire new skills.*

**Kseniia Malyshenko**

Co-Chairwoman

NGO “Public Diplomacy Platform”

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Kseniia Malyshenko is a third-year student of the School of International Economic Relations and Travel Business of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University where she studies international information and communications.

In 2018 she successfully completed the Future Leaders Exchange program after spending an academic year in the United States of America.

Kseniia is a civic activist creating impactful projects aimed at opening new opportunities for young people, increasing their potential and enhancing their personal and professional skills. Currently she is serving as the Co-Chairwoman of the youth NGO “Public Diplomacy Platform” where she is responsible for coordination of all the processes and projects in the organization as well as running a team of 35 people. Kseniia organized and co-organized many projects in the fields of diplomacy and international relations such as “Diplomacy Talks”, “Youth Lublin Triangle”, “Diplomacy Talks Academy” etc. Her goal is to inspire young people to take an active part in the socio-political processes of Ukraine and become ambassadors of Ukraine abroad.

In addition, as Young European Ambassador, Kseniia raises awareness among young people about the European Union and available EU projects for youth in our country. She is also a member of the Commission for International Cooperation and Tourism of the Kharkiv City Youth Council where she establishes new partnerships and creates international projects for youth.

*My moto is: “Be the change you want to see in the world”. I’m a true believer that everyone is responsible for their own future. I hope my efforts will make the world a better place and I encourage everyone to do the same!*

**Lizi Megrelishvili**

Head of Communications  
Junior Diplomat Initiative Georgia  
Student, Caucasus University  
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Lizi Megrelishvili is a Head of Communications at Junior Diplomat Initiative Georgia (JDI). Her responsibilities focus on developing the organization’s communications strategy and promoting JDI among students interested in diplomacy and international relations.

She is also a program head of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division sponsored project “Raising Awareness on the role of NATO in Black Sea Security in Youth” which aims to shatter existing myths and spread accurate information about NATO and its work.

Lizi is a fourth-year International Relations student at Caucasus University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and after graduating is planning to continue her studies with master’s degree in international security field.

Lizi is a FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange program) alumna and has also participated in Erasmus+ exchange program. Getting an international experience helped her establish her personal and professional interests. She has worked with people from diverse backgrounds and is passionate about empowering the youth and helping them find new opportunities.

*In my free time, I enjoy reading a diverse range of books, running and spending time with friends. I am also interested in learning programming.*



**Lusine Karapetyan**

President, Solution HUB Community Development NGO

Founder, TNAC Youth Center

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Lusine is a very active civil society member, mentor, and trainer of sustainability and youth empowerment.

She is involved in many non-governmental organizations as a board member and now leads a youth organization called "Solution HUB Community Development NGO". There, she directs all her effort to community development projects and empowerment of local self-government system for decentralization and equally developed society and infrastructure.

More, she manages the youth center in Vayk, Vayots dzor region. The youth center was founded in 2019 with zero budget and now operates on a voluntary basis. It is an alternative educational center for young people based in the Vayots dzor region.

Previously, Lusine worked with UNDP, EcoHub Foundation, Caucasian Regional Research Center, Transparency International Armenia. She also worked as a civic journalism trainer and her work in this field was recognized with the Aurora prize in 2017.

Lusine is also currently pursuing her MA in Human Rights and Democratization at the Yerevan State University.

*The most reasonable investment is the investment on youth, decentralization, and education. I am doing my best to follow my beliefs and ideas on my way to build the best version of me, my community, and my calling of facilitating others' life.*

**Mariam Zibzibadze**

Analyst

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Mariam Zibzibadze works as an analyst for the United Nations Association of Georgia's project Civil Georgia, delivering the coverage and analysis on Georgian politics.

Prior to this experience, Mariam worked at Wizz Air airline overseeing training compliance with European Union Aviation Safety Agency and Hungarian Civil Aviation Authority in Budapest, Hungary.

Having several years of experience in the non-governmental and private industries, Mariam is committed to Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. She assisted the implementation of the Mediation Program for the Institute for Non-violent Communications and headed the mobile observers' team for the 2016 Parliamentary Elections during the traineeship at Transparency International Georgia.

Mariam is interested in Information Warfare and Russian Foreign Policy in the Eastern European Region. After earning B.A. in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia), Mariam completed M.A. in International Relations at the Corvinus University of Budapest (Budapest, Hungary).

*As an avid supporter of equity and hard work, I believe a good cup of coffee is the start for untangling every great challenge. Constant curiosity and enthusiasm for learning something new led me to Web development courses, where I got introduced to the Front-End development. I continue to progress this interest in my free time together with a shared love for film photography.*



**Marta Hrechyn**

Project Manager

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Marta is a Project Manager with the CyberAccelerator UA, the first Ukrainian cybersecurity accelerator for product and service companies, implemented within the USAID Cybersecurity Activity. She oversees the program’s agenda, partnership opportunities, cooperation with partners and communication with participants.

Before joining CyberAccelerator UA, she worked as a Senior Researcher at Odgers Berndtson Ukraine and participated in executive search projects in banking, retail, public sector and FMCG. Prior to that, Marta took part in organizing the Ukraine House Davos 2020 and the International GR Conference in Brussels. During the latter she oversaw the whole conference, worked closely with MEPs and found the common ground with representatives from different corners of the world (Poland, Belgium, UK, USA). Marta also served as the head of Kyiv branch of All-Ukrainian NGO “Foundation of Regional Initiatives”, where she launched different projects aimed at non-formal education, civil rights protection, and inclusion.

Marta has a bachelor’s degree in English Studies and Western European languages (French and Spanish) from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University and now she is obtaining master’s degree in Business Development at Kyiv Mohyla University.

*As a person I like challenges and eventful days in life. Despite of some gender and age prejudice I’m focused and reliable. When I was 17 and I finished a gymnasium in a small town in Lviv region I decided to leave the comfort zone and move to Kyiv. It was my first step and my own victory over fear. Then I didn’t stop and started to discover world. 10 countries, 10 cultures and a lot of adventures so far. One of the most unforgettable experience which I had was my participation at cultural exchange program called Workaway in France. I lived with the British-German-French family and was really amused by cultural peculiarities. At every workplace I try to be responsible more for international activities and discover them as It’s very*

*close to me and inspiring. I believe in the power of partnership, not competition and by uniting and exchanging we'll break all the boundaries and stereotypes that exist.*

**Oleh Sorotsynskyi**

Health Finance Advisor

USAID Health Reform Support project

Co-chair, NGO "Step. Forward"

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Oleh Sorotsynskyi is a Health Finance Advisor in USAID Health Reform Support project and the co-chair of NGO "Step. Forward". As an advisor, he is responsible for the strategic planning of the development of Ukrainian healthcare system within the transition period. He has also conducted several costing studies, which became critical to providing appropriate and sustainable financing for people who need dialysis treatment or have tuberculosis.

At the same time, he provides ongoing technical support for national and local authorities for financial development and payment system changes.

Moreover, he is a co-chair of one of the most popular youth NGOs in Ukraine – Step.Forward, which provides opportunities for youngsters and has around 13 000 subscribers on Facebook. Under his management, Step.Forward publishes up to 1 500 opportunities annually and gives youngsters the possibility to join any of them.

He has developed his knowledge, skills, and expertise by graduating from several different majors such as History, Public Health, Marketing, and Health Economy.

*I am a very hard-working person and I never stop my development. I would like to build a national spread community where youngsters will receive everything they need for their development, starting with resources and finishing with mentorship. At the same time, as a healthcare professional, I try to build a system where each patient will receive equal treatment without coming to catastrophic expenditures.*

*I am also amiable and an easy-going person in an out-of-business lifetime, ready to be part of a football match or board game. I like to travel and discover new places out of touristic roads.*

**Valeriu Turcanu**

Member of UN Youth Advisory Panel, UN Moldova  
Student, Aix-Marseille Université (France) & the Sherbrooke  
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Valeriu Turcanu is a law graduate in French public law and a double degree student in Master of Public Administration (MPA) at the Aix-Marseille Université (France) and at the Sherbrooke University (Canada). He writes and implements national and international projects in the Republic of Moldova in the cultural and educational field. Thus, he contributed to the creation of a national career guidance program for young people and a regional program of support to children of migrants.

At present, he is an active member of the UN Youth Advisory Panel of UN Moldova and offers his project management services to non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Moldova. He has carried out numerous activities in the associative field, as Director of the Department of Academic Activities, as Coordinator of the Department of Fundraising and Partnerships or as Delegate-observer at the UN ICERD. Valeriu believes in the power of change, driven by humanity and hope, in order to develop a more equitable future for all of us.

*At the age of 14, I decided to study in Romania in order to benefit from a better-quality education. At the beginning, I was a kid who only wanted to get his high school diploma, but after 4 years, I received the ministerial diploma, recognizing all my achievements in the social field. Now, ten years have passed since I left my home, I have crossed the Old Continent carrying out different projects, and at the same time, I remain close to my country, implementing social and cultural initiatives. I continue to advocate for young people, to have their rights respected, their interests considered and, most importantly, their voices heard. However, my plan is to return permanently to the Republic of Moldova and contribute to the establishment of a new public administration. The most important is to come...*

*If you are willing to share your knowledge, experience and time to develop public policies in Eastern Partnership countries, I will be more than happy to discuss it.*



**Vlada Sanduleac**

Communications Officer, Experts for Security and Global Affairs Association

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Vlada Sanduleac is a second-year B.A. International Relations student at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania. She is currently on Erasmus+ exchange mobility at ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary.

At the same time, Vlada is working as Communication Officer at the Experts for Security and Global Affairs Association, Romania. This position gives her first-hand insight into diplomacy and foreign policy and allows her to apply her knowledge in both a practical and demanding context. Her recent work includes a policy brief analyzing central authorities' strategic communication regarding the energy crisis in Moldova.

Vlada is also an alumna of the U.S. Department of State exchange program, FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange), and has previously held an internship at the American Councils for International Education Slovakia within the FLEX Alumni Internship Program.

Furthermore, Vlada believes that youth civic engagement is a driving force for community and national development. On that account, she has been actively involved in volunteering activities, national and international projects, including workshops for youth since her high school years, thus developing her leadership skills and critical thinking abilities.

*I like to think of myself as ambitious and driven. I thrive on challenges and constantly set goals for myself, so I have something to strive towards. Growing up in a small village, the local library was my 'go-to' place. Once I read the very few Romanian books the library had, I began to explore the older ones. Now, imagine a ten-year-old girl with a pack of five books for children written in Cyrillic script - that would've been me. When reading, I was living multiple realities while increasing my vocabulary and comprehension. I'm a proud bookworm now, and I love to read during my free time.*

