

## Policy Designers Network

Class of 2020

*Daria Kirsych*

*Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine/ Rotterdam, Netherlands*



**Daria Kirsych** is currently pursuing an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Law and Economics with the Erasmus University Rotterdam and the Hamburg University. Her studies concentrate on EU Law and the International Trade and Investment Law. Before enrolling for this program, Daria interned with the Council of Europe, was a fellow within LEAD program in London and worked as a legal counsel with a focus on the cross-border legislations and regulation. During her undergraduate studies which she pursued in Ukraine, Daria was actively engaged with the NGOs in her home

city of Kryvyi Rih on issues of youth development and local democracy. Daria is very interested in the democracy building processes, better regulations and governance. To date, she published 16 scientific publications, mainly focusing on new technologies, innovations, and taxation.



**George Melashvili**



*Tbilisi, Georgia*



**George Melashvili** is a public figure and a civic activist who is the founder and president of the Europe-Georgia Institute, a hybrid non-governmental organization in Georgia. Melashvili serves as an invited lecturer of International relations theory at the Free University of Tbilisi and East Asian studies at the University of Georgia. Melashvili graduated from the Free University of Tbilisi in 2016 with a degree in International Relations. During his bachelor studies, he received a scholarship from the Academy of Korean Studies to study South Korea’s economic development and democratic transition. He is also an alumnus of Haifa University program supported by the government of Israel and successfully graduated from Swedish Institute Summer Academy for Young

Professionals (SAYP) in Malmö, Sweden.

During the 2016 Georgian parliamentary election, George Melashvili managed the unprecedented Get out the vote campaign “Your Voice, Our Future” uniting citizens of Georgia to realize the importance of their vote and increase voter turnout. The campaign mobilized 500 volunteers from Georgia's all regions and was held in Georgia's all 11 regions and the capital city and managed to increase the youth turnout by more than 20%. The campaign was followed by an #Initiative project aiming to increase youth participation in decision making and civic life and issued more 500 small scale grants were issued to support activities in more than 20 municipalities of Georgia.



**Giorgi Andguladze**

*Tbilisi, Georgia*



**Giorgi Andguladze** is National Policy Advisor with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Giorgi has worked as a policy advisor and a consultant, supporting large private investors, entrepreneurs and small businesses, as well as the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia with turning private and public initiatives into reality. Giorgi has also trained small business owners and rural producers in Georgia on business skills and management practice. By having worked both in the private sector and on donor funded development projects, Giorgi is able to work with large corporations that focus on sales growth and profit maximization, as well as on projects that implement pro-poor policies and contribute to small business development. Giorgi has a bachelor's degree from Lancaster University. A recipient of the Chevening Scholarship, Giorgi obtained his MSc in Management from the University of Manchester. In 2015, he won Georgia's Startup Nest, a business and entrepreneurship program, with a business focused on accelerating the development of the medical sector through synergies with the tourism sector.

*Givi Silagadze*

*Tbilisi, Georgia*



**Givi Silagadze** is a Junior Policy Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). As a junior policy analyst, Givi focuses on Georgian and regional political developments and regularly writes analytical blogs and policy memos on topics of democratization, party politics, electoral system, polarization, and populism. More, Givi's current role at GIP implies taking part in project management, brainstorming, and planning GIP's events and other organizational activities.

He has obtained an MA degree in Political Science from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. During his MA studies, he has specialized in political research methodology and social analysis. Givi has obtained a BA degree in Political Science from Tbilisi State University in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Givi aims at contributing to Georgia's development in becoming a consolidated democracy with higher standards of living. In his professional career, the values he embraces the most are critical approach, responsibility, and thoroughness.



***Heghine Poghosyan***  
*Ejmiatsin, Armenia*



**Heghine Poghosyan** is currently working as an external relations assistant at Mission Armenia NGO, one of the largest local NGOs in Armenia. Her work focuses on developing proposals on various projects, compiling progress reports, and establishing relations with various states and non-state actors. Passionate about helping people, Heghine started volunteering in 2010 with the Armenian Red Cross Society and later on with the British Red Cross, working with refugee and asylum seeker families. This was an exciting opportunity in understanding the importance of bringing small changes

in human lives. Heghine obtained her bachelor's degree on Commerce, Faculty of Marketing and Business Organization from the Armenian State University of Economics.



***Kostiantyn Donchenko***

*Poltava, Ukraine*



**Kostiantyn Donchenko** is the CEO of the research company Proof Analytics. The company focuses on conducting market research in Ukraine and his mission there is to build the company as one of Ukraine's top market research companies. Kostiantyn has started his career working in the non-profit sector in Poltava, having previously been affiliated with the Civil Network OPORA as regional coordinator for the election observation in the Poltava region, and as project manager with the Analytical Center "Bureau of Economic and Social Research". Passionate about journalism, Kostiantyn

also freelanced for a series of Ukrainian newspapers. Committed to the advancement of Poltava region, Kostiantyn served in the project selection commission of State Regional Development Fund, the commission for the development of strategy for small and medium businesses in Poltava region, and as a member of the Public Council of the Poltava Oblast State Administration. Kostiantyn is currently pursuing his PhD in political science.

**Marcel Marin**  
Chisinau, Moldova



**Marcel Marin** is the Head of Youth Department at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of Republic of Moldova, the main authority responsible for developing and implementing youth policies at a national level. After getting his master's degree in European Integration Studies at the A.I. Cuza University in Romania, Marcel returned to Moldova and engaged in the public sector, focusing on policy making in areas such as youth, volunteering, and mass-media. He is an alumnus the MATRA Rule of Law (Leiden, Netherlands), Reach for Democracy (Tbilisi, Georgia) and China Development Experiences (Beijing, China).

Marcel tries to engage as much as possible in activities that are focused on getting communities together and building a connection between its members. Only through creating and maintaining healthy communities, people can see what the common challenges and problems they are facing and work together towards resolving them.



***Mariam Chachua***

*Tbilisi, Georgia*



**Mariam Chachua** is a senior consultant with the PMO Business Consulting. As a business consultant she assists commercial organizations and public institutions in improving their organizational performance, through business process optimization, capacity needs assessment and strategic planning. More, with the support of international donor organizations, she helps national and local government authorities in policy design, regulatory impact assessment and proposes applicable recommendations for implementation of reforms in different sectors. Her main achievement is her professional network,

which she has gained through the participation in seminars and professional training courses. With the support of Heinrich Boell Foundation in South Caucasus and in cooperation with the Georgian Institute of Politics, she recently published the policy paper “Electricity Sector Development Opportunities through the Regional Cooperation with Turkey and Neighboring States”. Mariam is an alumna of the International School of Economics and holds a MA degree with specialization of energy economics.



**Mariia Zaiets**

*Kyiv, Ukraine*



**Mariia Zaiets** is a Deputy Head of Communications at the Ukrainian Institute, the public institution that strengthens Ukraine's standing through means of cultural diplomacy. Mariia is responsible for planning and communicating the Institute's strategic goals, programs, and building media relations. She manages the team of designers, communications managers, and writers. Mariia is a forward-thinking and fast learning manager, a dedicated and career-oriented team player. She is a proud Ukrainian who finds her purpose in serving her country. Together with the communications Team at the Ukrainian Institute, she creates a new image of the government institution by building a transparent, creative, and humane organization. Before joining the

Ukrainian Institute, she worked at the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, the NATO-Ukraine Professional Development Program, and in the non-profit sector.

Mariia participated in several international programs focused on diplomacy, security, and foreign affairs, including the Summer Institute on Public Diplomacy at the USC Center for Public Diplomacy (USA), Training Program for the Ukrainian Diplomats (Turkey), Global Politics Workshop (Ukraine), Visegrad School of Political Studies (Warsaw) and others.



**Rodica Pargari**  
*Chisinau, Moldova*



**Rodica Pîrgari** is a Project assistant with the CSO Community for advocacy and public policy WatchDog.MD. In her position, she deals with monitoring the local press, with fact-checking, writing monitoring reports, in terms of television, written and online press. Rodica has recently completed a fellowship on Fact Checking & Verification Tools Practicum at Citizen Journalism Academy organized by ASIST Youth Organisation and the news portal Agora.md, where she learned about detection of information manipulation and countering propaganda.

Rodica actively participates in fora that focus on the fight against propaganda, combating fake news, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, but also in the context of the presidential elections in the Republic of Moldova.



**Roksolona Ivanova**  
*Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine*



**Roksolana Ivanova** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Law and is an Associate Professor in the Department of International and European Law of the Khmelnytsky University of Management and Law, in Ukraine. She is also active in the NGO sector as head of the Ukrainian Lawyers Association in Khmelnytsky region, spearheading several projects focused on the legal sphere in Ukraine, European Integration and Human Rights. Roksolana displays great passion for the law and a commitment to the development and reforms needed in this field to ensure Ukraine’s prosperity and European aspirations.



**Rusudan Zabakhidze**

*Tbilisi, Georgia*



**Rusudan Zabakhidze** is a research development consultant at Council for European Studies (CES) at Columbia University. In this capacity, Rusudan is coordinating the International Conference of Europeanists, the world’s largest annual gathering of experts on Europe. Rusudan is also coordinating the CES Digital Hub and CES Professional Development webinar series that aim to support emerging scholars amid the COVID-19 related challenges. More, Rusudan is a non-resident fellow at Middle East Institute’s Frontier Europe Initiative where she researches US and NATO military cooperation with

Georgia and Ukraine. This experience is particularly connected to her professional interests as she is interested in civil-military relations, defense policy, and the role of the international organization as drivers and facilitators of reforms in these areas. Rusudan has recently graduated from the University of Glasgow, Dublin City University, and Charles University in Prague, with an International Master in Security, Intelligence, and Strategic Studies.

Rusudan has been actively involved in various civil society activities, revolving around the issues of non-formal education, peace-building, conflict transformation and youth activism. These experiences made her aware of the importance of developing cross-disciplinary approaches.



**Samvel Grigoryan**

*Yerevan, Armenia*



**Samvel Grigoryan** is currently a Projects Director at the LAMP Foundation. He is mainly involved in organizing, coordinating and implementing research investigations and various community-based projects at a grassroots level, with an extensive experience in project design and budgeting. He is also contributing to EU-Armenia integration and UN SDG implementation on a local community level.

Samvel holds a Master’s degree in Public Health from the American University of Armenia (2018). His research interests include health systems, global health, universal health coverage, health information systems, tobacco control, health behavior and health

education. Previously, he provided his technical assistance to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia (MoH RA) in designing National Hospital Master Plan and Needs Assessment Tool, as well as made his contribution in enhancing the utilization of best EU evidence-based practices in national health policy. The professional environment and opportunity to work with the leading public health and policy experts motivated him to continue his involvement in policy-making process and work as a researcher at the National Institute of Health of the MoH RA and contribute to the development, advocacy and implementation of new Tobacco Law and related regulations in Armenia. In addition to policy research, he is also deeply interested in innovation and digitalization of health services. This passion has led him to cooperation with a robotics company in terms of providing research consultancy on designing a clinical study on utilization of social assistive robots as intervention with child patients via emotional and artificial intelligence.

**Viktoriiia Kotlubei**

*Kyiv, Ukraine*



**Viktoriiia Kotlubei** is a State Expert at the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine where she works in the sphere of Eurointegration. Her duties include, but are not limited to the draft legislature expertise in terms of EU *acquis* approximation to the national law in the sphere of trade. She also performs rule-making functions and drafts governmental expertise for draft legislature submitted by executive bodies to the Government sessions. Previously, Viktoriiia worked in the Directorate of Public Administration, where she worked on functional reviews of ministries which significantly contributed to the direct financial assistance provided by the EU for accomplished parts of the ongoing reform. Before those positions, she had multiple internships in the

UN Headquarters in Vienna, with the UNIDO and IAEA.

Viktoriiia's background is in International Relations; she graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University and she obtained her second Master is in International Development from the University of Vienna.