

**Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University  
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference**

**“Space, Society, Politics – European Integration as a  
Catalyst for Development”**

**PROGRAM**

**and**

**ABSTRACTS**



20 - 22 June, 2019

Tbilisi

20-22 June, 2019

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference

**“Space, Society, Politics - European Integration as a Catalyst for Development”**

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20-22 ივნისი, 2019

VII საერთაშორისო სამეცნიერო კონფერენცია

**“სივრცე, საზოგადოება, პოლიტიკა - ევროინტეგრაცია, როგორც განვითარების ფაქტორი”**

**სამეცნიერო რედაქტორები:**

თამარ დოლბაია, ვალერიან მელიქიძე, თეონა მატარაძე, სალომე დუნდუა

**ტექნიკური ჯგუფი:** თეონა თაბუაშვილი, მირანდა მიქაძე, ნინო აბესაძე, იონას ლიშტერფელდი

# PROGRAM

## 20 June, Thursday

Building I, room #107  
Chavchavadze Ave. #1

**09.30 - 10.00** Registration of conference participants

**10.00** Conference speeches and welcomes:  
Building I, room: #107

**Giorgi Sharvashidze** - Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

**Tamar Dolbaia** - Dean, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

## **I Session (Working Language - English)**

Building I, room: #107

Chairpersons: **Alexandre Kukhianidze, Marek Pietra**

10.20 **Marek Pietra** - Prof. dr hab. Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland. *“European Union in an Environment of Two-Level Changes”*

10.40 **Boris Vuki evi** - Associate Professor, University of Montenegro, Montenegro. *“The Impact of European Integration on Montenegrin Politics and Society”*

11.00 **Alexandre Kukhianidze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Problem of the Definition of Organized Crime”*

11.20 **Onur Kulac** – Assistant Professor, Pamukkale University, Turkey.  
*„Public E-Procurement Policy of Turkey within the Context of EU Integration“*

11.40 **Bulent Arpat** – Assistant Professor, Pamukkale University, Turkey. *“Turkey’s Integration to European Union in Terms of Occupational Health and Safety and Transformations in Work Life”*

12.00 **Jaba Urotadze** – Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Comparative Analysis of Working and Rest Time Regulations in Georgia and European Union”*

12.20 **Domenico Valenza** – PhD Candidate, United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Belgium. *“Projecting Ideal Selves: EU’s and Russia’s Competing Cultural Narratives in the Post-Soviet Space”*

12.40 **Kür at Güç** – Research Assistant, Ankara University, Turkey. *“Routinization of Conflict in Ukraine as a Security Dilemma”*

13.00 **B. Alper Torun** – Research Assistant, Ankara University, Turkey. *“Russian Counter Attack to European Integration in the Near Abroad: Frozen Conflict Strategy”*

**13.20 - 14.30 Lunch**

## II Session (Working Language - Georgian)

Building I, room: #107

Chairpersons: **Malkhaz Matsaberidze, Manana Shamilishvili**

14.30 **Malkhaz Matsaberidze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Constituent Assembly of Georgia and Formation of Party System”*

14.50 **Revaz Gachechiladze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Giorgi Robakidze** – PhD Candidate, Caucasus International University. *“European Integration: Goals and Reality (Comparing Central European, Baltic and the South Caucasus States)”*

15.10 **Valerian Melikidze**, Associate Professor, **Vladimer Chkhaidze**, Assistant Professor, **Salome Kobaidze**, PhD Candidate – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Adoption of the Coastal Zone of the Black Sea in Georgia Based on the Principles of Blue Economy”*

15.30 **Manana Shamilishvili** - Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *„A Caricature as a Mean of Visualization of the Nazi Editorial Policy and an Anti-Bolshevik Ideological Weapon”*

15.50 **Marina Burdzenidze**, Associate Professor, **Marina Kevkhashvili**, PhD Candidate - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Transformation of Journalism in European Countries: Professional Journalists Views and Perceptions”*

16.10 **Nino Popiashvili** - Doctor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Post-Socialist Transformation of Mining Cities”*

16.30 **Natela Donadze**, Associate Professor, **Marekh Devidze**, PhD Candidate - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Globalization and Traditions in Students’ Focus”*

## 21 June, Friday

### III Session (Working Language - English)

Building I, room: #107

Chairpersons: **Tengiz Verulava, Nikoloz Esitashvili**

10.00 **José G. Vargas-Hernández** - Research Professor, University of Guadalajara, Mexico. *“Critical Analysis on the Institutional Design of Democratic Decentralization in the Public Sphere and Urban Spaces of Local Governments”*

10.20 **Dogan Nadi Leblebici**, Professor, Hacettepe University, **Cenay Babaoglu**, Associate Professor, Nigde Omer Halisdemir University, Turkey - *“The Interaction Between Local Governments and NGOs in Disability Policy in Ankara”*

10.40 **Mariam Gersamia**, Professor, **Maia Toradze**, Associate Professor – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Media Psychology: Challenges of Competence-Based Curricula and Employment”*

11.00 **Hubert Kotarski** – Assistant Professor, University of Rzeszow, Poland. *„Life and Professional Aspirations of Students as a Factor of European Integration in Poland and Ukraine, on the Example of Research into the Quality of Life in the City“*

11.20 **Magdalena Pokrzywa** – Assistant Professor, University of Rzeszow, Poland. *“Men and Women in the Social Assistance System in Poland”*

11.40 **Dorota Rynkowska** – Assistant Professor, University of Rzeszow, Poland. *“The Role of the Polish Red Cross as a Non-Governmental Organization in the Social Sector”*

12.00 **Nikoloz Esitashvili** – Visiting Professor, International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University. “*Exponential Capacity of Power and its Impact on Military Alliance Dynamics*”

12.20 **Tengiz Verulava** – Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*Access to Medicines for Pension Age Population in Georgia*”

12.40 **Svetlana Akkieva** – Professor, Kabardin-Balkar Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia. “*The European Integration for the South Caucasus*”

**13.00 - 14.00 Lunch**

#### **IV Session (Working Language - Georgian)**

Building I, room: #101

Chairpersons: **Salome Dundua, Tamar Karaia**

09.20 **Giorgi Beridze** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*Electronic Propaganda of Ideological-Political Platforms in Modern Georgia (Internet Activities of Left-Wing Organizations)*”

09.40 **Elene Gelashvili** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*Salome Zurabishvili’s Inaugural Speech – New Messages in Georgian Politics*”

10.00 **Natia Zedginidze** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*The Importance of Codes of Professional Ethics in Public Moral Renewal and the Process of Legal State Building*”

10.20 **Lika Tetradze** - PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. “*Negative Narrative and Affect on Electoral Behavior*”

10.40 **Nino Maisuradze** - PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Electronic Propaganda of Ideological-Political Platforms in Modern Georgia (Ideological Profile of Internet Editions of Georgian National-Patriotic Direction)”*

11.00 **Inga Mikhanashvili** – Researcher, Institute of Political Sciences at Ilia State University. *“Issue of Minorities after the 2016 Parliamentary Elections Based on the Analysis of the Ombudsman’s Reports”*

11.20 **Lika Mukbaniani** – PhD Candidate, Georgian Technical University. *„Catch-all Policy of the Parties in Member and Non-Member Countries of European Union (on the Example of Sweden and Georgia)“*

11.40 **Tamar Orjonikidze** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Constituent Assembly of Georgia and Batumi Region”*

12.00 **Davit Sidamonidze**, PhD Candidate, **Nana Deisadze**, MA Student – Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“European Integration and Development of Georgian Land Transport”*

12.20 **Salome Kareli** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“How Do the EU and Georgia Defence Policies Respond to the New Face of the Conflict the "Hybrid War"?”*

12.40 **Mariana Kevkhishvili** – PhD Candidate, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Lobbying in Georgia”*

**13.00 - 14.00 Lunch**



## V Session (Working Language - Georgian)

Building I, room: #101

Chairpersons: **Zviad Abashidze, Avtandil Tukvadze**

14.00 **Zviad Abashidze** – Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Discourse on Ethnic Minorities and Civic Integration in Georgia during 1991-90: Analysis of Zviad Gamsakhurdia’s Official Speeches, Statements and Interviews”*

14.20 **Ala Bibilashvili** – Associate Researcher, Institute of Political Sciences at Ilia State University. *„The Role of Islam in Politicization of Religious Discourse in the Northern Caucasus“*

14.40 **Eka Darbaidze** – Doctor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Crisis of Democracy and a New Class in Georgia”*

15.00 **Valerian Dolidze** – Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“The Process of European Integration and Cycles of Political Development of Georgia”*

15.20 **Giorgi Kvinikadze** – Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Geo-economic Landscape of the South Caucasus”*

15.40 **Vakhtang Maisaia**, Associate Professor, **Miranda Mikadze**, PhD Candidate – Caucasus International University. *“What is Hybrid Warfare and its Geostrategic Aspects (Fourth War Generation) – Cyber War Case-Study”*

16.00 **Giorgi Melikidze** – Doctor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Civil Society in Hybrid Regimes: The Challenges of Democratization in Georgia”*

16.20 **Avtandil Tukvadze**, Associate Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, **Irakli Ubilava**, Peoples' Friendship University

of Russia – *“The "Sovereign Democracy" - a Dynamic Model of Russian Democracy”*

16.40 **Tamar Karaia** – Assistant Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. *“Peculiarities of Social Protest Formation in Georgia”*

## **22 June, Saturday**

**Tour for Foreign Guests:**

**Uplistsikhe - Gori - Mtskheta**

## **ABSTRACTS**

## **Tengiz Verulava**

Associate Professor  
Tbilisi State University

### **Access to Medicines for Pension Age Population in Georgia**

The pension age population belongs to the largest risk group within the insurance sphere. Healthcare for pensioners often represents catastrophic expenses and has become the major reason for their impoverishment. Families in Georgia spend about 60% of all their healthcare expenses on medicines, this being one of the highest rates across the world. There is some evidence that the high costs of medicines are due to a combination of factors, including insufficient usage/administering of generic medicines, lack or inadequate utilization of prescription mechanisms, insufficient financial limit for medicines within the state healthcare programs, and aggressive marketing by the pharmaceutical industry.

The government has been trying to decrease the out-of-pocket spending via different strategies, including universal health coverage (UHC). Since February 2013, the Universal Health State Program came into force, targeting two million of uninsured citizens and providing a basic package for primary health care and emergency services.

Pension age population form the largest at-risk group within the insurance sphere. The most rapidly increasing and unaffordable share of healthcare expenses falls upon medicines. This paper examines financial access to medicines and the satisfaction with the insurance policy within the Georgia State Health Insurance Program for pension age population.

This paper examines financial access to medicines and the satisfaction with the insurance policy within the Georgia State Health Insurance Program for pension age population.

Using a randomized selection method, 500 pension age persons were interviewed by means of direct questioning.

According to the Social Service Agency, there are 45,455 pension age recipients of medical insurance in Tbilisi with a total of 673,183 pension

age population across the country (National Statistics Service of Georgia, 2013). Out of the 500 persons (62.4% women and 37.6% men) interviewed. The sample population covered all the districts of Tbilisi. The interviews took place in clinics. The largest segment of the interviewed population was between the ages of 71-75 (35.2%).

While the Georgia State Health Insurance Program for pension age population includes some compensation for medicines, medical insurance does not provide guarantee for financial accessibility to medical service. The results show that out-of-pocket payment is the most common health financing mechanism in Georgia. The cost of healthcare for pensioners often represents catastrophic expenses and becomes the major reason of their impoverishment. Based on the results, medication expenses represent one of the most important components of the medical service for the insured pensioner population. Over 55% of the pensioners have to buy medications at least once a month and 34% purchase them at least once or twice a week. Most of the interviewed insured population believes that buying medicines, combined with low financial accessibility to relevant medical services, is the most significant problem for their families.

The awareness level of the insured persons about medication coverage and payments for medical services provided by the insurance package within a certain limit is low. The majority of those interviewed (64%) stated that their out-of-pocket expenses exceeded this limit; 20.4% exceeded that amount by 80 GEL or more. The fact that 32.8% of the insured population cannot afford medications prescribed by their doctors also points out at low financial accessibility for medicines. The majority of those insured did not know that the insurance company compensates medicine expenses within the policy annual insurance limit. Additionally, 58.8% of those who have to pay for certain types of medical services covered by the state insurance program out of their pockets were not aware about the limits.

Reduction of catastrophic healthcare expenses should become the chief aim of the government health policy. It applies to the high-risk population, those under the poverty line and the pension age population, as well as to

those with chronic diseases. Accordingly, based on the findings, it is reasonable to expand the insurance program for the pension population and also provide more reasonable coverage of medication expenses.

**Keywords:** Georgia, health insurance, catastrophic out-of-pocket payments, financial access to healthcare, pension age population

## თენგიზ ვერულავა

ასოცირებული პროფესორი  
ივანე ჯავახიშვილის სახელობის  
თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი

### ამბულატორიული მედიკამენტების ფინანსური ხელმისაწვდომობა ხანდაზმულთათვის

ხანდაზმულები ჯანმრთელობის თვალსაზრისით, ერთ-ერთ მაღალრისკიან ჯგუფს განეკუთვნებიან. საქართველოში პენსიონერები მოცულნი არიან საყოველთაო ჯანმრთელობის დაცვის სახელმწიფო პროგრამით, ხოლო სოციალურად დაუცველი ქრონიკული ავადმყოფებისათვის დამატებით მოქმედებს მედიკამენტებით უზრუნველყოფის პროგრამა. კვლევის მიზანია ხანდაზმულთათვის მედიკამენტების ფინანსური ხელმისაწვდომობის შეფასება. რაოდენობრივი კვლევის ფარგლებში, სტრუქტურირებული კითხვარების მეშვეობით ჩატარდა 700 პენსიონერის გამოკითხვა. რესპონდენტთა უმრავლესობა ერთდროულად იყენებს სამზე მეტ მედიკამენტს (54%), რომელსაც იძენს ოჯახის ექიმთან მიმართვის გარეშე (57%) და ეწევა თვითმკურნალობას (37%), თვეში ხარჯავს 51-75 ლარის მედიკამენტს (39%), მედიკამენტებზე საშუალო ხარჯი შეადგენს 72 ლარს, რაც პენსიონერის პერსონალური შემოსავლის 33%-ია. რესპონდენტთა მნიშვნელოვანი ნაწილისთვის მედიკამენტებზე ჯიბიდან გაწეული ხარჯები ისევ მაღალია. პენსიონერთა 29% თვეში ჯიბიდან იხდის 51-75 ლარს. მედიკამენტებზე ჯიბიდან გაწეული საშუალო ხარჯი შეადგენს 56 ლარს, რაც პენსიონერის პერსონალური შემოსავლის 25%-ია. გამოკითხულთა საკმაოდ ნაწილმა მთავარ პრობლემად მედიკამენტებზე მაღალი ხარჯები დაასახელა (26%). თითქმის მესამედმა (31%) სრულად ვერ შეიძინა ექიმის მიერ დანიშნული მედიკამენტი, ხოლო 15%-მა სიძვირის გამო საერთოდ ვერ შეძლო მისი შეძენა. უმეტესობამ (64%) არაფერი იცოდა იმის შესახებ,

რომ სახელმწიფო ანაზღაურებს ქრონიკული დაავადებების სამკურნალო მედიკამენტებს გარკვეული კატეგორიის პენსიონერთათვის. ხანდაზმულთა მიერ მედიკამენტების შეძენა ოჯახის ექიმის გარეშე აჩვენებს მათ არარაციონალურ არჩევანს საკუთარი ჯანმრთელობის პრობლემის დროს. 2017 წელს ამოქმედებულმა სამკურნალო მედიკამენტებით უზრუნველყოფის პროგრამამ გარკვეულწილად შეამსუბუქა ხანდაზმულების, განსაკუთრებით, სოციალურად დაუცველ ქრონიკულ ავადმყოფთა მედიკამენტებზე ფინანსური ხელმისაწვდომობა. თუმცა, რესპონდენტები უმთავრეს პრობლემად გამოყოფენ მედიკამენტების შეძენას. დაბალია დაზღვეულთა ინფორმირებულობის დონე ქრონიკული დაავადებების მედიკამენტებით უზრუნველყოფის პროგრამის შესახებ.

ამგვარად, მიუხედავად იმისა, რომ გაუმჯობესდა სოციალურად დაუცველ ქრონიკულ ავადმყოფთა სამედიცინო მომსახურების ფინანსური ხელმისაწვდომობა, მედიკამენტებზე დანახარჯები მძიმე ტვირთად აწვება იმ ხანდაზმულთა შემოსავლებს, რომლებიც არ არიან სოციალურად დაუცველნი. მიზანშეწონილია, ქრონიკული დაავადებების მედიკამენტებით უზრუნველყოფის პროგრამამ, სოციალურად დაუცველების გარდა, მოიცვას საპენსიო ასაკის ქრონიკული ავადმყოფებიც, რადგან პროგრამით მოუცველ პენსიონერთათვის მედიკამენტებზე გაწეული ხარჯები, არაიშვიათად, შესაძლოა კატასტროფული და შესაბამისად, მათი გადატანების მიზეზი აღმოჩნდეს.

**საკვანძო სიტყვები:** ხანდაზმულები, პერსონალური შემოსავლები, მედიკამენტებზე დანახარჯები, მედიკამენტებზე ფინანსური ხელმისაწვდომობა