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DEMOCRACY NEEDS DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Netherlands Institute for
Multiparty Democracy

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NIMD ALUMNI IN POLITICS

MISSION AND STRATEGY OF NIMD

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) is an organization founded by Dutch political parties. It supports the development of democratic systems in new democracies. The organization works with 150 political parties from 24 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

NIMD believes that multiparty democracy creates best conditions for the sustainable development of new democracies. Under such conditions:

PEOPLE'S VOICES ARE HEARD

THE STATE CARRIES OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

POLITICS BRINGS BENEFITS

According to NIMD's "Theory of Change", the following preconditions are necessary for the establishment and development of multi-party democracies:

1 A DEMOCRATIC
POLITICAL
CULTURE

2 DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL
ACTORS – IN OTHER
WORDS PARTIES AND
MOVEMENTS

3 A FREE AND
FAIR POLITICAL
SYSTEM

On the one hand, NIMD strives to support the development of internal democracy within political parties and, on the other hand, it promotes interparty dialogue. The organization directly assists political actors in becoming better organized and in effectively improving their political programs. In addition, NIMD pays particular attention to groups that wish to strengthen their participation in politics but, for various reasons, are currently left out of political processes.

Another strategic direction pursued by NIMD is encouraging democratic political culture through political education programs.

NIMD has four main programs in the Eastern European Neighborhood:

SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Goal:

Improving strategic planning in political parties, strengthening their organizational capacity, institutionalization and internal democracy.

REGIONAL PROGRAM OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Goal:

Strengthening democracy in Azerbaijan and Armenia through political consolidation and regional cooperation in the South Caucasus.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY EDUCATION AND DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Goal:

Strengthening need for democracy in public and creating a basis for political pluralism. Supporting the development of effective, transparent and sustainable democracy by encouraging legislative reforms and initiatives.

MISSION IN UKRAINE

Goal:

NIMD's strategic goal in Ukraine is to support political dialogue and those legislative and institutional reforms that strengthen democracy in the country. NIMD plans to open democracy schools in Lviv and Odessa in 2017. The focus of the curricula in these schools will be development of the anti-corruption capacity of Ukraine's civil and political circles.



Levan Tsutskiridze

Dear reader,

2016 was an important year for our region and correspondingly for our organization. For Georgia, it was a year of extremely polarized parliamentary elections. Ukraine had to tackle Russia's aggression on the one hand, and on the other hand, it had to continue implementing important yet unpopular reforms necessary for strengthening its statehood. Military clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan significantly complicated their already shaky relations rife with distrust. Protecting democratic values and working to strengthen these values against the background of increasing anti-democratic propaganda became even more relevant. Democracy is indeed a heavy and difficult process:

freedom is in constant need of protection, because otherwise we may quickly lose it.

We worked on tackling these challenges last year. For the parliamentary elections in Georgia, we launched an updated version of www.partiebi.ge where voters could view and compare the main political parties' programs. Since 2012, this website has been playing a unique role in informing voters. NIMD's Democracy Schools continued working on strengthening democratic culture and traditions in Georgia. **At the end of the year, we organized a traditional Boot Camp for Democracy Schools. This year, the topic of discussion was "identity",** because we wanted to help graduates to understand what modern Georgia is and what it means to be one

of its citizens. In addition, the Boot Camp aimed to counter the idea that democratization, Georgia's closeness to the European Union, the protection of human rights and respecting the rights of minorities contradict or threaten the country's traditions and identity.

The modern world is developing at an unimaginable speed and it gives us a chance to quickly learn and make up for lost time. Our Democracy Hackathon in Kutaisi served this very purpose; we used the event to teach participants the basics of coding. I could never have imagined that it was possible to create an interesting and functional mobile app in a week!

At the same time, NIMD's Political Party Assistance Program continued implementing individual assistance projects for political parties in order to improve their management and political skills, introduce new technologies in party management, further strengthen internal party democracy and enable them to attract more interesting individuals to politics from all over Georgia. In 2016, we worked on strengthening the involvement of national minorities in politics and raising political parties' awareness of this issue.

We deepened contacts between young politicians representing political parties from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine against the backdrop of tensions in South Caucasus. The Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine, hosted by Parliament of Georgia, attracted around 100 guests.

In 2016, we also took action against the anti-democratic fake news that has become so strong in the world and in Georgia. A series of trainings organized for young politicians targeted these myths and anti-democratic, anti-European propaganda.

Last year was important in terms of our activities in Ukraine. In 2016, a new office was officially opened in Kiev. Our first steps aimed to support current political reforms in Ukraine. Last year we carried out three studies, covering the issues of political finance, women's participation in politics and political education. In addition, we studied the country's democracy support needs in detail. Along with Ukrainian politicians, representatives of Georgian political parties were invited to take part in Social Media Strategy training held in Kiev. Sharing experiences and cooperation between these two countries is extremely

important. It is also necessary if we are to learn more about regional idiosyncrasies and similarities, which would help us better plan our activities in these countries.

We start 2017 with new plans and priorities. Local elections are going to be held in Georgia and we are planning new, interesting pre-election projects. Those projects will give voters more information on political parties' visions and positions; they will also help politicians better elaborate political and election programs. Fragmentation of the political opposition and the defeat of traditional, centrist parties in parliamentary elections create potential difficulties in terms of democratic pluralism. We will try to support the preservation of a pluralistic political environment in Georgia and continue supporting the organizational

development of political parties.

We will continue our activities building positive relations based on trust between future politicians in the South Caucasus. We plan to found new Democracy Schools in Georgia and Ukraine. Our office is currently operating in the four countries of the region; however, we plan to extend our activities into other countries of Eastern Europe.

Neither of the above-mentioned programs would be successful if not for our friends and partners: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Netherlands Embassy to Georgia and Armenia; the Embassy of the United Kingdom to Georgia; the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and their office in Georgia; and the Government of Canada. We thank them for giving us the opportunity to develop our countries. I would like to also thank the lecturers, researchers and experts who regularly cooperate with us – many of the things we do would have been impossible without them. Our employees in Tbilisi, Telavi, Gori, Kutaisi, Batumi and Kiev can justly be proud of the achievements that this publication describes.

DEMOCRACY IS INDEED A HEAVY AND DIFFICULT PROCESS: FREEDOM IS IN CONSTANT NEED OF PROTECTION, BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE MAY QUICKLY LOSE IT.



Levan Tsutskiridze

Executive Director of NIMD's Eastern European Regional Office.

Experience:

Former Rector of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs; former Project Manager for the first phase of the Georgian civil registration system reform; former manager at OSCE Office in Georgia and Open Society Georgia Foundation.

Education:

Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Interests:

Foreign and security policies, development of political institutions and democracy.



Salome Mukhuradze

Political Party Assistance Program Officer.

Experience:

While working in various state, local and international non-governmental organizations, Salome was engaged in elaborating ways to implement a democratic model for civil society in Georgia; Lecturer of International Law at Georgian Technical University.

Education:

Master's Degree in Intercultural Conflict Management from the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Berlin. Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Law (Tbilisi State University).

Interests:

Human rights, gender equality and public policy.

My main goal is to support establishment of democratic political parties in Georgia.



Mariam Chikhladze

Democracy Education Program Officer.

Experience:

Mariam completed internships at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Parliament of Georgia. She was involved in the activities of "European Youth Parliament" at national and international levels and was the Head of Georgian National Committee of European Youth Parliament.

Education:

Master's Degree in International Policy and Diplomacy from the School of Law and Politics of GIPA. Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Tbilisi State University.

Interests:

Development theories, political institutions and international relations theories.

I believe that we cannot build democracy without democrats. Therefore, identifying them, strengthening them and connecting them with each other is the main goal of my activities.



Denis Degurko

Regional Program Officer.

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in History from Taras Shevchenko National University, Kiev. Master's Degree in International Relations from Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and Vienna University.

Interests:

European integration, supporting democracy, conflict resolution and mediation.



Kirilo Tretyak

Ukraine Program Officer.

Experience:

Secretary of Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament). Director of International Relations Department at the Ukrainian Parliament. Main Secretary of Parliamentary Assembly.

Education:

History Faculty of Taras Shevchenko National University, Kiev.

Interests:

Foreign policy, Ukrainian politics, Ukraine and world culture, architecture.



Kateryna Pesotska

Executive Assistant of Ukraine Program.

Experience:

Marchenko-Danevich Law Firm; Fiscal Executive at Philip Morris International in Kiev.

Education:

Kateryna holds Bachelor's Degree in Law from National University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy. Currently she is in the process of defending her Doctor of Philosophy thesis at the same University.

Interests:

Constitutional law, politics, political party regulations.

My goal is to advance interparty dialogue in Ukraine, and contribute to improvement of political and party systems in the country. I'd like to assist Ukrainian politicians in introducing the practice of party democracy.



Shorena Joel
Financial Officer.

Experience:

Finance and Administration Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Georgia. Country Coordinator for Georgia in IREX/IATP, USAID-funded Media Innovations Program.

Education:

Degree in Business Administration from Cyprus University. Master's Degree in Oriental Studies from Tbilisi State University.

Interests:

Finances and Administration.



Lado Chomakhidze
Administrative Officer.

Experience:

Administration Manager for USAID-funded project "Good Governance for Georgia". Administration and Logistics Manager for "Public Administration Reform" (PAR) project.

Education:

Tbilisi Medical State University. Awarded "Certified Administrative Manager" from Tbilisi ESM Free University and "Project Management Specialist" certificate from Tbilisi Management Academy.

Interests:

Project management, development of democracy.



Nikoloz Sharvashidze
Coordinator of Telavi Democracy School in Kakheti region.

Experience:

Telavi Division of National Statistics Office of Georgia. He used to work for the Youth Affairs Department of local self-government. Nikoloz Sharvashidze has experience of working in government and local self-government sectors; he participated in various international projects.

Education:

Master's Degree in Diplomacy and History of International Relations from Telavi State University. Bachelor's Degree in Humanitarian Sciences, Diplomacy and World History from Telavi State University.

Interests:

Foreign and security policies, European integration, development of democracy and local self-governance.



Zaza Chipashvili

Coordinator of Gori Democracy School in Shida Kartli region.

Experience:

Coordinator of various social and humanitarian projects at the local NGO - Charity Humanitarian Centre "ABKHAZETI" (CHCA). He was previously employed in different public institutions. He held the positions of Head of Regional Office of Social Service Agency and Head of Gori Municipality Social Department.

Education:

Master's degree in Local Governance and Self-Government from GIPA. Master's Degree in History and Philology from Tskhinvali State Pedagogical Institute.

Interests:

Civic education, public governance policy, conflict management.



Ana Shalikiani

Coordinator of Democracy School in Imereti region.

Experience:

Senior Specialist at Kutaisi City Hall. She has also worked as a Project Mobilizer for the Georgian Organization of the Scout Movement in the framework of the YCPB educational program, funded by British Petroleum (BP). Founder of Imereti Scouts, co-author of several civic educational projects.

Education:

Master's Degree in Public Law.

Interests:

Local self-governance and civic education issues, social media and scouting.



Tamar Mameishvili

Coordinator of Batumi Democracy School in Adjara region.

Experience:

Project Coordinator for the Institute of Democracy; Project Coordinator and Media Monitor for the Institute for Public Opinion Polls and Marketing. She also has experience as an Editor of "Ajaranews.ge" and as a reporter for "Batumelebi" newspaper.

Education:

Master's Degree in Journalism and Media Management from GIPA.

Interests:

News, media theories, public opinion polls and content-analysis research.

FOR THE FIRST TIME

For NIMD, 2016 was a year of institutional consolidation, expansion of regional activities and the introduction of technological innovations in political communication.

////////////////////////////////////
NIMD started to expand its mission in Ukraine and launched projects in Kiev oriented toward democratization.

////////////////////////////////////
NIMD launched a series of discussions and trainings in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine on anti-democratic propaganda and ways to deconstruct it.

////////////////////////////////////
The Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine was enlarged. 60 delegates took part in the forum in 2016. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom Philip Hammond and former Minister of Defense of the Netherlands Eimert van Middelkoop took part as guests of honour.



IN 2016

Democracy schools diversified their teaching modules – economic development and international security issues have become part of the standard curricula.

Political parties in Georgia included their visions on the environment, women’s participation in politics and road traffic in their programs as part of the partiebi.ge project.

Young representatives of national minorities had the opportunity of undergoing one month internships in the head offices of political parties.

The partiebi.ge online platform became an interactive website integrated with social media.

Teaching the use of new technologies (including mobile apps) and their popularization became a priority.

Training in programming language and “Democracy Hackathons” were organized for civil activists from four regions of Georgia.

New trainees, partners and trainers joined NIMD’s democracy education program.



2016 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES' ELECTORAL PROGRAMS

Traditionally, NIMD assists political parties in developing and refining their electoral programs. In the run up to the parliamentary elections of 2016, with NIMD's encouragement, political parties expressed their viewpoints on the issues that concern voters' everyday lives but are seldom discussed by politicians, along with various other fundamental issues.

With a view to helping each party formulating concrete political viewpoints on such topics, NIMD elaborated a special questionnaire and asked all political parties registered for the parliamentary elections of 2016 to fill it in. Among other relevant issues, NIMD included the following topics in the questionnaire:

- Potential amendments to the Constitution of Georgia;
- Independence of the judiciary and increasing trust toward courts;
- Guarantees of the inviolability of private life;
- Decreasing unemployment, depreciation of the national currency;
- Protection and integration of minorities;
- Protection of children's rights;
- Foreign policy and defense issues;
- Improvement of traffic safety;
- Creation of an ecologically healthy and safe environment.

By expressing their positions, political parties managed to refine their electoral programs on the one hand, and increase their accountability toward the voters on the other hand. The viewpoints of the Georgian political parties have been published at www.partiebi.ge.

"WE TRIED TO HELP THE PARTIES FORM SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE VISIONS ON ISSUES LIKE URBAN TRAFFIC, POLLUTION, WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS ETC."

Levan Tsutskiridze

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF 2016

Are you going to initiate important amendments to the Constitution of Georgia?

What policies will you implement with a view to strengthening the independence of courts?

What policies will you implement with a view to strengthening the inviolability of private life?

Please describe your proposals directed at creating an ecologically healthier environment.

What will be your policy to better ensure the inviolability of private life of citizens?

What steps will you take in order to overcome unemployment?

Please hypothetically divide the Budget of Georgia according to you policy priorities.

Are you going to implement special policies directed at improving traffic safety?

What kind of election system should Georgia have?

Which countries/unions/alliances do you envision as the main strategic partners of Georgia?

www.partiebi.ge

is an unique online platform, which has been publishing electoral programs of the main Georgian political parties in Armenian, Azerbaijani, English and Georgian languages since 2012.



Several new functions were added to the website in 2016. It now enables users to compare the viewpoints of three political organizations at the same time. In addition, users can easily see how the programs and priorities of political parties have changed over time because the website also offers the functionality to view electoral programs historically (since 2012).

The project was funded by the Dutch Embassy to Georgia and had two main objectives: 1) to provide help and encouragement to political parties in formulating their concrete political proposals and 2) to inform voters about these proposals.

LEVAN TSUTSKIRIDZE

Various factors influence the views of political parties and this website enables users to see that evolution.

TAMAR KORDZAIA, REPUBLICAN PARTY

This platform is important because voters can get information on political parties' activities, election campaigns and programs. At the same time, it also assists us, political parties.



NIMD asked the political parties to give a short overview of their viewpoints in connection with 29 important issues. Parties had the opportunity of providing their views on important political, economic and social topics. Every political party position was given equal space for providing their answers.

www.partiebi.ge raises political parties' accountability toward the public and accumulates valuable information for stakeholders. The online platform, which has been operating for the last 5 years, enables non-governmental organizations, the media and competing political parties to easily compare the promises made before the polls against the policies carried out after elections.

As well as accumulating political parties' viewpoints, the articles published by the website enable users to easily spread information via social media and to discuss political party positions made available by the platform.

In 2016, through cooperation with the Central Election Commission of Georgia and the Union of Blinds, NIMD uploaded audio versions of the electoral programs onto the website.

BAKUR KVASHILAVA, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF LAW AND POLITICS, GIPA

Georgia's political culture becomes more developed, responsible and accountable as a result of NIMD's activities.

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN POLITICAL LIFE

In 2016, NIMD completed a project entitled “Strengthening the Participation of National Minorities in Georgia’s Political Life.” The project was implemented with the support of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The problem was clearly defined – the participation of national minorities in political life of Georgia needs serious improvement.

In order to advance this goal, NIMD organized the two-year project around three strategic directions:

MULTIPARTY COOPERATION

Eight political parties started to think about and work on integration strategy with NIMD’s facilitation.

BILATERAL PARTNERSHIP

Together with a select group of experts, NIMD started cooperating with political parties and their leaders to incorporate issues relating to national minorities into the organizational strategies of the political parties.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Dialogue sessions between political parties and representatives of national minorities were organized at the beginning and at the end of the project. In spring 2016, political parties presented their views on the integration of national minorities to the regional audiences.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In parallel to cooperation with political parties, NIMD prepared a special program for young representatives of national minorities who are interested in politics and political parties. In total, eight interns from Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions participated in a one-month internship program at the head offices of the political parties. NIMD organized orientation training for the interns; in addition, all of them attended the plenary session at the Parliament of Georgia in Kutaisi upon the completion of their internships. Finally, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany (now the President of the Federal Republic of Germany) Frank-Walter Steinmeier awarded the certificates to the participants of the internship program.

POLICY PAPERS AND A SERIES OF PROGRAMS ON GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER

To further support the development of policies aimed at enhancing the participation of national minorities in politics, NIMD commissioned policy papers on:

- Electoral Systems and national minorities;
- The political participation of national minority women in Georgia;
- The social and economic standing of national minorities in Georgia;
- Access to information for national minorities.

The papers are in Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani and English and have been available to the public since 2017. In addition, in cooperation with the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB), NIMD created a series of TV discussions, which were aired by GPB's second channel.

GPB hosted a total of four TV discussions in 2016, which involved representatives of political parties, national minorities and regional organizations as well as other relevant guests. The discussions were dedicated to issues concerning the integration of national minorities in politics. All four TV programs were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani, and the recordings of the TV programs were also broadcast by Akhaltsikhe and Marneuli regional TV channels.

INTERNSHIPS AT THE HEAD OFFICES OF POLITICAL PARTIES TURNED OUT TO BE AN INTERESTING IDEA FOR ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. THE INTERNS PROVIDED BENEFICIAL AND VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM THE REGIONS TO THE LEADERS OF THE PARTIES. AS FOR THE INTERN, IT WAS VERY MOTIVATIONAL TO BE INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESSES.

Salome Mukhuradze

Political Party
Assistance Program
Officer



NIMD EEN IN UKRAINE

NIMD's strategic goal in Ukraine is supporting changes that encourage the democratization and development of political parties, the improvement of political system and the strengthening of democratic political culture. These efforts are directed at the following areas in Ukraine:

- Supporting the development of political parties;
- Supporting the elaboration of political consolidation strategies;
- Strengthening the participation of women and minorities in Ukraine's politics and political parties;
- Strengthening the potential of regional activists;
- Introducing of technological innovations in political life;
- Producing publications on democracy and political reforms.

NIMD held important meetings in Kiev, Lviv and Odessa in 2016. The delegation of the Eastern European Neighborhood office carried out consultations both with politicians and political parties and with non-governmental organizations and representatives of Ukrainian universities and think-tanks. Meetings and discussions aimed to analyze the possibility of expanding NIMD's mission in Ukraine and at identifying the main problems that Ukrainian political parties are facing.

NIMD's office in Ukraine took on board all NIMD's capabilities and experience and launched a series of discussions in Ukraine on the issues of:

- Ukraine's political system and reform priorities;
- Challenges to the development of political parties and internal party democracy;
- Financing of political parties;
- Gender equality in politics;
- Political education.

The fact that Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine took place for the fourth time in 2016 was also important in the context of supporting Ukraine's democracy. This is a unique event which brings together young Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani and Ukrainian politicians. We had impressive delegations and guests of honor at the Forum, including Foreign Secretary of the UK at the time and current Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond. The event was conducted in cooperation with the Parliament of Georgia.

In 2016, NIMD took an active role in efforts to create a Code of Conduct for Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament).

NIMD's work in Ukraine in 2016 resulted in another major decision: the establishment of NIMD Democracy Schools in Lviv and Odessa in 2017. The focus of the curricula of these schools will be the development of anti-corruption capacities of Ukraine's civil and political society.

UKRAINE IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST STATE IN EUROPE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING STATE AND PUBLIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY WILL HAVE A HISTORIC IMPORTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND PROBABLY THE WHOLE CONTINENT. DEVELOPMENTS IN UKRAINE WILL ALSO HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON REGIONAL SECURITY. THEREFORE, NIMD BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING UKRAINIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

Levan Tsutskiridze

FORUM OF YOUNG POLITICIANS OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND UKRAINE



**THIS INSTITUTION
GAVE ME VERY
VALUABLE EXPE-
RIENCE ON HOW
A MULTIPARTY
SYSTEM SHOULD
FUNCTION AND
HOW VARIOUS
SOCIAL AND PO-
LITICAL GROUPS
SHOULD OPER-
ATE IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF THE
COUNTRY.**

David Usupashvili
Former Speaker of
Parliament of Georgia

In 2016, NIMD organized the fourth Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine, which featured impressive delegations and guests of honor.

Roughly 60 participants arrived in Tbilisi to take part in a two-day event, including young politicians representing various political parties from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and the Netherlands.

The former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and current Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond was among the guests of honor. Former member of the Dutch Senate and now Minister of Defense of the Netherlands Eimert van Middelkoop also took part in the Forum.

The Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine, which was held with the support and participation of Parliament of Georgia, was opened by the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia (2012-2016) David Usupashvili.



Among other topics, the young politicians from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine and the Netherlands discussed:

- Election systems and constitutional amendments;
- Conducting election campaigns;
- The media's role in democratic processes;
- Women's participation in decision-making;
- Strengthening local self-governance.

These and other topics were discussed by young politicians from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine and the Netherlands.

YOU REPRESENT THE GENERATION THAT WAS RAISED IN THE SHADOW OF CONFLICTS AND HAS A LIMITED MEMORY ON WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS. THE ERECTION OF NEW FENCES AND BARRIERS SETS THE REGION BACK. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COEXISTENCE SHOULD INCREASE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS DIVERSE REGION, NOT VICE VERSA.

Philip Hammond
UK Chancellor of the
Exchequer



Eimert van Middelkoop



Tamar Beruchashvili, Levan Tsutskiridze, Philip Hammond

THIS FORUM IS NO LONGER “OUR” PROJECT, THIS IS A PROJECT BELONGING TO YOUNG POLITICIANS FROM THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND UKRAINE. WE LEARNT HOW TO WORK TOGETHER AND HOW TO MAKE DEMOCRACY BETTER. THIS FORUM HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS. THE QUALITY OF DEBATES ALSO IMPROVED. I SEE HOW RELATIONS ARE BEING FORMED AMONG YOUNG POLITICIANS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Levan Tsutskiridze



The unique format of the Forum makes it possible to gather together young politicians representing various political parties from all over the South Caucasus and Ukraine. This is a critical platform for political debates among the future members of the region’s political elite. In 2016, the Forum held a special importance within the context of conflict in Ukraine and the expansion of NIMD’s mission there.

The Forum of Young Politicians of the South Caucasus and Ukraine is supported by UK and Dutch Embassies in Georgia.



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE FORUM OF YOUNG POLITICIANS OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS AND UKRAINE

June 29-30 2013

Excerpt

We, representatives of various political parties from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, jointly decided to make the following statement:

- We welcome the creation of a platform for interaction and debates among the representatives of various political parties from the region;
- We welcome the participation of both ruling and (non-parliamentary) opposition parties in this Forum as a significant step forward in terms of deepening the democratization process in our region;
- We express full readiness to continue joint work within this Forum in order to discuss the important aspects concerning our countries and the region as a whole. At the same time, we welcome the opportunity of conducting frank debates and discussions in the atmosphere of mutual respect and goodwill;
- We congratulate each other on discussing foreign affairs, policy and security issues in a positive and prudent manner based on mutual respect;
- We complete this Forum with the belief that a democratic foundation is the only viable and long-term basis for conducting political activities in our countries and the region and we also express our readiness to introduce more stable and comprehensive democratic processes in our countries and political organizations.



"THIS IS A PLACE WHERE TOLERANT PEOPLE START TO COOPERATE AND MAKE FRIENDS TOO. AFTER GRADUATING FROM THIS SCHOOL I, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITY, I HAVE A MORE HOPEFUL OUTLOOK ON THE INTEGRATION OF MINORITIES. AND, I BELIEVE INTEGRATION STARTS AT NIMD."

Ali Badirov

Head of Azerbaijani
Lawyers' Association,
Gori Democracy School

DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA

80 individuals enrolled at the NIMD Democracy Schools in 2016 in four cities of Georgia: Batumi, Kutaisi, Gori and Telavi.

The NIMD Democracy School is an intensive, non-formal educational program for representatives of self-government bodies, civil society organizations, the media, political parties and academia, as well as students and active citizens interested in contemporary issues of democratic politics.

NIMD capitalizes on its extensive experience in Democracy Education worldwide, along with local expertise, to provide a sound education platform for active citizens.

The mission of the Democracy Schools is to support the emergence of growing pool of active, informed, professionally well-connected and adequately resourced citizens who will be able to make a meaningful impact towards consolidating democracy in their respective region.

The participants in the program deepen their understanding of the key concepts of democracy, expand their analytical capacity and gain relevant skills for putting their own ideas into practice.

The Democracy School curricula include four main modules:

- 1. Professional skills:** The main principles of democracy, professional communication, professional writing, public speaking, debate, internet skills;
- 2. Democratic society:** citizenship, civil society, nation, nationalism and minorities, rule of law, political and social rights, religion and democracy, media, gender democracy;
- 3. Democratic governance:** constitutionalism, political ideologies, political parties, electoral systems, local self-governance, development, the international context of democratization;
- 4. Participation and leadership:** mechanisms of democratic participation, leadership, voters' rights and responsibilities, advocacy, civil engagement, budgeting, management of project circles, monitoring, political change.

New subjects were added to the Democracy Schools' five-month program in 2016:

- National minorities and challenges to their integration in Georgia;
- Social rights and vulnerable groups of society in Georgia;
- Introduction to Development - case studies;
- Georgia's policy on territorial integrity.

Correspondingly, new lecturers were invited to teach at the Democracy Schools.

I GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY A LONG TIME AGO. AFTER THAT, I RARELY HAD A CHANCE TO HEAR DIVERSE AND CONTEMPORARY VIEWPOINTS. I FOUND EXACTLY THAT AT DEMOCRACY SCHOOL. I ALSO REVISED MY VALUES AND OPINIONS WHILE STUDYING HERE. KNOWLEDGE I GAINED AT THE SCHOOL HELPED ME MANY TIMES IN MY PROFESSION - WHILE DELIVERING LESSONS AND INTERACTING WITH MY PUPILS.

Sopo Khvadagiani

Teacher,
Kutaisi Democracy School

THE DEMOCRACY SCHOOL IS AN AREA WHICH HELPED ME TO GIVE DIRECTION TO KNOWLEDGE I HAD ACCUMULATED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. IT IS WHERE I LEARNT HOW I SHOULD MOVE TOWARD MY GOALS.

Elene Makhatelashvili

Journalist, Telavi Democracy
School



AS A RESULT OF STUDYING AT AN NIMD DEMOCRACY SCHOOL, I NOW HAVE THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES TO CHECK INFORMATION ON VARIOUS TOPICS. ALSO, I PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN MY CITY: DECREASING GREEN SPACES, MISMANAGED CONSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER ISSUES, THAT DID NOT ATTRACT MUCH OF MY ATTENTION BEFORE. AFTER EACH LECTURE I FELT THAT I KNEW MUCH MORE THAN BEFORE AND EVERY TIME I HAD THE DESIRE TO USE THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN CIVIL ACTIVISM.

Beka Esadze
Tour operator,
Batumi Democracy School

In addition to being training centers the Democracy Schools serve as unique hubs for discussion and engagement of their respective regions, where schools' graduates can take part in competitions for small grants, joint conferences and other important events organized by NIMD.

NIMD further invests in building a vibrant network of Democracy Schools alumni, an emerging NIMD-supported grassroots organization in which School's graduates implement raise awareness and implement advocacy campaigns to promote democratic ideas, contribute to democratic activism and positively shape the public agenda in their cities and regions.

By 2016, the NIMD Democracy Schools program had been in existence for five years. Its pilot project was implemented in Telavi back in 2011. Soon after, Democracy Schools were launched in Kutaisi, Gori and Batumi. Democracy Schools, as one of the most successful NIMD programs, are being introduced to Ukraine.

NIMD Democracy Schools will announce a new call for participants in July 2017. Interested individuals can find more information and news on the Democracy School Facebook page – NIMD Democracy School.

POLITICAL INNOVATION AND NIMD'S DEMOCRACY HACKATHON

In 2016, NIMD organized a training on coding and a subsequent Democracy Hackathon for the alumni of Democracy Schools in Kutaisi. Over the course of one week, 20 participants (journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, political parties and self-government bodies) acquired basic coding skills and learned how to use different new technologies in their work.

An intensive week-long training dedicated to teaching the ABCs of programming and coding for Android, and promoting logical and innovative thinking, culminated in 48 hour long Democracy Hackathon. The participants split into groups and found a technological solution to the problem of their choice, creating prototype versions of mobile apps that could be used in addressing these problems.

The Democracy Hackathon, connects with NIMD's aims of:



In 2016, NIMD started to invest in this area, which is the very important for political innovation and therefore the strengthening of democratic processes.

WE BELIEVED THAT NIMD GRADUATES COULD THEMSELVES CREATE A MOBILE APP THAT THEY WOULD NEED IN THEIR EVERYDAY WORK.

Mariam Chikhladze
Democracy Education
Program Officer

LEARNING OUTCOMES EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS. WE'RE DEALING WITH LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES. IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT WE CAN REALIZE A LOT OF THINGS THAT EARLIER WE WOULD CONSIDER AS AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

Dato Ghonghadze
Telavi Democracy School



POLITICAL PARTIES' VISITS TO DEMOCRACY SCHOOLS

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF LISTENING TO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS AND IDEOLOGIES. WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A BETTER CHOICE THAT WAY.

Maia Purtskhvanidze
Telavi

In the run up to the parliamentary elections, NIMD invited the leaders of all political parties to meetings with Democracy School alumni. The goal was to facilitate issue-based, thematic discussions between the active representatives of civil society from Telavi, Gori, Kutaisi and Batumi and the main political actors standing for election.

The political party leaders informed the audience about their parties' visions and electoral programs on issues related to economic growth, unemployment/poverty, the depreciation of the national currency, foreign policy, minority rights, education and gender equality. Discussions also touched upon the challenges that political organizations face when formulating their policies or developing party organizations.

Four political parties took part in the series of meetings: the United National Movement, the Free Democrats Party of Georgia, the Republican Party of Georgia and the New Political Center - Girchi. Their audiences in all four



cities included representatives of local authorities, the non-governmental sector, academic circles, media and business.

According to the Democracy School alumni, the main advantage of the meetings was the chance to have a conversation with party leaders and the interactive format of communication which encouraged frank and open conversations.

It was also interesting for the alumni involved in the discussions to see the role of political parties in the general political context, where a decline in trust toward political parties and disillusionment with politicians are increasing.

The opportunity of seeing public problems from various perspectives was interesting for the political parties as well.

NIMD organized these meetings prior to the parliamentary elections with a view to supporting cooperation and dialogue between politicians and politically active citizens. Dialogue between political parties and civil society is important for strengthening the democratic political culture.

THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES AND SUPPORTERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES, THEREFORE, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF HEARING THE QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR PROGRAM AND ALSO CRITICISM FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS, WHICH IS ALWAYS BENEFICIAL.

Zurab Japaridze

Leader of New Political Center - Girchi



IDENTITY

DEMOCRACY BOOT CAMP 2016

WHO ARE WE? WHY ARE WE HERE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

**YOU MAY HAVE
BEEN STUDYING
YOUR WHOLE LIFE,
BUT HERE YOU
REALIZE THAT
YOU CAN HEAR
SOMETHING THAT
WILL COMPLETELY
CHANGE YOUR EN-
TIRE OUTLOOK.**

Nino Berianidze
Camp participant

NIMD's fourth Democracy Boot Camp took place in the Kakheti region in 2016 and brought together 50 activists from Democracy Schools to discuss the broad topic of "identity".

Since the restoration of Georgia's independence, people in the country have been debating what Georgia is in terms of its political and cultural identity. Debates on modern identity are taking place at multiple levels and they touch upon numerous different issues. These issues are reflected in discussions on the country's foreign-political tasks, the rights and roles of minorities, equality and freedom, and the interrelation between globalization and cultural identity.



This is an important debate and to NIMD it is important that the discussions amongst the alumni of Democracy Schools are based on knowledge and rational understanding of history, politics, cultural heritage and international situation. In addition, it is important that the alumni understand the country's historic and cultural evolution and its position in light of new political and international realities, i.e. they should see Georgia in a modern and global context. Understanding what contemporary Georgia represents and the ethnic, political and cultural underpinnings of its identity is important not only for steering the country's general political direction, but also in order to better realize our (Georgian citizens') political and cultural identity.

Whether ultimately the Georgian public will self-identify with its democratic traditions or risk its democratic achievements being undermined by its not so distant totalitarian and authoritarian experience (also representing an important, if unfortunate and tragic, part of the country's history) will have a major impact on the future trajectory of the state.

A deep understanding of the essence of the social, cultural and political changes, which we are encountering on the

THE LECTURE ON THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE AS PART OF IDENTITY WAS IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING. I SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND BELONG TO A DIFFERENT CULTURE AND I MANAGED TO DRAW PARALLELS WITH MY VAINAKHISH LANGUAGE. I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE IS A TREASURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

Shengeli Tokhosashvili
Camp participant

AKA MORCHI-LADZE LET US TAKE A PEEK AT A 19TH CENTURY TOWN AND THERE WE SAW THAT TOWNS ARE ABOUT MOVEMENT, EXCHANGE, RELATIONS. A SPACE IS NOT STATIC, IT'S IN A CONSTANT PROCESS OF FORMATION, AND THE FORMATION OF THE MODERN TOWN IS UP TO US.

Kristine Maghlakelidze
Camp participant

way to building a modern democratic state, is only possible through rational and in-depth reflection. This can be achieved through the deconstruction and realization of perceptions, associations and archetypes that are connected with individual and collective identities. Most importantly, these changes should be analyzed from the perspective of both the public's dominant groups and minorities or marginalized groups.

During the five-day Boot Camp, NIMD Democracy School graduates and invited lecturers focused on the following fundamental issues:

- What represents modern Georgian identity?
- Who is a modern Georgian and what drives him/her?
- What is modern Georgian identity like?
- Is it possible to create a "new" identity?
- Is a new national narrative being formed (or is it possible to form it) and, if so, what should it be like?
- What role should the Democracy School graduates play in this important process and how can they best go about this?





Work sessions, debates, lectures, policy simulation, literary marathon and other diverse, interactive components enabled the participants to reflect on these important issues, acquire new knowledge, and enhance and broaden their networks.

For information on NIMD's Democracy Boot Camp lecturers and the topics discussed, as well as video clips, addresses and inspirational discussions, see:

Democracybootcamp.ge – "Identity" – Democracy Winter Camp 2016

2015.democracybootcamp.ge – "Cities" – Democracy Summer Camp 2015

Nimd.ge

IT WAS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY IN MY LIFE; I FOUND WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL MY LIFE IN THIS CAMP. I SAW WHO I AM, WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE'RE GOING AND WHAT WE WANT.

Liza Kazishvili
Camp participant

WINNER OF THE DEMOCRACY LEADER AWARD FOR 2016



24 year old journalist and civil activist Gvantsa Doluashvili was the winner of Democracy Leader award in 2016. The award, initiated by NIMD 3 years ago, is given to those Democracy School alumni who show courage, fortitude and leadership in strengthening and popularizing democratic values, human rights and equality. The 2016 award winner is a blogger, NIMD Democracy School graduate and the Director of Gori-based community radio station "Mosaic".

Gvantsa Doluashvili actively works in various media outlets. For two years now, she has been a director of Gori-based community radio. Radio station Mosaic was founded in 2015 and employs mainly NIMD Gori Democracy School graduates. Initially, Gvantsa joined the radio station as a reporter, but later she demonstrated leadership skills, and high levels of motivation and responsibility. So she became the station's first director. The radio station plans to expand its FM broadcasting in the region in 2017.



Gvantsa is a vocal advocate of liberal values, equal opportunities, women empowerment and minority rights in her town and region. The public in Gori remember very well her critical public addresses, in front of both the town's self-government officials and the public at large. She also delivered memorable speeches during the Europe Day event. She regularly takes part in TV talk shows and uses such opportunities to further spread her message in support of human rights, equal opportunities and democracy.

On October 2 2015, the Gori Municipality's Elected Council (Sakrebulo) was examining the issue of reinstating the statue of Stalin on the main square of the city. Gvantsa, together with her friends, was present at the meeting. The individuals lobbying for the re-installment of the statue even became aggressive towards her because they were annoyed by how firmly, boldly and courageously she defended her position by saying: "Yes, this town used to be a symbol of Stalin, but we haven't stopped development, we're moving forward and we have turned Gori into a town of people with democratic values, where dictators are no longer honored with statues."

Each bold democratic voice and example of activism that opposes anti-democratic forces is especially important at this decisive juncture of Georgia's development when the public must choose the vector for its future.

The Democracy Leader Award represents NIMD's support and recognition of local democracy activists whose work in their communities, cities or at a national level is consequential, though it may go unnoticed. By nominating each year's Democracy Leader from among Democracy School graduates, NIMD encourages them to be more active, use the knowledge and skills they gain through the Democracy School educational program and, therefore, contribute to strengthening principles of democracy in Georgia.

By awarding the Democracy Leader prize each year, NIMD will continue to encourage Georgia's men and women to do more to protect their rights and freedoms, and those of others.

THE ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT THE ONLY THING I AM SURE OF IS THAT ALL MY ACTIVITIES, WHICH MAY TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS AT DIFFERENT TIMES, ARE BUILT ON LOVING PEOPLE... TO BE AWARDED THE STATUS OF DEMOCRACY LEADER MEANS TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND TO BE ASHAMED OF THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE NOT ACCOMPLISHED YET. THOSE WHO KNOW ME WILL AGREE THAT THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT MATTER TO ME, THAT TROUBLE ME AND THAT I AM WORRIED ABOUT. HOWEVER, I HAVE AN UNUSUAL FEELING NOW – I AM THINKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WERE IN NEED AND I DID NOT STAND UP FOR THEM, PEOPLE WHO WERE OPPRESSED AND MY VOICE FOR THEIR SUPPORT WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY LOUD AND STRONG. NOT MENTIONING OTHER THINGS I AM GRATEFUL FOR, I EXPRESS MY UTMOST GRATITUDE TO NIMD JUST FOR HELPING ME TO EXPERIENCE THIS FEELING SO SUBSTANTIALLY.

Gvantsa Doluashvili

Winner of the Democracy Leader award, journalist and civil activist



NIMD ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

“I’LL FIGHT FOR MORE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES, AND FOR FILLING THE GAPS THAT WE HAVE IN STATE INSTITUTIONS AND AT LEGISLATIVE LEVEL. OTHERWISE, WE’LL NEVER HAVE A GENUINE DEMOCRATIC STATE.

Otar Kvirikashvili
Telavi Majoritarian
Candidate

Nine NIMD alumni participated in 2016 parliamentary elections as majoritarian candidates nominated by various political parties. These were the fourth elections held in Georgia since 2011, when the first Democracy School was launched in Telavi. For some NIMD alumni, this was the first time they participated in elections, while others had stood in the past.

Meet the Democracy School alumni majoritarian candidates in 2016 parliamentary elections:

- **Vano Galakhvaridze, Otar Kvirikashvili, Shakro Terterashvili** and **Levan Kinkladze** from Telavi Democracy School;
- **Ana Baliashvili** – from Gori;
- **Lela Sebua** – from Kutaisi Democracy School;
- **Armaz Bakhtadze, Malkhaz Nakashidze** and **Nino Tavlalashvili** – from Batumi.

NIMD Democracy Schools bring together citizens who are involved or interested in politics in four Georgian towns: Telavi, Gori, Kutaisi and Batumi.

The Democracy Schools curriculum aims to help participants develop the necessary skills to exert a positive political influence on the democracy agenda and exercise positive leadership in their communities.

During the Democracy School alumni meeting, the candidates shared some their motives for entering politics and their future plans to involve minorities in public life, increase women’s participation in politics, ensure citizens’ participation in the decision-making process and implement real self-governance by establishing the practice of resolving local issues locally.

Regardless of their party affiliations, NIMD alumni note that their decision to get involved in party politics, assume new responsibilities and come up with new initiatives was mainly associated with the period they spent in the Democracy Schools and the skills, experience and contacts they acquired there.

NIMD, in its work to strengthen multiparty democracy and democratic political culture, believes that the decision made by the alumni to enter politics was an important one.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE MEMBERS OF NIMD ALUMNI NETWORK ARE THE FORCE WITHOUT WHICH POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEREFORE, THE WHOLE POLITICAL SYSTEM CANNOT BECOME MORE DEMOCRATIC.

Mariam Chikhladze

Head of NIMD’s
Democracy Education
Program Officer

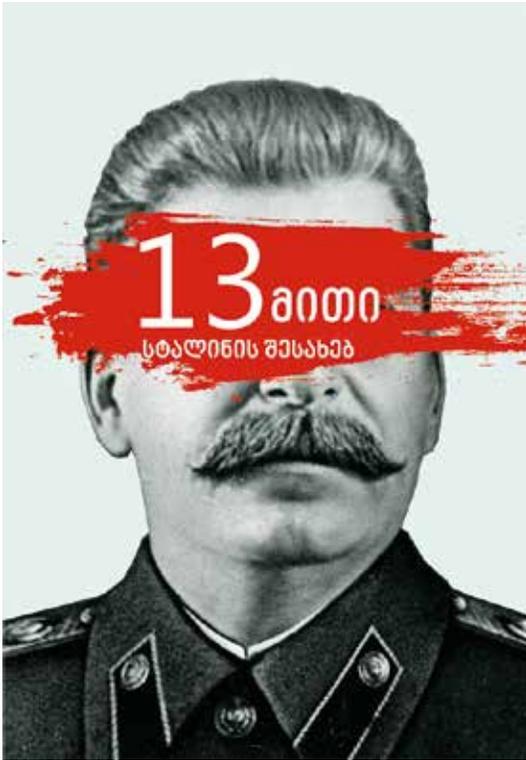
I HAD TWO MAIN REASONS FOR MOVING TO POLITICS FROM THE NGO SECTOR – THE EXPERIENCE WHICH I HAVE ACCUMULATED AND THE QUESTION OF WHY I WASN’T TRYING TO COME INTO POWER MYSELF. IT’S PROBABLY TIME FOR ME TO TAKE PART IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE, TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE MYSELF.

Nino Tavlashvili

Batumi majoritarian candidate, former member of Georgian Young Lawyer’s Association



NIMD'S SELECT LIBRARY



13 MYTHS ABOUT STALIN, 2016

2016 Edition

Authors:

Bondo Kapatadze, Levan Tsutskiridze

Two traditions still coexist in modern Georgia: on the one hand, there's a democratic, European political tradition and on the other hand, there's a totalitarian, post-communist tradition. The scale has not been fully tipped in favor of liberty and democratic culture. The history of fighting for democra-

cy and freedom in Georgia has not come to an end yet.

Totalitarian regimes and persons are constantly encased in myths and legends, some of which are formed during the existence of the regimes and serve to strengthen the system, while others are formed later, in a different social environment, as a result of public attitude or deliberately by the state or social institutions or at their commission.

This publication is being made available while the battle between Georgia's two traditions is still raging. "13 Myths about Stalin" is based on archives and objective historical data. The goal is to refute the myths about Stalin, which were created by the totalitarian state and which are still widespread in Georgia. Stalinist propaganda, the glorification of his ideas and deeds, hinders the democratic consolidation of Georgia, strengthens anti-democratic political movements and offends the memory of hundreds of thousands of Georgians who were victims of Stalin's dictatorship.

With this publication, NIMD supports civil activists and Democracy School alumni in their efforts to counter totalitarian traditions and anti-democratic propaganda in Georgia.

View 13 Myths about Stalin at: 13mythsaboutstalin.ge

“POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY – ESSENTIAL READINGS” BOOK 1, 2015

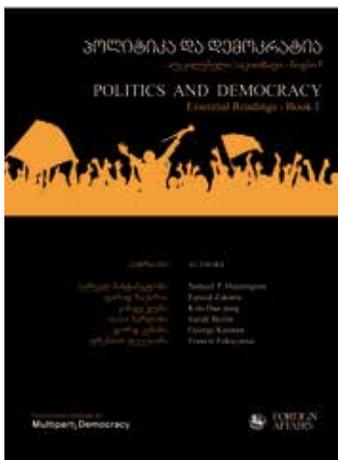
A collection of essays by Samuel Huntington, Fareed Zakaria, Kim Dae-Jung, Isaiah Berlin, George Kennan and Francis Fukuyama.

Translated by:

Levan Tsutskiridze, Irakli Kobalia, Ketevan Kiknavelidze.

“The Essential Readings” is a series of translations into Georgian of influential political articles. The majority of essays collected in the first book were published in an authoritative Foreign Affairs magazine over a period of time and they still define debates on international politics, development and democratization.

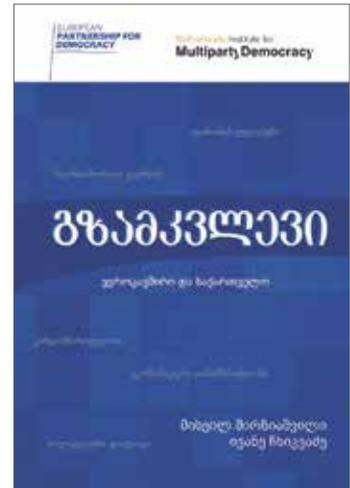
The majority of the articles featured in the publication have not been previously translated into Georgian. Initially, the book was conceived as a voluntary



initiative to translate several interesting articles for NIMD Democracy School participants. Later, it grew into a more ambitious project to publish the books annually.

NIMD’s objective while working on the first edition of “Essential Readings” was to select the material that would be relevant for deepening understanding of the processes taking place on the continent and the region, better explaining the current crisis in Europe and finding new directions and ways forward. The ideas and opinions expressed in these essays are valuable and relevant today, and will help the reader understand ongoing events in our neighborhood, the European continent and democracies around the world.

NIMD is currently preparing the second book in this series, which will be presented to the public in the summer of 2017.



EUROPEAN UNION AND GEORGIA - THE ROADMAP. 2014

Authors:

Mikheil Mirziashvili,
Ivane Chkhikvadze

This is a short, concise publication. The Roadmap features the history of EU-Georgia relations and descriptions of the functions of the main institutions of the EU, and guides the reader in understanding different aspects of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Georgia. In addition, the book provides fact-based responses to some of the myths and false narratives on the EU and democracy that are widespread in Georgia.

Electronic versions of a number of NIMD publications can be accessed at www.nimd.ge

NIMD'S PARTNERS IN DEMOCRACY

NIMD's Eastern European Neighborhood Office actively cooperates with various organizations that act as NIMD's partners and sponsors in implementing its programs. NIMD's main donor is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Partners in building democracy:

- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia and Armenia;
- Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Georgia;
- OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- European Partnership for Democracy;
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives;
- OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
- Parliament of Georgia;
- The Laboratory of Legislative Initiatives (Ukraine);
- Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation (Ukraine).



Kingdom of the Netherlands



British Embassy



Activity supported by the
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Activités réalisées avec l'appui du
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NIMD ONLINE

Voter information websites:

Partiebi.ge
Presidenti.ge

Information on NIMD Democracy Schools:

Facebook page: NIMD Democracy School
Online submissions: school.nimd.ge

Electronic library of publications:

www.nimd.ge
13mythsaboutstalin.ge

NIMD Democracy Camp video lectures, discussions and addresses:

democracybootcamp.ge – "Identity" – Democracy Winter Camp 2016
2015.democracybootcamp.ge – "Cities" – Democracy Summer Camp 2015

NIMD on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1G8zVQ1JefUVhvb2L1xDw>

NIMD on Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/nimd_sc/

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