

New Jean Monnet Chair at Ilia State University

(combined, extended version)

At Ilia State University European Union Studies there will be a new Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies from the Fall Semester 2016 to support the BA and MA level courses taught in Georgian and English. Upon the signature of the Association Agreement it is of utmost importance to increase the overall knowledge and capacities concerning the EU approximation process in Georgia among students and within the broader society.

The newly selected Jean Monnet Chair, Prof. Oliver Reisner, combines in-depth EU-Georgia experience of cooperation with academic studies of East European History and a PhD in nation-building of Georgia. Implementing a project for civic integration under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in Georgia's minority regions (2003-2005) he was working at the EU Delegation to Georgia for ten years (2005-2015). Build around the academic concept of "Europeanisation" he sets out to assess the impact of EU-Georgia cooperation in institutional, societal as well as discourse terms. Ideally, together with students and international colleagues he intends to elaborate criteria and indicators for an in-depth measurement of changes in society and the role the EU played here directly or indirectly. Besides reviewing and updating the existing curriculum in EU Studies at Ilia University he is planning to add courses on

1) **EU development cooperation within the Eastern Partnership** and establishing a comparative political assessment tool combining the existing diverse reporting schemes under the perspective of Georgia's Europeanisation; this course will introduce the logic of EU-partner country cooperation instruments and financing mechanisms and analyse examples from Georgia or the Eastern Neighbourhood countries; we will discuss issues of impact, sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency according to different criteria (e.g. OECD DAC, Paris Declaration, Global Initiative for Development Effectiveness, etc.)

2) **Understanding the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA)** as an entry point for the future of EU-Georgia relations; through an in-depth seminar reading and discussion of the structure and content of the AA we will analyse how EU *acquis communautaire* is included in the development outlook of Georgia for the coming years and what it will mean in terms of "Europeanisation";

3) **Past and Present European values in the EU and South Caucasus** and their interrelatedness will be a lecture providing for the discussion on how far those values can be adapted to local or national values and how this should be done, this cycle can be easily offered for public debates at Europe House with diverse guests;

4) **Transnational policies of cultural diversity in the EU and in Georgia** (combining identity of place, cultural heritage, tourism and economic development), this course will try to explain the intrinsic approaches of EU cultural policy for the ENP countries and builds on previous support to the region as well as current programmes in the field of culture and creative industries, we hope to interest especially students of business and tourism for this topic;

5) **Managing diversity and securing minority rights in the EU and the South Caucasus** as part of a sociology of inter-ethnic relations is foreseen as a practical seminar for MA students of social, cultural and political sciences to look into the lessons learned in the EU member states, but also through EU projects and assistance in the field inside Georgia;

6) **History of European integration** introducing into the concrete origins of the process and the motivations of its founding members as well as the issue of a "European" identity or memory. This will be a lecture cycle introducing the concrete environment of the formative years of the European integration process and its future institutional as well as policy development.

Thus these new courses will intentionally introduce new aspects of EU integration studies complementing the existing courses and research on EU in international relations and political sciences at Ilia University by an explicit transnational and interdisciplinary offer. The elaboration of a Georgian language study reader in European Union Studies as another objective will provide for greater internal consistency of the courses offered into a more coherent programme.

European Studies so far were mainly taught in the field of international relations in political sciences with little interaction into fields of application of EU rules and regulations that are becoming more and

more important after the adoption of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. Therefore, new courses applying the rules and procedures, management principles to Georgia are very important. The applicability of European Studies to the national level has not yet been convincingly demonstrated. European Studies as an interdisciplinary field will also help to address problem-based learning and discuss matters of adaptation capacities in Georgia. All issues that are currently discussed in the European Studies community are looking now beyond the Eastern Enlargement into the European Neighbourhood. Here the proposed courses can be linked to the latest research in the field with the JM Chair functioning as an interface introducing a new research and teaching agenda in Georgia highlighting the political and social relevance of topics like minority rights, labour relations, cultural heritage protection etc. for the further democratic and socio-economic development of a post-Soviet society like the Georgian one.

Thus these new courses will intentionally introduce new aspects of EU integration studies complementing the existing courses and research on EU in international relations and political sciences at Ilia University by an explicit transnational and interdisciplinary offer. The elaboration of a Georgian language study reader in European Union Studies as another objective will make the courses offered into a consistent programme.

In addition it is planned to collaborate with teacher associations on history and civic education teaching materials on EU affairs and European values, relating EU also to the national culture. Finally, it is important for the Jean Monnet Chair to support ongoing and planned activities in the framework of the JM DESCnet project for strengthening the EU Studies Association in the Caucasus. The JM Chair at Ilia State University will become the most prominent place to publicly present the increased importance of the subject to students and the broader society in Georgia and share the latest research in the field by conducting an annual conference on EU Studies, if possible with international participation.

(short version, JM project abstract)

At Ilia State University European Union Studies are offered at BA and MA level, in Georgian and in English. Upon the signature of the Association Agreement it is of utmost importance to increase the overall knowledge and capacities concerning the EU approximation process in Georgia among students and within the broader society. The applicant for the Jean Monnet Chair has an in-depth EU-Georgia experience of cooperation combined with academic studies of East European History and a PhD in nation-building of Georgia. Implementing a project for civic integration under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in Georgia's minority regions (2003-2005) he was working at the EU Delegation to Georgia for ten years (2005-2015). Build around the academic concept of "Europeanisation" he sets out to assess the impact of EU-Georgia cooperation in institutional, societal as well as discourse terms. Ideally, together with students and international colleagues he intends to elaborate criteria and indicator for an in-depth measurement of changes in society and the role the EU played directly or indirectly. Besides reviewing and updating the existing curriculum in EU Studies at Ilia University he is planning to add courses on

- 1) EU development cooperation in the Eastern Partnership for establishing a comparative political assessment tool combining the existing diverse reporting schemes under the perspective of Georgia's Europeanisation;
- 2) Understanding the EU-Georgia Association Agreement as an entry point for the future of EU-Georgia relations;
- 3) European values in past and present in the EU and the Caucasus and their interrelatedness;
- 4) Transnational policies of cultural diversity inside the EU and in development cooperation in Georgia (combining identity of place, cultural heritage, tourism and economic development);
- 5) Managing diversity and securing minority rights in a multi-level EU as part of a sociology of inter-ethnic relations;
- 6) History of European integration introducing into the concrete origins of the process and the motivations of its founding members as well as the issue of a "European" identity or memory.

Thus these new courses will intentionally introduce new aspects of EU integration studies complementing the existing courses and research on EU in international relations and political sciences at Ilia University by an explicit transnational and interdisciplinary offer. The elaboration of a Georgian

language study reader in European Union Studies as another objective will make the courses offered into a consistent programme.

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the contractor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

ეს პუბლიკაცია შექმნილია ევროკავშირის მხარდაჭერით. მის შინაარსზე სრულად პასუხისმგებელია კონტრაქტორი და შესაძლოა, რომ იგი არ გამოხატავდეს ევროკავშირის შეხედულებებს.

