





## ABOUT

The Georgian Center for Security and Development (GCSD) is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established by Levan Dolidze, former Georgian Ambassador to NATO.

GCSD aims to support Georgia's national security, to strengthen principles of effective and democratic governance within the country and to create conditions for Georgia's sustainable development.

Based on the goals of the center, its work involves: research, monitoring, advocacy, and implementation of educational projects.

## BRIEF OVERVIEW

In 2016 GCSD actively focused on addressing Georgia's national security and foreign policy challenges, as well as on reinforcing democratic institutions in the country.

The center conducted research on democratic oversight of the security sector in Georgia and provided relevant recommendations for the parliament.

GCSD reviewed the declaration of the Warsaw Summit held in July 2016 and published an analysis of the possible implications of the Summit's decisions on the security of Georgia and of the wider the region. The Center also facilitated dialogue between government and civil society on Georgia's EU integration process.

The Center has been active in raising awareness on Georgia's foreign policy priorities and held regular meetings with students, media, NGO representatives and local residents across different regions of the country. GCSD also provided grants to youth groups with innovative ideas to improve the development of their communities.

In a series of study visits, active students were given the opportunity to meet leading government officials, including ministers, to discuss Georgia's foreign and security policy agenda, relevant perspectives and challenges.

The organization periodically provided open statements on topics, such as media pluralism and energy security.



GCSD held a presentation to introduce the organization to public and outline its objectives and activities



### Conference on Democratic Control of the Security Sector in Georgia

GCSD held a conference on Democratic Control of the Security Sector in Georgia attended by the President of Georgia, leaders of political parties and distinguished experts.

Speakers and guests analyzed the challenges related to the democratic oversight of defense and security institutions in Georgia and underlined the importance of enacting effective mechanisms for accountability.



### Secretary General's meeting with Georgian students

In the framework of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) visit to Georgia, NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg held a meeting with Georgian students at the National Library of Georgia.

The director of GCSD, Levan Dolidze opened the session and moderated discussion where students had the opportunity to ask questions and express thoughts on Georgia – NATO relations, regional and international security environment.

### Flashmob: Georgia is Europe

To underline Georgia's European identity, GCSD organized a flash mob titled, "Share the Vibe – Georgia is Europe."

Tbilisi State Chamber Orchestra, directed by Levan Tskhadadze, performed the pieces by W.A. Mozart and Revaz Lagidze in the downtown of Tbilisi, Meydan Square





## RESEARCH ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT



GCSD conducted research on parliamentary oversight of defense and security institutions in Georgia.

Analysis of best practice of parliamentary oversight, detailed review of Georgian legislation, interviews with members of the Defense and Security Committee of the parliament and discussions held with active engagement of international experts allowed GCSD to successfully conduct research and develop recommendations for the parliament of Georgia.

The recommendations covered a set of specific mechanisms, such as ensuring parliamentary committees' effective engagement in budget planning process and enforcing relevant tools for efficient accountability.

## Discussion on the Eastern Partnership Perspectives

GCSD held a roundtable discussion on the topic: Perspectives of the Eastern Partnership - Expectations from Next Summit. At the meeting representatives of governmental institutions and civil society assessed efficiency of the program and analyzed possible ways of strengthening Georgia's ties with the European Union.



## Public Discussion on the Crisis in the Middle East

GCSD organized a public discussion on the topic: ISIS Evolution, Ideology and Strategy (December 5th, 2015). The discussion was conducted with participation of David Chochua, director of the Department of the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and Giorgi Sanikidze, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies.



## RAISING AWARENESS ON GEORGIA'S FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY PRIORITIES

GCSD held numerous meetings with local populations, representatives of regional NGOs, media, civil society and municipalities across the country to discuss Georgia's foreign and national security policy priorities.

Representatives of GCSD participated in Talk-Shows of regional TV channels and actively supported the prioritization of foreign policy and national security issues in the process of voting among the regional population of Georgia.



In order to counter anti-Western propaganda and dispel irrelevant myths, GCSD addressed lack of correct information on NATO across Georgia. In cooperation with the Information Centre on NATO and the EU, GCSD launched comprehensive informative discussions about NATO and its benefits as a security provider. Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration process, its challenges and perspectives were also discussed.

Meetings were held in the following 5 regions of Georgia: KvemoKartli, ShidaKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions.





## GRANT AWARDS

GCSD has provided small grants for student initiatives, encouraging the realization of projects that contribute towards the development of their communities.



The aim of the awards is to increase the sense of ownership among project beneficiaries to remain active.

GCSD contributed to the creation of the EU corner in the Kakheti Regional Development Foundation's library.

## EMPOWERING YOUTH

GCSD has been working towards empowering the youth in Pankisi in order to create a favorable environment for the Kists, Chechens and Georgians living in the region.

The project facilitated increased interaction among youth of very diverse backgrounds in the framework of various activities. These efforts contributed towards establishing strong, value-based ties.

GCSD provided a cycle of educational movie screenings on topics such as Freedom of Expression, Distribution of Power, Youth Participation, Judicial Independence, Freedom of Media, Minority Rights, and Freedom of Religion.

The speakers also briefed students about challenges facing the country, recent history of Georgia and the importance of youth capacity building.

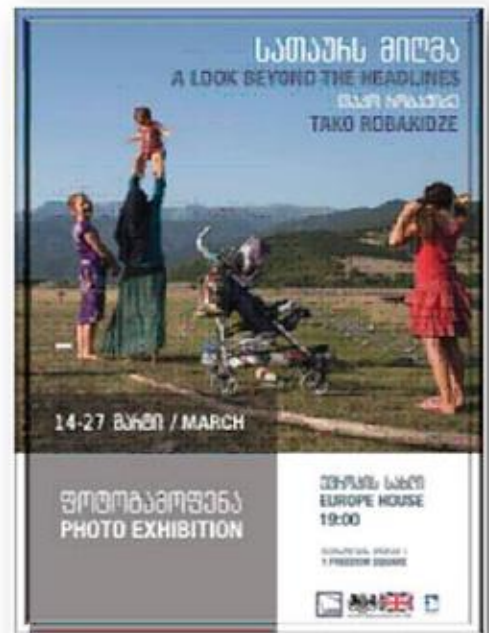




## PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE PANKISI GORGE

GCSD conducted a documentary photo project, illustrating the lives and traditions of people living in Pankisi Gorge. Tako Robakidze's photos challenged misconceptions about the Gorge, as a dangerous place inhabited by extremists. Unfortunately, the perceptions about this fascinating place, populated by one of the most beautiful, freedom-loving and hospitable people are often misleading. Therefore, the aim of this exhibition was to show the wider public that it is worth looking beyond the headlines and observing this particular place from a different perspective.

The exhibition was held in Tbilisi and attended by media, representatives of local and central governments, NGOs, international organizations and embassies.





## STUDY VISITS

GCSD organized study tours for Georgian students living in different regions of the country to improve their knowledge on policy making processes in foreign policy and national security.

Students were joined by the Minister of Defense of Georgia (Tinatin Khidasheli), State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration (David Bakradze), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (Khatuna Totladze), Advisor of the President of Georgia on Foreign Policy (Tengiz Pkhaladze) and Davit Zalkaliani- then Director of the Levan Mikeladze Foundation.

The participants visited the Presidential Palace, and learned about the principles and responsibilities of the relevant state agencies.



GCSD organized study visits for regional media and NGO representatives to improve their knowledge on Georgia's national security and foreign policy priorities.

Ana Dolidze, then Deputy Defence Minister of Georgia briefed attendees on the main aspects of defense policy and Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration process.





## GCSD TEAM

LEVAN DOLIDZE – *Founder and Director*  
TINATIN BREGVADZE – *Program Director*  
MAIA JAPARIDZE – *Project Coordinator*  
MARIAM TOKHADZE – *Research Fellow*  
ELENE TSKHADADZE – *Research Fellow*

### *Regional Coordinators:*

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East -West Management Institute



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



British Embassy Tbilisi



NATO Liaison Office in Georgia