

Georgia-Russia-West Triangle – Shared and Conflicting Interests

Expert workshop organized by Partnership for Social Initiatives, Institute for Security Policy (ISP), Research Cluster for Polemology and Legal Ethics (University of Vienna) and Austrian National Defense Academy

May 13th – 14th, 2019
Austrian National Defense Academy
Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna

Georgia-Russia-West Triangle – Shared and Conflicting Interests is a format of regular expert workshop that brings together leading analysts and opinion makers from Georgia and Russia, as well as the US and European countries. The workshop deals with security issues in the former Soviet Union (with special focus on the Black Sea security and Georgian-Russian relations) and the Russian-Western relations in the light of the conflict in the Ukraine and the Western sanctions against Russia. How far can the Russian-Western confrontation go and what are the implications of this confrontation for the former Soviet states, in particular for Georgia that aspires to integrate with the EU and NATO? Why does it happen that Russia and the West struggle to find modus vivendi? Do Russia and Georgia have common interests that may help them overcome differences and move ahead? Can the West contribute to normalization of Georgian-Russian relations and thus contribute to security in wider EU area as well? These are a few of questions that the workshop tries to deal with.

May 13th

15:00 Opening

Erich Csitkovits, Lieutenant General, Commandant of the National Defence Academy

Introductory remarks

Markus Tschank, President of the Institute for Security Policy (ISP)

Nick Ramishvili, Chairman of board for Partnership for Social Initiatives (PSI)

15:15 Session 1: NATO enlargement in the crumbling world order - challenges, lessons learned

Speakers:

Jeffrey Mankoff, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Tornike Sharashenidze, non-resident senior fellow of PSI, professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Alexander Dubow, Research Director of the Institute for Security Policy (ISP); Senior Researcher at the Research Center for Polemology and Legal Ethics (University of Vienna | Austrian National Defense Academy)

Moderator:

Johannes Leitner, Head of the Competence Center for Black Sea Region Studies at the University of Applied Sciences BFI, Vienna

16:45 Coffee break

17:15 Session 2: Georgia's relations with the West in the light of Russia's ascendancy

Speakers:

Lincoln Mitchell, Adjunct Research Scholar in the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies; Adjunct Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science

Johannes Leitner, Head of the Competence Center for Black Sea Region Studies at the University of Applied Sciences BFI, Vienna

Nick Ramishvili, Chairman of board for Partnership for Social Initiatives (PSI)

Moderator:

Tornike Sharashenidze, non-resident senior fellow of PSI, professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

May 14th

15:00 Session 1: Georgian-Russian relations - possible future scenarios and implications for the regional and European security

Speakers:

Sergey Markedonov, Leading Researcher at the Euro-Atlantic Security Center, Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO)

Lincoln Mitchell, Adjunct Research Scholar in the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies; Adjunct Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science

Tornike Sharashenidze, non-resident senior fellow of PSI, professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Moderator:

Alexander Dubowy, Research Director of the Institute for Security Policy (ISP); Senior Researcher at the Research Center for Polemology and Legal Ethics (University of Vienna | Austrian National Defense Academy)

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Session 2: Russia and the West in the former Soviet Union

Speakers:

Igor Istomin, Leading Researcher at Department of Applied International Analysis, Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO)

Jeffrey Mankoff, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Sergey Utkin, Head of Foreign and Security Policy Department of the Centre for Strategic Research, Head of Department of Strategic Assessment, Centre for Situation Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences

Moderator:

Akaki Seperteladze, Director of Partnership for Social Initiatives (PSI)