

☒ I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project

☐ I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

TOPICS OF INTEREST

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10: Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience

PARTNER INFORMATION

Description of the Legal Entity

About New Vision University (NVU) New Vision University (NVU) is a leading, dynamically evolving civic-oriented higher education institution based in Tbilisi, Georgia. Driven by its core mission to inspire a culture of care and promote societal well-being through excellence in research, education, and community engagement, NVU provides a robust platform for high-impact international collaborative research. NVU excels in bridging rigorous academic theory with actionable public policy, particularly within the transitioning democratic landscape of the Black Sea and Eastern Neighborhood regions.

The Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES) The cornerstone of NVU's research capacity in politics, governance, and democratic resilience is the **Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES)**. Crucially, IPRES represents a powerful consolidation of expertise, as its core research team transitioned directly from the **Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)**, historically recognized as Georgia's leading independent think tank. This transition ensures that IPRES inherits over a decade of institutional excellence, extensive regional datasets, and an unparalleled track record in analyzing democratization, civil society dynamics, and foreign policy alignment in the South Caucasus.

IPRES produces methodologically rigorous, peer-reviewed academic research and policy analysis focused on the evolving political processes of Europe and the wider Black Sea region. The institute specializes in identifying structural challenges to democratic institutions, assessing regional security vectors, and integrating localized Georgian academic insights into global scientific debates.

School of Politics & Media School Complementing IPRES's macro-level policy research, NVU's specific academic departments offer deep, specialized expertise tailored to the *HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10* call: **Political Science Program** focuses explicitly on the systemic and behavioral dimensions of contemporary governance. The program maintains a dedicated research and teaching emphasis on modern threats to democracy, including institutional erosion, populism, political polarization, and the changing nature of civic participation during periods of sociopolitical transformation and crisis. **Multimedia Journalism and Communication Program** specializes in navigating the challenges of the modern digital landscape. The school centers its work on practice-oriented research in mass communication, digital storytelling, information dissemination patterns, and public engagement. It evaluates how shifting media ecosystems impact public discourse, rendering it exceptionally equipped to co-design and measure digital and media literacy interventions.

☒ Higher Education	☐ Research Institution	☐ Public Administration
☐ Industry /SME	☐ NGO	☐ Other: <i>Please specify</i>

Description of the (Research) Team

Prof. Dr. Kornely Kakachia | <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8324-4021>

Kornely Kakachia is a Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. He is the Director of the Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES) at New Vision University and also serves as the Director of the Tbilisi-based think tank, the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). He is a senior researcher for the ongoing Horizon Europe project REUNIR (Resilience, Enlargement, Union, Neighbourhood, International Relations), which focuses on future-proofing the EU's security, enlargement, and Eastern Neighborhood policies. His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area, and comparative party politics. He was a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Black Sea Security program (2009–2010), the Harriman Institute at Columbia University (2011), and The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Prof. Kakachia is the co-editor of the book "Georgia's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Challenges for a Small State" (London, New York: I.B. Tauris, 2021). In his capacity as an expert on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, Kakachia has appeared on the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Le Monde, Le Figaro, Time, and The Economist, as well as on various Georgian radio and television stations to comment on Georgia's foreign policy, regional security, and other political issues.

Dr. Bidzina Lebanidze | <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9326-4982>

Dr. Bidzina Lebanidze is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES) at New Vision University and a Senior Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). He is also a senior researcher for the ongoing Horizon Europe project REUNIR and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Slavic Languages and Caucasus Studies at Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

He obtained his doctorate (PhD) in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin and his Master's degree in International Relations from Tbilisi State University. Previously, Dr. Lebanidze held various teaching and research positions at the University of Bremen, the University of Freiburg, the Berlin School of Economics and Law, the Free University of Berlin, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Dr. Shota Kakabadze | <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6246-8165>

Dr. Shota Kakabadze is an Associate Professor at New Vision University and a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES). He also periodically contributes as a researcher to the ongoing Horizon Europe project REUNIR and serves as a visiting lecturer in the International Relations program at the International Black Sea University.

From 2021 to 2025, he worked as a Policy Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). In 2023–2024, he was a postdoctoral researcher at ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. He holds a PhD

in Political Science from the University of Tartu, Estonia, where he also earned a Master’s degree in EU–Russia Relations.

During his doctoral studies, he was a researcher at Uppsala University’s Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies through the Swedish Institute program and a Junior Researcher at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu.

His main research interests include national identity discourses, foreign policy, and the Eastern Partnership. He has published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on the relationship between Georgian national identity and foreign policy.

Dr. Salome Kandelaki | <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9095-5895>

Dr. Salome Kandelaki is an Assistant Professor, the Manager of the Project Management Office, and the recently appointed Executive Manager of the Research and Innovation Committee at New Vision University. She also serves as a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES) and is an active member of the ongoing Horizon Europe project REUNIR in a researcher's capacity. Previously, she worked as a Project Manager and Policy Analyst at the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP).

In 2026, she obtained her Ph.D. in Political Science from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

In 2024–2025, she was a Research Fellow at the College of Europe (Natolin campus, Warsaw) and a Visiting Fellow at the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). Salome holds two Master’s degrees: one in Political Science from Central European University in Budapest, with a specialization in Comparative Politics, and another in Public Administration (MPA) from the joint program of the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer and TSU.

Her research and professional expertise focus on comparative case studies, with particular emphasis on church-state relations, national resilience, Black Sea regional security, and democratization. She has authored approximately 30 publications, including peer-reviewed academic articles and analytical pieces.

In addition to her research, Salome has extensive experience in project design, management, and proposal development. Over more than eight years, she has successfully implemented over 20 research and practical policy development projects and authored more than 60 grant proposals for highly competitive international funding programs.

Potential role in the project

- ☒ Research
- ☒ Training
- ☒ Dissemination
- ☒ Other: Event, Simulations, Conference planning

Already experience as a	Coordinator	☐ YES	☐ NO
	Partner	☒ YES	☐ NO
	Expert Evaluator	☐ YES	☐ NO

Our expertise:

Here is a professional, high-impact description of your team's operational and scientific contributions within the ongoing **Horizon Europe REUNIR project**.

This text is formatted specifically for a Horizon Europe partner form to prove your team's field capabilities, methodological experience, and active participation in high-level EU research consortia.

Operational Experience: Track Record in Horizon Europe (The REUNIR Project)

The core research team at the Institute for Policy Research and European Studies (IPRES) at New Vision University brings direct, ongoing operational experience from the Horizon Europe project **REUNIR** (*Resilience, Enlargement, Union, Neighbourhood, International Relations* - Grant Agreement No. 101132446). Within this high-level European consortium, our team has proven its capacity to deliver rigorous scientific outputs, manage complex field logistics, and actively shape EU policy design.

Our team's specific hands-on contributions within REUNIR include:

Field Planning and Empirical Research - Our researchers have designed and successfully executed the localized field research architecture within the Eastern Neighborhood context. This includes establishing rigorous field planning protocols, deploying quantitative/qualitative methodologies, and navigating complex regional field environments to gather primary data on resilience, democratic security vectors, and external threats.

Report Development and Scientific Outputs -The team has co-authored and substantively contributed to key REUNIR project deliverables, policy papers, and comprehensive reports. Our academic staff ensures that regional data from the Black Sea area is seamlessly integrated into macro-level EU policy analyses, bridging local fieldwork with actionable insights for EU institutions.

Strategic Foresight and Scenario Planning - Leveraging advanced policy design methodologies, our team actively participated in REUNIR's strategic foresight initiatives. We contributed directly to building analytical models and scenario-planning frameworks that assist EU policy-makers in assessing long-term foreign policy and enlargement vectors under shifting geopolitical conditions.

Event Hosting, Workshops, and Dissemination - As an active consortium member, our team has both hosted and participated in REUNIR's high-level academic workshops, policy roundtables, and international conferences. We have a proven track record in driving stakeholder engagement, translating complex research into accessible public debates, and maximizing the project's dissemination footprint across the wider region.

CONTACT DETAILS

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