



Multidisciplinary International Scientific Conference

Sustainable Development, Institutions, and Global Challenges SDIGC-25

**Kutaisi, Georgia
November 8, 2025**



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and Global Challenges**

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The aim of the Multidisciplinary International Scientific Conference is to promote the advancement of scientific research activities. The conference serves as a platform for scholars, academic staff, experienced and early-career researchers—including doctoral candidates—active at both local and international levels to present their research work to a broad audience. It encourages the exchange and dissemination of scholarly experiences and research findings. The conference offers a multidisciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners to present and discuss recent innovations, prevailing trends, pressing issues, and practical challenges along with their proposed solutions.

Organizers:



Central University of Europe (Kutaisi)



European University (Tbilisi),



Akaki Tsereteli State University (Kutaisi)



Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University



Samtskhe-Javakheti State University (Akhaltzikhe)



Gori State University

WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM THE RECTOR OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF EUROPE



Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, researchers, and dear participants,

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you all to the Multidisciplinary International Scientific Conference on Sustainable Development, Institutions, and Global Challenges, here at the Central University of Europe in the beautiful city of Kutaisi, Georgia.

This conference stands as a vital beacon for the global scientific community - a unique forum where innovation, knowledge, and expertise converge. Our collective mission is clear: to advance scientific research that addresses some of the most pressing challenges of our time. The SDIGC-25 conference fosters a collaborative environment where scholars, experienced professionals, and emerging researchers from across the globe gather to share their insights, present pioneering research, and engage in constructive dialogue. By bridging diverse academic disciplines and practical fields, this conference empowers us to explore holistic solutions that are sustainable, inclusive, and impactful.

I am particularly encouraged by the presence of early-career researchers and doctoral candidates, whose fresh perspectives and dedication infuse our academic community with renewed energy and hope for the future. Your contributions are essential to driving forward the frontiers of knowledge and ensuring that science remains a powerful catalyst for positive societal change. As Rector of the Central University of Europe, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence and supporting international cooperation. We are proud to provide this platform for dynamic exchange and mutual learning, which are indispensable for nurturing innovation and addressing global challenges effectively.

I encourage each one of you to engage actively throughout the sessions, workshops, and discussions over the coming days. May this conference inspire new collaborations, stimulate groundbreaking ideas, and contribute significantly to the shared goal of sustainable development.

Thank you all for being part of SDIGC-25. Together, let us strive for knowledge that transforms and solutions that endure.

Welcome to Kutaisi, and welcome to the Central University of Europe.

Sincerely,

Professor Gocha Tutberidze

Rector, Central University of Europe

CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Professor Gocha Tutberidze - Chairman (Central University of Europe)
- Professor Nikoloz Chikhladze (Central University of Europe)
- Professor Ioseph Archvadze (Central University of Europe)
- Professor Mirza Khidasheli (Central University of Europe)
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- Assistant Professor Bartolomej Sukhodolski (Sedlice University of Natural Sciences and Humanities, Poland)
- Assistant Professor Aleksandre Asatiani (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Gocha Tutberidze - Chairman, Rector
- Gocha Ugulava - Coordinator, Head of the Research Institute of Economics
- Nikoloz Chikhladze - Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal "Economic Profile"
- Teona Grigolashvili - Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Law
- Mikheil Gagoshidze - Head of the Information Technology Service
- Tatia Dolidze - Head of the International Relations Office
- Miranda Tedeshvili - Head of the Center for Promoting Scientific and Research Activities
- Giorgi Datuashvili - Head of the Strategic Development Office
- Dachi Kobakhidze - Public Relations Manager

ABOUT GEORGIA



Georgia is a small but culturally rich country located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Despite its modest size, Georgia offers an impressive diversity of landscapes - from the majestic peaks of the Caucasus Mountains and alpine meadows to fertile valleys and the warm, subtropical coastline along the Black Sea.

Georgia has a long and vibrant history, with archaeological evidence showing continuous human habitation for over 1.8 million years. It was one of the earliest countries to adopt Christianity as the state religion in the early 4th century, and its churches and monasteries reflect a deep religious and architectural tradition. The country is also known as the cradle of wine. Winemaking in Georgia dates back over 8,000 years, making it one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world. Traditional methods using clay vessels called *qvevri* are still used today and are recognized by UNESCO as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage. A unique feature of Georgian culture is its distinct alphabet, one of only 14 writing systems in the world. Elegant and flowing, the Georgian script is a powerful symbol of national identity and has been in use for centuries.

Education and intellectual life have long been important in Georgia. In 1918, the country established Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the first university in the Caucasus region, which played a vital role in preserving and developing Georgian science, literature, and culture.

Georgian cuisine is another highlight, offering flavorful dishes and a wide variety of stews and salads enriched with herbs and spices. These meals are often enjoyed with local wine and traditional polyphonic singing, which is another UNESCO-recognized cultural treasure.

With its ancient heritage, breathtaking nature, strong traditions, and warm hospitality, Georgia is a country where the past and present blend in remarkable harmony — offering every visitor a truly unforgettable experience.

ABOUT KUTAISI



Kutaisi is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities not only in Georgia but in the entire Caucasus region. Located in western Georgia on the banks of the Rioni River, the city has played a central role in the country's history for over three millennia. According to ancient Greek mythology, Kutaisi was the capital of the legendary kingdom of Colchis, where Jason and the Argonauts came in search of the Golden Fleece. This deep historical legacy gives Kutaisi a special place in Georgian identity and folklore.

Throughout history, Kutaisi has served as the capital of several Georgian kingdoms, including Colchis, Egrisi, and the Kingdom of Imereti. During various periods, it even functioned as the capital of unified Georgia. The city's rich past is still visible today through its architecture, monuments, and religious landmarks.

Among Kutaisi's most prominent attractions are its UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Bagrati Cathedral, built in the 11th century during the reign of King Bagrat III, is a masterpiece of medieval Georgian architecture. Just outside the city lies the Gelati Monastery, founded in 1106 by King David IV (David the Builder). Gelati served not only as a religious site but also as an important center of science, philosophy, and education - often called the "Second Jerusalem" due to its intellectual and spiritual significance.

Kutaisi is also a modern urban center with a growing economy and infrastructure. It is home to several universities, theaters, and museums, including the Kutaisi State Historical Museum, which holds thousands of archaeological and ethnographic artifacts.

Beyond its history and architecture, Kutaisi is loved for its laid-back atmosphere, tree-lined boulevards, and friendly locals. With its unique blend of ancient heritage, natural wonders, and modern charm, Kutaisi is a city that reflects the soul of Georgia - past, present, and future.

ABOUT CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF EUROPE



Established in 1991, Central University of Europe is the first private higher education institution in Western Georgia. From the beginning, the university has prioritized academic excellence, international collaboration, and student-centered learning.

Central University of Europe delivers programs across all three academic levels - bachelor's, master's, and doctoral - through its key academic divisions: the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Social Sciences, Business, and Law. These faculties offer diverse educational programs in both Georgian and English. The university is also home to the Economic Research Institute, which plays a central role in advancing economic scholarship and supporting innovative research. The institute focuses on analyzing economic challenges, promoting academic involvement of qualified researchers, and fostering collaboration with local and international partners. One of the major contributions is the refereed international scientific-practical journal "Economic Profile", published since 2006. In addition to its academic and research offerings, the university fosters intercultural education through the establishment of a Confucius Classroom, which supports educational exchanges and cultural learning, contributing to mutual understanding and international cooperation.

Central University of Europe is a proud associate member of the European University Association (EUA) - the fifth private university in Georgia to achieve this recognition. The university currently partners with 67 universities across 21 countries, facilitating student and faculty exchange programs, double-degree opportunities, and international academic projects.

Through its strong academic foundation, growing research capacity, cultural outreach programs, and global connections, Central University of Europe continues to shape the future of education and innovation in Georgia and beyond.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



November 8, 2025



Central University of Europe, Tsereteli str. 13, Kutaisi, Georgia

Conference Format:

- Presentation, Discussion/Q&A - 15 minutes
- The conference will be held in-person. Only international participants will be allowed to join remotely upon request.

Registration and Welcome Coffee/Tea: 10:00 – 11:00

Group Photo with All Conference Participants: 11:00

Conference Opening/Welcome Speeches: 11:00 – 11:30

Plenary Session

Conference Hall, room 106

Working Language: English

Moderator: **Professor Gocha Tutberidze**, Rector of the Central University of Europe

11:30 – 11:50	Gocha Tutberidze, Gocha Ugulava <i>Structural Challenges of Georgia's Economic Growth: Sustainability and Social Inequality</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Malkhaz Dzadzua <i>Comparative Analysis of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies: Georgia and the European Union</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Valentin Petroussenko <i>Need for Reassessment of the EU politics: Back to European Convention of 2002 and the visions of the Lisbon Treaty</i>
12:30 – 12:50	Dorottya Edina Kozma <i>Financing Tools for Sustainable Tourism in the Circular Economy</i>

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Parallel Sessions

First Section

Conference Hall, room 106

Working Language: English

Moderator: **Associate Professor Teona Grigolashvili, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Law**

14:00 – 14:15	Mirza Khidasheli <i>The U.S. Tariff Paradox</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Anna Staszewska <i>From Local Actions to Global Impact: Collaborative Governance in Sustainable Development – on the Polish examples</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Kiran Jameel, Laeeq Razzak Janjua <i>Examine the Ecological Footprint through the Lens of Remittances and Governance: A Panel MMQR Approach for Top Remittance-Receiving Economies</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Saša Čekrljija <i>Agrotourism as a Factor of Economic and Social Development of Rural Areas in Republic Of Srpska</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Komil Turaev, Aleksander Sladkowski <i>Machine Learning and DEA Application to Assess Railway Efficiency: Evidence from Uzbekistan</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Ágnes Fűrész <i>Energy awareness in the age of AI: the role of digital tools in shaping energy-conscious consumer behavior</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Charalampos Pavlou, Adamos Anastasiou <i>The challenges of Change and Professional Development for School Leaders regarding their Teachers' Emotions and Effectiveness</i>

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 16:15	Ashis Dutta <i>Designing Experience in Service Processes Using Multi-Disciplinary Concepts</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Maryna Toporkova <i>International Legal Regime for the Protection of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Anahit Abrahamyan, Nina Karapetyan, Lilia Hovsepyan <i>Foreign Languages and Engineering Thinking: The Integration of the Humanities and Technical Knowledge.</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Tímea Veres <i>Sustainable gastronomy in the countryside and in the capital: lessons from two Hungarian Michelin Green Star restaurants</i>

17:00 – 17:15	Valida Pantsulaia, Tamar Bliadze, Nino Khukhunaishvili <i>Sustainable Finance Practices in Central Banking: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Tamari Pertaia <i>AI in Medical Education</i>
17:30 – 17:45	Tatia Kharabadze <i>Institutional Transformation of Georgian Universities Through Quality Assurance in the Context of the SDGs</i>
17:45 – 18:00	Ana Kakabadze <i>Leveraging AI for Internal Quality Assurance: Current Trends and Future Outlook</i>
18:00 – 18:15	Albert Varbansky <i>The resettlement of the Azov Bulgarians to Georgia</i>

Second Section

Library conference room 201

Working Language: Georgian

Moderator: **Professor Nikoloz Chikhladze**

14:00 – 14:15	Joseph Archvadze <i>On the Purchasing Power Parity of the Georgian Lari and the Soviet Ruble (In Connection with the 30th Anniversary of the Introduction of the Lari)</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Gela Tsaava <i>Sustainable Development Goals as a National and Global Development Challenge</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Zviad Beshkenadze <i>Contemporary Global Economic Challenges under Platform Economy: Georgia in the Context of Global and Domestic Imbalances</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Archil Grigalashvili, Archil Samadashvili, Ketevan Iluridze <i>Digital Transformation of the Energy Sector: The Business Model of “Energy as a Service”</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Lela Kurashvili <i>The Impact of Technological Solutions on the Project Cycle: Digital Transformation and Sustainability in Management</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Giorgi Gelashvili <i>Implementation of Wind Turbine Condition Monitoring System in Industry</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Gulnara Janelidze, Data Datashvili <i>Attack Detection on Distributed Big Data Streams Using Machine Learning</i>

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 16:15	Koba Arabuli, Malkhaz Ghvinjilia <i>Opportunities for Tourism Development in the Mountainous Regions of Georgia – Prospects for Climate-Smart Technologies</i>
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16:15 – 16:30	Larisa Dolikashvili, Lana Mzarelua, Nino Letandze <i>Experience in Teaching Sustainable Tourism Development</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Tsiskara Zarandia, Besik Tskhipurishvili <i>On the Issue of Green Economy Awareness</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Lavrenti Chiburdanidze, Lasha Chiburdanidze <i>Problems, Strategy and Prospects of Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Georgia</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Roin Tateshvili, Nana Jgharkava <i>Economic Efficiency of Greenhouse Farming</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Nana Zazadze <i>Business Risks, Low Taxes, and High Interest Rates: An Empirical Study Based on the Case of Georgia</i>
17:30 – 17:45	Niko Chikhladze, Nana Rusadze, Ana Baratashvili <i>Investment Attractiveness of Georgian Municipalities: the Context of Sustainable Development</i>
17:45 – 18:00	Guram Uplisashvili <i>Profit Tax Reform in Georgia: Process and Outcomes</i>
18:00 – 18:15	David Shavianidze, George Gavgadze <i>Activities and National Traditions Ensuring Economic Well-Being (According to Ethnographic Expressions and Terms)</i>

Third Section

room 211

Working Language: Georgian

Moderator: **Associate Professor Goderdzi Shanidze**

14:00 – 14:15	Goderdzi Shanidze <i>Trends of Business Environment Perfection in Georgia</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Nargiza Karkashadze, Sergo Chakvetadze, Shura Ukleba <i>Company Sustainability and the Role of the Customer in its Success</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Nona Kukhianidze, Teimuraz Pestvenidze, Givi Lobzhanidze <i>Innovative Technologies as a Strategic Factor of Economic Growth</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Evtikhi Machavariani, Ivane Beroshvili, Jumber Iosebidze <i>Conversion of Liquid Fuel Vehicles to Natural Gas as an Important Measure to Reduce Atmospheric Pollution</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Nino Gvaramadze <i>Teacher Education Students' Perspectives on the Interconnection between Citizenship and the Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Prospects</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Giorgi Loria <i>Discriminatory Regulation and Legislative Gap in Georgian Tax Legislation</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Koba Grialashvili <i>In the Context of Technological Development, the Protection of Personal Data in the Activities of Law Enforcement Agencies</i>

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 16:15	Marine Marinashvili <i>Principles of Unconstitutionality of the “Normative Content” of Norm in the Practice of the Constitutional Court of Georgia</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Tsitsino Davituliani, Fikria Jinjikhadze <i>The Revival of the Tea Route in Tkibuli: Historical-Economic Heritage and Prospects for Tourism Development</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Nana Bliadze, Magdana Kvabziridze <i>Dynamics of Landslide Processes Development in the Imereti Region</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Tsitsino Dzotsenidze <i>Sustainable Development, Culture, and Institutional Transformation: A Comparative Analysis of the Multidisciplinary Perspectives of Merab Mamardashvili and Michel Foucault</i>
17:00 – 17:15	Darejan Chkhirodze <i>Education and Ethics in Relation to Sustainable Development</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Sophio Kubaneishvili, Ketevan Kukhianidze <i>Court Mediation in Georgia: Comparative Analysis, Institutional Challenges, and Prospects for Development</i>
17:30 – 17:45	Esma Norakia <i>Some Aspects of a Juvenile Victim or Witness’ Legal Status</i>
17:45 – 18:00	Leonardo Khvedelidze, Boris Chichinadze <i>Scientific Research as the Basis for the Country's Economic Sustainability and Development</i>

ABSTRACTS

Structural Challenges of Georgia's Economic Growth: Sustainability and Social Inequality

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Gocha Ugulava

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Abstract

Over the past decade, Georgia's economy has exhibited high growth rates, driven by both post-pandemic recovery processes and the combined effects of external and domestic factors. Real GDP has nearly doubled, exports and average wages have increased, and unemployment has declined. However, these achievements reflect only superficial success and conceal deep-rooted structural problems that threaten the sustainability of the country's economic model. The analysis confirms that economic growth has not been accompanied by sufficient job creation or efficient utilization of labor resources: self-employment and informal employment remain high, while "hidden unemployment" is not fully captured in official statistics. Regional disparities and the unequal distribution of social benefits heighten the risks of social polarization. Migration dynamics indicate a substantial outflow of the working-age population, whereas the rise in immigration generates new socio-economic challenges. The structure of foreign trade remains dependent on re-exports and low value-added products, while limited innovative potential and a low level of research and development (R&D) significantly constrain the country's competitiveness. The decline in foreign investment and the consumption-driven nature of economic growth further reinforce structural weaknesses. Overall, Georgia's current economic development trends call for a comprehensive policy revision aimed at strengthening labor market institutions, fostering innovation-driven sectors, and promoting strategies focused on regional balance.

Comparative Analysis of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies: Georgia and the European Union

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Abstract

Sustainable Finance Taxonomies provide classification systems that define which economic activities can be considered environmentally and socially sustainable. They are essential tools for directing private or public capital flows, preventing green washing and ensuring comparability across financial markets.

This paper compares the sustainable finance taxonomies of Georgia and the European Union (EU). While the EU Taxonomy is a science-based, legally binding classification system covering six environmental objectives, Georgia's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy adopts a broader approach by including both green and social finance categories. The paper highlights key similarities and differences, evaluates implementation challenges and discusses implications for convergence.

The examples from selected Georgian commercial banks illustrate how the taxonomy is being applied in practice and what are the main challenges Georgian banks face when applying the Taxonomy in practice. The comparative analysis concludes that Georgia's sustainable taxonomy is innovative in its inclusion of social finance along with green finance, but requires further institutionalization and alignment with EU standards to attract international impact investments.

Need for Reassessment of the EU politics: Back to European Convention of 2002 and the visions of the Lisbon Treaty

Valentin Petroussenko

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Abstract

Ending the decade of the 90s, the European continent was on the verge to reunite the both ideologically divided parts as the accession process already had started for the Central and Eastern Europe.

At that time the EU was strictly following the legal framework of the Treaties and the "Acqui Communautaire". Now, as the Union is facing even more essential challenges.

Do we need to look back and to regain this spirit of accomplishing the Rule of Law and the principles of the transparent and sustainable development and to follow the ethics and the spirit of the founders of the Great European Idea?

Financing Tools for Sustainable Tourism in the Circular Economy

Dorottya Edina Kozma

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Abstract

In Hungary's priority regions (like Budapest, the Lake Balaton Area, and the Northern Central Mountains), tourism is a sector with a significant economic impact. As a result, nearly a thousand municipalities have levied tourist taxes to increase their revenues. The methodological approach of the study is based on a qualitative, theoretical analysis, aiming to explore the relationship between the circular economy and the tourist tax to promote the development of sustainable tourism. The author based the data collection and analysis in this study on the processing of secondary literature and statistical sources. The link between the circular economy and tourist tax is crucial in developing sustainable tourism. Circular economy principles can support the sustainable development of local communities and increase tourist tax revenues in the long term by making tourism "greener", reducing waste, and making the use of resources more efficient. It is concluded that the tourist tax should be seen as a development resource closely linked to the circular economy approach through local economic and social development.

The U.S. Tariff Paradox

Mirza Khidasheli

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Abstract

The imposition of significant tariffs by the United States since 2018 presented a unique economic puzzle, challenging the conventional view that such trade barriers would inevitably lead to broad and sustained domestic inflation. This report, analyzing the recent U.S. experience, identifies and explains this phenomenon, which has been termed the "U.S. Tariff Paradox." While standard trade theory posits a direct inflationary channel—where tariffs raise the cost of imported goods, which is then passed through to consumers—the empirical evidence subsequent periods indicates a much more complex reality.

The central finding of this analysis is that the potential inflationary impact of these tariffs was overwhelmingly neutralized by a confluence of powerful economic mechanisms and overshadowed by more dominant macroeconomic forces. The report details four primary mitigating factors: a strengthening U.S. dollar, which offset higher import costs; strategic responses by firms and consumers, including cost absorption and substitution toward non-tariffed goods; the inherently limited scope of the tariff actions relative to the total U.S. consumption basket; and, most critically, the overwhelming influence of external shocks, such as pandemic-era supply chain disruptions and energy price volatility, which dwarfed any tariff-induced price pressures.

Ultimately, this report concludes that tariffs do not automatically translate into broad-based inflation. The U.S. case study demonstrates that a holistic assessment of trade policy is essential, one that extends beyond short-term price effects to consider the structural and behavioral dynamics of the economy, as well as the long-term consequences for productivity, supply chain resilience, and international relations.

From Local Actions to Global Impact: Collaborative Governance in Sustainable Development – on the Polish examples

Anna Staszewska

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Abstract

Sustainable development has become a central paradigm in global policy and academic discourse, but its successful implementation depends heavily on the interplay between local initiatives and international governance frameworks. This paper explores how collaborative governance in Poland provides meaningful contributions to global sustainability objectives. By examining concrete Polish examples, the study highlights the mechanisms through which local actions—when supported by inclusive decision-making, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and institutional innovation—can generate a global impact.

The research draws on case studies of Polish municipalities, civil society organizations, and businesses that have adopted collaborative approaches to environmental protection, social inclusion, and economic resilience. Examples include participatory budgeting initiatives in major Polish cities that empower local communities to co-create sustainable urban solutions; cooperative renewable energy projects, such as energy clusters, that align local economic development with climate goals; and partnerships between local governments and NGOs addressing biodiversity preservation in Natura 2000 areas. These cases demonstrate how decentralized governance fosters innovation, trust, and accountability, while also feeding into broader European and global sustainability strategies like the EU Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The paper argues that collaborative governance is not merely a managerial tool but a transformative process that bridges different levels of policy-making. In Poland, this approach has proven particularly relevant in areas where national regulations intersect with EU directives, creating opportunities for adaptive governance and knowledge exchange. The findings suggest that local actors, when empowered through participatory frameworks, can shape policy agendas beyond their immediate communities.

Moreover, the analysis underscores the importance of cultural and institutional context: Poland's strong tradition of local self-governance, reinforced after the democratic transition of 1989, provides fertile ground for bottom-up sustainability efforts. However, challenges remain, including uneven resource distribution, political polarization, and the need for capacity-building at the municipal level.

In conclusion, the paper contends that Poland's experiences offer valuable lessons for other countries seeking to link grassroots initiatives with global sustainability agendas. By fostering collaborative governance, local actions can transcend geographical boundaries, contributing not only to national development but also to the collective pursuit of a more sustainable and equitable world.

Examine the Ecological Footprint through the Lens of Remittances and Governance: A Panel MMQR Approach for Top Remittance-Receiving Economies

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Abstract

This paper investigates the complex interaction among remittance inflows, governance quality, and environmental sustainability by evaluating their combined impact on the ecological footprint of the top 20 remittance-receiving economies from 2000 to 2023. In contrast with the conventional environmental research in which only economic growth or globalization was effectively allocated. This research involves not only economic and globalization but also institutional and financial dimension to better understand the pattern of environmental degradation in the remittance-dependent countries. The Study applied a Method of Moments Quantile Regression (MMQR) panel estimation allowing for country effects and quantile-dependent effects. Explaining more than mean-based estimates, this approach helps to illuminate how the relationship between remittances, governance and ecological footprint vary across different levels of environmental pressure. This research found that remittances have a double effect, it improves household welfare and development but also increase ecological footprint, particularly in lower and middle quantile where environmental deterioration is more clear. Environmental impact is mitigated by stronger governance quality than at higher quantiles, particularly in regulatory quality, corruption control, and government efficiency. Strong institutions can considerably lower the environmental risks associated with remittance-fueled investment and consumption because of the relationship between remittances and governance. These findings highlight the necessity of strong institutions to guarantee environmental sustainability in remittance-receiving nations. To assurance that remittances support opportunities for green development, policy recommendations emphasize the necessity of integrating governance reforms with environmental regulations and immigrants engagement programs.

Agrotourism as a Factor of Economic and Social Development of Rural Areas in Republic Of Srpska

Saša Čekrlija

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Abstract

Agrotourism in the rural areas represents a key instrument for improving the market position of agriculture and fostering sustainable rural development. Through the diversification of production and services, including the development and promotion of local products, direct interaction between tourists and producers, differentiation of services according to visitors' preferences, as well as the preservation of tradition and cultural heritage through gastronomic and educational activities, farms generate additional income and strengthen their competitiveness. Local gastronomic products and specialties hold particular importance, as they enable an authentic rural experience and increase consumer confidence in product quality. In this way, agrotourism contributes to the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of rural communities, creating added value for households and promoting local culture.

Machine Learning and DEA Application to Assess Railway Efficiency: Evidence from Uzbekistan

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Abstract

Railways are critical for economic integration and regional development, yet many emerging economies face uneven infrastructure performance and limited tools for monitoring efficiency. This study develops a replicable framework to measure the efficiency of Uzbekistan's railway sector using Data Envelopment Analysis and clustering methods. Three DEA models were constructed to capture complementary aspects of efficiency, linking population and investment inputs with outputs such as railway length, organizational activity, industrial production, and retail turnover. The results reveal strong regional disparities: Tashkent City and Karakalpakstan consistently perform above average, while Khorezm and Sirdarya lag behind. Efficiency trends further show that infrastructure availability does not always align with economic activity, underscoring mismatches in investment allocation. Clustering analysis grouped regions into three categories—high performers, emerging regions, and lagging areas—providing a practical framework for policymakers to design differentiated interventions. Beyond the case of Uzbekistan, the study demonstrates how open-source data and transparent Python-based DEA can be used to support transport policy in data-limited contexts.

Energy awareness in the age of AI: the role of digital tools in shaping energy-conscious consumer behavior

Ágnes Fűrész

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Doctoral School of Economic and Regional Sciences, Hungary

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a key enabler of energy efficiency, a fundamental pillar of sustainable energy use and climate action. Leveraging real-time data analysis, predictive modeling, and automated decision-making, AI-powered technologies offer new ways to optimize energy consumption. The energy crisis of 2021 made evident that boosting efficiency is not only an economic necessity but also a societal demand, as rising prices drove consumers to adopt more deliberate and resource-conscious behaviors. This study is based on a quantitative online survey involving over 400 Hungarian participants, examining how AI-driven digital tools—such as adaptive platforms, automated feedback systems, and intelligent energy interfaces—can contribute to the spread of sustainable energy consumption practices and the deepening of energy awareness. The paper explores the potential of AI-integrated digital tools to foster more sustainable consumption patterns and raise public energy awareness. The study shows that such technologies can help reduce reliance on fossil fuels, support the integration of renewable sources, and align with long-term energy transition strategies. Scalable, cost-effective, and behaviorally impactful, AI-driven solutions may play a transformative role in shaping the future of energy use.

The challenges of Change and Professional Development for School Leaders regarding their Teachers' Emotions and Effectiveness

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Abstract

Nowadays, organizations continuously face the challenge of scaling their productivity to the needs and demands of a fast-changing society. This implies that any modern organization must undergo changes, some of which can be minimal and adapted to existing structures, or sometimes extensive, in which case these can largely transform an organization. In a school environment, change implies that teachers must undergo professional development, so as to keep up with the expectations of any stakeholders involved, as well as ensuring innovation in productivity. However, this is not an easy task, since implementation of change can encounter resistance and create conflict. Employees of an organization – in this case the teachers at a school – may seem unwilling to instigate changes, due to several factors that will be investigated later on. It is therefore vital that school leaders focus on the well-being and emotional needs of their teachers, and to find the techniques to employ changes smoothly. Therefore, it is interesting to investigate how change connects to professional development and how leaders address conflict and ensure the smooth running of the process.

Focusing on the issue of change in schools, it is important to comprehend the factors affecting every decision. Schools function as learning organisations and every organization aims for high standard productivity. In this case, it is important to speak in terms of school effectiveness. School effectiveness encompasses several areas that need to be addressed. What comes to mind first when discussing about such, is the level of student engagement and academic achievement. In order though to discuss the extend of student academic performance, it is necessary to examine teacher effectiveness. Effective teachers will ultimately encourage their students to thrive for success. Innovative learning strategies, effective teaching and positively challenging goals generate a school climate of confidence, motivation and subsequently of academic success. It is therefore, to a large extent the role and responsibility of school leaders to create a constructive atmosphere in which all stakeholders will work towards improvement and a climate of progress and success.

Designing Experience in Service Processes Using Multi-Disciplinary Concepts

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Abstract

The paper attempts to create a structured framework for designing Service Processes for enhanced User Experience (as a User experiences a service process. E.g. check-in process in a hotel, complaint process through mobile in e-commerce, etc.). Using multi-disciplinary concepts of User Experience (UX) Design, Evolutionary Psychology (EP), Behavioral Economics (BE) and Business Process Engineering (BPE). User Experience happens (the User experiences a process) within social, cultural, psychological, demographic and evolutionary contexts.

While interacting with a process, the User not only has Functional Goals (Hard Goals) to achieve, the User also has Psychological and Sociological aspects (Soft Goals) to satisfy. While designing a process, the psychological and sociological aspects of humans are often neglected. And emphasis is usually given solely to accomplish the functional goal.

The structured framework treats the User not in mechanical term of attaining a functional goal, but as is a living, thinking, emotional being, evolved through millennia.

The framework uses concepts of: 1.Evolutionary psychology; 2.User Experience (UX) Design; 3.Behavioral Economics; 4. Business Process Engineering (BPE).

The framework puts User at the center of design initiative. And offers a clear methodology to the organization to design the process for desired experience by the User.

Having built in the different concepts stated above, the practice adopted for modelling the Process is the extended Event-Driven Process Chain (e-EPC). e-EPC is robust and time-tested and have been used for Process Modelling for many SAP implementations across the globe.

This framework can be used for designing Service Processes across industries - IT, non-IT, brick-and-mortar. Where ever there is direct or indirect human interface or perception is involved.

The Framework, thus, offers a step-by-step method to design Processes for delivering a Service, which provides high degree of Experience on all counts from the User's point of view. Assuring not only functional excellence, but also satisfying and often delighting the User psychologically and sociologically.

International Legal Regime for the Protection of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

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Abstract

This article examines the international legal framework and mechanisms for protecting refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The study conceptualizes the implementation of international legal standards as a multifaceted system comprising three main components: the norms of international law regulating relations involving IDPs, the activities of international bodies responsible for enforcing these norms, and specialized instruments and methodologies designed to ensure effective protection across temporal and spatial dimensions. Key international legal instruments, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, provide the foundation for defining, safeguarding, and assisting displaced populations. The article highlights the distinction between refugees and IDPs, emphasizing the principle of non-refoulement as a cornerstone of international protection. It also analyzes the role of international organizations, particularly the UNHCR, in coordinating protection measures, supporting reintegration, and promoting accountability for violations of displaced persons' rights. Special attention is given to recent crises, including large-scale displacement from the Middle East to Europe in 2015 and the forced migration of Ukrainians following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, demonstrating the urgent need to strengthen, reform, and adapt international protection mechanisms. The study concludes that effective protection requires coordinated international cooperation, respect for human rights, humanitarian values, and the development of resilient systems to address both current and future displacement crises.

Foreign Languages and Engineering Thinking: The Integration of the Humanities and Technical Knowledge.

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Abstract

Modern higher education has the urgent function of preparing professionals who are not only well-educated in their professional area but also capable of being effectively productive in a globalized world, where high-tech technology evolves in an accelerated pace and the international labor market changes. These professionals must not only be capable of solving professional issues but also demonstrate critical thinking, creativity, and high communicative skills. It is with this that the marriage of humanities and engineering knowledge constitutes the backbone of successful educational training.

Foreign languages in technical universities are essential for the development of competences wider than limited professional specialization. They are an important means of education in engineering thinking, the formation of intercultural communication, and preparation of graduates for foreign professional activity. The article discusses the role of foreign languages in training technical experts and ways of ensuring the improvement of the quality of education and the strengthening of students' interdisciplinary competences.

Sustainable gastronomy in the countryside and in the capital: lessons from two Hungarian Michelin Green Star restaurants

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Abstract

Sustainability has become increasingly important in gastronomy and hospitality in recent decades, as reflected in the Green Star award introduced by the Michelin Guide in 2020. The award provides an opportunity for restaurants that combine culinary excellence with environmentally conscious operations. This study compares the sustainability practices of two Michelin Green Star restaurants in Hungary, with a particular focus on the specific characteristics of rural and urban contexts. The analysis highlights that sustainable gastronomy is not implemented according to a uniform model but can be successfully applied even under different environmental and economic conditions. Both restaurants pay special attention to supporting local producers, using seasonal ingredients and reducing waste and they achieve similar goals through different strategies. The rural restaurant's operation is characterised by its natural location, family-friendly approach, craftsmanship and minimalist solutions, while the restaurant in the capital city fits sustainability into the context of international haute cuisine, with a contemporary reinterpretation of traditions and the conscious, systematic integration of the zero-waste concept. Qualitative interviews revealed the main characteristics of their operation, the use of local ingredients, waste reduction, the application of environmentally friendly technologies and the seasonal menu. The personal narrative of the rural restaurant, the direct communication with guests and the active involvement of the local community reinforces the sense of shared value creation. In contrast, the restaurant in Budapest combines traditional ingredients with innovative technologies and its own garden, while rethinking the value of food and the dining experience through waste-free operations.

The research highlights that sustainable hospitality can be achieved in different contexts – rural and urban – and both restaurants set an example for Hungarian gastronomy players. The study confirms that sustainability in gastronomy is not just an ethical or marketing issue, but a strategic factor that creates a long-term competitive advantage. The examples of Michelin Green Star restaurants show that an environmentally conscious approach and the integration of ethical supply chains can transform hospitality into a process that creates value from both a cultural and environmental perspective. This approach to luxury gastronomy can help the hospitality industry rethink its operating model and place the principles of responsible consumption and production at the forefront, alongside economic efficiency.

Sustainable Finance Practices in Central Banking: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

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Abstract

Climate change and broader environmental risks have emerged as critical challenges for global financial systems. These risks, transmitted through physical damage, transition policies, and changing market dynamics, can undermine financial stability, disrupt credit provision, and affect asset valuations. Central banks, whose primary mandates are price stability and systemic robustness, are increasingly called upon to address these challenges by integrating sustainability into their frameworks.

This paper explores the evolving role of central banks in advancing sustainable finance. It examines how climate-related and environmental risks affect monetary policy transmission, financial sector soundness, and investment strategies. The analysis focuses on three main areas where central banks are responding: (i) monetary policy operations, including collateral frameworks and asset purchases; (ii) financial stability and supervision, with an emphasis on climate risk stress testing and disclosure requirements; and (iii) portfolio management and central bank operations, where many institutions are taking steps to align their investments with sustainability objectives and reduce their own carbon footprints. The study adopts a comparative approach, discussing sustainable finance practices of central banks across Europe, Asia, and other regions. It highlights the diversity of approaches shaped by institutional mandates, regulatory environments, and levels of exposure to climate risk. By examining both advanced and emerging economies, the paper identifies common trends, such as the increasing use of scenario analysis, the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into supervision, and the development of taxonomies and disclosure frameworks to mitigate greenwashing.

The findings suggest that while there is no one-size-fits-all model, central banks globally are moving toward greater recognition of climate and environmental risks as material financial risks. Moreover, central banks are increasingly seen not only as regulators and supervisors, but also as market participants and leaders by example. This evolving role underscores both the opportunities and the challenges of embedding sustainable finance within the mandates of central banking, particularly in balancing traditional policy goals with long-term sustainability objectives.

AI in Medical Education

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in medical education, offering solutions to the longstanding limitations of traditional training. This article explores AI's role across five critical domains: clinical training, virtual patient simulation, personalized learning, curriculum integration, and assessment. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of flexible learning environments, and AI-based platforms such as Osso VR, Touch Surgery, Body Interact, Smart Sparrow, and Virti illustrate the capacity of intelligent systems to maintain continuity, improve engagement, and benchmark outcomes globally and regionally.

In clinical training, AI-powered simulations enhance surgical and procedural practice through immersive, risk-free environments, significantly improving accuracy, retention, and confidence. Virtual patient systems further extend exposure to rare and critical cases, fostering diagnostic reasoning, interprofessional communication, and adaptive decision-making. Personalized learning, enabled by adaptive algorithms, addresses individual needs, ensuring mastery through predictive analytics and targeted remediation. Evidence indicates improved Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) performance and reduced diagnostic errors when students are guided by AI-supported platforms. Curriculum integration is another key theme: AI modules in radiology, pathology, and internal medicine allow benchmarking against global standards, while simultaneously supporting accreditation requirements. This is particularly salient in Georgia, where medical schools are piloting AI assessment tools to align competencies with international benchmarks. The role of AI in assessment is equally transformative, ranging from automated grading with Natural Language Processing (NLP) to AI-assisted OSCE evaluations and image-based diagnostic testing, ensuring objectivity, scalability, and timeliness. The pandemic context revealed AI's potential in remote learning, where virtual laboratories, telemedicine training, and AI-based proctoring ensured pedagogical continuity. Research consistently demonstrates that AI-enabled distance learning sustains or enhances retention and student satisfaction compared to traditional modalities. Despite its promise, challenges persist. Ethical issues of data privacy, financial costs, and the necessity of faculty training must be addressed to ensure equitable access. Additionally, cultural adaptation and institutional readiness influence adoption rates, particularly in resource-constrained regions.

While the article effectively synthesizes current evidence and real-world applications, it may be strengthened by situating AI within broader educational theory (e.g., constructivist learning) and by comparing outcomes with traditional pedagogies at a meta-analytical level. Future research should focus on cost-effectiveness, faculty-student co-design of AI tools, and long-term impact on patient care outcomes, ensuring that AI serves not only as a technological innovation but as a pedagogically sound transformation of medical education.

Institutional Transformation of Georgian Universities Through Quality Assurance in the Context of the SDGs

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Abstract

The presented paper focuses on analyzing the role of high quality assurance in the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals defined in accordance with the 2015 United Nations General Assembly resolution “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The paper is based on official documents, scientific research articles, analysis, and employs the historical-comparative method. The Sustainable Development Goals developed by the United Nations in 2015 are linked to and, to some extent, represent a logical continuation of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation period of which was set for 2000-2015. Based on the analysis of the activities carried out, new trends in sustainable development emerged, which combine 17 goals and 169 targets. One of these important goals is to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal No. 4)”. In addition, the implementation of these goals aims to create inclusive, equitable, environmentally sustainable, economically strong societies, which is significantly related to the field of education. Georgia, as a UN member state, declares its readiness to fulfill the named goals.

In parallel with the mentioned process, significant changes were made to Georgia’s education sector alongside the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, aimed at creating a unified European Higher Education Area. This process, initiated by 29 European countries in 1999, followed key milestones such as the Magna Carta of Universities (1988), the Lisbon Convention (1997), and the Sorbonne Declaration (1998).

Georgia joined the Bologna Process in 2005 at the Bergen Summit, thereby confirming its full readiness to become a member of the single European educational space. This decision of the country, in turn, was associated with a complete renewal of the education sector and the implementation of significant institutional reforms. It is worth noting that at that time Georgia was carrying a heavy Soviet legacy, and this fact was especially evident in the education sector.

In conclusion, the comprehensive reforms in Georgian higher education marked by the modernization of institutional structures, the implementation of rigorous quality assurance systems, and the clear articulation of educational goals demonstrate a strategic and sustained commitment to aligning with European standards. These transformative efforts not only ensure the delivery of high quality education but also play a critical role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4. By doing so, Georgia positions itself as an active contributor to global educational progress and long-term sustainable development.

Leveraging AI for Internal Quality Assurance: Current Trends and Future Outlook

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Abstract

The origins of artificial intelligence trace back to the 1950s, John McCarthy organized a two-month workshop at Dartmouth College in the United States. It was in the proposal for this 1956 workshop that McCarthy first introduced the term "artificial intelligence.". As a formal field of academic inquiry, it was established in 1956 during the Dartmouth Conference.

Quality assurance departments of higher education institutions are beginning to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in enhancing implementation of internal mechanisms. While AI holds considerable promise for enhancing the accuracy, efficiency and transparency of quality assurance processes, there remains a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding how these tools are utilized.

The study aims to explore the current level of adoption of AI-based tools within quality assurance processes and to assess their perceived effectiveness, identify the key challenges, analyze the perceived risks associated with over-reliance on AI, understand the types of institutional support required to facilitate a successful and responsible integration of AI tools, explore expectations for the future role of AI in quality assurance.

As technologies based on artificial intelligence continue to evolve, it is important to assess how higher education institutions are preparing for the integration of more advanced AI-driven solutions and what steps they are taking to overcome the potential barriers to successful implementation.

A mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative research methods, was employed in this study. The survey was distributed to academic staff, administrative personnel and students. A total of 48 representatives from 28 universities across Georgia and Europe participated in the research.

The research reveals evolving landscape of integration artificial intelligence into internal quality assurance mechanisms. While a significant portion of respondents indicate that AI tools are not yet utilized in their institutions, there is a growing recognition of their potential effectiveness, particularly in enhancing efficiency . Concerns over data reliability, software costs, ethical compliance, personnel readiness, and the interpretability of AI-generated outcomes illustrate that the road to integration is neither straightforward nor universally embraced. Additionally, the perceived risks, such as over-reliance on AI, loss of human oversight, data security vulnerabilities, and resistance from institutional staff, highlight the need for a balanced and thoughtful approach to digital transformation in quality assurance. The findings of this study are particularly relevant for higher education policymakers, quality assurance professionals and staff involved in the design and implementation of internal quality assurance systems.

The Resettlement of the Azov Bulgarians to Georgia

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Abstract

The history of Bulgarian colonies in the Russian Empire is marked by waves of migration, adaptation, and resilience. After the Crimean War (1853–1856), the Russian Empire lost southern Bessarabia—home to around forty Bulgarian colonies—to the Principality of Moldavia and Wallachia. The Bulgarian settlers, now living under new rule, were given three years to move deeper into Russian territory. However, events soon took a difficult turn.

A key moment came in the autumn of 1860 with unrest in Bolgrad, followed by the revocation of the colonists' official status on December 29, 1819. These developments pushed the representatives of forty Bulgarian colonies to seek new lands. They chose the Azov region, recently vacated by the Nogai people, who had been resettled by the Russian authorities.

Life in the Azov region proved challenging. The climate was harsher than Bessarabia's, and the first three years were marred by crop failures and widespread hardship. This led to discussions among the settlers about relocating again—this time to the Kuban region, known for its milder climate. A delegation was sent to St. Petersburg to seek permission, but the government denied the request, fearing disorganized migration. Instead, the state offered financial aid to encourage the settlers to stay.

In 1865, 64 Bulgarian families petitioned the Kuban authorities for permission to resettle. While the outcome remains unknown, there is some evidence of Bulgarians migrating to Georgia in the 1860s. According to historian Mamuka Komakhia, 62 families—likely from the Katarzhino colony in Kherson province—arrived on the Black Sea coast and settled near Sukhumi and in the town of Ochamchira. However, the colony of Vladimirovka did not last, and the fate of its settlers remains uncertain.

Despite early struggles, the Bulgarian settlers in the Azov region adapted over time. The Russian government was keen to see the land cultivated, especially after the departure of the Nogais, and relied on the Bulgarian colonists to transform the region into an agricultural hub similar to Bessarabia. Ultimately, the settlers succeeded, and the Azov steppes became fertile and productive.

This episode reflects the Russian Empire's broader colonial policy: providing support and opportunities to settler communities while maintaining control to advance imperial interests and development goals.

On the Purchasing Power Parity of the Georgian Lari and the Soviet Ruble
(In Connection with the 30th Anniversary of the Introduction of the Lari)

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Abstract

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, followed by Georgia's independence and transition to a market economy, marked a significant turning point in the country's economic history. This context makes it particularly relevant to compare the purchasing power of the modern Georgian lari with that of the Soviet ruble, which circulated in Georgia during the USSR era.

Today's consumer basket differs substantially from that of four decades ago. Of the 305 product categories currently included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used by the National Statistics Office of Georgia to measure inflation, at least 15 were either absent or non-existent in the consumer market of the 1980s. Moreover, over 20 categories—while retaining their historical names—are now fundamentally different in terms of functionality, design, and quality (e.g., televisions, washing machines, automobiles). For nearly all other goods, delivery formats, pricing structures, product design, and adherence to environmental and consumer safety standards have significantly evolved. Additionally, it is important to consider that under the Soviet administrative-command economy, the prices of basic goods such as bread, meat, and dairy were typically set below cost, while the prices of goods like alcohol, automobiles, and jewelry were significantly above cost. Based on our analysis—utilizing historical retail prices and rational consumption norms—we estimate that the equivalent of 100 Soviet rubles in 1988 corresponds to 625.0 GEL in 2024. Conversely, 100 Georgian lari in 2024 is equivalent to approximately 16.00 rubles in 1988. The purchasing power of current wages exceeds the 1988 level in 19 out of 26 key consumer goods categories. However, in 7 categories (including milk and dairy products calculated on milk, eggs, chairs, gas, public transportation, water, and cinema tickets), purchasing power still lags behind the 1988 benchmark. Today, Georgia's average net salary stands at 157.4% of the 1988 level. However, the total annual wage fund is only 72.0% of its 1988 counterpart, and the wage fund per 1,000 people is 104.7%. In 1988, the annual net salary covered the cost of a consumer basket of 26 essential goods—representing nearly 60% of total consumer expenditure—by 126.9%. In 2024, it covers the same basket by 199.8%. Compared to Georgia, the average U.S. salary allows one to purchase significantly larger quantities of key goods: electricity – 2.7 times more, gasoline – 8.4 times, bread – 1.6 times, poultry – 5.6 times, eggs – 4.6 times, milk – 13.0 times, apples – 2.6 times, oranges – 3.5 times, bananas – 8.7 times, tomatoes – 3.8 times, and Big Macs – 4.7 times more.

During the Soviet era, income inequality was greater than inequality in actual consumption. Today, the opposite holds true: disparities in wealth, living standards, and socio-economic polarization significantly exceed differences in income and disposable resources. In light of these shifts—and given the differing purchasing power associated with various monetary regimes—the Soviet ruble can be metaphorically referred to as a “currency of the poor,” while the Georgian lari may be seen as a “currency of the rich.” The Soviet price system, designed on an egalitarian model, contributed to a more equal distribution of consumption, whereas the modern Georgian system has deepened social differentiation and polarization.

Sustainable Development Goals as a National and Global Development Challenge

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Abstract

This article reviews existing research on sustainability and sustainable development around the world. At the same time, the paper highlights the dimensions of sustainable development based on relevant literature and sources. The presented study uses a literature and source review methodology. We would also like to note that each region of the global world has made some progress towards achieving high levels of sustainable development. However, each region also faces unique challenges that impact the achievement of sustainable development goals in the region. These challenges have social, political, structural, institutional, and economic dimensions. Although sustainable development is a widely accepted concept in academic circles, its practicality is controversial in the political community. This paper examines existing barriers, analyzes economic, environmental, social and political challenges that hinder the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and presents potential solutions to overcome these problems. The aim of the study is to find a new way to answer the question of why the principles of sustainable development are being implemented in practice at such a slow pace. The research conducted confirmed that if sustainable development is to be the most important issue for current and future development, it must be structured around the basic requirements raised by science. Finally, relevant empirical studies show that integrating sustainability or sustainable development issues into business or environmental management provides certain positive benefits.

Contemporary Global Economic Challenges under Platform Economy: Georgia in the Context of Global and Domestic Imbalances

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Abstract

The modern global economy is undergoing a deeply systemic transformation characterized by the increasing concentration of economic power and resources in the hands of digital platforms, accompanied by the erosion of sovereign financial and political mechanisms. Digital “captation” — the algorithmic appropriation of data, financial transactions, and consumer behavior — emerges as a new mechanism for economic influence, reshaping the classical foundations of ownership, labor, and exchange.

Simultaneously, the dominance of payment systems—referring to the control of financial infrastructure by private and global platforms—introduces new vulnerabilities for small economies, including Georgia, which functions as a peripheral actor in global digital networks.

A particularly critical phenomenon is the distractive transformation of markets, referring to mechanisms by which digital channels (platforms, advertising, algorithms) shape consumer demand and behavior beyond the logic of traditional economic laws.

This study evaluates the position of Georgia, as a small economy, within the emerging platform economy—a system where economic value is produced and centralized through digital infrastructures controlled by transnational actors. The analysis highlights the country’s exposure to global capital concentration, the privatization of financial infrastructures, and the weakening of national economic sovereignty amidst the deterioration of regulatory and ownership principles.

The author analyzes how these dynamics deepen global inequality, undermine inclusive development, and reinforce new forms of geoeconomic dependence. The article contributes to the conceptual foundation for rethinking economic order and sovereignty in the digital age, offering a strategic framework for small economies like Georgia to navigate the post-neoliberal global architecture.

By doing so, it seeks to move beyond descriptive critique and to develop actionable intellectual tools for defining a sustainable, alternative model of development—one that is resilient to platform hegemony and capable of preserving economic agency in an algorithmically intermediated global system.

Digital Transformation of the Energy Sector: The Business Model of “Energy as a Service”

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Abstract

The energy sector is facing significant challenges: population growth, the expansion of industrial production, and climate change require more flexible, efficient, and sustainable energy supply systems. The traditional model, based on centralized generation, is no longer sufficient to meet modern demands. In this context, big data has become the main driving force of energy transformation. Its five “V” (Volume, Velocity, Variety, Veracity, and Value) define the importance of data, while the four types of analytics (descriptive, diagnostic, predictive, and prescriptive) create a complete decision-making cycle. The proper use of big data enables the optimization of energy consumption, reduction of costs, introduction of dynamic tariffs, and creation of added value for consumers.

At the core of the modern transformation of the energy sector lies the “Energy as a Service” (EaaS) model. It no longer treats energy merely as a product but as a service that includes consumption analysis, savings strategies, integration of renewable sources, and automated management. Its key features are flexible tariffs, personalized services, and guarantees of energy efficiency.

Digital transformation is based on the Internet of Things (IoT), smart meters, artificial intelligence, and blockchain. Artificial intelligence and machine learning provide accurate demand forecasting, grid optimization, and prevention of failures, while blockchain enhances transparency and trust.

For Georgia and the South Caucasus, this model has particular importance: hydropower resources, the potential for microgrids, and experience with blockchain create a foundation for introducing innovative energy services in the region.

Big data and the “Energy as a Service” model are transforming the energy sector both technologically and strategically. The future belongs to data-driven services, where energy is not only a resource but also an integrated service that enhances economic efficiency, consumer engagement, and environmental sustainability

The Impact of Technological Solutions on the Project Cycle: Digital Transformation and Sustainability in Management

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Abstract

In today's global environment, technological transformation and the adoption of digital solutions play a crucial role in reshaping project management practices. The aim of this study is to analyze how technological tools influence the stages of the project cycle and how they affect organizational sustainability.

The research examines the integration of digital platforms, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and automation as key components in project planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Findings reveal that modern technologies enhance transparency, reduce decision-making time, and strengthen team coordination across the project lifecycle.

Special emphasis is placed on the importance of partnerships and collaboration: cooperation with technology companies enables organizations to adopt advanced practices and adapt to global changes. The study also highlights that organizations should foster an innovation-oriented culture, granting employees the freedom to test and implement new ideas.

The scientific contribution of this work lies in offering an integrated analytical model that bridges classical project management approaches with technological innovations. In practical terms, the results demonstrate that the purposeful use of technological solutions increases project efficiency, reduces resource misallocation, and reinforces sustainability mechanisms.

Ultimately, the paper confirms that digital transformation is no longer an optional tool but an essential requirement for the successful implementation of modern projects and the achievement of long-term sustainability.

Implementation of Wind Turbine Condition Monitoring System in Industry

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Abstract

The advantage of the presented model primarily lies in its functional and practical approach: for data monitoring, compiling detailed reports, and conducting historical data analysis, the already existing Pxtrend system in the plant is utilized, while data collection and management are carried out using SIEMENS PCS 7 , which has direct access to the installed equipment. For visualization and the display of real-time data, WINCC 9.1 is used. These programs are fully compatible and can be easily integrated with an Excel-based analytical model. Through this combination, it becomes possible to effectively and transparently process data on the wind speed exiting the tower, vibrations, temperature, and turbine operating hours. The incoming information is converted into signals and are being processed on the above-mentioned platforms, after which this information is converted into our Excel-based monitoring document. Ultimately, the obtained data are presented as visually perceptible signals, which enable the technical personnel to respond in a timely manner.

Attack Detection on Distributed Big Data Streams Using Machine Learning

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Abstract

In the modern digital world, the volume of data is exponentially increasing day by day, creating the need to develop new security approaches. The use of distributed data systems, through which data flows move across different platforms, has become particularly relevant. However, this high degree of distribution and openness creates favorable conditions for cyber-attacks. It is worth noting that traditional intrusion detection tools perform best on relatively low-velocity data. They are ineffective in handling large-scale and high-velocity data, which cannot be adequately processed. This is why new methods must be adapted to handle big data in order to detect any signs of intrusion. In this regard, the use of machine learning methods is particularly important, as they can be applied both for anomaly detection and for identifying indicators of known attacks.

This paper analyzes the importance of real-time detection of DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks on distributed big data and the associated challenges. It describes DoS attacks that directly target big data systems. Special attention is given to the timely detection of various types of attacks on distributed information flows using machine learning. To address this problem, a Random Forest model is proposed. An algorithm for detecting unauthorized intrusion into the system using a Random Forest classifier is developed, and a network intrusion detection model based on a deep parallel Random Forest is presented. The paper also analyzes the challenges associated with using Random Forest, which mainly concern data imbalance and computational complexity. Nevertheless, the Random Forest method retains its advantages for solving network anomaly detection tasks, particularly for real-time distributed data.

Opportunities for Tourism Development in the Mountainous Regions of Georgia – Prospects for Climate-Smart Technologies

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Abstract

Georgia's mountainous regions—such as Svaneti, Racha, Khevsureti, and Tusheti—possess exceptional natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and cultural heritage, offering high potential for sustainable tourism development. However, these areas are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, necessitating long-term, climate-resilient strategies.

Climate-smart technologies present a viable approach that integrates tourism development with environmental sustainability and community well-being. Key measures include the use of renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass), construction of energy-efficient and climate-adapted facilities, improved water management systems, and the promotion of eco- and agrotourism. These interventions support resource conservation, biodiversity protection, and economic diversification.

Smart transport and digital infrastructure—such as electric vehicle charging stations and online marketing platforms—further reduce environmental impact and improve access. Implementing climate-smart practices can extend the tourist season, reduce youth outmigration through job creation, and enhance Georgia's reputation as a green destination.

Despite promising prospects, challenges such as limited funding, low awareness, inadequate infrastructure, and geographic barriers hinder widespread adoption. Addressing these requires coordinated action from the government, private sector, and international partners through regional planning, investment incentives, and knowledge exchange.

In sum, climate-smart tourism offers a strategic pathway for sustainable economic development in Georgia's mountain regions, balancing environmental preservation with community empowerment.

Experience in Teaching Sustainable Tourism Development

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Abstract

As tourism continues to expand globally, the need for professionals skilled in sustainable tourism management is increasingly urgent. This paper examines Georgia's experience in sustainable tourism education, emphasizing both curriculum development and experiential learning.

A key case study highlights an integrated field session in Tbilisi National Park, where tourism students engaged in hiking, camping, and addressing ecological challenges. This hands-on approach fostered leadership, teamwork, and environmental awareness. A qualitative study involving 21 students confirmed the positive impact of field-based learning on motivation, responsibility, and preparedness for future roles. The paper also reviews international trends in sustainable tourism education, such as interdisciplinary approaches, place-based learning, and the critical role of fieldwork in linking theory to practice. It argues that these global best practices can be effectively adapted to Georgia's context through stronger collaboration among universities, communities, and protected areas.

Recommendations include integrating field modules into curricula, enhancing teacher training, improving outdoor learning infrastructure, and fostering institutional partnerships. The paper concludes that sustainable tourism education must be value-driven and experiential to prepare committed, competent professionals capable of leading sustainable development efforts.

On the Issue of Green Economy Awareness

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Abstract

This article discusses the theoretical foundations of the green economy concept, its structural elements, principles, and the level of awareness in Georgia. The green economy is presented as an economic model of sustainable development that responds to the global challenges of the 21st century, including climate change, water resource scarcity, and ecosystem degradation.

The authors note that the concept of the green economy is still in the process of formation and is interpreted differently across scientific and political circles. The text examines the main sectors of the green economy, including renewable energy, environmentally friendly buildings, transportation, water and waste management, and sustainable land use. Based on documents from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the article outlines the ecological, social, and economic characteristics of the green economy, which include resource and energy efficiency, biodiversity protection, social justice, and the development of innovative technologies.

The article also presents a generalized list of the core principles of the green economy, derived from approaches developed by international organizations. These principles include promoting sustainable development, creating decent jobs, respecting ecological boundaries, measuring progress through indicators, and strengthening democratic governance.

The research section of the article analyzes green economy awareness based on a survey of more than 100 respondents. Participants included students from various regional higher education institutions, as well as representatives from the public and private sectors and academic circles. The aim of the study was to assess the level of public awareness and perception of the green economy.

Problems, Strategy and Prospects of Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Georgia

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Abstract

Paper examines the state of foreign direct investment and development prospects in Georgia. The study revealed that Georgia, with its historical and geographical location, is an attractive investment destination and ranks second in the South Caucasus region after Turkey in attracting FDI.

The analysis of investment dynamics showed that in 2000-2015, an increasing trend was observed, with a maximum in 2015 of 1,728.3 million USD. In 2015-2020, there was a decrease to 583 million USD, and in 2022, the record figure was 2,253.4 million USD. By 2024, a decrease was again observed to 1,333.8 million USD.

The main reasons for the decline were identified as the COVID-19 pandemic (2020), the impact of the EU's foreign economic policy, weakening economic ties, and the tense internal political situation. Furthermore, the main problems identified were the high index of perceived corruption in the public sector and difficulties in developing innovative potential.

The study developed recommendations that include: revising the national strategy to strengthen FDI incentive measures, attracting foreign investors to national projects of international importance, improving legislation in terms of insurance of political risks of investments and protection of property rights, as well as the use of preferential taxation measures for joint businesses.

The study concludes that Georgia has the potential to maintain its status as a leading investment destination in the region, which requires a comprehensive approach from the state, private sector, and civil society, and significant improvements in the investment environment.

Economic Efficiency of Greenhouse Farming

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Abstract

Greenhouse farming is one of the most dynamically developing directions in the modern agricultural sector, enabling efficient use of land resources, optimization of climatic conditions, and enhancement of food security. Global experience shows that integrating technological innovations significantly increases productivity, reduces energy and water consumption, and lays the foundation for sustainable development. This study builds on these international trends and aims to assess the economic efficiency of greenhouse farming in the context of Georgia.

Small and medium-sized greenhouse farms in Georgia face numerous challenges, including limited financial resources, lack of modern technologies, and insufficient knowledge. These factors directly affect farmers' competitiveness and the country's export potential. Alongside analyzing these issues, the research focuses on opportunities linked to the adoption of innovative approaches, such as energy-efficient systems, sensors, automated climate control, and hydroponics.

Special attention is given to the concept of establishing greenhouse laboratories within universities as platforms for integrating academic and practical knowledge. Such laboratories promote student and researcher engagement in real-world experiments, strengthen international partnerships, and foster the development of new business models. The study demonstrates that the involvement of educational institutions in technological innovation is critical for transforming the agricultural sector.

Methodologically, the research employs both quantitative and qualitative approaches, incorporating primary and secondary data analysis, SWOT analysis, financial modeling, and pilot project simulation. Comparative analysis with the experiences of the Netherlands, USA, and Japan reveals that innovative technologies significantly boost yields, reduce energy costs, and minimize environmental impact.

The ultimate goal of the study is to develop a model that enhances the competitiveness of Georgian greenhouse farming in international markets, ensures ecological sustainability, and supports the high-quality training of young professionals. Establishing a greenhouse laboratory within a university will serve as a center for testing innovations and conducting research, fostering new forms of collaboration between academia and the business sector.

Business Risks, Low Taxes, and High Interest Rates: An Empirical Study Based on the Case of Georgia

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Abstract

In today's globalized economic environment, investors pay close attention to jurisdictions' tax systems and business risks when making investment decisions. Countries characterized by high political and economic instability and weak investment protection mechanisms often face a shortage of foreign investors. In such conditions, governments tend to introduce tax incentives to attract foreign capital.

The case of Georgia clearly reflects this process. In recent years, the country has implemented tax reforms aimed at reducing the tax burden and creating a more attractive environment for businesses. However, against the backdrop of ongoing economic and political challenges, bank lending interest rates remain high. These high rates often reflect macroeconomic uncertainty and increase financial risks for businesses, which negatively impacts investment volume and economic growth.

The aim of this study is to empirically confirm the relationship between low tax rates and high business risks, with particular focus on bank interest rates. The research demonstrates that despite relatively low taxes, high business risks and interest rates significantly hinder investment inflows. Through the analysis of statistical data, the study explores how tax incentives function as tools of economic development in countries like Georgia and identifies the key challenges in improving the investment climate.

The research utilizes various economic and financial indicators reflecting tax policy, business risks, and bank lending conditions. The conclusions drawn from the study will form the basis for policy recommendations aimed at enhancing the investment climate and supporting economic development in Georgia.

Investment Attractiveness of Georgian Municipalities: the Context of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The issue of attracting investments is relevant for any level of the socio-economic system. In this regard, increasing investment attractiveness and managing this process itself are of utmost importance. The role of municipal formations is growing in the modern economy. This is due to their corporate nature and different resource potential, as well as increased competition. Implementing a flexible investment policy is of crucial importance. This will make it possible to attract foreign investments, stimulate the investment opportunities of existing economic entities, and utilize domestic investments.

The paper identifies difficulties related to investment attractiveness at the local level; discusses the investment opportunities of Georgian municipalities, also, elements of investment policy to increase investment attractiveness, taking into account the context of sustainable development.

Profit Tax Reform in Georgia: Process and Outcomes

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Abstract

Among the significant reforms implemented in Georgia's tax system over the last two to three decades, profit tax reform holds a particularly special place. We have in mind the adoption of the so-called Estonian model of profit taxation. This model is also called distributed profit tax, since according to it; the main object of taxation is the distribution of dividends. However, in addition to distributed profit, according to the model implemented in Georgia, certain categories of expenses/costs are also subject to taxation, which could have been used as hidden alternatives to profit distribution, including: expenses that are not related to economic activity; undocumented expenses; free supply of goods/provision of services and/or transfer of funds; excessive representative expenses and so on.

The profit tax model introduced in Georgia also differs from its Estonian analogue in terms of the coverage of taxation subjects and the extent of sectoral exceptions. While in Estonia this model operates mainly universally across all sectors, sectoral exceptions in Georgia are much broader. The new regime was extended to non-commercial and insurance organizations only at a later stage, while banking institutions, credit unions, microfinance organizations, and lending entities remained under the classical taxation regime and their taxation rate even increased. Persons engaged in various types of gambling business are also taxed under different rules.

The paper examines the outcomes of the profit tax reform in Georgia. Although there was some acceleration of economic growth in the years following the reform, we believe its contribution is relatively limited when considered against the backdrop of the economic consequences of various most important economic, political and social events of the same period. The fiscal impact of implementing the new profit tax regime is discussed in detail - according to taxes mobilized in the budget, as well as the number of declarants, declared profits and dividend values. The influence of profit tax reform on taxpayer behavior and the working practices of tax administration bodies is also discussed.

Activities and National Traditions Ensuring Economic Well-Being

(According to Ethnographic Expressions and Terms)

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Abstract

In modern conditions, economic well-being is influenced by various factors, including national traditions and individual actions based on them: access to resources, income inequality and social protection, financial literacy, and so on.

The interdependent actions of society and individuals have always been characteristic of our country's everyday life, and not only in the economic aspect. A culture of cooperation and risk-sharing, inclusiveness, fair taxation, gender equality, and more have not only provided the foundation for a strong economy and a "well-ordered existence" for the family (by promoting productivity and common well-being that benefits all citizens), but also shaped national consciousness and created the basis for statehood. To understand whether policies are improving lives, we need to look "beyond the GDP figure" and consider a broader range of economic, social, and environmental outcomes for people. This also allows us to understand what is important to people and what drives their behavior.

In addition, we believe it is essential to consider the issue in a historical context, which will allow us to observe the process and its consequences.

It is necessary to study the indicators by which the well-being of individuals, families, society, the state, and, most importantly, future generations were assessed, especially during times of profound changes and transformations. This is precisely the purpose of the research within the framework of this article.

To achieve the goal, ethnographic materials (reflecting beliefs, "household-household", "protective", "labor, production management in harmony", "meals", "chief's bite", "one sum", etc.) obtained from various regions of Georgia were used, which reflect the socio-economic life of the inhabitants of various historical-ethnographic regions of Georgia, the historical experience of conducting farming, economic cooperation and the experience of regulating other related, everyday issues, both in the family and in society.

Trends of Business Environment Perfection in Georgia

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Abstract

According to recent data, the business environment in Georgia has significantly improved and doing business has become much easier, as evidenced by official statistical information, in the World Bank Group's annual report "Doing Business" from the website. According to 2024 data, Georgia ranks 7th out of 190 countries in terms of ease of doing business and has maintained the same position for 5 years, which is a good indicator for our country. In January-August 2025, Georgia's foreign trade turnover in goods (excluding undeclared trade) amounted to 16,252.0 million USD, which is 8.8 percent more than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Of this, exports amounted to 4,448.0 million USD (increased by 6.7 percent), and imports amounted to 11,804.0 million USD (increased by 9.7 percent). The negative trade balance in January-August 2025 amounted to 7,356.0 million USD, which is 45.3 percent of foreign trade turnover. According to a study published by the European Business Association (EBA), the main challenge for businesses in Georgia is political instability, which the organization names as the main obstacle to doing business among the 200 European companies surveyed. 76.8% of businesses surveyed name political instability as the main challenge, followed by the shortage of workers at 65.9%. The ineffective judicial system is in third place at 58%. The study also shows that the impact of the shortage of qualified labor on GDP loss is 26% annually. In 2024, 41.7 percent of the total number of employees was in large businesses, 21.5 percent in medium-sized businesses, and 36.9 percent in small businesses. During the reporting period, the total number of employees amounted to 764.2 thousand people, 3.0 percent more than the previous year. By type of activity, relatively high salaries were recorded in the following sectors: Information and communication; Financial and insurance activities; Construction; Professional, scientific and technical activities. The goal of our country should be to raise the level of awareness of citizens. A developed society is the basis of a strong private sector.

Considering all this, I would like to draw attention to the following conclusions and recommendations: Creating favorable conditions for business requires the state to ensure economic and political stability. A strong economy and stable business development depend on increasing domestic production to meet internal demand. One of the key challenges in Georgia's labor market is the shortage of skilled professionals alongside an excess of unqualified labor, which calls for a systematic solution. To build a viable business environment, it is essential to develop innovative infrastructure, support the creation of tech parks, startup hubs, and business incubators, and ensure their accessibility across the regions.

Company Sustainability and the Role of the Customer in its Success

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Abstract

The focus of modern marketing has long since shifted from the product to the consumer. This reality determines the maximum orientation of the company to satisfy the consumer and his needs. Today's reality allows us to consider the sustainability of the company and the factors that affect it. And also those companies that have lost their positions in the market due to major mistakes. Or vice versa, we will consider the experience of large firms, how they achieved success. Such facts are the best lesson for those companies that do not yet know how to focus on the consumer, and then take their rightful place in the market space, among competitors. The work allows you to understand who the real consumers are, why they buy products and by what criteria they choose goods. It also presents what consumers want and why it is important for the company to satisfy and retain them.

The article presents the results of our research, which show that in order to maintain the sustainability of a company, customer orientation should be its main mission. Most respondents also believe that innovation can be one of the most important paths to the company's success, but at the same time, it should be focused on the needs of customers.

In conclusion, we offer recommendations that can be taken into account to help the company improve the quality of service and retain customers, which will contribute to strengthening its sustainability in the market.

Innovative Technologies as a Strategic Factor of Economic Growth

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Abstract

Innovative technologies are a key driving force in the development of the modern economy. Their integration into production, finance, and service sectors creates new opportunities for productivity growth, efficient resource utilization, and enhanced global competitiveness. Research has shown that digital transformation, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and green technologies not only accelerate economic growth but also promote sustainable development. This article focuses on how innovation becomes a significant component of economic strategy, ensuring national economic security, attracting investments, and exploring new markets. Based on the research, it is evident that the impact of innovative technologies on economic growth significantly exceeds the effects of traditional growth factors.

Conversion of Liquid Fuel Vehicles to Natural Gas as an Important Measure to Reduce Atmospheric Pollution

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Abstract

The report substantiates the predominant contribution of motor transport to the pollution of the atmosphere with harmful emissions, both in general and in Georgia in particular. It is stated that one of the ways to correct this situation in many developed countries of the world is considered to be the replacement of liquid motor fuel with natural gas. This is clearly seen in the abundance of legislative acts and resolutions issued by the governments of these countries, which encourage vehicle owners and owners of relevant infrastructure to increase the number of motor vehicles powered by natural gas.

A comparison of liquid and gaseous fuels in terms of the number of harmful emissions is presented and the specific conditions that must be taken into account in the process of converting vehicles powered by liquid fuel to natural gas are listed. Both the positive and negative sides of converting motor vehicles from liquid fuel to natural gas are presented.

The final part of the report expresses the hope that familiarization with the presented material will help both vehicle owners and those working in management positions to be convinced of the benefits of replacing liquid fuel with natural gas in motor vehicles and to take appropriate measures, which will contribute to the sustainable development process of Georgia.

Teacher Education Students' Perspectives on the Interconnection between Citizenship and the Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

Paper explores the perspectives of students enrolled in a one-year teacher education program regarding the interconnection between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and citizenship education. It examines the challenges and contradictions they encounter in developing an integrated understanding of these domains and considers the prospects for strengthening their synthesis.

In today's context, where global challenges—such as climate change, social inequality, and the crisis of democratic institutions—are intensifying, understanding the interplay between citizenship and sustainable development acquires particular importance. Teachers play a decisive role in this process, as they contribute to shaping new generations of responsible citizens. Therefore, it is essential to study how future teachers of citizenship education perceive the relationship between citizenship and the SDGs.

The study employs a qualitative research methodology, with data collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. This approach made it possible to identify both common trends and individual perspectives. The participants were 28 students from the citizenship track of the teacher education program at European University, representing two cohorts (2023–2024 and 2024–2025). Among them, eight had some prior teaching experience before entering the program.

The research revealed diverse views among students on the interaction between citizenship and sustainable development. A general trend emerged: future teachers recognize the importance of integrating sustainable development into citizenship education, yet they struggle to see the relevance of citizenship education in achieving the SDGs. These findings are significant for improving teacher education curricula as well as professional development programs for in-service teachers.

The study shows that future teachers tend to underestimate their role in achieving the SDGs, highlighting the need for stronger support during both pre-service preparation and professional development. Based on the findings, recommendations have been formulated for teacher education programs to strengthen students' understanding of the interconnection between citizenship and sustainable development.

Discriminatory Regulation and Legislative Gap in Georgian Tax Legislation

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Abstract

The paper concerns the discriminatory regulation of Article 81 of the Tax Code of Georgia, according to which income from the organization of slot machine parlors and online/electronic gambling systems is taxed differently depending on whether the income received by the person organizing the gambling business is received with funds paid by Georgian citizens or by citizens of foreign countries. In the case of income received as a result of the participation of Georgian citizens, the tax rate is 20%, and in the case of the participation of foreigners - 5%. The mentioned regulation creates serious legal problems in terms of the principles of equality and justice and establishes discriminatory approaches. The study covers the tax legislation of Georgia against the background of the analysis of the principles of international law and tax legal regulations of foreign states. The paper discusses the general theory of discrimination, its types and the requirements of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms regarding discriminatory regulations.

The principles of formal and substantive justice analyzed in the scientific literature and the necessity of their application are reviewed. Using the comparative method, the tax legislation of Georgia is compared with the tax legislation of Germany, the United States of America and Russia, where attention is focused on the principles of equality and justice established in tax law.

The paper critically examines the implementation of discriminatory approaches based on citizenship, which contradicts the requirements of both the Constitution and international law. The introduction of such changes in tax legislation that contradict the norm at a higher level of the hierarchy is criticized. It is argued that the different taxation rules established by the amendments to the Tax Code in 2024 are discriminatory on the basis of citizenship and that such discriminatory regulation does not serve legitimate public interests, nor will it serve as a mechanism for attracting foreign investments, nor will it increase budget revenues to a level that would justify discrimination.

In conclusion, recommendations are presented regarding amendments to the Tax Code of Georgia, which will fully align the Georgian tax system with justice, equality, and ensure a proper balance between public and private interests.

In the Context of Technological Development, the Protection of Personal Data in the Activities of Law Enforcement Agencies

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Abstract

Globalization has presented new challenges in the direction of processing of personal data. The scale of its processing has increased significantly. In this regard, it is notable that the volume of data processing by law enforcement agencies is significant, since in order to exercise their powers under the legislation, they have the ability to obtain data from both open and hidden sources and otherwise process it, as for technology, it allows the law enforcement agencies to process personal data on an unprecedented scale. It should be noted that the right to protection of personal data is not recognized as a separate right under the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the Constitution of Georgia, and is included in the protected sphere of the rights to private and family life, personal space, and inviolability of communication. However, the European Union has chosen a different approach. In particular, based on the Treaty of Lisbon, the “Charter of Fundamental Rights” has come into force, where the right to the protection of personal data is considered as a separate right. The latter was due to the risks caused by technological development. Accordingly, processing of the personal data for law enforcement purposes constitutes an intervention in the rights to privacy and the protection of personal data. However, these rights are not absolute. In order to justify such interference of the named rights, it is necessary to maintain a balance between the right of the relevant person/legal person on the one hand, and the effective functioning of the law enforcement agencies, on the other.

The conference will address challenges that globalization and technological development create for protecting personal data. Especially when law enforcement entities process the data. The approaches of the Council of Europe and the European Union will be discussed in this regard. Additionally, the compliance of Georgian legislation with European regulations will be assessed, the standard by which personal data is protected during the activities of law enforcement agencies. Relevant recommendations will be issued.

Principles of Unconstitutionality of the “Normative Content” of Norm in the Practice of the Constitutional Court of Georgia

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Abstract

The mechanism of declaring the “normative content” of a legal norm unconstitutional is a crucial tool for upholding the constitutional order. However, its application demands a particularly cautious and balanced approach to avoid encroaching upon the legislative authority. The Constitutional Court of Georgia, while performing its role as a negative legislator, is not merely confined to prohibiting the insertion of new provisions into normative acts. In many cases, the Court confronts situations where the interpretation and application of a law spite its formally constitutional text contradict fundamental constitutional principles. In such contexts, the Court is required to exercise effective constitutional oversight without overstepping its institutional mandate. Nevertheless, the Georgian legal system currently lacks clear and consistent criteria for assessing the constitutionality of the “normative content” of legal norms, resulting in legal uncertainty and increasing the risk of subjective judicial reasoning.

This paper seeks to address this gap by formulating a set of guiding criteria for evaluating the unconstitutionality of a norm’s “normative content,” based on a comparative analysis of constitutional jurisprudence from the United States and various European jurisdictions.

The Revival of the Tea Route in Tkibuli: Historical-Economic Heritage and Prospects for Tourism Development

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Abstract

Tea culture became established in Georgia in the second half of the 19th century and soon turned into an important component of the country's economic and cultural life. The Imereti region, with its natural and geographical conditions, developed into one of the leading zones. Particularly interesting is the case of Tkibuli, where tea became not only part of agricultural production but also a form of organizing social life.

Today, as the region shifts from an economy dependent on heavy industry toward a more diversified model of development, the revival of tea culture emerges both as a necessity for preserving historical heritage and as an opportunity for developing new directions in tourism. The aim of this study is to analyze the historical-geographical foundations, economic significance, and tourism potential of Tkibuli's "Tea Route." In the last century, Georgia ranked fourth in the world in tea production, behind only China, India, and Sri Lanka. In 2016, foreign investors appeared, and Georgian tea producers began thinking about restoring the old reputation, which led to the launch of the Georgian Tea Rehabilitation Program. In recent years, efforts to reintroduce tea cultivation have begun at the farming level. The Tkibuli zone is particularly noteworthy because it offers the potential for cultivating organic and high-quality tea, as its mountainous terrain and climate are ideal for elite varieties. The revival of the "Tea Route" in Tkibuli could become one of Imereti's key strategic projects, transforming the legacy of the past into new economic and cultural opportunities.

Dynamics of Landslide Processes Development in the Imereti Region

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In the Imereti region, approximately 73 settlements are located within high-risk landslide zones, 151 settlements in medium-risk zones, 152 in low-risk zones, and 168 in non-hazardous zones. In the mid-mountainous areas of Imereti, the intensification of landslide activity has typically occurred during years of above-average atmospheric precipitation, particularly under conditions of heavy and torrential rainfall. Considering the spatial distribution of risk across the region, the implementation of systematic geomonitoring is of critical importance. In the near future, it is also necessary to conduct comprehensive assessments of settlement conditions, as well as the resilience of agricultural lands and infrastructure located in high-risk areas. Based on these findings, detailed risk maps should be developed to provide a spatial representation of landslide hazard levels and support informed decision-making.

Sustainable Development, Culture, and Institutional Transformation: A Comparative Analysis of the Multidisciplinary Perspectives of Merab Mamardashvili and Michel Foucault

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Abstract

This paper explores the interrelation of sustainable development, culture, and institutional transformation from a multidisciplinary perspective. The novelty of this research lies in bridging the ideas of two major thinkers — Merab Mamardashvili and Michel Foucault — whose intellectual traditions differ, yet whose perspectives can be mutually enriching for contemporary debates. Mamardashvili, grounded in the philosophy of freedom and consciousness, argues that institutional and economic reforms remain ineffective without cultural awareness and inner vigilance. Foucault, by contrast, reveals how institutions and discourses serve as mechanisms of power, simultaneously constructing the subject and restricting its freedom.

The methodology is based on comparative analysis, integrating approaches from economics, philosophy, and social theory. The paper examines freedom versus power, culture as opportunity versus culture as discipline, and institutions as inner order versus external control. Particular attention is paid to the notion of progress: for Mamardashvili, it is the expansion of freedom; for Foucault, the refinement of mechanisms of control.

The analysis also considers contemporary challenges: the digital economy, climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the rise of artificial intelligence. Each case demonstrates the duality of development — creating new opportunities for freedom while also intensifying potential risks of surveillance and control. The conclusion emphasizes that sustainable development cannot be reduced to macroeconomic indicators. It requires cultural self-awareness and constant critical vigilance to ensure that institutional reforms evolve into dynamic processes, rather than remaining formal structures. Such an integrated perspective allows development to protect not only growth, but also human freedom, dignity, and sustainability.

Education and Ethics in Relation to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The paper discusses education and ethics in relation to sustainable development. Education as a basis for the formation of a person with new thoughts and new rules of behavior in society and the environment – a new consciousness. Sustainable literacy and new thinking are knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable the understanding of the importance of a sustainable living space;nd ethics is a form of public thinking and awareness of actions based on the goals of sustainable development and the basic principles of classical ethics.

The work provides detailed examples of the main content of teaching, methods, innovations and research, and opinions on each issue.

The novelty and goal of the work: to teach “Education and Ethics in Relation to Sustainable Development” in a comprehensive manner in the educational space. Nowadays, these disciplines are taught separately and not together. Students will be able to use a single textbook instead of separate ones.

The author introduces the work with a proposal to publish a textbook in this direction, "Education and Ethics in Relation to Sustainable Development," which would raise public awareness of sustainable development. It will respond to modern challenges, and awareness and knowledge will make human actions more thoughtful and will be a guarantee that we can avoid the risks that lack of awareness and reckless activities can bring

Court Mediation in Georgia: Comparative Analysis, Institutional Challenges, and Prospects for Development

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Abstract

This study assesses the implementation of court mediation in Georgia, with a focus on institutional readiness and the integration of psychosocial services in family law. Despite the 2020 legislative framework, practical adoption remains uneven across regions, particularly in rural courts. The insufficient qualification of mediators, limited involvement of judges, the absence of integrated psychosocial support mechanisms, low public awareness regarding the nature and benefits of mediation, and the shortage of financial and administrative resources collectively diminish the institutional value, effectiveness, and credibility of mediation in Georgia.

By comparing Georgian practices to successful EU models—Germany, the Netherlands, and Lithuania—the research identifies critical gaps and proposes reforms aimed at improving quality, access, and child-sensitive mediation outcomes.

Some Aspects of a Juvenile Victim or Witness' Legal Status

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Abstract

The Juvenile Justice Code is an unquestionably crucial law infusing Georgian legal reality with progressive approaches. However, a number of issues have arisen as a result of inadequate qualifications and experience. In addition to figuring out what constitutes the child's best interests, secondary victimization has been a problem since 2016. Is the young person involved in the process truly experiencing trauma while justice is being administered?

The problem relates to the actual, extremely challenging, and degrading circumstances of minor victims. What happens to a minor victim of violence, what does the one go through from experiencing violence to disclosing it to the court or while the case is being considered? What is required of a witness by virtue of their position? How well-protected are their rights? We will attempt to respond to these enquiries here. Within its frameworks, the legal analysis serving as the foundation for this study, examined Georgia's present legislation, legal practice, and juvenile justice experience.

A number of European Court of Human Rights rulings have been studied for comparison; the methodology is founded on a descriptive and comparative research strategy, allowing for the identification of issues and the development of recommendations.

According to the study's findings, professional retraining for those involved in the juvenile justice system, proactive state assistance, and increased public awareness are all essential for its effective operation. Improving legal rules is advised for the proper operation of juvenile justice;

The legal analysis showed that national needs must be considered and the legal culture must be progressively changed while implementing international standards.

Scientific Research as the Basis for the Country's Economic Sustainability and Development

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Abstract

The article analyzes the importance of scientific-research for the rapid economic development of the country. Numerous examples of countries are given that confirm the possibility of rapid development of a country in this direction if the corresponding potential is available. Accordingly, it is quite possible that Georgia, with “good will,” can develop at a rapid pace, which will also lead to a reduction in the migration process.

In the paper, the authors focus on the role of science and research in general in ensuring the improvement of a country's socio-economic conditions. Examples are provided from developed countries (the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and others) regarding the expenditures they allocate to scientific research. Particular attention is given to the introduction of innovative factors in modern science, education, and the overall formation of a contemporary economic system within society. The article highlights the role of science in public life and the measures that should be undertaken by the Government of Georgia in this regard. It emphasizes that the innovative path of development is generally oriented toward the continuous renewal of socially significant qualities in goods and services, something that cannot be achieved without the active advancement of fundamental scientific knowledge. The article further notes that education always plays a priority role in attracting and developing innovative methods in science. A deeper understanding of the role of education—alongside science as the core of the modern economy—must be reflected in a significant increase in investments in the field of education, since such investments enabled developed countries to transition to the post-industrial stage of development. Finally, the authors present their vision of the steps that should be taken in Georgia to ensure the establishment of an innovative economy and the country's economic sustainability. The article underscores that an innovative economy is essentially a knowledge-based economy, grounded in innovations, the generation of new ideas, and the introduction of new machinery, systems, and modern technologies

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