



Co-funded by
the European Union



CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

JOINT MA PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (JoPSciP)

NEWSLETTER

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AT A GLANCE

Design a Cutting-Edge Curriculum

Develop a forward-looking curriculum, robust management structures, and quality assurance systems for a joint MA program in Political Science, built on the European Approach for Accreditation of Joint Programs.

Achieve Accreditation at All Levels

Secure official recognition for the program both internationally and nationally, ensuring full compliance with EU quality benchmarks.

Empower Staff and Institutions

Build the capacity of teaching and administrative teams to apply innovative teaching methods and manage the joint program effectively.

Create a Shared Digital Learning Space

Launch a joint Virtual Educational Space (VES) to support cross-border learning, collaborative teaching, and digital academic interaction.

Connect with the Global Political Science Community

Promote international cooperation through joint research, dissemination activities, and closer links with the labor market.

Test, Refine, and Implement

Run pilot courses and joint teaching activities to test and fine-tune the program before its full-scale launch.

 TOGETHER, THESE OBJECTIVES LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A TRULY INTERNATIONAL, FUTURE-ORIENTED, AND HIGH-IMPACT MASTER'S PROGRAM THAT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN GOVERNANCE, POLICY, AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by the European Union



Accreditation Milestone Achieved

The PoSIG Joint Master's Programme — a flagship initiative of the Curriculum Development – Joint MA Program in Political Science (JoPScIP) project — has reached a major milestone: it has received its third European accreditation, officially confirmed by AQ Austria.

This achievement is the result of continuous collaboration among 13 partner universities across 8 countries, working together to raise the standards of political science education and governance studies in Europe and beyond. It reflects the consortium's shared vision of creating an innovative, high-quality master's program that prepares future leaders to address complex political, social, and governance challenges in a rapidly changing global context.

The renewed accreditation reaffirms the program's compliance with the highest European quality standards and strengthens its position as a leading model of cross-border academic cooperation. It also highlights the success of the JoPScIP partnership in bridging institutions, expertise, and cultures to deliver a truly international and future-oriented educational experience.



The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria) awards its quality seal



to the Joint Master's Programme

Political Science — Integration and Governance (PoSIG)

implemented at the following Universities:

- Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS), Austria
- European University of Tirana (UET), Albania
- University of Tirana (UTIR), Albania
- Yerevan State University (YSU), Armenia
- Eurasia International University Yerevan (EIU), Armenia
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Tbilisi State University (TSU), Georgia
- Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA), Georgia
- University of Trieste (UNITS), Italy
- Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM), North Macedonia
- University of Business and Technology Prishtina (UBT), Kosovo
- University of Prishtina (UP), Kosovo

The Joint Master's Programme complies with the "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (2015)", approved by European Higher Education ministers in May 2015 in Yerevan (adopted by the Board of AQ Austria in its 36th meeting on 20th September 2016).

The accreditation is valid until 24th June 2031.
Vienna, 25th June 2025

Prof.^{ra} Mag.^a Eva Werner, hon.prof.
President of the Board of AQ Austria

Dr. Jürgen Petersen
Managing Director of AQ Austria

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria, Franz-Klein-Gasse 5, 1190 Vienna, Austria

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



EVENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

Armenia

Joint MA Program in Political Science - Official Government Approval

Armenia made significant progress toward the national implementation of the Joint MA in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG) during 2024–2025. An important legislative milestone was achieved through amendments introduced by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia.

A new specialization titled “031201.14.7 - Political Science: Integration and Governance” was officially added to the national registry of accredited Master’s programs, in accordance with the Ministerial Decision amending Order No. 647-A/Q (2015). This update establishes the legal foundation for YSU and EIU—to deliver the Joint MA Program in full alignment with the European Approach for Accreditation of Joint Programs.



Co-funded by
the European Union



PROJECT MEETINGS

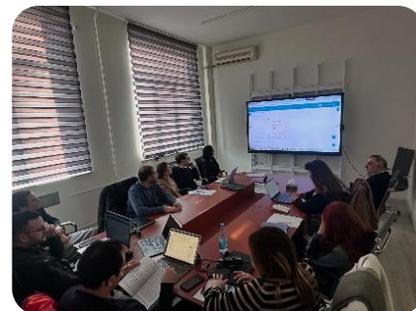
Virtual Educational Space (VES) Workshop

The project's commitment to digital transformation took a leap forward during the Virtual Educational Space (VES) training hosted by Yerevan State University, December 10-12, 2024. Over the three days, participants from all partner institutions engaged in intensive sessions on virtual learning tools, data management, assessment integration, and digital course development.

Key sessions focused on:



- *Setting up and managing the VES platform, including student and faculty integration.*
- *Implementing digital assessments (forums, quizzes, essays) and integrating third-party tools (Zoom, Turnitin).*
- *Managing open-access publication databases and internship systems.*
- *Practical simulations on designing new courses and building subject databases*



The workshop not only enhanced the partners' digital competencies but also laid the foundation for a shared virtual learning environment that will support joint teaching and student mobility across the consortium.

Coordination Meetings and Roadshow in Armenia: Advance PoSIG Implementation



📍 Yerevan, 30.06 - 01.07.2025

A two-day series of coordination and stakeholder meetings held in Yerevan on June 30 – July 1, 2025, marked a major step toward the full implementation of the Joint MA in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG) program in Armenia. The events brought together representatives of consortium universities, national authorities, and civil society organizations under the framework of the EU-funded “Curriculum Development – Joint MA Program in Political Science” (JoPScip) project.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by the European Union



The Roadshow meeting at Yerevan State University (YSU) served as a pivotal platform to review the accreditation outcomes confirmed by AQ Austria and to coordinate the final administrative and licensing procedures. Discussions focused on aligning YSU’s institutional framework with the accredited program requirements, clarifying national licensing processes, and strengthening collaboration with ANQA on ongoing quality assurance. The meeting reaffirmed the consortium’s shared vision of delivering a European-standard joint MA program that enhances governance, security, and policy expertise across the Eastern Partnership region.



On July 1, the European University of Armenia (EIU) hosted a follow-up meeting attended by EIU Rector Dr. S. Ohanyan, Vice-Rector Dr. R. Markosyan, Head of Chair Dr. A. Khvorostiankina, and Dr. Franz Kok (PLUS, Project Coordinator). EIU representatives reported that the university has initiated the preparation process to apply for a national license to implement the MA program in line with Armenian higher education legislation, with submission planned by October 2025.

The EIU team emphasized that cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners, particularly those engaged in democracy promotion, policy reform, and European integration—is central to PoSIG’s success. Such partnerships will also provide valuable internship and research opportunities for students. EIU has already launched collaboration with several organizations ready to host PoSIG interns, including the Armenian Association of Political Scientists, the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of NAS RA, “Social Justice” NGO, “Europe in Law Association” NGO, the Armenian Association of Social Workers, and the “Armenian PR Association” NGO.



Additional meetings were held with the Department of Participatory and Open Governance Issues of the Prime Minister’s Administration, the Democracy Development Foundation, and the Applied Policy Research Institute of Armenia (APRI Armenia). Discussions addressed public participation, digital governance, and strategic planning, while also identifying opportunities for PoSIG students to conduct applied research and internships within partner institutions.

Finally, EIU representatives highlighted the ongoing legislative developments related to the draft Law on “Higher Education and Science”, expected for adoption in autumn 2025. They stressed the importance of subsequent government





Co-funded by the European Union



decisions to ensure the effective implementation of provisions regulating licensing and accreditation of joint MA programs.

Overall, the meetings underscored Armenia’s active role within the PoSIG consortium and reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening academic cooperation, democratic governance, and European-quality education across the region.

AUSTRIA

PoSIG Accreditation Week and AQ Austria Site Visit in Salzburg

Salzburg, Austria | 26–30 April 2025

The PoSIG Accreditation Week held in Salzburg from April 26–30, 2025, marked a major step toward the full accreditation of the Joint MA in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG) program.



Hosted by the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS), the event brought together representatives from YSU, EIU, UKIM, TSU, GIPA, UET, UP, and UNITS, alongside the AQ Austria evaluation team.

Throughout the week, partners reviewed project progress under the JoPScip framework, discussed quality assurance and digital teaching tools, and prepared documentation for the accreditation procedure. The highlight was the AQ Austria Site Visit on April 29, featuring intensive sessions with executive boards, lecturers, students, and alumni on curriculum design, student support, and institutional quality standards.

The meetings reaffirmed the consortium’s shared vision of providing a European-standard, practice-oriented master’s program that fosters governance, policy expertise, and regional cooperation across the Eastern Partnership countries.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia | October 2024 – August 2025

*Throughout 2024–2025, Georgia significantly contributed to the promotion, institutional strengthening, and international visibility of the **Joint MA in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG)**. The combined efforts of the **Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)** and **Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)** shaped a dynamic environment where information dissemination, academic engagement, and digital capacity building were strongly interconnected.*



Together, these initiatives not only introduced the program to a broad national audience but also demonstrated Georgia’s commitment to advancing high-quality governance and political science education across the Eastern Partnership.

Institutional Outreach and Awareness Building

*The academic year opened with a series of strategically organized **Information Days at GIPA**, held in **October and December 2024**, which became the first major platforms for communicating the essence of the JoPScip project and the forthcoming PoSIG program. The events brought together GIPA’s leadership—rector, deans, and senior academic staff—alongside Erasmus+ beneficiaries and administrative teams. During these meetings, GIPA introduced the objectives and program philosophy of the Joint MA, presenting it as a model of sustainable regional cooperation and an outcome of long-standing academic mobility partnerships. The discussions emphasized PoSIG’s purpose: preparing a new generation of political science specialists equipped for governance and policymaking roles in complex international environments.*

This initial outreach was reinforced by the Open Day held on April 15, 2025, at the *Frontline Club Georgia*. The event attracted prospective applicants from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Presentations by Project Coordinator Anano Gorgodze, Academic Coordinator Prof. Bakur Kvashilava, and Prof. Giorgi Margvelashvili—former President of Georgia—framed PoSIG as a forward-looking, integrative academic pathway enriched with European quality standards, mobility networks, and a strong governance dimension. The Open Day received considerable social media coverage and served as one of the most visible public events of the Georgian partner institutions within the project cycle.



Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Between November 2024 and February 2025, TSU hosted several information sessions targeted at staff, students, and academic units. Led by Prof. Salome Dundua and Sandro Tabatadze, the presentations introduced the structure of PoSIG, its modular design, expected mobility routes, and international partnerships. These sessions generated strong interest among students, particularly due to the program's multi-country study pathways and its emphasis on modern governance and policy analysis.



International Dissemination and Capacity Sharing

Georgia's contributions extended beyond national borders. On **April 8, 2025**, GIPA played a prominent role during the **International Staff Week at Budapest Metropolitan University**. There, GIPA representatives delivered a dedicated session on PoSIG and JoPScip within a broader exchange forum aimed at sharing innovative academic practices. The workshop served to disseminate the project's achievements, highlight GIPA's contribution to the joint curriculum, and strengthen international recognition of PoSIG as a model of cross-border governance education.



Digital Capacity Building and Academic Modernization

In addition to outreach and dissemination, Georgia took a leading role in the consortium's **digital transformation agenda** through its co-coordination of **Work Package 5**.

1. **April 7–9, 2025 (Online)** – GIPA and TSU jointly delivered a three-day training on modern **digital pedagogy**, introducing blended and flipped learning methods, engagement strategies, and the integration of AI tools into political science teaching. This session helped harmonize digital teaching practices across the consortium and prepared academic teams for flexible, high-quality delivery of joint courses.

2. **August 25–29, 2025 (Online)** – The workshop on **Digital Solutions for Research and E-Portfolio Development** further advanced participants' competencies in research organization, digital identity creation (ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate), reference management, GDPR compliance, and data analysis using platforms such as MAXQDA and Kobotoolbox. The training emphasized the importance of open science, ethical research practices, and AI-assisted literature review tools.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union

North Macedonia

INFORMATIVE SESSION: Presentation to ISPJR academic and administrative staff

Skopje, 31 October 2024

The detailed presentation of the JoPScIP project provided advanced knowledge to the academic and relevant administration staff of ISPJR regarding the:



- *aims, objectives, activities, partners and timeline of the project*
- *presentation of advantages of JoPScIP and possibilities for academic and scientific cooperation*
- *general description of the modules and courses*
- *depiction of progress on courses so far.*

INFORMATIVE SESSION: Presentation at the Rectorate of UKIM – Skopje

Skopje, 19 November 2024

The event at the UKIM Rectorate was an important milestone regarding national-level dissemination and instigation of debate among scientific and public stakeholders: faculties' managements (deans and vice-deans of UKIM faculties and institutes) and professors; representatives of the Ministry for Education and Science, Agency for Quality Assurance, and the National Board for Accreditation.

Besides the general presentation of the joint master program in Political Science PoSIG and JoPScIP and the elaborate process of development and operationalization of such program, highlights of the event include:

- *national accreditation procedure, as well as possibilities for its facilitation*
- *sustainability of the joint program and possible support (scholarship, mobility)*
- *debate on procedural requirements, as well as on the type of flow of the students*



Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



OPEN DAY / Students' Education Fair 2025

☞ Skopje / 15–16 March 2025

Representatives of the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research (ISPJR) participated in the Education Fair 2025 in Skopje to present the Joint MA Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG). They introduced the programme's structure, mobility pathways, and career prospects to prospective students and the public. The presentation coincided with the opening of the student enrolment call, highlighting PoSIG as a unique two-year, 120 ECTS programme that enables students to study across Austria, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, North Macedonia, and Kosovo.



OPEN DAY / Presentation of PoSIG to UKIM Students

☞ Skopje / 16 April 2025



The presentation of the MA Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG) to final-year BA students in Political Science at UKIM focused on: programme content, enrolment rules, mobility opportunities, and available scholarships. Students showed strong interest in international study pathways and future career prospects within the PoSIG network.

INFORMATIVE SESSION / Professional Meeting of Stakeholders on Joint Programme Accreditation

☞ Skopje / 23 April 2025

A professional meeting was held with stakeholders from universities, quality assurance bodies, and policy makers to discuss the organizational concept, development, and accreditation of joint study programs based on the European Approach. Discussions covered the normative and institutional aspects of accreditation from different institutional perspectives, challenges in implementation, and possibilities for facilitating national procedures in line with European standards. Participants expressed a shared commitment to improving national accreditation rules and strengthening the implementation of joint programs in North Macedonia.



Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Contact Information:

Project coordinator

Anano Gorgodze

Head of International Relations Office

Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)

Address: Rustavi Highway N22a, Tbilisi, Georgia, 0114

E-mail: a.gorgodze@gipa.ge

Partners

YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Address: 1 Alex Manoogian, 0025, Yerevan,
Armenia

E-mail: info@ysu.am , international@ysu.am

<https://www.ysu.am/en>

<https://www.ysu.am/en/international-ysu>

<https://www.facebook.com/ysu.am>

GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (GIPA)

Address: Rustavi Highway N22a, Tbilisi,
Georgia, 0114

Tel.: [+995 32 249 75 00](tel:+995322497500)

E-mail: info@gipa.ge

<https://www.facebook.com/gipa.ge/>

IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY

Address: 1 Ilia Tchavtchavadze Avenue,
Academic Building I, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: (+995 32) 2 25 04 84

<https://www.tsu.ge/en>

<https://www.facebook.com/TbilisiStateUniversit>

<https://twitter.com/tbilisiu?lang=en>

EURASIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Address: 24/2 Azatutyan str, 0014, Yerevan, RA

Tel. +374/ 10 249438

E-mail: info@eiu.am

<https://www.eiu.am/home/>

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union

<http://www.facebook.com/EurasiaIU>

***SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS
UNIVERSITY in SKOPJE***

Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical
Research

Address: blvd. Goce Delcev 9, 1000 Skopje

blvd. Partizanski odredi bb, 1000 Skopje

Tel. +389 2 3 061 119

E-mail: ukim@ukim.edu.mk

contact@isppl.ukim.edu.mk

<http://www.isppi.ukim.edu.mk>

<http://www.facebook.com/UKiM.edu.mk>

**PARIS LODRON UNIVERSITY SALZBURG
(PLUS)**

Address: Kapitelgasse 4-6

5020 Salzburg, Austria

Tel: +43 (0) 662 8044-0

E-mail: plusdesk@plus.ac.at

<https://www.plus.ac.at/the-university-of-salzburg/?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/parislodronuniversitaetsalzburg>

