



PEACEEDU

CURRICULUM REFORM TO PROMOTE EDUCATION FOR PEACE
IN UKRAINE, GEORGIA AND MOLDOVA



Co-funded by
the European Union

International Conference

Reimagining Peace: Education, Dialogue, and Sustainable Futures

Curriculum Reform to Promote Education for Peace
in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova (PEACEEDU)

AGENDA



OCTOBER, 27-28, 2026



ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY, TBILISI, GEORGIA



PEACEEDU

Welcome to PEACEEDU

An international conference
on education, dialogue and
sustainable futures.

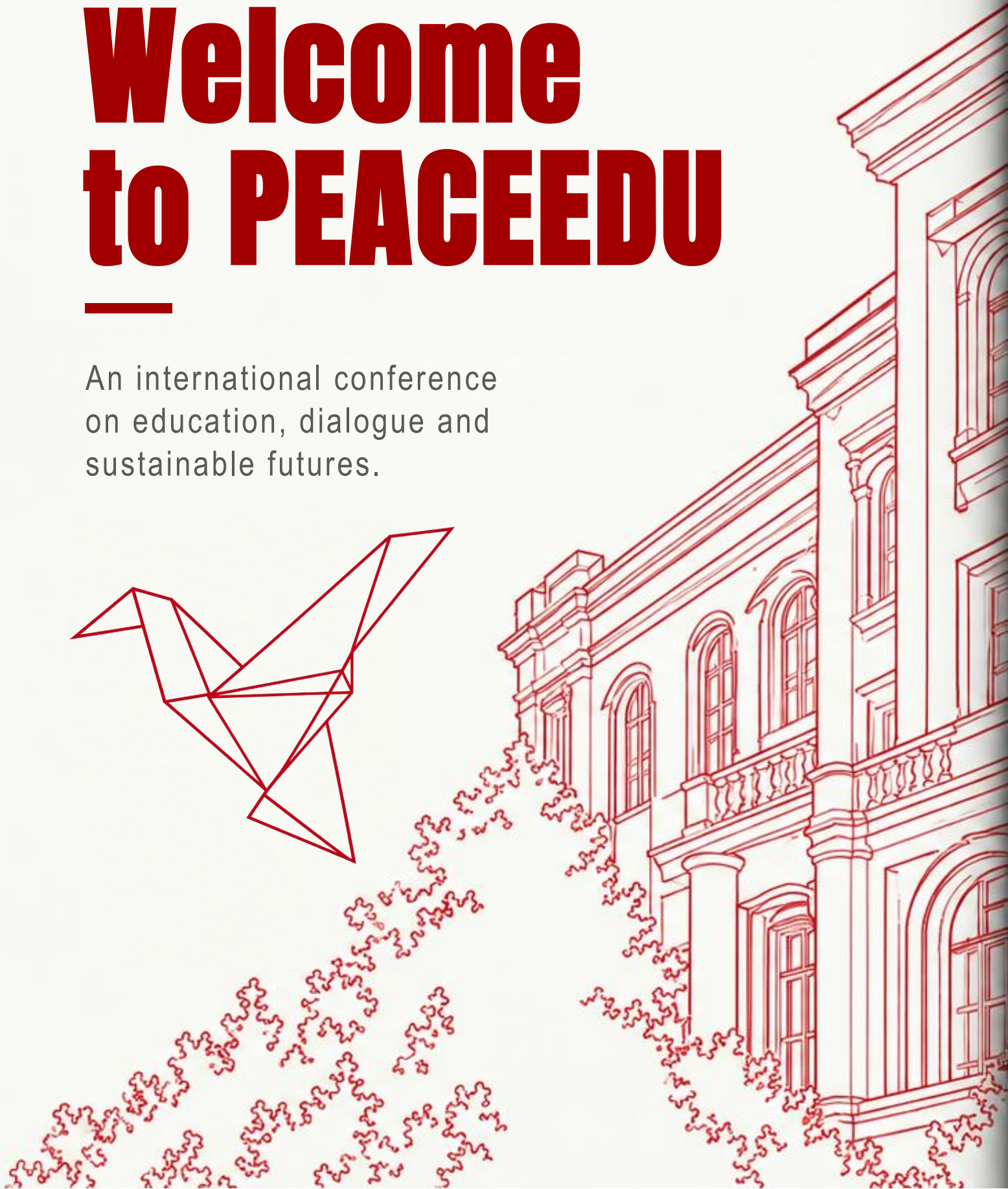
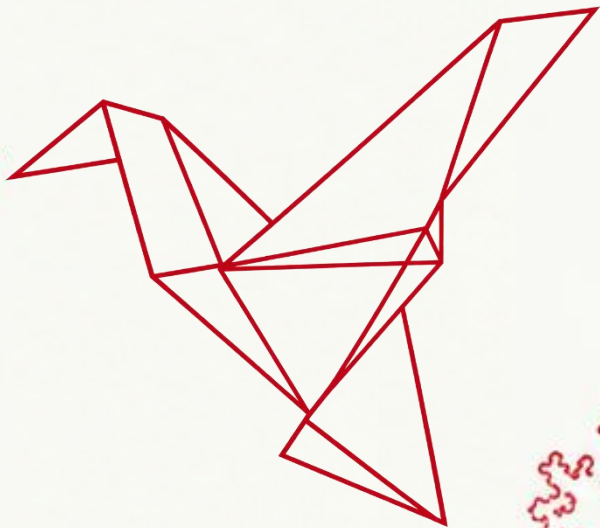


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Welcome Evening



Tuesday,
October 27, 2026



Tbilisi Botanical Garden,
Tbilisi, Georgia

A special place to begin.

An inspiring setting
for meaningful
connections.



01. Welcome Evening

Join us for the Welcome Evening at the Tbilisi Botanical Garden, hosted at the Botanical Institute. An inspiring setting to connect, exchange ideas, and set the tone for an engaging conference experience.



DATE

Tuesday,
October 27, 2026



VENUE

Botanical Institute
Tbilisi Botanical Garden,
Tbilisi, Georgia



TIME

17:00 – 19:00



WELCOME ADDRESSES

Ketevan Darakhvelidze
Head of Administration,
Ilia State University

01

Opening of the Conference

**DATE**

Wednesday,
28 October, 2026

**TIME**

09:00 – 12:15

**VENUE**

Ilia State University,
G Building,
Conference Hall G106

OPENING SESSION

Facilitator: Sofiko Lobzhanidze, Ilia State University

Room: Conference Hall G106

09:00 - 09:30

Registration

09:30 - 09:45

Opening of the Conference

Welcome speech by University
administration representatives

Giorgi Gvalia

Vice-Rector
Ilia State University

PLENARY SESSION

Facilitator: Anush Petrosyan, Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI)

Room: Conference Hall G106

09:45 - 10:15

Keynote Address

Co-Creating Peace Education:
Plural Ontologies and Local Agency
in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood

Marko Lehti

Coordinator of the Program;
Research Director, TAPRI,
Tampere University, Finland

10:15 - 10:45

Keynote Address

Embodied Peace Education in the AI Era:
Teaching Interpersonal Conflict Resolution
Skills and Peace Research Methodologies

Susan Allen

Director, Center for
Peacemaking Practice,
George Mason University, USA

10:45 - 11:15

Keynote Address

Teaching Peace in an Insecure World:
Reflections from the International
Relations Classroom

Giorgi Gvalia

Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs/
Education, Ilia State University,
Georgia

11:15 - 11:45

Panel Discussion

**Susan Allen; Giorgi Gvalia,
Marko Lehti**

11:45 - 12:15



Coffee Break

Peace

Parallel Sessions



TIME
12:15 – 13:30



VENUE
Ilia State University,
T Building,
Room T303



Three Sessions Run Simultaneously

Timings of Individual Presentations are Indicative

01.

Transforming Education for Peace: From Curriculum to Practice

Facilitator: Eeva-Liisa Kiiskilä, Peace Education Institute, Finland | **Room:** T303

Format: 4 presentations of 15 minutes each, followed by a 15-minute concluding discussion

Focus: How peace education is integrated into curricula, teacher preparation, and innovative educational practice

Time	Presentation	Presenter(s) and Affiliation
12:15 - 12:30	Developing Peacebuilding Competence in Future Teachers: Educational Perspectives and Practical Pathways	Angela Solcan, Svetlana Burea “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University, Moldova
12:30 - 12:45	Peace Education as a Transformative Learning Model: The Case of Georgia	Sofiko Lobzhanidze, Lia Tvildiani Ilia State University, Georgia
12:45 - 13:00	From Youth Voice to Curriculum Innovation: Designing Peace Education through Conflict Management Competencies	Yuliia Kvitka, Yuliia Prus Karazin Business School, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine
12:45 - 13:00	Peace Education in the New Curriculum of the Republic of Moldova	Sergiu Musteata “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University, Moldova
13:00 - 13:15	Concluding discussion	
13:30 - 14:30	 Lunch Break	



Peace

Parallel Session 2

Peace, Resilience and Belonging: Education in Diverse and Post-Conflict Contexts



FACILITATOR

Marko Lehti
Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI), Finland



FORMAT

4 presentations of 15 minutes each,
followed by a 15-minute concluding discussion



ROOM

T102



FOCUS

The role of educational spaces in addressing trauma, inequality, diversity, recognition, and relationships between different groups.

Time	Presentation	Presenter(s) and Affiliation
12:15 - 12:30	Teaching in a Post-Traumatic Society: The Lecturer's Role in Building an Emotionally Safe Learning Environment	Lia Akhaladze, Tamar Shinjiashvili Sokhumi State University, Georgia
12:30 - 12:45	Advancing Peace Education through Partnerships between Universities and NGOs	Natalia Shchukina, Vladlena Lisenco NGO Agency for Innovation and Development, Moldova
12:45 - 13:00	Peace Education and Conflict Transformation in Early Childhood: Inclusive Approaches for Conflict-Affected and Mixed Georgian-Abkhaz Families	Khatuna Gogua NGO "Abkhazia Is Mine"
13:00 - 13:15	Schools as Infrastructure for a Culture of Peace: Equality Values, Recognition and Voice among Majority and Ethnic-Minority Adolescents in Georgia	Nino Chiabrishvili, Sofiko Lonjanidze, David Malazonia Ilia State University, Georgia
13:15 - 13:30	Concluding discussion	
13:30 - 14:30	🍴 Lunch Break	

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Parallel Session 3

Imagining Peace: Identity, Resilience and Sustainable Futures



FACILITATOR

Katja Seidel
Unit for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of
Innsbruck, Austria



ROOM

G106



FORMAT

3 presentations of 15 minutes each,
followed by a concluding discussion



FOCUS

Broader social and cultural dimensions of peace,
including identity, national resilience, democratic
resilience, and how peace is imagined.

Time	Presentation	Presenter(s) and Affiliation
12:15 - 12:30	Images and Imaginaries of Peace	Juulia Niiniranta Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI), Finland
12:30 - 12:45	The Role of Peace Education in Moldova: Building Foundations for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Resilience	Cristina Morari Moldova State University, Moldova
12:45 - 13:00	Cultural Resistance and National Resilience: Postcolonial Perspectives on Ukraine	Svitlana Salnikova, Mykola Sydorov, Yuriy Savelyev, Artemiy Deineka, Yaroslav Burdin Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine
13:00 - 13:15	Concluding discussion	
13:30 - 14:30	 Lunch Break	

14:30 - 15:30**WORKSHOPS****THREE PARALLEL SESSIONS****WORKSHOP 1****Title**

Universities as Peace
Actors:
What Can We Do?

Moderator

Andreas Oberprantacher
Unit for Peace and Conflict Studies,
University of Innsbruck, Austria

Room

G106

**WORKSHOP 2****Title**

Youth Voices for Peace

Moderator

Eliko Bendeliani, Eleonora
Tchania, Rodami Tsomaia
Center for Peace and Civic
Development (CPCD), Georgia

Room

T303

**WORKSHOP 3****Title**

War Childhood and
Children's Books in
Education

Moderator

Viola B. Georgi , Tooba Akram,
Jendrik Horn
University of Hildesheim, Germany

Room

T403

15:30 - 16:15

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

COFFEE BREAK **G106 HALL**

CLOSING SESSION

FACILITATOR: Markus Heide, University of Hildesheim, Germany**ROOM:** Conference Hall G106

16:15 - 16:35	What does peace education make possible: Knowledge, belonging and responsibility.	Frans Kruger University of Nottingham, UK
16:35 - 17:30	Concluding Remarks Certificate Award Ceremony for Presenters	All Session Facilitators and Workshop Moderators
17:30	End of the Conference	



Key Notes



Marko Lehti Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAU)

Marko Lehti is Research Director of the Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI) and Academic Director of the MA Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research at Tampere University. He is the Principal Investigator of the PROF17 Sustainable Security Practices (SUPRA) project at the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as the Curriculum Reform to Promote Education for Peace in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova (PeaceEdu) project and the CEE Security Hub.

His research focuses on peace mediation and peacebuilding, multilateralism and changing global orders, the idea of Nordic peace, and agonistic peace. His broader research interests include politics of memory and conflict transformation, the history of peacemaking, ontological (in)security, and representations of crises. He has conducted research on transnational encounters, identities, and perceptions of Europe's imaginary dividing lines, particularly in the Baltic countries, Nordic region, Ukraine, the South Caucasus, and the Balkans.



Sussan Allen (George Mason University)

Dr. Susan H. Allen is the Henry Hart Rice Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, where she directs the Center for Peacemaking Practice and teaches conflict resolution practice and methodology courses including facilitation skills, action research, and Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Dr. Allen previously served as Director of the Graduate Programs at the Carter School. She has supervised 20 doctoral students through to graduation.



Giorgi Gvalia (Ili State University)

Giorgi Gvalia is a Professor of International Relations at Ili State University, where he also serves as Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. His teaching and research focus on international relations theory, security studies, small states, and the geopolitics of the South Caucasus. He is currently a Jean Monnet Chair in EU Studies and has participated in several international research and education projects, including Horizon Europe initiatives.



Frans Kruger (University of Nottingham)

Frans Kruger is an Associate Professor in Education at the University of Nottingham, UK, and an honorary research fellow in the Directorate for International Partnerships and Relations, University of the Free State, South Africa. He previously held positions at the University of the Free State and the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in the Republic of Korea. In his research Frans engages with decoloniality and social justice in education, the philosophy of education, critical peace education, and critical heritage education. Frans is an associate editor for Education as Change and an editorial board member for Qualitative Research, British Educational Research Journal, and In Factis Pax: Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice.

Conference and Poster Presenters



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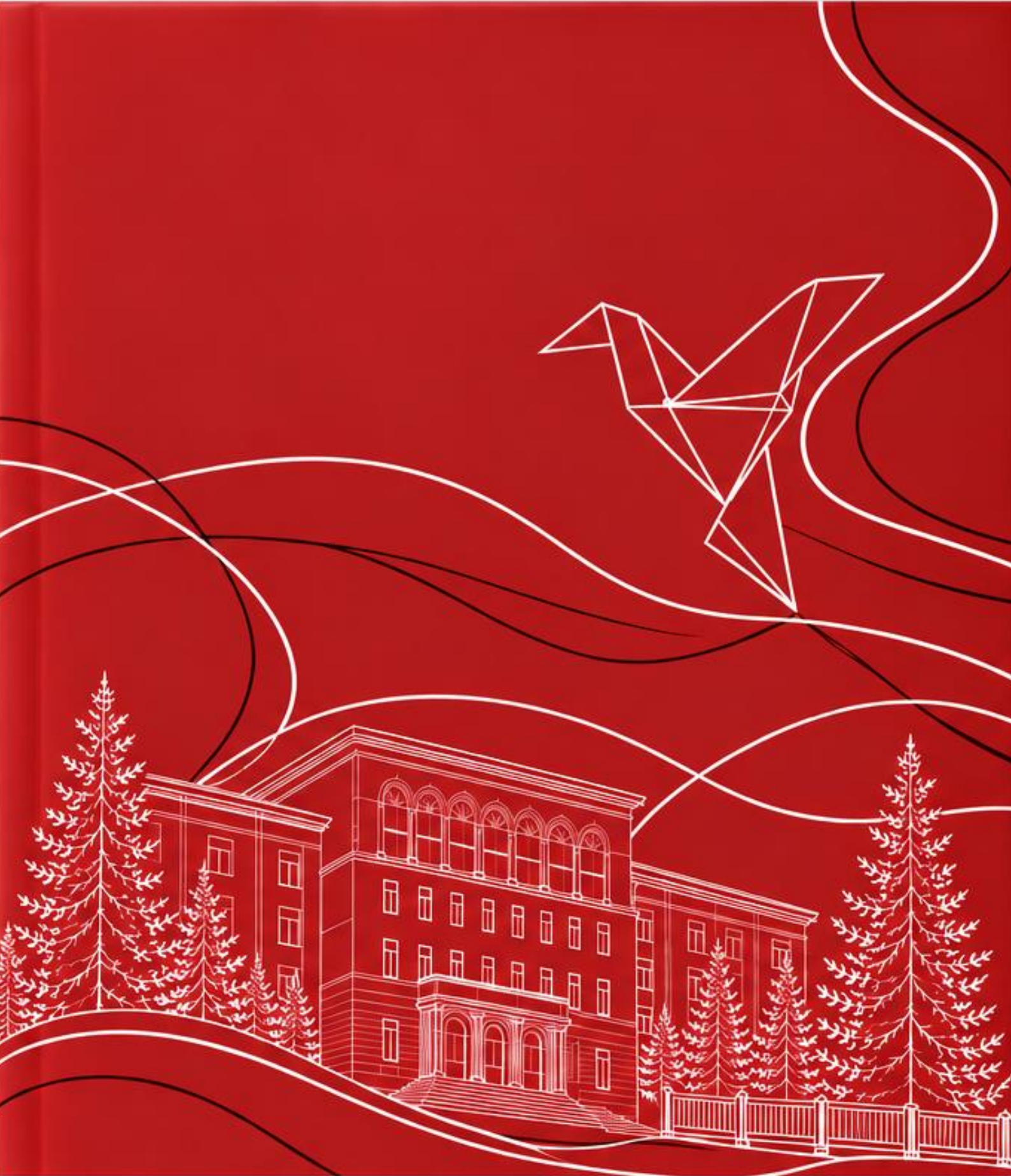


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შვიდობისა და
საზოგადოებო
ბანების განვითარების ცენტრი
CENTER FOR PEACE
AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

