

# MIGRATION NEWSLETTER No. 10

A special edition newsletter published by the ENIGMMA project

Dear Reader!



The ENIGMMA project team is pleased to introduce a special edition of the Migration Newsletter dedicated to the ENIGMMA Summer School, which took place in Qakh, Azerbaijan, from 26 June to 2 July 2016 in cooperation with the EU-funded MOBILAZE project (Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan). The newsletter describes the organisation and concept of the Summer School, provides information on the lecturers and content covered, and contains interviews and testimonials from lecturers and students, event outcomes, and a host of great photos.

Please send any feedback, comments, and suggestions for improvements to the email addresses listed at the end of this newsletter. The ENIGMMA project team thanks you for your interest. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Your ICMPD ENIGMMA project team

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## About the ICMPD ENIGMMA Summer School



The International Summer School on Migration was organised within the framework of the EU-funded ENIGMMA and MOBILAZE projects and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in cooperation with migration stakeholders in Azerbaijan and Georgia, namely



the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues of Georgia (SCMI), and academic experts from EU member states, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. Summer School lecturers represented the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford, the universities of Maastricht, Cambridge, Sorbonne, and Mykolas Romeris (Vilnius), and Baku and Tbilisi State Universities. The Summer School was mentored by academic experts from Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the aforementioned EU universities. In total, 45 students of media studies, international law, economy, international relations, and social and political sciences from Georgia and Azerbaijan took part in the Summer School between 26 June and 2 July 2016.

The Summer School programme included research-oriented, multidisciplinary, and innovative academic lectures, workshops, working groups and projects on migration issues and policies in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the EU, as well as global developments related to migration. Keynote lectures were complemented by research, discussions, and small projects completed in working groups.

Lecturers detailed the role of migration studies on international law, media, economics, development, and gender and social sciences. In addition to the main programme (lectures and workshops), Summer School participants worked on projects related to their studies or professional backgrounds which were presented and discussed at the end. The official language of the Summer School was English.

## The Lecturers and the Content of the Summer School

The lecturers who gave keynote lectures and led workshops represented renowned European, Azerbaijani, and Georgian research institutions. In organising the Summer School, the ICMPD team placed particular emphasis on teaching methodology: whenever possible, different migration issues were presented and discussed by academics from Georgia, Azerbaijan and the EU, helping students to gain specific knowledge and experience as well as general principles.

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## Feedback



When asked whether the Summer School on migration research was beneficial to the students, Dr. Biagio Speciale said that *“the participants learned the importance of research-based analysis on migration. This is relevant because several recent studies show how people’s opinions about migration often diverge from the findings in empirical research. During the summer school, the students learned the most recent results from rigorous scientific analysis, which allows them to participate in the public debate on migration in a sound and meaningful way. Second, the summer school was also beneficial to the students because it allowed them to build a large network of competent people interested in migration policy analysis.”* Dr. Alexi Gugushvili from the University of Cambridge added that *“students have also benefited from interactions with peers from neighbouring countries and international faculty. Research shows that social networks and open-mindedness are very important factors for an academic and professional career.”* In addition, they have gained *“cutting-edge knowledge on migration and research methods.”* Rob McNeil from COMPAS at the University of Oxford agreed: *“These young people developed a deeper knowledge of the complexities of the issue and will be well equipped to help both countries to manage their very different migration issues in the future – both as representatives of the government and civil society. I also think they learned key skills that will stand them in good stead to develop other careers and research opportunities.”* Will Eikelboom, human rights and asylum lawyer from the Netherlands added that *“the summer school has given students a unique opportunity to study the highly relevant topic of migration from different angles, which will*

*contribute to furthering the understanding of the many aspects of this issue in the region.”* Mahammad Guluzade, lecturer at the Baku State University, highlighted that *“the Summer School gave students an opportunity to look at migration from different angles. Undoubtedly the students got interest in migration issues and many of them will research it further during their studies or when writing a thesis.”*



Lecturers and students alike appreciated the interdisciplinary approach to migration research at the Summer School. Ron Skeldon pointed out that *“migration cannot be understood simply from the standpoint of any single discipline. It is a cross-cutting phenomenon that touches upon virtually every aspect of our lives.”* *“To focus only on economics of migration and ignore the social or human development aspects is to fail to understand the subject fully”,* Rob McNeil from COMPAS added.



The lecturers also demonstrated how academic and applied research on migration issues can contribute positively to the development of Georgia and Azerbaijan. Biagio Speciale specifically pointed out that *“in the last decades, the academic literature and applied research in economics has made important progresses on the understanding of the consequences of emigration for origin countries and the economic impact of immigration for host countries. Examples of such scientific advances are the analyses of monetary and non-monetary remittances, the consequences of return migration, the effects of immigration on labour market outcomes and prices. All these findings from rigorous scientific analyses can be extremely important in the development of a sound migration policy in Azerbaijan and Georgia, because they allow assessing*



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how migration policies shape people's economic wellbeing." Furthermore, the interdisciplinary approach taken by ICMPD was commended by Cambridge University's Alexi Gugushvili, who remarked that this type of approach "is important because the movement of people across borders has consequences for a country's economy, demography, politics, society and nationalism. Ignoring any of those in policy-making might create additional problems in seizing of opportunities created by migration."



One of the main topics of the Summer School was how the media can shape public perceptions of migrants and immigration. For Rob McNeil, "media is by no means the only factor that affects people's views on migration, but it can certainly play a significant role in shaping people's views of the society they live in, their perceptions of migration and migrants, and their relative positions within that society. The recent situation in the UK provides some insight: The consistent reinforcement in the UK news media of narratives about the legal status of migrants or the scale of migration to the UK have been instrumental in driving policy changes over several years, contributing to more restrictive policies and efforts to restrict EU freedom of movement. Introduction of these "tougher" policies may have further reinforced media narratives about the need for restriction of migration and contributed to increasing public concerns about the issue – all which have ultimately fed into the UK's decision to leave the EU. However, it should also be noted that this was all set in the context of steeply increasing net migration to the UK. Unpicking whether changes in the social fabric of the UK, media, politics or a combination of all of them was the driver of hardening public attitudes and resentment of the EU is hard to do, but it seems hard to escape the conclusion the media played a significant role."



## The Lecturers and the Content of the Summer School

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**Dr. Melissa Siegel** from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and UNU-Merit gave an introductory lecture on migration studies. In her lecture, Melissa discussed migrant motivation in all its diversity. She highlighted that people choose to migrate for economic reasons, for employment, to get an education, to reunite with family members, to flee from hardship, conflicts, and/or discrimination, and even for retirement. Further, Melissa explored the effects of migration on countries of origin and destination, migration routes, and the contribution of migrants to their home and host societies. Melissa also discussed migration research methodology, drawing in particular on her own field work in Georgia, Moldova, Afghanistan, and Burundi. During her afternoon workshop, the students practiced these methods by creating and conducting an evaluative survey for the Summer School and performing data collection, entry, and analysis.

Next, **Ulvi Aliyev**, Head of the International Relations Division



Dr. Melissa Siegel



Ulvi Aliyev



Tamar Zurabishvili



Laurynas Biekša



Will Eikelboom



Mahammad Guluzade



Dr. Biagio Speciale



Dr. Alexi Gugushvili



Professor Ron Skeldon



Tinatin Zurabishvili



Yulia Aliyeva



Rob McNeil



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of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gave an overview of the migration management framework in Azerbaijan. The Georgian migration management system was presented by **Tamar Zurabishvili**, Researcher at the Pilot Analytical Unit of the SCMI Secretariat.

These two lectures were complemented by Associate Professor **Laurynas Bieksa** from the Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, who spoke about the international framework for the human rights of migrants and asylum and international protection issues. Laurynas also gave a joint workshop with **Will Eikelboom**, a human rights and asylum lawyer from the Netherlands, and **Mahammad Guluzade**, an international human rights expert from Baku State University, on legal aspects of migration, including refugee law, detention, family reunification, THB, smuggling, and protection of victims, and children's rights.

The nexus between Migration and Economics was discussed by **Dr. Biagio Speciale**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and **Dr. Alexi Gugushvili**, University of Cambridge. Both Biagio and Alexi stressed that globalisation, human mobility, and migration in general have significantly impacted economic research in recent years. During the lecturers' afternoon workshop, students conducted a survey on Summer School participants' perception of migration.

**Professor Ron Skeldon** from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and Sussex University lectured on migration and development. He looked specifically at how remittances, diaspora, emigration of skilled workers, and brain drain impact countries of origin and countries of destination.



**Tinatin Zurabishvili** from the Caucasus Research and Reforms Centre in Tbilisi and **Yulia Aliyeva** from the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan lectured on gender and migration, focusing on the motivations and implications of female emigration. During their workshop, participants conducted a survey asking gender-specific questions about migration.

**Rob McNeil** from COMPAS at the University of Oxford gave a presentation on perceptions of migrants and media coverage of migration issues. Rob highlighted how the media, public opinion, and policy making influence each other. During the ensuing workshop, students created a press release (see below) and brainstormed on how to organise a public information campaign.

## Summer School Components

### What is migration?



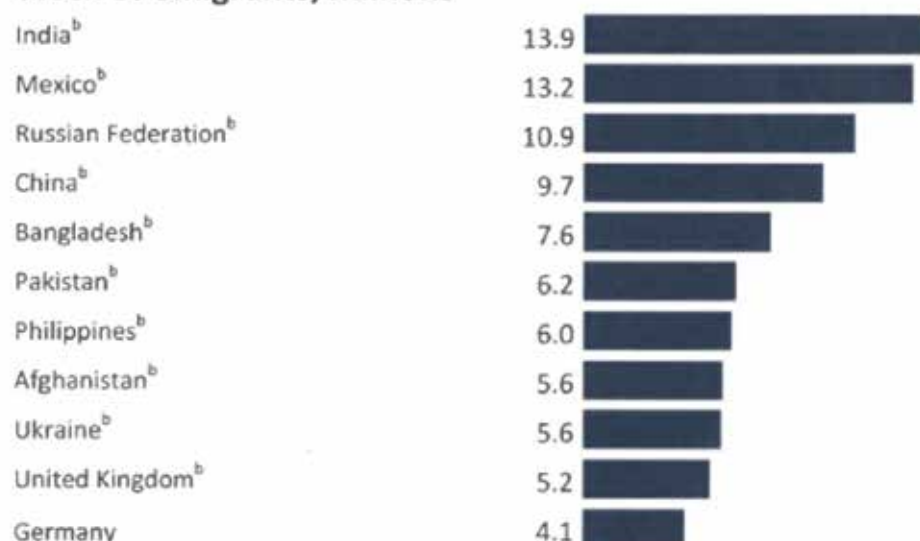
The Summer School took an interdisciplinary methodology and brought together different approaches and facets of migration studies. To provide students with a basic understanding of migration, a number of questions were posed, including: "What is migration and why do people migrate?" "Where

do people migrate to?" "What different migration patterns are there?" and "How do migrants contribute to their countries of origin and destination?" Answering these questions from a science-based perspective helped students gain a general understanding of the phenomenon of international migration.

Motivations to migrate, for example, can be manifold. Some people leave their country of origin to find a new job or for a study abroad programme, some wish to reunite with family members, and others are forced to leave their homes due to violent conflicts or other threats to their life and well-being. Some migrate within their home country while others move abroad.

The number of international migrants has significantly increased since the 1960s from about 80 million migrants to 240 million migrants in recent years. Where do most of the migrants come from? In absolute numbers, the top countries of origin are India, Mexico, the Russian Federation, and China. The top destinations are the USA, Saudi Arabia, Germany, the Russian Federation, and the UAE. Additionally, the myth that all migrants come from

### Top Emigration Countries<sup>a</sup>, 2013 stock of emigrants, millions



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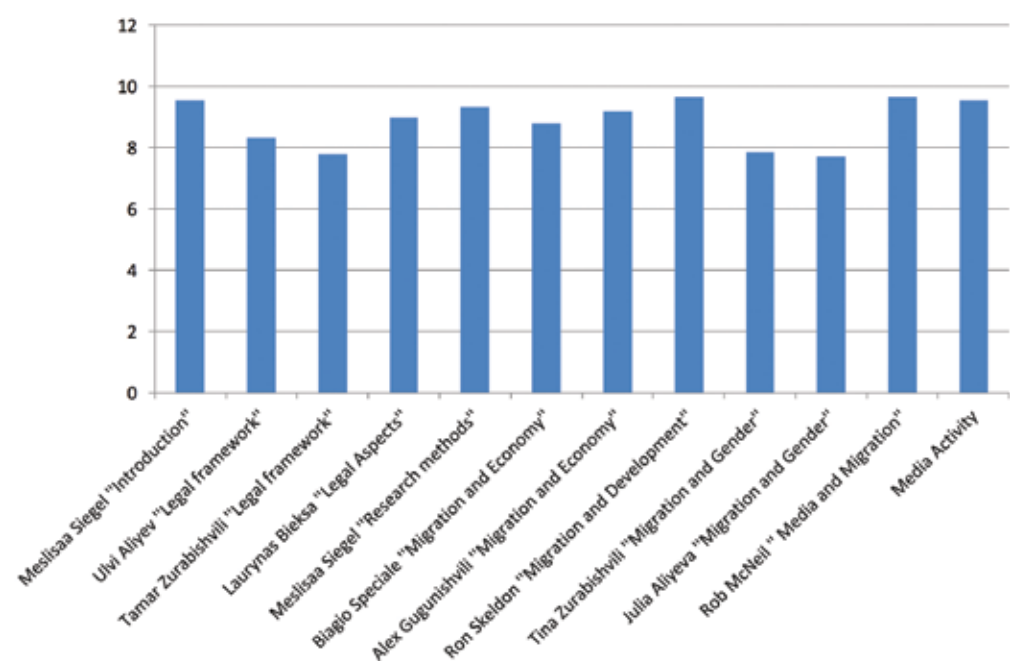
the global South and move to the global North was debunked. Recent migration is split within the South-South (36%), South-North (35%), and North-North (23%).

The perception of migration also has changed in recent decades. Pre-1973 migration was viewed rather optimistically (driver of industrialisation, equalisation, guest worker programmes). Between 1973 and 2000 migration was regarded more pessimistically through the lenses of brain drain, remittance dependency, Dutch disease, etc. However, migrants often remain closely connected to their countries of origin after their move. Many migrants engage in transnational activities, sending both monetary remittances back to their families for housing, food, and education and transmitting knowledge, skills, and social and cultural norms back home.

Media perception of migrants was also an important topic at the Summer School, since the media can highly influence public discourse around migration and attitudes towards migrants. Examples were given of how the media can dramatise and exaggerate situations related to migration and migrants and thus produce a change in the public narrative. In discussions of asylum and refugees, much attention was given to legal instruments of international protection of migrants' rights.

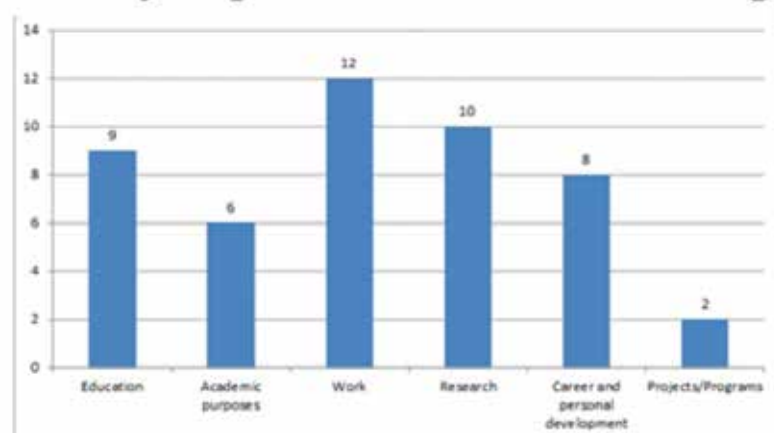
One of the activities that the students took part in at the workshops was conducting an evaluation of the Summer School and of the participants' perception of migration. Students gave the Summer School an average overall rating of 9 points out of 10.

All the lecturers were also scored quite highly by the students.



When asked how they plan to use what they learned at the Summer School, the students' most common answers were: for work, for research, and for education purposes.

### How do you plan to use new knowledge?



### Press Release developed by the Students

One of the Summer School workshops provided students with training on how to create a press release that effectively communicates the likely outcome of some public action, furthers an organisation's objectives within the framework of a public information campaign, and supports the organisation's long-term mission. The press release below was written by the students.

### Youth of Azerbaijan and Georgia unite to tackle global migration issues

Migration is one of the defining issues of the 21st century so far, with immense implications for the Caucasus region. Experts from around the world participated in a Summer School for young people from the Caucasus region to develop the skills to analyse and manage this complex global phenomenon.

More than 400 young people from Azerbaijan and Georgia applied for just 50 places at the Summer School, which was run by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Robert McNeil, a specialist in migration and the media from the University of Oxford in the UK and a lecturer at the summer school said: "Young people are the future of both migration policy making and migration itself for the region. This Summer School has helped equip some of the brightest and most talented young people in the Caucasus region with the skills to navigate this challenging international issue."

The Summer School focused on multiple aspects of migration including economic, social, legal and development implications. It also provided analysis of the different challenges faced by Georgia – which is seeing a declining population as a result of emigration – and Azerbaijan, which is learning to cope with increasing net migration.

Other issues covered included the role of gender in migration; how media both affects and is affected by migration issues; and what sort of research methods can be used to analyse migration effectively.

The summer school brought together a team of professors, practitioners and technical specialists from institutions including: Oxford University; Cambridge University; Maastricht Graduate School of Governance; University of Paris Sorbonne; University of Sussex; Azerbaijan National



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Academy of Sciences; Caucasus Research Resource Centre; Baku State University; Tbilisi State University and from Government agencies in both Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Tamta Nikoladze, 22, a student at the Summer School who works at the Georgian Office of the State Minister for Diaspora Issues said: “The week was a great experience – I learned a huge amount about international migration and the incredible complexity of the issue, which will be immensely valuable for me in my job. The school also gave me a fantastic opportunity to visit Azerbaijan, to work with students from both countries and to have an enormous amount of fun too.”

Violeta Wagner - project manager for ICMPD's EU-funded ENIGMMA and MOBILAZE projects - was responsible for organising the summer school. She said: “The students were incredibly bright and engaged, which is extremely important as they represent the future of these two countries. They are now better equipped to deal with migration issues, and we hope that our next Summer School can recruit students of this calibre.”

The Summer School was held at the El Resort Hotel in Qakh in Azerbaijan, as part of the EU-funded Enhancing Georgia's Migration Management (ENIGMMA) and Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan (MOBILAZE) projects.

## What's Next?

The ENIGMMA project has been organising lectures and seminars on migration-related topics as part of the ENIGMMA project's Migration Studies Weeks in 2015 and 2016 while working in close cooperation with Tbilisi State University, other universities, and the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI), which has signed an MoU with Tbilisi State University. In total, four Migration Studies Weeks have been conducted on the topics of international migration and integration, migration and development and migration research methods, migration and the economy, and human rights and migration. Starting in the fall semester of 2016, the ENIGMMA project is planning to organise Migration Studies Weekend events. During these events, two full days will be dedicated to migration lectures and seminars; during the introductory evening session participants will get to know each other, will be introduced to the specific topic of the event, as well as will share their expectations. The events will be held outside of

Tbilisi with transportation and accommodation included for all registered participants. The Migration Studies Weekend events will be held in English language without translation, therefore very good command in English is required.

The topics of the Migration Studies Weekends events are the following:

- September 2016: Introduction to Migration Studies
- October 2016: Migration and Development
- November 2016: Migration and Economics
- December 2016: Integration and Citizenship
- February 2017: Asylum, Refugees and Displaced Persons
- March 2017: Migration and Human Rights
- April 2017: Trafficking in Human Beings
- May 2017: Perception of migration and migrants

If you wish to participate or have questions regarding the ENIGMMA Academia Component, please send an email to [enigmma@icmpd.org](mailto:enigmma@icmpd.org).

## Contact

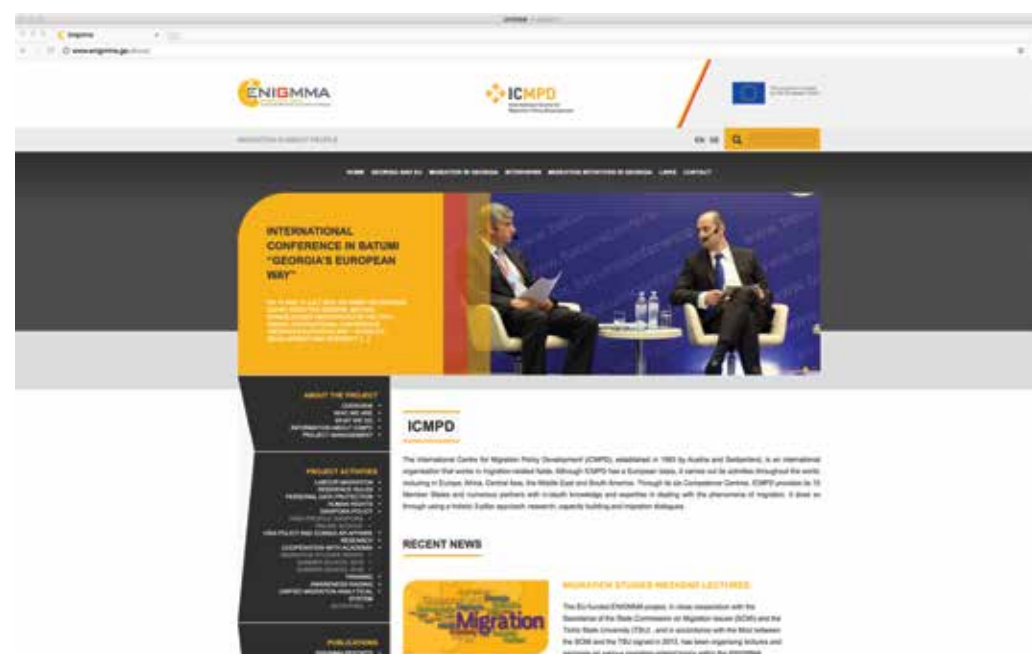
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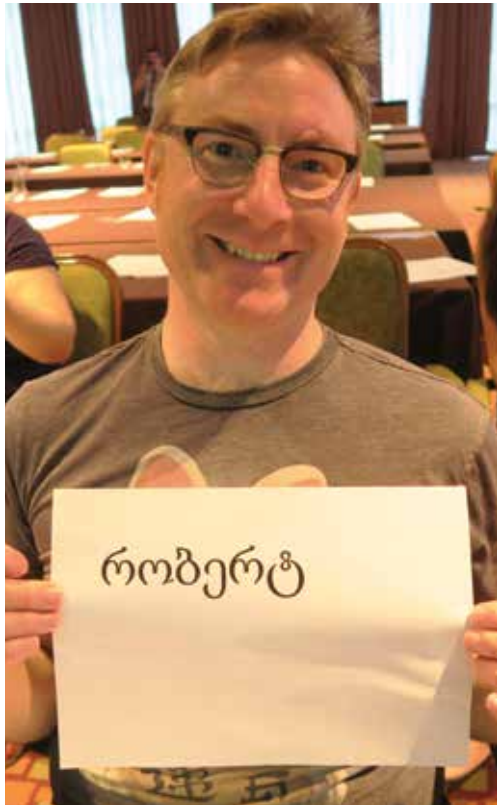






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