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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SCHOOL

OUR CIS STORY

Some journeys begin with a question: Are we ready to push beyond what we already do well? The CIS re-accreditation process demanded precisely that kind of courage from all of us. Looking back on the past academic year, I see a journey of growth, reflection, and shared purpose. The Council of International Schools (CIS) accreditation is often described as a demanding institutional undertaking, but for me, it became something far more meaningful: a chance to unite our community around a common vision and to reaffirm who we are as a school.

Leading the CIS self-evaluation process meant taking responsibility for something both exhilarating and challenging. It required guiding our teams through an honest and comprehensive reflection, identifying our strengths, recognizing areas where we could grow even further, and gathering the evidence needed to demonstrate our commitment to the highest international standards. This wasn't something accomplished in a week or a month. It required 18 months of continuous work, carried out alongside our teachers', administrators', and staff's regular daily responsibilities.

My role extended far beyond organizing timelines, documents, and meetings. The true challenge was sustaining motivation, helping every colleague not just manage the workload but find joy and pride in it. I wanted our team to feel that this was



not merely an obligation, but an opportunity to shape the future of our school. And they did. Together, we built a culture of openness, collaboration, and ambition.

Today, I am deeply proud to share the outcome of our efforts:

- 87 standards fully met
- 8 standards exceeded
- 58 commendations for exceptional practices and achievements
- Only a few recommendations, pointing the way toward meaningful future growth

These results confirm that the European School remains the first and only CIS-accredited school in Georgia, continuing to set the standard for international education in the region.



The feedback from the CIS evaluation team has been profoundly inspiring.

The Chairman of the CIS evaluation team Mandy Dickson affirmed that our entire community: founders, leadership, staff, parents, and students “has taken to heart the ethics and ethos of the Council of International Schools.” She described the European School as a place to be proud of, and I could not agree more.

The Vice-Chairman of the evaluation team Fred Runkel went even further, stating that our students “are receiving the best education at the best school,” and that ES stands among the top 5% of the world’s best schools. He described my vision of becoming the region’s leading hub for technology and education not as a dream of the future, but as a reality already in motion. To hear him refer to me as “a truly visionary leader who can lead and inspire others” was deeply humbling and a reminder that leadership is always a collective achievement made possible by the dedication of the people around you.

For me, CIS is not about a certificate or a title. It is about continuous improvement, about ensuring that every decision we make places students at the center, and about pushing ourselves to reach new heights. This process and the pride that comes with its successful completion reminds us that we are not just maintaining high standards; we are constantly striving to elevate them.

Our CIS story is far from over. In many ways, this re-accreditation is a beginning, not an end. It reaffirms our commitment to student well-being, academic excellence, global citizenship, and innovation. And it strengthens our determination to continue shaping the future of education in our region.

I am honored to lead this exceptional school, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the years ahead.

Sophio Bazadze

European School Director

THE BEAUTY OF SABADO: WHAT YOU SEE FROM THE OUTSIDE AND FEEL WITHIN ITS WALLS

“When I first looked at Sabado from the outside, it was very beautiful, but from the inside it turned out to be even more beautiful,” said one of our participants from the Manglisi School, reflecting on their experience.

In these seemingly simple words lies the essence of why Sabado was created, the purpose it serves, and the mission, vision, and concept around which it was formed.

People are the most valuable resource in this world, especially in Georgia. Our fellow citizens, and particularly young people who will shape the future of this country, are our greatest asset. Therefore, the most important and timely



investment must be made precisely in people, in young people.

This was the vision of Sabado’s founder, Davit Bezhuashvili, which he shared with us from our very first meeting. Every subsequent step in the creation and development of Sabado has been built upon this vision.

Only one year has passed since those words were spoken. Just a year ago, in Manglisi, on this very site, stood an old, nearly ruined school building. This vision, idea, and sense of responsibility to care for society and to make the most meaningful investment by giving young people opportunities for education, learning, and personal growth, made it possible for a modern, innovative campus and leadership academy to emerge in just a few months. Today, it offers a complete academic, sports, and recreational infrastructure, guided by a clear vision, concept, and well-designed programs.



Within six months of its opening, Sabado had already offered nearly 20 different programs to its participants. Each of these programs supports the development of skills and knowledge that will help shape young people into the leaders of the future, responsible citizens, and confident members of today's competitive world.

During this time, we welcomed more than 1,000 participants and hosted numerous activities and events. Most importantly, a shared feeling emerged that Sabado is indeed "beautiful on the inside." The emotions, experiences, and strong human-centered approach that lie at the heart of our vision create this sense of inner beauty.

We aspire to achieve even more, but for one year, this is no small accomplishment. The year 2025 marked the birth of Sabado. The story continues...

Nika, Sabado participant, Manglisi School:

"When the construction of Sabado began, everyone in Manglisi was genuinely excited. We knew something important was happening for us and for our region. There were high expectations. Now, we have the opportunity to learn and hear things here that you simply can't find elsewhere, to meet interesting people, and to get to know peers our own age. Everyone is always happy to come here."

Tino, Sabado participant, European School:

If I had to describe my experience at Sabado in several words, it would be: "Knowledge, positivity, movement, and inspiration." Having attended multiple programs at the Manglisi campus, I can honestly say this isn't just a camp, it's a life-changing community. What makes Sabado so special is how they blend learning with an incredible, high-energy atmosphere. One week, I was at the Sports Festival, feeling the adrenaline of basketball and padel matches. It wasn't just about the game, though; meeting legends like Zaza Pachulia and Giorgi Kochorashvili taught me that discipline and resilience are the real keys to leadership. You don't just hear about success here; you see it in action.

At Sabado, we didn't just sit in lectures; we held simulations, and learned how to build bridges between people, and most importantly gained new friends and amazing mentors.

If you want to find your voice, meet amazing friends, and learn from the best in Georgia, you need to experience Sabado!

George Ugulava
Head of Sabado

INNOVATION, STEAM EDUCATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

What connects robots in Panama, a digital island in the world of Kahoot, and music created with artificial intelligence that became the official soundtrack of an international Olympiad? The answer is clear: European School, where digital technology, STEAM education, and global citizenship are an integral part of daily learning.

Engineering Recognized Worldwide

In 2025, Georgia's National Robotics Team competed successfully at the FIRST Global Challenge in Panama. Of particular pride is the fact that three students from European School: Saba Robakidze, Luka Parjanadze, and Ilia Berbichashvili, were part of the team, coached by our teachers Guranda Gogaladze and Nikoloz Lobzhanidze. After months of intensive preparation, technical training, simulation exercises, and work in the FabLab, the team won the Silver Medal for the Katherine Johnson Engineering Documentation Award. This prestigious award is given to teams that demonstrate engineering thinking, from concept to final product, with the greatest clarity, professionalism, and depth. The Parade of Nations was a particularly emotional highlight, where our students proudly carried the Georgian flag on the world stage. An unforgettable moment was meeting Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST Global, to whom the students presented a symbolic gift on behalf of European School.



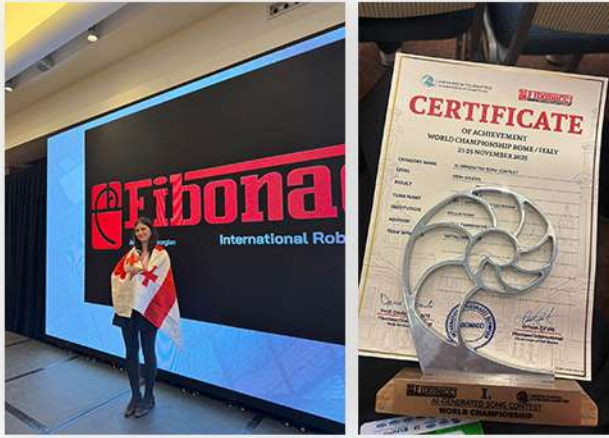
A Digital Island Where Fourth-Graders Became Champions



Our younger students also embarked on an impressive journey in the digital world. PYP Grade 4 students participated in Kahoot's international challenge, "Kahoot-polia Island." What began as an unfamiliar project quickly became a thrilling digital adventure, where teamwork, responsibility, and strategic thinking were key to success. By the end of the school year, they achieved what many thought impossible: completing all levels, becoming champions of all three official leagues, and winning Kahoot Diamond Trophies. The culmination was a global online trivia competition, where, among over 2,100 participants, our team placed 6th in the world. As the students reflected, this was the moment they realized learning extends far beyond the classroom, the whole world can become one big learning space.

From Code to Composition

A shining example of the synthesis of STEAM education and creative thinking is Natali Nozadze, a 10th-grade student in the Georgian program. In November 2025, she competed in the Fibonacci International Robotics Olympiad, representing Georgia among 50 countries.



Natalie won first place in the category of music creation with the help of artificial intelligence, and her composition was selected as the official soundtrack of the Olympiad. This achievement represents not only victory, but also international recognition of talent, technology, and creative vision.

Robots, digital games, artificial intelligence, and global collaboration, these are not just components of projects at European School. They represent a vision of

education that equips students to become innovators of the future.

Keti Nachkebia

Public Relations Manager

ARTS AND SPORTS: CELEBRATING EUROPEAN SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

At the European School, students actively pursue their interests beyond the classroom, on stage, on screen, and in sports arenas, where they continue to achieve remarkable success. Their accomplishments in the fields of arts and sports once again highlight that holistic development is an essential part of the school's educational vision, and that every achievement becomes a source of inspiration for the entire school community.

Anastasia Vadachkoria, a Grade 9G student, is a professional dancer who proudly represents Studio "Tela" at both local and international competitions. Her achievements in ballroom and contemporary dance are truly impressive. In September 2025, Anastasia competed at the international championship "London Open 2025" in London, where she earned second place.



Elene Kuchukhidze, a Grade 12A student, has been passionate about art and functional design since childhood. She created her first toy at the age of ten, with the goal of designing objects that are not only beautiful but also meaningful and functional. Her works: "Bird House," "My Favorite Book Shelf," "Models," and "New Tbilisi," encourage children to assemble and decorate toys independently, fostering creativity and imagination.

On December 5, an exhibition of Elene's brand "Khe Kadu" opened at the literary café Another Valley, showcasing eco-friendly wooden toys, artworks painted by Georgian artists, and 50 handmade Christmas trees.





The International Children's Film Festival "Golden Butterfly," held in November 2025, once again highlighted the creative potential of European School students. In the Best Animation category, the winner was Anastasia Maisuradze (Grade 9G) with her animated film "Waltz of Peace."

At the same festival, the awards for Best Female Performer and Best Male Performer were won by Anastasia Vadachkoria and Saba Ghvinishvili.



Avtandil Tsereteli, a Grade 9A student, became part of a theatre workshop, a space where dreams of performing on stage turn into reality. He took part in a production directed by Manana Kazakova, serving in the role of director. This experience proved to be a meaningful challenge and a successful step for the young theatre enthusiast.



Outstanding results in motorsport were achieved by Anzor Bidzinashvili, a Grade 8B student. For the past two years, he has competed successfully in Georgian championships, and in the 2025 Pro League, he claimed first place among 70 participants. In November, he also won the Head-to-Head Championship.



Liza Khorava, a Grade 7A student, has been playing tennis for seven years and continues to show impressive results. In 2025, she competed in several international and national tournaments, including the Ten-Pro Global Junior Tour in Turkey, where she placed third.

At the Georgian National Championship, Liza became a silver medalist, earning the title of the country's second-ranked junior player. Her summer tournament performances once again

demonstrated her strong athletic potential.

We wish our students that these achievements mark only the beginning of a journey that will lead each of them to even greater success and international recognition.

Keti Nachkebia

Public Relations Manager

LIGHTING THE PATH FORWARD: A TRIBUTE TO THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL SCHOLARS WHO TEACH

At the European School, every day begins with the same belief: education is a lifelong journey, and the teachers who guide us are its most devoted travelers. Within their classrooms, curiosity rises, ideas gain purpose and the foundations of tomorrow are built.

Our teachers are explorers, researchers, authors, innovators, advocates; they are scholars who look deeper and stand for truth. We share their achievements to remind us that great teaching is about inspiring change, advancing culture, and leading future generations toward a brighter world.

Take Ms. Ekaterine Kobakhidze, whose passion for classical literature reminds us that the past is not distant; it lives within us. Her acclaimed book, "Classical Antiquity in Georgian Literature", supported by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG), bridges ancient civilizations with Georgian cultural identity. Her research allows students to see that the stories of centuries ago still whisper wisdom into the present, a reminder that human brilliance never fades.

Then there is Mr. Giorgi Ugulava, who believes that history should not simply be studied; it should be felt. His co-authored publication on Roman civilization, created alongside renowned historian Rismag Gordeziani, reveals the vibrant, complex reality of an empire that forever transformed humanity. With Mr. Giorgi's guidance, students discover not just what shaped the world before them, but how they themselves might shape the world yet to come.

In the realm of physics, Mr. Akaki Chkhaidze transforms formulas into fascination. His bestselling coursebook for 8th graders takes science out of the abstract and places it directly into the hands of young thinkers, encouraging them to experiment, question, and reach further than what they see. Every concept becomes a bridge toward invention. Every experiment fuels a dream that could one day change the world.

And standing boldly at the crossroads of education, advocacy, and global impact is Ms. Tamar Avaliani, a lawyer, researcher, mediator, and leader of the prestigious Model United Nations EU program. With significant research on children's rights in both the EU and post-soviet societies, a university-adopted book on ethnic-religious minority rights, a landmark victory at the European Court of Human Rights, and the development of a nationwide manual to guide schools across Georgia, she shows our students that justice is not merely a lesson to learn, it is a responsibility we carry into the world.

Miranda Manjgaladze in collaboration with Helvetas Georgia, has developed a Market Systems Development (MSD) guide adapted to the Georgian context, bridging global development practice with local market realities. This initiative brings real-world, systems-thinking approaches into the classroom, enabling students to understand how businesses operate within broader economic, social, and institutional systems.

Our teachers research because the world is still unfolding. They listen because every student is a new story. They teach because they believe in tomorrow. Together, these educators remind us of a profound truth: their flame does not just burn; it illuminates thousands more.

Nana Mukeria
ASAS Teacher



NANA GOGUADZE – FROM ES ALUMNA TO FINTECH LEADER

Nana Gogvadze, European School IB DP alumna, former Chairman of the ES Alumni Association, has built an extraordinary career defined by purpose, ambition, and innovation. After graduating from ES, she continued her education at NYU Stern School of Business, one of the world's leading institutions in finance and management. From there, her professional growth was rapid and impressive.

Today, Nana has stepped into a major leadership role as the new Head of Marketing at Pave Bank. She now oversees the team responsible for developing programmable commercial banking in Georgia and serving corporate clients. In this position, Nana plays a key role in shaping the bank's global fintech brand and managing its strategic communications. A central part of her work involves simplifying complex financial products and crafting narratives that bridge the gap between traditional banking and digital-asset infrastructure, an area at the forefront of modern finance.

Nana's diverse experience spans both the financial and technology sectors. Her portfolio includes brand strategy and the management of large-scale communications campaigns. Before joining Pave Bank, she served as Corporate Communications Lead at Visa, and prior to that, she was a Senior Business Consultant at EY (Ernst & Young). Alongside her corporate achievements, she also contributes to education as a visiting lecturer at the Business and Technology University (BTU).

Nana's journey has been marked by remarkable accolades. She was named a Forbes Under 30 Scholar (USA) in 2019, and in 2025, she was recognized again, this time on the Forbes Under 30 list in the Social Impact category. These achievements highlight the consistency, impact, and vision that drive her career.

It is interesting to learn Nana's own perspective on her career journey.

How did the European School shape your academic and professional journey?

European School gave me the foundation that ultimately shaped both my academic and professional journey. It was the first environment where I learned to think strategically, push myself beyond standard frameworks, and take ownership of the opportunities I wanted to create.

At ES, I learned that excellence is a habit, not a moment and that mindset has guided every step of my career.

What advice would you give current ES students who hope to build a successful path in business, finance, or technology?

Be curious, be bold, and start building real competencies as early as possible. The world moves fast but success comes to those who are prepared, not those who rush.

Learn skills that compound over time: critical thinking, strong communication, analytical capability, and the discipline to finish what you start. Don't wait for the "right moment" - it doesn't exist. Explore industries, take internships, build networks, experiment, and expose yourself to real challenges early. And one more thing: your career will be shaped far more by your initiative than by your circumstances. Create your opportunities, don't wait for them.

