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NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SCHOOL

TOGETHER AS ARCHITECTS OF FUTURE EDUCATION

Education grows when knowledge is shared. Every conversation between educators, every exchange of experience, and every new perspective has the power to inspire change beyond the walls of a single classroom. This belief became the foundation of the 5th Experiential Learning Conference, organized by the European School within the framework of the Caucasus and Central Asia Association of IB World Schools (CCAIBWS) – a gathering that brought together educators, innovators, and leaders united by one mission: shaping the future of education.

The conference journey began with a powerful celebration of student voice and leadership – the Festival of Hope at the Sabado Leadership Academy in Manglisi. Around 100 students, future changemakers, gathered to explore ideas, connect with one another, and reflect on their role in creating a better future. This was a reminder that meaningful education is not only about academic knowledge; it is about empowering young people to lead, create, and contribute.



From May 1–3, the conference continued with the opening ceremony at Pullman Hotel, welcoming 560 delegates from different countries around the world. Over three inspiring days, educators participated in more than 100 sessions, workshops, and keynote presentations, exploring innovative practices and exchanging ideas about how education can respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

As I shared in my opening remarks, educators are the architects of future education. We are shaping not only students' knowledge but also their curiosity, values, leadership, and ability to make a positive impact.

Hosting a conference of this scale was both a great honor and a significant responsibility for the European School. It reflected our 19-year journey of growth and our commitment to being a leader in transformative education. Over the years, European School has become a recognized hub of innovation, where technology, creativity, and progressive teaching approaches come together to create meaningful learning experiences.



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As highlighted by CIS experts, European School represents a model of educational innovation, with its approaches placing it among a small group of globally recognized innovative schools. Today, we proudly stand as the only CIS-accredited school in Georgia and the first and only full-continuum IB World School in the region, offering all four IB programmes — PYP, MYP, DP, and CP.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the conference was the opportunity to connect not only international educators but also local Georgian schools and educators. Sharing global experience while strengthening our local educational community reflects our role as a bridge between Georgia and the wider world.

At the same time, we had the privilege of representing our country and becoming ambassadors of Georgia for our international guests. Through student performances, cultural workshops, Georgian cuisine, and the warmth of



our hospitality, we shared not only our educational achievements but also the unique traditions, values, and spirit of our country.

The 5th Experiential Learning Conference was more than an educational event. It was a celebration of collaboration, innovation, and a shared belief that together we can create better education and, ultimately, a better world.

Sophio Bazadze
CEO, European School

EUROPEAN SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS A COMMON SENSE SHOWCASE SCHOOL FOR 2025–2026

A new milestone in digital education has been achieved at European School — the school has officially received the title of Common Sense Showcase School for the 2025–2026 academic year, joining a global network of schools committed to excellence in digital citizenship education.

This recognition celebrates schools that help students develop the knowledge, skills, and values needed to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly, and ethically. For European School, it reflects years of dedication to promoting digital literacy, online safety, media awareness, balanced technology use, and responsible digital participation.

The journey toward this achievement was initiated by Ani Bezhuashvili, ICT Teacher and Common Sense Ambassador at European School,

who identified an opportunity to highlight the school's ongoing commitment to digital citizenship. With the support of colleagues, a dedicated volunteer team was formed to guide the application process.

The Digital Citizenship Volunteering Team played an important role by collecting evidence, documenting best practices, coordinating activities, and showcasing the school's approach. Their collaboration and commitment were key to achieving this recognition.

Over the years, the school has organized initiatives including Digital Citizenship Week activities, student-led awareness campaigns, classroom projects, assemblies, parent workshops, and professional learning sessions for educators. These efforts have helped create a culture where digital citizenship is an essential part of teaching



and learning.

Students have also taken an active role in this journey by exploring topics such as online safety, digital footprints, information literacy, privacy, media balance, and the responsible use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Becoming a Common Sense Showcase School is both a celebration of achievement and a commitment to future growth. It reflects European School's mission to prepare students not only for academic success but also to become responsible, ethical, and confident digital citizens ready to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Ani Bezhushvili

PYP Teacher

FROM EUROPEAN SCHOOL TO THE WORLD'S LEADING UNIVERSITIES

Every great journey begins with the right direction.

For European School graduates, the path to the world's leading universities is built on a foundation of high-quality education, international experience, personalized guidance, and the confidence to discover and pursue their own potential.

The university success of the Class of 2026 once again demonstrates that every educational pathway at European School, whether the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes, the American School of Advanced Studies (ASAS), or the Georgian Programme, provides students with a strong foundation they need to continue their academic journey at the world's top universities.

For our students, university admission is not simply about submitting applications; it is a carefully planned journey supported every step of the way by European School's University and Career Counseling Office. With the guidance of experienced counselors, students learn to identify their interests, make informed choices, and present their unique strengths on the global stage.

The results of the Class of 2026 are another reflection of this successful approach.

For the sixth time since 2020, European School has achieved the highest number of Ivy League admissions among private schools in Georgia.

This year's outstanding university acceptances include:

- 2 admissions to Brown University
- Georgetown University
- Duke University
- University of California, Berkeley
- London School of Economics (LSE)
- University College London (UCL)
- Bocconi University

Alongside offers from many other prestigious universities worldwide.



The success of the Class of 2026 is especially remarkable for its scale and global reach. The university map of European School graduates continues to expand, with new destinations added beyond the traditional choices of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe, including Singapore, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

As part of this year's university application process, 728 applications were submitted for 126 students across 30 countries, and every graduate who applied received an offer of admission.

The financial achievements of this year's graduates are equally impressive. European School Grade 12 students received \$2,437,571 in annual university scholarships and financial aid, totaling \$9,750,284 over four years.

However, our greatest achievement is not measured solely by university rankings or admission lists. Our mission is to help every student discover their own path, whether that leads to a world-leading university, a specific professional field, or the pursuit of their personal ambitions.

An important part of this vision is the international network of universities and opportunities created by European School. This year, in collaboration with the Guivy Zaldastanishvili American Academy in Tbilisi, European School hosted its first European Universities Fair, welcoming 215 students and parents. The event marked the beginning of a new model of collaboration between international schools in Tbilisi and universities across Europe.

Building on the success of this initiative, the next University Fair will take place on October 12, bringing together five international schools in Tbilisi and more than 20 universities from the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom.

European School creates an environment where opportunities know no boundaries. Here, education is not only preparation for the next step; it is the foundation that empowers students to confidently shape their own future anywhere in the world.

Ketevan Nachkebia
Public Relations Manager

STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES CHANGE PERSPECTIVES

At the heart of education lies a simple yet powerful idea: learning is not confined to textbooks, classrooms, or examinations. True education takes place when young people engage with the world around them, listen to different voices, and discover their ability to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. This year, students of the European School demonstrated exactly that through two remarkable initiatives, Human Library and Books for Everyone, projects that united literacy, empathy, cultural awareness, and social responsibility. Although different in form and focus, the



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projects carried a common message: every person has a story worth hearing, and every story has the power to inspire change.

One of the most moving initiatives of the year was the project Human Library, created and organized by European School (American School of Advanced Studies) students Ana Molodini and Saba Nodia in partnership with the charitable organization Caritas Georgia. Inspired by the international Human Library movement, the project sought to strengthen dialogue, empathy, and mutual understanding among people from different generations, backgrounds, and life experiences. Its central purpose was to encourage participants to see one another beyond labels, stereotypes, and social barriers. Unlike a traditional library, the “books” in this project were not bound volumes placed on shelves. They were people whose lives carried stories of resilience, struggle, courage, and hope. European School students had the opportunity to meet Caritas beneficiaries who represented diverse experiences, including elderly individuals, survivors of domestic violence, single parents, and others whose voices are rarely heard in everyday conversations. As project organizer Ana Molodini reflected, the goal was to help young people recognize that beyond the relatively narrow social circles in which many of us live, there are individuals who face difficult circumstances every day and whose experiences deserve attention and respect. The project encouraged participants to look beyond material success and appreciate the strength, dignity, and humanity that exist in every life story. The initiative also created a valuable bridge between generations. Older participants were given the opportunity to share wisdom gained through decades of experience, offering guidance that no textbook could provide.

While Human Library encouraged students to read the stories of people, the second major initiative of the year, Books for Everyone, celebrated the enduring power of literature itself.

Led by Nodar Chelidze in cooperation with the

Literacy Promotion Society and renowned Georgian writer and public intellectual Giorgi Kekelidze, the project sought to promote reading



culture, strengthen appreciation for the Georgian language, and deepen awareness of cultural heritage among both Georgian and international students of the European School. Throughout the academic year, participants engaged in activities designed to extend the influence of books beyond the school environment. The project became a vehicle for the community. Throughout the academic year, the project extended its impact beyond the walls of the European School through a series of outreach initiatives that promoted literacy, cultural awareness, and educational engagement in communities across Georgia. One significant milestone came in December, when participants visited Tirdznisi Public School to discuss the importance of reading and education with local students while donating books collected through the project. The initiative continued on March 14, Georgia's Mother Language Day, when students traveled to Variani, the birthplace of Yakob Gogebashvili – the author of Dedaena and a founding figure of the Georgian educational tradition. There, they met with students of Variani Public School, concluding the visit with another book donation. Together, these experiences embodied the project's commitment not only to fostering a culture of reading but also to strengthening educational solidarity and inspiring young people to become active contributors to their communities and cultural heritage.

Together, Human Library and Books for Everyone represent the very best of student initiative. One project invited students to discover the extraordinary stories hidden within ordinary lives; the other reminded them of the transformative power of books, language, and education. Both demonstrated that learning becomes most meaningful when it inspires compassion, understanding, and action.

These initiatives stand as powerful examples of what young people can accomplish when they combine creativity with purpose. They have not only enriched the school community but have also left a lasting imprint on the minds and hearts of everyone involved. Most importantly, they remind us that whether through a book, a conversation, or an act of service, every effort to understand and support one another helps build a more thoughtful, connected, and humane world.

Nana Mukeria
ASAS Teacher

A FIRST STEP INTO GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

Sometimes, a single opportunity can open the door to an entirely new path. That is exactly how the success story of Elene Getia, a Grade 9E student in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) at European School, began. After attending a school presentation by representatives of the Young Diplomats of Georgia organization, Elene decided to challenge herself by participating in a Model United Nations (Model UN) conference. That first step soon turned into remarkable international success.

Over the past year, Elene has earned three international scholarships. She has participated in conferences and diplomatic programmes in France, the United States, and Japan, proudly representing Georgia on the international stage. Her journey took her from Strasbourg to Washington, D.C. and New York, and later to Tokyo. Along the way, she observed the work of the United Nations, met Georgia's Permanent Representative to the UN, and was invited to attend official events hosted by the Government of Japan.



How did you achieve such remarkable success?

It all started with a presentation at European School. Before that, I knew very little about Model UN, but I decided to step outside my comfort zone and give it a try. Looking back, it was one of the most important decisions I have ever made.

What was the most emotional moment for you?

The most unforgettable moment was visiting the United Nations Headquarters and meeting Georgia's representatives there. Realizing that I was representing my country in such an international environment was both an incredible honour and a great responsibility.

What advice would you give to students who are considering participating in international conferences?

Don't be afraid to take the first step. The greatest opportunities often begin the moment you decide to challenge yourself and try something new.

Elene's story is a powerful reminder that great achievements often begin with one courageous decision. European School is proud of its students' accomplishments and is confident that many more remarkable successes lie ahead for Elene.



Nino Kusrashvili
Public Relations Manager

WHEN THE GOAL IS VICTORY

Dato Gotsadze, a Grade 11 student at European School and an MMA wrestler, is a hardworking and determined athlete. Over the years, he has competed in numerous prestigious tournaments and achieved remarkable success. His accomplishments include 1st Place at the ADCC Championship, 1st Place at Grappling Industries, 1st Place at the Georgian Grand Prix, and a Bronze Medal at AJP.



Each of these achievements reflects his daily hard work, discipline, and perseverance. Success in sports is not based on talent alone—it requires consistent training, dedication, and a constant commitment to self-improvement. This is the path Dato has chosen, viewing every competition as an opportunity to gain experience and take another step toward achieving his goals.

How did your journey in sports begin?

I became interested in wrestling at a young age. After my very first competition, I realized that I wanted to achieve serious results in this sport. Since then, I have trained every day and worked hard to improve myself.

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What is the key to your success?

Above all, hard work, discipline, and consistent training. Success only comes when you never stop improving and keep moving toward your goals.

How do you feel when you win?

It's an incredible feeling. I'm happy to see my hard work pay off, and it's especially meaningful when I have the opportunity to make my country proud.

What advice would you give to students who dream of succeeding in sports?

Never give up. Success doesn't come overnight. If you have a goal and work hard every day, the results will come.



Dato's story once again proves that dedication, perseverance, and determination are the true foundations of success. European School is proud of its students' achievements and is confident that many more victories lie ahead for Dato.

Nino Kusrashvili

Public Relations Manager

WHEN DANCE BECOMES A LANGUAGE OF LOVE

A young man walks through the school hallway. He is carrying a huge speaker, and behind him follows a group of 8 - and 9-year-old boys — laughing, chatting, calling out to one another. Everyone is trying to tell him something at the same time, asking questions, sharing their stories... And what is remarkable is that he listens to everyone. He answers every child, leaving no one unheard. Along the way, colleagues stop him:

“Which lesson will you join my class for?”

“Will you have time for my rehearsal?”

“I want to create a scene with my students — can we do it together?”

With his warm smile and bright eyes, he says yes to everyone. He promises to help, and most importantly — he always follows through.

It feels as though a small celebration moves with him through the school corridors — full of energy, laughter, and life.

This is David Daraselia, a Georgian dance teacher who has transformed dance into a language of love within the walls of the school. Speaking about his work at the European School,



he says:

“I don’t come here just to work. This is my home. This is my family, and I teach dance to my family members.”



At 26, David has already dedicated most of his life to dance. He began dancing at the age of nine, performing with the Georgian ensemble Mtiebi, and later became a member of the legendary Georgian National Ballet Sukhishvili. Today, his biggest stage is the European School — a place where, for the past four

years, he has been sharing Georgian dance and the spirit of Georgian culture with children.

In David’s lessons, dance is not simply about repeating movements. It is about emotion, character, and confidence. When David dances himself, it feels as though the music follows him — he seems to float across the floor, showing children that Georgian dance is not just about technique; it is a spirit that must be felt.

Over four years, David has taught dance to nearly 500 students, but what makes his work truly special is that he has brought the entire school community into the world of dance. Today, on the European School stage, it is not only students who perform — teachers and parents do as well. Especially moving are the performances where parents and children dance together, moments when dance becomes part of a family story.

According to David, one of his greatest achievements is this year’s solo concert by ES Ornament on the stage of the Mtskheta Cultural Centre: 16 performance pieces, enormous responsibility, incredible teamwork, and the kind of backstage support and unity that even professional teams would admire.

However, when asked about the most important thing he has given his students, his answer is something deeper:

“My students may not all become dancers, but I have taught them to care for one another, to help each other, and to respect each other. What happens backstage is what matters most to me.”

And perhaps this is David Daraselia’s greatest strength. He teaches children not only how to dance, but how to become part of a united family.

Some teachers pass on knowledge. Some inspire. David Daraselia does both — and you can feel it even beyond the stage, simply by seeing him walk through the school hallway.

Ketevan Nachkebia
Public Relations Manager

FROM EUROPEAN SCHOOL TO GLOBAL IMPACT

Every morning in Kigali begins with a simple ritual. Elene wakes up, takes a motorbike taxi through the streets of Rwanda’s capital, and heads to one of the neighborhood coffee shops where she starts her working day. In a city where “everyone knows your name,” she has found a rhythm between meaningful work, adventure, and the novelties of living in another culture.

Today, Elene works as a Policy and Change Management Expert at the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB), helping transform one of the country’s key public institutions, serving more than 14 million people. She leads work focused on improving internal governance systems, institutional processes, and designing ways for public services to become more effective and impactful.

But Elene's journey toward global development began much earlier at European School. She is a graduate of the European School IB Diploma Programme, class of 2018. Her interest in economics and public policy led her to study Politics and Economics at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, followed by a dual Master's degree in Public Policy and Public Administration at Hertie School in Berlin and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs in New York. Over the past eight years, her professional path has taken her across continents — from Georgia to Zambia and now Rwanda. She has worked as a USAID Fellow at the Budget and Finance Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, served as a Junior Advisor under GIZ's Good Financial Governance Programme in Zambia, and continues her work in Rwanda's public sector.



"Throughout my journey, I have followed my instinct and invited discomfort and adventure into my life whenever they came my way," Elene reflects. "The decisions that shaped my professional journey were deeply personal, and my career has developed around the life I want to live — not the other way around."

Her work in Africa has given her the opportunity to be part of meaningful institutional change. In Zambia, she worked during a critical period of economic reform following the country's sovereign debt default, gaining a deep understanding of public financial management and reform processes. In Rwanda, she is contributing to the transformation of a major government institution which administers social security schemes for the vast majority of Rwanda's population.

Beyond her professional role, Elene is also a board member of Advancing Girls' Education in Africa, an organization supporting girls in Malawi from secondary education through their professional journeys. For Elene, the impact of this work became especially powerful when she learned that the first female dentist in Malawi was an AGE graduate, meaning the programme is structurally changing what was considered possible for girls in the country.

"One student's story can create a ripple effect in what is considered possible for girls throughout the country," she says. "I am extremely honored to be a small part of this big mission."

For young people who aspire to become future leaders and changemakers, Elene believes the most important quality is a sense of purpose.

"A willingness to understand the world you are trying to change. To listen more than you speak, and observe more than you express."

Her message to current European School students is simple but powerful:

"The best guide through the path you are about to take will be your instinct, guiding you toward a purpose you feel compelled to serve. If you cannot yet see it, do the work to find it within yourself. Your 'why' will help you through the difficult moments of your academic and professional journey — so make sure it is strong enough to carry you through the 'how's.'"

For Elene, success is not measured only by titles, achievements, or milestones.

"Success is a sense that I am contributing — even a little — to reducing the amount of suffering in the world."

From a student at European School to a professional contributing to global development, Elene's journey is a powerful reminder that purpose, curiosity, and courage can transform a personal path into a global impact.

Ketevan Nachkebia
Public Relations Manager