



15.01.2025

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SCHOOL



CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS
FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear ES Community,

Here's to a year of new goals, new achievements and a shared purpose that unites us all.

Citius, Altius, Fortius!

As we embark on this incredible journey of 2024-2025 academic year, I am reminded of the timeless words that inspire greatness: **Citius, Altius, Fortius** — Faster, Higher, Stronger. These words are more than just a motto; they are a call to action, a mindset, and a way of life that challenges us to strive for excellence, embrace growth, and achieve more than we ever thought possible.

Faster (Citius): Leading through innovation

In a world that moves at an unprecedented pace, we are committed to equipping our students with the skills to adapt, innovate, and lead. Our focus on digital transformation ensures that we not only keep up with the changing times but also stay ahead.

Higher (Altius): Setting Ambitious Goals

This year, we aim higher in everything we do. Whether it's academic excellence, personal growth, or community engagement, we are dedicated to raising the bar. Through high-quality teaching and learning, we ensure every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Stronger (Fortius): Building Resilience and Unity

Strength comes from working together as one. At ES, we foster a culture of collaboration, respect, and shared purpose. Our dedication to community wellbeing ensures that students, parents, and staff feel supported, valued, and connected. Together, we will face challenges with resilience, celebrate successes with pride, and grow stronger through every experience.



#2 I. SKHIRTADZE STR, TBILISI, 0177, GEORGIA
TEL: (032) 214 42 44; 239 59 64; 214 15 16

E-MAIL: info@europeanschool.ge
WEB: www.europeanschool.ge

Our Shared Vision

Guided by our school's vision and mission, we are shaping a future where our learners thrive as responsible global citizens. Through our pursuit of excellence, highlighted by initiatives like CIS accreditation, we reaffirm our commitment to providing an education that prepares students for a dynamic and interconnected world.

This year, we embrace a refreshed strategic plan, one that aligns with our school's vision and mission to nurture lifelong learners, celebrate diversity, foster inclusion, and champion sustainability. Central to our goals is the unwavering commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, ensuring that every student is empowered to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Key Pillars of Our Strategic Plan

Digital Transformation: We are advancing our digital journey, equipping students and staff with the skills and tools needed to excel in an ever-evolving technological landscape. With a focus on digital citizenship, we are guiding our learners to navigate the digital world responsibly and ethically.

Global Citizenship: We continue to emphasize global perspectives, preparing our students to engage meaningfully with diverse cultures, respect different viewpoints, and contribute positively to the global community.

Community Wellbeing: A thriving school community is one where everyone feels valued, supported, and connected. We are investing in initiatives that prioritize mental health, resilience, and a sense of belonging among students, staff, and families.

CIS Accreditation: Our pursuit of CIS (Council of International Schools) accreditation reflects our dedication to maintaining the highest international standards of education and excellence.

Our Commitment to Excellence

Together, we will navigate the year with innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives.

I invite each of you—students, parents, teachers, and staff—to join us in this journey of growth and achievement. Share your ideas, embrace challenges, and celebrate successes, no matter how big or small. Let's move forward, together, with the spirit of "Faster, Higher, Stronger," always reaching beyond what we thought was possible.

Let us carry the spirit of *Citius, Altius, Fortius* in all that we do this year.

Let us move faster toward innovation, aim higher in our aspirations, and grow stronger as a community united by purpose and passion. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Here's to a year of extraordinary possibilities!

Sophio Bazadze
Director of the European School

EUROPEAN SCHOOL: ILLUMINATING THE PATH TO GLOBAL EXCELLENCE

The European School has firmly established itself as a leader in education, not just regionally but on the global platform. With a commitment to innovation and excellence, the school embraces its motto—*Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger)—as a guiding principle to unlock opportunities for its students. Through participation in world-class events, its leaders and educators continue to pave the way for the next generation in a sophisticated, humane, and digitally empowered world.

We are excited to share some of our most recent and impactful experiences from these exceptional global engagements.

A Vision for Innovation: The World Marketing Summit

The journey took center stage at the World Marketing Summit (WMS), an event initiated by the Father of Modern Marketing, Dr. Philip Kotler. Held on December 7-8, the summit brought together over 150 global leaders from industry giants such as Meta, Google, and Apple. The theme, "Hello to Digital Business Transformation and Artificial Intelligence," resonated deeply with participants, including the European School's delegation.



Sophia Bazadze, European School's Director, addressed the audience with a presentation titled Journey of Innovation and Excellence, emphasizing how education can drive global change. Sharing her reflections, Ms. Bazadze stated:

"In a world shaped by AI and digital transformation, education remains the most powerful tool to build a better, brighter future. Our mission is to nurture students who will lead with innovation and integrity."

This emphasis on transformative education underscores the school's commitment to equipping students with the tools needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.



Fostering Collaboration: CIS 2024 Global Forum



The commitment of the European School to collaboration continued at the CIS 2024 Global Forum on Admission & Guidance in Basel, Switzerland. Bringing together 478 university representatives and 288 school counselors from 67 countries, the event explored the latest trends in international admissions and career guidance. Our University and Career Counselors attended the event and shared their thoughts: Keti Jolia: "The CIS forum helps us advocate for our students and institutions in a collaborative community. Peer-led workshops ensure that we engage in meaningful discussions and subsequently adopt best global practices in university and career counseling." Nona Sichinava: "The CIS Forum empowers counseling professionals to engage in mutually beneficial exchange of ideas. We work together to ensure better access and more opportunities for our students" Their views reflect and strengthen the school's broader mission to create pathways for global learning and success.

Strengthening Leadership: Cogna IMPACT Conference

Another highlight in the school's global journey was its representation at the Cogna IMPACT International Conference in Abu Dhabi. The Principal of International Programs, Dr. Brice Bomo, and the Academic Dean of American School of Advanced Studies, Ms. Natia Tevzadze, joined educators from across the Middle East and Africa to engage in discussions on strategies for continuous school improvement. The conference featured keynote speeches and breakout sessions covering topics such as accreditation, leadership, and growth in learning.

Dr. Bomo reflected on the conference's impact, stating:

"Conferences like Cognia IMPACT remind us of the value of collaboration and shared expertise. Together, we can overcome challenges and create sustainable environments where students grow."

Ms. Natia Tevzadze also shared her insights:

"Participating in the Cognia IMPACT Conference was an inspiring experience. It provided practical solutions and innovative ideas to strengthen leadership and enhance student success in a rapidly changing educational landscape." This experience reinforced the school's dedication to fostering an environment of innovation and excellence in education.



Leading by Example: IB Leadership Workshop

Continuing its pursuit of excellence, European School also participated in a prestigious IB leadership workshop in Düsseldorf, Germany. Focused on "Navigating Leadership," the workshop brought together IB leaders from around the world to share insights and strategies for shaping the future of education. David Kbilashvili, head of the IB Diploma and Career-related Programmes, emphasized the importance of such opportunities:



"Leadership in education is about constant growth. Events like these ensure that we remain at the forefront, equipping our students with the skills they need to succeed in an ever-changing world." This sentiment captures the essence of European School's philosophy: to continuously evolve and lead in providing world-class education.

A Unified Vision of the School for Global Excellence



From the World Marketing Summit to the CIS Global Forum, the Cognia IMPACT Conference, and the IB leadership workshop, European School's journey reflects its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and leadership. These events are not just milestones—they are interconnected threads in a larger narrative of excellence that drives the school forward.

Reflecting on the broader impact of these experiences, Sophia Bazadze summed it up perfectly:

"Education is the key to unlocking a better world, and our students are the leaders who will shape it." As the European School continues to engage with global platforms, it remains steadfast in its mission to prepare students for a future defined by innovation, empathy, and resilience. With each new opportunity, the school shines ever brighter as a pioneer in global education.

Nana Mukeria
ASAS Student Engagement Coordinator

EMBRACING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: CULTIVATING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AT THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL

In today's interconnected world, fostering intercultural understanding is more crucial than ever. At the European School, we believe that embracing diversity and celebrating global perspectives are fundamental to developing well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our commitment to internationalism is deeply ingrained in our educational philosophy, and we strive to create a learning environment that nurtures curiosity, empathy, and respect for different cultures.

Intercultural learning goes beyond simply studying different countries and traditions. It involves developing a deeper understanding of oneself and others, recognizing and appreciating diverse perspectives, and building bridges of communication and cooperation across cultures. Through a variety of engaging activities and events, we aim to cultivate these essential skills in our students.



DIVERSITY

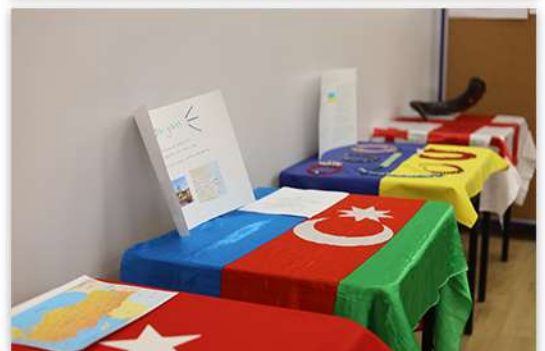
A Tapestry of Intercultural Experiences

Throughout the academic year, our school hosts a diverse range of events that celebrate cultural diversity and promote intercultural understanding. Here are a few highlights:

- **Gastronomy Festival (School-wide event):** Organized by the dedicated Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members at the European School, this vibrant event celebrates World Food Day! Parents showcase traditional dishes from 17 different countries, each table beautifully adorned with souvenirs and cultural elements. Many parents even wear traditional costumes, adding to the festive atmosphere. This isn't just about tasting delicious food; it's a heartfelt celebration of global flavors and cultures. Parents from across the school community come together to share culinary traditions from their home countries, creating a feast for the senses. This journey through a variety of cuisines fosters intercultural exchange and collaboration among our diverse community. We're thrilled to share that funds raised from this event will support charity initiatives focused on eradicating hunger, demonstrating the positive impact of our community.



- **International Day of Tolerance (IB DP/CP):** This annual event is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and respect. The DP/CP community comes together to celebrate the International Day of Tolerance with a themed assembly, often featuring "One World, Many Voices: A Celebration of Tolerance and Cultural Respect." The event typically includes interactive games, literary projects showcasing works that inspire empathy, and cultural performances that illustrate the power of art to connect people. A key highlight is the Cultural Appreciation Exhibition, showcasing the diverse traditions and values within our school community. This exhibition serves as a powerful reminder of the beauty and strength found in our differences, inspiring respect and the celebration of the cultural heritage each of us brings to the European School. This day fosters an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and reminds our students of the importance of embracing diverse perspectives.





- **Intellectual Game: What? Where? When? (Georgian Program):** Our students from the Georgian Program recently launched an exciting and educational game called "Step-by-Step towards Europe"! Inspired by the popular intellectual game "What? Where? When?" This interactive game aims to boost students' awareness of the rich history, culture, and traditions of EU countries. The second round of this engaging game, conducted within the Georgian Program, this year aimed to raise awareness about Germany's rich history, culture, and traditions. Through interactive challenges and questions, students delved into the fascinating world of German culture, expanding their knowledge and appreciation for this diverse and influential nation.

- **ASAS Student Parliament for School Ethics:** The Parliament's initiative on ethical awareness, addressing inclusivity and respect, directly contributes to a more harmonious and culturally sensitive school environment. By promoting inclusivity and respect, the Parliament actively cultivates an environment where students from diverse backgrounds feel valued and respected.

- **PYP Summative Assessment Project - Ancient China:** During their study of ancient civilizations, Grade 3 students delved into the world of ancient China. They learned about Chinese inventions and discoveries and then brought their learning to life by creating and performing a play based on the Lunar New Year legend. This project involved collaboration with music and art teachers, showcasing the students' creativity and teamwork.

- **PYP Global Connections:** Grade 2B PYP students engaged in a lively exchange with peers from an IB school in China. They discussed roles and responsibilities in different cultural contexts, sharing traditions and perspectives. The conversation highlighted both similarities and differences, such as collective family roles in China and teamwork-focused responsibilities in Georgia. This cross-cultural dialogue encouraged open-mindedness and fostered a deeper understanding of global diversity, helping students grow as empathetic and internationally minded citizens.



These initiatives, along with many others, demonstrate the European School's commitment to providing a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. By embracing diversity, celebrating global perspectives, and fostering intercultural understanding through these and other initiatives, we empower our students to become responsible global citizens who are prepared to contribute positively to the world around them.

Keti Guramishvili
MYP SA Coordinator

"LITERARY WEEK" TO ENCOURAGE LITERACY

Many may wonder why so much attention is given to an event as common as promoting literacy and book reading. However, literacy is far more than just reading—it fosters critical thinking, creativity, skills of argumentation, discussion and analysis. To celebrate and encourage literacy, the "Literary Week" was held for the sixth time at the European School, dedicated to the birthday of Astrid Lindgren, the beloved author of children's books.

The main goal of "Literary Week" is to inspire a love of reading and raise literacy levels among students. To achieve this, the event annually brings together writers, publishers, illustrators, linguists, translators, and artists. Students eagerly participated in various activities, including the "Reading the Book Aloud" initiative, literary discussions, story-writing masterclasses, thematic exhibitions, and role-playing games.

The program for “Literary Week 2024” was diverse, informative, and enriching. Painter Zaliko Sulakauri held a masterclass titled “How to Draw Pippi,” where students, dressed in costumes of Lindgren’s characters, created illustrations alongside the artist. Poet and linguist Diana Anphimiadi spoke about children’s literature, the importance of literacy in everyday life, and provided students with the opportunity to write short stories based on four selected characters.



European School also invited several publishers to participate, including Sulakauri Publishing, Palitra L, English Book, and Shemecneba. The book festival allowed visitors to select their favorite works of children’s literature and winter reading materials. Middle school students attended a lecture by Giorgi Kekelidze titled “Literature and Animation,” where they explored the parallels between animation and literature.

As part of the charity event “Like Pippi,” students collected sweets and gifts to donate to the “Women and Children’s Shelter.” Author Guram Megrelidze presented his book *How to Write a Story* and held an autograph session for students interested in his work. MYP students also participated by dressing as famous literary characters and performing in a theatrical production.

In the school’s main hall, an exhibition of paintings featuring iconic literary characters was displayed. For book lovers, this week served as a journey through the world of literature—an opportunity to share impressions of new books, translations, and characters, and to rediscover the power of books and stories.





Nino Kusrashvili
Public Relations and Social Media Manager

EUROPEAN SCHOOL STUDENT VAKHTANG LEMONJAVA EXCELS IN BOTH SPORTS AND ACADEMICS

From a restless kindergartener to an accomplished athlete and scholar, Vakhtang "Vato" Lemonjava exemplifies the well-rounded excellence that European School strives to nurture in its students.

Teachers first noticed Vato's exceptional potential during his early years at European Kindergarten, where his energetic nature was matched by remarkable intelligence. Now, he is proving those early observations correct through achievements in both athletics and academics.

This year, Vato Lemonjava secured a silver medal at a prestigious European tournament in Warsaw. When asked about his choice of karate over other sports, he explains, "Karate strengthened me not only physically but spiritually. It gave me more confidence and made me more goal-oriented."



His coach, renowned sensei Grigol Darchiashvili, speaks highly of his dedicated student. "For me, students' diligence and goal-orientation matter not only in sports but in all activities, especially academics," Darchiashvili notes. "I strictly demand academic success from them."

Living up to his sensei's expectations, Vato recently led the European School team to bronze medal victory at the Genius Olympiad, hosted by Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. This marked Georgia's first-ever participation in this prestigious international competition.

A two-time recipient of the European School Founders' Grant, Lemonjava maintains an active presence in school life, participating in student government, school events, olympiads, and conferences.



His journey from an energetic kindergartener to an accomplished student-athlete demonstrates the transformative power of dedication and hard work. Through his achievements, Vato continues to bring honor to both his school and country.

Tamar Lomidze
Georgian Language Teacher

NINA BITSKINASHVILI: ISTE CERTIFIED EDUCATOR

Nina Bitskinashvili - one of our dedicated educators, has recently earned the prestigious ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Certification. This accomplishment not only highlights Nina's exceptional commitment to professional growth but also positions her as a leader in educational technology, transforming the digital learning experience for her students.

The ISTE Certification is a globally recognized credential that validates an educator's expertise in integrating technology to enhance teaching and learning. This certification journey involves a rigorous two-phase process: intensive training and practical application through the creation of a comprehensive portfolio. The certification aligns with the ISTE Standards, which focus on creating student-centered, innovative, and responsible digital learning environments.

We conducted an interview with Nina to learn more about her journey and what this certification means for her, her students, and the future of education in Georgia.



What motivated you to pursue the ISTE Certification?

Nina: I've always been passionate about integrating technology into the classroom. In today's world, technology is such a vital part of our students' lives, and it's crucial to equip them with the skills they need to navigate a digital future. The ISTE Certification process allowed me to refine my skills and learn new strategies to create more engaging and effective learning experiences.



The certification process includes an intensive workshop and a six-month portfolio development period. Can you walk us through what that journey was like for you?

Nina: The workshop was intense but incredibly valuable. It gave me a deeper understanding of the ISTE Standards and how to apply them effectively in the classroom. The portfolio development was the most exciting part. It required me to document everything I was doing—designing lessons, implementing new digital tools, and tracking how technology was impacting my students' learning. Seeing the tangible results of my efforts was incredibly satisfying.

How do you think your certification will impact your students' learning experiences?



Nina: The ultimate goal is to create a student-centered, technology-enhanced learning environment. With the skills I've gained, I'm able to design more interactive and personalized learning experiences for my students. They're not just consuming information, they're actively engaged in creating and collaborating in digital spaces. It's all about preparing them for a future where technology plays a huge role in their success.

The ISTE Standards emphasize digital citizenship and responsible technology use. How have you incorporated these principles into your teaching?

Nina: Teaching responsible digital citizenship is essential, especially in today's online world. I've focused on guiding my students to understand the ethical and responsible use of technology, both inside and outside of the classroom. This includes issues like privacy, cyberbullying, and respecting others online. My goal is to help my students become not just consumers of technology, but responsible creators who can use digital tools to make a positive impact.

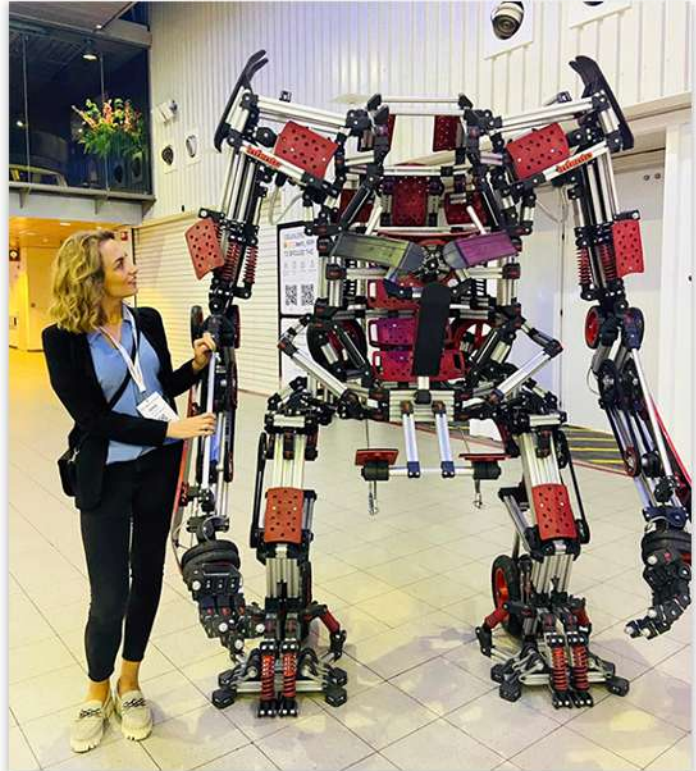
What would you say to other educators in Georgia or beyond who are considering pursuing the ISTE Certification?

Nina: I highly recommend it. The certification process is challenging, but it's also incredibly rewarding. It forces you to step outside of your comfort zone and reimagine the way you teach. For those who are passionate about integrating technology into their practice and want to make a real impact, it's definitely worth the effort.

What's next for you now that you have achieved ISTE Certification?

Nina: I'm excited to continue developing new ways to use technology to enhance my students' learning. This certificate is valid for three years and requires ongoing effort, including staying up-to-date with innovations and changes, implementing them in practice, and earning credits to maintain certification. I'm also looking forward to sharing what I've learned with other educators in Georgia. I truly believe that we can foster a digital learning revolution here, and I hope my journey inspires others to pursue their own professional development in this area. Nina's success story serves as an inspiration to all of us. Her dedication to continuous learning and commitment to improving the educational experience for her students exemplifies the values of the ISTE Certification. As Georgia's ISTE Certified Educator, Nina is not only enhancing her own teaching but also paving the way for other educators to embrace the digital transformation in education.

We're proud of Nina's accomplishments that continue to shape the future of learning at our school and beyond!



Ketevan Nachkebia
Public Relations Manager

INNOVATIVE ANTI-CHEAT SYSTEM

In the fast-paced world of technology, some individuals stand out for their ability to innovate and push the boundaries of what's possible. Zura Kevanishvili, a passionate computer scientist with a focus on AI and cybersecurity, is one such individual. His recent success at DeepSec 2024, one of the world's most prestigious cybersecurity conferences, is a testament to his drive, creativity, and expertise. But Zura's journey to the top didn't happen overnight—it was shaped by his years of hard work, early inspiration, and his experiences at the European School.

INNOVATION

Details of Anti-Cheat System

Zura's groundbreaking work was presented at DeepSec 2024, a highly selective cybersecurity conference renowned for its rigorous standards and elite audience, typically consisting of experts with PhDs or notable academic and professional achievements. Despite being a fourth-year university student, Zura was invited to present his innovative project, an anti-cheat system that leverages advanced AI models to detect hybrid cheaters with remarkable precision in online chess.

"My project is built on Maia models and a unique Multi-Model Move Prediction (MMMP) analysis," Zura explains. "When combined with a convolutional neural network, this system can identify cheating

behavior that other methods miss, providing an unprecedented level of fairness in online chess." This innovation has already captured attention and will soon be implemented on Zura's platform, ChessRyu, with the goal of revolutionizing how online chess ensures fair play.



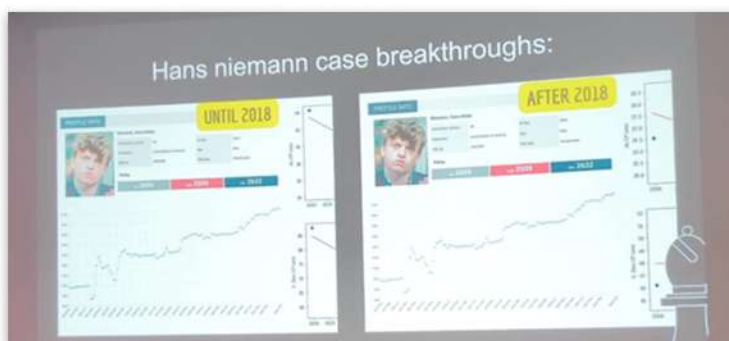
The Rise to Recognition

Zura's journey to the DeepSec stage began years earlier with his involvement in various speaking opportunities. As a student at the European School, Zura's passion for technology and cybersecurity was evident. He began his speaking career with TEDx talk and local conferences, gradually expanding to international platforms such as Ivus in Lithuania and CyCon in Estonia. But presenting at DeepSec marked a critical turning point for him.

"The conference is known for featuring some of the brightest minds in the field, and being selected to present my work was a huge milestone," Zura says. "The recognition from industry leaders and experts at DeepSec confirmed that I am on the right path, and it has motivated me to keep pushing the limits of what AI and cybersecurity can do."

The impact of Zura's work was clear as industry leaders at DeepSec expressed keen interest in the practical applications of his anti-cheat system. His ability to present complex technical ideas in an accessible and impactful way has set him apart in the competitive world of cybersecurity innovation.

The Road Ahead



Zura's success story is a powerful reminder of the possibilities that arise when passion, creativity, and hard work align. From his early days at the European School to presenting at a global cybersecurity conference, Zura Kevanishvili's journey is just beginning-and the world of AI, cybersecurity, and online chess will undoubtedly feel the impact of his innovations for years to come.

Ketevan Nachkebia
Public Relations Manager