

Connecting Knowledge and Society: The Changing Role of Universities

International final conference

Sep 29 2026, Tbilisi, Georgia
77a M. Kostava Str., Building IV, Room 519, Tbilisi, Georgia

Registration	9:00 – 9:30
Opening (Konstantine Topuria, Rector, University of Georgia)	9:30 – 9:45
Welcome speech Prof. Nicolas Standaert President of the European Association of Service-Learning in Higher Education https://www.easlhe.eu/	9:45 – 10:00
ENHANCE-GSL: From idea to impact (Nato Chikhladze Lomjaria, University of Georgia)	10:00 – 10:15
Third Mission of Universities (Sophio Kuraspediani, NCEQE)	10:15 – 10:30
(How) Can Universities Make a Difference in a Changing Society? From Academic Excellence to Meaningful Social Impact Prof. Bojana Culum Ilic	10:30 – 11:00
Coffee: Grab a Cup, Start a Conversation	11:00 – 11:30
Beyond the Classroom Walls — Faculty Perspectives on Community-Engaged Teaching at Matej Bel University Panel discussion about experiences with CE at Matej Bel University Prof. Zuzana Heinzová, Prof. Katarína Kurčíková, Prof. Lucia Galková Moderator: Tsisia Okropiridze	11:30 – 12:10

Telling the Story of Community Engagement — An Interactive Poster Session on Practices Developed within ENHANCE-GSL, introduced by Matej Bel University, Slovakia

Interactive poster session with an introduction from Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová, Matej Bel University, Slovakia

12:10 – 13:00

Lunch & Networking: Grab a Bite, Make a Connection

13:00 – 14:00

Making It Together

A Conversation on the Manual on Community Engagement with prof. Bojana Čulum Ilić and prof. Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová

Interview about the Manual on CE with Bojana and Betka (sit and talk)

14:00 – 14:15

- ***Development***
- ***Cooperation***
- ***Benefits***

Bridging universities and communities

Care Caucasus

14:15 – 14:30

Video presentation from UNIMAK, Sierra Leone

14:30 – 14:45

Strengthening Local Communities and Ensuring Volunteer Engagement for Sustainable Development

14:45 – 15:00

Caritas Georgia

Video presentations from FBC-USL, Sierra Leone

15:00 – 15:15

Conference challenge prize ceremony

15:15 – 15:30

Final Discussion & Key Takeaways

15:30 – 16:00