

The SCOPES project as a basic input for reconsidering and discussing the Eastern perspectives for civil society and transformation in a comparative outlook

The Georgian Team GORBI is member of the INTAS network [INTAS-Network](#) developed by cultur prospectiv since 1995. The team realised the project "How Georgians view Democracy?" funded by SCOPES (Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Science in Eastern Europe) and coordinated by Prof. Dr. R. Schaffhauser, University of St. Gallen . The first draft was publicated as Newsletter V. This draft was a work in progress paper commented by the INTAS network members and is available now as second draft. It will be edited as final paper after the discussions of the conference in Sofia (July 04). Merab Pachulia commented the results of the study in Sofia on the background of the events since november 03. Surely after the charismatic period, Merab said, a more realistic outlook to the events is adequate. But in fact the revolution process has not stopped and continous progress in economic as well as in civil issues are visible.

NEWSLETTER V

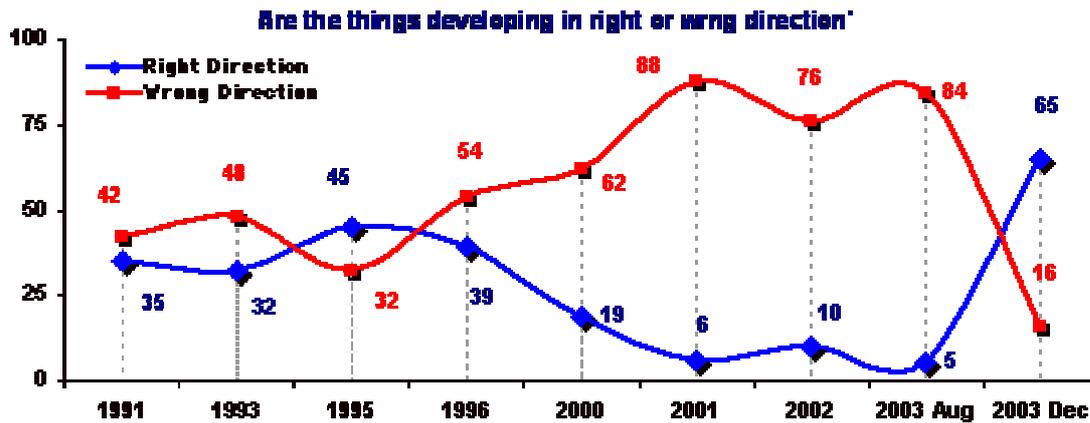
INTAS Network 97 – 2025

__HOW GEORGIANS VIEW DEMOCRACY? The Results a commented by the country specific outlooks.

Project supported by SCOPES, Swiss National Foundation for the Promotion of Research and by the INTAS network "The Role of Regions in Transforming Post-communist Societies: The Cases of Belarus, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine Compared" _____

From the post-soviet to a post-revolutionary Georgia?

The peaceful revolution of November 2003 headed the international media. A small country became a player in the world arena. This study analyses what we could foresee and which were the surprising events. Seldomly a social change can be measured "live" as an ongoing process. Immediately after the revolution the December surveys show that the revolution is also one of rising expectations; two thirds hope for an improvement of the living standard for the next future. The optimistic outlook that Georgia will develop in the right direction has increased more than eight times from 8% to 65% after the revolution of Roses (Figure).



From now Georgians need to change the real situation. The insights of the study show that these changes can not occur under a revolutionary euphorism. Now the name of “post-soviet” and “transition” will change on “post-revolutionary”. A woman participating in the focus group sessions found a statement excellently summarising the basic challenge:

“In an economically impoverished country like Georgia the establishment of truly democratic institutions is impossible, on the contrary, the strengthening of democratic institutions should help for economic improvements”. (Person of focus group)

©Merab Pachulia et al. (2004), How View Georgians Democracy?, Newsletter 5, INTAS – SCOPES project (second draft), Tbilisi/ Zurich. (Citation form)

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Aktualisiert: August 5, 2004