

# MEMBER PROPOSAL

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## Questions

### 1. Name of Proponent(s)\*:

Dr. Ralf Aschemann

### 2. Country(ies)\*:

Georgia (Eastern Europe/West Asia)

### 3. Title of Proposal\*:

Enhancing Industrial Ecology in Georgia

### 4. \* WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL?

This proposal intends to implement ISIE's requirement to "promote and develop the field of industrial ecology and its applications" for the country of Georgia, which is located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and West Asia. Georgia is an official EU candidate country with ca. 4 million inhabitants (area ca. 70,000 square km/27,000 square miles, HDI 2024: 0.814, GDP 2024 ca. 9,800 per capita). Until now, nobody from Georgia is a member of ISIE, indicating a clear need for promoting both the field of Industrial Ecology and ISIE in Georgia as a starting point for a further development in the future.

The proposal's central idea consists of four steps:

Firstly, a stock taking in form of a state-of-the-art review of industrial ecology (IE) activities in Georgia will be conducted.

Secondly, all IE relevant actors (such as persons from academia - universities and research organizations, authorities and agencies, companies, NGOs) will be identified.

Thirdly, from the identified actors, all interested ones will form a digital network (Georgia IE Network, GIEN) for future exchange and activities

Fourthly, on the basis of that network and the IE state-of-the-art review, a roadmap for IE activities for Georgia will be developed (including prioritization).

## **5. \* WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS?**

The benefit for ISIE and its members is multi-fold:

Firstly, this project increases the visibility of both IE and ISIE in Georgia and will strengthen the importance of IE in and for Georgia

Secondly, new members from Georgia will be part of ISIE and contribute to its activities.

"Old" and new ISIE members will have a fruitful discourse with mutual benefits

Thirdly, as an EU candidate country and with its location between East Europe and West Asia, a new local Caucasus hub for IE will be developed, which removes the "blind spot" regarding IE in this region.

## **6. \* WHO WOULD GOVERN OR OPERATE THE PROPOSAL?**

At the begin of the project, it's only my own person. But very soon relevant stakeholders and actors from Georgia and in particular from its capital Tbilisi (which is the venue of all ministries) will be involved in the project, as well. With the support of the members of the "Georgia IE Network" (GIEN), which is to be brought to life by this project, a broader group of IE relevant persons from academia, administration, business and society (cf. the section "What is the central idea of the proposal?") will govern and/or operate this proposal and its goals.

## **7. \* WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL (e.g. Administrative, Financial, personnel)**

As a faculty from the University of Graz, I can use my infrastructure (PC, internet, printer etc.) for this project. Additionally, colleagues from other university departments can act as networking persons for the contact search in Georgia, as two of the main foci of our university are "sustainability research" (in terms of topics) and South-Eastern Europe (in terms of areas). Moreover it is intended to hire a study assistant to support this project.

## **8. \* IS THIS PROPOSAL DEFINED WITHIN A SINGLE ISIE SECTION OR ACROSS SECTIONS?**

This proposal covers various ISIE sections, as it intends to enhance the application of IE in Georgia: As such, it relates to "urban systems" (Tbilisi as case), MFA/"input-output" (there is already a preliminary MFA for Georgia), "life-cycle", "policy" and "circular economy" aspects. As students will be part of the future "Georgia IE Network" (GIEN), the ISIE's students' chapter is linked to the project, too.

## **9. IF ISIE MEMBER FOR <2 YEARS, PROVIDE NAME OF SUPPORTING ISIE BOARD MEMBER OR SECTION LEADER**

Not applicable (member of ISIE since 2016)

## **10. EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL (FROM WITHIN OR ACROSS SECTIONS OR REGIONS)**

There are various useful starting points within Georgia for the proposal, such as the activities of the "National Statistics Office of Georgia/Geostat" regarding MFA (cf. [https://www.geostat.ge/media/68448/0807\\_180225\\_EN.pdf](https://www.geostat.ge/media/68448/0807_180225_EN.pdf)) or official waste management reports from Georgia and Tbilisi. Outside Georgia, other documents like the OECD reports "Green Economy Transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia" (2022) and "Environment at a Glance in the EU Eastern Partnership Countries" (2024) as well as reports from aid development agencies and UN organizations (UNFCCC, UNDP) serve as useful starting points for the project. As Georgia is a partner in "Erasmus international" for the University of Graz, networking and exchange activities are easily to gain and support the project, too. Two of the main foci of our university are "sustainability research" (in terms of topics) and South-Eastern Europe (in terms of areas), which fosters this project, as well. Overall, existing contacts, literature and the EU ambitions of Georgia - which has to implement the comprehensive EU legislation in the future, in particular regarding industrial ecology and circular economy aspects - in the future - are important elements for this project.

## **11. APPROXIMATE BUDGET IF APPLICABLE (Financial estimates and explanations)**

Travelling to Georgia: 400 € (economy flight Vienna-Tbilisi)  
Railway Graz to Vienna and back: 50 €  
Accommodation in Georgia (6 nights á 80 €): 480 €  
Study assistant for support: 320 €  
Sum: 1,250 €

## **12. OTHER**

The intended project "Enhancing Industrial Ecology in Georgia" addresses a region that is still rather "terra incognita" in terms of IE. This is demonstrated by the fact that nobody from Georgia is an ISIE member, so far. The country's location at the edge of both Eastern Europe and West Asia and its status as an official EU candidate country makes it an interesting and promising country for the promotion, further development and future application of IE and its tools. From the project with its four key activities- described in "What is the central idea of the proposal?" - both the country itself and the ISIE and its members will profit. The "Georgia IE Network" (GIEN), which is to be brought to life by

this project, will act as a catalysator for IE and its lifetime will go well beyond the project`s one.