

The Session Theme

*of*

Gori Regional Selection Conference 2019 of EYP Georgia

## “Confluence of Identity”

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It is our greatest pleasure to share with you the Session Theme of Gori Regional Selection Conference 2019 of EYP Georgia - “Confluence of Identity” as created by the Head-Organiser, Mariam Imerlishvili, and the President of the session, Nikos-Pavlos Kotzias.

*Here’s what they have to say:*

“For as much as it sounds like a catchy slogan, if not a cliché, it is a session theme reflecting a deeper change in society. At a time when identity-driven conflict is omnipresent, with people finding themselves in opposing sides of every argument, we needn’t only acknowledge the role identity plays in policy-making, but understand its long-term implications for the generations to come.

Given recent developments taking place worldwide, people are searching for new ways to define their identity; What is a European identity in the light of the Brexit, rising nationalism, the aftermath of the financial crisis and an influx of refugees? Are refugees part of our identity, and if yes, to what extent? What is the identity of a woman or an LGBTQI person when they are faced with discrimination and have only recently been given a stand to raise their voice against injustice? Is identity a unique thing, a collective notion, or an amalgam of identities? Is identity something we choose or is it chosen for us?

At the core of the concept of Gori Regional Selection Conference 2019 of the EYP Georgia lies its theme: “Confluence of Identity”. Much like the Mtkvari and Liakhvi rivers meet in Gori and merge to become one, so could different - or not so different after all - identities meet and converge.

Considering the societal discontent and the role of migration in Europe on the background, Gori RSC 2019 will create a welcoming environment not only for its participants, but also the representatives from the public, private, and civil society sectors to discuss the current challenges Europe is facing nowadays.

The participants, being at the very heart of Gori RSC 2019, will not only expand their knowledge and advance their skills, but will also be inspired to rethink the concept of identity. We aim to provide them with equal opportunities to express themselves in their own way and let their minds and hearts reach new horizons and perspectives never before imagined.”