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THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES OF THE EASTERN COAST OF THE BLACK SEA, THE WAY TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

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Abstract. *Georgia is an important part of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport route (TRASECA). For the coastal country, it is an opportunity for economic, maritime, and other economic development. Since ancient times, our country has been connected to Asia and European countries through the Silk Road. In recent years, Georgia's role as a middle corridor connecting countries that do not have access to the Black Sea (Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan) has significantly increased. The construction and development of the "Anaklia Deep-Sea Port" will contribute to the development of Georgia as a transport and logistics hub.*

"The Black Sea Submarine Cable" project is a project of strategic importance and offers great opportunities for Georgia, Romania, and other neighboring countries. The project aims to export energy from the South Caucasus (SC) countries to Romania, Bulgaria, and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) via a submarine cable crossing the Black Sea. It will support the development of the renewable energy sector, increase transit opportunities between Georgia and the European Union.

The purpose of our research is to find out what economic and political benefits our country will receive in the case of the implementation of these two important projects. How attractive and profitable Georgia can become as an economy if this project is implemented. We will also assess the current situation and challenges of the eastern coast of the Black Sea.

Key words: *"Anaklia Deepwater Port". "The Black Sea Submarine Cable". "Green Energy", Black Sea, Middle Corridor.*

Introduction

The construction of the "Anaklia Deep-water Port" Project is underway in the Samegrelo Zemo-Svaneti region, where a new container terminal is planned to be built, along with the corresponding supporting port infrastructure. The construction is being carried out in several stages (phases). Before the construction, studies were conducted by the World Bank and international organizations, such as the bathymetry and geology of the seabed. It should be noted that on July 27-29, 2025, with the support and cooperation of the Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Mr. Jaba Samushia, the project "Introducing the Possibilities of Realizing the Anaklia Deep-water Port for TSU Geography Students" was implemented. According to this project, we visited and got acquainted with the construction process of the port. We inspected the construction progress and got acquainted with the stages of work to be carried out in the future. It is welcome that the construction is proceeding smoothly, and they expressed their desire to learn about the ongoing work and involve students in the construction process. Currently, the design and construction of Anaklia infrastructure, in particular, the deepening of the seabed of the port area and the construction of the breakwater, is being carried out by the Belgian company Jan De Nul, which specializes in marine construction works. In September 2024, the company began the geological study of the coast and the surrounding area, detailed design, and implementation of in-depth works. To ensure the safe standing and operation of the ship, the seabed is being deepened and the "molo" is being constructed with flattened mountain rocks of different sizes and weights, and will be lined with the so-called "X-" blocks, through the latter, the impenetrability of wave flows in the port's internal water will be ensured. The Anaklia Deep-water Port is of strategic importance, where the state will own 51%, and the private partner 49%. Accordingly, the state carries out the part of the works, which involves the preparation of the territories for operation, which will necessarily lead to the training/retraining of the necessary personnel [1-7]. The construction of the port will contribute to the economic strengthening of our country and attract important investments in the transport infrastructure (new railway and highway). This will be a serious incentive for the

development of production in the country, economic growth, which will increase trade relations with Asian and European countries. In the first phase, the capacity of Anaklia will be 600,000 containers, and then the port's cargo turnover will be able to handle approximately 8 million tons. In the future, the Anaklia cargo-transport hub can become an important center not only for East-West transport flows, but also for North-South cargo movement. The construction of a large-scale logistics zone is planned around the port, which will lead to the need to create additional jobs and attract investments. The port is expected to be completed by the end of 2028 and will receive its first ship by the beginning of 2029 (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Anaklia Deep-water Project Plan.

"The Black Sea Submarine Cable" project is also an object of strategic importance and provides a great opportunity for Georgia, Romania, and neighboring countries. The project aims to export energy from the South Caucasus (SC) countries to Romania and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) via a submarine cable crossing the Black Sea. Moreover, it will support the development of the renewable energy sector, increase transit opportunities, and trade potential with the EU countries. In Georgia and Romania, sea and coastal electrodes, transformer stations, and land and overhead power transmission lines, namely DC high-voltage power transmission system cables (ground cables) and AC high-voltage power transmission system lines (overhead power lines), will be installed. The submarine cable will connect the countries of the Black Sea and pass through the economic zones of Turkey and Bulgaria. According to the project, during the period of water abundance, Georgia will export its own electricity. This means that with the energy sold in Europe, we will be able to contribute three times more money to the Georgian budget. Saudi Arabia is also interested in the project, which will export "green" energy from Azerbaijan via Europe, which makes the implementation of this project more attractive (Fig. 2.).

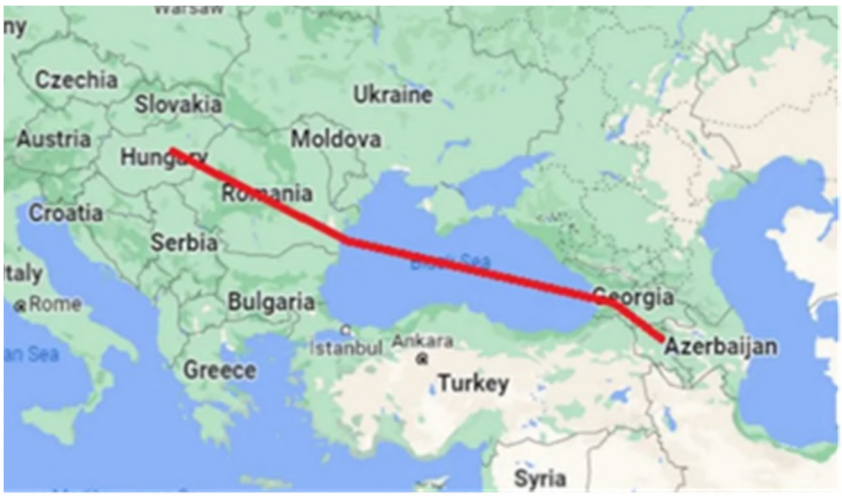

Fig. 2. The Black Sea Submarine Cable Project.

The main results

The study presents the significance of two new projects for the country. These are the construction of "Anaklia Deep Water Port" and "Black Sea Submarine Cable" and their role in the development of the Middle Corridor. It should be noted that the specifics of the wind, wave regime, geomorphological, and meteorological conditions in the Anaklia region require additional research and modeling in order to optimize the project and reduce the risks of maneuvering the operational ships. The current cycle of climate warming, which started in the 80s of the last century, is noteworthy. With independence, the country received the adjacent part of the sea water area – the so-called "Special Economic Zone", the Transcaucasian Transport Corridor of the Great Silk Road was launched with its concession sector, and the transportation of Caspian oil to the west through the Baku-Supsi oil pipeline began. The construction of the "Anaklia Deep-Water Port" and the "Black Sea Submarine Cable" can be considered the project of the century. There is a need for detailed research of the Black Sea bottom using new and modern methods. It is to be welcomed that a geological survey of the eastern coast of the Black Sea is planned for the initiation of the Black Sea submarine cable project. Conducting the above-mentioned research, processing the received information will help future researchers, especially for scientists interested in marine direction.

Conclusion

The construction of the "Anaklia deep-water port" and the Black Sea submarine cable is an important part of the long-term vision and contributes to the development of the transport cargo circulation of the Middle Corridor; therefore, a detailed study is necessary in order not to endanger the current projects. Georgia is a Black Sea country, and climate change and its accompanying events are characterized by high inertia; the erosion processes of the coast have become intense. The rise of the level of the Black Sea, as part of the world ocean It threatens the coastline, causes beach erosion. This is due to two main factors: the melting of glaciers and the thermal expansion of water as a result of global warming, which causes changes in the temperature of the world's oceans. In such conditions, it is an urgent task to study and predict the consequences of climate change in the coastal zone of Georgia, so as not to harm the population living on the coast and to implement the construction of the "Anaklia deep-water port" and the "Black Sea submarine cable", which are called the project of the century.

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