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On February 14, 2026, I found myself in an entirely unfamiliar reality, alone with feelings I had never experienced before. Living in Bucharest and studying at a European university was far from an ordinary experience. Living alongside the linguistic and cultural heirs of the Romans was, at times, quite unusual.

However, this period of my life gave me the opportunity to look at myself and my work from a broader perspective. As part of the ERASMUS+ programme, what proved particularly important was the opportunity to compare Georgia and its institutions with different experiences and to understand that evaluating institutions and policies should not be limited to their formal existence; it is equally important to consider how they function in practice and to what extent they respond to the needs of society.

I am grateful to SNSPA, its academic staff, and especially the Caucasus School of Public Administration, whose support made this experience possible. Most importantly, I now understand better that, alongside all the other benefits, it is essential to bring the experience gained abroad back to Georgia and to help build a society that students and professors from other countries will also speak about with admiration.

This may sound slightly sentimental, but for me, there was something almost poetic about travelling through Romania while knowing that another Georgian, Anthem the Iberian, had once travelled along this same path, though a far more thorny one.