

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on the issue of Georgia's possible receipt of Membership Action Plan (MAP), the last stage of accession process to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the possible consequences of this event. The collapse of the Soviet Union and gaining the independence from the regime opened the window of opportunity for Georgia and gave to it a possibility to strive towards Euro-Atlantic integration. Although Georgia still works to gain MAP and has a status of an aspirant country, its already historical as well as present ties to the Alliance remain strong and positive.

This thesis strives to represent the possibility of Georgia's MAP receipt and then subsequently NATO membership, as well as the consequences of political and military dimensions with regard to its final stage of accession to the Alliance, especially focusing on the Russian factor in the geopolitics of NATO's enlargement. Main research areas of the thesis include the importance of NATO enlargement on its Eastern and Southeastern flanks, mainly in the present geopolitical environment where Russia already had and is still challenging status quo of the World Order by breaching international law as well as the Founding act of Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation signed in Paris in 1997. Second area of research is focused on the costs and benefits of Georgia's NATO membership for Georgia, NATO and Russia. Lastly, third area of the research underlines the crucial significance of defense of Georgian territory, in case Georgia is given a MAP but is left without a substantial defense before its (possible) actual membership. This last part of research examines the possible scenario emphasizing the actions and reactions of the Russian Federation against Georgia by using Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia particularly and the whole South Caucasus security architecture, generally.

Keywords: Georgia, NATO, MAP, Russia, South Caucasus, NATO membership, NATO enlargement, Abkhazia, South Ossetia.