

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub

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Organization

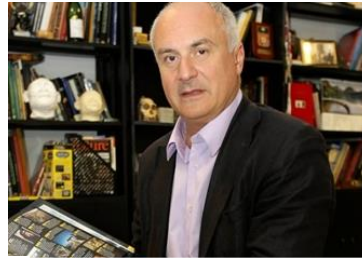
The *AE* Tbilisi Knowledge Hub is operating since 2019 and is hosted by Tbilisi State University. David Lordkipanidze, MAE, is the current Academic Director, appointed by the Rector of the Tbilisi State University. The Academic Director and the Advisory Board ensure the strategic direction and activities of the Hub.



ALEXANDER TSISKARIDZE



BEZHAN TCHANKVETADZE



DAVID LORTKIPANIDZE



DAVID PRANGISHVILI



EVA KONDOROSI



GEORGE GEGELASHVILI



GEORGE SHARVASHIDZE



KATE TCHANTURIA



MERAB KOKAIA



MIKHEIL CHKHENKELI



SIERD CLOETHING



ZAAL KOKAIA



ZAZA SKHIRTLDADZE

Series of Panel Sessions

The First Democratic Republic of Georgia - The Way to Europe

The past year has been a journey of knowledge, collaboration, and academic excellence and it is with great pleasure that we share some of the noteworthy achievements with our esteemed community. Throughout the recent year, Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub has continued to foster a vibrant intellectual environment, providing a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and the exchange of ideas.

In pursuit of the noble objectives of promoting scientific research, knowledge, and enriching the educational landscape, AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub has undertaken a commendable initiative, which took the form of a series of panel sessions titled "*The First Democratic Republic of Georgia - The Way to Europe*". The diversity of topics reflects a commitment to providing a comprehensive understanding of Georgia's historical, political and cultural tapestry.

Within the framework of the panel sessions, eminent scholars of the field, graciously offered the broader public insightful and intellectually stimulating scientific-popular lectures on specific topics. The panel series is not only a testament to our collective commitment to scholarship, but also an exceptional opportunity to cultivate and strengthen intergenerational scholarly collaboration.

On February 21, 2023, the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, in partnership with the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of TSU, launched the first panel discussion, "**Constitution of 1921 - Georgia's European Choice**" at Tbilisi State University. The panel was a vibrant thread woven into a tapestry of intellectual exploration. Lectures were delivered by the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of TSU Salome Dundua, Doctor of Political Sciences Malkhaz Matsaberidze and Doctor of History Davit Sartania.



The panel session extensively covered Georgia's declaration of independence, the brief three-year period during which the independent republic existed, and the constitution that was adopted during that time. Exactly 102 years ago, on February 21, 1921, the founding assembly of the independent Democratic Republic of Georgia ratified the country's most pivotal legal document - its Constitution. This event marked a crucial chapter in Georgia's history. The Constitution of 1921 was a pioneering document in Europe, as it enshrined fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. Notably, it was the first constitution to articulate the core tenets of democracy, including the principles of the separation of powers and a secular state. The Constitution of 1921 stands as a testament to Georgia's unique and successful experiment in establishing a democratic state system.

Series of Panel Sessions

From the First Democratic Republic of Georgia to the New Georgia

As part of a series of panel sessions, the second session titled **"From the First Democratic Republic of Georgia to the New Georgia"** took place on December 26, 2023, at the Tinatin Tsereteli Auditorium of Tbilisi State University.

The session featured lectures by distinguished speakers including Malkhaz Matsaberidze from Tbilisi State University, Shorena Murusidze from the National Center of Manuscripts, and Manana Darchashvili from the Technical University of Georgia.

During the panel, the speakers explored the establishment of a unified Georgian state, whose independence was formally recognized by leading European nations. The first democratic republic of Georgia, which existed from 1918 to 1921, provided a solid foundation and framework of political values for the modern Georgian state, particularly in its efforts to align with European standards of governance and statecraft.



Series of Panel Sessions

May 26 in the Context of the Politics of Memory

On the initiative and under the organization of AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, another panel session titled "**May 26 in the Context of the Politics of Memory**" was held at Tbilisi State University. This session, part of the panel series dedicated to Georgia's Independence Day, aimed to delve into the historical significance of this important date.

The first democratic republic of Georgia existed for less than three years (1918-1921) but left a lasting impact on our country's history. It was a democratic republic that, preceding many developed countries, conducted universal elections with the participation of citizens of both sexes. It adopted a constitution, established state institutions, developed legislation to protect national and religious minorities, promoted women's rights, and served as a notable example of governance under a multi-party system. Additionally, it fostered a culture of political thought and debate.

During the panel session, the speakers discussed various aspects, including the factors leading to the declaration of the First Republic, the formation of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federal Republic, and a comparative analysis of the First and Second Republics, highlighting their similarities and differences. The significance of May 26 as a symbol of Georgia's independence was also a focal point. The session also touched upon the complex issue of the "formation of the national government" and the celebration of Independence Day in Abkhazia.

The panel session was conducted in a hybrid format, allowing members of the Scientific Board of Tbilisi Hub and other interested individuals to participate via Zoom. The event drew a diverse audience, including professors, students, and young scholars.

It is noteworthy that the lectures generated significant interest and enthusiasm amongst secondary school students, providing them with a valuable opportunity to engage with the latest research and insights in the field.



Series of Panel Sessions

Noe Zhordania - the European Leader of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia

Within the series of panel sessions, entitled "*The First Democratic Republic of Georgia - The Way to Europe*", a two-day panel was held on December 9 and 10, 2023, in the municipalities of Batumi and Lanchkhuti. The event featured the participation of academic staff from Tbilisi State University and Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University. On December 9, hosted by Batumi State University, a panel discussion titled "**Soviet Legacy of Post-Soviet Georgia**" took place.

The speakers included:

Malkhaz Matsaberidze - Tbilisi State University

Irakli Chkhaidze - Tbilisi State University

Nino Chikovani - Tbilisi State University

Tamar Orjonikidze - Tbilisi State University

Irakli Manvelidze - Batumi University

Natalia Lazba - Batumi University

On the same day, Professor Malkhaz Matsaberidze presented his monograph titled "**Soviet Union: Rise and Fall of Communist Totalitarianism**", which was published with the support of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation.

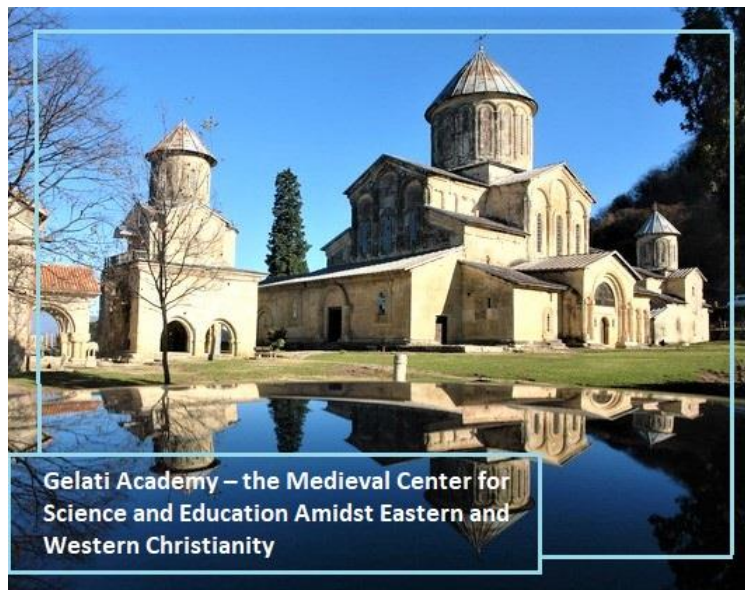
On December 10, another panel discussion titled "**Noe Zhordania - the European Leader of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia**" was held at the local history museum of Lanchkhuti municipality. The panel was chaired by Malkhaz Matsaberidze, professor of Tbilisi State University and doctor of political sciences. Through this event, the AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub paid tribute to the memory of Noe Zhordania, a Georgian statesman, politician, publicist, and chairman of the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. University professors and young researchers participated in the panel discussion, and the museum received the latest literature on the mentioned topic as a gift.



Scientific Conference and Workshops

“Gelati Academy – the Medieval Center for Science and Education Amidst Eastern and Western Christianity”

Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub - in collaboration with *Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)* and *the Center of the for Eastern Christian Studies of TSU* – has launched a large-scaled project “**Gelati Academy – the Medieval Center for Science and Education Amidst Eastern and Western Christianity**”, with the objective to introduce the Gelati Academy as one of the oldest and most important scientific and educational centers in the Christendom to the wider international community. The project was inaugurated at the special workshop organized by the Hub in 2020 in Telavi, the center of Kakheti region.



Gelati Academy was founded in 1106 next to Gelati Monastery (West Georgia) on the initiative of the Georgian King David the Builder. Here David brought together the most prominent Georgian scholars of that time contributing to the establishment of the Gelati Academy as one of the most important theological-scientific and educational centers of the Christendom. At the end of the 11th c., after the closing of the Academy of Mangana (Constantinople, Byzantine Empire) and the Seljuk conquest of Jerusalem, according to the King David's historian, the Gelati Academy became “a second Jerusalem of all the East for the learning of all that is of value, for teaching of knowledge – a second Athens, far exceeding the first in divine law, a canon for all ecclesiastical splendors”. The curriculum of the Academy mainly included the subjects of trivium (geometry, arithmetic, music) and quadrium (three types of philosophy, three types of rhetoric, grammar and astronomy).

Scientific Competitions and Workshops

“Gelati Academy – Its Epoch and Legacy”

Within the framework of the above mentioned project, AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub held a hybrid conference of young scientists "Gelati Academy - Its Epoch and Legacy" on April 28, 2023 at Tbilisi State University. The purpose of the event was to support young researchers in researching various issues related to Gelati Academy. Young researchers from various educational and research institutions participated in the conference, such as Gelati Theological Academy and Seminary, National Center of Georgian Manuscripts named after Korneli Kekelidze and Scientific and Research Center for the Study of Ancient Georgian Manuscripts "Orion" named after Akaki Shanidze (TSU).

The event was attended by professors, students and invited guests.

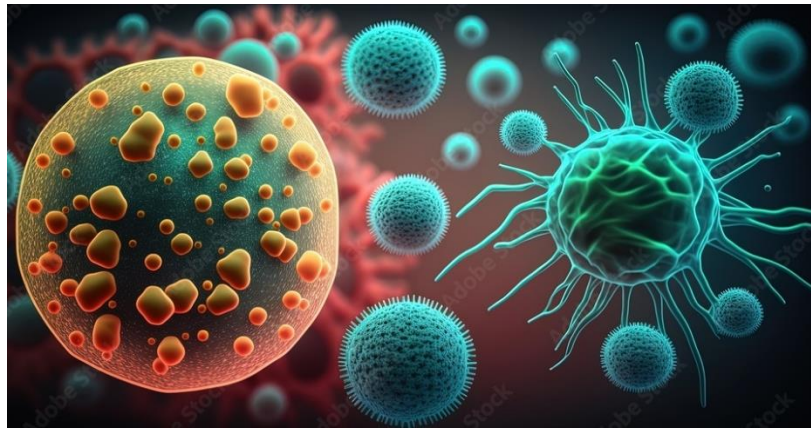


A series of public lectures

Microbial World and a Human

The Georgian Association for General and Applied Microbiology (GE-GAGAM), in collaboration with AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, organized a series of public lectures titled "**Microbial World and a Human**". The aim of the lectures was to spark and cultivate interest among 8th to 12th-grade schoolchildren in the field of microbiology and deepen their understanding of this subject. The project received funding from the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and the American Society for Microbiology.

Microbial World and a Human



The series of lectures was delivered by leading scientists in the field from various universities and scientific institutes, including:

- Acad. Davit Frangishvili, Honorary Professor at the Pasteur Institute of Paris and Guest Professor at TSU
- Acad. Davit Lortkipanidze, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- Prof. Nino Gachechiladze, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- Prof. Nina Chanishvili, New Vision University and the G. Eliava Bacteriophage Institute
- Prof. Sofo Rigvava, International University of the Caucasus and the G. Eliava Bacteriophage Institute

As part of the mentioned project, the first meeting with school students was held on April 23, 2023, at Akaki Tsereteli State University in Kutaisi.

Presentation of a book followed by a public lecture

The presentation of Rusudan Gorgiladze's book "Taste of Dictatorship" took place at Tbilisi State University on May 16, organized by Tbilisi State University and the Tbilisi Regional Center of the European Academy.

The book delves into crucial aspects of the personal and public lives of three dictators—Stalin, Mussolini, and Hitler. It sheds light on the political instrumentalization of food in the Soviet Union, Fascist Italy, and Nazi Germany. Written in an accessible style, the book explores the unique features of each regime, including their distinct food ideologies and their roles in campaign strategies.

While the twenty-one-year history of Fascist Italy and the twelve-year history of Nazi Germany are framed by the rise to power and deaths of their creators, Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler, the narrative around the Soviet Union, spanning almost seventy years, extends beyond Stalin. As such, the Soviet section of the book covers both the pre-Stalin (and more precisely, the pre-Stalinist) era and the post-Stalin period, although the primary focus is on Stalin's rule.

Published in 2021, "Taste of Dictatorship" received the prestigious "Saba" literary prize.

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თბილისის რეგიონული ცენტრი

თბილისის სახელმწიფო
უნივერსიტეტი

16 მაისი
14:00

რუსუდან გორგილაძის
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Tbilisi State University/Academia
Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub

International Conference

Viruses of Microbes - 2023

The series of biannual conferences on Viruses of Microbes, which was launched in Paris in 2010 and since then travelled all around Europe, reached Tbilisi in 2023.

The conference marked a new era in viral research which has begun with the recognition of viruses of microorganisms – viruses of bacteria, archaea, and microbial eukaryotes as predominant component of the biosphere and led to the identification of these viruses as major players in the global ecology, public health, microbial physiology, and evolution.

The international conference on microbial viruses, the most numerous and mysterious part of the viral world, focused on discussing the evolution and diversity of viruses that infect microorganisms. It also addressed their roles in the environment and the human body, along with other fundamental issues. Attention was paid to aspects using viruses of microorganisms, such as the creation of new nano-biotechnologies and the use of bacterial viruses (bacteriophages) in medical practice.

The Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Academician Jaba Samushia welcomed more than 500 scientists from 54 countries of all five continents, members of various scientific academies of America, Europe and Asia, who were participating in the international conference “Viruses of Microbes.” The conference lasted for 5 days at TSU.

One of the pioneers and recognized leaders in the use of bacteriophages in medical practice is the Tbilisi-based Giorgi Eliava Bacteriophage Institute, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Georgian scientists occupy leading positions not only in research of bacterial viruses (bacteriophages), but also in research of another type of microorganisms - viruses of archaea. It is precisely for these reasons that the World Forum of Microbial Virologists was being held in Tbilisi, which, in turn, contributed to highlighting the importance of this field in the Georgian scientific space and its further development.

The conference was jointly held by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the Georgian Association of Microbiologists and the Eliava Bacteriophage Institute. The organizers of the conference were Professor Nina Chanishvili and Honorary Professor David Prangishvili of the Pasteur Institute, on whose initiative a series of “Viruses of Microbes” conferences was launched at the Pasteur Institute in 2010. Previous conferences were held in Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, England and Portugal.

Academia Europaea 34th Annual Conference Building Bridges 2023

The 34th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea (AE), entitled "Building Bridges- 2023," was hosted this year by the Academia Europaea Munich Knowledge Hub at Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) from October 9-11, 2023. The event included the AE Hub's annual general meeting and the conference of Young Academy of Europe , which saw participation from representatives of the AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub. The Tbilisi Knowledge Hub delegation attended the above mentioned event to present their Annual Report 2022-2023, summarizing the hub's accomplishments to date.



AE Wroclaw Knowledge Hub Jubilee Meeting

As part of the AE Wroclaw Knowledge Hub anniversary celebration, which provided a unique opportunity to showcase the Pan-European Academy's mission and goals, particularly in advancing innovative research and scientific excellence, a workshop for the Academia Europaea hubs was conducted. The meeting aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences and foster deeper cooperation amongst the hubs. Representatives from the Academia Europaea Knowledge Hubs and the Graz Information Center deliberated on key aspects of the hubs' activities, including past and upcoming events, strategies, approaches, and accomplishments.



Management and Resources

Academic Director

David Lordkipanidze, *MAE*

Email: david.lordkipanidze@tsu.ge

Executive Director

Sofia Kobakhidze

Email: sofia.kobakhidze@tsu.ge

Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub

Address: 6, Mikheil Tamarashvili Str.

Tbilisi, Georgia, 0177

Tel.: 322 250484

www.aetbilisihub.org

E-mail: aeth@tsu.ge

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