

ANNUAL REPORT

2021




Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub

Hosted by





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Organization

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



ALEXANDER TSISKARIDZE



DAVID LORTKIPANIDZE



DAVID PRANGISHVILI



EVA KONDOROSI



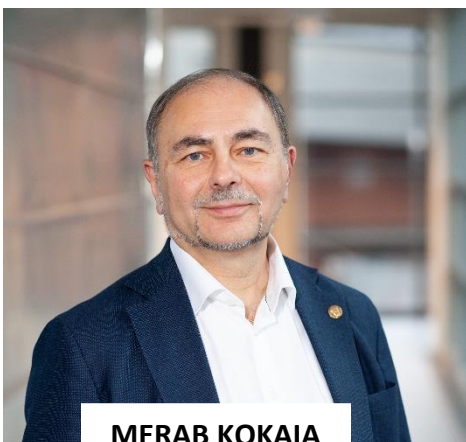
GEORGE GEGELASHVILI



GEORGE SHARVASHIDZE



KATE TCHANTURIA



MERAB KOKAIA



MIKHEIL CHKHENKELI



ZAAL KOKAIA

Panel of Experts

Panel Session: The Fiasco of Federalism in the Caucasus: The Experience of the First Republics (1918-1921)



Convener:
Beka Kobakhidze
*Ilia State University,
Georgia*



Speaker:
Adrian Brisku,
*Charles University in Prague,
Czech Republic*



Speaker:
Sarah Slye,
*University of Cambridge,
UK*



Speaker:
Timothy Blauvelt,
*American Councils for
International Education*

The Panel Session held on 30th March 2021 featured important contributions from four highly eminent experts from various European universities in the field of Georgian history. The panel session was followed by a great response, which was clearly illustrated by the large amount of visitors in the virtual space.

It's been dedicated to the history of Federalism in the Caucasus and marked the 100 years since the Soviet invasion of the Democratic Republics of the South Caucasus.

The panel session pursued the following objectives:

a) consideration of federalism from a historical point of view as an alternative to the real politics of the 20th-century and the Caucasian Democratic Federal Republic as the first official materialization of this political alternative.

b) An overview of the events that took place exactly 100 years ago, which were called The Occupation of the Transcaucasian Countries by Bolshevik Russia.

Considering that 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the loss of independence by the democratic republics of Transcaucasian region, this issue has become very relevant not only for the Georgian, but also for the international community.

International Conferences, Workshops and Summer Schools

International Summer School “Georgian Manuscript”

15-25 July, 2021

The International Summer School "Georgian Manuscript" was held at the Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Center of Manuscripts.

The Summer School was held in collaboration with the Tbilisi Knowledge Hub and the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and with the financial support of the Shota Rustaveli National Scientific Foundation.



The International Summer School was considered for foreign and Georgian researchers and students interested in Georgian history and culture, especially in Georgian script and manuscript heritage, and were in general interested in medieval studies.

The aim of the school was to popularize Kartvelological sciences, to emphasize the miscellaneous nature of Georgian calligraphy as a product of intercultural relations, to bring an important achievements of Georgian culture to the international arena, to develop cooperation between Georgian and foreign scholars and students, promotion of the continuation of Kartvelological scientific traditions.

The educational program of the Summer School included exciting academic and cultural program - lectures, workshops, and excursions at the spaces related to the school theme. The course took place at the Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts, which gave the participants the unique opportunity to see the features and peculiarities of Georgian manuscripts in the collections of the Centre itself.



Restoration of the damaged sheets

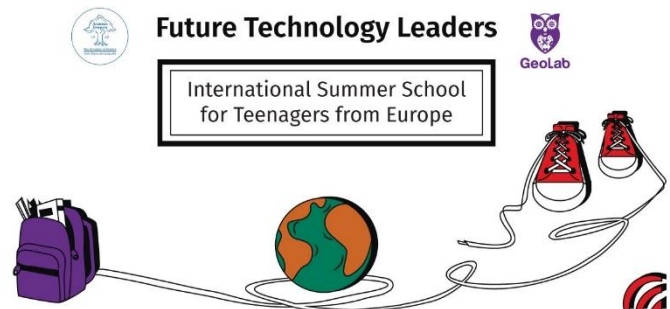


Lecture in Bolnisi Sioni

International Summer School “Future Technology Leaders”

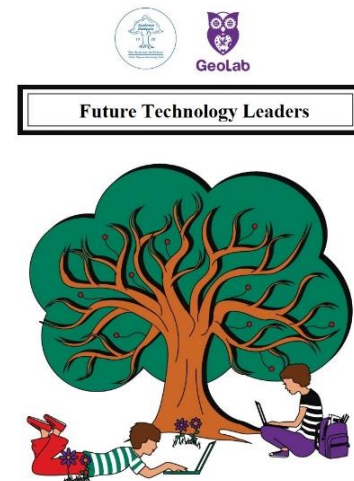
23-30 August, 2021

AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub& New Technology and Innovation Laboratory - GeoLab announced the International Summer School “**Future Technology Leaders**” all around Europe for teenagers. International Summer School was held in August, focusing on the digital technologies.



The International Summer School included the following short-term courses:

- ❖ Graphic design - Adobe Photoshop
- ❖ Graphic design - Adobe Illustrator
- ❖ UI/UX design - Web Design
- ❖ UI/UX design - Mobile Design
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Technical and Creative conceptualisation
- ❖ STEM activities using microcontroller
- ❖ Front end Web development HTML, CSS



The courses have been devised by experienced academics and offered both theoretical knowledge and practical workshops with experienced lecturers. A part of the lessons was project work in groups.

In addition to this, the International Summer School allowed Georgian and European teenagers to get to know each other, share their views and cultural diversity.

The course was result-oriented, which in turn involved the construction of knowledge in the field of modern technologies and the transfer of effective, dynamic and functional knowledge to participants.

A large number of applicants show great interest in the summer school. Among the participants were teenagers from Austria, France, Germany and of course, Georgia.

On September 9, 2021, a final meeting took place, at which the participants shared their work and impressions. Each participant was given a certificate.

International Research Initiatives

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

22-24 October, 2021, Kutaisi

On October, 2021 in the building of Kutaisi State Historical Museum, Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub within the project “Gelati Academy – the Medieval Center for Science and Education Amidst Eastern and Western Christianity” - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) and the Christian Oriental Research Center of this university - held a conference/workshop. The aim of the project is to introduce the Gelati Academy to the wider international community as one of the oldest and most important scientific and educational centers in the Christian world.



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).

The workshop organized by the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub, taking into account the current epidemiological situation in the country, was held in a hybrid manner. Leading scientists of various scientific institutions of Georgia took part in the meeting:

- ❖ Zaza Skhirtladze, Professor, Head of the Educational-Scientific Institute of Art History and Theory, TSU (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Damana Melikishvili, Professor (TSU), Founder and Full Member of Gelati Academy of Sciences (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Anna Kharanauli, Professor, Head of the Center for Christian Oriental Studies at TSU (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Levan Gigineishvili, TSU Professor; Doctor of Philological Sciences (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Tamar Otkhmezuri, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Head of the Department of Codicology and Textology of K. Kekelidze National Center of Manuscripts (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Magda Sukhiashvili, Doctor of Musicology, Assistant Professor at V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatory (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Giorgi Cheishvili, Director of IV. Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology (Tbilisi).
- ❖ Merab Kezevadze, Director of Kutaisi State Archive (Kutaisi).
- ❖ Nona Kartsidze, Deputy Director of N. Berdzenishvili State Historical Museum (Kutaisi);
- ❖ Tsitsino Mumladze, Curator of the Collection of the Manuscripts and Old Printed Books at N. Berdzenishvili Kutaisi Historical Museum (Kutaisi).
- ❖ Akaki Goletiani, Head of Educational Process Management Service, Gelati Theological Academy (Kutaisi).



The meeting was virtually attended by:

- ❖ Roland Isakadze, Manager of the Kutaisi Historical-Archaeological Reserve of the Cultural Heritage Protection Agency of Georgia, A. Tsereteli State University Associate Professor (Kutaisi);
- ❖ Marika Didebulidze, Professor, Project Coordinator of the Georgian Cultural Heritage Protection Fund (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Ekaterine Gedevanishvili, G. Chubinashvili Georgian Art History and Monument Protection Research Center (Tbilisi);
- ❖ Magda Mtchedlidze, Professor at the TSU Institute of Classical Philology, Byzantine Studies and Neo-Greek Studies (Tbilisi).

The meeting was also attended by a well-known specialist in Byzantine art, Professor Anthony Eastmond, the Courtauld Institute of Art (London, UK).

Among the participants of the meeting were TSU Rector Giorgi Sharvashidze and Academic Director of the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub Davit Prangishvili.

The project “Gelati Academy – the Medieval Center of Science and Education Amidst the East and the West” was launched in the late fall of 2020 at the initiative of the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub. Several workshops were held during the past period where the the group of scientists involved in the project discussed various aspects of this large-scale project. This time the main topic of the meeting in Kutaisi was one important part of the project – preparation of the bilingual, Georgian and English “Handbook” about Gelati and Gelati Academy. The purpose of this book is to summarize the scientific research on Gelati and Gelati Academy in various fields and based on the summary and complex analysis of this material, to present the importance of Gelati Academy for the history of the development of the culture and the various fields of art and science (history, philosophy, philology, architecture, fine arts, music) of the medieval Eastern Christian world.

Two papers were presented at the workshop. These papers were the first, draft versions of the two sections of the forthcoming book. Magda Sukhiashvili spoke about the Gelati Chanting School, and Tamar Otkhmezuri spoke about the codicological and palaeographic peculiarities of the manuscripts containing writings and translations of medieval authors working and living in Gelati. Discussion of these papers helped the group of scholars to better define the overall character of the forthcoming book and the requirements for authors.

At the end of the workshop, the participants viewed the exposition of the Kutaisi State Historical Museum and the unique manuscript books preserved in the museum.



4 December, 2021, Tbilisi

On December 4, 2021 in the building of Tbilisi State University, within the framework of the project “Gelati Academy – the Medieval Center of Science and Education Amidst the East and the West” – Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub held a next workshop.

Due to the current epidemiological situation in the country, the meeting was held in a mixed form.

Given the large number of issues in the presented plan, the initiative group decided to involve more scientists in the project, including European colleagues. The group discussed the list of issues and the list of participating scientists.



Gelati Academy – One of the Oldest Educational and Spiritual-Intellectual Center in Europe

May - December, 2021

The AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, as part of the Pan-European Academy of Sciences, has launched a series of annual school-educational competitions called "School – where the science begins", which aims to develop scientific research skills in schoolchildren in various fields of knowledge.

The theme of the first competition of the cycle was about Gelati Academy as one of the oldest educational and spiritual-intellectual centers in Europe. The target audience of the competition was students of the 9th-12th of Georgian public and private schools.

The essay competition envisaged the writing of an essay by students based on the analysis of existing scientific materials about the Gelati Academy, focusing on the following issues:

- Historical preconditions for the establishment of Gelati Academy: political, social and economic situation in Georgia and its neighborhood of the 11th-12th centuries;
- Schools and education centers in antiquity and the Middle Ages;
- Historical figures related to Gelati Academy;
- Gelati Academy - the most important educational center of the Middle Ages: "Another Athens and the Second Jerusalem - a school for youngsters";
- Gelati literary products;
- Gelati, as a symbol of Georgian original culture, Gelati heritage.



Gelati Academy – One of the Oldest Educational and Spiritual-Intellectual Center in Europe



Students from Atskuri, Gori, Lagodekhi, Martvili, Ozurgeti, Kareli and other municipalities of Georgia participated in the competition. The evaluation of the papers was carried out in several stages. Within the framework of the competition, the participants listened to two lectures on Gelati Academy, which were delivered by Prof. Damana Melikishvili (Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor, Academician of Gelati Academy of Sciences) and Dr. Roland Isakadze (Doctor of Historical Sciences, Archbishop of Kutaisi).

The evaluation of the works was carried out in three stages: Stage I - selection of the submitted essays; Stage II - interview with the authors of the selected essays; Stage III - Identifying the winners of the competition.

Managing Director of AE Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, Sofia Kobakhidze, and Deputy Rector of Tbilisi State University IJ, Nino Okribelashvili, awarded the participants, finalists and winners of the essay competition. The event was hosted by Tbilisi State University. At the awards ceremony, students were presented with prizes and certificates.



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