

ACADEMIA EUROPAEA TBILISI HUB



Tbilisi Hub, hosted by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, is the first representation of Academia Europaea operating outside the EU.

The mission of the AE Tbilisi Hub is to uphold Academia Europaea's values and promote pan-European interests in the region. It supports the creation, dissemination, and popularization of new scientific knowledge while introducing European research standards and mechanisms. Furthermore, the Hub strengthens the connection between science and policy development, contributing to the broader impact of scientific research and the STI sector on society.

Having a representation of Academia Europaea in Georgia plays a key role in fostering bilateral ties between the Georgian and European academic and scientific communities. Additionally, it helps young Georgian scientists gain access to the European scientific and research landscape.

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND YOUTH OF GEORGIA**

ACADEMIA EUROPAEA



The [Academia Europaea](#) was established in 1988 and is the Pan-European Academy of Humanities, Letters and Sciences. Membership is by invitation only.

The object of Academia Europaea is the advancement and propagation of excellence in scholarship in the humanities, law, the economic, social, and political sciences, mathematics, medicine, and all branches of natural and technological sciences anywhere in the world for the public benefit and for the advancement of the education of the public of all ages

in the aforesaid subjects in Europe. Currently Academia unites more than 5500 members including 88 Nobel laureates. Members are drawn from across the whole European continent and also include European scholars who are resident in other regions of the world together with foreign members resident outside Europe.

CENTERS AND OFFICES

The **headquarters** of Academia Europaea is located in Munich, Germany, with its Support Office in London, UK. Additionally, AE has an Information Center in Graz, Austria.

Academia Europaea operates six regional Hubs across Europe: Barcelona (Spain), Bergen (Norway), Bucharest

(Romania), Budapest (Hungary), Tbilisi (Georgia), and Wrocław (Poland). These Hubs are responsible for promoting various scientific fields within their respective countries, fostering young people's interest in science, making modern scientific achievements accessible to the general public, and etc. all while upholding the values of Academia Europaea.



TBILISI HUB



The decision to open a Hub in Tbilisi, Georgia, was unanimously approved by the Board of Academia Europaea (AE) at its annual meeting in Barcelona in 2018.

On 24 April 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Academia Europaea. With this agreement, Tbilisi became the fifth city to host an Academia Europaea (AE) Hub, following Cardiff (United Kingdom), Barcelona (Spain), Wrocław (Poland), and Bergen (Norway). Subsequently, additional AE Hubs were established in Budapest, Hungary (2020) and Bucharest, Romania (2025).

AE Tbilisi Hub is the only one operating outside the EU and serves as Academia Europaea's representative both in Georgia and across the region.

Since its establishment, the Hub has implemented numerous important projects aimed at strengthening academic cooperation between Georgia and Europe and integrating Georgian scientists into the European research community.

HUB'S STRUCTURE

AE Tbilisi Hub is led by its Academic Director, who is elected by the Hub's Scientific Board and appointed by the Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, in coordination with the Scientific Board. The Scientific Board itself is chaired by an elected member.

The implementation of projects and related managerial tasks are overseen by the Executive Director.

Since 2024, the Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub has been AE member Prof. David Lordkipanidze, while AE member Prof. Zaal Kokaia serves as Chair of the Scientific Board. The position of Executive Director is held by Natia Khuluzauri.



Prof. David Lordkipanidze
Academic Director



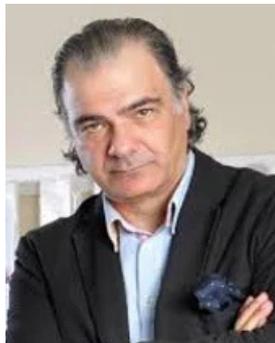
Prof. Zaal Kokaia
Chair of the Board



Natia Khuluzauri
Executive Director

SCIENTIFIC BOARD

Hub's Scientific Board consists of 13 Georgian and foreign scientists who are members of Academia Europaea.



Members of the Scientific Board:

From the first row onwards (abecedarian): Prof. Bezhan Chankvetadze; Prof. Lado Chanturia; Prof. Sierd Cloetingh; Prof. George Gegelashvili; Prof. Merab Kokaia; Prof. Zaal Kokaia (Chair of the Board); Prof. Eva Kondorosi; Prof. David Lordkipanidze (Academic Director); Prof. David Prangishvili; Prof. George Sharvashidze; Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze; Prof. Ketevan Tchanturia; Prof. Alexander Tsiskaridze

PUBLIC LECTURES

Public Lectures represent one of the Centre's core instruments for presenting current developments in contemporary science to interested professionals, early-career researchers, students, and the general public, while also strengthening professional links between Georgian and international scholars.

Lectures are delivered by both Georgian and internationally recognised scientists, including members of Academia Europaea. During 2025, the Centre organised five public lectures, distinguished by the diversity of scientific disciplines and thematic scope.

Current Issues in Modern Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

Organized by AE Tbilisi Hub and Ilia State University, on March 28 of this year a public lecture was held by **Professor Paul Salkovskis**, Director of the Oxford Centre for Psychological Health, on the topic "Current Issues in Modern Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy."

Professor Paul Salkovskis is a recognised leading figure in cognitive-behavioural therapy. In addition to leading the Centre for Psychological Health, he leads the Clinical Psychology course at the University of Oxford and serves as Editor of the BABCP journal "Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy".

Professor Salkovskis's visit to Georgia was made possible through the initiative and direct involvement of Professor Kate Tchanturia, a member of the Scientific Board of AE Tbilisi Hub and Professor of King's College London.

The lecture, during which Professor Salkovskis discussed recent developments and challenges in the field, was moderated by Prof. Kate Tchanturia. It was followed by an active discussion involving members of the academic community, students, and representatives of the wider public.



Unraveling the Neurochemical Secrets of the Brain

From May 22-26 of this year, AE Tbilisi Hub collaborated with the International School of Neuroscience. Within the framework of this collaboration, Tbilisi State Medical University hosted the lecture series “Unraveling the Neurochemical Secrets of the Brain.”

At the invitation of AE Tbilisi Hub, the event featured **Professor Vladimir Parpura**, a member of Academia Europaea and Director of the International Translational Neuroscience Research Institute at Zhejiang Chinese Medical University. Professor Parpura delivered a public lecture entitled “Astrocytes release glutamate by regulated exocytosis in health and disease.” He presented the evidence that astrocytes, a subtype of glial cells in the brain, can exocytotically release the neurotransmitter glutamate and analyzed how this release is regulated. He also discussed spatiotemporal characteristics of vesicular fusion that underlie astrocyte glutamate release. In addition, he presented data on a translational project in which this release pathway can be targeted for treating astrocytoma IV (also referred to as glioblastoma mutiforme IV), the deadliest brain cancer.

The event showcased cutting-edge research in contemporary neuroscience, whose findings are shaping the future of science and medicine. The lectures were followed by active Q&A sessions and discussions, during which scientists explored the revolutionary potential of the presented research for neuroscience and medicine. The exchange of knowledge and experience not only deepened participants' understanding of these topics but also laid the groundwork for future collaborations. The event once again highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research and international cooperation in neuroscience.



What stone tools can tell us about human evolution: Five decades of research

Organised by AE Tbilisi Hub, the Georgian National Museum, and National Geographic Magazine – Georgia, a public lecture was held on September 17 of this year by **Professors Kathy Schick** and **Nicholas Toth**, Professors Emeriti of Anthropology and Cognitive Science at Indiana University, Bloomington.

The professors' visit to Georgia was made possible through the direct support and involvement of Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Regional Hub and the General Director of the Georgian National Museum.

The professors share a long-standing friendship and collaboration with Georgia. They have conducted numerous significant studies on materials discovered at the Dmanisi archaeological site, frequently visit Georgia, and actively contribute to the training of a new generation of archaeologists.

During the lecture, the professors presented multidisciplinary research conducted over the past five decades to study the Early Stone Age, aimed at understanding the role of stone tools and technology in human evolution over the last several million years.

Their scientific work encompasses archaeological analysis, experimental reconstruction of early Homo stone tool production and use, teaching modern primates to manufacture and use stone tools, ethnoarchaeological studies of the last surviving stone tool traditions, brain imaging analyses to identify the cognitive demands of tool-making, and geoarchaeological research in ancient lake basins to reconstruct the paleoclimate and paleoenvironment associated with human evolution.



Researching Ancient Mesopotamia: Approaches, Questions and Methods

Organized by AE Tbilisi Hub and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, a public lecture was held on October 28 of this year by **Professor Martin Worthington** of Al Maktoum Centre for Middle Eastern Studies in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, entitled “Researching Ancient Mesopotamia: Approaches, Questions, and Methods.”

Professor Worthington’s primary research focus is Babylonian literature. Previously, he served as Senior Lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Cambridge and as a British Academy Research Fellow at SOAS, University of London, where his research addressed Babylonian literary texts of the first millennium BCE. From 2006 to 2010, he was a Junior Research Fellow in Assyriology at St John’s College, Cambridge. In 2011, he was awarded the Sir George Staunton Prize by the Royal Asiatic Society.

Notably, Professor Worthington contributed to the renewed recognition of the first Georgian translation of the Epic of Gilgamesh. In 2010, at an international conference dedicated to the Epic of Gilgamesh at St John’s College, Cambridge, he presented the translation by Mikheil Tsereteli, after which Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University republished the book. In his 2021 monograph *Ea’s Duplicity in the Gilgamesh Flood Story*, Professor Worthington cited Tsereteli’s interpretations of the Gilgamesh Epic (consultant: TSU Associate Professor Nino Samsonia).

His visit on this occasion was connected to the publication of Professor Thomas V. Gamkrelidze’s book *The Epic of Gilgamesh – Transliteration*.

During the event, Professor Martin Worthington was awarded the Gold Medal of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University by the Vice-Rector, Professor Erekle Astakhishvili, in recognition of his international support of the university’s scientific achievements. During the lecture, Professor Worthington discussed the structure of the Epic of Gilgamesh, presented examples from the cuneiform text, their English translations, and several scholarly interpretations. He concluded by answering questions from students and faculty.



Bridging Experimental and Clinical Psychology to Improve Clinical Care

Organized by AE Tbilisi Hub and National Geographic Magazine – Georgia, a lecture by AE Member, **Professor Kate Tchanturia** of King’s College London was held on November 5 of this year, entitled “Bridging Experimental and Clinical Psychology to Improve Clinical Care.”

This year, Professor Tchanturia was awarded the Member of British Empire (MBE) for her contributions to science, and the event opened with the screening of a short film produced by Buckingham Palace in connection with this honor.

The audience was welcomed by Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, who thanked attendees and emphasized that the primary purpose of the event was inspiration—an inspiration for research and an example of how Professor Tchanturia embodies the scientist’s pursuit of innovation and commitment to sharing knowledge with the wider public. He noted: “Our aspiration is to support the presentation of Georgian scientific achievements and traditions to a broad audience and to introduce the individuals who stand at the forefront of science today.”

Professor Tchanturia has been researching the most complex challenges of clinical psychology for over four decades. She began her career in experimental psychology at Tbilisi State University and the Institute of Psychiatry and is now one of the leading scholars at King’s College London.

In her lecture, Professor Tchanturia reviewed research conducted at King’s College over the past 30 years in the field of eating disorders, including newly implemented approaches. She discussed both clinical services and specific examples of effective management strategies, while also addressing the current needs in Georgia related to the treatment of eating disorders.

The lecture was followed by an active discussion between the audience and Professor Tchanturia. Authors of the best questions received copies of National Geographic Magazine – Georgia as gifts.



International Lecture–Seminars

One of the key priorities of AE Tbilisi Hub is the support of early-career researchers and their integration into the international scientific community. International lecture–seminars provide young scholars with opportunities to deepen their professional skills, engage with leading experts in their fields, and develop international professional networks. Through these activities, the Centre contributes to strengthening academic mobility, interdisciplinary dialogue, and long-term scholarly cooperation.

Heritage, Science, and Modern Technologies

From 28 July to 1 August, 2025, Kutaisi International University (KIU) hosted the international summer school “Heritage, Science, and Modern Technologies.”

The summer school was organized for the second consecutive year by **AE Tbilisi Hub, the Georgian National Museum, and Kutaisi International University**.

The event was formally opened by **Professor David Lordkipanidze**, Academic Director of Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub and General Director of the Georgian National Museum, and **Professor Paata Turava**, Acting Rector of Kutaisi International University. Opening remarks were also delivered by **Vakhtang Tsagareli**, Director of the Kutaisi University Campus, and **Mariam Bochorishvili**, Head of the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design at KIU.



The programme offered participants an intensive series of lectures by Georgian and international experts engaged in multidisciplinary international projects, the application of advanced technologies in scientific research, and the interpretation of recent scientific discoveries. Core thematic areas focused on the use of modern technologies in natural history research, archaeology, cultural heritage sites, conservation and restoration practices, and the interpretation of existing scientific knowledge. Each lecture was followed by active discussion, enabling direct exchange between students and lecturers and fostering in-depth exploration of key issues.

A highlight of the four-day lecture and seminar programme was the keynote lecture by Professor David Lordkipanidze, entitled “Biocultural Heritage as a Key to Georgia’s Competitiveness.”

The program also included field visits to the **Niko Berdzenishvili Kutaisi State Historical Museum, Gelati Monastery, Bagrati Cathedral,** and the **Vani Archaeological Museum.**

The concluding ceremony of the summer school took place at the Vani Archaeological Museum. The event, moderated by **Professor David Lordkipanidze,** was attended by the Minister of Culture, **Tinatin Rukhadze;** Chancellor of KIU, **Levan Kopaliani;** representatives of local government; and other guests.

The project was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia.



International Conferences

AE Tbilisi Hub fosters organisation of and participation in international conferences, both in Georgia and abroad, constitutes another strategic priority of AE Tbilisi Hub. International conferences enhance the visibility of Georgia within the global scientific arena and serve as an important platform for the exchange of knowledge, the presentation of cutting-edge research, and the establishment of new international partnerships. Through active involvement in such events, the Hub supports the positioning of Georgian science within the broader European and international research landscape. and experience sharing among professionals by organizing international seminars. These meetings play a crucial role in building international professional networks and facilitating future collaborations.

International Symposium and General Assembly of Academy of Pre- and Protohistory (AIPP)

On 5-6 May 2025, the International Academy of Pre- and Protohistory (AIPP) held its Symposium and General Assembly in Berlin, organised by the **Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation**. The symposium brought together leading scholars from around the world to discuss “Turning Points in Cultural Evolution” and “Challenges of Archaeology in the 21st Century.”

Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, General Director of the Georgian National Museum, and one of the founding members of AIPP, was invited as a keynote speaker. He delivered a lecture entitled “Prehistoric Archaeology as a Link Between Science and Sustainability: The Case of Georgia.”

In addition, during working meetings held within the framework of the symposium, Professor Lordkipanidze presented the future vision of AE Tbilisi Hub and its perspectives for engagement in international projects.

Founded in Paris on 7 December 2021, AIPP aims to promote international research in prehistory and protohistory—from the dawn of humanity to the Iron Age—integrating both hunter-gatherer and early agricultural societies.

The Academy currently brings together approximately 120 leading scholars in the field.

The participation of the Tbilisi Regional Centre in AIPP activities plays an important role in ensuring Georgia’s active involvement in major international research processes.



Multifaceted Neuroscience – Celebrating 140 Years of Ivane Beritashvili

On 12–14 June, 2025 in Tbilisi as part of Week of Scientists, the Ivane Beritashvili Center of Experimental Biomedicine hosted the international scientific conference “Multifaceted Neuroscience – Celebrating 140 Years of Ivane Beritashvili” marking the 140th anniversary of the birth of Ivane Beritashvili, one of the founders of neuroscience.

The conference was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia and organised within the framework of the Young Scientists Week initiative: “Young Scientists for a Better Future of the Planet.” AE Tbilisi Hub participated as an institutional partner of the Beritashvili Center.

Participants included **Professor Zaal Kokaia**, Member of Academia Europaea, Chair of the Scientific Board of Tbilisi Hub, and Professor of the Lund University, as well as **Professor Merab Kokaia**, Member of the Scientific Board the Tbilisi Regional Centre, and Professor of the Lund University.

The conference aimed to integrate and promote diverse fields of neuroscience, strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, and develop scientific networks at both local and international levels. The event brought together leading Georgian and international scientists, early-career researchers, students, and practitioners in biomedicine and neuroscience.



Tbilisi 2025: Stroke Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment

On 10–11 October 2025, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the Georgian Stroke Association, in cooperation with AE Tbilisi Hub, hosted the IX World Stroke Organization (WSO) Endorsed International Meeting entitled: “Tbilisi 2025: Stroke Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment.”

The conference brought together leading scientists of the field from the United States, Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Israel, Turkey, and Croatia. Discussions focused on cerebrovascular diseases, stroke prevention, diagnostics, and treatment.

Professor Zaal Kokaia, Chair of the Scientific Board of AE Tbilisi Hub, served as a member of the Organizing Committee and the International Advisory Board, chaired by **Professor Alexandre Tsiskaridze**, also a Member of Academia Europaea and of the Scientific Board of AE Tbilisi Hub.

The conference was supported by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia and aimed to promote the exchange of international expertise, deepen scientific dialogue, and advance innovative approaches in stroke research and clinical practice.



Building Bridges 2025

The 36th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea, entitled “Building Bridges 2025,” was held on 15–17 October, 2025 at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB). The conference was attended by Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub.

During the General Assembly of Academia Europaea members and Hubs, **Professor Lordkipanidze** presented the 2025 activity report of the Tbilisi Regional Hub. He also held working meetings with the leadership of Academia Europaea to discuss deepening cooperation between Tbilisi Hub and other representation of AE, as well as shared institutional priorities.

Within this framework, Professor Lordkipanidze and Professor Jaume Bertranpetit, Academic Director of the Barcelona Hub, agreed to plan joint activities between the Tbilisi and Barcelona representations in 2026, aligned with the mission of Academia Europaea and the strategic goals of both hubs.



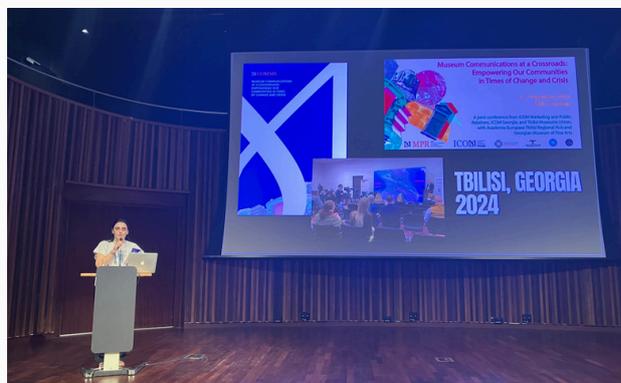
The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Societies

On 11–17 November 2025, the 27th General Conference of ICOM (International Council of Museums), entitled “The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Societies,” was held in Dubai. This triennial conference was of particular significance, as it marked the first time an ICOM General Conference was hosted in the MEASA region (Middle East, Africa, and South Asia).

The conference brought together over 4,500 museum and cultural heritage professionals, policymakers, and leaders from around the world and was hosted by the Dubai World Trade Centre under the highest patronage of the United Arab Emirates.

Natia Khuluzauri, Executive Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, participated in the conference and delivered a presentation on 12 November at the first session of ICOM-COMMS entitled “Intangible Cultural Heritage, Storytelling, Identity, and Relevance.” She also moderated the second session, “The Power of Youth: Collaboration, Activism, and Digital Skills.”

Additionally, on 15 November, during a joint session of ICOM-COMMS and ICOM-AVICOM, she, as Coordinating Editor and Editor-in-Chief, presented to the public the proceedings of the international conference “Museum Communication at a Crossroads: Empowering Communities in Times of Change and Crisis,” held in Tbilisi in December 2024 through the collaboration of the Tbilisi Regional Centre and ICOM-COMMS.



Scientific Conference Dedicated to the Memory of Rusudan Kochkiani

From 26–29 November 2025, AE Tbilisi Hub, in cooperation with the **Georgian National Museum**, organized a scientific conference at the Svaneti Museum of History and Ethnography, **dedicated to the memory of Rusudan Kochkiani**, former Director of the Museum and a distinguished scholar of medieval art.

The conference addressed the history and future perspectives of the Svaneti Museum, as well as recent research on Svaneti’s cultural heritage. It also included presentations of the publications “Warrior Saints in Medieval Georgian Art” and “Heritage of Georgian Manuscripts,” which were donated to the Svaneti Museum.

The event was attended by members of Rusudan Kochkiani’s family, representatives of the local professional community, and senior school students, whose engagement reflected the Centre’s commitment to fostering youth interest in science and heritage. Students of the Svaneti Chanting School also performed traditional Svan songs and hymns.



New Perspectives in the Study of Cultural and Natural Heritage

On 24 December 2025, AE Tbilisi Hub, in cooperation with the Georgian National Museum, organized the Young Scientists' Conference entitled "New Perspectives in the Study of Cultural and Natural Heritage."

The conference aimed to support early-career researchers working in Georgia and abroad in the fields of cultural heritage research and management, promote collaboration, and facilitate connections with leading scholars in the field.

Participants presented their research areas, discussed current challenges, and explored opportunities for joint multidisciplinary projects. The event directly addressed one of the key priorities of the Tbilisi Regional Centre: supporting young scientists in expanding their professional networks and initiating new collaborations.



Publications and Scholarly Initiatives

In 2025, with the support and direct involvement of **Professor of the King's College London and member of the Scientific Board of AE Tbilisi Hub, Kate Tchanturia** the therapist manual "[Specialist Supportive Clinical Management, SSCM](#)" was translated into Georgian.

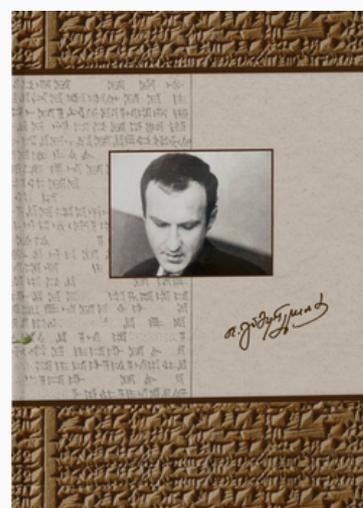
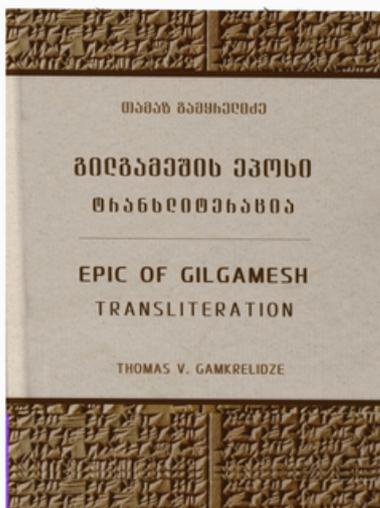
The purpose of the manual is to describe the conditions and procedures necessary for the effective implementation of the Specialist Supportive Care (SSC) approach, both for staff involved in anorexia treatment research and for therapists working with women diagnosed with anorexia nervosa using the SSC framework.

The manual is freely accessible to the public via the following link: [Specialist Supportive Clinical Management, SSCM](#).

On 27 and 29 October 2025, AE Tbilisi Hub in partnership with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), organized the presentation of the book "**The Epic of Gilgamesh (transliteration)**" by **Academician Thimas V. Gamkrelidze**.

For this occasion, **Professor Martin Worthington** (Trinity College Dublin), author of the book's foreword, was invited to Georgia by the Hub and TSU. Professor Worthington studied Gamkrelidze's manuscript in detail and prepared both a scholarly recommendation and the foreword. He described the publication as a major achievement for both Georgian and international scholarship.

On 29 October, following the book presentation, the premiere screening of the short film "Dumuzi's Dream"—shot in the Sumerian language and directed by Professor Worthington—took place. The event generated particular interest among younger audiences and served as an outstanding example of science communication and public en-



-gagement. It is noteworthy that in 2018, Professor Worthington directed the world's first film in the Sumerian language, "The Poor Man of Nippur", which was nominated in 2019 by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council for the Research in Film award. He has also collaborated with Marvel Studios on the film "The Eternals", providing Babylonian translations and linguistic materials for the screenplay. Professor Worthington was awarded the Gold Medal of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University at his public lecture on 28 October.

Honours and Distinctions

In 2025, Professor of the King's College London and member of the Scientific Board of AE Tbilisi Hub, Prof. Kate Tchanturia was awarded the **Member of British Empire (MBE)** for her contributions to science. The award was conferred by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at a ceremonial event held at Buckingham Palace.

Professor Kate Tchanturia is an internationally acclaimed scientist and the first Georgian female researcher elected as a member of Academia Europaea. She is the recipient of the

British Psychological Society's highest honor for Distinguished Contribution to Practice (2021). In 2023, she received the National Award of Georgia; in 2024, she was elected President of the Eating Disorders Research Society (EDRS); and in 2025, she was awarded the Member of British Empire (MBE) for her contributions to science, presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace.



In 2025, Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub and General Director of the Georgian National Museum, was awarded Italy's highest order of merit.

The award, the **Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana)**, was conferred by H.E. Massimiliano D'Antuono, Ambassador of Italy to Georgia, in recognition of Professor Lordkipanidze's outstanding services to the Republic of Italy.

Furthermore, upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, bestowed upon Prof. Lordkipanidze the title of Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

This high distinction was awarded to Prof. Lordkipanidze for his outstanding contribution to the dissemination of Italian culture and scientific achievements in Georgia, as well as for his role in fostering close relations between the two countries.



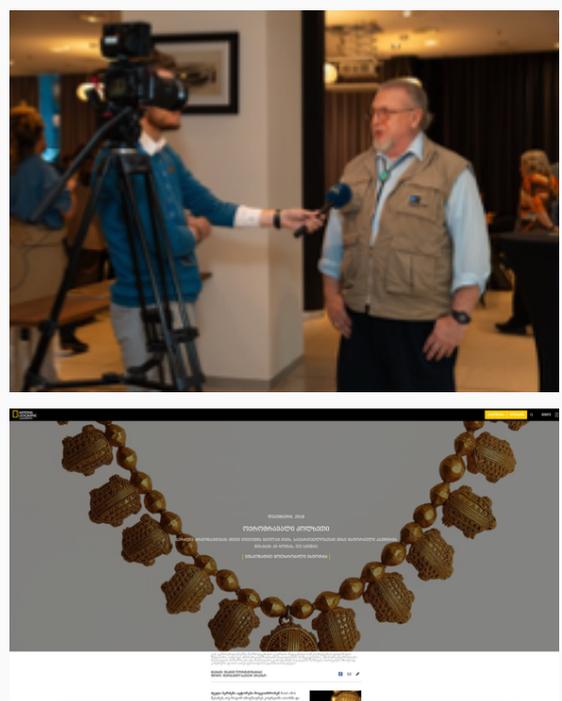
Science Communication and Public Engagement

One of the key priorities of AE Tbilisi Hub is the promotion of science and the dissemination of recent scientific advances to a broad public audience. To this end, the Hub collaborates with leading media organisations in Georgia that adhere to high journalistic standards and whose missions align with the Hub's objectives.

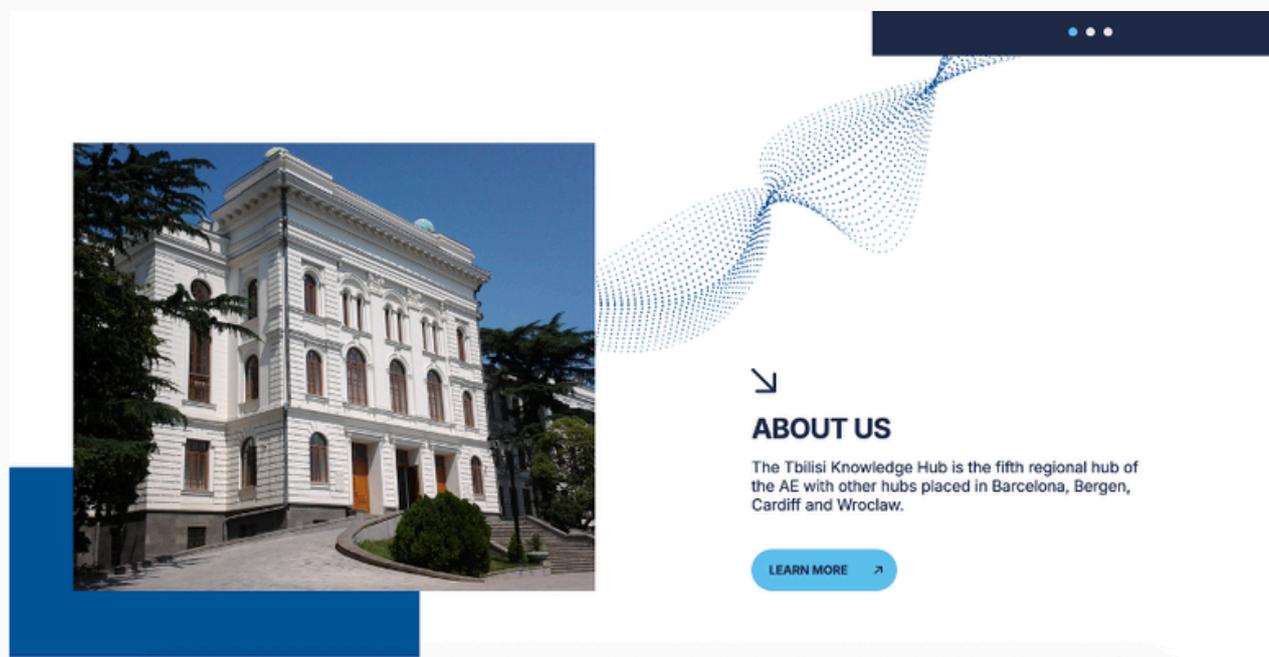
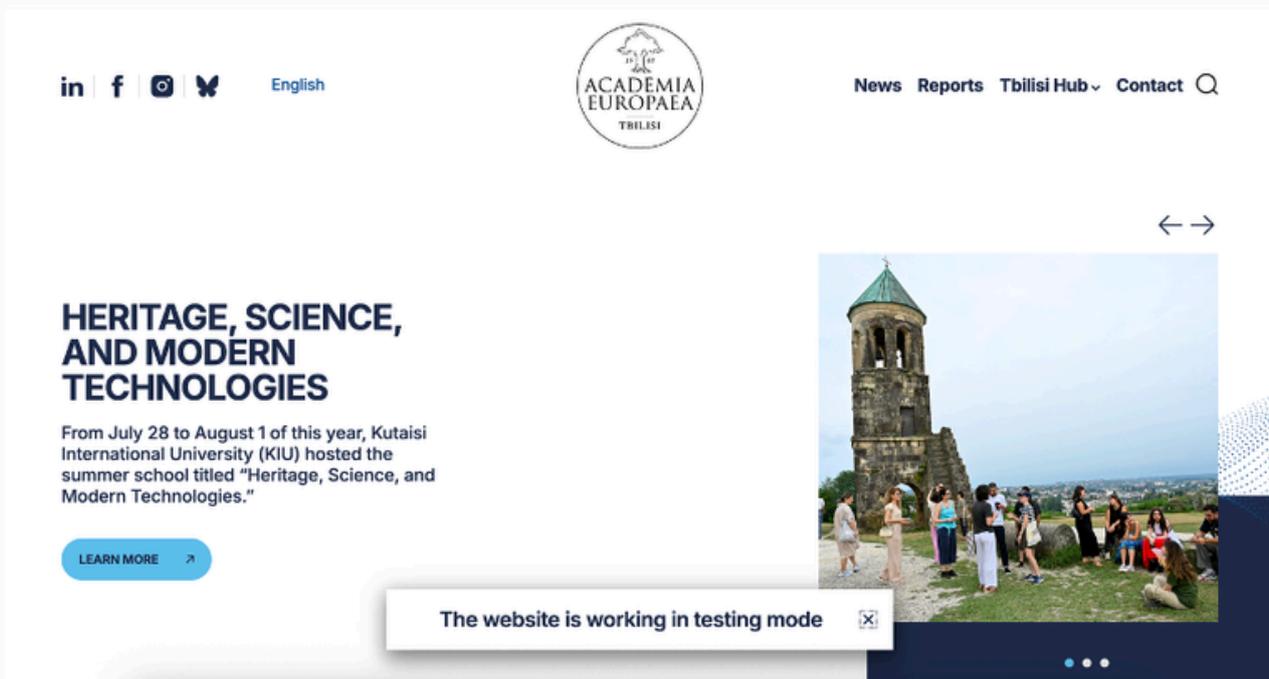
These media partners include **National Geographic Magazine – Georgia**, the **Georgian Public Broadcaster**, and the **Georgian representation of Euronews**. The Centre regularly provides these outlets with information on current scientific developments and forthcoming academic and public events.

The Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, Professor David Lordkipanidze, leads the popular science project “History Told Through an Object”, published as an author's column in National Geographic Magazine – Georgia, while in cooperation with the Georgian Public Broadcaster, the project has also been adapted for television and radio formats, significantly expanding its public reach.

In addition, AE Tbilisi Hub collaborates with National Geographic Magazine – Georgia in the direction of organizing the public lectures, contributing to the broader public understanding of science, heritage, and interdisciplinary research.



In 2025, **AE Tbilisi Hub** renovated its official website in accordance with the new brand guidelines of Academia Europaea. The website is currently operating in a test mode and, once fully launched, will serve as an effective and modern communication platform for disseminating information about the Hub's activities.



Cooperation with Local and International Institutions:

On 24 November 2025, AE Tbilisi Hub hosted **Dr. Katalin Solymosi, Deputy Academic Director of AE Budapest Hub** and **President of the Young Academy of Europe**.

An official meeting was held with the participation of Professor David Lordkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, Natia Khuluzauri, Executive Director of the same Hub, and Dr. Katalin Solymosi. During the meeting, priority areas of mutual interest between the Tbilisi and Budapest hubs were identified, and plans were agreed for the organisation of joint activities starting from 2026.

It is particularly noteworthy that the 2026 Annual Conference of Academia Europaea, “Building Bridges 2026”, will be held in Budapest, organised by AE Budapest Hub. In this context, close cooperation between Tbilisi and Budapest Hubs will play an important role in ensuring the effective representation of Georgia at this major international event, which brings together members of Academia Europaea from around the world.

Throughout 2025, AE Tbilisi Hub cooperated with the following institutions:

- Ivane Javakhisvili Tbilisi State University
- Ilia State University
- Kutaisi International University (KIU)
- Ivane Beritashvili Centre of Experimental Biomedicine
- International Centre for Neuroscience
- World Stroke Organization (WSO)
- Georgian Stroke Association
- Summer School on Innovation and Startup Acceleration
- Georgian National Museum
- Society “Iveriisa”
- ICOM – International Council of Museums
- ICOM COMMS – ICOM International Committee for Marketing and Communications
- Niko Berdzenishvili Kutaisi State Historical Museum



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