

This seasonal review of activities is provided with gratitude to all our supporters, volunteers, and donors who continue to help the National Trust of Georgia (NTG) make an impact in protecting and celebrating Georgia's natural and cultural heritage

Between June and September 2026, the National Trust of Georgia (NTG) successfully advanced its mission of preserving cultural heritage through hands-on youth education, community engagement, and international collaboration. From an interactive heritage quest in Samshvilde where youth explored ancient Asomtavruli inscriptions, to sending our young specialists and volunteers to professional restoration workcamps and strategic heritage residencies in France, Poland, and Malta, these past four months have bridged local traditions with global heritage networks. As we launch our new academic year in Old Tbilisi, we remain deeply grateful to our donors and partners whose continued support keeps Georgia's living heritage vibrant, accessible, and in capable hands.

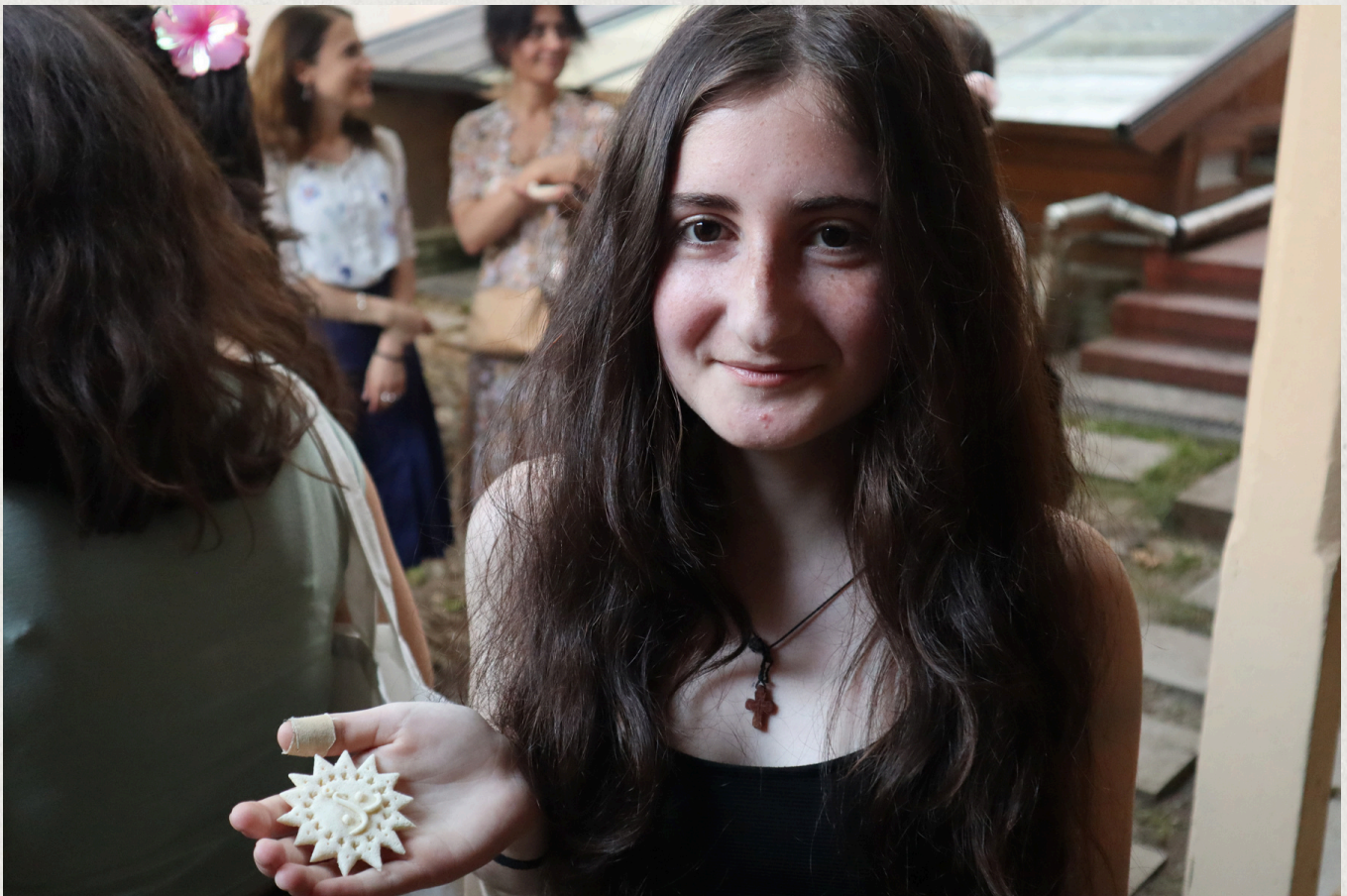


Photo 1: A teenager holding a traditional toy made from dough_Lecture at NTG: Georgia Seen Through Toponyms

Tuta Workshop: Heritage Field Lesson in Samshvilde Archaeological Site

Tuta Workshop concluded the academic year with an outdoor field lesson at the historic site of Samshvilde, bringing together Tuta Workshop children, their parents, and local youth. Hosted initially by the local social enterprise Orbis Bude, the children explored the archaeological site together, solving riddles and interactive challenges focused on the Georgian alphabet. A central challenge involved reading the large inscription in Asomtavruli (the oldest form of the Georgian alphabet) on the eastern façade of Samshvilde Sioni to decode a hidden message and complete the heritage discovery activity. The activity connected classroom learning with direct experience of a multilayered heritage site.



Photos 2–4: Tuta Workshop students exploring the Samshvilde archaeological site alongside their parents and local children

Lecture: Georgia Seen Through Toponyms (Traditional Games & Wheat Culture)

In July, NTG hosted an educational event led by linguist and folklore researcher Nana Khocholava, exploring the relationship between native wheat varieties and Georgian place names (toponymy). Participants actively engaged in traditional games alongside interactive activities linked to traditional knowledge. The session concluded with participants tasting and sharing traditional Georgian wheat bread with children from the Amer-Imeri folklore-ethnographic studio.



Photo 5: Lecture on Georgian native wheat varieties and cultural heritage



Photo 6: Traditional dough toys



Photo 7: students from the folklore-ethnographic studio at NTG following the lecture "Georgia Seen Through Toponyms."

Volunteers at Gombervaux Castle (July 22–August 6)

NTG volunteers travelled to eastern France to participate in an international workcamp focused on stonecutting and traditional masonry at the 14th-century Gombervaux Castle (organized by the Gombervaux Association).

Participants acquired hands-on skills in stone replacement, plugging, and repointing under professional technical leaders.



Photo 8: Volunteers refilling mortar on a medieval wall



Photo 9: A Georgian volunteer hand-carving stone



Photo 9: group photo of volunteers at Gombervaux Castle

Supporting Heritage Professionals

NTG volunteer and architect Mikheil (Misho) Tchintcharauli, who has been involved in the rehabilitation project of the Tsiskarauli Tower, participated in an international heritage training programme hosted by Adichats at Villandraut Castle in France (co-organized by Erasmus+ and REMPART). Joining professionals from across Europe, Misho completed an intensive course focused on the role of a team leader in practical restoration work.



Photo 10: Georgian participant of the international heritage training in Villandraut (Adichats)

Heritage Seminar in Poland

Marine Mizandari, Chair of the National Trust of Georgia, participated in an Erasmus+ heritage seminar in Siedlecin, Poland, led by French partner REMPART and hosted by the Association of the Medieval Tower in Siedlecin. The seminar focused on strategic mechanisms for engaging volunteers in cultural heritage preservation. Participants also met with local municipal leaders in Silesia to observe community-based heritage development strategies.

September 2026



Photo 11: Seminar participants observing the wall paintings in Siedlecin.



Photo 12: Work in progress



13: Siedlecin Medieval Tower

Inclusive European Heritage Residency in Malta

NTG representative and communications manager Rusudan Panozishvili participated in the second Inclusive European Heritage Residency in Malta, organized by Europa Nostra and INTO (International National Trusts Organisation) in collaboration with Din l-Art Ħelwa (National Trust for Malta). The residency brought together 10 European heritage professionals for peer learning on advocacy, governance, organizational transparency, media relations, and protecting endangered heritage sites like Fort Chambray.



Photo 15: Residency participants during a presentation.



Photo 16: Environmental activity



Photo 17: Group photo of participants at Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2026 in Malta

Community Engagement & New Academic Year

NTG launched new enrollment opportunities for the 2026–2027 academic year. The Tbilisi branch of Folklore House opened masterclasses for adults in traditional instruments (chianuri, garmoni, salamuri) and Tushetian singing.

Simultaneously, Tuta Workshop resumed weekly creative heritage education classes starting 19 September for students in grades IV–X.



Photo 18: Tuta Workshop students in the process of making wooden puppets



Photo 19: A new student of Folklore House learning to play a traditional musical instrument

**Thank you for
standing with the
National Trust of
Georgia!**