

The National Trust of Georgia

Activity Report for the Period from January to May 2025

This seasonal review of activities is provided with thanks to all our supporters, volunteers and donors who help the NTG make an impact in preserving Georgia's historic landscapes and buildings.

Brief Summary of the Past Five Months

Despite the challenging political situation in the country, the National Trust of Georgia (NTG) has continued its efforts to protect and preserve Georgia's cultural heritage monuments while increasing public engagement in the field.



By the end of the first quarter of 2025, the NTG successfully concluded a project launched with the support of European Heritage hub, Europa Nostra and co-funded by the European Union. The project aimed to establish a cultural heritage hub in the South Caucasus region.

With the support of the British Embassy, the NTG organised a contest "My Heritage" for the third time, aimed to introduce and promote individuals who share a passion for heritage and feel the need for its preservation and dissemination to the broader public.

In addition to the completed projects, members of the NTG concurrently attended international exhibitions and training courses, as well as local events dedicated to supporting and safeguarding the country's European values.



European
Heritage
Hub



Introduction to Khrami Valley Megaliths

January-April

Launch and Introductory Meetings with the Local Communities

The National Trust of Georgia completed an educational campaign, “Introduction to Khrami Valley Megaliths”, aimed at raising awareness about megalithic monuments in the southern Georgia, Kvemo Kartli region, dating back to the 3rd millennium BC. The project was implemented in four ethnically diverse villages of the Tetrtskaro municipality, with the objective of fostering community cohesion around shared heritage and promoting the appreciation and protection of their environment.

[See more](#)

Screening of the Documentary in the villages of Samshvilde and Tsintskaro

As part of the first phase of the project, the National Trust of Georgia organized screenings of the documentary film “*The Mystery of Khrami Valley*” in villages of the Tetrtskaro Municipality. The film showcased the research by archaeologist Giorgi Burjanadze and architect Davit Gogvadze. They have been exploring megalithic structures in the Khrami Valley, focusing on their context, landscape and architectural features. The screenings were attended by youth, school students, and an older generation as well. The documentary sparked significant interest among young attendees, many of whom expressed enthusiasm and readiness to participate in future project activities.

[See more](#)



Field Visit to the Megalithic Monuments

The second phase of the project was two field visits with local participants. Over two days, groups of school students from villages Samshvilde and Tsintskaro explored the megalithic monuments: Dagheti wall and Samshvilde fortress. The participants had the opportunity to personally experience the unique remains of the Khrami Valley megalithic heritage.

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Workshop on assembling architectural models of megaliths

The third phase within the project was a workshop dedicated to creating architectural models of megalithic structures with the participation of school students. The activity was led by the volunteer architects team from the "Rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower" - the award winning project by NTG - and aimed to produce four models of different megalithic structures using locally sourced stone. All participants were actively engaged in the process, from stone breaking to stone placing on the model.





A key aspect of the workshop was the collaboration between ethnically diverse students from different villages - ethnic Georgians, Armenians and Azerbaijanis living in the same valley - who came together for a shared initiative for the first time.

This actualized the project's primary goal: fostering interaction among ethnically diverse groups. The workshop not only strengthened friendships among the children but also culminated in a friendly football match held at the village stadium at the end of the day.



Throughout the project, the workshops were hosted at the local enterprise, "Orbi's Bude," where participants were warmly welcomed by local cooks. Transportation for children from nearby villages was provided by a local driver. The project not only brought cultural enrichment but also delivered economic benefits to the local community.

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Field visit with photography students

An additional field visit was organized with the photography students. The National Trust of Georgia collaborated with Natela Grigalashvili, famous Georgian photographer and guided her landscape shooting class in Khrami Valley. Participating 12 students visited village Kosalari and, within the practical study, took photographs of the megalithic structure in Andria and Ktsila former settlements.

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Final Exhibition



In April 2025, the concluding exhibition for the project was held at the National Trust of Georgia's space, summarizing the activities undertaken throughout the initiative. On the same day, the National Trust organized an excursion to the Tbilisi Open-air Ethnographic Museum for participating school students.

Architectural models created by the school students from the ethnically diverse villages of Tetrtskaro Municipality were presented at the exhibition, along with photos taken by Natela Grigalashvili photography course students in the Khrami valley.

The exhibition hosted guests from the heritage protection sector, representatives of the accredited diplomatic corps, international organizations and the general public.

The project gained significant interest from the public and became a source of inspiration and discovery for its participants. Many learned about megaliths, with some even developing a particular interest in the field of heritage. Members of different ethnic groups from neighboring villages formed friendships and discovered shared interests.

[See more](#)



Podcast about the Khrami valley and Invitation from the Georgian Public Broadcaster Radio



Representatives of The National Trust of Georgia, along with the local project coordinator from the village of Samshilde, were invited to speak on Georgian Public Broadcasting Radio about the Khrami valley megaliths project. The coordinator emphasized the project's significance for the region and highlighted that local communities often lack sufficient knowledge about their heritage and, as a result, are frequently unaware of how to explore its potential for their own well-being.

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Extended Collaboration

In recent months, a grant was announced by the Embassy of Estonia aimed at promoting regional development. Together with the local coordinator introduced through the “Khrami Valley Megaliths” project, we submitted an application focused on the promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the villages of Samshilde and Tsintskaro, as well as the development of their touristic potential.

Advocacy Campaign for the Public Broadcaster’s Historic Building



The National Trust of Georgia has launched an advocacy campaign to protect the first building of Georgia’s first television station, a significant example of Georgian late modernist architecture. The campaign aims to list the building as a cultural heritage monument to prevent its possible demolition. Key activities in the initial phase include public awareness efforts, interviews with local residents, and architectural workshop for the students.

[See more](#)

A historical, social and urban study of the building was conducted. Interviews with the residents in the neighbourhood showcased the importance of this building for their social memory and urban fabric

After the research, The National Trust of Georgia submitted a formal request to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia to designate the Public Broadcaster's building as a cultural heritage monument.



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Exhibition of Conceptual Projects Developed by Students and Final Meeting of the Campaign



Organized by The National Trust of Georgia, a four-day intensive workshop was held, during which 17 architecture students, divided into three teams, developed concepts for the preservation and development of the historic building of Georgia's first television. The sessions were led by architects and urban planner.

At the concluding exhibition held at the Trust's space, the students presented three conceptual projects to a broad audience. The event was attended by architects, journalists, and former television employees. Participants were awarded with certificates.



Beside architectural projects, interviews conducted with local residents were screened at the exhibitions.



The campaign generated significant response and interest both within professional circles and among the wider public. Digital posts about the building's architectural, cultural and social values were shared on NTG's social media channels, also in collaboration with other related thematic pages. Late Georgian modernistic architecture and Georgian Public broadcasters building in particular, was discussed in one of the series by NTG's podcast "Heritage" that was dedicated to the Modernistic architecture. The podcast series are streamed on NTG's YouTube channel.

[See more](#)



A podcast series “HERITAGE”

March-April

The National Trust of Georgia launched an eight-episode podcast series to increase public engagement in heritage preservation. The series featured invited experts discussing diverse aspects of cultural heritage, including modernist architecture, megalithic structures, traditional music, tourism, restoration and conservation, as well as the significance, challenges, and solutions within the heritage field in Georgia.

This project marked the NTG’s first attempt to raise awareness through the podcast format, aiming to engage a broad audience in cultural heritage issues and encourage active participation in its preservation and development. The podcast series can be found on NTG’s [YouTube](#) channel.



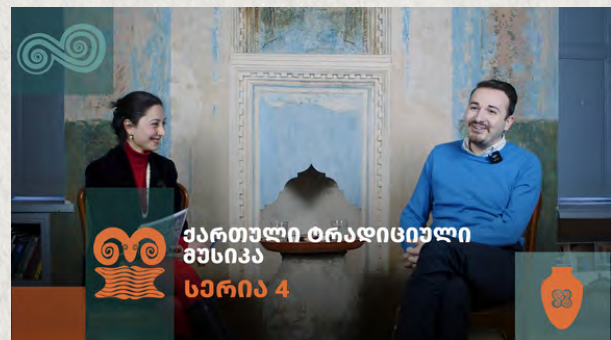
Episode 1-The importance of preserving cultural heritage for society



Episode 2-Monuments of megalith era in Georgia and in the world



Episode 3-Late modernistic architecture in Georgia



Episode 4-Georgian traditional music



Episode 5-The challenges of the architecture restoration sphere in Georgia



Episode 6-Multiethnic heritage of Tbilisi



Episode 7-Natural monuments of Georgia



Episode 8-Tourism and cultural heritage

Contest „MY HERITAGE“

March-May

The contest “My Heritage” is a collaborative initiative of the National Trust of Georgia and the British Embassy in Tbilisi, now being held for the third time.

The 2025 edition of the competition saw a notable increase in participation, with a total of 60 applications received—significantly more than in previous years. In accordance with the established criteria, a jury of experts from related fields selected 24 winners across four categories.

The contest covered the following categories:

- The preservation, adaptation, and conservation of a building or part thereof;
- The preservation and restoration of items of movable cultural heritage. This category includes artworks completed on canvas, paper, or wood, as well as objects created from glass, ceramics, metal, textiles, and other materials;
- The safeguarding and transmission of traditional crafts, material processing techniques, artisanal skills, and culinary recipes;
- The preservation, research, and dissemination of traditional knowledge, folklore, oral histories, and ancestral customs.



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Visiting Georgian Public Broadcaster and Euronews Georgia

After awarding the winners and concluding the project, information about the 'My Heritage' contest was shared in the media. Representatives of the National Trust of Georgia, jury members, and contest winners were invited to live shows on Euronews and the Georgian Public Broadcaster Radio. During the broadcasts, the guests discussed the project, its implementation process, and the significance of heritage preservation.

[See more](#)



Exhibition in Luxembourg – "Faces of Women"

February

Marine Mizandari, Chairperson of The National Trust of Georgia, participated in the exhibition "Portraits of Women – Beyond the Stones" held in Luxembourg, which highlighted the role of women in cultural heritage preservation. At the event, hosted at the Neimënster Cultural Centre, she spoke about the experience of rehabilitating the Tsiskarauli Tower in Khevsureti, a project supported by the Aliph Foundation.

[See more](#)



Participation in Training for Cultural Heritage Camp Leaders

March



Mzia Guledani, a project management employee at the National Trust of Georgia, participated in a training programme held at the Château de Coucy in France, organized under the Erasmus+ and REMPART programmes. Over the course of one week, international participants became familiar with cultural heritage monuments, traditional crafts, and local cuisine. These heritage workcamps across Europe aim to strengthen cooperation in the field of heritage preservation and to promote volunteering.

[See more](#)



The National Trust of Georgia on Guard of national and European Values

May



The National Trust of Georgia participated in thematic events dedicated to Mother Language Day and Independence Day, highlighting the importance of protecting national identity and European values.

On April 14, historical facts depicted on a timeline showcased the impact of Russian politics on the Georgian language over the centuries. On May 26, during Independence Day celebrations, an exhibition by NTG of international projects on Tbilisi's central avenue emphasized the significance of the collaboration with European partners and experts.



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