



Italian–Georgian Collaboration: Research, Conservation, and Presentation of Natural and Cultural Heritage

Conference of the Embassy of Italy in Georgia

Organized in cooperation with the Georgian National Museum

29-30 January 2026, Tbilisi

The auditorium of Georgian National Museum

Address: 1 A. Purtseladze str. Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

CONFERENCE DAY

Thursday, 29 January 2026

9.30 – 10.00 Welcome coffee

10:00–10:30 | Opening Remarks

H.E. Massimiliano D'Antuono, Ambassador of Italy to Georgia

Giorgi Mirtskulava, Deputy Minister of Culture of Georgia

Tea Oniani, General Director National Agency for Monuments Protection

David Lordkipanidze – Archaeology, Conservation, and Art Exhibitions: Italian–Georgian Cooperation Projects at the Georgian National Museum

Session I – Italian–Georgian Initiatives for the Protection of the Gelati World Heritage Site: Conservation Science and Rehabilitation Projects



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Nicola Berlucchi - "Gelati Monastery: scientific supervision for the multidisciplinary approach to conservation"

Francesco Rizzi – CMR LAB – "The diagnostic investigations currently underway at the Gelati Monastery by CMR LAB: microclimate monitoring and thermography"

Roberto Nardi – CCA - "The mosaic of the Virgin Mary in the monastery of Gelati: another chapter in the long-standing collaboration between Georgia and Italy in the field of cultural heritage conservation".

Claudio Margottini - University of Florence - "The proactive conservation of rocky monuments in Georgia"

12:30–13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30–16:30 | Session II – Archaeology, Ethnoarchaeology, and Conservation Science

Lorenzo Rook – University of Florence "A 50-year-long link between Italy and Georgia in the field of Paleontology: historical context and future prospects for natural and cultural heritage management and conservation".

Paolo Biagi – Ca' Foscari University "Highland Zone Exploitation in the Georgian Caucasus: The Mt Chikiani obsidian mines"

Roberto Dan, Tornike Chilingarashvili, Tamar Chogovadze ,Vakhtang Licheli – ISMEO, Tbilisi State University, Georgian National Museum – "Samtskhe - Javakheti Project: An Overview of the Georgian–Italian Joint Archaeological Research"

Elena Rova – Ca' Foscari University of Venice – "18 Years of Archaeological Research in Georgia by Ca' Foscari University"



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Livio Zerbini, Emzar Kakhidze, Tamar Shalikadze - University of Ferrara, Batumi Archaeological Museum – “The Italian Archaeological Mission in Apsaros and new knowledge of the Roman presence in Georgia”

Massimo Mirabella – Sicilian Geographical Society – “Multidisciplinarity and international cultural partnerships: the SGS Italian–Georgian Scientific Research between Contemporary Art, Ethnography, and Archaeology. Achieved Results and Future Development Perspectives”

Francesca Bertoldi, Liana Bitadze, Elena Rova, Pier Francesco Fabbri - Ca' Foscari University; Tbilisi State University; The Florentine Museum and Institute of Prehistory – “Anthropological research on the medieval monastic communities from Berebis Saqdrebi”

Lia Bitadze, Shorena Laliashvili - Tbilisi State University - The importance of the project Tbilisi State University“ Berta Sakdrisi Medieval Period Monastery in the Borjomi Territory: Invasions and Stability – New Approaches in Georgian Bioarchaeology and the need to continue the research

16:45-17:00 | Final remarks, closing of the conference

Friday, 30 January, 2026

Museum visits, collections, storage facilities, and optional field excursion.