



## **11<sup>th</sup> BACSA AND ARACNE PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **“TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ON SILK GOOD PRACTICES EXPLOITATION FOR CULTURAL, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND TOURISTIC AIMS”**

**“CULTUSERI” 2025**

**Tbilisi, Georgia**

**November 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2025**

**Letter of Open Invitation**

**1<sup>st</sup> announcement**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The 11<sup>th</sup> BACSA international conference **“Traditional knowledge on silk good practices exploitation for Cultural, Creative Industries and Touristic aims” “CULTUSERI” 2025** will be held at Tbilisi, Georgia, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

**The conference is organized jointly with the EU Horizon project ARACNE.**

The Georgian State Silk Museum, Agriculture University of Georgia and Georgian Scientific - Research Center for Agriculture are hosting the meeting in collaboration with the Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association (BACSA) and Horizon ARACNE Project (Grant Agreement 101095188).

The Silk Roads, historically significant as trade routes, have transcended their original purpose to become essential conduits for cultural exchange across Eurasia. These routes facilitated the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and beliefs, allowing cities along their paths to flourish as vibrant centres of learning and culture. This

interaction among diverse populations led to profound influences on languages, religions, and cultures throughout the region. The legacy of the Silk Roads is still visible today, with numerous historic buildings and monuments reminding us of this interconnected past.

Currently, there is a renewed interest in silk production, especially in Europe's Mediterranean, Balkan regions and Caucasus and, which has prompted the Horizon Europe project ARACNE. This initiative aims to revive silk production and establish a resilient and innovative Silk Route that honours traditional practices while promoting cultural and architectural heritage. Central to ARACNE's vision is the creation of a Silk Innovation Ecosystem—a collaborative network involving academia, industry, public organizations, and civil society. This ecosystem is designed to foster research, innovation, and knowledge sharing through a systemic and bottom-up approach.

A critical aspect of this ecosystem is the preservation of traditional silk knowledge, which faces threats due to declining global production driven by shifts in the textile industry. By collaborating with Cultural and Creative Industries, ARACNE seeks to valorise this knowledge in contemporary contexts, bridging the gap between ancient traditions and modern applications, particularly in cultural tourism. Cultural tourism serves as an effective platform for promoting the silk legacy, encouraging travellers to immerse themselves in local cultures, participate in events, visit museums, and savour local cuisine.

UNESCO has been actively engaged since 1988 in promoting the shared history of the Silk Roads through its Silk Roads Programme, which facilitates dialogues among participating countries. This initiative fosters mutual understanding of the diverse cultures along these historic routes. There exists an urgent need to enhance connections between the Asian and European segments of the Silk Roads, allowing for the exchange of best practices and exploration of cultural tourism opportunities.

Reflecting on the experiences of ARACNE and UNESCO reveals two initiatives with shared objectives in promoting culture and knowledge. ARACNE's focus on collaborative networks offers valuable insights that can enhance UNESCO's approach to valuing cultural heritage and identifying common practices, such as up-to-date methodologies and innovative technologies for information.

The Conference organizers would appreciate presenting contributions on the main Conference topic as well as country

reports, science and technology papers in the field of silkworms, cocoon and silk production, pathology, breeding and bacology, using silkworm and mulberry for non-textile purposes, post-cocoon technologies, silk enterprise and trade.

Exhibition sessions will also be organized for equipment/tools and sericultural products.

Those who require a personalized letter of invitation for the purpose of travel documents to Georgia may wish to contact:

**State Silk Museum, Ms. Mariam Shergelashvili,  
exhibition curator, [mariami@silkmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mariami@silkmuseum@gmail.com)  
[silkmuseum.tbilisi@gmail.com](mailto:silkmuseum.tbilisi@gmail.com) +995 555 376 386**

*Being a great pleasure for us to meet at The 11<sup>th</sup> BACSA and ARACNE project international conference CULTUSERI 2025, we send you our best wishes!*

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Panomir Tzenov

President, Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association (BACSA)

Dr. Silvia Cappellozza  
Coordinator, Horizon ARACNE Project (Grant Agreement 101095188)

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**PROGRAMME**

**Organizing committee:**

**President:** Prof. Dr P. Tzenov, President of BACSA and Director of Scientific Center on Sericulture under the Bulgarian Agricultural Academy.

**Vice-president:** Dr. Silvia Cappellozza, Coordinator, Horizon ARACNE Project (Grant Agreement 101095188) and Responsible of the Sericulture Laboratory of Padua, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Research Center for Agriculture and Environment, Padua, Italy

**Members:**

Prof. Dr. George Japoshvili - Agriculture University of Georgia, Institute of Entomology-Director, Georgian National Academy of science, Corresponding Member.

Prof. Dr. Nargiz Baramidze, Lepl Scientific -research center for Agriculture.

Dr. Maia Khutsishvili, Agriculture University of Georgia, Institute of Entomology, researcher.

Ms. Nino Kuprava, Director, Georgian State Silk Museum

Dr. Irakli Gujabidze, Agriculture University of Georgia, Head of Laboratory of Sericulture

### **Scientific committee**

Dr. S. Cappellozza

Prof. Dr. D. Grekov

Prof. Dr. P. Tzenov

### **Venue:**

**Ibis Stadium Hotel, Tbilisi, Conference Hall**

### **Programme (tentative):**

#### **16<sup>th</sup> November (Sunday)**

Arrival of the participants, their meeting and transfer to the hotel by the local hosting institution, check in at [Ibis Stadium Hotel](#) in Tbilisi.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> November (Monday)**

9:00 – 9:30 registration.

9:30 – 10:00 opening ceremony.

10:00 – 12:00 “Traditional knowledge on silk good practices exploitation for Cultural and Creative Industries and Touristic aims”, Session 1

12:00 – 12:30 visit the sericulture products exhibition.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 “Traditional knowledge on silk good practices exploitation for Cultural and Creative Industries and Touristic aims”, Session 2

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 18:00 Group discussion

20:00 Welcoming Dinner

#### **18<sup>th</sup> November (Tuesday)**

9:30 – 12:30 Field visits to Agriculture University of Georgia, Laboratory of Sericulture in Tbilisi and Lepl Scientific -research center for Agriculture in Tsilkani Village.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

14:00- 15:00 – State Silk Museum visit

15:30 – 18:00 ARACNE project meeting.

## **19<sup>th</sup> November (Wednesday)**

8:30– 10:00 Drive towards [Uplistsikhe Cave Town](#)

10:00 – 12:00 Visit the historic site.

12:00 – 13:00 Drive to [Chateau Mukhrani Winery](#) and learn about the 8000 years old unbroken winemaking heritage of Georgia.

13:00 - 15:00 Vineyard and Winery Tour, Tasting and Lunch.

15:00 - 15:30 Drive to [Mtskheta to visit Jvari and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](#) (UNESCO).

15:30–16:30 Visit Mtskheta and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.

16:30 – 17:00 Drive to Jvari.

17:00 – 18:00 Visit Jvari Monastery.

18:00 – 18:45 Return to the hotel.

### **Uplistsikhe Cave Town**

Uplistsikhe, or “Fortress of the Lord,” is an ancient rock-hewn town near Gori, dating back to around 1000 BC. It once served as a major religious and political center of ancient Iberia. Carved into a rocky plateau above the Mtkvari River, the site includes massive halls, narrow corridors, a pagan temple, a water system, secret tunnel, market area, and the remains of Georgia’s oldest known theatre.

Blending pagan and early Christian features, Uplistsikhe flourished until the Mongol invasions in the 14th century. It’s now a remarkable archaeological monument and is on Georgia’s tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage status.

### **Mtskheta: Jvari Monastery & Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**

Mtskheta, one of Georgia’s oldest continuously inhabited towns, was the capital of the eastern Georgian kingdom of Iberia from the 3rd century BCE to the 5th century CE. Though it later ceded political importance to Tbilisi, it remains the spiritual heart of the nation. The town is home to two of Georgia’s most iconic religious sites: Jvari Monastery, a 6th-century church perched on a hill where Saint Nino is said to have erected a wooden cross; and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, an 11th-century masterpiece believed to enshrine the robe of Christ. Both monuments are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Historical Monuments of Mtskheta.” Rich in history, faith, and architectural beauty, Mtskheta continues to be a major pilgrimage and cultural destination in Georgia.

## **The Living Heritage of Georgian Wine**

Georgia's winemaking story is inseparable from its national identity—stretching back over 8,000 years, it is one of the oldest wine cultures in the world. The country is home to more than 500 endemic grape varieties and the ancient qvevri method, which involves fermenting and storing wine in large clay vessels buried underground. This unique practice remains central to Georgian viticulture and is recognized by UNESCO as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

Château Mukhrani is a historic estate nestled in the heart of Kartli, blending 19th-century aristocratic legacy with contemporary Georgian winemaking. Once the royal residence of Prince Ivane Mukhranbatoni, it now produces premium wines using both traditional and modern techniques in a majestic setting.

### **20<sup>th</sup> November (Thursday)**

9:00 – 12:30 Scientific and technical sessions. Closing the conference.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 17:30 Tbilisi Old Town Tour.

20:00 Farewell Dinner.

### **Tbilisi**

Stroll through Tbilisi's Old Town, a vibrant blend of history and charm, where cobblestone streets, centuries-old churches, and lively cafés paint a vivid picture of the city's multicultural heritage. Every turn reveals a rich cultural mosaic—a story of resilience, diversity, timeless beauty, and the warm pulse of everyday life.

### **21<sup>st</sup> November (Friday)**

Conference participants independent departure.

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**Contact persons**

Prof. Dr. Panomir Tzenov, President of BACSA and Director of Scientific Center on Sericulture under the Bulgarian Agricultural Academy; tel. +35992642221; Mobile: +359888479438; +359876266014 (Messenger and Viber) e-mail: [panomir@yahoo.com](mailto:panomir@yahoo.com); Web : [www.bacsa-silk.org](http://www.bacsa-silk.org)

Ms. Mariam Shergelashvili, representative of the State Silk Museum e-mail: [mariami.silkmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mariami.silkmuseum@gmail.com) ; Tel.: +995 555 376 386

**Registration Form and Proof of Payment**

To be sent attached by e-mail to Ms. Mariam Shergelashvili with a copy to Prof. Dr. Panomir Tzenov.

Closing for submission: **16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Language**

English

**Call for papers**

Participants who wish to present papers are invited to submit an abstract first. The abstracts must be written in English and sent to



Prof. Dr. Panomir Tzenov by the e-mail, with the Abstract Submission Form.

Closing for abstract submission: **October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

**Papers:** In formats of A4, single line, Times New Roman, font 12, the text not exceeding 15 pages (tables and figures included), in English; MS-Word file (s) e-mail-attached. The papers should be sent to Prof. Dr P. Tzenov by the e-mail.

Deadline for the paper submission: **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

Each paper, submitted to the conference will be reviewed by the Scientific committee and if necessary, returned back to the authors for revision. Those papers who do not meet the requirements for scientific novelty and contributions may be cancelled for publication in the conference proceedings.

**Registration fee: 420.00 €/person**

The registration fee includes:

- Arrival transfer from the airport to the hotel.
- Transportation and transfers on all days with the buses, to the restaurants & back, during tour or field trip days.
- Conference hall with coffee breaks.
- Conference materials (pen, flyer, textile bag, textbook with hard cover, brochure with the abstracts).
- 2 lunches in the hotel during conference meetings, 2 lunches, welcome and farewell dinners in great local restaurants.
- Professional English-speaking guides on Tbilisi Tour Day and the Mtskheta – Uplistsikhe Tour Day, headphones during the tour.
- Wine tasting in Chateau Mukhrani.
- Entrance to Uplistsikhe Cave Town.
- Publishing paper(s) in the Conference proceedings and uploading them on the BACSA and ARACNE project web sites.

**The registration fee is the same amount both for Conference participants and accompanying persons!**

The registration form submission along with the registration fee payment deadline is **September 16<sup>th</sup> 2025:**

The registration fee should be transferred to the following bank account:

<b>Beneficiary's Bank</b>	<b>JSC TBC BANK, TBILISI, GEORGIA</b>
<b>Swift</b>	<b>TBCBGE22</b>
<b>Beneficiary IBAN Account N°</b>	<b>GE36TB7083736120100001</b>
<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>	<b>Ltd Living Roots</b>
<b>NOTE 1</b>	<b>Any bank transfer fees should be paid by client</b>
<b>NOTE 2</b>	<b>Payments might need min 3 working days to arrive, advance arrangements for guaranteed places are encouraged</b>

Please specify on the payment order, at "Payment details", the First and Last Name and the text "Conference Registration Fee".

If anybody needs some additional details on the payment modalities of the participation fee, please contact:

**Ms. Mariam Shergelashvili, representative of the State Silk Museum e-mail: [mariami.silkmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mariami.silkmuseum@gmail.com) ; Tel.: +995 555 376 386**

### **Commercial Opportunities include:**

- Exhibition;
- Advertisement in the Conference Programme and Exhibition;
- Buyer-seller meetings.

### **Hotel accommodation**

The hotel prices are:

Ibis Stadium Standard Room - Single Occupancy – **40 USD**  
(breakfast and VAT included)

Ibis Stadium Standard Room Twin/Double – **45 USD** (breakfast and VAT included)

Those who prefer may pay for the hotel along with the registration fee:

Registration Fee excluding hotel: EUR 420

Registration Fee inc. Ibis Stadium Hotel 5x Overnights single occupancy (Check-in: 16 Check-out: 21 Nov):

**EUR 620**

Registration Fee inc. Ibis Stadium Hotel 5x Overnights double occupancy (Check-in: 16 Check-out: 21 Nov):

**EUR 645**

Those who prefer to pay for the hotel separately should contact Ibis hotel directly by her/himself.

Deadline for paying for the hotel: **16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Weather:**

The mid of November is considered as autumn season in Georgia. Average day temperature ranges usually 5° - 10° C, however sometimes it can drop to zero or even lower ° C or to reach 20 or higher ° C.

**Currency:** The Georgian currency is Lari.

**Travel:** The foreign conference participants may take flight to Tbilisi airport, where the local hosting institution will arrange their meeting and transfer to conference venue. The local hosting institution does not provide any airport transfers for departure. The travel details should be strictly indicated in the Registration form.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Submission of the Registration Form and payment of the registration fee and the hotel: – by September 16<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Abstract submission form – by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

**Papers submission – by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**