

ITP final report – Ketevan Chitashvili – Georgia



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Supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

Confidence and ambition for my organisation

For the story of how I become part of the ITP, please follow the link at the end of this report.

At the beginning I should say that the ITP taught me how to be a self-starter, how to lift others up, how to set the examples of kindness and integrity, compassion and understanding and how to be kind to each other (in a “cool” way, like Claire Messenger, ITP manager is doing).

During these 6 weeks the British Museum and the partner museums in Manchester were a space for critical dialogue about the past and the future.

I will never forget the sessions at the Manchester Museum where we were acknowledging and addressing the conflicts and challenges of the present or the very interesting exhibition about planetary wellbeing in the main hall of the Manchester Museum. And I had a very interesting dialogue with the coin specialist who was a curator of the Money Room at Manchester Museum.

During the summer programme we have seen artefacts and discussed them as an “object in focus” when we realised that behind the objects there are stories about legendary people who were suffering in the world or inside, as all humans do. The BM ITP has enhanced my understandings of the world.

The ITP affected my ambitions and confidence for my museum. My ambitions have become more global and my confidence more independent. I saw unlimited opportunities; I am full of enthusiasm and new ideas that will affect my organisation and its image.

In this program I was represented as a museum specialist that had work experience in three different museums in Georgia and who currently works at Money Museum of the Central Bank of Georgia.

A month has passed since I am back at my home institution. During this one month lots of things has happened.

First – I discussed my experience on the ITP and future projects (that are connected to the Silk Road) with my management.

Second, and most importantly – Vesta Curtis from the Coins & Medals department of the BM (my curatorial department during the ITP) was my guest in Kvareli, Georgia. Vesta was invited by the British Council to attend the opening of King David the Builder’s coin exhibition in Tbilisi on 15 September 2019 and she found time to visit my region as well.

Third – I was invited to a ceremony in Tbilisi where a Georgian coin of major historical importance is being displayed for the first time outside of the United Kingdom, with the Museum of Georgia set to open a three-month exhibition of the Coin of King David IV (please follow the link at the end of the report for more information).

At the end of the ceremony, the head of my division expressed her gratitude to Vesta for organising department activities for my professional growth. I think every manager wants his/her staff to be trained by the organisation that has as a great reputation as the BM does. Every leader is happy if his/her team member is a part of a global network, and is connected to all-star professionals in the museum industry.

I want to mention that Vesta's visit has had the strongest impact on my future plans and motivation. For the first day of her visit in Georgia she came to my region to see me.

During the time of my C&M department activities at the BM she became interesting in my region and my professional activities and I was happy to host her in Kvareli, Georgia. On that day Vesta, my teacher of art and architecture and I visited several destinations and it was a really lovely day. It was an unbelievable miracle for me, when a representative of the BM came to visit me personally in my region. This is the greatest power and energy that you can receive from the globe. How can I sit after that and doing nothing? When professionals of the BM are visiting you personally and meeting your management, it is a great support for each participant, it raises their motivation and confidence.

I am encouraged and inspired, all of which would not have been possible without the support of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. (My individual sponsor and a sponsor of several other participants too.)

I had an opportunity to speak with Frances Carey – chair of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust – and personally tell her many, many thanks for giving me the opportunity to become a part of the ITP global network. After talking to Frances, I came to a conclusion that if you work in the world with the world and for the world, world becomes a place where anything is possible...

While I am talking about global possibilities there comes to mind an answer from the Director of the BM, Dr Hartwig Fischer, to one of my questions. He said that all the projects that are successful at the BM are successful because of the talent of author of the project. It means that the world is in our hands and we should not be afraid to be ourselves and make our talent to shine.

New skills and how I will use them in my organisation

Currently I am only using my improved language skills in English and communication skills with the foreign tourists visiting the Money Museum. But after ITP sessions, and the knowledge I gained there, it is very little thing that I can do for my museum. I want to use gained experience in organising new exhibitions.

My priorities for change in my organisation

The priority for changes in practice that I would like to make is that I want to bring original coins that were in circulation in Georgia and are now in official coin trading companies showcases in different parts of the world. I want to gather all the same coins that were in circulation in Georgia (Georgia is a unique place which is located on the crossroads between Europe and Asia) during the Silk Road from ancient

times until the XV century and display them at the Money Museum according to all procedures that I studied during the ITP.

If this project is successful through the support of our sponsors, I will never forget my efforts, finds, UKGeorgia2019 season, and meaning of the ITP. After that I hope to conduct training, with Claire's supervision, across the eastern partnership countries, because during the ITP we also learned how to be a trainer (for those who are interested I have all details of my project).

In this year there has opened a UKGeorgia2019 season by the coin of David the Builder (that has brought me good luck). I feel this coin can bring other original coins to Georgia and raise the image of the Money Museum and the interest of public.

That I am a part of an international museum network already means that changes have started to happen for the Money Museum. At the closing ceremony Vesta introduced me to British Embassy staff and now I will take a part in all the events that are planned within the UKGeorgia2019 season for museum specialists. While my future project is about Silk Road I will attend the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, October 22-23, 2019. I talked to Tamar Beruchasvili (ambassador of Georgia in the UK) she likes my idea of a Silk Road coin exhibition. I want to discuss this idea with Justin McKenzie Smith, British Ambassador to Georgia, because it was his initiative to bring the coin of David the Builder in Georgia and I think he will be happy if this coin will bring in Georgia other original coins that were in circulation in Georgia.

I know that The British Museum supports more than 25 research students researching topics for Collaborative Doctoral Awards. Under the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme students are jointly supervised by a member of Museum staff. I am hoping to explore the possibility of Vesta Curtis being my supervisor to research all the coins that were in circulation in Georgia during the Silk Road. Then I hope to find all these coins and buy them (with the help of some funds) for the Money Museum.

The main barriers to implementing these changes in practice are that it's hard to make someone to believe in you, to follow you, to support you. When I will be doing my research and buying new coins I will need financial support.

I know that it is possible to adapt learning from the ITP to fit my museum, and I feel it was a very good move for my museum and my professional development too.

The ITP was a great experience for me personally. I came to the ITP to see coins, listen to lectures and explore the UK and participate in an international training programme. But now, being on the summer programme means to me new global opportunities, interesting projects, unforgettable memories, dizzying journeys through the *Objects in Focus* and amazing modern and ancient real stories with my own participation, discovering myself and my skills.

Continuing to part of the ITP 'global network'

I have a degree in Business Management; I have experience in financial management; I work at the Money Museum; I am an employee of the Central Bank; I have 10 years of working experience in different regional museums; I am from the region of wine producing; I am interested in money and

financial history; I am from the eastern partnership country; 20% of my country is occupied by Russia; I know that me and my country we exist in this world and here everything is connected. I speak a little English and a little more Russian. I am ready to organise projects around these themes together with other ITP members. I am open to all new opportunities that will help the world to become a better place to live in.

Since I am home I am thinking, reading, analysing the knowledge I gained. I finished my second ITP blog, my ITP report and am planning a long term project. And I think this process will last forever in my life and it will make me work in an active partnership with and for diverse communities to collect, preserve, research, interpret, exhibit, and enhance understandings of the world, aiming to contribute to human dignity and social justice, global equality and planetary wellbeing.

The summer programme was a complex of trainings and activities to develop leadership skills and help each participant on a path to professional growth. Thanks to Claire Messenger, museum specialists will find the way not only in their professional life, but in their personal life too. The ITP gives life changing experiences.

Please follow these links for additional context:

[Reflections on the last day of department activities.](#)

[The UK/Georgia 2019: New Horizons](#)