

This document summarises our activities over 2023. Leni Academy is a modern concept of language, art, IT, and entrepreneurship education with projects and programs for local and international co-creation.

Updating constitution and directors

We are happy to announce that we have a new board for a period of three years. Alexander Hartveld and Tim Audin are co-directors, and the general assembly consists of two further Georgian members. We updated constitution in a language we don't speak to more accurately reflect activities and goals.

Finding and setting up a new space

We moved into Merab Kostava 17, and redesigned the place to have 11 professional workspaces, a café with a couch and musical instruments, professional audio and video equipment, and a proximity to the centre. The space also functions as a residency with three private rooms and one 6-person dormitory in case of workshops with international experts or an entrepreneurship challenge. Leni academy has signed a shared usage agreement with its new directors.

First artist residencies

A German theatre producer and an Israeli movie director have spent several weeks with us to work on their projects, free of charge. An international VFX compositor has joined us and decided to also settle down in Kutaisi and help with potential activities.

Exploring collaborations with IT-companies

A first IT consultancy expert from Belgium was visiting and presented a paper about

the market in Georgia. Maybe Leni Academy can play a role in bridging the gap between university education and professional work requirements. Some untested ideas are collaborations with companies or mentorships by individual developers as charity work. Full disclosure: we are working together with the start-up of one of our directors to develop a model of collaboration between companies and local talents. Maybe we can team up with some other companies to create a strategy for Kutaisi.

EU4Culture Project Grant

We've started work on an EU4Culture project that implements an inclusive arts program for young people with disabilities in Kutaisi. We are the lead project partner and ultimately responsible for its correct implementation. It is a chance to collaborate with the experienced Open House Kutaisi and Inform Platform. The project includes multiple dance and movement therapy classes each week, several art workshops on weekends, and will end with a first of a kind inclusive dance performance with participants and professional dancers. The project is funded by the EU4Culture project grant.

Language Programs

One of our goals is to create an English program for local Georgians. Ideally we can collaborate with a school district to offer a high-quality hybrid programme that integrates English or other languages with digital competences. To prepare, a certified Cambridge CELTA teacher is teaching English in partnership with youth centres from around Kutaisi and Chiatura. We also realised that we must learn Georgian to be successful here and that no high-quality online courses for

Europeans exist. Therefore we're creating a multi-media program that hopefully can be sold in collaboration with the Lingophant Language App. In 2024. We realised the most difficult part of the language is the verb system and listening practice. We are working on strategies to solve both issues.

Our website is up and running

www.leni.academy is our domain where we can reach students and inform them about our activities. It is a low-cost wordpress site that runs for 5\$ per month and has all the functions we need. Blue, white and yellow are the colours of the house and they are reflected in our style now.

Harvard's CS50x Kutaisi (hopefully) launching

As an NGO, we are allowed to to teach Harvard CS50, due to their non-commercial usage clause. We are currently looking for local talent that wants to take this introductory course to the arts and science of programming. The course teaches several technologies, structured problem-solving, usage of Artificial Intelligence, and English. We want to create a hybrid program that is also available to talents in villages. A few meetings and weekly online lessons would be the main content. We might need to create several offers to make it accessible for a Georgian audience. One of our directors already taught this course multiple times to refugees from mainly the Middle East from 2016-2018 and is a Forbes 30 und 30 nominee. We're in need of financing salaries for 3-5 locals to help with course organisation.

Getting to know and getting known in the local scene

We are impressed by the artistic and entrepreneurial energy of young people in Kutaisi, however there are difficulties and cultural differences that need to be understood. We have made wonderful connections and believe are impressed by the work that is happening. We're also a bit confused about the situation with the new law.

Financial aspects

We are financed by our personal savings, as the EU4Culture grant money is going to the exactly specified project, largely to artists and partners. We have loaned / donated around € 10.000 of our own money so far, set up a reliable accounting system, and know how to deal with local taxes now. A detailed financial report is in the making as we are not sure if we have loaned or donated this money to Leni Academy.

In summary

Looking back at the above, it's not bad for one year and two persons. With our new location we have created the optionality to work together with artists, experts, and entrepreneurs. Our projects are well on its way and we are gaining valuable experience every day. Inclusive art classes, multi-media language programs, and IT-skills are our current focus.

Our goals for 2024 and beyond

We believe in the potential of small, cost-effective academies like ours and will work on discovering and documenting the most effective processes. We believe in a structure of projects and programs, and hope that our infrastructure can one day be scaled internationally. Our high-quality

Leni Academy

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language and IT programs should be designed in a way that they can scalably benefit 10 but also 1000 participants.

How you can support us:

Our international experiences aid our judgement and knowledge of functioning concepts. We're happy to collaborate in the areas of our expertise. You can also donate in EUR, GEL, USD to our bank account GE03BG0000000553592366 (Bank of Georgia). Follow us on Instagram or Facebook for our offers, and hopefully our 2024 will be the year of kicking off our main activities.

All the best,

Tim & Alex,
Co-directors Leni Academy