

This document summarises our activities over 2024. Leni Academy is a concept of modern language, art, IT, and entrepreneurship education with projects and programs for local and international co-creation.

The political climate has taken out the fun of doing things a bit. We're proud of our achievements last year, but since then have focused more on private language projects, except for a few experiments and some reflection. And getting to know the mamuli, ena, sartmuneoba a bit better.

Constitution and directors

We have kept the constitution, directors and board members the same as the constitution is done for a period of three years. Alexander Hartveld and Tim Audin are co-directors, and the general assembly consists of two further Georgian members: Natia Chikvaidze and Akaki Saghinadze. Though unspectacular, we have also performed the annual board meeting to ensure we are all on the same page.

Improving the space to better accommodate residencies

We have settled into Merab Kostava 17, and set up a professional workspace with monitors and a television. The space still can function as a residency, which allowed us to host some guests and artists for free.

Bringing contemporary dance to Kutaisi.

We have invited more than 20 different Georgian artists and professionals, all of which stayed at Leni Academy's residential area. The artists were part of the two Goethe funded projects:

EU4Culture "Dance, Move, Act" and Creative Compass "First Person Pause"

Goethe: EU4Culture - "Dance, Move Act!"

This project was impressive on an outwards level and beautiful on an inwards level.. We received incredible feedback from both participants and spectators of the show "Tune Space. The final performance was held at the 19th gym next to the train station and had approximately 180 spectators. The floor allowed for an immersive experience, with artistic creation of participants being part of a choreography and scenery. Utmost care was spent on finding the location and the right participants. The show, including music, stage, and choreography was custom-made for them and the video we made might be sent in to some dance competition and is on YouTube.

The workshop and dance classes consisted of 40 different participants over the duration, with a performance group going through a full production cycle. Overall this was a beautiful project and the team working together was beautiful to see. We managed to complete the administration of a EU-financed with minimal resources, allowing us to focus on delivering art.

One lesson we learned is that we should get VAT-free receipts at the time of purchase. Adding this afterwards is annoying, but we managed and our reporting on an EU project got accepted.

We brought contemporary dance through an inclusive dance show, on a professional and international level to

Kutaisi, a city with its own dance history.
[The full performance is on YouTube.](#)

Goethe: Creative Compass - “First Person Pause”

This project was a lot of fun too, with some challenges. The artistic management team was made it difficult to run. The show itself was held at the abandoned swimming pool (which moved indoors as it rained, creating a unique atmosphere). The performance was joined by many locals, some of which knew contemporary dance while others saw it for the first time. The show itself was very brutal which coincided very well with the political discourse happening in Georgia. We also had incredible feedback from the funding partners which is a win. Many lessons were learnt and we are looking forward to more projects in the coming years, not necessarily artistic.

Online Georgian Course Collab

We are happy to announce that we have started releasing an [Online Georgian Course in collaboration with Lingophant](#). This is a very proud moment for us as Georgian is one of the most grammatically complicated languages with hectic morphology. This has also enabled us to learn Georgian ourselves, while also creating something that can share this beautiful language with the world.

On-site Language Programs

One of our goals still is to create an English program for local Georgians. Apart from private teaching, we haven't done much here. If we do something it should be worth our time, and that's to create something special. We could collaborate with youth centres in Imereti and a school district to offer a high-quality hybrid

programme that integrates English or other languages with digital competences. We know we could pull off something that can really help up to thousands of kids.

However, not everyone has money for courses in this country, there might be some new administrative burdens for NGO's that we don't understand, and we don't want to deal with legal stuff in Georgian. So despite having excellent ideas and concepts ready, this project was frozen.

Our website is still up and running

www.leni.academy is still 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. We still need to update the website, with among others a brief post and video links of the arts projects we have concluded. However, we don't really think anybody looks on there currently anyways.

Posted events on Facebook, made posters, and distributed them

We have had two fantastic arts events this year in Kutais with like 250 people in total. We used Facebook and well designed posters to both promote the events and organize them. Any content is good content, but a good poster goes a long way. Designers [Witch & Wizard](#) (Ira & Oto) were both residents for a few months and did amazing work on all the designs for both facebook and public posters. We have even framed them and will always cherish working with friends, housemates and colleagues.

Harvard's CS50x Kutaisi is still in mind

We had begun writing a brief and a budget for a USAID Grant proposal but decided to wait as both the timing for us wasn't working and the political climate wasn't looking bright for US funding. We wanted 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're in need of financing salaries for 4-5 locals to help with the course organisation. Since we're busy with language courses, we will likely postpone until 2026.

Getting to know and getting known in the local scene

We are a part of the local community, known in both the youth scene and the therapy world for kids with disabilities. We enjoy engaging with the public as being part of the Kutaisi community is fun and we learn a lot necessary in a city like this. People are great, everyone is the main characters, and we meet a lot of interesting people. We do see a need for programs like ours and our heart is burning for it. Living here inspires to live free, but also shows the other side of such.

Financial aspects

We managed two full EU-financed project and handed in the administration which was approved by the Goethe Institute. We're glad we got the full grant amount back, and don't mind having paid a bit from our own moneys. So far, we have only received money from a private loan by the current directors, and the EU project.

Accidentally Foreign Agents

The strange political climate in Georgia and this law gives us some uncertainty and annoyance. Since we did two art projects with EU money in 2024, we must register as foreign agents, which sounds cooler than it is. It's a terrible process that's completely in Georgian and involves creating like 12 Excel tables. We started it last year, but because we only started work in January, we didn't have to do it then. Update: For 2025 we tried it, but the website does not allow us to log in and seems to be have turned off. Maybe we should do a foreign agent party, with Martinis, suits, and if you come with an Aston Martin, you get a free chacha.

In summary

Looking back at the above, we are pretty proud of the strides we've taken in a very complicated year in Georgia. Kutaisi was for us the ideal place to independently create art and work together with talented and professional people. Our projects were done with positive feedback and success, while working with artist friends and great partners. We worked on several multimedia art and language programs, dealt with a system that's a bit weird, and continue to enjoy our time in Kutaisi, Georgia.

Our goals for 2025 and beyond

We do believe in the potential of small, cost-effective academies like ours. But things cost money. We might focus on our private lives and let Leni freeze activities, while dreaming about things we could do, working on language courses, and dream of opening a new studio space in the heart of Kutaisi. If we get invited for grant opportunities, or receive donations, we might continue. Otherwise we'll likely



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

NGO Registration #: 412763852



www.leni.academy

leni.academy@gmail.com

Merab Kostava St. 17, Kutaisi, Georgia

focus on financially sustainable initiatives
and get things done ourselves.

How you can support us:

Our international experiences help us see opportunities and we have some knowledge of functioning concepts. We're open for collaborations so feel free to contact us. If you have moneys and want to support a local Georgian NGO, you can donate in EUR, GEL, USD to our bank account GE03BG0000000553592366 (Bank of Georgia). Follow us on Instagram or Facebook for our offers or to contact us.

All the best,

Tim & Alex,

Co-directors Leni Academy