

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project number	AR/218/1-10/14
Project Title	Tao-Klarjeti. History and Culture (Scientific popular guide book in Georgian, English and Turkish languages)
Research subdirection/ subdirections	1-10 History of Georgia, Source Study and Historiography of the History of Georgia; 1-40 Art Study of Georgia; 1-60 Historical Geography and Archaeology;
Name of the leading organization	National Manuscript Center
Web	manuscript.ac.ge
Name of the co-participating organization	
Web	
Name of the co-funding organization	National Manuscript Center
Web	manuscript.ac.ge
co-funding	40000
Project Budget (Lari)	240000
Contribution of the Foundation	200000
Contribution of the co-funding	40000
Project duration (in month)	24

Personnel

	Key Personnel Name, Surame	Position in the project	Academic degree	Date of birth
1	Gocha Saitidze	Principal Investigator	Doctor	1970-12-20
2	George Gagoshidze	Key Person	Doctor	1959-01-02
3	Zurab Batiashvili	Key Person	Doctor	1976-02-26
4	Giorgi Tcheishvili	Key Person	Doctor	1964-08-24
5	Nina Burtchuladze	Key Person	Doctor	1951-04-08
6	Irene Giviashvili	Key Person	Doctor	1971-07-28

Project Summary

Tao-Klarjeti is a conventional term of the historical region, which today unites historical-geographical provinces within Turkey: Tao, Klarjeti, Shavsheti, Kola, Artaani, Erusheti, Chrdili, Speri, Basiani; a part of Lazeti. Today these historical parts are within 4 administrative units (Artwini, Artaani, Arzumi, Kars) and mostly within the basin of three rivers (Chorokhi, Mtkvari, Araxi). Research of historical Tao-Klarjeti mostly started after it joined the Russian Empire (1878). With the aim of scientific study of the region in this period several high-skilled scholars (Dimitri Bakradze, Evgeni Veidenbaum, Praskovia Uvarova, A. Pavlinov, Niko Mari, Ekvtime Takaishvili, etc) travelled in the region. Research of all micro-regions of Tao-Klarjeti, however, exceeded their potentials. Full study of the region was complicated, because separate provinces of Tao-Klarjeti have never been within the Russian Empire. In result of the travels of scholars mentioned above some dozens of scientific essays, articles or travelers' notes were published.

Study of the region on site in the Soviet period was maximally restricted for the foreign scholars and quite impossible for Georgians. From the scholars of that period of especial mention is Vakhtang Jobadze's contribution. French scholars Jean Michelle and Nicole Tiers, American Robert Edwards, British David Winfield, Austrian Bruno Baumgartner largely contributed to the study of the region. They more than once travelled in Tao-Klarjeti and dedicated special researches to the region architectural monuments;

In the post-Soviet period, especially, in last 20 years, the amount of scholars interested in Tao-Klarjeti region considerably increased. The expeditions are already intensively arranged by the employees of National Center of Manuscripts, Giorgi Chubinashvili National Center of Research of Georgian Art History and Monuments Protection, Tbilisi State University, Institute of History and Ethnology, Institute of Linguistics, University of Caucasus and other establishments. Seminars and scientific conferences are arranged. Turkish scholars also express interest in the region last time (Mine Kadiroglu, Pahrie Bairam, Osman Aitekin, Pevzi Chelebi, etc).

It should be mentioned that there exists no complex, comprehensive work about the region. However, the gathered scientific knowledge and accumulated experience already enable to prepare such publication.

The aim of the present project is to publish well-thought and discussed, comprehended scientific-popular essay about Tao-Klarjeti region from the ancient time up to the modern era.

The work will discuss the following issues: political history, historical geography, socio-economic situation, geography, demography, ethnology (folklore, folk architecture, everyday life, beliefs...), archaeology, toponymics, dialects, culture (architecture, monumental painting, epigraphics, manuscript heritage, and metal work...). The issues of restoration will also be discussed (Ishkhani, Oshki).

It is necessary the work should be richly illustrated and published at high printing level. The work will be supplied with different reference material: chronological charts, genealogical tables, and explanatory vocabularies, indexes of persons, geographical names and thematic terms.

In the researches about Tao-Klarjeti region, due to objective and subjective reasons, the works dedicated to the architectural monuments exceed in number. The scholars have recently expressed interest in other issues connected with the region and their works, as a rule, are represented in the form of separate publications. That's why very few interdisciplinary researches or publications, compiled based on such principle, exist.

The project goal is, on the one part, to improve this situation and to prepare such works in each branch, on the other, to form

potentials for understanding Tao-Klarjeti rich history and culture by accumulating into one publication built on general conception.

Scientific-popular character of the book does not mean that it won't have scientific apparatus. Just, on the contrary, in our opinion, supplement of bibliography, index and reference material will increase the number of non-professionals interested in the work.

In result of the project accomplishment the scientific-popular work will be published in three (Georgian, Turkish and English) languages. trilingual publication will promote further growing of interest with regard to the region among scientific, public and tourist circles.