



ONE CAUCASUS

One Caucasus Guide

How to work & survive at One Caucasus?

www.OneCaucasus.org

About One Caucasus

Caucasus is one of the most exciting regions of the world – if you have never been there – it is high time to visit it!

One Caucasus is a festival and long-term borderland program that has been taking place in Georgia since 2014. The event is located in a region called Marneuli, at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, in a small village called Tserakvi. We have chosen Marneuli because it's a place where many ethnic and religious groups have been living in peace for many years.

Aim

- to create an inspirational and safe space for meetings of young people from the whole Caucasus region.



Pako Sarr (Senegal) and Gordela (Georgia) performing together for the first time in history @ One Caucasus 2014

One Caucasus profile

One Caucasus brings together musicians, artists, animators, architects, and volunteers from the Caucasus region and all around the world. One Caucasus also works with local communities; together we create educational programs for kids from Azerbaijani, Armenian & Georgian villages. Each August we first bring together trainers from all around the world and local communities (especially: kids & youth) to create new initiatives. In the end of the month, together with international partners and Marneuli Municipality, we organize the international & interdisciplinary One Caucasus Festival. So far we have organized two editions of the festival (2014 and 2015).

One Caucasus Educational Program

In 2014-2015 we organized several cycles of workshops including: training of trainers (raising educator's skills for One Caucasus volunteers), active (through-fun) learning of foreign languages (including English and Burmese), video-making trainings (including creating own film, cartoon and TV news), music workshops (local youth bands working with professional musicians from all around the world), writing/literature workshops, interdisciplinary art workshops and mapping local problems/creating solutions - for representatives of 43 villages of Marneuli region.



Julian Chambers - one of the best R&B drummers in UK together with Lasha - very talented young drummer from Marneuli region.



Introduction part of the workshops for kids from Kvemo Sarali. Lude Reno (Marninique /Fr) presenting the film created by kids from Tserakvi just a few days earlier.



Burmese vs Georgian alphabets – workshops conducted by Aung Soe Minh – the creator of Pansodan Gallery in Rangoon.

One Caucasus Festival - creating space for international art cooperation

- **Cooperation in music:** the general rule of One Caucasus Festival is that all musicians coming to the Festival from out of Caucasus work together with musicians from Armenia, Azerbaijan or Georgia. As a result apart from “solo” concerts of invited bands - we always get an “additional” inter-cultural concert of what was prepared by the musicians together. New music projects created this way were included into the first “Caucasus+” music collection album released in 2014.
- **One Caucasus Town:** architects, designers and visual artists from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Poland & other countries work together to create the frames of what we call “Not Perfect Town of Our Dreams” - full of informal cinemas, workshop zones and even local restaurants. The town is raised together by architects, volunteers and local communities.

In framework of One Caucasus 2016 the concept of the One Caucasus Town will be developed by organizing calls for architects and students of architecture from various countries (such as Poland, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and more). The task in each participating country will be to create the inter-sector team and plan one of the pavilions/structures of One Caucasus Town using limited resources. Priority will be given to the works that leave space for engaging local communities in co-creating process of the pavilions (elements of self organized architecture).

The program of One Caucasus Town will be filled by international teams of contemporary art artists and culture animators with experience in implementation of interdisciplinary projects. The program will be coordinated by experienced curators and will incorporate the results of One Caucasus Culture Education Program.

- **Other interdisciplinary initiatives** - the content/program of One Caucasus Town is created by international teams of artists, experts and volunteers. The results of our work are secured by other international teams that take care of logistics, information and documentation. The working teams are often created by people coming from the conflict zones - as the One Caucasus goal (and practical experience!) is to unite people through art and common work - not to take the position of conflict mediator.



Legendary rock group from Yerevan – The Bambir – jamming together with Baku-based band: The Bom.



Human rights action organized by Amnesty International USA Local Group # 133



First Gospel workshops in Caucasus – led by legendary choir director – Clive Brown

Through culture towards citizen activism

In 2015, for the first time in the history of the Caucasus region, the inhabitants of Marneuli region were involved in a progressive democratic tool called “Participatory Budgeting.” This is a process whereby citizens have a direct impact on the budget of their local government. The local authorities decided to dedicate more than 5% of the local budget to this innovatory democratic tool.

One Caucasus 2014 & 2015 in numbers:

- 69 musicians from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Georgia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Poland, Senegal, UK, Ukraine, USA (including individual musicians and 11 bands) created together 13 new international music projects and performed @ One Caucasus Festival,
- more than 400 people took part in One Caucasus in 29 different types of workshop cycles led by educators from Barbados, Jamaica, France (Martinique), Mexico, Kenya, Burma, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Poland, Bulgaria, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia & Georgia,
- around 4 000 people attended the One Caucasus Festival,
- Local government of Marneuli dedicated 1 500 000 Lari (more than 560 000 Euro) of its budget to the projects of local residents in framework of the first Participatory Budget of the Caucasus! 118 representatives of 43 villages and towns took part in the Participatory Budget workshops and submitted 48 project proposals.
- 10 One Caucasus organizers and partners (from Poland, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, USA, Burma and Germany) and 5 funding institutions (Marneuli Municipality, President Administration of Georgia, Ministries of Culture of Poland and Georgia and Warsaw City Hall).



One Caucasus 2015 – audience in front of the main stage

Living and working in Tserakvi (One Caucasus Venue)



Peaceful co-existence of various species in One Caucasus Living Zone

About location

One Caucasus Festival is held in Tserakvi in Marneuli region. Tserakvi is a small village in the end of the road that starts at Shulaveri crossing (Shulaveri is located on the main road from Tbilisi to Yerevan, around 12 km after leaving Marneuli). The road from Shulaveri to Tserakvi is an example of the multicultural profile of the whole region: from Shulaveri you go through Shaumiani (the biggest Armenian village in Marneuli), Akulari (one of the many Azerbaijani villages in the region), Sioni (with Georgian majority and Armenian minority). Tserakvi is populated mainly by Georgians – including Svans relocated from Svaneti region.



Shulaveri turning point. Going from Tbilisi before this rock: Surdash (*sur* – Armenian: sharp, *dash* – Azerbaijani: stone) you turn right for Tserakvi.



Some of the OC International Volunteer Team behind One Caucasus road sign at Shulaveri crossing (2015).



Local government of Marneuli organized work roads to improve the road to Tserakvi before One Caucasus 2014.

If you want to learn more about Tserakvi – watch films created by professional film-makers and culture animators from Ukraine, Georgia and Poland – the volunteers of One Caucasus: *Tserakvi* (2014) - <https://youtu.be/00JOBLJgFNc> & *Humans of Tserakvi* (2015) - <https://youtu.be/IYisJGnzxrs>.

First steps in Tserakvi

The One Caucasus organizers and volunteers are accommodated in local school and in tents in the camping field located on the other side of the road. The living conditions are basic. The school is equipped with toilets and showers – however the water and electricity shortages happen. Electricity shortages last usually for just a few hours. As our team has the small bus (called *marshrutka*) at our disposal – in case of water shortage – we organize trip to the riverside, the place we call “the natural jacuzzi”. The One Caucasus kitchen for the staff and volunteers used to be organized in school – but for the time of festival there are also restaurants organized in One Caucasus Town.



One Caucasus International Volunteer Team working meeting in school gym.



The “Natural Jacuzzi” is located a few kilometers from Tserakvi.



One Caucasus working room located in Tserakvi school equipped with Internet hot spots.

Working in Tserakvi

One must understand that joining One Caucasus Team means on the one hand – working with fantastic people from all around the world and creating inspiring initiatives with local communities – but on the other hand it is often struggle with a lot of difficulties caused by the limited budget, basic living standards and the various styles of work of the teams involved in creating and supporting One Caucasus Festival. See the effect of the One Caucasus Team work in the short film about One Caucasus Festival 2014: <https://youtu.be/2Aro2zFNLU8>.

The One Caucasus Team always includes volunteers speaking all main Caucasus languages (Georgian, Azerbaijani & Armenian). Each of the volunteer or staff member speaks English and/or Russian.



Viktoria – one of the most active volunteers of OC 2014 – drilling holes in tires (creating chill-out seats for One Caucasus audience)



The local government of Mameuli is providing all needed support in creating One Caucasus Town – including providing digger, roller, transport of material, etc.



Chemtai – one of the most talented volunteers and educators of One Caucasus supporting work of construction team in preparing Living Zone for OC 2014

Long Term Volunteer Program

The main part of content-related work before the festival will start on 8th of August and will be divided into three main fields: one – organizing interdisciplinary workshops for local communities of Marneuli region, two – creating One Caucasus Town, three – providing multilingual information about One Caucasus and promoting the festival. Surviving three weeks at One Caucasus venue is a challenge –

but it is the long-term volunteers who can not only witness the whole process of creating the festival but also are crucial part of it.

Short Term Volunteer Program

Joining our team on 18th of August will give you a chance to be a part of our educational, construction and promotion work – but also allow you to join some new task-oriented teams created specially for the time of the festival. Become the reinforcement of One Caucasus Team!



One Caucasus 2014 main cinema zone was organized in Transformer (multifunctional truck provided by Yerevan-based art NGO Utopiana)



The wood used for the construction of One Caucasus Town in 2014 and 2015 were transported and stored in Tserakvi school.



One Caucasus International Volunteer Team 2015 – briefing before the working day.

Final tips and remarks

- During the Call for Volunteers we receive many more fantastic applications than we can select. So even if you are not selected this time – join us with your friends @ One Caucasus 2016. The festival offers free admittance, free living zone and free transport – each day of the festival from/to Tbilisi, Red Bridge (Azerbaijani border) and Sadakhlo (Armenian border).
- As much of our work is based on creating the videos (for both: workshops and promotion goals) – the skills and experience in video editing and creating animation are highly welcome.
- The school in Tserakvi will be equipped with a few wi-fi hot-spots – so if you are selected for the program – we highly recommend you to take your laptop with yourself,
- The weather in Tserakvi in August is usually hot and sunny - however due to the mountainous location it is usually then in the Eastern part of the Marneuli region and Tbilisi.



One Caucasus Volunteers on the Main Stage of the Festival (2015)



One Caucasus 2015 – in front of the stage

One Caucasus is a great experience for many talented people involved in co-creating inspiring, diverse zone. Be part of the work that overcomes regional conflicts and natural limits!

Keep up with us @ www.OneCaucasus.org and @ One Caucasus Facebook & YouTube pages