

## Methodology report

The project – PERSIAN AND GEORGIAN-PERSIAN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS OF AFSHAR PERIOD (1736-1796) IN GEORGIAN NATIONAL CENTRE OF MANUSCRIPTS (DIGITALIZATION AND CATALOGING) (project lead Dr. Tamar Abuladze) - aimed at cataloging and digitizing the unique Persian and Georgian-Persian documents preserved in the Korneli Kekelidze National Center of Manuscripts still remaining unknown to the wide scholarly society.

The issue is important in order to improve the possibilities of their fully preservation, detailed study. Historical and social-political peculiarities of the Qizilbash period are reflected in Georgian, Persian, Armenian, and European narrative sources as well as in Persian and Georgian-Persian historical documents in the archives of Georgia. Iranian social-political dominance during the Qizilbashs in East Georgia (1735-1749) straightly relates to Nadir-Shah's rulership (1736-1747) and presents his military and social policy towards Georgia and the Caucasus. The mentioned context significantly influenced the selection of the topic.

Initially, 150 documents were selected for cataloging and digitization, but with the reduction of the period allocated for the grant by the Advisory Panel, the number was also reduced and was determined by 60 items. This amount meant the study and processing of Georgian-Persian and Persian published and unpublished historical documents with appropriate parameters.

The material was selected based on the following criteria: 1. chronologically - the Afshar period (1736-1796); 2. According to degree of damage of the documents.

The chronological framework of the documents is 1736-1796. They belong to the following types: *firmans, decrees, separate orders, rulings, tax documents, appointment of Georgian officials, requests, letters, salary determinations, , judgments, purchase documents.*

Issuers of documents are: *Shahs of Afshar period- Nadir Shah, Ibrahim Shah; Iranian officials -Sefi-Khan, Azad-Khan, as well as kings of Georgia - King of Kartli-Kakheti Erekle II, Georgian officials.*

The addressees of the documents are: *Shahs of Iran (Nadir Shah, Ibrahim Shah), Georgian kings and governors of the Afshar period: Teimuraz II, Erekle II; Georgian begs, other officials, nobles of East Georgia - Kartli-Kakheti, etc.*

Digitized and uploaded material includes 120 images - front (r) and back (v) sides of all documents.

The results obtained from the implementation of the grant are extremely fruitful considering the following points:

- Digitization of Georgian-Persian and Persian documents of the Afshar period will contribute to the protection and deep study of this material;
- Damaged documents from this period preserved in the Center were identified and specific steps for their conservation-restoration were determined;
- The subject, date and personnel of some unidentified documents were determined;
- The material became accessible to wide scientific circles.