

Women's Entrepreneurship Day


I'm the founder of the **Georgian National Wheelchair Dance Sports Federation** which promotes equality and provides inclusion for people with disabilities in society through dance sports and performing arts. And British Council is the first organization which inspired and motivated me to create this non-governmental organization.

I was lucky to participate in the workshops by the inclusive dance company CandoCo, which was organized by the British Council in 2013. There I met my first wheelchair dance partner – Rati Ionatamishvili, with whom we started to improvise some dance moves and attended Caucasus Cup 2013 – the biggest Ballroom Dance Championship in Georgia. In 2014, with another wheelchair dance partner Temo Arabidze, we won Georgia's Got Talent, which boosted the interest of society in inclusive performing art. People with different backgrounds and disabilities started to ask for dance classes, which led me to create the Tbilisi Inclusive Dance Company for disabled and

non-disabled dancers back in 2017. Three dancers of the main troupe of the company were gathered from another workshop of CandoCo Dance Company in Tbilisi, in 2017. So, I can proudly say that the British Council has planted the seed which grew into the creation of a whole new niche of inclusive dance in Georgia.

As a woman entrepreneur in a post-soviet patriarchal society, I'm proud that I could build the grounds and pioneer in creating and developing such a niche as inclusive dance and dance sport in Georgia.

The first best thing about being a female entrepreneur for me is the freedom of action and options when creating and sustaining your own enterprise - it may be challenging but is very satisfying. The second best and the most rewarding thing is to hear the words 'Thank you for changing my life'. Compassion and empathy are two of the key factors for changing the attitude and mindset of a person to break the stigma and prejudicial attitudes.



Ketevan Zazanashvili, Georgia
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