



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION

BSB831/HERiPRENEURSHIP "Establishing long-lasting partnerships to upgrade heritage-based offers and create new investment opportunities in tourism and the cultural and creative industries



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Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

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By the legend Christ's mantle was buried in Mtskheta, where now Svetitskhoveli Cathedral stands. Georgian historical sources ("*Tskhovreba Kartlisai* (The Life of Kartli)" and "*Moqtsevai Qartlisai* (Conversion Kartli)") tell that once upon a time Jews people settled in Iberia after Nebuchadnezzar (dynasty in Babylon) expelled them from their country. Their descendants, Elio and Longinoz as representatives of Mtskheteli Jewry witnessed the Passion of the crucifixion of

the Christ in Jerusalem. Christ's mantle was divided into four parts by soldiers. The robe was given to Elio and Longinoz. They took the robe of the Lord with them to Mtskheta where Elio was met by his sister Sidonia who immediately died from the feelings she had experienced while embracing the garment of the Lord. Sidonia was buried with the robe of Christ in her hand in the royal garden. Lebanese cedar grew over her grave.



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The Black Sea Programme is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument