



Equipping the Akhalkalaki Music School with Digital Technology

The history of the Akhalkalaki Music School dates back decades. Professional teachers give lessons in piano, accordion, clarinet and guitar. Although the number of students is dropping yearly, this is not a result of the poor performance of the teachers. The school's infrastructure needs rehabilitation and the music instruments were not working properly.

“Nowadays, kids have access to the technologies from their early childhood, such as computer, smartphones, tablets, etc. They enjoy having these items and so it's quite hard to attract their interest to learning music. Moreover, we do not have the proper conditions at the school and in the context of technological progress. We offer them playing both old-fashioned and damaged musical instruments.”

It has been a while since Lucia Chobanyan, a teacher at the Music School, has been fighting to change the existing situation. Her efforts, however, have had their results. Her project proposal received positive feedback and she was given a grant from the European Union in the amount of 65% of her total costs. The remaining 35% was covered by the local municipality.



Employees: 2 locals
Total budget of the project: GEL 30,000.00
here: GEL 19,500.00
Co-financing: GEL 10,500.00



“We had very old-fashioned acoustic instruments at the school and their sonority had a negative impact on our pupils. Within the project, we bought a digital grand piano, a piano and other digital instruments. We have provided modern tables and chairs in the classrooms as well as ceramic and steel chalkboards which directly connect to the Internet and students have immediate access to music theory,” said Lucia Chobanyan.

Digital items are quite small in size and so you can move around them easily. Their sonority is also of top quality.





“We have faced a lot of challenges and we could not prove the fact that digital instruments would be effective in the study process and that they would support students in getting a high-quality musical education. The V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatory helped us to solve this problem. They sent a letter saying that students could learn to play a digital instrument as successfully as an acoustic one and that this method has also been introduced at the Conservatory. This letter proved to be a decisive justification,” said Lucia Chobanyan.

Currently, the Akhalkalaki Music School is the only one in the whole of Georgia that uses digital instruments. The most important thing for Lucia Chobanyan was seeing the happy faces of the children who could not even believe that the school had such instruments and that they would learn both the context and the content of classic and modern music using the new digital instruments.

Akhalkalaki is a small town and so the news of the school’s success circulated quickly. The number of students increased and even more and more adults became interested in getting a musical education.



The initiative has been financed by the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) through the project of promoting new approaches in Rural Development in Akhalkhalaki.

Project is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Vocational Education (DRDVE) of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Project Partners are Mercy Corps, Elva – Community Engagement and West Cork Development Partnership.

The European Union supports agriculture and rural development of Georgia through the programme of ENPARD, which has been implemented in Georgia since 2013. The total budget is 179.5 mio EUR. The main goal of the ENPARD is to reduce the rural poverty. The main priority of the first phase of the program was to support agricultural development, whereas the main aim of the second and third phases is to promote economic opportunities and capacity building of people living in the rural areas. For the additional information, please follow the link: www.enpard.ge