



Modern Machine for Snow Clearing in Akhalkalaki

It has been three years since the Akhalkalaki Service Center has been operating. Armen Bichakhchyan, the center's director, and his staff have studied the needs and the requirements of the Akhalkalaki population during this time with a view to improving their living conditions.

“Winter in Akhalkalaki is cold and snowy. The pavements freeze and turn into obstacles for walkers. People get some light injuries and some of them even get some fractures,” Armen Bichakhchyan said.

The procurement of special machinery was needed in order to solve this problem but City Hall was unable to give them the entire amount of money needed. Mr Bichakhchyan addressed the LAG for support. He received some feedback and recommendations and then prepared a project proposal. The result was positive and he received 65% of the total cost of a snow clearing machine from ENPARD with the remainder being covered by the local Municipal Fund.



Employees: 2 locals
Total budget of the project: GEL 128,348.00
EU share: GEL 78,348.00
Co-financing: GEL 50,000.00

The snow clearing machine operated last year for the first time and locals were very happy with clear and safe pavements. Introducing the new vehicle to the market created two new workplaces. One of the employees is Gevork Mikirtchyan.

“I am very happy to be at the disposal of my citizens. The machine that was procured within the budget received from the donor and the municipality will be useful in summertime as well. I and my colleague worked in shifts and also collected waste. I am thrilled that people in Akhalkalaki live in a clean and safe environment,” said Gevork Mikirtchyan.

Armen Bichakhchyan expresses his gratitude on behalf of the Akhalkalaki community towards the EU, GIPA, the LAG and the Municipal Fund for enabling the people to live in better conditions. He says that city strives for more positive changes and he hopes that donor organizations, the local government and the private sector will unite in order to implement even more useful projects in the municipality.

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