



### Gym and Fitness Center at the University of Samtskhe-Javakheti

Samtskhe-Javakheti State University is one of the most progressive regional universities in Georgia. Society sets high expectations for the university and it has the trust of the multi-ethnic population. The main aim of the university is to promote socio-economic and cultural development in the region. Initially, the university was located in Akhaltsikhe but there are now two of its buildings in Akhalkalaki.

“One of the goals of the university is to encourage young people to become involved in the social activities, to become aware of living a healthy lifestyle and to integrate the non-Georgian population into Georgian society. That is why we decided to prepare a project with the purpose of establishing a gym and fitness center in one of the buildings of the university. The project is financed by the EU. We have purchased all of the necessary equipment,” said Maka Beridze, the university’s rector.



Employees: 1 local  
Total budget of the project: GEL 34,950  
here: GEL 22,650  
Co-financing: GEL 12300



With the pandemic, students and other interested adults from Akhalkalaki were unable to use the gym. Currently, it is going to allow gym use for two hours per day and without charge.

According to Maka Beridze, rehabilitation work of Building No. 4 of the university located in Akhalkalaki is about to start. The building will meet modern standards in terms of infrastructure. The project foresees the gym in the newly rehabilitated building with the equipment procured within the project. The gym will offer sport and fitness opportunities.





“Within the grant, we were able to purchase equipment for walking tours. We hope that the restrictions caused by the pandemic will soon be lifted and Akhalkalaki’s young people will be able to use the facilities as financed by this project. I would like to express my gratitude to GIPA and the LAG for their significant support and we will do our best to meet their expectations,” said Maka Beridze.

At present, the gym has one employee. More employees are expected to be hired once the gym is fully open and running.



*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](http://www.enpard.ge)*