



## Manufacturing Shoe

The locals of Akhalkalaki have opportunity to buy handmade leather shoes with reasonable price in Akhalkalaki.

Hasmik Shakhbekyan is grateful to GIPA and LAG for their immense support in developing a small enterprise of manufacturing leather products.

“For the time being, we create design and manufacture female and male shoe models. In the future we intend to start manufacturing children shoes, although it is a completely different direction and requires additional resources. We also produce wallets, belts and other items made with leather. We have used grant amount to purchase expensive sewing machine, which we could not buy by our own. We have also got laser print machine for the leather, which is used for making initials, quotes and shapes considering the client’s order,” - Hasmik Shakhbekyan says. According to him, in the nearest future they will produce leather souvenirs as well.



Employees: 3 locals  
Total budget of the project: GEL 22,500  
Share of EU: GEL 13,500  
Co-financing: GEL 9,500

Within the project, they also arranged water closets, heating and took other necessary measures in terms of infrastructure. In the future, entrepreneur intends to share his knowledge to the local adults.

“I would like young people to study this profession, open up leather factories and improve their economic conditions, that will develop small-scale and medium-scale business in the region,” – Mr. Hasmik says.





Hasmik Shakhbekyan's wife is actively involved in the family business as well. She is responsible for receiving orders and administrative matters. As she says, they get orders in amount of GEL 700-800 on a monthly basis. She hopes that enterprise will grow soon and they will be capable of hiring more people. According to Mrs. Shushana, she would like to support local women and employ them in order to improve their socio-economic conditions.



*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)*