



Date: 17.08.2020

Subject: Akhalkalki Local Action Group Introduction  
To: Whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

With this email I would like to introduce our organization- Akhalkalki Local Action Group (Akhalkalki LAG) that represents Local Action Group created in line with European LEADER approach in Akhalkalki municipality of Georgia (Republic of).

Akhalkalki LAG is a platform comprised of representatives of private, public and civil sectors of a municipality (30 members). Taking into consideration the challenges and perspectives of the municipality, LAG defines and elaborates local development priorities, on the basis of what it then develops as a local development strategy. According to the priorities identified in local development strategies, LAG announces contents to select local development projects for funding.

Akhalkalki LAG has been created in the frame of the project- Promoting a New Rural Development Approach in Akhalkalaki, financed by the European Union within the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia (ENPARD). The project is implemented by Georgian Rural Development Department of Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GRDD of GIPA) in partnership with Mercy Corps, Elva Community Engagement and West Cork Development Partnership.

With the support of the partner organizations, local and national governmental agencies Akhalkalki LAG conceptualized and successfully implemented up to 50 local initiatives. However, Akhalkalaki municipality is largely populated with ethnic Armenian population (98%). Baseline Study of the Community Problems and Needs conducted for Akhalkalaki LDS identified scarcity of education, training and outreach in the villages. Lack of knowledge of national, Georgian and English languages hinders social integration. Youth are missing opportunities to further education in Georgia or abroad. In response to one of the primary objectives of the Local Development Strategy (improving social integration by fostering education, culture, youth and gender equality), Akhalkalaki LAG, with support of DRDVE of GIPA, established a Training Center. GIPA supports this initiative providing free trainings. Based on the analysis of local educational needs, the center provides joint certified courses in English and Georgian languages, Accounting, Financial Management and Art.

I would be highly grateful if you consider us as an potential partner or a beneficiary. Looking forward to collaborate with you.

Sincerely,

Anush Giloyan  
Chairwoman of Akhalkalaki Local action Group

Akhalkalki Local Action Group

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