



**Project Title:** Cross-Border Cooperation between the Shirak Region, Armenia, and the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, Georgia

**Execution Modality:** DEX

**Start/Duration :** 12 month

**Donor:** Government of Norway

**Project Budget:** 300,000\$, share of Georgia CO 150,000\$

**Expenditures:** 0\$

**Brief Description.** The overall goal of the project is to improve the socio-economic conditions for population in the Shirak and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions by encouraging and supporting cross-border cooperation, particularly the trade and economic cooperation. The cooperation should improve the trade relations between Armenia and Georgia, and facilitate economic activities along the border. It should be an engine to create better environment for new businesses and thus support creation of new jobs.

In particular, the Project has the following objectives.

1. Foster private sector development and cross-border cooperation through:

a) Supporting harmonized socio-economic development of boarder communities as a mean for confidence building process;

b) Empowering an Armenian-Georgian Business Council and supporting the implementation of a number of innovative business initiatives;

2. To facilitate cross-border trade and transit activities through:

a) Analyzing trade/investment systems/regimes and identifying the main bottlenecks and measures for improvement in Armenia and Georgia;

b) Developing recommendations for harmonization of trade and investments policy/legislation and simplification of export-import/customs procedures.

c) Improvement of the border management.

UNDP Georgia CO will concentrate on the improvement of the Border management and support the creation of basics for the Border with the Human Face.

**Status:** Norwegian Government accepted Project Document. Initial meetings with the Custom officials have been organized.