



**PROJECT SUMMARY**  
***The Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Networking Initiative***

**Total budget:** USD 620,400.000  
**UNDP sector:** Good Governance  
**Duration:** 24 months

***Background:***

Proactive adoption of the information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can have a major impact on the socio-economic development and the national integration of Georgia. The Samtskhe-Javakheti region cannot afford to be marginalized and the ability of the region to effectively integrate itself into the national and global economy depends partly on how well it develops its capacity to handle absorb and utilise ICTs. Improved access to information also has an impact on the awareness, education, and social and cultural development of the general public. The UNDP Country Office is currently pursuing an Integrated Development Programme (SIIDP) in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and is planning to develop the Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Networking Initiative within the framework of the SIIDP.

***Objective:***

The objective of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Networking Initiative is firstly to build an appropriate infrastructure and the requisite human capacity for a widespread ICT exposure in the S-J region. Internet access points are planned to be opened in all six district capitals of the region, to serve the local authorities and the general public alike. Secondly, custom content and applications will be developed to respond to the critical information needs of the population and to provide channels for participation. The targeted authorities and communities will have a key role in defining these applications. Consistency with their policies and action plans, as well as with the needs and requirements of the citizens need to be secured. This will strengthen local level ownership and sustainability.

***Outcomes:***

3. Electronic communications and Internet services are available for local population.
4. Relevant and meaningful web based information services and applications developed according to shared version and available for official and public use.
5. Widespread IT exposure among the authorities and the general public. Stakeholders utilize ICT applications in drawing up local development plans and compiling them into an overall regional development plan, thus contributing to enhanced coherence of the regional development process.

***Intended outputs:***

- ☞ In the district capitals of Samtskhe-Javakheti an appropriate infrastructure established enabling electronic communication in, out and within the region, as well as access to internet in selected offices of the regional and local administration and in selected public access points.
- ☞ Selected staff members from the regional and district administration trained in basic computer skills, particularly email and Internet; Information clerks recruited to the public access points and trained in basic computer skills; Voluntary prospective ICT trainers trained to deliver courses to the general public.
- ☞ Integrated project website/portal developed to serve as an easy-to-use entry point to internet and to the project's web services, and to provide tools for interaction and participation
- ☞ Comprehensive web based information service available through the project website on the conduct of elections, including the related laws and other regulations, procedures, practical arrangements and examples of seat distributions as a result of a given vote
- ☞ Comprehensive web based information service available through the project website on the roles and responsibilities of the regional and district level authorities vis-à-vis the citizen
- ☞ Virtual classroom technology piloted in language training and other education over the Internet connection
- ☞ Advanced ICTD tools developed for the Development Advisory Committees' (DACs) to use to facilitate the participatory local development planning and implementation, co-ordination and resource pooling at the district and regional levels