

ANNEX 5

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2013
Part II

Action Fiche for Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management project - Better coordination of protection of the land border between Georgia and Azerbaijan

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management project - Better coordination of protection of the land border between Georgia and Azerbaijan CRIS number: ENPI/2013/24882		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 5,360,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 4,500,000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: - Azerbaijan for an amount of EUR 430,000 - Georgia for an amount of EUR 430,000		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project Approach Direct centralised management (procurement of supplies) Joint management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
DAC-code	15210	Sector	Security system management and reform

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The action shall enhance bilateral cooperation between border agencies of Azerbaijan and Georgia to provide better coordination of protection of the land border between the two countries in line with the EU Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept, as the targeted areas for assistance such as border surveillance, investigation of cross border crime, coordination and coherence of activities with neighbouring countries are composite parts of the EU IBM model.

2.2. Context

2.2.1. Country context: Azerbaijan and Georgia

2.2.1.1. Economic and social situation and poverty analysis

Despite the common legacy of post-Soviet countries, the economic and social situation of the two countries of the South Caucasus region is distinctly different. Therefore, relevant indicators and assessment can be presented separately as follows:

Georgia

Real GDP *per capita* of population in 2012 was USD 5,900. It was higher than in 2011 (USD 5,600) and 2010 (USD 5,300)¹. Despite this moderate growth, there are no trends towards poverty reduction. 9.2% of population in 2011 were below poverty line, unemployment - 15.1%.

Many Georgians struggle to pay for electricity and gas services as well as critically needed medical care. Although recently increased by the government, pensions are still below subsistence without additional support. There still is a considerable part of vulnerable population including street children, single mothers and elderly, as well as ill people in need help.

At present, Georgia has not yet developed a consolidated poverty reduction strategy or launched any major efforts in this regard.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is an economy that has completed its post-Soviet transition from a state run economy into a major oil based economy. GDP of Azerbaijan grew above 25% during 2005-2007, reflecting the increase of oil based industrial production, but by 2011 it actually dropped to near stagnation, and stands at USD 10,202 per capita.

Large oil reserves are a major contributor to the economy. The national currency, the Azerbaijani manat, was stable in 2011-2012, at an exchange rate of about EUR 1 = AZN 1.

Government spending has fallen to 32.8% of GDP. Large revenues from the energy sector enable budget surpluses, but strong growth in the non-energy sector has also encouraged fiscal health. Public debt remains low.

To describe the poverty reduction strategy of the country, the *State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015* can be consulted. Its figures show that during the five year period of 2002-2007 the poverty line of the country increased from AZN 35 to AZN 64, and in the same time poverty level decreased from 46,7% to 15.8%.

¹ Data are in 2012 US dollars

The mentioned document sets as strategic goal the development of non-oil industry, evenly spread across the country, the need to develop labour intensive sectors, and to replace underemployment with employment in productive jobs, and to pay special attention to the vulnerability of families with many children.

2.2.1.2. National development policy

Georgia

In line with the ENP Action Plan and EU-Georgia Country Strategy Paper – National Indicative Programme (CSP-NIP) 2007-2013 Georgia undertook a number of profound institutional reforms aimed at modernizing the economy and improving the business climate. Implemented institutional reforms created an effective, professional and transparent public sector, motivated to protect the principles of democracy and rule of law.

Georgia succeeded in fighting against corruption that was one of the main obstacles for development. Georgia's success is recognized by different rating agencies. According to Transparency International, Georgia is the top country in the post-soviet region in terms of fighting corruption. Georgia ranks 51st in Transparency International's 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) which measures perceived public sector corruption in 176 countries (up from 85th in 2002).

The negotiations between the EU and Georgia on Association Agreement and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area were finalised in July 2013.

In June 2012, the EU and Georgia began a visa liberalisation dialogue to allow for visa free travel of Georgian citizens to the EU. The Visa Liberalisation Action Plan was delivered to Georgia on 25 February 2013².

Azerbaijan

According to the national strategy *Development Concept "Azerbaijan - 2020: Outlook for the Future"*³ Azerbaijan has completed a period of transition. A new socioeconomic system based on free market relations and political pluralism has emerged. The necessary infrastructure for fully-fledged economic activities is about to take shape. A reliable system of social protection has been put in place and is currently being improved.

According to the Report on the Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Azerbaijan Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action (hereinafter – ENP 2012 Report), corruption continues to be the main obstacle to economic diversification and the development of entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan, including in the region.

² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-156_en.htm?locale=en

³ The Strategy has a great chance of being implemented. Economic development is visible, the diversification is on-going, and increasing proportions of the population are able to support themselves and their families. Azerbaijan is a regional leader in terms of economy.

As outlined in the ENP 2012 Report the macroeconomic fundamentals of the Azerbaijani economy remain largely positive. The generally improving business climate would benefit from clearer rules on competition, increased budget transparency and in particular from sustained action against corruption.

According to the ENP 2012 Report Azerbaijan finalised its second anti-corruption strategy. Citizens are asked to inform the authorities about corruption, notably via hotlines. A new National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) 2012-2015, approved in September 2012, provides for better legislation on criminal prosecution, including the preparation of a law on personal protection of witnesses and collaborators in corruption cases, enforcement rules and rules restricting the immunity of judges suspected of corruption. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2012 ranks Azerbaijan 139th out of 174 countries; this low position reflects the country's limited progress in fighting corruption.

On the basis of the ENP 2012 Report and with a view to the sustained implementation of the ENP Action Plan in 2013, Azerbaijan is invited to, among other matters, implement the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

The main challenges in Azerbaijan are to prevent setbacks, not to become a raw material appendage and technological outsider for the global economy, to boost economic efficiency and competitiveness and to ensure innovation-based progress. In other words, the foundation for a transition from the traditional economy to a "knowledge-based economy" should be laid now.

The key strategic vision of the concept is to take into consideration the existing opportunities and resources to achieve sustainable economic growth and social prosperity in Azerbaijan, ensure effective state governance, rule of law and complete exercise of all human rights and freedoms, and reach a development stage characterized with an active status of civil society in the country's public life.

There are some charged issues in the region, however, like the conflict with neighbouring Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh or the neighbours to the North (Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia) with unstable security situation. These unsolved issues certainly cast a shadow over the optimistic voice of the strategy, as it is unclear, if and how and when will they escalate or find a solution.

When it comes to the border sector agencies, it can safely be said that all enforcement agencies in Azerbaijan completely subscribe to this strategy, they are important players in its implementation. It is worth to note, however, that there is less priority attached to the development of law enforcement agencies.

EU relations with Azerbaijan are governed by the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 1996 and entered into force in 1999.

Following the enlargement of the European Union, the EU launched the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Azerbaijan became part of this policy in 2004.

The EU and Azerbaijan are currently negotiating an Association Agreement to succeed the PCA. This Association Agreement will significantly deepen Azerbaijan's political association and economic integration with the EU.

2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

In recent years, significant progress has been achieved in South Caucasus countries towards introduction of the EU IBM principles, enhancement of inter-agency, bilateral and regional cooperation between the South Caucasus countries.

As a result, the South Caucasus countries understand the importance of a modern border management in keeping a balance between facilitation of movement of persons and goods across the border and strengthening security at the border. The set of regional, bilateral and national activities allowed promoting the IBM concept in a structured way, corresponding to the particularities and different level of IBM systems development in the countries.

Due to a focused approach of national governments and international assistance, procedures at the border crossing points (BCPs) were significantly improved creating a proper balance between security and facilitation of movement. However, illegal migration, smuggling and other threats for border security cannot be prevented having porous land borders between BCPs.

The border section between Georgia and Azerbaijan is mixed in character. Its length is 446 km, and features two international border crossing points, Red Bridge in the Southern, and Lagodekhi-Balake in the Northern part. The green border section, that is the stretches of the border between the border crossings, is defined by two rivers, the border runs in the middle of these waterbeds. A relatively long section of this border lies in the high mountainous area of the Caucasus, and is closed 6-9 months a year.

There are about 21-22 discussed areas along the border. This is the reason why this border section has not yet been agreed upon (delimitation) and demarcation procedures have not been initiated.

In general, the Georgian side can be characterized as an extremely underdeveloped section of the border. In terms of infrastructure, only about a quarter of all infrastructures have the minimal, elementary conditions for human beings to carry out their service. About 75% of all infrastructures, however, are mainly made up of shacks, unfit for secure and human existence, all the more for keeping weapons and other security equipment in a safe way. Metal containers are used for sleeping and relaxation purposes without proper ventilation or heating.

At the Azerbaijani side the infrastructure situation seems to be in acceptable condition with minor deficiencies (like no running water, old heating system etc.) at some of the places.

This border section is heavily affected with bilateral smuggling of goods. The difference between the prices of combustible fuel, as well as the difference in the labour situation on the two sides of this section offer opportunities to individuals and groups of the border population to increase incomes in a fraudulent way. At the same time, the green border infrastructural and technical development is at the lowest level on both sides, border crossing points being the main priorities.

Cooperation between the border security services of Azerbaijan and Georgia is not satisfactory. The main problem lies in the different structural situation in the two countries: in Azerbaijan the State Border Service is an independent service, implementing the control of the whole border: border crossing points as well as the green (land) and blue (sea) border

sections. Its commander is subordinated only to the Prime Minister, raising the level of this service to the level of a Ministry. In Georgia, there are two services controlling the border: the Patrol Police Department of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the control of BCPs and the Border Police Department is responsible for the control of the green border. Both the difference in the level of the structure as well as the incompatibility of the heads of the services and departments makes it difficult to maintain a fruitful cooperation.

Azerbaijan's border service still largely functions along the lines of the former Soviet system, whereas the Georgian border service has undergone numerous reforms, tasks have been shifting from service to service, and this set up cannot be held as the most effective one. The former system of border representatives was introduced between the two countries on the initiative of the Azeri side, and it is fully ready to function in this country, however in Georgia it still requires the ratification of the Parliament. This issue is tricky, as the head of the Georgian Border Police is at the level of a head of department in a ministry, whereas the Commander of the Azeri Service is a *de facto* Minister.

However, lower in the structure, at regional or local level of command, the systems can fully cooperate; they can fully be matched to each other on the two sides of the border. The project will aim at establishing a functional, sustainable mechanism for cooperation at the regional and local levels.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The EU assistance programmes in the South Caucasus were focused on the IBM concept with practical implication to border crossing point activities. The checks at the border crossing points were also a priority for IOM and other international donors. Protection of land border (so-called green border) was paid less attention both from the national governments and international donors' sides.

Design and implementation modalities of the EU funded programme "Supporting Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus" (SCIBM), coherently concentrated on training, equipment and infrastructure proved to be effective and efficient in terms of enhancing workflow and cooperation at the border crossing points. Therefore this experience can be used for design and implementation of projects aimed at improvement of land border protection.

The United States (US) supported multilateral activities in the areas of IBM capacity building and fight against cross-border trafficking in the framework of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova) Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development. This project will take the GUAM Organisation experience into account and build on it where appropriate.

OSCE is supporting a cross-border cooperation and coordination mechanism in the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan, where local border officials regularly meet with their counterparts in Turkey to discuss matters of common interest. This initiative can usefully be taken into consideration.

2.4. Complementary actions

The European Union supports improved border management in EaP countries in order to ensure enhanced border security and to facilitate legitimate trade and transit between Neighbourhood countries and with the EU itself. The European Union has financed a number of initiatives to establish economic corridors and promote the application of the IBM methodology. Sector strategies have been developed on IBM in Georgia and Azerbaijan, and are implemented.

Some of the major interventions in the field of border security:

Eastern Partnership (EaP) IBM Flagship Initiative Training was a project implemented over the period January 2011 until June 2013 by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Its activities cover trainings and capacity building programmes, facilitation of Interagency and international cooperation, support to Government agencies in institution building. The next phase is under planning, it will deal mainly with border cooperation, harmonization of customs procedures. It will also provide assistance in the sphere of capacity building, cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The present action will have to be closely coordinated with this regional long-term project.

South Caucasus Integrated Border Management (SCIBM): the three Southern Caucasus countries received EU funding through this UNDP implemented programme aiming at the introduction of EU best practices in border security procedures and of IBM standards thereof. The lessons learned in the frame of SCIBM should be taken into consideration throughout the planning and implementation of the present action.

Frontex pays special attention to cooperation with third countries in line with general EU guidelines⁴. Bilateral working arrangements on establishment of the operational cooperation with the relevant authorities of both Azerbaijan and Georgia have been signed. According to the arrangements, cooperation focuses on the exchange of information and experience, risk analysis, joint operations, training, joint activities and secondment of border guards to EU Member States' units responsible for border control etc.

Eastern Partnership in the cooperation in the fight against irregular migration – Supporting the implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan (SIPAPP). This started recently, providing the participating EaP countries with trainings and cooperation mechanisms to share information, organize coordinated actions to tackle irregular migration within the region as well between the EaP countries and the EU.

A **Twinning project** between the State Migration Service (SMS) of Azerbaijan (beneficiaries including the Ministry of Interior and the State Border Service) and the Dutch Administration of the Repatriation and Departure Service was signed in December 2012. This Twinning project has amongst its expected results to: harmonise legislation on migration to EU acquis and best practices; increase efficiency and effectiveness in tackling illegal migration; increase capacity of the SMS (training); public awareness on social and economic impacts of legal and illegal migration.

⁴ http://www.frontex.europa.eu/external_relations/

2.5. Donor coordination

Donor coordination in the sphere of security sector projects is organized by the EU Delegations in Tbilisi and Baku, not less than twice a year. Participants to these meetings include the EU MSs, the USA, UNDP, OSCE, IOM and other interested stakeholders. It is an objective of this project to facilitate coordination of the implementation, and this should be linked with more frequent coordination of donors. The regional IBM (EaP-FIT) will be very well positioned to organize and support coordination meetings, their frequency is advised to be four times a year as a minimum.

Gradually, donor coordination should be handled by the main beneficiary agency, in this case the border guards of each country, and the EU should only facilitate these meetings.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The **overall objective** of the project is the development of the operational capacities of the border authorities in Azerbaijan and Georgia to create and apply mechanisms of Coordinated Operations at the green border between the countries with eventual positive impact on overall security situation in the European Neighbourhood.

The **first specific objective** is to support institutional development and capacity building of the agencies acting at the Georgian-Azeri green border section. Cooperation in coordinating joint actions and in exchange of information will be of special relevance.

The **second specific objective** is to improve security by providing infrastructure with elementary human conditions and equipment of modern technology to enable the service to carry out their functions.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The following results shall be achieved:

- Strengthening of sustainable cooperation capabilities of the relevant border authorities of Georgia and Azerbaijan in the spheres of implementation of coordinated activities such as observation, exchange of information and training. A mixed working group (Azerbaijan-Georgia-EU Delegation) will be established for this sake and a Standard Operating Procedure will be drafted.
- Preparing additional technical assistance plans through detailed needs analysis of the equipment and development of infrastructure.
- Implementation of EU best practices in the field of land border protection, as well as enhancement of activities of the relevant units of Georgian and Azerbaijan Border Agencies.
- Increased level of professionalism of the staff by training in use of the new equipment and new methods of border protection. Increased capacity building assistance for the more comprehensive and deep rooted embedding of all elements of border management assistance.

To achieve the results above **the following activities shall be undertaken:**

Module 1: Establishment of respective coordination mechanism on realization of project through appointing authorised units of State Border Service of Azerbaijan and Border Police of Georgia.

- Supporting work of this bilateral mechanism of cooperation;
- Organizing regular meetings among authorized persons;
- Developments and delivery of specific training programs for staff of the relevant units;
- Organizing study visits to EU Member States for the members of the relevant units involved in the pilot project for the purpose to share the best practices of EU member States;
- Maintain the momentum of regularity in the work of this mechanism by offering a platform to discuss project implementation issues and also bilateral issues of professional nature.

Module 2: Development and implementation of mechanism of coordinated operations at the selected part of the land border. Improvement of land border protection and control procedures.

- Identification of the most vulnerable parts of the border and development of the joint approach in strengthening of the control in identified areas;
- Reviewing of the possibility of the coordinated control at the selected parts of the state border;
- Implementation of coordinated approach between the relevant services on investigation of trans-border crimes occurred at the state border between the countries;
- Conducting coordinating activities in the sphere of observation, experience exchange and cooperation among relevant units of the Border Agencies of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Module 3: Establishment of additional border security infrastructure; installation of special equipment, as well as, provision with equipment and devices for the units responsible for land border protection at pilot project implementation border area.

- Conducting need assessment of the required additional infrastructure, analysis of the current equipment needs of selected land border segment;
- Developments of the Technical Specifications for the construction of the additional infrastructure;
- Organization of tenders and hand over of the newly constructed facilities to the partners (some complementary constructions like fencing, electric lines, wells etc. to be financed by partner countries);

- Procurements, delivery and installation of the identified equipment (some complementary works and supplies [maintenance facilities for vehicles, watchtowers etc.] to be financed by partner countries);
- Delivery of the training programs on use of the equipment.

Module 4: Development and delivering of the comprehensive joint and national training program on project objectives.

- Conducting of the needs analysis in both countries on current training needs of relevant services, firstly among the human resource departments of the border agencies;
- A comprehensive gap analysis will be carried out for all and any beneficiary training structure, using EU guidelines such as the EU Customs Blueprints and FRONTEX Common Core Curricula to provide bench marks. A needs analysis will follow from this process;
- A training capacity reform project will need to be designed and delivered (if at all possible, this should be a joint project);
- Developments of the Joint Training Program (JTP) together with the partners organizations with involvements of the international expertise;
- Delivery of the training programs agreed and reflected in the JTP;
- Establishment of the on-the-job training concept;

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Assumptions:

- Continuation of general socio-economic and political stability in the region;
- Beneficiary administrations of Azerbaijan and Georgia demonstrate a sense of ownership for the process;
- There is a commitment and interest from administrations of both countries to share information, harmonise procedures, systems and practices in accordance with EU standards and/or Project recommendations;
- Beneficiary agencies of Azerbaijan and Georgia will make available sufficient numbers of appropriate qualified personnel for the project activities.

Risks:

Along with all the benefits and advantages of this project, there are also a few risks involved, ranging from low to medium probability and impact.

	Risks	Mitigation strategy
Specific objectives	EU-BC and BC-BC cooperation as well as inter-agency cooperation in participating countries is not implemented after the official end of the project or this cooperation is not implemented in line with border management concepts.	The project will seek to achieve the factual approval of the operational documents already during the implementation, which will guarantee its future implementation. Additionally, the IBM concepts will be included in the border guards training programmes, which will contribute to the sustainability of the action.
	Institutional setting in the beneficiary countries changes significantly.	These countries have already gone through the major institutional changes; nevertheless, the project measures aimed at sustainability (e.g. operational documents developed during the project, updated training programme, etc.) will contribute to mitigation of indicated risk.
	Training institutions discontinue training/education of border guard/law enforcement officials according to the updated curriculum.	The project will seek to achieve the factual approval of the curricula updated during the implementation of the project. Official approval of the curricula will support its future implementation.
Expected Results	Institutions do not use best practice, knowledge and experience gained during the capacity building activities and/or there is a high staff turnover.	Capacity building activities implemented during the project will aim at sustainable outcomes – development of practical cooperation platforms as well as development and approval of operational documents – SOPs, MoUs, guidelines, etc. Therefore, the harm of possible high staff turnover will be minimised.
	Inter-institutional platforms discontinue their cooperation in the future and/or discontinue implementation of SOPs, manuals and guidelines.	The project will seek to raise awareness of all stakeholders about the cooperation benefits for the implementation of the overall border management policy in order to achieve permanent and effective implementation of future inter-institutional platforms.
Activities	Beneficiaries do not participate actively in the capacity building activities; as a result, working arrangements and MoUs are not prepared and approved.	Comprehensive terms of references and profiles of the expected participants as well as of the members of the Project Task Forces will be developed. The project team will review and, if needed, communicate the inconsistency the beneficiaries.
	Inter-institutional working groups (PTFs) do not implement their tasks on SOPs, manuals or guidelines development; therefore, the necessary documents are not developed and approved.	The national platforms (Project Task Forces) and their regular contact with the project partners, as well as regular meetings of the working groups, will allow addressing of mentioned risks in a timely manner. Furthermore, close cooperation with the EU Delegations in the respective countries will ensure political interventions upon the need.
General risks	Taking into account political tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan, an open conflict might arise and create a constraint in the region in cooperation and implementation of planned activities.	Careful monitoring of the situation during the implementation of the project and, in case of need, separation of activities for representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia will be applied. In case of extreme escalation of conflict, project activities will not be implemented.
	Situation of continuity of the certain countries' participation in the EaP process is politically unpredictable, which could put cooperation within the project on both strategic and operation levels at risk.	Careful monitoring of the situation during the implementation of the project will be applied. Depending on the situation, the possibility of splitting activities under strategic and operational levels will be considered. If the EU decides on further relations with certain countries the project will follow the EU recommendations.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

All the activities will pay special attention to the European Union standards and best practices which are developed in the field office of Integrated Border Management and laid out in the Schengen Catalogue and IBM guidelines.⁵

Good governance and human rights: While promoting better dialogue between different levels of the state administration, the programme will promote good governance principles (particularly ownership, equity, transparency and anti-corruption). It will also promote the respect of protection principles for asylum seekers. Specific attention will be given to raising awareness of border management officials to specific needs of vulnerable populations, especially women, minors and individuals at risk.

Gender balance: The programme will contribute to promote gender balance in several ways, and ensure that in areas such as training, women's participation in the border management adequately considered.

Environment: Capacity building components of the programme will take into consideration the environmental sustainability of projects.

3.5. Stakeholders

In Azerbaijan, the main beneficiary will be the State Border Service which has sole responsibility to control and patrol the green border of the country.

In Georgia, the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for the patrolling of the green border sections of the country.

Specific attention should be paid to persons in need of protection, including asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is 48 months, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

⁵ Guidelines for Integrated Border Management in European Commission External Cooperation 2010. Schengen visa catalogue 2009: <http://www.schengen.mira.gov.ro/English/Documente/utile/catutil/Updated%20EU%20Catalogue.pdf>.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

- Procurement (direct centralised management);
- Joint management with an international organisation being UNDP.

4.3.1. Procurement (direct centralised management)

Subject		Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Georgia: high capacity passenger vehicles, light off-road vehicles, all-terrain motor quads, universal trailers for motor quads, patrol boat with trailer	supplies	1	2 nd , 2015
Georgia: binoculars, night vision devices (thermal imaging cameras), automatic sensors systems (alarm detection devices), Portable spotlights, 4x4 vehicle with thermo-vision camera	supplies	1-2	2 nd , 2016
Azerbaijan: off-road track vehicles, off-road vehicles, high passengers capabilities off-road vehicles, all-terrain motor quads, 4x4 vehicle with thermo-vision camera, universal trailers for motor quads	supplies	1	2 nd , 2015
Azerbaijan: binoculars, night vision goggles, thermal imaging camera, autonomic sensors systems (alarm detection devices), portable spotlight, armoured vest, tactical vest, UHF base radio station, UHF portable radio	supplies	1-2	2 nd , 2016

4.3.2. Joint management with an international organisation

A part of this action with the objective of to support institutional development and capacity building of the agencies in charge of the Georgian-Azerbaijani green border section, including the coordinated joint actions and exchange of information as appropriate and to improve operational capacities in the fields of basic infrastructure and modern technology will be implemented in joint management with UNDP.

UNDP will along with the capacity building/technical assistance component implement the works component under this project to facilitate complex works in a cross-border context, as the works are to be undertaken in a form of construction and rehabilitation of the green border pertaining infrastructure both – in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

This implementation is justified because:

- UNDP's demonstrates good performance in the EU funded South Caucasus Integrated Border Management project (SCIBM);

- UNDP has offices and management teams in both beneficiary countries;
- UNDP has proved capacity to implement works contracts with the EU funding;
- UNDP has already established long-term relationship with project beneficiaries;
- Due to the good ongoing implementation of the EaP IBM programme: Enhancement of the border management capabilities at the Ninotsminda-Bavra border crossing point between Georgia and Armenia project, it can be assumed that project activities will start smoothly.

Joint management with this international organisation in accordance with Article 53d of Financial Regulation 1605/2002 is possible because the organisation is bound by a long-term framework agreement (FAFA).

UNDP will undertake the capacity building and works component of the project. It will be in charge for the management of EU funds, payments (liquidation of eligible costs) recovery and cancellation of debts. UNDP will perform such budget implementation tasks as launching calls for tenders and proposals, award of contracts and financial instruments, concluding and managing contracts, carrying out payments.

The change of method of implementation constitutes a substantial change except where the Commission "re-centralises" or reduces the level of budget-implementation tasks previously entrusted to the international organisation.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement in direct centralised and decentralised management

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement procedures and in terms of origin of supplies and materials purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

The responsible authorising officer may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 21(7) of the basic act on the basis of the unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, for reasons of extreme urgency, or if the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution (indicative)
Procurement (direct centralised)	2,400,000	N.A.

Joint management with UNDP	2,100,000	860,000 (430,000 Azerbaijan 430,000 Georgia)
Total:	4,500,000 EU contribution	860,000

4.6. Performance monitoring

The Commission may carry out Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) via independent consultants, starting from the sixth month of project activities, which will be finalised at the latest 6 months before the end of the operational implementation.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Mid-term and final evaluations shall be undertaken. Where applicable, the provisions included in the framework agreement signed with the international organisation will apply.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Appropriate communication and information activities will be planned and implemented by the beneficiaries in accordance with the "Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions". A detailed Communication and Visibility Plan will be agreed during inception phase. Communication and visibility activities will target public institutions and the public at large both – in Azerbaijan and Georgia, with the aim of promoting a wider understanding of the relationship between EU and the beneficiary countries in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy.