

Project name: „*Geo-ecological Problems in the Aragvi watershed*“

Funding period: 2021-2023

Project description: The ecological systems of the cultural landscapes in Central Europe and in the Caucasus region are exposed to various stress factors. Agricultural land use in river catchments leads to diffuse pollution of the watercourses by nutrient surpluses and pesticides. These phenomena have been researched in the geography department of the Saarland University for more than two decades. The knowledge gained in agricultural landscapes in Central Europe has already been discussed several times with our partner in relation to the conditions in Georgia.

The project proposed here is intended to further intensify this discussion and work out specific research approaches as possible.

Partner Institutions: *Ivane-Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University; Saarland University – Germany*

Academic/Scientific staff: *Assoc. Prof. Besik Kalandadze (TSU); Prof. Jochen Kubiniok (Saarland University).*

Project Outcome: In the basin of the Aragvi river, we made a rough modeling of the substances caused by agriculture based on the available data. We studied springs and surface waters in the water catchment area of the facility with selective measurements. We have identified additional pollution factors of the ecological state of water bodies.