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SUPPORTING INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS (SCIBM):

<i>Period:</i>	<i>2009-2012 (30 months as of October 1, 2009)</i>
<i>Total Budget :</i>	<i>6,315,000 EURO</i>
<i>Budget for Armenia:</i>	<i>1,402,784 EURO</i>
<i>Funds:</i>	<i>European Union</i>
<i>Implementing organization:</i>	<i>UNDP</i>
<i>Implementing partner:</i>	<i>ICMPD</i>
<i>Implementing countries:</i>	<i>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia</i>



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The overall goal of the SCIBM project is:

- to enhance inter-agency, bilateral and regional cooperation between the SC countries, EU Member States and other international stakeholders
- to facilitate movement of persons and goods across borders while at the same time maintaining secure borders

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to enhance strategic border management capacities and legislative framework;
- to develop and establish standard operational procedures for border crossing points;
- to demonstrate the benefits of the IBM via implementation of pilot program;
- to deliver equipment to pilot BCP for the effective implementation of IBM.



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Beneficiaries and target groups are:

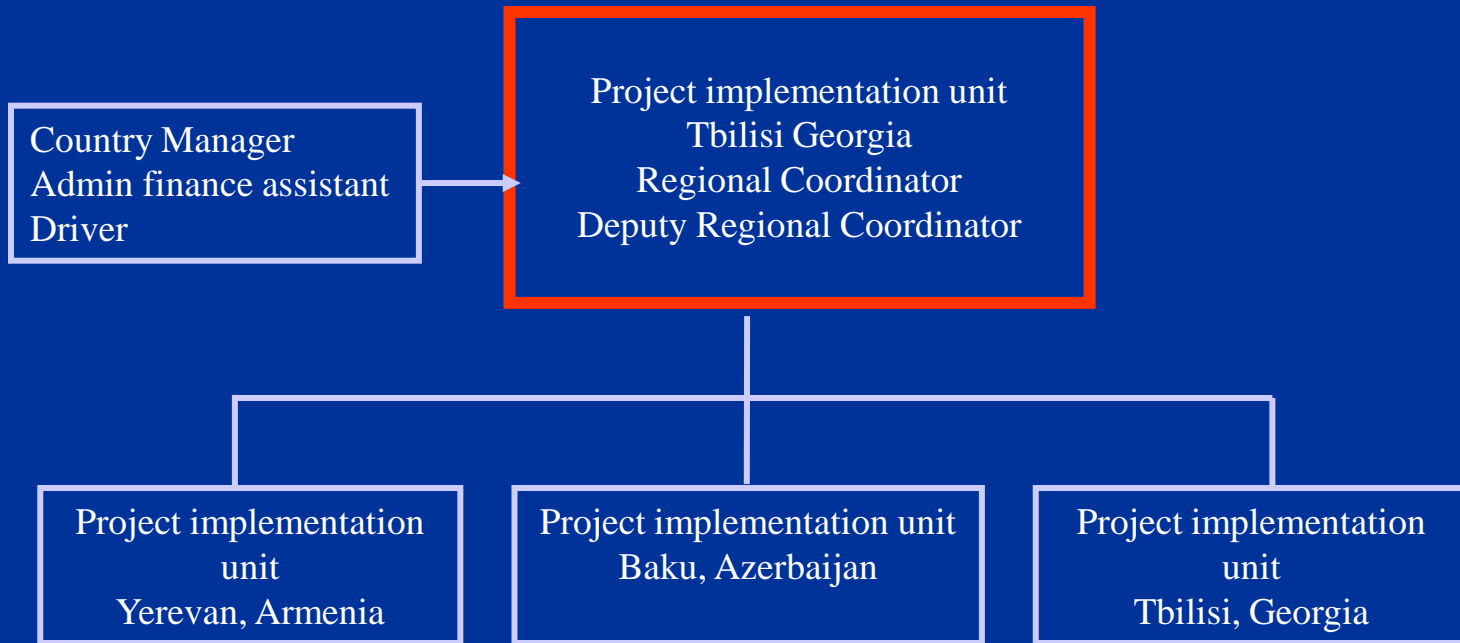
- **National Security Council (overall coordination and monitoring)**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (visas and diplomatic passports)**
- **National Security Service (Border control and surveillance);**
- **State Revenues Committee (Customs control);**
- **Police (Visa and Passport Registration);**
- **Ministry of Agriculture (phyto and veterinary inspection);**
- **Ministry of Health (Sanitary inspection);**
- **Ministry of Territorial Administration (migration control);**
- **Ministry of Transport and Communication (roads and communication);**
- **Other ministries or agencies relevant to Border Management**



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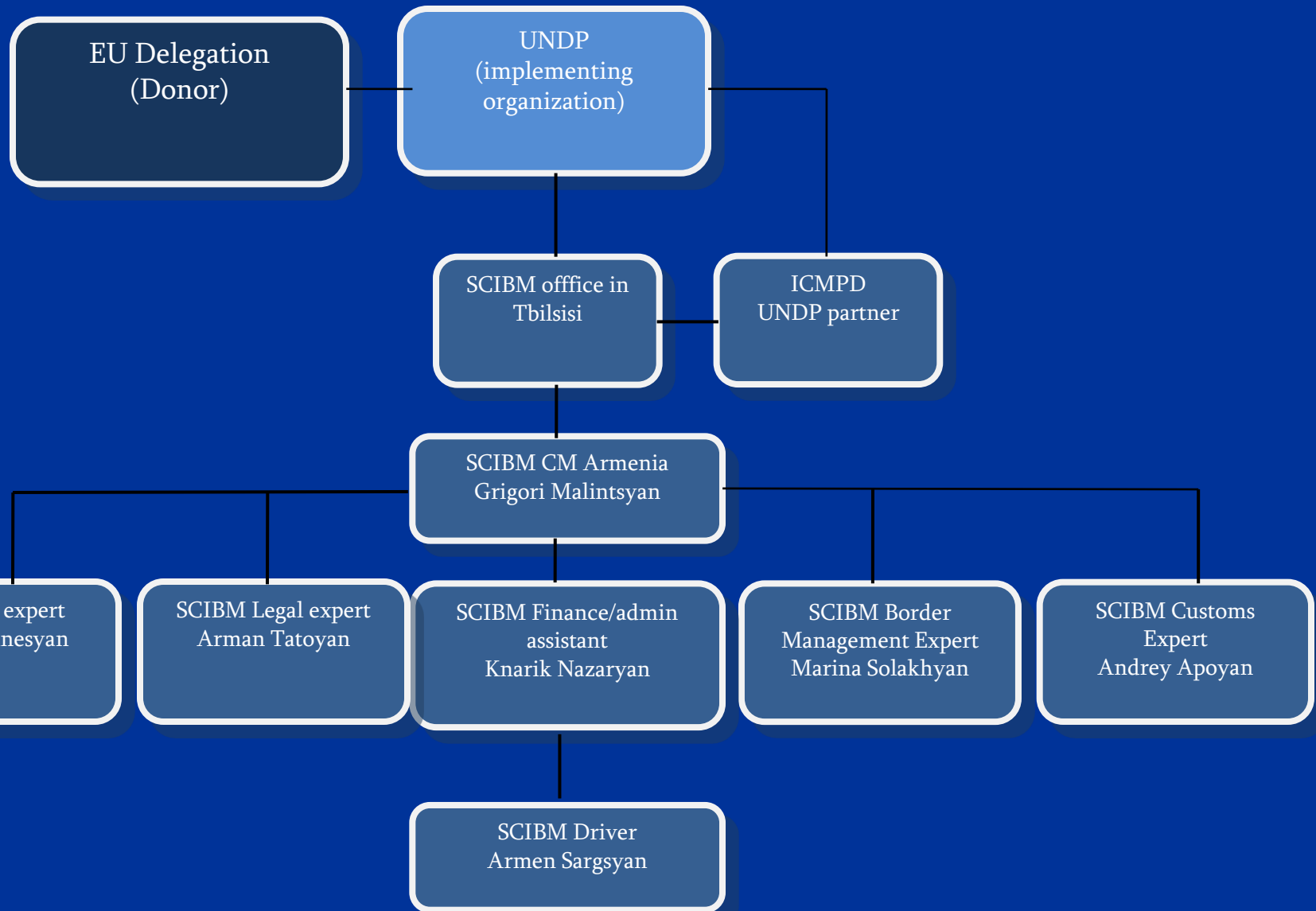
SCIBM regional management structure



In each country:

- Country Manager
- Financial administrative assistant
- 4 local experts on /legal, border management, customs and IT issues/
- driver

SCIBM national management structure





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Legislative framework regulating the IBM in Armenia

- The “Law on State Borders of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted on 23.07.1994.
- Customs Code of the Republic of Armenia was adopted on July 6, 2000.
- The “Law on Border Guards of the RA” adopted on November 20, 2001 and the responsibility for protection of Armenian borders was entrusted to the National Security Service of Armenia.
- The Decision # 884 of the Government of Armenia “On Approval of Creation of the Border Management Information System (BMIS) of the RA, Regulations for its Exploitation and Establishment of the List of Users” was adopted on June 22, 2006.



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ENP Action Plan and IBM

According to the provisions of ENP Action Plan, Armenia is invited to enter into intensified political, security, economic and cultural relations with the EU, enhanced regional and cross border co-operation and shared responsibility in conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

The ENP Action plan envisages the development of new areas of cooperation in the South Caucasus, including through EU-funded regional assistance initiatives like the Supporting Integrated Border Management Systems in the South Caucasus Programme;

Under the trade-related issues, market and regulatory reform of the ENP Action Plan, the government of Armenia should take actions for improving the trade relations and movement of goods, enhance EU-Armenia bilateral trade through ensuring full implementation of Armenia's relevant PCA obligations, strengthening the co-operation between customs and other agencies, including those working at the border.

Under the Justice, Freedom and Security domain, the government of Armenia has expressed the commitment to enhance the cooperation on border management, intensify trans-border cooperation between Armenia, the EU Member States and neighboring countries.



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National Security Council and SCIBM

The National Security Council, RA is responsible for the implementation of the National Security Strategy and coordination of Armenia's cooperation with European agencies, including the implementation of the relevant sections of the ENP Action Plan.

The Interagency Working Commission comprised of the representatives of relevant border management agencies is established under the NSC to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Strategy on Border Security and Integrated State Border Management.

The SCIBM supports the Government of Armenia in its efforts to elaborate draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of Border Security and Integrated State Border Management.



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Armenian Border Situation

There are 7 active BCPs in the Republic of Armenia, out of which 5 are land BCPs (Bagratashen, Ayrum, Gogavan, Bavra [with Georgia), Meghri [with the Islamic Republic of Iran]) and two- air BCPs (Zvartnots and Shirak airports);

The land BCPs generally do not meet IBM standards and requirements:

- The infrastructure and the equipment is outdated;**
- Border crossing standards and procedures are lacking;**
- The intra-service cooperation is not strong;**
- The interagency cooperation is very volatile and weak;**
- No regular data exchange and information flow is in place between border agencies, despite the enabling environment provided by BMIS;**
- Cross border cooperation and data exchange between the neighboring countries is not systematic;**



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National IBM vision

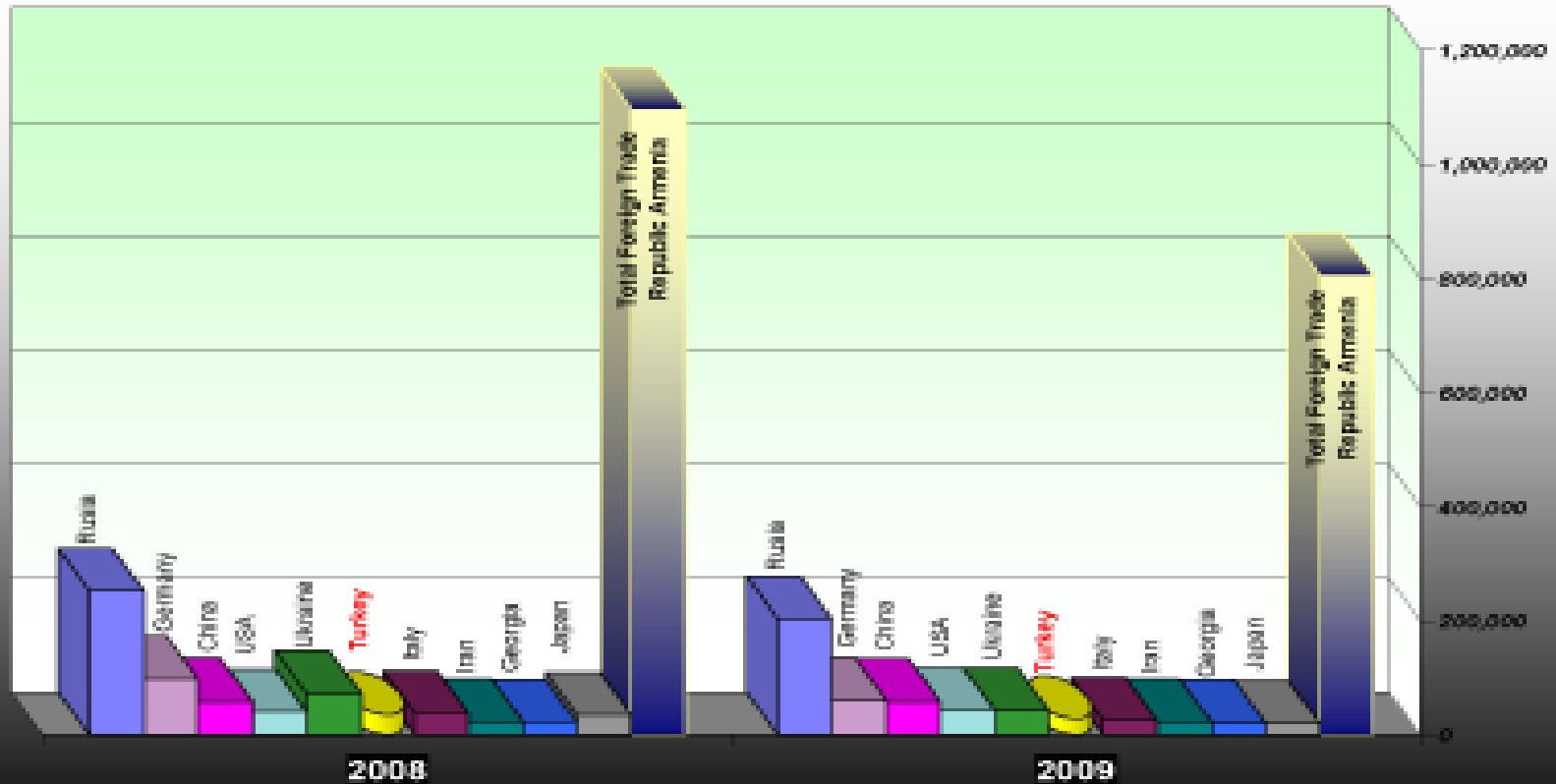
- ❖ There is a need to review and streamline the IBM related national legislation and align it to the European standards and IBM requirements;
- ❖ Coordination/implementation and monitoring bodies, sub-working groups and other complementing mechanisms need to be provided with proper support by the international and national experts;
- ❖ Agreements on interagency cooperation, in particular among border agencies, but also bi- and multilateral need to be put in place as a whole package that would facilitate practical implementation of IBM.
- ❖ Standard operational procedures, in particular at BCP's level, need to be streamlined, especially on interagency basis. All border agencies have to aim to establish border checks that will facilitate flow of passengers, vehicles and goods;
- ❖ Training system need to be strengthened to ensure the regular trainings are provided and institutionalised through the “on-the-job” trainings, distance learning, regional seminars, study tours, etc;
- ❖ Institutionalization of cooperation between BCP on bilateral basis as well as institutionalization and formalization of information exchange among the South Caucasus countries;
- ❖ Upgrading of BCPs infrastructures and provision of equipment to the BCPs to facilitate trade and transit.



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The Republic Armenia Trade - Main Partners -



It is noted that Turkey is the sixth biggest trade partner of Armenia, despite the fact that the Armenian-Turkish border has been closed since 1993.



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2008 freight volume between Armenia-Georgia by modality of transport

Total volume of freight by transport mode (tonnes) 2008

	Rail	Lorry	Comments
Import	353,000	439,000	The main part of all lorry traffic goes via Bagratashen border crossing according to information from the Bavra and Gogavan BCPs.
Export	616,000	214,000	







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Thank you for your attention

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