

# donordialogue

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A Joint Effort of the Donor Technical Secretariat  
and the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination

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Photo: Minister of Finance Ridvan Bode and Ambassador Klaus Derkowitz signing the agreements on technical and financial cooperation that were signed on 3 June 2008

## Albania and Austria step up cooperation

The relations between Austria and Albania will expand by means of the agreements on technical and financial cooperation that were signed on 3 June 2008 by the Minister of Finance Ridvan Bode and the Austrian Ambassador in Tirana Klaus Derkowitz. The signing of the agreements on technical cooperation and on soft-loan between Albania and Austria are a basis for the further development of the strong co-operation. The soft-loan agreement intends to enhance economical co-operation in the public and private sector and to intensify the level of financial cooperation. This agreement aims to facilitate the allocation of credits and soft-loans for Austrian-Albanian co-operation.

During the last 16 years, the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) has been conducting 50 programmes and supported Albania to the value of 28 Mill Euros. The support of the sustainable social-economic development as well as the support towards the integration into the European structures is the main objective. The ADC focuses on environment and water supply, renewable energy and energy efficiency, vocational education and gender equity – concentrating on the Shkodra area. For further information you can contact Austrian Embassy Tirana, Coordination Office for Technical Cooperation, e-mail: [tirana@ada.gv.at](mailto:tirana@ada.gv.at) or web: [www.ada.gv.at](http://www.ada.gv.at)

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## An Integrated document for the reconstruction of Gerdec

At the Government and donor meeting over the reconstruction of Gerdec on 27 May 2008, the donor community requested the Government' to produce an integrated strategy, including an ordered list of priorities and an indication of the implementation mechanisms. The Department for Strategy and Donor Co-ordination (DSDC) has now prepared and shared for consultation with line ministries and donor community the first draft of the Integrated document for reconstruction of Gerdec. The document aims to strengthen the Government's role in co-ordinating external assistance during the recovering phase. It aims to assist donors in deciding whether to pledge funds. At a macro level, the document will facilitate the Mid-Term Budgeting Process and that of the 2009 State Budget, by insuring a co-ordinated process of internal and external investment based on priority projects identified from the respective government institutions. To review the draft document, please click [here](#).

## 20th birthday of German Development Cooperation with Albania

The German Development Cooperation with Albania is looking forward to its 20th birthday: On 22 October 1988, the German Government signed the framework contract on Technical Co-operation with the Government of Albania. The German Government, represented by the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), supports Albania on its path into the EU. The focus is on the development of the water and energy sectors as well as on sustainable economic development. The 20th annual Government negotiations will be celebrated in a festive environment on 9 October 2008. For more information on GTZ projects in Albania, please check the 1st issue of the [GTZ Albania newsletter](#).

## Sector Activities

### Support to the fight against Drugs & Crime

On 26 June 2008, in the framework of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Italian Development Co-operation Office and Feniks NGO led an awareness campaign to voice their concern about the seriousness of the drug problem. Present at the ceremony were the Minister of Health, Nard Ndoka, the Head of the Italian Development Co-operation Office, Flavio Lovisolò, the Deputy Head of the Anti Drug Unit, teachers, parents and students from various schools. The ceremony was well attended by the Roma community among which the drug abuse is an issue. A message of the UN Secretary General was read to the participants and disseminated to the press. The best messengers during the activity were the students of various schools of Tirana and the peer educators of one school in Pogradec. Through their written messages that were displayed all over the cinema hall and their role plays they made a very good choice of showing their friends that drugs have nothing to do with their lives. Financed by the Italian Development Co-operation Office, the event was part of the UNODC initiative on the Strengthening the trans-border control and the Penal Justice against the Organized Crime in Albania, with the aim of supporting the fight against drugs. Activities included the broadcast of a UNODC/Institute of Public Health radio spot on Top Albania



Photo: Minister of Health Nard Ndoka, Head of the Italian Development Co-operation Office, Flavio Lovisolò, Deputy Head of the Anti Drug Unit, and UNODC National Programme Officer, Ela Banaj at the ceremony organized in the framework of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Radio and Top Channel and an interview of the UNODC NGO on Top Channel during the programme A New Day. The UNODC Project Office also produced T-shirt bearing the slogan of the year: Do Drugs Control your Life? Your Life. Your Community. No place for Drugs. For more information please see the attached [report](#).

### Police officers receive training on anti-trafficking issues

The OSCE Presence in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior and the local NGO "Centre for Integrated Legal Services and Practices", with funds from the Austrian Development Co-operation, conducted five training sessions on anti-trafficking issues for the Albanian State Police, respectively in the cities of Fier, Shkodra, Vlora, Korça and Durrës. The purpose of the training was to increase the anti-trafficking capacities of the

Photo: Messengers from the students showing their friends that drugs are just rubbish and have nothing to do with their lives.



police and the border police on issues related to protection of victims of trafficking as well as presumed victims in compliance with international guidelines and the National Referral Mechanism. On this occasion, a total number of 120 police officers from the Police Directorates of all the Regions were trained. The training module was drafted by the Presence, in consultation with ICITAP International Consultant and the Anti-trafficking Unit of the State Police. In addition to the anti-trafficking and border police, the Presence trained police officers of the Community Policing and Anti-Domestic Violence sections who might come across cases of human trafficking.

### Igniting the Knowledge Bank with a local ABCDE in Albania

For the first time ever, a local version of the Bank's trademark Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) was held in Tirana on June 10-11, 2008. Bringing together some 60 researchers from the Bank, local and international academia, development partners, policymakers and think-tanks, this first instalment, of what is to be an annual event, focused on the key development challenge of how to create a competitive labour force. The event aimed to help deepen the development debates and to provide a forum for the growing network of researchers, while showcasing the World Bank's own analytical and research products. As follow-up to this event, the World Bank Social Protection and Labour Unit in Washington DC HQ will shortly be soliciting proposals from qualified research institutions, firms (including universities, NGOs, or other institutions) on the topics of Understanding Labour Market Informality in Developing Countries and Migration and Labour Market Outcomes in Sending and 'Southern' Receiving Countries. More information is available at Informality and Migration. You can find all materials of the conference by visiting the WB webpage: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

### Launch of Migrant Counters in Albania

On 17 June 2008, in line with the



Albanian police during a training session on anti-trafficking issues in Shkodra, 30 June 2008.

National Strategy on Migration, the International Organization for Migration in Tirana, with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the National Employment Service launched the national network of Migrant Service Centres (Sportele Migracioni) to provide information and referrals to prospective migrants, returnees, and immigrants in Albania. The Sportele Migracioni have been created in all 12 Regional Employment Offices and the Local Employment Offices of Pogradec and Saranda. The migration counters are being provided with destination country information packs and IT communication equipment for better outreach; a web site ([www.migrant-service-centers.org](http://www.migrant-service-centers.org)) has been created for consultation in the languages of the region containing updated information on regular migration avenues. This network will offer more information on regular migration modalities from and to Albania, so that migrants may pursue more relevant options. Those contacting the migration counters will be registered at local employment service offices and their needs will be collated in an IOM data base in order to assist the Government >>

### Integrated Planning System (IPS) Support Group holds its 7th meeting

On 19 June 2008, the Government called the 7th meeting of the IPS Support Group. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Minister of Finance, Sherefedin Shehu and saw the participation from the DSDC, Department for Public Administration and donors contributing to the IPS. The meeting presented the Government's progress on IPS in 2007 and up to June 2008 and discussed the future challenges. It was noted that: the IPS components were now operational as were supporting political and administrative structures; the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) continued to play a vital role in providing direction to IPS; the NSDI and sector/crosscutting strategies were consulted upon with a broad audience of stakeholders; the IPS calendar has been annually approved by the SPC; the donors continue to support the IPS process; and that the commitment to the understanding of IPS to line ministries was increasing. The preparatory work and progress to date on the IPS Trust Fund was explained and relevant issues relating to the implementation of the Trust Fund were discussed. To review the materials from this meeting please click [here](#).

Photo: Launching Event of the National Network of Migration Counters/Sportele Migracioni



## Health



On 13 June 2008, as part of the project for the Rehabilitation and Equipment of Five Polyclinics a contract has been signed following a public tender between the Ministry of Health and Consorzio ESI s.p.a., concerning work for the rehabilitation of the Korça Polyclinic. This is part of a 5.2 million Euros project, funded by the Italian Development Co-operation Office, aimed at improving health conditions and maximizing the management costs of the health system. The programme intends to increase the access to health services for the population of Korça through the rehabilitation of building, the supply of equipment and the training of key personnel.

## Transport

A new tender in the transport sector was launched on the 25 June 2008. This 24.8 million Euros investment tender, for the final design and implementation of the Shkoder-Hani i Hotit road segment, was launched and will be closed on 15 August 2008. This tender is organized for the construction of a 35km road segment that connects the two north Albanian centres, which are vital for strengthening the north-south connections and the interaction with Montenegro. This is one of the 9 projects in the transport sector, where the Italian Development Co-operation Office is active with a total investment of more than 75 million Euros. All the ongoing information are published on the site [www.italcoopalbania.org](http://www.italcoopalbania.org)

Photo: Workshop towards the establishment of a national child helpline for children in Albania held on 17 June 2008

in tailoring labour migration policies and pursuing bilateral agreements. The *Sportele Migracioni* will operate within the framework of the EC funded regional project *Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Promoting Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans* co-funded by the Swiss and German Governments and implemented through IOM offices also in Skopje, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, lead by the regional office in Budapest.

## EDUCATION

### Vocational Education Training Support Programme funded by Switzerland

Switzerland has been supporting the Albanian Vocational Education and Training (VET) Delivery Support Programme (AlbVET programme) is being implemented by Swisscontact since 2007 with a planning horizon of 5 years. The programme aims at the development of the VET delivery system regarding governance, portfolio, quality and access and includes the following output areas: Regional VET Centres (RVETC), co-operation and networking, course portfolio, financing training delivery, mobile training and quality and innovation projects. In order to assess the programme's achievements, results and its relevance and to provide options for decisions, Switzerland assigned an External Review mission that took place in May 2008. The Swiss Development Co-operation has a long history of sustained success when it comes to implementing VET programmes and shaping the framework conditions for project delivery. The impact on specific



Photo: Workshop towards the establishment of a national child helpline for children in Albania held on 17 June 2008

training institutions is considerable and the upscaling looks promising and in alignment with Government priorities and possibly in a partial joint endeavour with Denmark.

### Workshop towards the establishment of a national child helpline for children in Albania

On 17 June 2008, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, UNICEF and the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania (CRCA), held the National Workshop: Towards the establishment of a national child helpline in Albania. The aim was to discuss the need to create a national child helpline; to present the concerns of children, while debating the referral mechanisms in place and models of child help-lines. The meeting looked at the model of the national child helpline in Albania and discussed the strategies that will follow for its eventual creation. The event was opened by Ministry officials and UNICEF Country Representative, C. Auer. Participants included officials from the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Health, Telecommunications, national child rights NGO's, other UN Agencies, the National Regulatory Commission of Telecommunications, land line and mobile telephone companies, Municipality of Tirana and child rights experts.



**TV campaign on raising awareness against children sexual exploitation in tourism industry**

In the last month, the OSCE Presence began the broadcasting of TV spots on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children in tourism industry. The Code aims to raise public awareness on the issue of sexual exploitation of children. The TV Spots were broadcast on four main television stations (TVSH, Top Channel, TV Klan and Vision +) during the period 26 June to 3 July 2008. The public broadcaster offered free broadcasting for another week given the sensitivity of the issue.



A poster against sexual exploitation of children in tourism industry, produced by the Albanian Government and international organizations.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**World Environment Day 2008: protect the environment, protect life**

The United Nations teamed up with the World Bank on 5 June - World Environment Day 2008 - to raise awareness of the importance of environmental protection. A photo exhibit of UN and WB work in the area of the environment was showcased. The work of the United Nations Environment Programme was also featured. During the event, UNV volunteers and the "Youth Voice Group Albania" discussed



Photo: Talking to the press: Mr. Shigeo Katsu, World Bank Vice-President for Europe and Central Asia with Ms. Gulden Turkoc-Cosslett, UN Resident Coordinator in Albania (Photo: UNDP Albania)

environmental issues with the public, and handed out small potted plants. The event was "paper free" to bring attention to environmentally sustainable development. World Environment Day focuses worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulates political attention and action.

**TOURISM**

**Albania's stage of tourism development calls for a diversification of destinations, UNDP survey shows**

Albania has many business travellers, according to the findings of an annual survey of foreign visitors departing from >>>

**Updating Albania 2008 Donor database**

Following the previous information provided from donors in Albania on 2008 OECD/DAC Survey in Monitoring the Paris Declaration Indicators, the DSDC has begun the process of updating the Albanian 2008 Donor Database. In order to better reflect the Paris Declaration requirements, the DSDC is asking donors to update the information on programmes/projects for 2008. During July, the DSDC will look to meet with donors and explain the standard form to be followed for the database. The process should be finalized by the end of July 2008.





Photo: Assistant Director-General SDC, Ms Theresia Adam Handed out the First Winning Prize

## 2008 DAC Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration

The OECD DAC has prepared the final draft of the country chapter for Albania that takes into consideration comments from the National Co-ordinators and donors back in May 2008. The final draft report has been shared with donors to receive additional comments. The DSDC and the DTS are working closely together in order to reflect these comments into the country chapter by the set deadline. The country chapter will be made available at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana on 2-4 September 2008. All completed country chapters will be made available on the OECD website. To see the final draft country chapter, please click [here](#).



Mother Theresa airport. The survey, released at the end of June, indicates a young stage of tourism development, which might also point to strategies in introducing Albania as a conference or business-oriented destination. The proportion of non-Albanian business travellers is relatively high, the survey shows: 52 percent of respondents stated that they were in Albania on business; with 29 percent of them visiting family or friends; and 14 percent visiting Albania for pleasure.

When asked about activities during their visit to Albania, walking, sightseeing, museum visits, swimming, hiking and national park visits were among the most popular. Travellers typically stay close to Tirana. They spend an average of approximately 200 euros per day for their trip to Albania; they participate in outdoor recreation activities and appreciate the cultural and natural heritage of the country.

The survey was a joint effort of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and

Sports; the Central American Institute for Business Administration (INCAE) in Costa Rica and the University of Tirana within the UNDP Image of Albania project. More than 1,000 travellers have been interviewed between April 2007 and May 2008 when departing from Mother Theresa airport. The aim was to capture a demographic profile of visitors in order to assist the Government in formulating an informed marketing campaign and guiding investment in eco and cultural tourism.

To see the survey results please click [here](#).

### CULTURE

#### Switzerland Supports the International Travelling Photo Exhibition

The International Travelling Photo Exhibition: TALES FROM A GLOBALIZING WORLD is an initiative launched and funded by the Swiss



# 2008 Survey

## On Monitoring the Paris Declaration

### Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

Development Co-operation (SDC). The SDC entrusted the role of producer to the Swiss photographer, Daniel Schwartz, who commissioned 10 photographers from different countries. The 200 photographs taken from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Latin America were exhibited in Shkodra and Tirana, in May 2008. The photo contest Albania Globalizing was held as an accompanying event in order to focus on the effects of globalization in Albania. The Swiss Development Cooperation Office selected the winning photos. In this ceremony, held on 26 June 2008, the Assistant Director-General SDC, Ms Theresia Adam handed out the first three winning prizes. SDC's support to TALES FROM A GLOBALIZING WORLD is keeping up with the institution's endeavour to promote activities in Switzerland and help bring cultures together. These efforts are meant to create public awareness to other cultures and to promote support for development co-operation.

### Regional Conference on digitalization held in Durres

On 23 June 2008, the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRT) together with the OSCE Presence held a regional conference in Durres with media representatives from central Albania. The conference entitled Digital Albania, Challenge of the Future aimed to provide a platform for information exchange on the technical challenges involved with the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting. In his keynote address, the Deputy Head of Presence, Alex Finnen, stressed that an inclusive policy process,

was a precondition for a successful digital switchover. This was the last regional conference of this kind after those held in Shkodra and Vlora.

### STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

#### Civil society in Korca discusses ways to be involved in defining state budget lines

Over the last month, the National

Network of Civil Society Centres (NNCSDC) held the third consultation round with civil society groups in Korca focusing on how to define better the State Budget line in support to civil society groups. Such consultations are being funded by the OSCE Presence in co-operation with GTZ. The project aims to support the consultations of initiatives targeted at drafting a law that would set the criteria for the utilization of such funds by the local civil society and that the latter are consulted on major decisions of local government units. The event was attended by local NGOs and by local donors. ■

## In-country Missions

### IMF Mission

Meir Sokoler, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Israel, is visiting the Bank of Albania for one week once a month to advise on monetary policy issues. Mr. Sokoler visited the Bank of Albania from 23 to 27 June 2008, and will visit again from 21 to 25 July 2008. His mission assists the Bank of Albania in improving the process of monetary policy formulation and monetary policy implementation. He participates in the meetings of the advisory committee on monetary policy and offers comments relating to the content of the materials prepared for these meetings, aimed at improving the process monetary policy formulation. He participates in the monetary policy implementation meetings and provides

comments in order to make monetary policy more effective.

### Italy

From 4 to 21 June 2008, an expert from the General Directorate for Development Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE/DGCS) visited to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education & Science for the implementation of the 4 million Euros project aimed at establishing a telematic network and services centres among Albanian universities.

In the education sector, from 3 to 21 June 2008, a three weeks evaluation mission visited a completed project which dealt with the reconstruction of 11 public schools through out Albania.

The "Water and Wastewater Network Repair of Tirana Water and Sewerage System Rehabilitation" project, brought to Tirana a MAE/DGCS' mission to provide technical assistance to the hydric, transport & energy sectors. This mission supervised the tenders in these sectors. »

Deputy Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Alex Finnen, and NCRT Chair Mesila Doda address digitalization conference in Durres, 23 June 2008.



**World Bank**

From 16 to 21 June 2008, the World Bank had a Mission to make a first presentation to the Government on the findings of the Albania Local Finance Policy Note, and agreeing on the timeline for the completion of this note. This draft note was prepared as part of the Bank's Programmatic Work on Public Expenditure and Institutional Review. The Mission also followed up with the Ministry of Public Works, Transport & Telecommunication and the General Directorate of Water & Sanitation on the work on water sector financing schemes.

A Supervision Mission on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project, took place from 16-27 June 2008. It focused on the project implementation progress with an emphasis on the Coastal Village Conservation and Development (CVCD) programme and the Project's Communication Strategy. With regard to the former, the focus was on: progress related to the first round of investments under the CVCD programme; a review of the local capacity of the beneficiary communities under the CVCD programme; and progress related to initiation of the Local Development Plans and relation to the preparation of a second round of investments and capacity building needs.

From 9 to 12 June 2008, a Technical Assistance to the Bank of Albania on Microfinance and Access to Financial Services took place. Its aim was to conduct follow-up meetings with the Bank of Albania, Ministry of Finance, microfinance institutions, banks, and some other stakeholders to: elaborate on information presented into two reports, Access to Finance in the Enterprise Sector, and, Microfinance Institutions and Credit Unions in Albania; agree on future development priorities and possible World Bank assistance in the areas of microfinance; finalize an action plan on a proposed regulatory framework.

From 16 to 20 June 2008, a mission on Governance and Accountability Analytical Advisory Activities (AAA) took place.

Its aim was to: share international good practice in empirical impact evaluation of household and provider level reforms to improve accountability and governance in service delivery; to identify the reform priorities and interventions planned by the Ministry of Education; and gather the input required to develop an empirical strategy for the proposed AAA.

A Supervision Mission and Mid-Term Review for Albania Natural Resources Development Project took place from 9 to 25 June 2008. Its aim was to evaluate the progress to date and to plan the continued implementation. The evaluation included a detailed assessment of the project performance from project launch; an appraisal of the project financial situation in light of the recent developments of transfer of forest and pasture area to the communes; an examination of the project management teams procedures and structure; and consideration of the project's inputs to communal forest and

pasture planning and management.

From 30 June to 4 July 2008, a mission for the Municipal Water and Wastewater Project (MWWWP), Integrated Water Ecosystems Management Project (IWEMP), and Water Sector Diagnosis and Scoping Study, took place. Its aim was to continue the dialogue with the Government on the future engagement of the World Bank in the water and wastewater sector. The activities the team focused on: For MWWWP, finalize project completion arrangement for the closing of management contract, and, participate in the Implementation Completion Workshop; For IWEMP, determine with the Ministry of Environment officials whether the two conditions needed to prevent from being downgraded to unsatisfactory have been met; participate with the officials from the Ministry of Public Works in the roundtable discussion on the Water Sector diagnosis and Scoping Study. ■

donor*dialogue*

As of 1 April 2008, the European Commission is the current Chair of the DTS Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Donor Dialogue (both positive and negative) are strongly encouraged – and we promise to print all such comments received!

**Want to contribute?**

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office ([nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al](mailto:nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al)) by the 1st of every month. An ideal word count for submissions is around 100 words.

**Frequency**

Each edition will be sent to you on the 15th of every month.

**Who are the donors in Albania?**

There are over 40 donors operating in Albania. To find out who they are please click [here](#).

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