

donordialogue

ISSUE No. 20, Monthly E-briefing - July-August 2008

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

www.keshilliministrave.al

www.aidharmonisation.org.al



Photo: Left to right: Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications Mr. Sokol Oлдashi; UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett; Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy Mr. Genc Ruli signing programme on Economic Governance (Photo: UN Albania)

Albania to benefit from USD 14 million from the Kingdom of Spain through Delivering as One UN

On 24 July 2008 Prime Minister Sali Berisha, the Ambassador of Spain in Albania and the United Nations Resident Coordinator presided over the launch of three new programmes under the "Delivering as One UN" pilot in Albania. The three programmes are funded through the UNDP Spain Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Achievement Fund.

The three new UN joint programmes are in the areas of: Culture and Development (3.3 million USD) aims to preserve, protect and promote Albania's cultural heritage. The UN joint programme on Economic Governance (2.197 million USD) will support regulatory work in water and energy sectors and consumer

protection. The UN joint programme on Youth, Employment and Migration (3.3 million USD) aims to provide more employment opportunities for young people and better align national strategies on youth, employment and migration.

In addition to the three new programmes, the Kingdom of Spain has committed 1 million USD a year for three years to the One UN Coherence Fund in support of the "Delivering as One UN" Programme in Albania. Spain is also working with the World Health Organization in Albania to support maternal and child health reform (2 million USD).

The Kingdom of Spain is a strong supporter of UN reform worldwide.

In this issue

- **Albania to benefit from USD 14 million from the Kingdom of Spain**
- **Two-Year Plan on Water Sector Reform**
- **Consultation of the Strategy on Public Administration Reform**
- **Three new credit agreements between Albania and World Bank**
- **First printed civil status certificates**
- **Albanians Voice Opinion on Local Government**
- **Doing Business in South East Europe 2008**
- **Support to Vocational Education and Training**

Albania and World Bank Sign Three Credit Agreements

The World Bank considers Albania graduation from IDA a success story

On 2 July 2008, the Government and the World Bank signed credit agreements for three World Bank financed projects, totalling 64.5 million USD, which consist of: Improvement of the Secondary (regional) and Local (communal) Roads Project (20 Million USD) will improve access to essential services and economic markets, especially in rural areas. It will also improve the management, financing, and condition of secondary and local roads; Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (9.2 Million USD) will strengthen institutional capacities to reduce Albania's vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards and to limit human, economic, and financial losses due to these disasters; The Energy Community of South East Europe Adaptable Programme Loan (APL) Programme – APL 5 for Albania Dam Safety Project (35.3 million USD) contributes to safeguarding the major hydroelectric plants and to improve their operational efficiency and enhance the stability of power supply for regional electricity market. With the approval of these projects and signing of their respective credit agreements, Albania marks the official graduation from soft IDA credits (concessional financing for very low income countries) into IRBD loans (commercial financing for middle income countries). "The World Bank considers this as a success story for our IDA lending because in just under two decades Albania has managed to advance from a low to middle income country with good progress on poverty reduction and a sound foundation for continued growth and development, said Camille Nuamah, the World Bank Country Manager.



Photo: Prime Minister Berisha and Minister of Public Works, Transport and telecommunications, Sokol Olldashi at the Public Launch of the two-year plan of Water Supply and Sewerage Sector Reform

Public Launch of the two-year plan of Water Supply and Sewerage Sector Reform

On 23 July 2008, Prime Minister Sali Berisha launched the 2007-2009 Plan for the Reform in Water Supply and Sewerage Sector, after the transfer of joint stock water companies to local government. In December 2007, all the water supply and sewer companies with clear financial records were transferred to local government. This reform is being undertaken for the first time and it aims at the further decentralization and commercialization of water supply and sewerage sector in order to enable self-financing of the companies to meet consumer demands. Measures to support this reform focus on: legal, administrative, project and funding initiatives. 20

central institutions, all local government units and the donor community will be involved in a process led by the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Sokol Olldashi. Prime Minister Berisha said that in 2008, capital investments in this sector had been estimated to have reached 7.5 billion lek, of which 3.3 billion lek came from the state budget and 4.2 billion lek came from donors. By 2010 the Government plans to create wastewater treatment plants to serve the needs of 1.6 million citizens. Due to this initiative, in co-operation with the donor community the Government signed a 120 million Euro commitment. For further information, please contact Sokol Olldashi: solldashi@mppt.gov.al or Ms. Enkelejda Patozi, Advisor to Prime Minister on Water Issues, epatozi@km.gov.al.

Conference on and Consultation of the Strategy on Public Administration Reform

The Department of Public Administration (DoPA) is completing the drafting process of the cross-cutting Strategy on Public Administration Reform as part of the National Strategy for Development and Integration. On 8 July 2008, the Department held a conference to discuss the draft Strategy. The event was chaired

Photo: DoPA Director, Elberta Selenica, Minister of Interior Bujar Nishani, CoM General Secretary Gjergj Lezhja, SIGMA/CE representative, Fransisco Cardona and DSDC Director Albana Vokshi, at the Conference on Public Administration Reform 8 July 2008 (Photo: DSDC)



from Minister of Interior, Bujar Nishani, with the participation of the General Secretary of Council of Ministers, Gjergj Lezhja, a representative of SIGMA/CE, Fransisco Cardona, Department of Strategy and donor co-ordination (DSDC) Director, Albana Vokshi, and DoPA Director, Blerta Selenica. central government officials, civil society, donor representatives attended the event. The meeting was opened by Minister Nishani, followed by a presentation on the link between NSDI and reform on public administration by Mrs Vokshi and a presentation of the draft strategy by Ms Selenica. On 25 July 2008, the Department hosted a round table on the draft Strategy chaired by Ms Selenica, with the participation of donors, DSDC and DTS staff, experts from Institute for Contemporary Studies, who are giving expertise in drafting the strategy. The meeting was opened by Deputy Minister, Ferdinand Poni, followed by a presentation by Ms Selenica. The presentations were followed by a discussion and donors were given the chance to comment on the strategy and to send written comments. To find the final draft of the Strategy, please click [here](#).

The Ambassador of Spain in Albania and the General Coordinator of the Spanish Cooperation for the Balkans visit the area of Gerdec tragedy.

The Spanish Ambassador, Manuel Montobbio, the General Coordinator of the Spanish Cooperation for the Balkans, Cristina Gutiérrez, a representative of

the antenna of AECID in Albania and representatives of the organization Regional Environmental Centre, visited the area of Gerdec. During their visit, they held a meeting with the Mayor of Vora, where the consequences of the tragedy for local inhabitants were discussed. Ambassador Montobbio emphasized that the Spanish Cooperation will support the rehabilitation of the environment and the development of the affected area. For this reason, it is foreseen that at the end of 2008 will a co-operation project will begin Post-Gerdec: support environmental remediation and communities' rehabilitation, signed between the organization "Regional Environmental Centre and AECID. The Project has three aims: the rehabilitation of the destroyed common public areas, the reforestation of the area by creating a forest belt area around the zone of explosion, support to the schools to create awareness of health and environmental issues, the training of teaching staff and the creation of system waste collection and residues.

USAID Forum Promotes Dialogue between Vlorë Citizens and the Court

In July 2008, USAID's Rule of Law Programme, in partnership with the Vlorë District Court, held a community forum to promote dialogue between citizens and the court. The event saw judges, citizens, lawyers, prosecutors, civil society organizations and media representatives

Photo: The Ambassador of Spain in Albania and the General Coordinator of the Spanish Cooperation for the Balkans visit the area of Gerdec tragedy (Photo: AECID)



Caption: Printed civil status certificate, which was made possible due to the work of the Ministry of Interior, with support from the OSCE Presence and Statistics Norway (Photo: EC Delegation).

Albania starts issuing printed civil status certificates

The lack of a reliable, proper civil registry system has been a long-acknowledged hurdle to many developments in the country. This issue is being addressed within the framework of the CARDS programme and has finally brought its first results. Owing to the 2.5 million Euro EU-funded project, Technical Assistance to the Government of Albania on Modernization of Address and Civil Registration Systems, further funds from the OSCE and the United States Government, Albanians can now obtain more reliable, printed civil status certificates, more efficiently. All civil status data, previously contained in the fundamental register books have now been computerised into a database where the printed certificates will be generated from. The new system was inaugurated on 14 August 2008 in the presence of Prime Minister, Sali Berisha, Minister, Bujar Nishani, the Head of the OSCE Presence, Ambassador Robert Bosch, and the Acting Head of the European Commission Delegation to Albania, Hubert Petit. The first to see the benefits of shorter queues and more accurate data are the citizens of Tirana and the local government units of Paskuqan and Kamëz. This first step needs to be followed by timely measures regarding the implementation of the law on Personal Data Protection and the creation of an administrative address system. As the reform of the civil registry system affects the quality of the electoral process, health, taxation, social security, free movement of people, education, and the postal and military services, it is essential that the work done is mindful of these areas.





On July 27, Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, an advisor on financial markets with the Polish Financial Supervision Authority and Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) member, appeared on a 20-min special about the Albanian stock exchange aired by news-based OraNews TV.

USAID Support for Development of Albanian Capital Markets

A new law on investment funds, expected to pave the way the development of capital and pensions markets, is being drafted with the support of USAID. The programme, through the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC), is providing technical assistance during the drafting process of the investment fund law and the stock exchange regulation, ensuring that the laws comply with EU Directives. The program works to strengthen and enlarge the financial sector so that it is better able to attract new sources of capital, and more efficient at deploying capital resources which already exist.



share ideas about how the court can improve transparency and accountability. Through this dialogue USAID hopes to improve the quality of services delivered by the courts and also increase the understanding of the community about the work that the courts do. The program works with the Court and nine other selected courts to improve court efficiency, accountability and openness.

TAIEX Seminars on Anti-corruption and the Internal Market

From the 30 June until the 2 July 2008, a series of seminars were held in Tirana by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) of the Institution Building Unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission. TAIEX is active in various countries, including those in the Western Balkans who aspire to EU membership. In line with its aim of providing technical assistance to these countries in the areas of approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation, TAIEX held seminars on anti-corruption and the internal market. The seminars brought together officials of various countries, the EC Delegation to Albania, Governmental authorities and academics. The seminars juxtaposed the state of play in Albania to that in the EU, with attention to recent developments and challenges.

Albanian Parliament and OSCE Presence conclude series of local policy forums on challenges of EU integration

Discussing anticipated effects of Albania's EU integration process was the purpose of 8 OSCE-supported forums with local communities, the last of which ended on 9 July 2008. The Albanian Parliament and the OSCE Presence, with the support of the European Movement Albania, held the forums, which brought together MPs and local government. Topics raised included the need for a vision on secondary professional education, especially in rural areas. Participants said it was important to reduce factors that prevent businesses from flourishing. They concluded that corruption, an inefficient market, weak infrastructure and a lack of professional development programmes were part of the problem. The local authorities officials stressed the need for stronger support for the drafting of regional policies - particularly to promote agricultural products and to fight pollution. They also underlined the need for an appropriate fishery strategy. The forums, lead by members of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, were held in Shkodra, Peshkopi, Lushnje, Durres, Elbasan, Burrel, Berat and Vlora. The OSCE Presence will continue to assist the Albanian Assembly's efforts to play an active role in the implementation of the EU Stabilization and Association Agreement.

Presence Robert Bosch (center), chair of the parliamentary Committee on European Integration Ilir Meta (chair of SMI) and chair of the policy group Valentina Leskaj in one of the policy forums organized by the Assembly, the Presence and European Movement Albania.





Photo: Swiss Ambassador Ms Yvana Enzler signed an agreement with Minister of Labour Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Mr. Koço Barka, and with the Minister of Education, Mr Genc Pollo on supporting the Albanian Vocational Education and Training (AlbVET) in Albania on 23 July 2008 (Photo: Swiss Cooperation Office).

Parliamentarians from across Europe discuss rising food and energy prices

On 4 June 2008, 34 MPs from across Southeast, Central, and Eastern Europe, met in Tirana under the theme Looking Beyond Transition. The meeting provided MPs a chance to share experiences of the transition to market economies, and EU integration. The meeting was co-hosted by the Assembly Speaker, Jozefina Topalli, and was addressed by the Prime Minister Sali Berisha. The meeting came at a time when issues such as investment climate, the global food and energy price crisis, and impact of aging are influencing the development agenda in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region. Although much progress has been made in ECA countries, MPs expressed concern that efforts should go beyond narrow investment climate issues to good quality and ethical public sector conduct. MPs agreed on the formalization of the ECA Parliamentary Network on the World Bank Chapter. The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) is an independent organization of over 1000 MPs from 110 countries that mobilizes MPs in the fight against global poverty, promotes transparency and accountability in international development, and offers a platform for policy dialogue between the World Bank and parliamentarians. For more on the PNoWB, click [here](#). For more information on how food and energy prices are affecting the Europe and Central Asia Region, please click [here](#).

Switzerland Supports Vocational Education and Training in Albania

On 23 July 2008, the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Albania, Ms. Yvana Enzler, signed an agreement with the Minister of Labour Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Mr. Koço Barka, and with the Minister of Education, Mr Genc Pollo on supporting the Albanian Vocational Education and Training (AlbVET). Switzerland contributes some 3 million Euros for a first phase of 2 years to support the reform of vocational education and training and to contribute to the development of a decentralised VET system that flexibly delivers labour-market relevant training for user groups. The project is being implemented by Swisscontact, an experienced Swiss NGO. The Project's aim is to serve young people in transition from education to work, adults with a desire to improve their performance, career chances and labour market mobility, enterprises, but also special needs groups. The project co-operates with training providers in Durres, Gjirokastra, Elbasan, Lushnja, Fier, Berat, Vlora, Saranda, and in the North-Eastern region. AlbVET is a programme that will support decentralization through piloting semi-autonomous Regional VET centres in Durres and Berat, the implementation of the new structure in vocational education (2+1+1 system) in

selected schools and occupational profiles, strengthens the co-operation between training providers and enterprises through public-private partnerships, supports concept development and implementation of mobile training in remote areas, co-finances modular training for specific needs groups, and promotes quality development through support of innovation initiatives. Successful outcomes so far have included: the Durrës model for co-operation between schools and businesses, curricula for modular vocational courses in various profiles, teachers and instructors training, equipment support, teaching material, and it has funded various quality and innovation projects. AlbVET has co-financed training for some 2,500 participants since 2007, thus raising the figure of participants since 2001 to more than 25,000.

Joint Donor- Government meeting on VET issues

On 11 July 2008, the DSDC with the Advisor for Education to the Prime Minister, Mr. Myqerem Tafaj called a joint Donor-Government meeting to discuss the planned project for the Vocational Education sector. The aim was to exchange information on the existing projects that donors active in VET are implementing in northeast Albania, their future plans and to address the





Photo: Representatives of the EC delegation to Albania and the beneficiaries at the National Conference, held on 4 July 2008, announcing the preliminary results of the project (Photo: EC Delegation)

Encouraging public-private partnerships: 'One-Stop Shop' Local Licensing

The inconsistent and lengthy procedures to obtain a license to begin an activity in construction or transport is currently being addressed by a 1 million Euros EC-funded project on Technical Assistance and Training on Public Services Delivery to Local Government. Licences are currently issued by various government levels. Not only do responsibilities overlap, but the procedures, forms and documents required also vary, bringing confusion and inefficiency to the process. The project, already operational in three pilot units (the Municipality of Shkodra, the District of Elbasan and the Commune of Dajti), seeks to facilitate licensing procedures by local government through standardising procedures in a consensual way. A National Conference was held on 4 July 2008, where the beneficiaries presented the best practice so far. For instance, the creation of unified, single offices at the local level to deliver licensing services (modelled after 'one-stop shops'), is being pushed as a way to ease the strain of entrepreneurs in starting up a business. The Manual for Local Licences has been published providing an overview of the present situation, the procedural steps to be followed in order to obtain a licence as well as projecting improvements for the future. The positive results from the three pilot areas have led to the extension of the project to 20 other areas. The project draws central, regional and local authorities to renegotiate the division of their responsibilities with a view to decentralizing and making licensing at the local level more accessible and transparent.



possible needs for better co-ordination with Government. One of the meetings conclusions was that initiatives of this kind were appreciated, that these meetings need to be done more frequently, within the Basic Education Sector Working Group and also that a VET sub-SWG division needs to be considered. A potential future meeting of the sub-SWG is planned to be held in September.

Promoting Quality Education For All: Human Rights and Democracy Education

On 14 July 2008 the Italian Development Cooperation concluded the second phase of the initiative Promoting Quality Education For All: Human Rights And Democracy Education In Albania into an event that took place at the Tirana International Hotel. The project has been financed with an Italian contribution of 300,000 Euros and has been implemented by UNESCO. The main objectives of the initiative were to raise awareness on human rights in Albanian public schools, provide training to trainers within this area, and produce manuals on human rights for teachers.

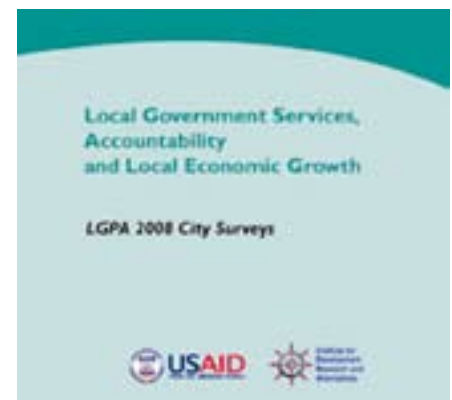
Albanians Voice Opinion on Local Government in Survey

In June, the Institute for Development Research and Alternatives (IDRA) released findings from a Local Governance Opinion Poll, in partnership with USAID's Local Governance in Albania Programme. The survey presented the views of citizens in 20 cities on such issues as how well cities

are performing, the responsiveness and trustworthiness of city authorities, and on prospects for economic growth. The main findings were:

- Employment/lack of employment opportunities is the primary concern in all cities surveyed with the exception of Himarë. Economic problems and poverty/social issues are also mentioned as major concerns. Weak infrastructure also appears to be a problem facing all cities, according to citizens.
- Most citizens think that the economy is either "Stagnant" or "Declining." When asked about their living standards compared to 12 months ago, a majority in each city maintained that it has either stayed the same or worsened.
- Satisfaction with public services varies by city. Citizens are generally satisfied with drinking water supply and street lighting, and less satisfied with roads and sewage service. Aspects of municipal services, such as behaviour of city employees, timeliness, convenience of office hours and clear procedures, are positively rated. Rating on the ability to solve problems, getting access to the right person, and feelings of trust and confidence varies in each city.
- The majority of citizens think that their local government does a poor job of encouraging and managing economic growth. But there is optimism about the future role of local government in managing economic growth.

Please visit USAID Albania's website (<http://albania.usaid.gov>) to read the full report.



Doing Business in South East Europe 2008: New Report Benchmarks 22 Cities on the Ease of Doing Business to Help Improve Competitiveness, Create Jobs

The ease of doing business varies greatly among cities in South East Europe, according to a new report launched on 14 July 2008 by the World Bank Group. Doing Business in South East Europe 2008 covers 22 cities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. For the first time, Doing Business goes beyond the most populous city to compare cities in similar economic situations to each other and with other regional cities. It benchmarks 4 areas of regulation that are subject to local jurisdiction: starting a business, obtaining licenses, registering property, and enforcing contracts. The report highlights that, while some economies achieved remarkable progress in improving their investment climate at the national level—there is scope to extend reforms to the local level. “South East Europe is reforming rapidly to improve the ease of doing business. The report identifies reforms that can make cities more competitive by reducing the cost and risk of doing business. These include consolidating construction licenses through one-stop shops, introducing electronic business registries, and improving courts’ case management systems. Cities can learn about reform solutions from other cities in their own country or elsewhere in the region.” The report was directed by FIAS, a multi-donor investment climate advisory service of the World Bank Group. It was produced with financial support from IFC, the USAID, and Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. It is based on the work of some 224 lawyers, accountants, architects, contractors, engineers, property specialists, and national and local public officials. This is the first Doing Business regional report that allows comparisons among capitals and other cities, both within individual countries and across the region. Data for all economies in Southeast Europe are for January 2008. Data for all other economies are for June 2007. For more information or to download the report, visit www.doingbusiness.org/SEE. For more

information about the Doing Business project, visit www.doingbusiness.org. Data, methodology, and the names of contributors are available at: <http://subnational.doingbusiness.org>.

How to bid successfully to World Bank-financed projects

On 18 June 2008, the World Bank in co-operation with Tirana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, American Chamber of Commerce and the Albanian Builder’s Association held a Procurement Business Workshop titled How to bid successfully in Bank-financed projects. The aim was to give guidance to the local business community on how to bid for contracts in bank financed projects as well as to get their feedback on what could be improved in implementation of Bank-financed projects. World Bank procurement experts presented key topics that are of interest to business community such as: where to find information on the business opportunities financed by the Bank, role of the Bank and Government in the bidding procedures, main procurement methods, treatment of complaints and WB financed portfolio.

New interception equipment for Directorate for Financial Crime and Money Laundering

On 28 July 2008 a ceremony took place to provide the Albanian Directorate for



Photo: Minister of Interior Nishani and Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D’Elia during the ceremony at the Albanian Directorate for Financial Crime and Money Laundering on 28 July 2008 (Photo: Italian Development Cooperation office).

Financial Crime and Money Laundering with new equipment in support of the fight against illicit trafficking and organized crime, particularly the fight against money laundering. The event, held in the presence of the Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D’Elia, Minister of Interior, Bujar Nishani and the General Director of Albanian State Police, was held in the scope of the project Strengthening of Enhanced Border Control Capacities and Criminal Justice response Towards Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime in Albania, implemented by the UNODC and supported by Italy through a contribution of 1 million USD.

Inauguration of the new METE offices

On 15 July 2008, the Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D’Elia and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE), Genc Ruli, inaugurated the new METE offices located in Rruga Tefta Tashko, renewed in the framework of the Italy-funded Programme Support to the



Photo: Minister of Interior Nishani and Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba D’Elia during the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Albanian Directorate for Financial Crime and Money Laundering on 28 July 2008 (Photo: Italian Development Cooperation office).



Photo: The Inauguration of the works of restructuring of the Korca Polyclinic - the Italian Ambassador, Saba D'Elia signing the Gold Book for personalities contributing to the Albanian development (photo: Italian Development Cooperation)



Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, financed through a grant of 500,000.00 Euros. The aim is to contribute to the enhancement of public administration. The new offices will host the activities of the Programme Management Unit of Italy-funded Programme aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises through the creation of a credit line.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Planning and Investments in Koplík and Bushat

Through the financial contribution of Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID), the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) supported the Municipality of Koplík and Commune of Bushat to prepare Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAP) through a multi-participatory process. These plans provide analysis on better management of the territory, and to raise community awareness on sustainable living. On July 2008, after the adoption by the respective Councils, REC Albania followed the second phase of support, by awarding 3 investments projects for Koplík and one for Bushat. Koplík Municipality received 100,000 Euros for waste management and city infrastructure improvement, while Bushat Commune received 23,000 Euros for

waste management. Both local authorities are contributing by co-financing more than 10% of the budgets. Thus, the total investment equals 143,000 Euros. The investments will be completed by the end of September 2008, solving the waste management for Koplík Municipality and larger villages of Bushat Commune, as well as improving infrastructure for more than 33,000 inhabitants. For more information visit: <http://albania.rec.org>



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Albania

Improving environmental conditions at local level

Through the financial contribution of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a Trust Fund for Local Environmental Projects is being implemented by REC Albania. Some 800,000 Euros are available for grants to NGOs for local community environmental priorities and the promotion of public participation in decision making. During this 3 year programme, the granting component will be supported by the Capacity Development component that will consist of a large number of workshops on topics of interest for local partners. Since the start of the project in January 2008, 12 grants have been awarded with a total value of 220,000 Euros. The activities

Photo: The Inauguration of the works of restructuring of the Korca Polyclinic (photo: Italian Development Cooperation)

HEALTH

Inauguration of the works of restructuring of the Korca Polyclinic

On 24 July 2008 the Italian Ambassador in Albania, Saba d'Elia at the presence of the Albanian Vice-Minister of Health, of the Major of Korca, and the Prefect of Korca inaugurated the rehabilitation works of the Korca Polyclinic. The works are part of the initiative Rehabilitation and equipment of five policlinics (Tirana 3, Tirana 9, Korca, Gjirokastra and Peskopi), financed by the government of Italy through a soft loan of 5 million Euros. The aim of the programme is to improve the access and quality of the secondary health services. During the ceremony, the Italian Ambassador symbolically laid down the first brick in the site where the rehabilitation works will start on 1 August. The Ambassador expressed its interest towards the municipality of Korca, stating that future interventions will be considered in this area.





Photo: Activities of REC in Peshkopi (Photo: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands)

are focused on local environmental problems such as solid waste management, sewage water systems, energy efficiency, environmental risks in local communities, urban infrastructure. Two recent workshops focused on public participation on local level and the role of civil society in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. For more information please click [here](#).

Striving for sustainability of environmental NGO sector

On 15 June 2008, the results of an assessment of the Environmental Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Albania and in Western Balkans countries were discussed in a donor meeting held in Tirana. The Assessment was carried out by the REC, within SECTOR, a framework programme for CSO support in Western Balkans, financed by SIDA. The aim of the meeting was to gain a clearer picture of the state of the environmental NGOs and efforts for sustainability. Head of NGO Support Programme in REC Head Office, Hungary, Mr. Robert Atkinson, presented the overview and comparative analyses of NGO development in the Balkans. The meeting supported the REC initiative as well as the surveys findings. REC

is supporting NGOs through grants (205,000 Euros) as well as through needs tailored capacity developments activities. For more information please click [here](#).

GENDER EQUALITY

Promoting the third MGD

On 25 July 2008, the Embassy of Denmark held an event in line with the worldwide initiative – Global Call to Action - to promote the third UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG). MDG3 seeks to Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. Ambassador Niels Severin Munk handed over a MDG3 Champion Torch to the human rights activist, Elsa Ballauri. As a MDG3 Torch Bearer Ms Ballauri commits to Do Something Extra in support of gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The torch may be passed to others that make additional commitments – thereby igniting a wave of global resolve in support of MDG3. On 25 September 2008 all commitments will be presented to the UN at a planned UN High Level MDG meeting in New York. UN Secretary-General will be invited to light the last MDG3 Torch.

ENERGY

In July 2008, an important contract in the energy area Restructuring of Pogradec substation and its network of distribution was launched by the Office of the Italian Development Cooperation. It is financed through a soft loan of 6,3 mill Euros. The contract is part of the Italy-funded initiative supporting the strengthening of the electricity system, one of the key priorities of Italy with a contribution in the sector of some 100 mill Euros.

TRANSPORT

The Italian Development Cooperation launched a contract in the transport sector under the Rehabilitation of the road Scutari-Hani Hotit, project which is financed through a soft loan of 24.8 mill Euros. It covers the design and construction of the road. Transport is another main sector of intervention of the Italian Cooperation that contributes more than 63 million Euros. On 16 July 2008, a mission of a long-term expert to the Italian Development Cooperation started, who for one year will support the implementation of the Italy-funded initiatives by facilitating the implementation of some key projects as, for example, the rehabilitation of the road connecting Shkoder to Hani-Hotit. ■

In-country Missions

Italy

From 7 to 13 July 2008, an expert provided support within the programme Support in favour of Youth Policy – Institutional strengthening for decentralization of social services and the national service for adoptions, child protection and harmonization with the EU legislation, co-financed by the Italian Government and the Italian Region of Emilia Romagna, and implemented together with the Italian Regions of Marche and Puglia. The programme aims to improve the living conditions of minors and adolescents through the strengthening of the capacities of the social service institutions. The Italian Development Cooperation contributes to the programme with a 1.5 million Euros grant.

From 10 to 26 July 2008, an Italian architecture expert provided assistance within the initiative Final Design of the Mother Teresa Square in Tirana, that is financed by Italian Development Cooperation through a 0.5 million Euros grant. The Italian support in the urban development sector is focused on improving people's living conditions in the suburbs as it was done in Vlora, Kombinat neighbourhood of Tirana and is on going with the urban rehabilitation project in Lapraka.

In July were completed the missions of an architect and a biomedical engineer supporting the implementation of the health project Rehabilitation and equipment of five policlinics (in Tirana, Korca, Gjirokastra and Peshkopi). The project is financed by Italy through a 5 million Euros soft loan, and a 110,000 Euros grant.

During the same period another mission was held within the framework of the project Tirana Sana providing support to initiatives of decentralized co-operation. The head of the Agency for Drug Addiction of the Rome Municipality and an architecture expert visited Albania to sustain the establishment of the equal Agency.

World Bank

A World Bank Mid-Term Review Mission on Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project took place from 3 to 8 July 2008. The aim was to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the project; to assess the overall effectiveness of the current implementation arrangements; to evaluate the activities of the main project stakeholders in government; and to identify problems related to implementations.

A Mission on the Education Excellence and Equity Project (EEE-P) visited from 7 to 12 July 2008. The aim was to facilitate actions needed to ensure the proper application of the World Bank Policy on Involuntary Resettlement under EEE-P. The aim was to help: review the Resettlement Policy Framework that will guide the design and implementation of land acquisition; determine the number of new school constructions under the current work plan; and review the Abbreviated Resettlement Plan (s) prepared by the Government.

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) 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](#).

To unsubscribe:

Please send an e-mail to Nevila Çomo (nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al)

