

# governmentdonor*dialogue*

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

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## Emigrantë, së bashku për një të ardhme më të mirë



Fushata e Qeverisë Shqiptare për informim dhe komunikim mbi çështjet e migracionit

Fotot: Roland Tasho



## IOM, EC and Italy support to the implementation of 2005 National Strategy on Migration ends

Given the prominence of migration management considerations, Albania adopted a National Strategy on Migration and corresponding Action Plan for 2005–2010. IOM has supported the implementation of the National Migration Strategy and its corresponding measures in co-operation with the European Commission and the Government of Italy from February 2007 to July 2009. Support included the creation of a system to enable the Government to better monitor the implementation of the strategy and to build the capacities of the Ministries of Labour and Foreign Affairs on international migration instruments through trainings on migration legislation, the development of a manual on international migration legal instruments,

and national laws. A number of studies were carried out to identify the areas most affected by emigration and return; to profile returning migrants; to outline vocational training opportunities and gaps for returning migrants. The Regional Employment Offices' reintegration services have been reinforced through trainings and purchase of equipment. A database collating information on Albanian associations abroad was set up for the National Institute of Diaspora and visits organized for the Institute to meet some of these associations. A policy document mapping out the Government's approach to migration information and communication towards migrants and their families was developed, and based on this, a pilot information campaign »

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## Business Community Steps Up Administrative Courts Push



The heads of 28 business associations met in September to increase efforts to lobby for an Administrative Courts law. They plan an intensive campaign beginning this month aimed at mobilizing business and public support for such a law, which they say will pave the way for a modern courts system with the capability to adjudicate administrative cases fairly and efficiently. The business community has long supported the creation of administrative courts, which they see as a means to protect the rights and legal interests of all citizens. Although during 2009 a dozen business associations joined forces to lobby Parliament to pass a draft law, nothing conclusive resulted from this. This larger group of businesses now intends to make a stronger case to the Parliament. During the event, USAID Albania Director Roberta Mahoney said. "It is largely in your hands to make decision-makers...turn the plans for establishing the Administrative Courts into an institution that will benefit the business community, public institutions, and the public at large." Under the Millennium Challenge Corporation Albania Threshold Agreement II, USAID will work with the Government and judiciary to create the administrative courts once the law is passed.

» was held in 2009 on migrant rights, return migration, and migration and development. Visits were held for the Albanian Ombudsman to meet its counterparts in Italy and Greece, and to assess the status of Albanian migrants in both countries. The third project component provided an assessment of the Albanian experience in the implementation of the readmission agreement with the EU and other neighbouring states, given that Albania was the first country in Europe to sign such an agreement. The project ended in July 2009 and an official hand over was made to the Ministry of Labour that manages the Technical Committee on Migration of the Monitoring Plan, the National Migration Information Policy Document, the published reports of the various project surveys; the information campaign material to the various border posts and consulates abroad, and the broadcasting of the Migration Information TV spots on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Monitoring and Readmission reports will be distributed shortly.

### **Innovative Techniques Lead to Better Services - Municipalities Exhibit their Achievements**

Local government units are now using new ways to promote good governance, improve service provision, and be more responsive to citizens. With USAID support, local and central government officials, civil society, international donors



participated in the 2009 Best Practices Conference to recognize the best practices adopted in local government. The Tirana based event showcased the achievements that Albanian cities have made to improve the quality of local life, with President Bamir Topi being the guest of honour. USAID/Albania Mission Director, Roberta Mahoney, stressed the efforts that have been made to strengthen local autonomy and authority and to build local capacity. "These efforts demonstrate that even with limited resources locally elected officials can take actions that make a difference as defined and valued by the communities they serve," she said. Through presentations and panel discussions, participants explored issues like trends in local government revenues, urban planning, and asset management, as well as the results of the annual USAID funded Local Government Survey. The Conference not only showcased municipal best practices, but resulted in recommendations and next steps to help local government to continue improving.

Photo: Innovative Techniques Lead to Better Services - Municipalities Exhibit their Achievements (Photo/ USAID Albania)







Photo: GTZ-ISKSH Conference on Social Health Protection; From left: Dorjan Marusic, Advisor of the General Director of the Slovenian Health Insurance Institute, Joseph Kutzin, WHO/EURO, Regional Advisor, Health Systems Financing, Elvana Hana, General Director of the Albanian Health Insurance Institute-ISKSH, Arben Ivanaj, Deputy Health Minister, Zhaneta Shatri, Health Team Leader, USAID/Albania, Holger Thies, CIM, Advisor to the General Director of ISKSH (Photo Credit: Paul Cohn, [www.paulcohnimages.com](http://www.paulcohnimages.com))

### GTZ-ISKSH Conference on Social Health Protection

On 28 and 29 September, GTZ and the Albanian Health Insurance Institute (ISKSH) organized a conference on social health protection. GTZ has been supporting the ISKSH since January 2008 with the aim of strengthening its institutional capacities. This support involved consultancy missions from national as well as international experts, various studies and workshops. Since this project will close at the end of 2009, the conference provided a forum for the discussion of the achieved results and the remaining challenges. The event provided new inputs for the further reform process in the health sector relating to health financing and universal coverage.

as to assess the different models implemented in the region. The event will contribute to the Conference of Copenhagen to be held in December 2009 where government heads meet to renew the Kyoto Protocol on preventing climate changes and global warming. European Initiatives on co-ordination of sustainability issues, based on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, approved by Council of Europe in 2006, were presented. Discussions focused on institutional models of region countries, the monitoring of sustainable development strategies, and ideas for regional co-operation. Participants expressed an interest in the Albanian model of sustainable development based on NSDI and IPS, presented by DSDC coordinator, Mrs Oriana Arapi.

### Regional Conference on Sustainable Development

The Regional Conference entitled Sustainable Development - Institutional Challenges and implementation took place in Kotor, Montenegro from 24 to 25 September 2009. Organized by Department of Sustainable Development in the Council of Minister in Montenegro and the Office of German Co-operation, GTZ, the event brought together government officials from Balkan countries. The aim was to create a debate on the components of sustainable development as well

Photo: Regional Conference on Sustainable Development-Institutional challenges and implementation



## Meeting of Inter-ministerial Committee for European Integration

The Inter-ministerial Committee for European Integration held a meeting on 18 September 2009 to discuss issues related to completing the questionnaire, following the application for EU candidate status. Given the complexity of the process and based on the experience of other countries, the meeting highlighted that preparatory actions were crucial to the success in the process and meeting the deadlines. Some important actions to be taken include: the identification of working groups, the definition of terminology used in translation, the selection and training of translators and experts, and the design of IT infrastructure for online reporting.

## USAID Sees Renewed Opportunity to Eliminate Trafficking in Humans

In September, USAID's Co-ordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) programme, convened its fifth and final national conference. The aim was to review what the CAAHT programme had achieved over the life of the six-year, \$7.5 million programme. USAID/Albania Mission Director, Roberta Mahoney said, "Integration into the European Union, visa-free travel, improved foreign investment, all of these priorities are within Albania's reach. But they cannot be achieved without the continued, concerted efforts by the Government and civil society to combat these serious crimes." A video presentation showed the key success achieved through the programme, highlighting that: over 740 victims of trafficking received assistance and re-integration services; some 2,800 vulnerable women and children received prevention services; over 59,800 people participated in awareness raising activities; almost 400 government and 500 civil society representatives co-operated in CAAHT co-ordination; and over 2,100 government and 210 civil society actors were trained in anti-trafficking and management skills.



Photo: The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Albania, Ms Yvana Enzler visited Agropuka fair activity, 26 September 2009.

### Switzerland completed successfully the project on Promoting Agriculture in Puka

The Swiss Co-operation in Albania and AGROPUKA farmers association organised the AGROPUKA Promotion Day in Puka on 26 September 2009. The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Albania, Yvana Enzler opened the event in the presence of MPs, central and local government officials as well as officials from the business and donor community. Switzerland has contributed to the promotion of agriculture in Puka with some 2 million Euros over the last nine years. The project focused on the empowerment of farmers and has supported the creation of AGROPUKA, whose mission is to contribute to the rural development in poor mountainous areas through marketing of agricultural and livestock products and training. The women NGO Progress of Mountainous Women that promotes social and economic opportunities for women in Puka is seen as a major achievement of the project. AGROPUKA products like honey, dried fruits and mushrooms, blended tea and fruit juice and marmalades can be found in a shop located in Puka town as well as in the Euromax supermarket in Tirana. The brochure on presenting each product can be ordered at this e-mail address: [sdjaloshi@yahoo.com](mailto:sdjaloshi@yahoo.com).

and agriculture experts on ways to develop markets for Albanian agricultural products. The event took place at this year's National Agricultural Trade Fair held by the Albanian Agribusiness Council (KASH). The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, Genc Ruli, and USAID Mission Director, Roberta Mahoney, spoke at the event. "Today Albanian farmers and traders have more opportunities to engage in commercial agriculture, target high-value markets and become key players in the development of the rural economies. Farmers and agribusinesses must continue to improve the quality of their products, use market information to maximize their competitive advantages," said Mahoney. A presentation was also given about market prospects for a series of commodities of economic importance for Albania. According to the analysis, there is an array of opportunities for traders to take advantage of, with special emphasis on early and late-season crops. Similarly, there are opportunities to replace imports by improving the quality of crops such as apples and citrus. Target markets included international retail chains, local food wholesalers, as well as progressive retailers.

### USAID Explores Opportunities for products in the Food Retail Industry

In September, USAID's Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness Programme held a special forum with business leaders

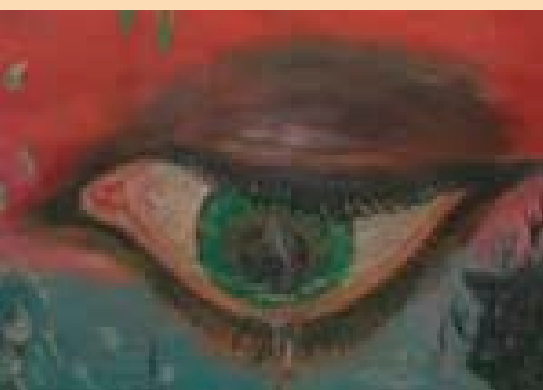






Photo: Inauguration of the new school in Roshnik village in Berat, funded from the Government of Turkey

### **Turks invest in reconstruction of 30.000 euros of the united school of Roshnik**

Roshnik village in Berat, the birthplace of the famous Qyperli family that played a key role in the modern Turkey, will now have a new school due to funds from the Government of Turkey. The closing of the 30,000 Euros investment offered through the Turkish Agency for Development and Co-operation (TIKA) was celebrated in September. Local school governors, descendants of the Qyperli family, local teachers and parents participated in the opening ceremony of the Mehmet Qyperli Roshnik School. The Berat Prefect, Kostandin Lefta said that "the investment made in the Roshnik village is further evidence of the wonderful relations which exist between two governments and two countries". He said that the students and the local community will never forget this investment that transformed the school into a modern one. The TIKA co-ordinator of TIKA, Ali Özgün Öztürk said that "The decision for this investment was taken following the programmes of the agency and through the ancient relations of Roshnik village with Turkey,"

### **EURALIUS and OSCE trained the Albanian probation officers**

From 22 September to 2 October 2009, all newly appointed Albanian probation officers were trained with support from the EURALIUS project, an EU funded

project to support the justice system and the OSCE Presence in Albania. The aim was to increase the skills of the probation officers necessary for performing their roles. The workshops will be followed by an in-service training organized by EURALIUS and the OSCE Presence. The aim is to enhance the translation of theory into practice and to enable the probation activities to develop in a meaningful way and the lessons learned in the probation local offices to be taken on board effectively. The probation service was established on May 2009 and developing the probation system will greatly reduce the overpopulation in the prisons and will ensure an efficient enforcement of community sanctions

### **SAA Implementation training workshop**

A two-day workshop on Transposition of the Acquis into national legislation

was held in Tirana on 29-30 September, organized by the Ministry of European Integration and the Institute for European Politics in Berlin. The first day focused on analyzing the state of the transposition process, the legal framework, guidelines and instruments. FYROM brought its experience as an EU candidate country highlighting the functioning of the co-ordination process and the role of the Government Secretariat of Legislation in the process. On day two, Slovenia presented its approach to the EU on the basis of twinning projects in the transposition process, good practices and examples of how to ensure a successful transposition process. The SAA training programme is designed for senior public administrators in policy areas of the EU concerned with the requirements related to the SAA Process. The programme has been underway since 2000.

### **Albania Photo Calendar 2010**

The colourful beauty of Albania landscape is mirrored in the Albania Photo Calendar 2010. Photographers are students of "photo-school project 5.6" ([www.projekt56.com](http://www.projekt56.com)) implemented by the Lindart Cultural Centre in Tirana under the Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans/SCP ([www.scp-ba.net](http://www.scp-ba.net); [www.scp-al.net](http://www.scp-al.net)). The e-version of the calendar is accessible on the Swiss Cooperation Office in Albania website ([www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/albania](http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/albania)) and printed in its poster size are available at the Swiss Co-operation Office in Tirana.

Photo: EURALIUS and OSCE trained the Albanian probation officers



## In-country Missions

### Italy

A mission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy visited Tirana on 28-30 September to start negotiations for the preparation of the upcoming co-operation protocol. The mission held meetings with senior government officials to discuss the priorities of Italian assistance for the next four years. At a joint meeting with DSDC and the Ministry of Finance, the DSDC Director, Valbona Kuko pointed out that the priorities were: infrastructure, water, energy, agriculture, rural development, health and education. Preparation of the cooperation protocol will take 3 to 4 months.

### UNIDO-UNEP

The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), in view of the Joint Programme on Cleaner Production, undertook a mission to start the implementation phase. The mission represented by Rene Van Berkel from UNIDO and by Garrete Clark from UNEP met with DSDC Director, Valbona Kuko to discuss the work plan and to establish a national steering committee. Both officials had bilateral consultations with key partners, and individual meetings with pre-identified potential institutions. The Government recognizes that the improvement of environmental performance of its industries is vital for achieving its development and integration goals. The Government requested the assistance of UNIDO to include a Cleaner Production component in the One UN programme.

### World Bank

**Financial Crisis Simulation Exercise, 22 to 24 September 2009:** The aim of the mission was to provide technical assistance to supervisory agencies to enhance their practical tools for managing potential financial crisis by formalizing relevant contingency plans and conducting a crisis simulation exercise. The proposed assistance is composed of two phases which are strengthening and formalizing contingency plans and conducting a simulation exercise respectively.

**Programmatic Poverty Assessment Mission, 28 to 30 September 2009:** The aim of the mission was to learn about planned analytical and statistical activities related to the monitoring of poverty and vulnerability,

particularly with a view to address the consequences of the ongoing global crisis.

### Albania Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project, Supervision Mission, 30 September 30 to 5 October 2009:

The aims were: (i) to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of project components; (ii) to assess the effectiveness of the arrangements for the implementation of the restructured Project and to focus to the new type of A/H1N1 and the pandemic response of the Project; and (iii) to identify problems related to the implementation, and assess the work plan for the extended period of the project.

### Proposed Albania Development Policy Operation on Social Sectors, 26 September to 2 October 2009:

The main aims were to introduce the team, working in health and social protection, to the new authorities; to exchange ideas on the new Government's programme of policies in health and social protection, and how those policies could be supported by the World Bank; and to discuss the preparation of a new operation to support reforms in health and social protection.

### Albania Health System

#### Modernization Project, 28 to 29 September 2009:

The main aims of the mission were to: introduce the health team to the new authorities; exchange ideas

on the new Government's programme in health and how these policies could be supported by the World Bank; and discuss the preparation of a new operation to support reforms in the health sector.

### Land Administration and Management Project, Mid-Term Review Follow-Up Mission, 28 September to 9 October 2009:

The aim was to follow-up the Mid-Term Review findings and to discuss possible measures to adjust the Project in line with the World Bank's new Interim Guidance Note regarding social safeguards in land use planning activities.

### Albania Transport Project and Secondary and Local Road Project, Mid-Term Review and Supervision Mission, 21 to 30 September 2009:

The main aims were: to assess the status of the project components; to confirm the satisfactory implementation of the Environmental Management Plan; to update the project performance indicators for inclusion in the Implementation Status Report; and to undertake a field visit to review the works on site.

### Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project, Supervision Mission, 21 to 30 September 2009:

The aim was the supervision of the Project and the start of initial discussions about the restructuring of the Project with the Government as well as with co-financing donors.

## governmentdonor*dialogue*

As of April 2009, the Netherlands is the current Chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Government-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)) or the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) ([agerxhani@km.gov.al](mailto:agerxhani@km.gov.al)) by the 5th 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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