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Photo: Government-Donor Roundtable, held on 4 June 2010

Regular Government - Donor Round Table takes place on 4 June 2010

On 4 June 2010, the Government organized the regular Government-Donor Roundtable, co-chaired by Minister for Innovation and ICT, Genc Pollo and Ambassador Robert Bosch, Head of OSCE Presence, as rotating chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat. The event gathered senior officials from Government and donors. Minister Pollo highlighted the major achievements and reforms that the Government had undertaken in the last six months and their impact on the EU integration process of the country. Ambassador Bosch expressed satisfaction with the major progress made towards the implementation

of IPS that will help to better align external assistance with national priorities. A briefing on the "Fast Track Initiative on Division of Labour" that was signed on 31 May 2010, by the Government and European donors (facilitated by Italy) was given by the Italian Ambassador Saba D'Elia. In response to donor concerns relating to VAT reimbursement raised in the last roundtable, a report was prepared by Ministry of Finance and distributed to participants together with updated information on macroeconomic situation. The DSDC Director, Valbona Kuko, provided a presentation on the implementation

of IPS and the progress on NSDI monitoring, highlighting that Albania reached the stage where the strategic framework was in place and that the focus should now shift on monitoring. She recognized the achievements of the joint work of Government and donors in strengthening co-ordination through the Sector Working Groups (SWGs), on embracing and adopting new co-ordination mechanisms aiming accountability and managing for results. The participants considered the meeting as a good forum for information sharing and constructive dialogue on improving effectiveness of external assistance. For more information, please click [here](#)

In this issue

- **Regular Government-Donor Roundtable**
- **Switzerland launches its new Strategy**
- **Government launches the NSDI monitoring mechanism**
- **Albania completes an Assessment of the Public Procurement System**
- **Albania participates in 'Delivering as One' Vietnam conference**
- **ICITAP donates assets of TIMS to Albanian State Police**
- **ABC of European Union for Local Government Units**
- **Policy and Strategy: Water Supply and Sewerage Sector 2010-2013**
- **New Financing Tools Available for Albanian Businesses**
- **IPA Multi-beneficiary regional conference**

Ardi Stoios-Braken and her years in Albania

Right before the Dutch Deputy Head of Mission Ardi Stoios-Braken left for her next assignment as the Deputy Head of Mission and Head of the Development Co-operation in Zambia, the Government-Donor Dialogue team welcomed her for an interview.

If you reflect on the past three and a half years in Albania how are you going to describe your work as a Deputy Head of Mission and the Head of Development Co-operation in Albania? Have you enjoyed it?

When I was first assigned to Albania, I particularly went for the job profile as I was very keen on being involved in development co-operation. Although I studied in the development field and I had some previous experience in development, I was keen on learning more about Netherlands' development co-operation, and development cooperation in practice. I also had managerial responsibilities. So this assignment gave me this opportunity. I feel that my three and a half years here in Albania gave me a great chance to learn a lot and also provided me with a good basis for my new job. My work as the Deputy Head of the Netherlands Embassy has been giving me a lot of satisfaction. In my personal perception, it is what you make out of it. I tried to be active and I tried to be constructively critical. But in line with my "strict but fair" approach, I impose high demands on others but also on myself. But this is the way I function best. I really enjoyed my job here. My next post is as Deputy Head of Mission and the Head of Development Cooperation in Zambia. To me personally, it is more important to continue to develop as a professional. But it is not only about my career, but also my family who will be with me in my new post is very important.

What has been the contribution by the Government of the Netherlands? What was/is its intervention-strategy in Albania? What has been the comparative advantage of its assistance?

What we have been trying to do through Dutch development co-operation, if you look in financial terms, it has been relatively



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limited. The Dutch assistance programme has been on average 5 million Euros a year. This is not a lot of money, but I think the incentive by introducing new technologies, introducing new ways of working, sharing experiences from other countries, that in itself are of more value than the actual financial price tag that goes with it. In that respect, we are quite proud of some of the projects we have been engaged in. With regards to the Intervention strategy, in the way we work, compared to our other colleagues, in our system we have a fairly delegated system, in the sense that we have a multi-annual strategic framework which is discussed in the Hague. Once it is approved there is a fair amount of freedom to operate within that framework. This has added to our flexibility. Also, in comparison with the others, we like a lot to work with local organisations and actors. We have been very pleased to work with many competent local organisations. If they can do the job, why go elsewhere? Development co-operation is very much a matter of adopting the right time perspective. And maybe in terms of support to civil society, not all the actors will be able to sustain whatever they received money to achieve. But just being exposed to the way we posed questions on their project proposals, or the way we posed questions for the project implementation and reports, might have had an impact on them and therefore they might do things differently in the future. This is an impact as well. It is not always about the concrete outcomes, but also about the processes

that you initiate that will generate concrete outcomes in the longer term.

Netherlands is withdrawing at the end of 2010; do you consider the tasks finished?

Most of our projects will come to an end, by the end of this year. Maybe there will be a few things that will still require our attention. I would say that the objectives that we have been trying to support through our development co-operation programme have not all been met. To put it in a positive way, Albania itself is in a much better position with its own resources and capacities to take over. Moreover, Albania now is a lower-middle income country; it is receiving pre-accession funds and is not ODA dependent. Our amount of money will not make a big difference. It is a positive rationale behind us stepping out. Also, there is one other factor that we need to take into account as well - that development co-operation overall has been under public debate for quite awhile. In response to this public debate, we have to look where we can best spend our assistance money. Public opinion is more in favour of spending it on really poor countries, so fragile states and countries in Africa have become more important in the overall framework of our development co-operation. As far our commitment to assist the Government in its way towards EU integration, we have a few funds still available, basically focusing again in environment, e.g. biodiversity and in governance in the broader sense, such as in rule of law, democratisation, civil society, decentralisation and local government. So, although limited in financial terms, we still hope to make a contribution and to have a quality impact rather than a financial impact.

Can you describe your experience in delivering assistance programme in Albania? Any projects that you can point out as a best example?

There are some areas in which we really made a difference. I would like to mention a few of our projects, such as the Dibra programme, which I feel has been successful and it positions Dibra very well as a region for future EU assistance. I feel we really have left something behind in Dibra. It was a great pleasure working with the local authorities there and I truly wish that



Photo: The Netherlands' Deputy Head of Mission Ardi Stoios-Braken addressing the conference Shaping the Role of the County in a challenging environment, organised on 3 March 2010

the other actors will build upon this as well. We have also been very active in the field of environment and I sense a new energy in this sector. Slowly, awareness is growing. It is interesting to see that there is less of a division between the civil society in the sector and the public sector. The Ministry and the NGOs seem to interact more often and understand that they both have a role to play and by supporting both the Ministry and the regional Environment Agency and the other NGOs in the environment sector. I feel that the efforts that we made are bringing results and things are moving ahead. The work we did with the environment NGOs has produced strategy papers and now the Ministry is discussing these strategies. This shows that there is a positive recognition of the role of NGOs. We have played a role in this direction and this is another thing we can be proud of. As part of the modern development co-operation, we have tried to see where we can do things together with other donors such as in the Public Finance Management (through SPEM project), or IPS. On a more abstract scale, the support that we have been giving to the public finance management and IPS, it is more important in a more general sense for Albania to have a closer connection between its priorities, its policies and the way it will spend its money and external assistance. Now, together with Sida, we are supporting a joint project for Women in Governance through the OSCE Presence. We also have been using multilateral channels, like UN. We

politically very strongly support the One UN programme as a pilot, as we think it is very important for UN to reform and we have been pleased to be part of this pilot. Things are moving in the right direction. We need to remain open minded and accept certain things have not worked out the way we envisaged at the start, and we can learn and improve matters.

How do you think the IPS is contributing in improving policy-making and donor co-ordination?

In the end it is a tool. You need people to be ready and willing to work with it. The area has definitely made progress. The very fact that now we have many sectors with strategies, is an important achievement in itself. I believe that although some strategies are not quite defined in a smart way and some of them are lacking costing of proposed initiatives. Maybe if we accept it as a shortcoming in the first generation of strategies, we can take stock of what has happened in the last few years to see how we can make it relevant for the next years, and then slowly refine all the mechanisms that have to do with the budget planning and external assistance. Many of the strategies need translation into operational plans.

During your mandate you served for six months as Chair of the DTS. What can you tell us about that experience?

How will you describe the donor coordination in Albania and the role of

the government-donor structures? What can be some lessons learned? Some recommendations for the future? Being the Chair of the DTS for six months, personally for me has been a big learning experience. I had underestimated the amount of work involved, also the fact that it takes longer to get everyone on your side, both on donor side and also on the Government side. I think my impatience at time was also result of the fact that this was my first practical experience, on development co-operation and donor co-ordination in the field. Maybe my expectations initially were too high. I had to become more realistic in what is achievable. In many ways things take more time than I anticipated. I came to realise that we need to see things in the spectre and to understand that, compared to other countries in the region, Albania is not doing badly at all. This is something to be proud of. I think that DSDC has done a fantastic job. They have performed a very important role and have been a great bridge for us as donor community, who also needed to be more organised, and for the Government itself. The biggest challenge for them right now is to adopt more the role of a facilitator in making now the bridge to the line ministries rather than being the co-ordinators themselves. This is how I feel line ministries will truly be able to take ownership and leadership of the Sector Working Groups. The donor community feels that the DSDC speaks its language, so we understand each-other, but that this understanding now needs to go beyond the DSDC. It is obvious that there are a number of line ministries that already are conversing in the same way, but we need to get this across the board. Overall, I think that it is definitely a more established practice of exchanging information and contacting each-other, when you think if there is an overlap or if you know some other donor that is operating in the same area. It was a good experience when some donors invite colleagues when a mission is in-country. I think there is more a conscious attempt to be aware of what others do. And, overall, we pretty much know who are actively in which sector. It is also fair to say that some players are more active in donor co-ordination than others. Still



Photo: The Netherland's Deputy Head of Mission Ardi Stoios-Braken in Theth where the Dutch Embassy sponsored the renovation of a "kulla"

not everyone is on board.

How do you perceive the role played by the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action?

In terms of Paris and Accra Agendas, we have, at least in principle, always tried to make sure that everything we did was in conform with what the Albanian Government stated to be an important goal and priority area. In a way, in certain areas we also had to take our own decisions, such as the support to the civil society that was not always looked upon as beneficial by the government actors. But we feel that in support of Albania becoming a full democracy we also need to work with the other non-state actors. And this was a responsibility we had to take ourselves. But I don't think that in the end this goes against Government priorities. In the end, as Albania wants to become a member of EU, these are also requirements to be met.

You have been chair of Environment SWG among other roles, how do you see the development of the sector?

I had hoped for the Environment SWG to become the form of policy dialogue at an earlier stage, and it is only now that it

is shaping up in that direction. But I think this is something that you can conclude for other SWGs as well. Compared to other line ministries, they do not have a lot of resources. It depends on a few people who are really trying hard, and I think that the current leadership has given fresh energy to the sector. Hopefully, now with the EU paying much more attention to the Environment as a cross-sector, I think the things are moving to the right direction. To the extent that the Environment would be used as a sector for piloting the programme based approach, it will be interesting as well.

Being yourself a woman, how do you perceive the gender equality in Albania?

Many important steps have been undertaken in terms of improving the institutional and legal framework. Like in many priority areas, its implementation is now the big challenge in front of the Government. But unless you have this institutional and legal framework you cannot move ahead. Here, in a way, culture makes it a very challenging area to work since Albania has traditionally a strong patriarchal orientation. Statistics still tell us that 1 in 3 women in Albania, one way

or the other, are victims of violence. I have noticed in several articles in newspapers that women report they do feel more empowered because they know that they can report and they know that there is a law that no longer accepts such violence. Progress is definitely been made. We are supporting the OSCE Presence and Sida through the Women in Governance project, and also, in more general terms, we are supporting the One UN programme in gender. This is an active contribution to the implementation of the gender strategy. Progress was made during the parliamentary elections and we are very curious to see what will happen next year during the local elections and if more women will be indeed elected. If we take a realistic approach, things are moving ahead.

Many of your projects are implemented in different cities. Have you had a chance to visit them?

Our projects gave me an opportunity to visit a fair amount of cities in addition to the Municipality of Tirana. We have projects in Elbasan, Theth, and Dibra. I have visited Dibra several times. I also visited other places outside of the projects spectre, and enjoyed Gjirokastra, Berat, and the coastline. They are very beautiful. But I was not able to visit all the places that I wanted to, there are also areas that I regret not to have visited such as Bajram Curri or Fierza. I love the climate - the sunny part of it. It's a beautiful country and diverse in its landscape. It has been part of my life for three and half years and no one can take that away from me.

What is different when you make the comparison between the time of your arrival in Albania and now?

There are many visible changes, such as the roads, what is available in the country, the shopping malls, etc. But all these are the easy things to be achieved. While the things that we are together trying to support are less tangible changes and take more time than just three and a half years. Maybe coming back to our Dibra programme, I sense more confidence with the local authorities. We entrusted them with a fairly large trust fund, we gave them the tools to build capacities that they needed, they have done a very good job, and now they show confidence to approach other donors on what they think their region needs.

From my experience during the steering committee meetings, the way in which I, as a donor representative and the people from the Dibra region have interacted is more like a partnership. Now I think the region is more aware of its capacities and the things that it can achieve itself.

What will you retain from Albania?

I almost feel insulted when people nowadays refer to Albania as just a country of "Mafiosi", "organised crime", and without any real knowledge, giving a negative impression about Albania. This is not what Albania deserves. I think as this is where we as the international community and Albania itself have to do more. I have been very touched by the warmth friendliness and hospitality of people here. At times, I wished for the Albanians to be more vocal about things that are not right. My message would be: Let's do what we say we want to do. This comes back to the issue of the implementation. There are many things that are put in writing, but in the end it is not important what is in writing but what is done. Thank You!

Switzerland launches new Strategy to support Albania 2010-2013

On 30 June 2010, the Swiss Co-operation in Albania (SCO-A) launched the new strategy for support to Albania and presented the areas where they will contribute from 2010 to 2013. The presentation was opened by Director of the Swiss Co-operation, Daniel Züst, and the Swiss Ambassador in Tirana, Yvana Enzler. Speakers presented the domains of co-operation where Switzerland will contribute in the next four years. "Switzerland is interested

in political and economic stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans", said Ambassador Enzler. "Albania is a priority country and it still needs the international support and the Swiss contribution." She said that Switzerland brings advantages associated with this country's experience in decentralization, regional development, education and vocational training and hydro energy. "We aim to make the contribution towards Albania effective", she concluded. The launch was greeted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ilir Meta. "The new Swiss Co-operation Strategy coincides with our priorities expressed in the National Strategy of Development and Integration 2007-2013", said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Meta. "The Albanian Government will give its support and cooperation in the implementation of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy", he said. The ceremony was also addressed by the Director of the Swiss Co-operation, Daniel Züst. "In the next four years we will contribute in the democratization plus rule of law and to the economic development of Albania. In financial terms, the Swiss contribution for the period 2010-2013 will be about 40 million Euros. We believe in the progress that is happening in Albania and this is showed also by the financial increase of the Swiss contribution", said Mr. Züst. He said that "beside effectiveness" we will use another Swiss characteristic, the one of the dialogue. Swiss Cooperation Office in Albania is working for the development of democracy, decentralisation reform, economic and employability increase and the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.



Photo: Switzerland hosted a ceremony of launching the new strategy for support to Albania on 30 June 2010

Government launches NSDI monitoring mechanism

On 11 June 2010, the DSDC held a workshop with the General Secretaries of all Line Ministries on result-based monitoring mechanism that support sector strategies implementation. The aim was to launch the NSDI monitoring mechanism and present its process and methodology as well as discuss the monitoring process with line ministries and finalize the necessary legal basis for its orientation. The General Secretary at Council of Ministers, Gjergj Lezhja, who chaired this meeting, stressed the importance of monitoring implementation of sector and cross-cutting strategies. The new monitoring mechanism was introduced by the Director of DSDC Valbona Kuko, while its methodology was presented by the international consultants, who have worked with the DSDC to adopt Performance Assessment Matrix (PAM) as a monitoring mechanism that contains SMART indicators of performance at objective level for the Ministries' programmes. Another instrument, the Policy Impact Assessment (PIA), was also introduced in the workshop that saw discussion on the next steps relating to monitoring implementation. Monitoring is considered as an important part of IPS implementation.

Albania completes Assessment of Public Procurement Systems

The Government Donor-Roundtable, in November 2008, requested a joint government-donor working group to come up with concrete actions to deepen the implementation of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. The procurement assessment was the main action identified by this working group, and as a result, in mid 2009, the DSDC asked the donor community to support its efforts to improve the public procurement system, through the conduct of an independent assessment based on the OECD/DAC methodology. Consensus between Government and donors emerged to fully implement this assessment and to use it as a basis for discussion in order to increase use of country procurement system as agreed in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. An Advisory Group with participation of Government (Public Procurement Agency and DSDC) and donor representatives (Austria, EU, UNDP, US and World Bank) was established, while UNDP funded and provided technical oversight for the assessment. It was carried out by two US based consulting



Photo: Workshop with General Secretaries to launch the NSDI monitoring mechanism

companies, Casals and Associates, and Claro & Associates, represented by Aleksander Dardeli and Fernando Fernandez, and a team of three local consultants. Two missions were arranged, the first one in the March-April period, and the second one in June. The main aims were to review the current procurement capacity as a basis for monitoring its development, and to identify areas that require further support in strengthening the national procurement system. During the assessment, the consultants reviewed more than fifty tenders from inception through contract award and execution, including payment, at ten entities that were selected in consultation with the Advisory Group. The results from that review complemented the analysis of the system and served the basis for the consultant's diagnostic. Meetings and interviews with other relevant national institutions, private businesses and donors were undertaken. Assessment findings were presented by Mr. Fernandez at different meetings during the two missions: meetings of the advisory group, meeting of the Development and Integration Partners on 16 March and at the Government-Donor Roundtable on 4 June 2010.

The assessment has resulted in 24 high-level recommendations aimed at strengthening the public procurement system. These recommendations focus on elements such as capacity development, development of an Internal Control Framework and modernization of internal and external audit. The preliminary report was shared with the

members of the Advisory Group and received their comments. The report will be finalised by end of July and will be further shared with the donor community. The structure of the Advisory Group will be maintained as a mechanism to coordinate donor support to the Government, prioritize and support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the action plan matrix. By September, the Government and donors will discuss the action plan for implementing the recommendations contained in the assessment report and coordinate their available resources.

Albania participates in 'Delivering as One' Vietnam conference

"Much has been achieved, more needs to be done. 'Delivering as One' is the future for UN development activities." Thus concluded a statement issued by governments and UN representatives at a three-day international conference held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14-17 June 2010.



Photo: High Level Tripartite Conference Delivering as One: Lessons from country-led evaluation and way forward, held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14-17-June 2010

The event brought together over 260 participants, including representatives from countries that are piloting the “Delivering as One” approach and nations that have funded and supported the UN reform process – as well as delegates from the UN, other international organizations and diplomatic missions in Vietnam. The UN launched “Delivering as One” in 2007 to respond to global challenges and provide more coordinated development assistance in the eight nations that volunteered to become country pilots: Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Vietnam. The five main pillars of “Delivering as One” – one plan; one fund; one set of management practices in one house; one leader; and one voice – were discussed on 15 June in parallel thematic workshops, with a view to further improve implementation at the country level.

The Albanian Delegation at the conference was composed of General Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ferit Hoxha, Albanian Ambassador at UN and DSDC Director Valbona Kuko, who made the presentation on the preliminary findings of the Country Led Evaluation of “Delivering as One” in Albania. Conference participants ultimately arrived at a ‘Hanoi Statement’, which charts a clear way forward for “Delivering as One”, calling upon the UN system to institutionalize business and management practices and urges donors to provide multi-year, predictable and un-earmarked funding to countries in order to make the DaO approach credible and applicable to future development activities worldwide.

ICITAP donates assets of Total Information Management System to Albanian State Police

On 11 June 2010, the Chargé d’Affaires of the US Embassy, Deborah A. Jones, the Minister of the Interior, Lulzim Basha, the General Director of the Albanian State Police, Hysni Burgaj, and the U.S. Department of Justice’s International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) Programme Manager, Gary Bullard signed donation documents for significant portion of the Total Information Management System (TIMS) equipment deployed throughout Albania. These networking infrastructure components, computers,



Photo: “At an official ceremony on 11 June 2010, the U.S. government donated over \$2 million in information technology equipment to the Albanian government. Seated, from left to right: ICITAP IT Advisor Michael Dyke; ICITAP Program Manager Gary Bullard; Minister of the Interior Lulzim Basha; U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires Deborah A. Jones; Albanian State Police General Director Hysni Burgaj.”

and automated data processing equipment are being used by the Albanian State Police for border management, criminal investigations, and voice communications. The equipment donated is valued at over 2 million USD. The TIMS has been developed over the past six years as a co-operative effort between ICITAP and the Albanian State Police. TIMS is currently in its second iteration and is the core policing Information Management System for the Albanian State Police. This donation transfers ownership of a wide variety of ICITAP procured and installed hardware at all 24 border crossing points, 12 regional police directorates and 40 commissariats and stations. The use of this equipment has positively assisted Albanian citizens. More than 24 million border entries and exits in the last three years were made quicker and easier. During the same time, over 400 wanted persons were identified at border crossings. The deployment of digital telephone services has reduced Police communications costs by more than 66% while increasing communications connection to police facilities in remote areas. The TIMS has assisted in the arrest of over 500 wanted persons and enabled the seizure of over 600 falsified documents in 2008 and 2009. The equipment in this donation has helped transform the delivery and effectiveness of State Police operations while reducing costs to the taxpayers. Through co-operation between ICITAP and the State Police, a modern and highly productive police information system is in place. Today’s donations will give the State Police control of most of the information system infrastructure components they use and put them in charge of their destiny in

this world of information-driven policing.

International Consortium meeting on Information Management and Technology

On 16 June 2010, the International Consortium organized the meeting of Sub Sector Working Group on Information Management and Technology chaired by Marenglen Shyti, the IT Director in the Ministry of Interior and Mike Dyke, ICITAP TIMS Advisor. The meeting was attended by Endri Hasa (NAIS Director), Paul Fraser (PAMECA), Hector Chavez (ICITAP), Lora Ujkaj (Delegation of EU) and representatives from Customs General Directorate, USAID, Austrian Embassy, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Finance and DEBASKON. Director Hasa provided a short overview of the current IT projects ran by NAIS, their status and institutions involved, highlighting the new EU IPA financed project on establishing a central database for the government expected to be launched in 2010. Director Shyti noted that the number of projects had been reduced due to the lack of funding but the current projects, especially those related to State Police, have overall progressed well. He congratulated ICITAP and Customs General Directorate for the strong co-operation in running MEMEX (Criminal Intelligence Analysis Program) and RIMS (Resource Management Information System), while for the TIMS projects he asked for the remodelling of the hardware and counted on the support of USAID through TIMS 2 project.

Meeting on IPA Multi-Beneficiary

A co-ordination meeting on IPA Multi-Beneficiary was organized on 29-30 June 2010 with participants from ministries of West Balkan countries that are direct beneficiaries of this programme. Countries participating in this meeting were Montenegro, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Albania was represented by Deputy Minister of European Integration, Jorida Tabaku, who stressed the importance of EU support to Albania - especially in the areas of infrastructure and education. She expressed the commitment of the Ministry as NIPAC coordinator to take the necessary steps and co-ordinate all projects in the best possible way. On behalf of DG Enlarg, Yngve Engstrom, the Head of Regional Programme Unit, mentioned some of the issues related to the identification of a national responsible institution in the beneficiary countries, stressing that although different projects have different beneficiaries, a certain ministry should be appointed as responsible in each case in order to have a better impact. Some of the sectors included in the framework of sector plans MIPD 2011-2013 were identified as: Human Rights; Minorities and Vulnerable Groups; Governance and Public Administration, Justice, Freedom and Security; Culture Heritage and History; Infrastructure; Development and Investments in the Private Sector; Disaster Risk Reduction; Statistics; Youth and Education; Nuclear Security and Protection from Radiation; Civil society. The meeting followed with a discussion on IPA project fiches related to political socio-economic criteria. Albania resulted winner in projects on: Regional support on Cross Border Cooperation, Spatial Data Infrastructure, Local Administration Facility, Statistics and Western Balkans Investment Framework. A calendar for 2010-2011 with deadlines for submission of comments (within August 2010-January 2011) and approval of project fiches (within April 2011) was also introduced. The next meeting is expected to be held in Montenegro in November 2010.



Photo: Ceremony of closing EURALIUS II project

Closing ceremony of EURALIUS II project

On 17 June 2010, the closing ceremony of the EURALIUS II project, the European Assistance Mission to the Justice System in Albania, was held in the presence of numerous representatives of justice organisations and donor community. Key note speakers were the Minister of Justice, Bujar Nishani, the Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan, the President of the High Court, Shpresa Becaj, and the Head of EURALIUS Mission, Roland Miklau, who gave a short account on the main achievements of the project. The project's overall aim has been to facilitate the development of a more independent, impartial, efficient, professional, transparent and modern justice system, therefore contributing to the restoring of people's confidence in their institutions and to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. In this respect, support was provided in numerous fields including legislative drafting, criminal justice, justice organisation, enforcement of rulings, judicial budgetary planning and management, court administration and case management, the penitentiary system and immovable property. The 4.5 million EU-funded EURALIUS

II Project, started in November 2007 and was implemented by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, in partnership with the German Federal Ministry of Justice.

Spain supports judicial system for strengthening of environmental legal framework

In occasion of Spanish Presidency in Europe and World Environment Day, the Ambassador of Spain in Albania, Manuel Montobbio, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ermal Dobi, Deputy Minister of Environment Auron Meneri and Dean of Juridical Faculty, Skender Kaçupi, celebrated on 7 June 2010 the closure of the course 'Knowing the environmental legislation, challenges for its application'. This course was organized in the framework of the project, funded by Spanish Agency of



Photo: Closure of the course "Knowing the environmental legislation, challenges for its application"

International Development Cooperation, with a budget of 120,000 Euros and was implemented by the Albanian ONG Regional Environmental Centre- REC. The project aimed to support judicial and environmental institutions in strengthening the application of legal framework and encouraging favourable conditions for accomplishing international environmental obligations. Ambassador Montobbio stressed the importance of the environment "as a public good of common interest that we should protect at collective level and at the same as an object of European construction", highlighting the symbolic character of this ceremony being held as it was on International Day of Environment. After explaining the components of the project, he spoke about the main two challenges that this project was contributing towards: the systematization of the normative in vigour of the environmental code in line with EU standards, and its effective application, as well as the classification of harmful actions against the environment in administrative and criminal terms. The Deputy Minister of Environment, Auron Meneri stressed the importance of the adaptation of legal framework in the domain of environment, even though it is not an easy task, as it needs a change in attitude. The Deputy Minister of Justice, Ermal Dobi, said that the Ministry pretends to improve the legal framework and at the same time has offered and is offering its support to work with other Albanian institutions. The Dean of Faculty of Justice, Skender Kaçupi, stressed the importance of this course and submitted the possibility for the realization of a Masters degree programme in this area. The event then continued with the awarding of certificates to some 250 course participants from the Justice Faculty. The course dealt with issues such as environmental problems and legislation, biodiversity and challenges for its protection, the impact of human beings on the environment, climatic changes and environmental movement, and the Convent of Aarhus. At the end of the ceremony, the publication entitled Environmental legal acts in Albania was presented. It summarizes the legislation in the domain of environment that will be of value for judicial institutions as well as for the environmental institutions, regarding the promotion of favourable conditions



for the accomplishment of international environmental obligations.

New Structure of Traffic Directorate in Albanian State Police

In June 2010 the Minister of the Interior, Lulzim Basha, approved the proposal of the new Structure of the Traffic Directorate in the Albanian State Police. With the assistance of PAMECA Experts the senior management team in the State Police and Ministry of Interior agreed on the new vertical commanding structure which is in line with some EU countries. This new Structure is now an opportunity to combat the large number of fatalities after traffic accidents, respectively to comply with other EU directives, like heavy traffic control. A change is the new Office of Traffic Accident Prevention and Traffic Education. The Head of the Traffic Directorate is now Mr. Vullnet Topalli. Albania is covered with 12 Regional Traffic Units and a Technical Unit (related more to speed control). The implementation of this structure will be effective with 01.07.2010.

ABC of European Union for Local Government Units

As informed in the previous issues, the Development of the Albanian Association of Communes, phase-out project is implemented by the Albanian Association of Communes (AAC) in partnership with SKL International. The project is financially supported by Sida. One of the project's components is AAC empowerment as a stakeholder in the EU-accession negotiations. As conclusion

of one year work of the AAC Working Group on EU Integration supported by international and local experts and after certain activities carried out in country and in Brussels, the publication "ABC of EU for Local Government Units" was produced. To launch the publication, the AAC and SKL International held a launching event on 29 June 2010. Mayors of communes and representatives from other local authorities, donors, civil society, etc attended the event. The Prime Minister Sali Berisha, referred to this publication as Guidelines to European Union standards, norms and rules to be implemented in daily activities of local government units. He said that: "Your role, performance and governing standards are crucial and decision-making to the country's integration into European Union". The Minister of Interior, Lulzim Basha and the Swedish Member of the European Parliament, both pointed out the importance of the publication to help local government to carry out their role in contributing to the integration agenda. This is the first publication of its kind for local government in Albania. The first part introduces the EU – organization, functioning, decision-making and the European legislation. The second analyses the impact of EU legislation on local government. Part three provides an overview of the regional and cohesion policy, European funds and the Instrument for Pre-Accession. The last part analyses the role of the associations of local government in influencing the EU decision-making that effects local governments. It is hoped that local government officials, civil society and experts involved at that level will find the publication useful.



Photo: Round Table " Public Participation mechanisms in the Draft Law: On Environmental Protection"

Public participation mechanisms in Draft Law on Environmental Protection

On June 16 2010, a roundtable was organized on public participation mechanisms regarding the draft law on Environmental Protection. The event was organized by Public Participation Campaign, part of Act Now - National Campaign for Environmental Change in the framework of the project Strengthening Albanian Civil Society organization for an improved environment, funded by the Dutch Embassy. This activity is also supported by Milieukontakt International and BELLS Movement - National Coalition for the Environment. The roundtable was attended by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Henk Van Den Dool and the Minister of Environment, Fatmir Mediu. Present in the meeting were MPs, officials from the Municipality of Tirana, line ministries, businesses, international organizations and civil society representatives. The meeting was opened by welcoming words of the Dutch Ambassador, who stressed the role the civil society and its importance in the steps that should be taken for changes in the environment. He appreciated the initiative, stating that the moment had come to act. An analysis of the draft law with existing law regarding public participation mechanisms was presented by the environmental lawyer, Enio Haxhimihali. Minister Mediu expressed the willingness of the Ministry to take into consideration the suggestions that emerged from the meeting. He noted that positive changes in the environment were

linked with the country's integration into the EU. The General Manager of Milieukontakt International, Valbona Mazreku, said that the process that had been followed so far aimed at promoting civil society in decision making. "We have made it possible for the various municipalities in Albania, to be part of a broader coalition. They are important decision-making body. MKI will continue to promote communication among environmental organizations nationwide". The conclusion of the meeting was to reflect in the new draft law not only the access to information but also other pillars of the Aarhus Convention, and that it should not be the state authorities that provide the public with the opportunity to obtain environmental information but should it should be the obligation of authorities to provide such information. All the comments collected were forwarded to the Ministry and relevant parliamentary Commission.

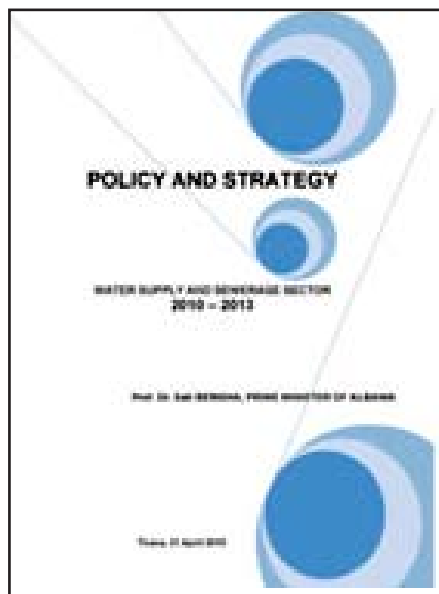
Ministry of Public Works discussed priorities and needs for support with Donor community at Sector Working Group on Water.

On 1 to 2 June 2010, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport held a series of Sector Working Group meetings on Water, chaired by the Deputy Minister Edmond Haxhinasto that provided the chance to discuss the Government priorities and donor support in the sector. The

meetings included an update about sector developments and technical meetings relating to issues such as strategy development (with World Bank support), capacity development and technical assistance (ADC/ GTZ support), and Masterplan and Financing Modalities (KfW support). In his presentation, Mr. Haxhinasto focused on the roadmap reform, which is the 'backbone' for the current and future developments in the sector. He stressed the importance of reforms and addressed new approaches containing a strong business perspective that should lead to improved service delivery and efficiency of instruments, mentioning also the commitment towards Programme/Sector Based Approach. Presentations of the respective donors triggered technical discussion as well as contributed to increased harmonization and alignment in line with the Paris Declaration. The Austrian Development Cooperation, in the capacity of the SWG donor focal point/EU lead donor, supported the preparation and co-ordination of donor inputs. This meeting saw the participation of all relevant stakeholders such as the Prime Minister's advisor on Water Administration Enkelejda Gjinali, the General Directorates of Water and Sewage as well as GD on Policy, representatives from the Regulatory Body and the DSDC, and experts from the Austrian Development Cooperation, EU Delegation, GTZ, KfW, the OSCE Presence, Swiss Cooperation Office, and the World Bank.



Photo: Meetings of the SWG on Water held on 1 and 2 June 2010



This Policy and Strategy Document for the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector, 2010-2013 was launched on 1 June, 2010 by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication

Public launch of Policy and Strategy Sector Reform

On 1 June 2010, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication launched the Policy and Strategy Document for the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector, 2010-2013. This document aims to ensure further decentralization and commercialization of the sector to enable the water companies to be financially self-sufficient and to develop long-term performance improvement plans. In this regard, it is intended that they will fulfil their obligations towards customer base

while also providing the means for the involvement of the private sector in the delivery of water supply and sewerage services. The initiatives taken to support the sector reform involve legislative, regulatory, administrative and financial initiatives. During the launching ceremony, Deputy Minister Edmond Haxhinasto said that this policy document will orient the service providers in the water sector towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals with the aim of improving water supply service coverage from 73% in 2009 to 98% in 2015; sewerage service coverage from 43% to 80%; and the treatment of sewage from almost 0% to 50% of the sewage flow generated. In this way, Albania would fulfil one more obligation towards accession to the European Union with regard to the Mediterranean, since the cleanliness of Mediterranean waters is one of the main EU priorities. He said that the Government is determined to meet EU standards in this sector in a relatively short time period. To view the document, please click [here](#).

Piro Trebicka receives 'Federal Cross of Merit' by German President

On 30 June 2010, Piro Trebicka has been awarded with the 'Cross of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany', the only award that the German Federal Government issues for special merits at the service

of the community. He was awarded this medal for the enormous contribution he has given with regard to the initiation and later strengthening of the German-Albanian Co-operation, his support starts back in 1988 when he was still working for the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Commerce and continued from 1994 until today working for KfW Entwicklungsbank Office Tirana. He is the second Albanian citizen to receive this decoration, after Robert Schwartz, and the first Albania-born person to have received it.

Improving Courts Key to Tackling Corruption in Albania

In June, USAID presented the performance and results of its three year, \$5.1 million programme to improve performance and accountability of ten pilot courts. USAID selected 10 pilot courts and introduced computerized trial records, audio records of court hearings, improvements in the archiving system and file management, legal research and writing training, and financial management software – in order to help courts meet standards for good judicial practice. In the coming months, USAID will launch a new programme to support Albania's fight against corruption in the justice sector. A video about the programme is available on You Tube at this link

Second Albania World Bank Conference on Development Economics

On 1 June 2010, the World Bank Office in Tirana hosted the second bi-annual Conference entitled Albania - World Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE). This two-day conference addressed the means to sustaining growth in the wake of the world economic crisis, and the new development challenges to Albania as it pursues greater integration to Europe. The conference was addressed by the Prime Minister of Albania, Sali Berisha, the Minister of Finance, Ridvan Bode and the Country Manager for the World Bank, Camille Nuamah and



Photo: During the ceremony in which Mr. Piro Trebicka was awarded with 'Cross of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany' for his long term contribution for the Albanian-German Cooperation

ECA Chief Economist, Indermit S. Gill. Many experts presented analysis of the changes in the world economy and how these affect Albania, how to raise skills, increase innovation and make use of the information and communication technology. They examined how the energy sector can support growth and adaptation to climate change, and how improved governance can contribute to growth. Finally, the analyses considered the mechanisms to ensure that growth is inclusive and directed towards poverty reduction. This conference is the second in a series of regular conferences which focus on different development themes.

New Financing Tools Available for Albanian Businesses

On 25 June 2010, entrepreneurs and representatives of five banking and non-banking institutions met in Tirana to share information on financial resources available for businesses to invest in new technologies and expand their operations. The event, supported by USAID's Rritje Albania program and Regional Development Agencies (RDA), is the final of a series of business roundtables held over the past three months across the country to raise awareness in Albania's business community about new financing opportunities. These resources can be used by businesses to invest in new and improved technologies and other assets that support business expansion and competitiveness in national and international markets.

THINK HEALTH - NOT DRUGS

26 June is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that serves as a reminder of the need to combat the problems that illicit drugs pose to the society. Under the annual slogan for 2010 Think Health – Not Drugs, the UNODC Project Office in Tirana and the Institute of Public Health organized a press conference to increase public awareness, and policy makers in particular, on the harmful effects of taking drugs. The event was organized at Tirana International Hotel with the participation of the Minister



Photo: Conference THINK HEALTH - NOT DRUGS (Mendo per Shendetin – Jo Droges)

of Health, Petrit Vasili and Minister of Interior, Lulzim Basha, local and international media representatives, health, education and law enforcement officials. Minister Vasili said that the Government was adapting a new approach to the increasing problem of drug abuse that was based on closer contacts and assistance provided to affected families. Minister Basha, focused on Government efforts to fight against illicit trafficking, cultivation and production of drugs and on the co-ordinated effort to combat this issue. He stated that under the new Anti Mafia Law part of the resources benefited from the confiscated criminal proceeds would be used to support treatment and care services for drug abusers. Both ministers confirmed that the new anti drug strategy 2011-2016 would introduce a new and more moderated vision to combating drug supply and reduction. They stated that concerted efforts to reduce Albania's society vulnerability to drugs would be increased by channelling the energies of the younger generation to engage in sports as well as focus to work on socially relevant causes, and rededicate them to a healthier life. The UNODC Project Office in Albania will support the Government to address drug abuse and drug addiction as any other health disorder through the implementation of two projects on drug use prevention interventions and providing drug

dependence treatment and care services that are based on scientific evidence and on ethical standards.

National Conference on Family Planning

With the support of USAID's ACCESS-FP programme, more than 150 national stakeholders gathered in Durres to promote and increase co-operation to enhance family planning services. The Ministry of Health recently approved a new national Reproductive Health strategy for 2010-2015. It includes family planning as a vital part of the strategy, and aims to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate and improve access to family planning services. The programme introduced innovative ways to improve the quality of pre- and post-partum family planning services and made possible Albania's first national family planning protocols to standardize the delivery of family planning services. Through this programme, USAID has helped ensure that women have access to quality contraceptive services as an alternative to abortion. The conference identified collaborative ways USAID's programme can be rolled out on a national level. A video from the conference is available on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/USAIDAlbania1> The National Family Planning Protocol is a pocket-sized, but comprehensive technical document that equips health



Photo: With the support of USAID, all doctors and nurses follow nationally-recognized standards on family planning.

care workers with the knowledge, tools and support necessary to provide quality family planning services to Albanian people.

Albanian Businesses Participate in U.S. Trade Show

In June, American food companies were introduced to some of Albania's leading culinary producers at the 2010 Fancy Food Show in New York. With the support of USAID, these producers showcased their high-quality fare to potential buyers and introduced Albanian products to new and eager audiences. The fair helped establish commercial contacts and raised awareness of the current and potential role of Balkan agriculture and agro-industry. USAID produced Albania's first Buyer's Resource Guide, a user-friendly directory with contacts for companies interested in purchasing Albanian products.



Photo: USAID has prepared a Buyer's Resource Guide and developed a "Taste of Albania" campaign to promote Albanian agribusinesses.

Millennium Challenge Corporation: 1st Anniversary of "One Stop Shop"

At a ceremony to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the opening of the National Licensing Centre (NLC), Prime Minister, Sali Berisha announced the expansion of the NLC's operations to include licensing for energy sector investments. The one-stop-shop opened last year through the Millennium Challenge Corporation Albania Threshold Programme II, administered by USAID, to improve of the business climate and reduce corruption. By streamlining licensing procedures, Albania has shortened time it takes for businesses to obtain licenses and reduced the number of administrative steps required to operate a business in Albania from 24 to 10. At the event, USAID/Albania representative, Sean Huff, said that within its first year of operation, the NLC has set an enviable standard for a broader public sector modernization that stands on the pillars of simplicity, transparency, information technology, and customer service.

USAID inaugurates computerized tax systems in two municipalities

In June, USAID installed computerized tax systems installed as part of USAID's Local Governance Program in Albania in Elbasan and Gramsh. In Elbasan, the new computerized system was installed in the same office building where the respective branches of the National Registration Centre and National Licensing Centre are located, thus creating a possibility for the "one-stop-shop" provision of services to local businesses. .

The role of statistics for Albania's path towards EU

Accurate and reliable statistics are essential tools for policies that are responsive to the needs of the country. Apart from being essential for good governance, statistics are also important to the EU integration process as they enable proper

monitoring and evaluation of progress. The EU is currently funding three projects amounting to 11.5 million Euros dedicated to improving the accuracy and reliability of statistics produced by the National and Regional Statistics Office, by harmonising the methodologies employed by INSTAT to gather and process data. Alignment with EU standards in statistics will ultimately enable comparability between the EU, Albania and countries of the region. In the framework of the planned Housing and Population Census to be carried out in 2011, a workshop took place on 18 June 2010. The workshop is part of the activities of the EU-funded project Technical Assistance to the National and Regional Statistics Offices. The aim was to discuss with stakeholders the pilot census conducted in April-May 2010 by INSTAT, progress and main challenges for the 2011 Housing and Population Census. The workshop was attended by the Minister of Innovation and Information Technology and Communications, Genc Pollo, highest INSTAT and Census Unit officials, Head of EU Delegation, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan and representatives of the donor community. The keynote speech of this important meeting was held by the INSTAT General Director, Ines Nurja. In her presentation she appreciated the role of the European Union and other donors in the largest project on statistics in the country, Housing and Population Census. Nurja also added that: "Apart from constituting the largest statistics investment in the country, the General Census also serves central and local policy-makers, who, based on those data, shall be able to design new economic and social policies or revise the old ones for purposes of improving the standard of living in the country. Minister Genc Pollo stated that the aim of the Albanian Government is to have in 2011 the same index level as that of other countries. That instant photo, which is multi-dimensional, shall make it easier for everyone to have an understanding of the economic, social, agricultural, demographic situation and that of several other areas, because it provides us with very clear and diverse

information,” stated Pollo. Then, Mr. Lohan stated in the workshop that the census that is expected to be finalized in April 2011, shall not concern merely the number of people and individuals living in Albania, but shall serve several other processes. Lohan explained to the participants through a number of examples that statistics in this case serve many purposes, in the economic, health, social or cultural sectors. Ambassador Lohan appreciated the work done so far and expressed the need for institutional support, so that the process is as accurate as possible, given its importance. “The road of Albania towards EU is also the road towards EU structures and it is more than reasonable that it should extend the greatest care to the provision of quality statistics”, stated EU Ambassador, Helmuth Lohan. In conclusion of his presentation in the workshop, Lohan also appreciated the personal data protection from the disclosure of details. “Whoever is engaged in this process should be aware of the issue of data protection and maintenance of their confidentiality,” stated Lohan. The participants in the workshop were introduced through electronic presentations to the latest information on the progress of the Pilot Census, staff training, logistics, delivered assistance and preparation of questionnaires. Ms. Elda Kapllani, Director of the Census Office, informed the conference on the Pilot Census of 3100 households, updating of digital maps and the job already done towards Census 2011. “Application of a Pilot Census in various areas of Albania, tested the main steps of the general Census for the next year” stated Ms. Kapllani. In order to have an accurate census, INSTAT has made interest groups part of this Census, with whom a number of roundtables on the drafting of the questionnaire have been organized during the 3 last months, designed to determine the incorporation of their recommendations, suggestions and remarks. In addition, new technologies have been tested, that shall be utilized for the electronic capture of the data reaching from the field. The optic scanners managed to capture 98 per



Photo: Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers was launched on 29 June

cent of the data contained in about 2600 questionnaires filled out in the field. Testing in this major process has also been conducted recently in relation to particular types of residences such as child-care homes, asylums for the aged or monasteries. In this regard, the questionnaires were filled out easily and with the understanding of the persons involved in this pilot phase.

A significant step forward in protecting children

Sixteen Child Protection Units in twelve municipalities and four communes have opened since 2006. These Units coordinate measures for the protection of vulnerable children, victims of abuse, and children at risk of exploitation and trafficking. A Working Protocol for Child Protection Workers was launched on 29 June by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in co-operation with Terre des Homes Foundation and UNICEF. It helps social workers to understand child protection, standard procedures for case management, and how to review protective interventions for children. Deputy Minister of Labour, Filloreta Kodra, emphasized that “this represents the basis of a well-organized and continuous care for children recognizing the rights

and duties that arise in connection with the protection of children from phenomena that affect their welfare.”

International Children’s Day celebrated on 1st June

On 1 June, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, with the support of UNICEF and Save the Children hosted a conference to discuss how social policies can better contribute to the realization of the rights of children. Prime Minister Berisha stressed that despite the good progress made in education, a policy of zero-drop-out must be pursued. Deputy Minister Filloreta Kodra launched the Progress Report of the 2005 – 2010 National Strategy for Children. The evaluation points at the importance of civil society and local government participation in implementing and monitoring the strategy. Detlef Palm, UNICEF Representative observed that many institutions or officials turn to children issues only when “all the other work is done”. He said that in the best interest of the child - a core principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - must be the focus of all national policies. “Social expenditure for children” he said, “is not a burden on the budget, but an incredibly effective investment in Albania’s future with the highest possible returns.”



Photo: Young voices debating development in Albania

Young voices debating development in Albania

On 6 May 2010, while Shkodra was getting ready for Flower's Day, some 50 young people between the ages of 16 and 26 from Shkodra and Lezha met at the Cinema Millennium to develop a SWOT analysis of their region and suggest solutions for current problems. They worked in groups, analyzing in a first step the strong points and weak points of the region, as well as on one sentence to describe the region as it is. In a second session, ways to utilize the strengths and overcome weaknesses were developed, as well as a vision for the region. "It is great to see such enthusiasm and concentration, coupled with a refreshingly realistic assessment of the situation", said the component leader for Local and Regional Economic Development within the Economic Development and Employment Promotion Programme (EDEP) of GTZ, Valérie Peters, "We will definitely involve the youth more often in our activities," he said. The experience was very much appreciated by the participants, as Jesmira Ura, a 21 year old student, said "These activities are important because they engage us with different topics and aspects, and motivate us in a different direction, giving importance to those things that are really worthy in the present and will be worthy even in the future". The contents developed in this workshop will be integrated into the Regional

Development Concepts (RDC) that the Qarks of Shkodra and Lezha are drafting with EDEP's support. The RDC of Lezha has already been presented to stakeholders and will be adopted soon.

GTZ supports Gender equality in Albania

As gender is a cross-cutting topic concerning all donors and all projects, GTZ has developed a new and modernized gender strategy for 2010-2014 in order to make sure that social differences between men and women are taken into account in all areas at each planning and implementing steps (gender mainstreaming) and to make sure that each project contributes to the goal of equal chances for men and women. That means that projects are having gender officers and need to work systematically on gender issues, starting already in the preparatory phase/ inception phase, during the planning of activities and while monitoring the impact. First awareness raising and training has started at the level of the project managers focusing on the GTZ aspects on the one side and on the gender developments on the other in order to foster greater synergies. Such synergies could e.g. be developed on the level of monitoring the impact – on a national level and on a regional level. For example, the GTZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe Legal Reform is including gender aspects in its legal projects throughout the region.

French Embassy and French National School of Administration organise training for General Secretaries of Line Ministries

In co-operation with DoPA, the French Embassy delivered on 24 and 25 June and 1 and 2 July, two training sessions for line ministry General

Secretaries on: the new challenges of human resources in the public sector: state reform, modernization of the public sector and managing change, and Management skills: performance, leadership, monitoring, and motivation.

These workshops were part of a broader programme developed by French National School of Administration (ENA) in co-operation with the Albanian Ministry of Interior in order to diversify training for senior civil servants and to assist with the creation of a school of administration.



Photo: Training for the General Secretaries of Line Ministries, organised by the French Embassy and ENA (the French National School of Administration)

Workshop with NGO representatives in Tirana

In June, the Austrian Development Cooperation organized a training workshop for Civil Society Organisations in Albania. In the context of EU integration, the aim was to strengthen the capacities of NGOs to become more effective in accessing as well as managing EU grant funding. The three day training was held in Tirana with 22 participants of 11 NGOs by using a mix of methodologies such as theoretical know how transfer and practical work building on existing proposals and projects. It was organised by MDF Netherlands and co-ordinated with the EU – Delegation and TACSO project in Albania.



Photo: Training workshop for NGOs organised by the Austrian Development Cooperation

In-country Missions

JICA mission on financing construction of roads in Albania

On 21 June 2010, a delegation from Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) composed of Head of Mission for JICA Department for Middle East and Europe, Toyomi Takeda, Officer of Project Design, Saito Yumiko, and the representative of JICA Office in Tirana, Sokol Konomi met with DSDC to discuss ways of financing secondary and local roads. The meeting concluded a mission that took place on 14-21 June 2010, where JICA held several talks with Ministries of Public Works, Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and Finance. The aim was to discuss findings of the project prepared by the JICA contracted consultants on possible road sections to be financed by Japanese Government, accompanied by a socio-economic and technical analysis. This pre-assessment mission leads the way to a formally assessment mission that will take place in November 2010. JICA should also take a decision on the credit amount which will also influence the number of roads to be rehabilitated. DSDC offered all the necessary information and expressed its commitment to support JICA in the process, considering the urgent need for infrastructure improvement. JICA acknowledged the ADF capacity in dealing with such projects and suggested that they intensify diplomatic contacts with the Japanese Government in

order to gain a quick approval.

World Bank

Albania Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (P110845(IDA Credit 4460; IBRD Loan 7563.)World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Mission, June 30 - July 2, 2010 - The aim was to build the institutional, technical and human capacity of the region by providing required hydrometeorological data and services to enable informed decision-making in the disaster risk management, current status of the organization and provision of hydrometeorological services, which are

considered not to be up to EU standards. The WMO mission analyzed the existing situation based on discussions with IEWE management and relevant government officials and provides advice, as necessary, on the ways to enhance the role and operations of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) leading to tangible socio-economic benefits for the society. The mission stressed on the need for assigning on the development of a national action plan (or road map) for the enhancement of the NMHS addressing the institutional, technical and human resource aspects.

governmentdonordialogue

As of 15 June 2010 until 15 November 2010, the Swiss Cooperation Office in Albania is the Chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Government-Donor Dialogue (both positive and negative) are strongly encouraged

From January 2010 Government-Donor Dialogue will be available in both English and Albanian language.

Want to contribute?

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office (nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al) or the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) (akabashi@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.

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To find out who are the donors operating in Albania please [click here](#).

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