



ALBANIAN LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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THE NEW WAY TO SUCCESS.

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ABOUT ALCDF

The Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation (ALCDF) is a non-profit organization founded by national and regional organizations with a constituency and interest in local areas of Albania, in 2010. ALCDF is a spinoff of SNV Balkan – The Netherlands Development Organization. Commencement support was generously provided by the Netherlands Development Organization through SNV. ALCDF inherits from SNV the experience and good practices of its presence with projects since 1994.



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

ALCDF is focused and flexible, and further build on Albania's political, economic and social developments. ALCDF is also a member of a global network of a Local Capacity Development Facilities worldwide, as well supported from Dutch Government.

ALCDF is focused on Regional and Rural Development in the sectors of Tourism, Agriculture, Environment and Local governance.

In ALCDF's organizational structure, there is a clear distinction between governance (Board of Directors) and management (staff) functions. ALCDF maintains a skilled team of twelve people including one contracted MIS expert, who works throughout the year.

Project implementation teams are carefully formed for each project. Currently ALCDF's consolidated team includes 15 additional contracted specialists. This has proven to be a cost-effective approach for both maintaining low overhead and for catalyzing the market for supply-demand capacity development expertise/services throughout Albania (part of the mission of our Foundation.) ALCDF works closely with local partners and clients. It has approximately 400 formalized clients and partners in Albania such as: individual farmers, companies and producer groups, civil society organizations, municipalities and local authorities' institutions, etc. The main office is based in Tirana and two local offices, one in Diber and one in Has. ALCDF is able to carry out projects in more than 10 regions or 85% of territory in Albania. ALCDF has built strong partnerships at Balkan regional level with strategic and cooperation partners from Greece, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Croatia.

PREVIOUS (CURRENT) EXPERIENCES WITH PROJECTS

Project:
Local
Local Leadership
Local Solutions



Programme Title:

Local Ownership, Local Leadership, Local Solutions

Thematic Area

Scaling Local Solutions

Programme period

January 2010 – December 2012

Donors

Government of the Netherlands through SNV Balkan

Funding

819,000 Euro

Focus of support was in scaling local solutions in the sectors of local government, forestry, agriculture and tourism. In total ALCDF implemented and supported 141 local initiatives (more information on the projects supported is given at www.alcdf.org)



Capacity building for Local Government's Administration on Human Resource Development by providing trainings, facilitative processes especially related to participatory budgeting, human resources management and leadership, trainings and practices for strategic development planning;

Development of Local Development Plans and Sector Planning by providing required technical and professional services for the development of plans for local development in tourism, agriculture, forestry, viticulture, etero-oil plants, urban area planning and health;

Professional expertise on Regional Development Plans based on the standards of the Albanian government and the European Commission for regional development strategy, identification of new innovative businesses, natural resources management, regional park management, forestry administration, water management, inter-communal projects.

Improve the quality of community basic services by providing required tailored expertise for improving drinkable water supply and administration, planning and developing parks, improving health care, disaster management and civil emergencies;

SUPPORT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE

SUPPORT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE



Improve capacities in acquisition of EC and Albanian Government Funds by providing required professional skills for strengthened local Government capacities to mobilize funds, in drafting studies and projects for capturing ministry grants, regional investment funds and the European Commission's Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA) funding.

Expertise in supporting sector policy and analysis of crop and product market potential by offering detailed situational analysis and recommendations for the future development of various sub-sector and crops such as viticulture, fruit horticulture, beekeeping, olives, potatoes and livestock. Analysis was aligned to local development interests and market realities;

Increase agricultural productivity by increasing crop and agro-processing productivity for apples, apple juice, wine, honey, olives, olive oil, raki, milk and milk processing. Expertise was acquired for business planning, improving varieties or breed productivity, increasing density of planted areas, organic production methods and improving techniques and technology;

Improve agricultural infrastructure and agricultural land structure by providing technical expertise in development of studies and technical projects on harvesting and storage, agricultural markets, land protection and irrigation, and feasibility studies for Agriculture Centers;

Expand market access for agricultural products at national and international markets by conducting full marketing studies, synthesis of market information, defining quality and volume for market access, conditions and terms for export;

SUPPORT IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT



Implement standards and certification for national and international markets by providing information and expertise on certification of origin, BIO and ISO certification, and issues of market credibility and producer's market image.

Develop Tourism Action Plans (TAP) for Local Government Units through a participatory process for the identification of opportunities and challenges for the development of tourism in the local areas, identification of touristic resources whether cultural, or attractions, tourism promotion, strengthening tourism action groups, and the creation of other community-based organizations or processes for putting the plans into action;

Promote family-based traditional and cultural tourism at local / rural level by focusing on the potential presented by traditions and culture (popular woven costumes, traditional dishes, and locally grown food, especially organic products);

Stimulate and support mountain tourism and eco-tourism by identifying the ecological values and mountain destinations, focusing on natural sceneries and wilderness regions for trekking and climbing. Expertise services were provided for the training of tour guides, and for promotion of tour agencies;

SUPPORT IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



Strengthen the tourism private sector capacities by improving their capacities and services. The expertise focused on the development of business and marketing plans, and how to improve the quality of services.

Strengthen the organizational and institutional capacities of Associations and Federations of Communal Forestry: at commune level, private forestry users association, medicinal plants associations and regional and national level federations. The expertise focused on expanding and strengthening memberships, facilitating problem analysis and suggesting strategic solutions, strengthening relations between local government and other key actors, increasing technical-professional and organizational capacities, knowledge of the law and consolidating lobbying and advocacy power;

Increase and promote innovative efforts in the forestry by implementing straightforward activities for study and research on Sustainable Environment Development, studies on carbon sequestration, bio-energy, biomass as well as new techniques on fighting several forest diseases.

Develop studies and projects to increase the nut crops production by expanding the nut crop areas, natural nuts effective use, improving product quality, raising farmers capacities in cultivation, harvesting and trading, preparation of business plans in order to benefit from the Ministry's subsidiary scheme etc.

Increase income through an effective exploitation of non timber forestry products such as medicinal plants, forestry fruits etc, by developing rural actors' capacities in harvesting, drying, storage, processing, trading, exporting etc. The expertise consisted on increasing awareness and providing technical knowledge, technology and new practices, getting to know the market, development of business plans and manuals, sector development plans, chain value analysis and development, round tables, demonstrations etc;

SUPPORT IN FORESTRY / ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

SUPPORT IN FORESTRY / ENVIRONMENT SECTOR



Increase opportunities for forestry products market access by offering full marketing studies, market information, improving product's quality and volume, conditions and acknowledging domestic market, establishing terrain for forestry market, information and exports access of forestry and bio products;

SUPPORT CIVIL
SOCIETY
ORGANIZATION

Increase Production, Productivity and Market Access
by providing expertise to improve production and market access in the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors. Notable were market studies for products such as olive oil, potatoes and honey. Services for the tourism sector focused on family home stays, traditional foods, and traditional products, and for the forest sector studies on and technical services for NTFPs, medicinal plants' collecting, storage and trade. Improving domestic and foreign market access focused on expertise for quality standards, packaging and labeling, generating market knowledge, and market information.

Social inclusion for Disadvantaged Groups, by providing expertise for social inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups relating to employment, health and recreation. Notable projects were strengthening women's participation in decision-making processes in organizations and the community, and designing of a recreation facility for physically disabled people.

Increasing Capacities of Civil Society Organizations, by providing expertise for trainings, facilitation processes new techniques and methodologies, and institutional strengthening and organizational development processes.

Sustainable Development, by providing expertise for sustainable environment development such as biodiversity conservation, forest land reform, sustainable forestry, and eco-tourism development.

Innovative Techniques and Products: by providing expertise for new innovation such as study on the potential of biomass/bioenergy, fighting nut tree diseases and carbon sequestration studies.

PROJECT: IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL AND NATURAL PARK MANAGEMENT IN THE CROSS-BORDER AREA

Thematic Area

Environment and Tourism

Project period

April 2013 – October 2014

Donor

IPA Cross Border; former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Republic of Albania 2007 – 2013

Funding

216,000 Euro



The Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation (ALCDF) was awarded by the European Commission to implement the project "Improvement of national and natural park management in the cross-border area". The project is being implemented in the framework of the IPA Cross-Border Programme the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Republic of Albania, 2007-2013.

The overall project objective was: Contribution to sustainable environmental development by improvement of protection, management and promotion of natural habitats in the cross-border area between Macedonia and Albania.

The specific objective of the Action was enhanced protection of national and natural parks in the cross-border area between MK and AL.

The Project contributed to achieve the following project results:

1) Introduced up-to-date management of national and natural parks in the cross-border area between Macedonia and Albania; and

2) Increased awareness on protection of national and natural parks in the cross-border area between Macedonia and Albania.

The project contributed on enhanced management of 3 national parks (Lura in Albania, and Mavrovo, Pelister in Macedonia) and 1 natural park (Korab-Korritnik in Albania) in the cross-border area through GIS system setup for all these Parks and capacity building for their staff on GIS, web-GIS and GPS devices; increased awareness of minimum 2,000 citizens on protection of natural resources in the Parks; Disseminated experience, information sharing among management structures of the protected areas on both sides of the border; and many publications on Web-GIS, promotion leaflets, feasibility study, and best practices on protected area management in the Balkan and EU regions.

This action contributed to directly increase staff capacities of 3 national parks (Lura in Albania, and Mavrovo, Pelister in Macedonia) and 1 natural park (Korab-Korritnik in Albania) on their modernization of the management, controlling, information system of the this parks. Also it contributed the creation of a cultural, scientific, educational, tourist and recreational utility for the national/natural parks in the cross-border area.

The project partner of ALCDF was National park of Mavrovo on Macedonian part, and local partners were Directorate of Forestry Service in Diber (DFS) and National Federation of Communal Forest and Pasture.



PROJECT: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL TOURISM (PROTOUR) PROJECT

Thematic Area

Tourism

Project period

December 2013 – September 2014

Donor

Swiss Cooperation Office in Albania (SCO-A)

Funding

24,000 Euro

This project aims to promote tourism through discovering and marking new hiking trails and making visible the natural resources of the area, awareness raising on environmental issues in order to attract more touristic activities and tourists and as such contribute in building up the local economy and environmental protection, promotion and management.

This project sought to complement other existing tourism and environmental-oriented projects in the region of Gjirokastra, in order to best utilize resources for the full realization of sustainable development. By revitalizing the environmental areas, the project promoted a responsible use of the area's natural resources for preservation and promote ecotourism. Additionally, the project sought to educate local guides with mountain guiding skills, orienting, basic first aid and basic English for trails. By providing information to people about tourism services, this portion of the local economy can be improved and further developed.



PROJECT: " SUSTAINING RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DESHATI MOUNTAIN RANGE REGION: DESHATI LAGS"

Thematic Area

Tourism

Project period

April 2012 – December 2014

Donor

IPA Cross Border; former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia – Republic of Albania 2007 – 2013

Funding

140,000 Euro



ALCDF in partnership with Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center-ANTTARC- (being the project Lead Partner / Applicant) implemented "Sustainable rural development in Deshati mountain range region: Deshati LAGs" project, financed by IPA Cross-Border Programme the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Republic of Albania, 2007-2013

The overall project objective was contributing to the sustainable rural development of the Deshati mountain range region.

The specific project objective was: To support the development of rural and mountain tourism in the Deshati mountain range region.

The project results were: Two Local Action Groups were established and active in local development; Strategies of tourism development for the Deshati mountain range region were developed; Households involved in rural/mountainous tourism have increased their capacity in service provision; Coordination of touristic offer from two sides of the border has improved; and Cooperation between local actors across the border was promoted.

The action was implemented through 5 integrated components such as: Local Action Groups—capacity development and sustainability related activities; Education, training and study visits of beneficiaries; Tourism promotion through local production fairs, strategy of tourism, tourism guide brochure, webpage; Joint meetings and activities with cross-border partners, Tourist track and signposting.



PROJECT: “LEVERAGING THE CAPACITIES OF CSOS IN THE NORTH OF ALBANIA FOR BETTERMENT OF BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION” (ECO-NORD)

Thematic Area

Grand Menagement for Civil Society

Project period

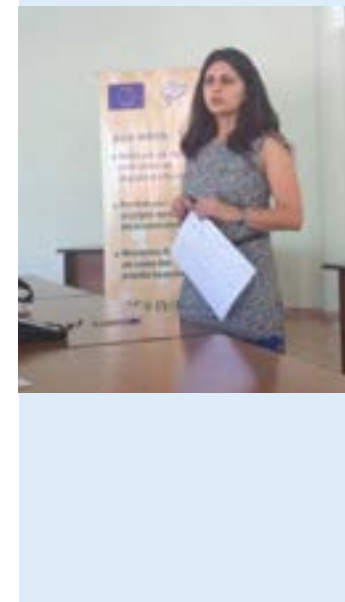
December 2014 – December 2017

Donor

IPA; Civil Society Facility – Civic Initiative and Capacity Building, Albania.

Funding

600,000 Euro



Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation is implementing the project “Leveraging the capacities of CSO-s in the North of Albania”, the so called “Eco-Nord” project, financed from European Union Delegation in Albania. This project is funder under Civil Society Facility - Civic Initiative and Capacity Building component (part of IPA 2013).

The goal of the project was to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacity of CSOs in northern Albania regions (Diber, Kukes, Lezhe, and Shkoder regions) with a goal of positively impacting Albania’s SAA obligations. The specific objectives were: I) Creating capacity development facilities as a platform for knowledge, mentoring, and networking for environmental CSOs in North of Albania, and II) Financing small projects addressing conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against climate change, through a “Local Initiative Fund” in the targeted area.

The project resulted in the following achievements: A Needs Assessment of the CS sector in the North Albania has been carried out and a database with organizations, their contacts, needs, capacities and challenges facing has been established. More than 300 representatives of CSO-s participated in information meetings and increased knowledge on Project Cycle Management and Advocacy and Lobbying and on-going coaching and technical assistance to CSOs on organizational management and project cycle management is provided.

The sub granting scheme so called “Local Initiative Fund” was established, promoted, and managed in a transparent and accountable manner. Two RfP are launched and 95 applications have been submitted in two rounds. Through a careful, accountable and transparent process, the decision on awarding of 27 projects was made. The sub-granting contracts aim to implement small actions focusing on:

Environmental education;

Protection and promotion of rare and endangered species (carp, goats, seeds, medicinal plants);

Management and control of hunting and fisheries;

Assessment for flora and fauna in specific areas;

Medicinal plants (harvesting and post harvesting with focus local economic development)

Development of plans and policies; monitoring and implementation of legal framework;

Activities improving the management of natural resources; quality of air; waste management

Actions that promote awareness raising and active involvement of local people;

Focus on women and youth;

Other issues concerning biodiversity and/or environment protection.

Summarized, EcoNord project has influenced the 80% of the population in the project targeted areas (4 regions of the North). EcoNord has covered with activities 13 municipalities (out of 14) with concrete direct activities. A number of 102 CSO-s have benefited from information sharing, training and coaching, and out of this number 27 organizations are able to implement concrete actions through sub granting scheme and furthermore 17 more organizations have benefitted as co-partners in the implementation of their projects.





PROJECT: "DIBER: TRAILS AND TRADITION "(D2T)

Thematic Area

Tourism, Environment and Agriculture

Project period

24 March 2017 - 23 March 2020

Donor

USAID and Sweden Embassy

Funding

1,046,689 USD





“Diber: Trails & Tradition” (D2T) aims to increase employment, particularly among youth and women; and to increase the incomes of Diber families involved in the tourism supply chain.

The D2T project envisions an increase in employment and incomes based on an increased number of tourists in Diber and the quality of their experience. It will stimulate public-private and cross-sector partnerships; add value to Diber’s agriculture sector; and strengthen local government and NGO governing associations which will ensure sustainability, gender inclusion, and lay the groundwork for an enabling and compliant business climate for the region.

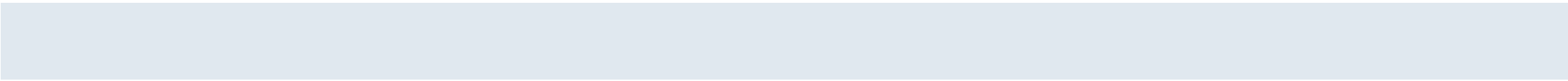
Through the use of data-informed decisions, value-chain, and collective impact methodologies, it will develop and market eco-friendly, natural, cultural and agritourism products, such as, trails and maps; guesthouses and villages with traditional character and self-sustaining energy and waste management systems; day-itineraries with information of nature, cultural, and agro-attractions; improved road signage complementing itineraries; trained tour guides; and an improved TIC and marketing platform run by a sustainable PPP approach.

The D2T project is conceptualized as three inter-locking circles of strategic objectives targeted at addressing these problems such as

(i) to strengthen the enabling environment for tourism development in the Diber Municipality through improved governance, planning, public services, private sector opportunities and partnerships, marketing and ICT infrastructures;

(ii) to increase the workforce capabilities of the rural tourism sector, through increased awareness of integrated, agro-tourism; improved quality and technical skills of producers and suppliers of agritourism products and services; and the creation of an internship program for the future labor pool of youth and volunteers;

(iii) to design, develop and promote integrated agritourism products, using data informed tools and participatory approaches to assure ownership and to serve as models for the future.



THE PROJECT RESULTED IN:

A self-governing, cross-sectoral institution (Forumi Dibra Turistike) which effectively plans, coordinates, and promotes tourism in Diber is established;

A Tourism Action Plan (TAP) for the Diber Municipality through a participatory process with attention to tradition, natural assets, agriculture, sustainability, gender and environmental compliance is developed;

Operation of a quality Tourist Information Center (TIC), via the formation of a PPP and increased staff capacities for the management and operation of the TIC, quality customer service and market information is improved;

Business to business linkages and partnerships among and between touristic suppliers and agriculture and handicraft producers are created;

A sustainable marketing plan with an ICT web/social media platform to promote and support tourism in Diber is built;

Qualified group of local tour guides (guiding services) are trained and provide tour guiding services;

Vocational training, formal internships and volunteer placements for local youth is developed.

5 “day-trip” itineraries are identified and developed;

5 thematic trails, including marking of roads, village signage; hiking/biking/caravan maps; and informational booklets are identified and marked; and

Two model traditional touristic villages are established.



PROJECT: "ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION OF THE OHRID - PRESPA TRANSBOUNDARY REGION"

Thematic Area

Environment and Tourism

Project period

01 January 2018 – 31 December 2019

Donor

IPA 2, Cross border cooperation: former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Republic of Albania, allocations 2014-2015

Funding

412,464 Euro



The project will enable understanding the potential and development prospects of the region, as well as the challenges for its sustainable management, and balancing with the local populations' economic activities, which in the rural parts are primarily related to traditional small-scale family-based agricultural practices.

The overall project objective is to contribute to balanced and sustainable socio-economic development of the Ohrid-Prespa transboundary biosphere reserve, through introduction of GIS-based system for planning and management of the natural resources and heritage of the target region.

The specific project objective is to develop a system to map the most important ecosystem services of the Ohrid-Prespa transboundary biosphere reserve, and understand their contribution and their utilization for forestry, tourism, fishing and hunting enhancement.

*The project results are summarized as following:
Developed and implemented transparent and accountable project management system, for effective and efficient delivery of the project results.*

Developed and installed integrated environmental monitoring system, to map the existing ecosystem services related to provisioning, supporting and culture, in the target area.

Developed scenarios for sustainable management (utilization and preservation) of the existing ecosystem services, with involvement of the local population from the target areas.

Increased stakeholders' cooperation and support for preservation, development and restoring of the flora and fauna in the target area.





PROJECT: "IMPROVING TOURISM OFFER IN HIGHLANDS OF ALBANIA AND KOSOVO"

Thematic Area

Environment and Tourism

Project period

01 March 2018 - 28 February 2020

Donor

IPA 2, Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Albania-Kosovo under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance allocations for 2014-2015

Funding

467,097 Euro



The project will enhance the competitiveness of the tourism sector in the cross-border region by the economic valorisation of its cultural and natural heritage.

Specifically, cross - border area of Kukësi region and Western Part of Kosovo, are targeted area with the huge potentials for development of tourism and cultural activities. As measurable indicators, there will be improvement of the infrastructure for tourism development in shepherd's huts, increased and fostered the capacities of rural population on providing and offering a qualitative traditional product and to promote the values and traditions of the shepherd's huts as a tool for rural and agricultural development.

The quality and the diversity of the tourism offer in the mountains will be upgraded. The tourists will have a more meaningful experience of the mountains and the length of their stay will be increased.

Rural households will acquire practical knowledge of rural households for providing tourism services and as the outcome better communication with tourists will be achieved enhancing the overall tourist experience.

Particular attention will be paid to promotion of the results and outputs of the project that are related to environment protection, so biodiversity in mountainous areas will be specifically promoted through biodiversity map, wildlife protection through and green energy with instalment of solar systems in the shepherd's huts. It is expected that the region will build its position in the tourism market as a destination distinctive for pure nature, hospitality and culture values.



PROJECT: "ICT FOR SMART HEALTHCARE TOURISM" - WISHFUL

Thematic Area

Tourism and Technology

Project period

01 March 2018 - 28 February 2020

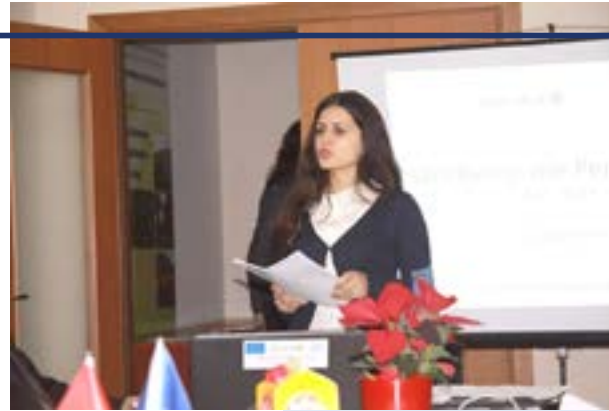
Donor

INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY - ALBANIA -
MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME,

1st call for proposals for standard projects

Funding

246,000 Euro



WISHFUL: *Ict for Smart Healthcare tourism aims at creating a synergy between territorial tourism and healthcare offers, a real opportunity to promote a systemic approach and define a collaborative interregional network. Through a dedicated ICT platform, the territories involved in the Programme will share their health and tourist offers addressed to different target of users. This will create a coherent and integrated ecosystem inside the area, focused on the valorization of territorial health excellences and cultural heritage that will grant to each user the definition of tour package services perfectly calibrated on their personal needs and diseases. The platform in fact has the task of combining supply and demand, in order to offer that combination of carefully measured services for the health needs of the users.*

The definition of these integrated tourist offers will be an opportunity for requalifying and valorising territorial points of interest, intended to make them both attractive from a tourist point of view and accessible to individuals with different pathologies.

These recovered points of interest will be the core of the project pilot cases. The project, seen as opportunities deriving from the articulation of trip packages that cover health needs and cultural fruition of the area, includes three hypothetical application scenarios:

- 1) Territorial Health Excellences Valorisation: Enhancement of clinical and health excellence and tourist strengths in a combined offer, that aims at expanding current markets.*
- 2) Tourist offer addressed to individuals with chronic diseases: Health needs of patients who, although not suffering from disabling diseases, have necessities in the definition of their tourist offer, or may need to a health support even on holiday, in the tourist area chosen.*
- 3) Tourist offer addressed to individuals with disabling diseases, needing the definition of specific tourist routes.*



PROJECT: “Better Environment Applying Integrated Agriculture (BEAIA)”

Thematic Area

Agriculture and Environment

Project period

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

Donor

“Civil Society programme for Albania and Kosovo”
financed by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
managed by Kosovo Civil Society Foundation (KCSF)
and Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA)

Funding

37,125.00 Euro



The project focused on improving the environment through the minimization of soil and water pollution by applying integrated agriculture practices in Divjaka municipality.

To achieve the overall objective, the main following approaches are applied:

- the study the soil and irrigation water before the vegetable cultivation,*
- the monitoring of the usage of pesticides and fertilizers during cultivation,*
- the study of the soil, irrigation water residues after harvest,*
- the monitoring, evaluation and analyzation of vegetable products regarding residues from the use of fertilizers,*
- Performing the theoretical training and practical demonstration in the field for the farmers in the targeted area.*

The project focused on increasing level of information and awareness in making a controlled use of fertilizers and pesticides in the cultivation of vegetable fresh products according EU protocols. The project targeted 50 farmers (both men and women) cultivating vegetables in the open field / cover area in the Divjaka municipality. The project established an effective model of vegetable cultivation with contemporary methods of integrated agriculture.

Main activities focused on baseline study, training programmes, practical field demonstration, cultivation techniques monitoring, final study on monitoring, evaluation and analyses of the soil, irrigation water of the fresh vegetables after harvest in fulfilment of EU protocols and EU requirements. In addition the project contributed to the country development strategy 2014-2020.





PROJECT: "Quality System Implementation ISO 9001:2015 for Business Support Organizations"
Thematic Area

Agriculture

Project period

20 December 2020 - 31 December 2022

Donor

PREDa Plus Kosovo

Funded by ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL on behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Funding

42,000 Euro



The purpose of this project was to support of the Business Support Organizations in expanding and improving their services and capacities. Also, for increasing the number of members of organizations and the orientation of Business Support Organizations towards small businesses.

Achievements:

Five Business Support Organizations were identified and supported in further improving their operational and management capacities. These organizations went through the process of Quality System Implementation ISO 9001:2015 which included preparation, testing and compliance with the quality management standard ISO 9001:2015.

At the end of the process, the organizations were certified according to the above standard. The project supported their auditing for the next two years, ensuring that the associations continue to maintain the quality and operational capabilities according to the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

The project produced the following results:

- Identification of the differences between the current situation and the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.
- Preparation of an action plan.
- Quality training held.
- Adjustment of documents and records and establishment of process monitoring.
- Preparation for certification.

The above results are realized through the following activities:

- Evaluation of current situation.
- Preparation of an action plan.
- Preparation of quality system documentation.
- Realization of the necessary training.
- Implementation - operation according to the newly developed documentation.
- System control.
- Preparation for certification.
- Monitoring of the certification process.



PROJECT: “Cross-border biking: Next level of adventure tourism in Mavrovo -Rostuse and Diber” **Thematic Area**

Tourism and Environment

Project period

01 January 2020 – 30 June 2022

Donor

Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) allocations for 2016 & 2017

Funding

677,729 Euro



The project intended to enhance further the cooperation, communication, and exchange between the two municipalities, while creating and promoting the area as one region, creation of bike trails that connect both countries, visitors that enjoy similar experiences and good quality of tourism services. Furthermore, the project intended to address the increase the number of qualified staff, mainly focusing on the adventure tour guides, family guest houses and especially in improving the adventure tourism infrastructure in bike trails and qualified staff and infrastructure of visitors' centres.

The project aimed to further develop the tourism sector in the project area through:

- Improved economic opportunities through job creation for the inhabitants of Mavrovo-Rostushe & Dibra;
- Improved infrastructure for adventure tourism development in the Mavrovo-Rostushe & Dibra project area;

- Improved business opportunities in local tourism;
- Improved promotion of Mavrovo-Rostushe & Diber cross-border region as ONE adventure tourism destination

With a more developed adventure tourism sector the project contributed to directly create 10 (ten) new and indirectly 50 new jobs within the project. The direct jobs were adventure guides, info point staff and accommodation/food providers. The indirect jobs related to logistics providers, further tourism value chain actors and even involved municipality employees. On a mid- and long-term perspective, we expect even higher numbers of direct as well as indirect jobs – all building on the work done by this project.



strong natural and cultural potential, we invited and integrated regional, national and even international tourism value chain actors for the development, marketing and sale of new adventure products.

Another element related to infrastructure investment part of the contract. Building on the infrastructure implemented (40 km of biking trails and renovation of two multi-functional visitor centre) and the capacity built by this project, and with the adventure tourism products developed from it, the Mavrovo-Rostushe & Diber cross-border region is promoted & sold as ONE unified adventure destination for active tourism. The region was promoted at 2 (two) international (Eurobike/Garda) and 3 (three) national fairs (AL/MK/KS), and all tourism actors involved in the project multiplied this promotion into the various target markets. A strong promotion for success was provided from our connection to crucial actors (trail-builders/experts/magazines) of the mountain bike-scene in Europe - the kind of tourism spearheading rural development in this project.





PROJECT: "Montenegro and Albania towards
Zero Waste:
Thematic Area

Environment

Project period

01 February 2021 – 30 September 2023

Donor

Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) allocations
for 2016 & 2017 (CBC Montenegro – Albania)

Funding

240,000 Euro



The overall objective of this action was to further the protection of environmental resources in lake and alpine areas, while the specific objective was to reduce residual waste through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling measures. The overall objective was achieved through:

Result 1. Platform for guiding local communities towards Zero Waste towns created. The activities that led towards achievement of this result are:

- 1.1 Zero Waste Advisory Boards formation
- 1.2 Survey to evaluate amounts of different types of waste disposed/recycled/reused on household and municipal level.



Result 2: Local communities encouraged to reduce, recycle and reuse waste. This set of activities was dedicated to awareness raising and actual concrete steps towards change in practices and habits in the two local communities.

- 2.1 Educational and awareness raising campaign on separation, reuse and recycling of waste
- 2.2 Set up of waste separation tools and measures
- 2.3 Pilot activities on reuse and recycling of waste



Result 3: Sustainability of Zero Waste practices ensured. To properly measure achievements made, difficulties and successes in order to finetune the methods for better results, evaluation of result 2 activities was done to locate bottlenecks and issues, as well as best practices and areas for improvement.

- 3.1 Evaluation of conducted activities, best practices and implementation of improvements
- 3.2 Awards to best citizen and business initiatives aiming at further decrease of residual waste
- 3.3 Development of 5 and 10 years Zero Waste city plans to continue on the path to Zero Waste

In terms of impact, the project had a direct impact to the population of the two municipalities, which is 4027 in Gusinje and 2346 in Margegaj. In terms of outcomes, it is expected an increase of 40% recycled waste in 10 years.

The project enabled an improved solid waste management systems and value chains within the area (Gusinje and Margegaj). About 80% of the population in both municipalities took part in the awareness activities. About 50% of existing businesses and organisations participated in joint actions in waste management. Two action plans were developed on promoting green infrastructures, at least 10 littering spots were identified, and 6 were cleaned. Residual waste was decreased by 5%. This action had primary focus on changing the habits of the residents and communities, which is the most difficult change to achieve.





PROJECT: "Protection and Sustainable Use of Protected Areas in Shar Mountain, Mavrovo and Korab-Koritnik"

Thematic Area

Environment / Good Governance

Project period

01 February 2023 – 31 January 2026

Donor

PONT

Funding

450,000 Euro



The project purpose is to promote citizen participation in implementing conservation and other nature-based sustainable development actions through co-management approach (implemented by ALCDF, PA Authorities and two CSOs).

The project activities will focus on PA Management Authorities including technical specialists and rangers' teams from the four offices (Diber, Kukes, Shar, Mavrovo). Furthermore, the project covers Pollog region in MK, and Diber and Kukes Municipalities in Albania, with in total population of around 421,000 citizens. In total the project will cover 23 Local Government Units (15 in AL and 8 in MK) and 245 villages.

The general objective is to focus in an Effective and equitable governance of cross-border Sharr-Korab region protected areas to enhance the ecological, economic, and social benefits they provide. The project intends to improve measures to strengthen environmental governance in the 4 PA(s) regions through coordinated actions that increase the impact of operations to reduce threats and ensure the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources in both countries.



PROJECT: "Handicrafts and Heritage:
A Heritage-Based Tourism Project in Bulqiza"

Thematic Area

Family based tourism / Environment

Project period

01 February 2024 - 31 January 2025

Donor

Australian Embassy

ROME DIRECT AID PROGRAM IN ALBANIA 2023 -
24

Funding

12,000 Euro



Bulqiza is a region of Albania that faces significant economic challenges, with 65% of families depending on economic aid. The decline of the chromium mining industry and above average levels of emigration have resulted in limited economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth. By promoting tourism and traditional handicrafts as a method of economic empowerment, opportunities for formal labor market participation and preservation of cultural heritage can be provided for women and youth. The project goal is to improve household income and create employment opportunities for women and youth of Bulqiza through the tourism sector. The project aims to empower Bulqiza's women and youth through training and resources. The project targets three groups: female artisans, female tourism operators, and youth between 18 to 24 years old. It will provide training sessions on tourism principles for youth and support the formation of a female artisan guild to advance the handicraft industry.

Key project activities:

- 1.1 In-person awareness session with female artisans of Bulqiza
- 1.2 Formation of a female artisan's guild in Bulqiza, making use of other successful examples
- 1.3 Training of female artisans in online marketing, entrepreneurship, and business strategy
- 1.4 Training session for hospitality and customer service for female tourism operators
- 1.5 Access-to-capital training session for the female group in Bulqiza to access capital to grow their businesses.
- 1.6 Small scale support (with equipment) for women models' entrepreneurs
- 2.1 Tourism Day in Bulqiza with a range of activities that promote the area and its tourism offerings (Local B2B seminar) - joining artisans and operators;
- 3.1 Seminar for identification of the local festivals
- 3.2 Support 'Golloborda' folk-festival



PROJECT: “Women’s Empowerment in Diber in Agritourism (WEDA)”

Thematic Area

Nature Conservation / family based tourism / agritourism

Project period

01 July 2024 – 28 February 2025

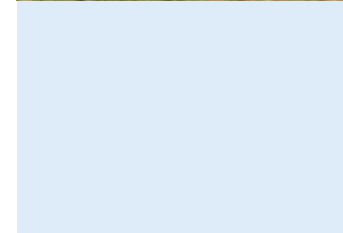
Donor

Canadian Embassy

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development

Funding

CAD 32,500.00



The goal of the project is to promote socio-economic well-being and viable livelihoods for women in agritourism through the provision of capacity development services, improved service environments, and increased responsiveness and effectiveness of financing.

This is achieved by providing training for 100 women in integrated agritourism in the Diber region. Further to this training, there will be workshops for 25 women in hospitality and for another 25 women in traditional culinary and catering skills. After this training, there will be several marketing activities including linking up businesses, promotion of products, and improved online presence. A final endeavor will include field visits to see best practices in agritourism.

The end results will be that women in agritourism will have a greater capacity to do business and attract clients in the Diber region. Women in hospitality and culinary trades will gain practical knowledge to improve the quality of their services. New business

linkages will be created to offer new sources of revenue to the women involved in the project. Agritourism-focused women will have the opportunity to promote their products at the annual harvest fair in Peshkopi and through the creation of an online platform for tourism in Diber. Altogether, the 100 rural women in the project will improve their economic empowerment and gain valuable skills that can lead to an increase in their livelihood.



PROJECT: "Timeless Tastes: Indulge into the flavors and ballads of Kurbin"

Thematic Area

Culture Heritage Tourism / family based tourism / agritourism

Project period

02 December 2024 – 31 October 2025

Donor

UNOPS

EU4Culture Programme financed by European Union and implemented by UNOPS in collaboration with Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation

Funding

49,855 Euro





Overall project Objective is “To promote sustainable tourism and economic development in Kurbin by preserving traditional culinary heritage, fostering climate-smart rural entrepreneurship, and integrating natural, historical, and gastronomic assets into resilient tourism value chains”.

The project aims to foster sustainable tourism and inclusive economic development in the Kurbin region by preserving its unique culinary traditions and promoting environmentally conscious rural entrepreneurship. By integrating Kurbin’s rich natural landscapes, historical assets, and gastronomic heritage into resilient tourism value chains, the initiative seeks to generate lasting economic benefits while addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Emphasis is placed on intergenerational knowledge transfer, climate adaptation, and community empowerment—especially for women and youth—as key drivers of transformation in rural Kurbin.

Through a range of targeted activities, the project supports the safeguarding of traditional food practices and the development of climate-resilient tourism products. These include culinary workshops, hands-on training in

sustainable food preparation, the creation of a recipe booklet rooted in local heritage, and the distribution of energy-efficient kitchen tools to women entrepreneurs. In parallel, tourism development efforts will include mapping of eco- and agro-tourism assets, creation of thematic itineraries, entrepreneurship trainings, and the organization of a Spring Food Festival to celebrate sustainable traditions. Digital tools, such as a GIS-based tourism map and online promotional campaigns, will enhance visibility and access to low-impact travel experiences in the region.

Cross-cutting priorities such as climate change mitigation, value chain resilience, and social inclusion are embedded throughout the project. By strengthening links between sustainable agriculture, tourism, and culinary heritage, the initiative contributes to local self-sufficiency and reduced environmental impact. Women and youth, particularly from underrepresented groups, are central beneficiaries of the project’s capacity-building efforts. Ultimately, the initiative will preserve Kurbin’s culinary legacy, boost green livelihoods, and position the region as a model for culturally rich, low-carbon rural tourism in Albania.

OTHERS

ALCDF as a Service Provider for:

"Business competencies and skills for self-employment (start-ups); contracted by World Vision Albania (Budget 15,000.00 Euro) from June 2023 - February 2024

"Fostering awareness and accountability of local Government institution towards green deal and environmental issues"; contracted and funded by GIZ Albania (Budget 20,000.00 Euro); July - December 2022.

"Piloting e Regional DMO in Diber", contracted and funded by GIZ Albania (Budget 65,000.00 Euro); October 2020 - June 2022

"Conduct landscape assessment to identify cultural norms, gender issues, mentality and potential partners to address these issues"; Contracted by Word Vision Albania and Kosovo; January - March 2020

"Market Assessment in Dibra Region"; Contracted by Risi Albania; July - December 2018

"Phase 3 of the Decentralization and Local Development Programme (dldp)"; implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and financed by Swiss Development Cooperation; 2014-2017;

- Preparation of functional area programme in the functional area of Diber;
- Elaboration of Territorial Strategy of Municipality in Diber;
- Assist Local Government Units of Mat and Klos to Develop Full Project Proposal;
- Capacity Development of LGUs in Project Cycle Management;
- Implementation of Documentary Phase for Implementation of IOSSH system in Municipality of Mat;
- Implementation of Documentary Phase for Implementation of IOSSH system in Municipality of Klos;

- Support to Municipality of Diber for the Elaboration of Fiscal Package, Annual Budget and Medium-term Budget Program;
- Support to Municipality of Klos for the Elaboration of Territorial Strategy, Fiscal Package, Annual Budget and Medium-term Budget Program;
- Support to Municipality of Diber for the Elaboration of Fiscal Package, Annual Budget 2018 and Medium-term Budget Program.

Training in the framework of "Civic Engagement for functional Judiciary System and Access to Justice in Albania" for Save the Children; 25 March - 30 April 2016



Training on "Financial Management for NPO-s" designed and conducted for a group of representatives of 15 Albanian organizations participating in the first and second round of organizational assessment/technical assistance of the USAID Accelerated Civic Development and Cooperation Project in Albania; May - June 2018

Training on "Financial Management for NPO-s" designed and conducted for a group of representatives of 15 Albanian organizations participating in the first and second round of organizational assessment/technical assistance of the USAID Accelerated Civic Development and Cooperation Project in Albania; November - December 2017







ALBANIAN LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

ALCDF target markets are donors, rural innovators, service providers, banks, and businesses. ALCDF's funding model is a combination of donor financing and income generation from its web based service directory and tendering portal and other capacity building services. ALCDF is now securing donor financing to support its mission and operations.

Contacts:

*Lindita Manga, Executive Director
Mob: 067 20 89375
lmanga@alcdf.org*

*Address: Rr. "Shyqyri Ishmi", P. "Shpresa" Ap. 24/4
Tirana, Albania.
Tel: +355 4 451 8628
E-mail: info@alcdf.org
Web: www.alcdf.org*