



ANNUAL
REPORT

2017



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Dear partner,

It is with great pride and accomplishment that I present to you Co-PLAN's year in review. This report highlights numerous notable achievements and I am pleased to share this continued progress in the pursuit of improved programs and policies, research and knowledge from our main fields of expertise in urban and spatial development, public finance and environmental management.

2017 marked a very active year especially in territorial governance and its constituent aspects: It marked the start of the Regional Development Program (following RDP Northern Albania) as a continuous effort to support the regional development reform in Albania.

Further, as part of PLGP financed by USAID, Co-PLAN contributed to the finalisation of 5 General Local Territorial Plans (GLTPs) for 5 new municipalities, i.e. the Municipalities of Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Kuçovë and Elbasan, based on a pioneering methodology, which was adopted by the planning authorities as a good example for the drafting of the plans to follow.

Additionally, as part of the consortium guiding LëvizAlbania, the status of local public finances across all 61 municipalities in the country was in focus. It aimed at establishing a tradition of analysing and discussing main trends in terms of the financial performance of local governments, through a dedicated annual status report published in April and data published regularly on www.financatvendore.al.

Advocacy and activism has been at the core of our organization since its establishment. To this end, during the

year, we worked intensively on coaching young organizations and activists in their advocacy and activism work through a dedicated program which provided organizational tools and skills on how to bring up a concern or a cause and raise awareness.

In line with Albania's EU integration ambitions, Co-PLAN's aspiration focuses on its Europeanisation and at building human infrastructure and strengthening the organization in the upcoming challenges of the process. In 2017, two new regional projects were initiated and commitments were taken to further contribute in debates, discussions and research between Albania, West Balkan and EU. Our focal point for the upcoming years will also be on territorial governance with the aim to provide evidence-based feedback and analyses to policy-makers involved in this process.

The accomplishments over the past year and the work ahead depends on the support and contribution of our partners and dedicated staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in the joint efforts to positively change the prospect of urban developments in Albania, and I invite you to browse through this report, why not to stimulate cooperation ideas for the coming years.

Dritan Shutina

Executive Director



Dritan Shutina, Executive Director of Co-PLAN

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ABOUT Co-PLAN

Co-PLAN is a non-profit organization that has contributed to sustainable development by enabling good urban and regional governance, tackling key environmental issues, developing civil society, impacting policies, and promoting community participation knowledge-making since 1995. At the core of Co-PLAN's activity is the work with people and institutions, to foster tangible social transformation and positive change on the ground by inducing change-driving knowledge in our society for smart management of our habitat. Co-PLAN fulfills this mission through means of pilot activities and advisory services financed by national and international institutions and direct involvement with communities, local government units and other non-governmental organizations in the field of urban and regional management, environmental management, and municipal finance. We are based in Tirana, Albania, and have developed a solid-project-outreach-network at a national, regional, and international level, including many of the Local Government Units in Albania, numerous organizations in the Western Balkans region, Europe, and beyond.



Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning

Territorial Governance and Development constitutes one of the core expertise units in Co-PLAN. Since 1995, Co-PLAN has worked with communities and government institutions to address urban development issues. Co-PLAN was established as a grassroots organization, working to increase quality of life in the neighborhoods of Albania's cities and towns. Since then, it has gradually developed into a professional civil society organization aiming at bringing together various stakeholders, while simultaneously providing knowledge and innovations in the fields of urban and regional development in Albania. Though Co-PLAN has expanded its area of expertise to include all aspects of territorial governance and sustainable spatial development, urban and regional planning and development remain at the core of Co-PLAN's agenda. Urban and regional planning and development are core objectives of Co-PLAN since its foundation, and over time this orientation has matured. Co-PLAN now undertakes activities at multiple scales (i.e., the neighborhood, city, regional, inter-regional, and national levels) and with a spectrum of actors such as communities, local and central government, businesses, donors, and civil society organizations.

Decentralization and Local Regional Development

The Urban and Regional Governance Unit was shaped as a new thematic unit in Co-PLAN's agenda in the early 2000s, and today it constitutes one of the core expertise units of the organization. For many years Co-PLAN has supported local governments, NGOs, and business communities in addressing urban development issues through the preparation of territorial development strategies, urban regulatory plans, detailed local plans, and other guiding documents. The advancement of the decentralization process and the increasing number of responsibilities delegated to local government have made imperative clear policies on the financing and implementation of local economic development strategies. To this end, Co-PLAN supports and advises local governments to improve municipal finances management practices and adoption of new instruments in the pursuit of their development strategies. In recent years, Co-PLAN has supported many municipalities to improve financial performance through the preparation of the capital investment programs, annual budgets generated through participatory practices, and the improved levying of taxes.



Environmental Management and Planning

The Environmental Management and Planning Unit built on Co-PLAN's sensitivity towards the irreversible impact of rapid urban development on the environment. Constant contribution and works within the habitat development framework, conducted by Co-PLAN, have always taken under consideration crucial elements in regard to sustainable development of the ecosystem. We consider Environmental Management and Planning as a crisscross dimension for each of the projects we

commit and deliver. Upgrading services delivery standards and capacity building for a better comprehension of environment at an institutional level, were listed as first contributes from Co-PLAN on the field of environmental protection. During the last 15 years these themes expanded towards strategic environmental pacification, environmental impact assessment, ecosystem services evaluation, governing natural resources, energy, etc.



Public Policy, Research and Advocacy

By working closely with stakeholders and generating knowledge useful to public institutions and communities, Co-PLAN has developed and adopted a number of governance tools. Such instruments have been rigorously developed by assembling knowledge of local contexts and on this basis modifying good governance methodologies for operationalization in the Albanian context. Apart from genuine participatory and bottom-up approaches to problem solving, Co-PLAN has dedicated substantial efforts to research that generates the necessary know-how for the proper implementation of development initiatives. Initially, Co-PLAN's research initiatives aimed at assessing needs and designing planning instruments and projects informed by local concerns. In a second stage, complementary research activities were undertaken in order to produce more comprehensive knowledge of local urban settings and inform important municipal decision-making processes.

Programmatic research studies conducted by Co-PLAN in the field of spatial planning, municipal finances, land development, waste management, natural resources, renewable energy and governance have in the last 10 years contributed to local and national policy-making processes. Co-PLAN has influenced policy decisions such as the integration of informal settlements, the territorial-administrative reform, the territorial planning reform, the municipal finances reform, the regionalization of governance and regional development, and since 2010 has also authored in the preparation of the territorial planning and land development law and bylaws. Through its extensive policy research and advocacy work, Co-PLAN has contributed and is aiming at expanding its role in the formation of territorial multi-tiers governance in Albania. Public policy research, scientific research, advocacy, communication, and networking and bridging with key international and particularly EU institutions are integral to the work of Co-PLAN.

Organisational Leading Board



Dr. Sokol ÇELO

Head of the board

Has been acting as the Chairman of the Board of Directors since 2002. Currently working as Assistant Professor of Management and International Business at Suffolk University, Boston – USA. A mathematician by qualification, Dr. Çelo furthered his studies in the field of business administration, and focused his research on location decision making for international investments of multinational corporations.



Prof. Dr. Besnik ALIAJ

Member of the board

Co-funder and current Rector of POLIS University, the International School of Architecture and Development Policies, where he also teaches Urban Design. Dr. Aliaj is an urban planner by qualification and profession, author of numerous publications in this field, and guest speaker in various international conferences. He was a member of the Municipal Council of Tirana, and 'Citizen of Honour of Kamza Municipality'.



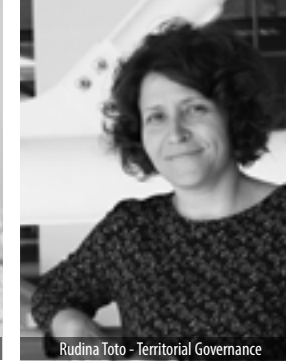
Dr. Sotir DHAMO

Member of the board

The Administrator of the founding board of Polis University, and lecturer of two courses: Urban Design and Territorial Analysis and Human Settlements. He is an editor of the scientific journal of U_POLIS 'Forum A+P', and engages in frequently in consultancy and research activities in the field of urban planning and urban design. He is also an author to numerous publications in his field of expertise.



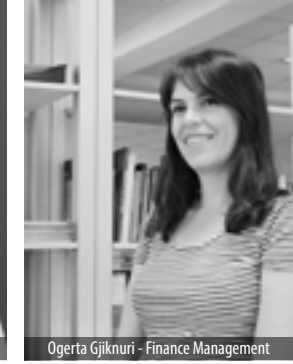
Dritan Shutina - Executive Director



Rudina Toto - Territorial Governance



Anila Bejko - Urban and Regional Governance



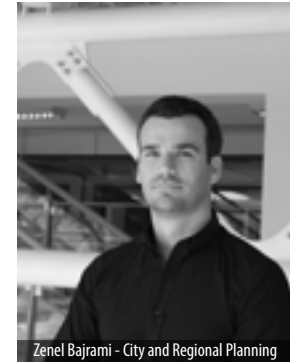
Ogerta Gjiku - Finance Management



Aida Ciro - Communication and Acquisition



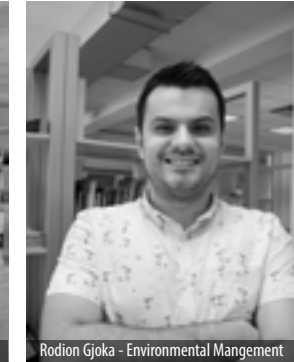
Merita Toska - Economic Development



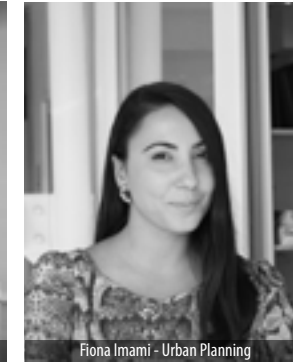
Zenel Bajrami - City and Regional Planning



Ledio Allkja - Urban Planning



Rodion Gjoka - Environmental Mangement



Fiona Imami - Urban Planning



Kejt Dhrami - Urban Planning



Lorena Gjani - Communication and Visibility



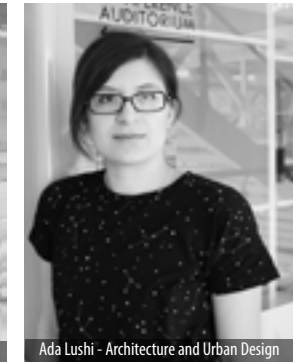
Gerti Delli - Transportation Planning



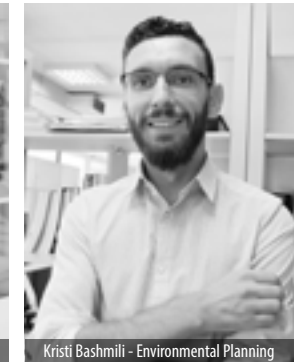
Silvi Jano - Environmental Planning



Imeldi Sokoli - Urban Planning



Ada Lushi - Architecture and Urban Design



Kristi Bashmili - Environmental Planning



Xhesika Hoxha - Environmental Planning



Oreola Cali - Accounting



Edlira Xhafaj - Geodesy Engineering



Ani Shtylla - GIS Expertise



Tiamis Sage - Administration



Altion Qirko - Logistics

Co-PLAN STAFF

Highlights

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LAUNCHING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ALBANIA

Regional Development Programme Albania (RDPA) was launched on May 18th 2017, gathering key representatives from public institutions, international community, partners and other related actors. This event was an opportunity to introduce the objectives of the Program, which is funded by Swiss and Austrian Development and Cooperation Agencies.

RDPA is implemented by Co-PLAN in partnership with ECORYS Netherland, and aims to reduce disparities in Albania by supporting the development of strong regions, which advance their potentials and provide better social and economic conditions for their citizens. During the following months RDPA will be focused on the legal and financial framework.

During the event, Swiss Ambassador Christoph Graf stressed that often the focus of development and investments goes to major cities such as Tirana and Durrës, other areas are forgotten. "This is why the reform on Regional Development is so important: It aims to promote a more balanced socio-economic development of the country and to promote the development of strong regions. Through regional development we will have less disparities between various regions of the country", said Ambassador Graf. He also urged the government of Albania to approve the law on regional development which is currently pending.

Minister for Urban Development Eglantina Gjermeni said that "this project is a work platform with direct and measurable impact in building institutional and technical capacities, improving the legal framework for regional development, and above all in carrying out concrete inter-local projects". "The concrete initiatives in the area of national and local planning have facilitated and strengthened inter-local cooperation and competition", added Minister Gjermeni.



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HOUSING RESEARCH (ENHR) CONFERENCE 2017

After 14 years, Co-PLAN in cooperation with Polis University organised in Tirana, on September 4-6, the European Network for Housing Research annual conference, with the theme: "Affordable Housing for All! – Redefining the Roles of Public and Private Sectors". WHousing affordability has become a growing problem after the 2008 financial and economic crisis. Policy makers at all levels: global, national, regional, municipal, or at community associations are striving to respond to the growing issue of affordable housing for all. The questions if housing is a basic need, a right, an entitlement, a public good, or is it just a consumer choice, a commodity or an investment within the free market – still remain a dichotomy of politicians on the left and right sides. There is a general agreement that everyone should have a decent and affordable home but the ways to reach this goal are still unclear. This conference provided a perfect platform to open a local and European debate with practical values that goes beyond academic and scientific purposes and will benefit national agenda and the whole of Europe. This three day event included different workshops, thematic plenary session, talks from renown architects and planners and field trips. The workshops were of a diverse nature on topics covering: Collaborative Housing; Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhoods and Communities; East European Housing & Urban Policy; Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability of Housing; Housing and Family Dynamics; Housing & Living Conditions of Ageing Populations; Housing and Urban Sustainability; Housing Finance; Housing in Developing Countries; Housing Market Dynamics; Southern European Housing; Welfare Policy, Homelessness, and Social Exclusion etc.



EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

URBAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (UPP) Regional Conference on WB-Austria

As part of the Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement (SSCE) Initiative of the World Bank-Austria Urban Partnership Program (UPP), where Co-PLAN was a lead regional partner, the Regional Conference “Socially Inclusive Cities” was held on March 27th and 28th, 2017 in Zagreb, Croatia. A specific objective of the Initiative was to assess the current mechanisms of citizen involvement in place in selected municipalities and discuss with city stakeholders the opportunities and constraints of collaborative governance at the local level. The Conference brought together around 80 Local Government Officials, Local Government Associations, CSOs, and other key stakeholders to share their knowledge and experiences. Participants coming from seven South-East European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) had the chance to learn more about good practices for socially inclusive citizen engagement and innovative tools of governance, including ICT tools used for integrating citizen’s voice from the region and beyond. This event provided a platform for disseminating the findings of the SSCE initiative and sharing approaches to improving collaborative government and strengthening integrity of public services. Municipal leaders had the opportunity to share their cities’ vision and introduce strategies to become more transparent and responsive to citizens.

URBAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (UPP) - City to City Dialogue

A two-day event was organized as part of the World Bank-Austria Urban Partnership Program (UPP) aimed to assist and support cities and local governments in South East Europe (SEE) in a process of modernization and reform, in order to promote local development for inclusive and sustainable growth, and enhanced urban governance. The dialogue in Skopje was eight in a series of City to City dialogues and focused on action planning, sharing of good practices and experiences as well as problem solving through peer - to - peer knowledge exchange. Co-PLAN and experts from different Municipalities of Albania shared their experiences in using the MFSA toolkit and implementation of the improvement action plans.



SPA-CE.Net: The Role of Public Sector in Local Economic and Territorial Development in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Co-PLAN officially became member of Spa-ce.net on September 2017, a network integrating Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European institutes and organisations active in the field of spatial research and planning. During the annual conference of the network on September 13th-15thW 2017, on “The Role of Public Sector in Local Economic and Territorial Development in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe”, Co-PLAN presented on the case study of Gramsh and social innovation aspects applied in

the process of promoting Gramsh as a tourist destination. The conference was organised by Space-net and hosted by the Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Bulgaria with 30 participants from 9 European countries. A commitment was made where Co-PLAN would author two chapters in the networks spring publication and will host the 2019 SPACE-NET Conference in Tirana.

Social Innovation and Sustainable Tourism Destination Management: Case Study of Gramsh

Aida Ciro and Dr. Merita Toska (Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development), Dr. Peter Niented (POLIS University)



PRESENTATION OF THE STATUS REPORT ON LOCAL FINANCES IN ALBANIA FOR 2016

Co-PLAN in the framework of Lëviz Albania's "Local Democracy Week" organised a roundtable to present the Report on Local Finances in Albania, 2017. The report presented in a consolidated way the data on revenues and expenditures for all 61 municipalities in 2017 as well as provided comparisons with year 2016 and analyzed how municipalities use local public financial resources. Besides basic indicators for revenues and expenditures and financial management, the analysis was focused on aspects of performance, assessing various aspects, such as: fiscal capacity and autonomy, the composition of expenditures and efficiency, the provision of public services vis-à-vis what it costs the citizens.

As 2017, is the first full year of implementation of the Territorial and Administrative Reform (TAR) and the recently decentralized functions, this report, aimed at helping in informing the discussion on developments of local finances, expectations of the reform and next steps that are necessary for its effective implementation.



EUROPIANISATION BEYOND PROCESS

Co-PLAN in 2017, took upon itself an initiative supported also by OSIFE through its program "Europeanisation Beyond Process", to expand its vision towards Albania's Europeanisation with focus on territorial governance policies in various levels on purpose factoring in policies and EU debates. This initiative which is co-financed by Co-PLAN is aimed at building human infrastructure and strengthening the organisation in the upcoming challenges of intergation. To this extent, Co-PLAN utilises different tools to play a role in the integration process:

- 1) Contribution in debates between Albania, West Balkan and EU, represented as part of academic networks.
- 2) Contribution on discussion about Albania Europeanisation emphasizing the importance of European policies and the interconnections between Albania and Europe. Focusing on regional and territorial perspective, it expands the perspective from "Is EU interested in West Balkan", to "Albania plays a constructive role for the future of EU and has a lot to acquire through its collaboration with EU".
- 3) Presentation of research findings in Albania and EU regarding territorial governance based on liason territorial features and resources with the development of multi - actors networks capacities and needs, that leads towards a solid base towards democratization and open governance.



Source: Pixabay

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Co-PLAN through the Professional Fellows Program organised a workshop on December 16th 2017, as the final selection phase for the applicants who were interested to be part of the exchange program and take advantage of the 6 week training activities in US. The first session of the workshop which focused on community organising tools and practices, was hosted by the Co-PLAN experts in collaboration with the Romanian partners of the fellows program. The second

part of the workshop was a group interview with the applicants to select five professionals from 37 participants, to be awarded the fellowship. After a careful examination of the experiences, individual initiatives proposed and participants input throughout the workshop, the selection committee decided to give the opportunity to be part of the program four representatives from local CSO's and one activist dealing with different aspects of community work.



OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATION
FOLLOW YOUR DREAM WITH US

Professional Fellows Program

We invite professionals from any region of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia to apply for participation in a 42-day fellowship in the U.S.A. We encourage submissions by professionals who are actively involved in programs related to citizen participation and advocacy (NGO/civil society development), civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, community activists and/or community organizers who work with marginalized or rural communities.

MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.GLC-TEACHDEMOCRACY2.ORG



NATYRA FEST 2017 - #EJANEGRAMSH

Natya Fest was a three-day event organised on the 26th-28th of May 2017, offering visitors all day activities including fairs, visits to all the tourism spots, camping, tracking, hiking, climbing, caving, exploring the canyons, waterfalls, lakes and rivers of the region. Throughout the day tourists could enjoy not just the nature but the cultural and culinary treats offered by local producers such as the beekeepers, followed by an explanatory session of the production process of honey. The activities were of a very diverse nature to

meet distinctive demands of the domestic and international tourists as well as different age groups. While the young generation was enjoying the open air party by the lake from two well-knowDj's, some preferred to explore the old local handicrafts and appreciate the hospitality. More than 550 visitors became part of the activities taking advantage of the 6 itineraries offered; Sotira waterfall, Grabove, Holta canyon, Kabashi cave, Irmaji castel and the cycling tour Elbasan-Gramsh.

Projects

- Planning and Local Governance Program (PLGP)
- Regional Development Programme in Albania (RDPA) – Phase III
- Local Democracy Promotion Project – LëvizAlbania
- The Municipal Financial Data Platform
- ENV. Net Platform in the Western Balkans
- Urban Partnership Programme (UPP II)
- Planning and Catalytic Investments for Tourism Development in Gramsh
- Kindle ADVOCACY
- Professional Fellows Program
- Projects in the Frame of the Decentralisation and Local Development Program (DLDP)
- The South-East Europe Electricity Road-Map (SEERMAP)

PROJECTS

PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (PLGP)

Implementation Period: 2012–2017, 2017–2019

Donor: USAID through TetraTech ARD

Fund: 2,513,341 USD

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (Component IV)

During 2017, Co-PLAN continued its involvement with the Planning and Local Governance Project, funded by USAID. PLGP works both at the national policy level and at the local level with thirteen “partner” local government units including six model municipalities: Tirana, Durrës, Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Kuçovë, Patos, Vlorë, Sarandë, Elbasan, Korçë, Vorë, and Kamëz and encompasses four main areas of endeavour:

- 1) Support the Government of Albania (GoA) with Implementation of Effective Decentralization Policies and Legislation;
- 2) Improve Local Governance;
- 3) Improve Management of Local Services;
- 4) Assist the GoA and Local Governments to Plan and Manage Urban and Regional Growth.

In the framework of PLGP, GoA and selected local governments, were provided technical assistance in developing skills and knowledge to draft territorial plans in accordance with the Law on Territorial Planning. On the other hand, citizens, civil society groups, businesses, NGOs, and other groups were provided with opportunities to monitor and participate in the process of territorial planning. PLGP also provided technical assistance for five GLTPs (General Local Territorial Plans) for the Municipalities of Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Kuçovë and Elbasan. The GLTPs are conceptualized as comprehensive and integrated documents and blueprints, so

that local authorities and citizens can better plan for social, economic, physical, political, aesthetic and any other issues that help municipalities to achieve their overall development goal. Co-PLAN, throughout 2016–2017, has worked intensively with the working groups from the municipalities to draft the GLTPs until their approval by the municipal council. The trainings, as to NTPAs, were also provided to the municipal staff and members of local municipal councils, as essential actors in territorial planning process. With the support of PLGP, experts of Co-PLAN have also worked with the 5 municipalities to assess their public finance management performance through the PEFA methodology. Moreover, several PPP schemes have been drafted and supported in implementation, in the public lighting sector. PLGP has entered its second phase of implementation.

The second phase of PLGP, as part of component IV, started on september 2017 and has a strong emphasis on Local Economic Development through the implementation of GLTPs by Local Detailed Plans (LDP) and the application of Financial Instruments of Land Development (FIELD). The component is divided in four main activities such as: a) Provide training and coaching to selected municipalities in how to implement GLTPs towards land and economic development; b) Provide technical assistance to selected municipalities for the preparation of Local Detailed Territorial Plans as identified in the approved GLTPs and for the

utilization of Financial Instruments for Land Development; c) Provide tailored assistance to municipalities to pursue economic development projects in compliance with territorial plans; d) Provide support in drafting local government legal and benchmarking instruments to improve the operating environment for businesses in their jurisdiction.

Co-PLAN as part of PLGP conducted the following activities:

- 1) The first coaching round table with 6 municipalities (Elbasan, Fier, Kuçovë, Lushnje, Berat and Tiranë). The round-table focused on the legal requirement for the process of drafting the LDPs and on the FIELDS.
- 2) Case studies were selected from the Municipalities of Fier, Elbasan and Tiranë, which will receive support in drafting the LDPs and the feasibility study for FIELDS.
- 3) In terms of supporting municipalities to pursue fundable projects, two projects were selected from the municipalities of Fier (a Livestock Market) and Berat (Irrigation channel of Mbreshtani) which will be supported by Co-PLAN in preparing the technical design project and the feasibility study in order to receive funding afterwards from TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline).
- 4) In collaboration with the NTPAs, it was agreed to conduct a benchmarking report on the implementation of the GLTPs. During this period the methodology for data collection for drafting the benchmarking report was prepared and the initial data collection with 12 Municipalities was initiated.



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



Source: Eglantina Gjermeni Official Website



Public Private Partnership Capacity Building and Feasibility Studies

One year after the implementation of the Territorial and Administrative Reform, Local Government Units (LGUs) continue to face enormous challenges in offering services to the new communities, accompanied with increased needs for funds to finance these services. The restrictions imposed by the level of public debt have made it nearly impossible for LGUs to use local borrowing as an instrument to increase their own source revenues and invest in public infrastructure and services. Under such conditions, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) represent an opportunity for LGUs to access private financing for the purpose of improving the quality and efficiency of public infrastructure and services to improve and better manage the delivery of services to the citizens. Within this framework, Co-PLAN was approached by USAID for their Planning and Local Governance Program, to provide technical assistance to partner LGUs with regards to PPPs by increasing LGUs' awareness and understanding of PPPs. The assistance aims to

provide the municipal staff with a comprehensive understanding of the key elements to understand, design, develop, apply and monitor PPP projects on local services. This effort provided LGUs with the understanding and ability to pre-evaluate potential PPP ideas in their cities while participating and contributing actively in the feasibility study and implementation phases.

There are several project activities:

- 1) Deliver capacity building training Techniques for Managing Effective Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects, with updates based on the amended legal framework for partner LGUs. The training was organized in two rounds.
- 2) Prepare three PPP feasibility studies on a public lighting service: (i) Review of the identified PPP projects and requests from LGUs (Elbasan, Korçë, and Kuçovë); (ii) Conduct the feasibility studies; (iii) Prepare and share next steps for PPP implementation.



RDPA – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN ALBANIA – PHASE III

Implementation Period: April 2017 – September 2018

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Fund: 3,445,000 CHF

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: ECORYS, Netherlands, and Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Regional Development Programme III is a joint continuous effort to support the regional development reform in Albania, co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and implemented by Ecorys Netherlands and Co-PLAN, in partnership with the Government of Albania.

The project is a follow up of the Regional Development Project in Northern Albania, which introduced new dimensions to the discussions on regional development; providing a methodology for the establishment of the regional development coordination mechanisms within the existing government structure and an approach to link sub-regional strategies to practical project implementation that allows for the formulation of area based development strategies.

Regional Development Policy is also fundamental to the EU integration processes, as it introduces Albania to the very same principles of EU Cohesion Policy. The programme will assist with the implementation of strategic, regulatory, institutional and financial framework for regional development, which will contribute in the EU accession process.

- 1) The first part of the project tackles the national level through the support to the reform on regional development based on the results of the bridging phase, as well as the regional level.
- 2) In the second phase the support is primarily addressed to the newly created structures – mainly to the National Agency for Regional Development and the four Regional Development Agencies. Support includes strengthening the emerging institutional system of regional development agencies and the elaboration of RDP and Operational Programme in a participatory way.
- 3) The third phase is focused on the elaboration of a grant fund mechanism, including criteria for project selection; piloting of regional development projects to establish and test the new grants mechanism – anchored at the RD Agencies.





LOCAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION PROJECT – LËVIZALBANIA

Implementation Period: 2014 – 2019

Donor: Swiss Embassy in Albania

Fund: 6,600,000 CHF

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Open Society Foundation Albania, Partners Albania

Co-PLAN in cooperation with Open Society Foundation for Albania and Partners Albania, and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is implementing the Project LëvizAlbania with the main objective to strengthen the local democracy through the engagement of CSO's and individuals. More specifically, the project aims: 1) To establish and strengthen platforms which enable various drivers of change to increase their interaction and engagement with their representatives and demand accountability from them; 2) To mobilize and engage civil society.

Local concerns are addressed through mechanisms such as: Inclusive decision-making; Supervision of local government; Transparency; Responsibility; Accountability; Monitoring the quality of public services. LëvizAlbania through its innovative approach and transparent procedures has supported overall 78 ideas with grants (52), fellowships (22) and rapid response instruments (4) in 43 municipalities across different sectors. During 2017 the 2nd and 3rd Call for applications were launched, amounting to 661 applicants from which 219 presented their ideas in front of the Grants' Board. The expected result is a vast increase in citizen engagement and oversight of local governance leading to far greater transparency, accountability and improved public services.





THE MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL DATA PLATFORM

Implementation Period: 2016-2019

Donor: Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the frame of Lëviz Albania

Fund: 147,160 CHF

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Co-PLAN, in cooperation with the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA), the Ministry of Finance and the Minister of State for Local Government, have launched a digital platform containing financial data (www.financatvendore.al) at the local administrative units' levels, within the project "Systematic Monitoring of the Financial Situation and Practices of Financial Management at the Local Level". Based on this project, Co-PLAN, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and LëvizAlbania is working on the enrichment and further development of the platform, in the form of a Strategic Enabling Instrument, a useful and essential tool in monitoring the financial performance of municipalities in Albania and advocating for informed policies over a period of 3 years. This instrument enables the users to monitor the financial performance of local governments and thus enabling more openness, transparency and greater accountability, improving consequently public service delivery. The main objectives of this platform are:

- 1) To contribute in improving the understanding of local finances among various interest groups, including CSOs, universities, media, professionals, researchers, etc.
- 2) To provide a Strategic Enabling Instrument, which enables reliable and systematic data on the financial performance and the fiscal situation of LGUs in Albania;
- 3) To provide a platform of dialogue between different actors involved and interested in local government issues.

Some of the main achievements have been: Publication of analytical reports on the state of local government finances across the country, on a quarterly basis; Publication of the annual Status Report for 2017; Organisation of the Local Public Finances Forum; Population of the platform with data on a quarterly basis; Update of the regulatory framework on the local finances; Publication of the local budgets, fiscal packages and midium term budget programs for all 61 municipalities; Conduction of informative meetings with a number of user groups, including CSO's, students and academics, activists, etc.

EVN. NET PLATFORM IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Implementation period: 2017-2020

Donor: European Commission

Fund: 292,255 EUR

Implemented in: Western Balkans and Turkey

Implemented by: Co-PLAN (AL), Punto.sud (IT)-Partner, ATRC (KS)-Partner, EASD (SRB)-Partner, TEMA (TR)-Partner, Balkan Bridges (MK)-Partner, LIR Evolution (BH)-Partner, Green Home (MN)-Partner, EEB (EU)- Partner

Co-PLAN continued with the implementation of the second phase of the "development of the ENV.net platform in the Western Balkans and Turkey: giving citizens a voice to influence the environmental process reforms for closer EU integration". This phase, among other things, was focused in raising awareness on the sensitive issues regarding environment and identification of possible gaps in the approximation of the environmental legislation. The overall objective of the project is to foster integration of partner countries (including Albania) into the EU and their approximation towards the EU acquis through anchoring democratic values and structures, human rights and social inclusion in a more active and dynamic civil society. Co-PLAN's role in the second phase was focused in giving to citizens a voice to influence in public reform process in the environmental field, through presenting knowledge-based analysis, monitoring reports and advocating. The termination of the second phase of the project opened the door for the initiation of the third phase of Env.Net, where the network would be expanded with two more regional partners; LIR Evolution (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Green Home (Montenegro), making a total of 9 partners. Co-PLAN for this phase will be the lead partner where together with the other regional organisations will aim at strengthening the networks profile and foster greater debate on Circular Economy and increasing the number of activities for awareness raising on environmental issues and climate change through data gathering and monitoring. Some of the main activities for the period of 2016 - 2017 include:

- 1) Bulletins/ leaflets produced at country level and newsletters at regional level, covering key information regarding environmental legislation and the latest developments in this area;
- 2) A national training was held at POLIS University, regarding industrial pollution including several local NGOs, students and other groups of interest;
- 4) The closing conference "Environment challenges, EU enlargement, public participation and media" was held in Struga, where challenges of the process, lessons learnt, good practices, were disseminated with all the participants;
- 5) Participation in the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) Closing Event in Skopje, discussing issue concerning general development of the civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey;
- 6) Two major publications were issued during this period, respectively the "Evn.net advocacy toolkit- Climate change and challenges of enlargement, presenting how to influence environmental policy through effective advocacy; and "Guideline of EU Accession.



URBAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (UPP II) STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

Implementation Period: 2015-2018

Donor: The World Bank Group

Fund: 238,215 USD

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development and IZUD (for SSCE component)

The Urban Partnership Program is a unique initiative of the Austrian Government and the World Bank aiming to strengthen local government capacity and to enhance cooperation among municipalities in seven South-East European countries: Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, and support cities and local governments in a process of modernization and reform to promote local development for inclusive and sustainable growth, and enhanced urban governance. To this purpose, local elected officials, city administrators and technical staff will be equipped with some practical diagnostic tools facilitating decision making processes, effective and efficient financial management toward sustainable development. Co-PLAN is involved in some of the core components of the program such as Municipal Finance Self - Assessment (MFSA) and Urban Audit, Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement (SSCE) as well as Municipal Finance Review on a national scale.



UPP II - *Municipal Finance Self - Assessment (MFSA)*

Municipal Finance Self - Assessment (MFSA) component aims at enabling municipalities to assess city's local public finances management, identify specific actions to improve mobilization of local resources, expenditure allocation and investment programing, local asset management and access to external financing. The MFSA tool was used in 10 municipalities: Elbasan, Berat, Lushnjë, Fier, Kuçovë, Vlorë, Himarë, Sarandë, Gjirokastër and Përmet.

With the support and assistance of the local experts, all the ten municipalities involved used the MFSA tool to assess local financial management and identify priority action plans to be implemented in their municipalities in the short term.

The local municipal experts engaged in the project shared their experiences with counterparts from the region in the City to City dialogs, thematic workshops and the Mayor's Symposium.

UPP II - *Municipal Finance Review II*

The Municipal Finance Review-II (update to MFR I) project has two main objectives: (i) to compile disaggregated municipal finance datasets and (ii) to analyze fiscal data and indicators across municipalities in the participating countries. MFR II aims to improve fiscal policy making at local level, to increase local financial management and service delivery through benchmarking. It will equip the ministries, local government associations, think tanks and policy researchers with evidences, reliable detailed fiscal information, at local and regional level. As a result of the previous UPP/MFR project, some of the local partners have already developed open disaggregated municipal databases (Albania, Croatia, etc.) which fed into the Municipal Finance Review II database.





UPP II - Urban Audit

Urban Audit was introduced in the framework of UPP II in 2015, as an instrument to facilitate decision-making for local governments in the region, regarding selection of capital investments. During 2017 the focus of this component was to address the main challenges faced during the implementation of the Urban Audit framework in the referenced municipalities (Fier, Lushnje, Berat, Elbasan and Kucovë in Albania and a few others in Macedonia). This process was anchored to the City to City Dialogue, organized by the World Bank in Skopje (14-15 November 2017), where all participating municipalities of UPP II shared their experience on municipal financing and, specifically, on the implementation of their Priority Investment Programs (PIP), thus acknowledging the best practices and project investments following the implementation phase. Upon finalization of the instruments, the Urban Audit framework proved to be a successful tool for all participant municipalities because it fostered an efficient use of resources and a better link of planning objectives with the financial abilities. It served as an exercise of good governance, by creating a transparent process, with participatory project selection, and a general environment of trust for the proposed projects. Moreover, it helped raise the capacities of local governments in data collection and processing, by also providing an accurate database available to be used for further purposes. By anchoring Urban Audit to MFSAs, and to other planning documents, such as general local plans, medium term budgeting plans, etc., the horizontal collaboration between departments was improved, thus providing efficient and effective decision-making.





WORLD BANK-AUSTRIA

URBAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (UPP)

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Cities for the People:
Making Collaborative Governance Happen





BMF BMINF
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE

/ GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA / 2018



Map 2.1. Municipality of Elbasan

Indicators:
Population: 144,382
Area: 872.03 square kilometers
Most prominent minority groups: Roma (0.68%); Egyptians, (0.14%)
Unemployment rate: 32% (one out of every two 15-24-year-old unemployed)

- Vulnerable groups:**
- Youth
 - Women
 - People with disabilities
 - Elderly
 - Ethnic minorities
 - Unemployed

Local Governance Challenges

Some of the challenges that Albanian municipalities face today are closely related to the recent territorial administrative reforms⁷. Since the expansion of its territory—it now ranks seventh in the country in terms of its size—the municipality of Elbasan has to provide services to a population about 1.8 times greater than prior to the reforms. Under these circumstances, the municipality must address the need for adequate urban planning and suitable rural development; increased demand for service delivery (wider delivery range and diversification of type of services provided to urban and rural populations); and the expansion of responsibilities, including education, forests, and a secondary drainage and irrigation network). The challenge posed by limited financial transfers to and revenues of the municipality highlights its need to improve the collection of taxes and fees, particularly property taxes. Improving the efficiency and training of municipal staff remains difficult, especially if a technician has to carry out diversified processes at a broader scale.

Regarding civic participation, most of the existing local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations operate within the borders of the city of Elbasan (the municipality's borders prior to the reforms); representation from the newly added administrative units is lacking. According to data from INSTAT (Census 2011⁸), only 10 percent of private households in the municipality of Elbasan have an Internet connection compared with 12.3 percent nationwide. Only 16.9 percent of households own a computer compared with 20.1 percent of households nationwide.

Service Delivery Challenges

As a result of the territorial administrative reforms, the size of the municipality was expanded by about 39 times, and the population doubled, which created multiple challenges for the administration of the territory, service provision, and representation.

⁷ The government of Albania undertook territorial administrative reforms passed by the parliament in 2014, which included the consolidation of 373 local government units into 61 with the aim of increasing the efficiency of public service delivery.

⁸ www.instat.gov.al

UPP II - Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement (SSCE)

Co-PLAN, as a lead regional partner, implemented the Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement (SSCE) project, under the UPP II, in collaboration with the Institute for International Urban Development (I2UD). The SSCE builds upon the lessons and best practices that emerged during the first phase of the UPP (UPP I), while enhancing the focus on the Citizen Engagement component.

The project expanded Social Sustainability Audit in 9 cities in the Western Balkan region to increase knowledge and awareness on social accountability among local stakeholders including civil society, government officials, and marginalized urban residents; and to strengthen integrity in public service delivery by increasing the demand for good governance, social accountability, and civic participation in regional perspectives.

The scope of the project for phase II has expanded to include a total of seven countries, namely: Albania (Elbasan), Bosnia & Herzegovina (Tuzla), Croatia (Karlovac), FYR of Macedonia (Kumanovo), Montenegro (Ulcij and Kolasin), Kosovo (Gjilan), and Serbia (Pancevo and Sabac). The envisaged activities are being implemented in synergy with other UPP II components, such as Integrity Building Initiative, Municipal Self-Assessment and Urban Audit.

Apart from coordinating the project at the regional scale, Co-PLAN worked closely with all the local teams in other 8 regional cities to ensure the successful assessment of accountability practices. It also worked closely with the Municipality of Elbasan, in conducting a thorough analysis on the levels of social accountability and transparency, including various consultation with the community, in the forms of group discussions, interviews and workshops, concluding by drafting an action plan in tackling challenges and increasing citizen engagement in decision making. Co-PLAN contributed for creating an updated analytical and methodological framework and work plan in measuring Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement in local governance, and the conceptual

coordination between UPP II Components.

Co-PLAN contributed in creating an updated analytical and methodological framework and work plan in measuring Social Sustainability and Citizen Engagement in local governance, and the conceptual coordination between UPP II components. The key results for 2017 included:

- 1) 9 City Analytical Reports in the region, giving a full snapshot of the challenges faced in each of the cities by marginalized groups, including a detailed city profile and the level of service delivery;
- 2) More than 40 FGDs (focus group discussions) and more than 80 IDIs (in-depth interviews) were conducted in all 9 cities of the region, to obtain community-level information about vulnerability, service deficiencies, and social exclusion, which are not found in city surveys or censuses.
- 3) 9 Participatory Scenario Development (PSD) workshops were held in each of the cities to present initial findings from FGDs and IDIs to a broader range of stakeholders. The workshops also served to map out solutions to reinforce socially sustainable city developments and integrity in public services and consider alternative futures through agreeable and realistic scenarios;
- 4) Action Plans were drafted for all 9 municipalities of the region in forms of road maps, project proposals, municipality practices, etc.
- 5) 9 Synthesis Reports were prepared for all the municipalities, summarizing the entire process of assessing social sustainability and citizen engagement in local governance and presenting the all-inclusive solutions to the problems identified;
- 6) Drafting of a Roadmap in collaboration with the Municipality of Elbasan on Participatory Practices at the local levels, a toolkit to support public participation in municipal decision making.



PLANNING AND CATALYTIC INVESTMENTS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN GRAMSH

Implementation Period: June 2016- June 2018

Donor: Italian-Albanian Debt for Development Swap Agreement (IADSA)

Fund: 65,773,428 ALL

Implemented in: Municipality of Gramsh

Implemented by: Municipality of Gramsh and assisted by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Starting from 2016 onwards, Co-PLAN in collaboration with the Municipality of Gramsh worked to implement the IADSA-supported project on social cohesion and sustainable tourism development. Following the approval and implementation of the Territorial Administrative Reform, the newly-formed municipality of Gramsh faces paramount and complex challenges, as it spans across a greater, diverse territory, be it from a topographic, land use, socio-economic composition perspective etc. As a result, one of the main priorities identified for the overall development of the municipality, is the drafting of comprehensive strategic documents that will guide social, economic and territorial development. In more specific terms, the project aims to:

- 1) Boost social development in the Municipality of Gramsh through a guiding social development plan and catalytic interventions in the city center and the newly created waterfront area;
- 2) Stimulate the development of sustainable tourism in the Municipality of Gramsh through a midterm municipal development strategy and aligned catalytic and promotional interventions.

Throughout 2017, the preparation of the design project focusing on increasing social interaction and engagement in the city center, connecting segment "Devolli Road" and the waterfront area of the city concluded and its implementation began. After the mapping of the existing potentials for tourism development, existing and potential routes and actors involved in various processes of the value chain was completed, the project went on to build a GIS (Territorial) database documenting all assets and potentials for tourism development. The promotional campaign on social and conventional media of tourism at Gramsh, as a new-emerging destination proved to be very efficient in increasing the number of visitors to the major destinations.



KINDLE ADVOCACY

Implementation Period: 2016-2018

Donor: USA Embassy, Albania

Fund: 120,178 USD

Implemented in: ALBANIA

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

KINDLE Advocacy is implemented by Co-PLAN with the support of the US Embassy in Tirana. The project tackles the need for the young CSO's and newly emerging activists to articulate evidence-based responses in influencing policymaking in pressing issues related to city-making, democracy and environment. The project aims to strengthen internal capacities of local CSO-s and young activists to monitor, analyze, and undertake concrete steps/actions through a dual/integral approach, providing the target groups with both, capacity development and advocating experience. A tailored capacity development program is envisioned in the form of structured workshops and coaching components, covering five core themes under the

overarching multilevel governance, such as elections, communication for impact, urban activisms, environmental resources and a free topic. In the process the participants improved their knowledge of how to engage in policy processes (monitoring, analyzing, influencing), how to establish dialogue platforms with the local/regional/ and national authorities, how to raise particular pressing issues within the sector, and how to initiate lobbying and advocacy actions in view of influencing policy-making. During 2017 several initiatives found support by degrees, monitoring and mentoring their institutional progress and issue development raised by them.



PROFFESIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Implementation Period: 2017-2019

Donor: U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC)

Funds: 33,027 USD

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, institute for Habitat Development

Co-PLAN coordinates the Proffesional Fellows Program for Albania, financed by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is organized by the WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. – Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC). This program is a two-way exchange involving 38 professionals from five selected European countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia) and 19 mentors from the United States who will effect positive change in their communities. The overall goal of the program is to provide a professional development opportunity for mid-level emerging leaders and build a global network of professionals able to work effectively in an interconnected environment. The fellowship program was opened to professionals who are actively involved in programs related to citizen participation and advocacy (NGO/civil society development), civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, community activists and/or community organizers who work with marginalized or rural communities. In October 2017, after a carefull selection and training, the first group of fellows from different local and national CSOs in Albania, were given the opportunity to travel to the US and get trained for a period of 6 weeks alongside mentoring organisations in the US working in similar community issues.



DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DLDP)

Waste Management Component:

Implementation of Integrated Local Waste Planning in Puka and Malësia e Madhe

Implementation Period: February 2017–November 2017

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the framework of DLDP

Funds: 44 000 Euros

Implemented by: MetroPOLIS and assisted by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Throughout 2017, MetroPOLIS in cooperation with Co-PLAN and with the support of dldp (decentralization and local development programme) extended their expertise to the Municipalities of Malësia e Madhe and Puka in the implementation of local integrated waste management plans. The main areas of project implementation included:

- Monitoring the provision of waste management service through the indicators set out in advance by the National Waste Management Strategy.
- Revenue Collection, in terms of service delivery, through improving the database and policies related to tariff collection.
- Public Information, as one of the most important issues in order to facilitate the monitoring of the service and revenue collection.

Some of the most important achievements of the implementation of the dldp project in the Municipality of Malësia Madhe and Puka were:

- 1) Implementation of the Integrated Local Waste Management Plan,
- 2) Digitization of the entire database of the waste management sector in order to collect revenue
- 3) Public hearings on monitoring the waste collection service,
- 4) Training the work group from the municipalities to determine the appropriate public communication channels and establish a regulation for this sector.



Public Finance Management Component:

Elaboration of Training Materials on Medium Term Budget Program, Annual Budget Preparation and Budget Execution and Evaluation

Implementation Period: May 2017- October 2017

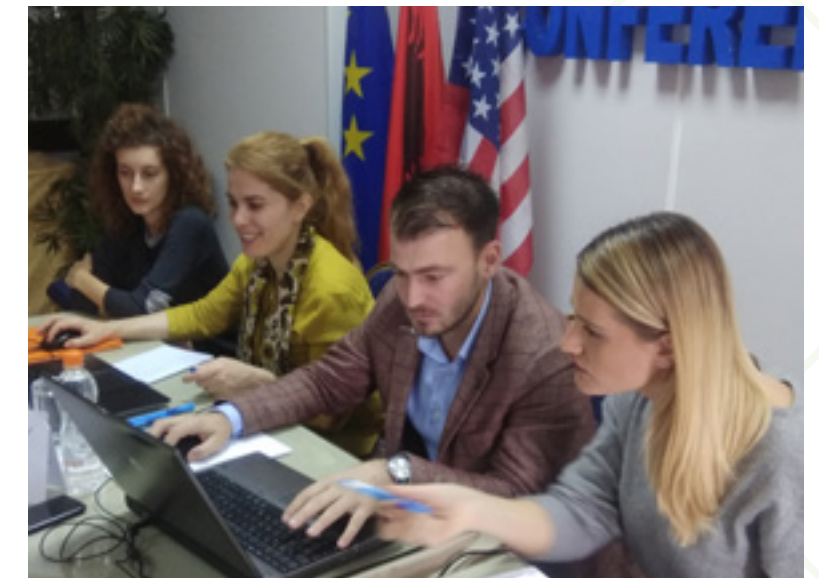
Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the framework of DLDP

Funds: 10 000 Euros

Implemented by: MetroPOLIS and assisted by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Following the legislative and regulatory changes in the field of local public finances, the review and updating of three training manuals was undertaken: “Strategic Development Plan and Performance Based Budgeting in the Medium Term”; “Annual Budget Preparation”; “Annual Budget Execution and Monitoring”. Overall, the use of these manuals provides a general theoretical and practical overview of public finance management in Albania. The project was implemented during May - September 2017.

In view of the equipment of the municipalities with General Local Plans (GLPs), it is crucial that the development vision of the municipality is translated into investment priorities through the capital investments plan. The Medium Term Budget Program (MTBP) serves as a bridge between the strategic planning approach and the capital investment plan in order to achieve the long term development vision of each municipality. Along side strategic planning and medium term budgeting, the manuals encompass aspects of preparation and execution of annual budget and monitoring activity.





Training for 61 LGUs Experts on Public Financial Management

Implementation Period: May 2017- October 2017

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the framework of DLDP

Funds: 10 000 Euros

Implemented by: MetroPOLIS and assisted by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

The national training program on public financial management for 61 LGUs, was implemented from May to November 2017, based on the approved program between dlDP and ASPA. More than 100 local officials were trained with regard to: (i) strategic planning and management of local finances; (ii) use of the Financial Planning Tool (FPT); (iii) annual budget preparation and its execution. The strategic planning and management of local finances aimed to provide guidance on how to connect the strategic planning process to the budgeting process. The Financial Planning Tool has been updated from the previous version especially introducing the Classification of the Functions of the Government (COFOG) and standardised budget program structure. It will serve as an instrument to facilitate and standardise the content of the Medium Term Budget Program for all 61 municipalities in Albania. Alongside medium term programming local officials were trained on short term budgeting and monitoring of the execution of the annual budget.



SOUTH-EAST EUROPE ELECTRICITY ROADMAP (SEERMAP)

Implementation Period: August 2016-September 2017

Donor: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria (BMLFUW) and European Climate Foundation (ECF).

Implemented by: POLIS Univesity and Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

The South-East Europe Electricity Roadmap (SEERMAP) project developed electricity sector's scenarios until 2050 with the focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Romania. The scenarios for the future development of the region's electricity sector include 'no target' scenario, which reflects the implementation of existing energy policies; 'decarbonisation' scenario, which reflects a long-term strategy to reduce CO2 emissions in line with EU emission reduction goals for the electricity sector as a whole; and 'delayed' scenario, which involves an initial implementation of current national investment plans followed by a change in policy direction from 2035 onwards, resulting in the realization of almost the same emission reduction target in 2050 as the 'decarbonisation' scenario. The transformation is again driven by rising CO2 prices and increased RES support from 2035 onwards. The SEERMAP region will need to replace more than 30% of its current

fossil fuel generation capacity by the end of 2030, and more than 95% by 2050. This provides both a challenge to ensure a policy framework which will incentivise new investment, and an opportunity to shape the electricity sector over the long term in-line with a broader energy transition strategy unconstrained by the current generation portfolio.

The report finds that it would be feasible to reduce electricity sector CO2 emissions in the region in the range of 93-99%, as targeted by the European Union, by exploiting the region's high renewable energy potential. At the same time, results suggest that coal and lignite power plants will not be commercially viable over the long term under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, assumed to be implemented from 2030 in the Western Balkans. Natural gas plays a transitory role replacing part of the closed coal-fired power plants before also being phased out from the electricity system by 2050.

