



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014







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# Co-PLAN Annual Report 2014

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Dear Partner,

We take pleasure in sharing with you the highlights from our work here at Co-PLAN for 2014, as well as some of the crucial developments in the fields of urban and spatial development, environmental management, and public finances.

Overall, 2014 marked an important year in terms of reforms, particularly concerning developments in the field of territorial planning, such as the Territorial-Administrative Reform initiated with the election of the new government in June, the discourse on Decentralization, etc. These dynamics were also reflected on an organizational level, such as: the development of a Policy Platform for Territorial Governance, which was submitted to the political parties and other interest groups prior to the June elections. Based on this platform, Co-PLAN supported the Minister of Urban Development and Tourism in drafting the program of the Ministry and the overall Government of Albania's program for the territorial planning pillar. Further, Co-PLAN became part of the experts working group that reviewed within 2014 the decentralization strategy, energy efficiency, etc.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution and cooperation in our joint efforts to positively change the urban development panorama in Albania, and invite you to look at this report as a source of inspiration for new ideas for cooperation in 2015.

Dritan Shutina

Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

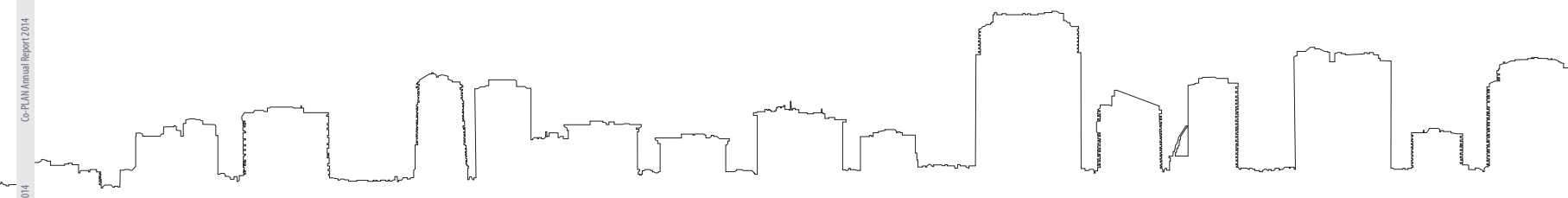
# Table of Contents

## About Co-PLAN

Co-PLAN Organizational Profile	10
The Managing Boards	13
Co-PLAN Team	14

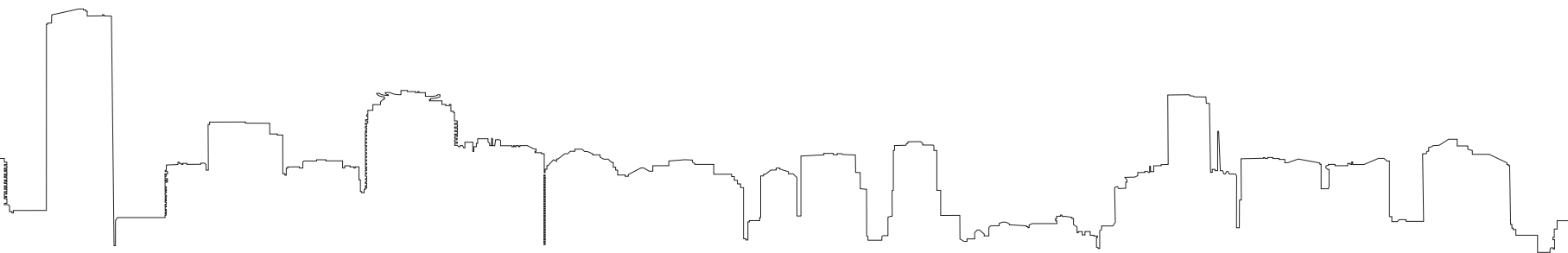
## 2014 Highlights

The Territorial Reform in Albania - A National Roundtable	18
Regional Development Program Northern Albania - Closing Conference	19
Launch of the TEMPUS - DAPEEWB Project	20
Mayors Forum for Urban Transformation	21
ENV. Net Project Activities	22
Roundtable on the Integrated Management of Solid Waste - Tirana	24
Urban Activism for Proactive City-Making	25
Special Albanian Leadership Award	26
Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014	27
City for citizens – Citizens for City: Closing Conference	30
Places of Diversity – A Study Visit to Jordan	31



## 2014 Projects

Planning Local Governance Program (PLGP)	34
Program for Regional Development Northern Albania (RDP)	36
ENV.net Platform in the Western Balkans	38
Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans (DAPEEWB)	40
Local Democracy Promotion Project - Lëviz Albania	42
Monitoring the Implementation of Local Budgets in the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodër	44
dldp II: (Public Finance Component) Budget Execution and Evaluation	45
Public Private Partnership for Municipal Street Lighting	46
Support to three Local Governance Units in the Application for Funding for the Improvement of Housing Conditions of the Roma and Egyptian Communities	47
Performing Democracy: Urban Activism for Civic Democracy	48
City for Citizens – Citizens for City	50
The Initiator, the Artist, his Advocate and the Urbanist (IAAU)- a Platform for Culture and City-making	52
Places of Diversity - Public spaces as a field of Intercultural Dialogue and the Promotion of Social Values	54
Supporting the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Western Balkans	55
dldp II: (Solid Waste Component) Develop Inter-LGU and Composting Models in the Puka area	56
dldp II: (Solid Waste Component) Develop Inter-LGU Model in the area of Malësia e Madhe	57





# 2014 In Focus









# 1

**Co-PLAN Profile**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Co-PLAN Team**



## > THE ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

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 fulfils 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.

## > CORE EXPERTISE AND ACTIVITY SCOPE

The organizational structure of Co-PLAN is expertise-oriented, whereby each expertise is developed and supported by individual teams. The activity of Co-PLAN is built upon four expertise areas: namely Spatial Planning and Land Development, Urban and Regional Governance, Urban Environmental Management, with Research constituting a cross-cutting, shared feature by all three teams:

### (1) SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Co-PLAN's ambitions, involvement and commitment to this field have matured, clearly reflected in the multiple scale activities (i.e. the neighborhood, city, regional, inter-regional, and national levels), and a multitude of actors such as communities, local and central government, businesses, donors, and civil society organizations. Co-PLAN has supported local governments, NGOs, and business communities in addressing urban development issues through the preparation of city development strategies, urban regulatory plans, neighbourhood development plans, and other guiding documents. Today, Co-PLAN plays an important role on a policy-making level, proactively engaged in the reviewing of the law 'On territorial Planning', capacity building for a correct implementation of the law, coaching and assistance to the LGUs for the preparation of their Local Development Plans, etc.

## **(2) URBAN AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE**

Finances constitute an inseparable element of any development, and as such since many years Co-PLAN has seized the importance of municipal finance management to the current urban developments in Albania. To this end, Co-PLAN works with local governments to improve municipal finance management practices through the preparation of the capital investment programs, annual budgets generated through participatory practices, cost analyses of public-private-partnerships, and the improved levying of taxes. Social accountability, and transparency matters make for an important part of the Co-PLAN project portfolio, focusing on the importance of open data for improved local government performance in terms of accountability and transparency in quantifiable terms.

## **(3) URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Territorial development, particularly when rapid and informal, has vast and irreversible consequences on the environment. As a result, sustainable environmental management makes for an essential part of Co-PLAN's core expertise and project portfolio. The focus on this particular field has been on the improvement of the environment related services standards and efficiency (particularly in solid waste management, energy, etc.), upgrading capacities, strengthening institutions through the provision of guidelines and on-the-job assistance, connecting environmental management projects to the concept of public private partnerships, etc..

## **(4) PUBLIC POLICY, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY**

Research forms an integral and extensive part of Co-PLAN's working methodology and project portfolio. In addition to individual research and consultancy projects commissioned by various international agencies, research is always used in the ongoing projects, mainly in the form of feasibility studies, environmental assessments, and audits, focusing on planning, participatory processes, local governance, service provision, etc. Co-PLAN, is part of the POLIS University Research and Development Institute – POLIS IKZH, and has a consolidated, regularly reviewed research agenda, which aligns Co-PLAN's research interests, priorities and efforts on an annual basis.

## **THE ADVISORY BOARD**

Co-PLAN Advisory Board comprises of five members: Peter Nientied, John Driscoll, Valdet Sala, Ferry van Wilgenburg dhe Sef Slootweg. This board contributes with ideas and advice in the decision-making process of the management bodies.



**Dr. Sokol Çelo**  
(Head)

Has been acting as the Chairman of the Leading Board since 2002. Currently works 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)

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



**Doc. Sotir Dhamo**  
(Member)

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 consultancy and research activities in the field of urban planning and urban design, and is author to numerous publications in the field.

# Leading Board



## 2014













- The Territorial Reform in Albania - A National Roundtable
- Regional Development Program Northern Albania - Closing Conference
- Launch of the TEMPUS - DAPEEWB Project
- Mayors Forum for Urban Transformation
- ENV. Net Project Activities
- Roundtable on the Integrated Management of Solid Waste - Tirana
- Urban Activism for Proactive City-Making
- Special Albanian Leadership Award
- Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014
- City for citizens – Citizens for City: Closing Conference
- Places of Diversity – A Study Visit to Jordan



The Minister of State for Local Government, in cooperation with the Regional Development Program in Northern Albania, and COPLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, organized a roundtable of discussions: The regionalization of Albania – the Governance, Territorial and Administrative Reform needed in Albania on a regional level. The roundtable, which brought together representatives on a central government level, donor organizations, and field experts, focused on the need for an intermediary tier of governance, the proposed model, and the aim and functions it ought to be fulfilling. In more specific terms, the discussion addressed issues such as:

- 





## Regional Development Program Northern Albania - Closing Conference

The Regional Development Programme Northern Albania (RDP), an important reform initiative of 4 million Euro funded by the Austrian and Swiss Governments, marked its successful completion at a closing conference. The conference brought together government representatives, the Minister of State for Local Government, Mr. Bledi Çuçi, the Austrian and Swiss ambassadors, heads of Qarks, local government representatives and civil society organisations. It offered an exposé of the achievements and impact, challenges and recommendations the 4-year program implemented in the qarks of Shkodër and Lezhë.

Participants praised the program for its contribution in the ongoing territorial reform process, particularly focusing on the role Co-PLAN has played through its continuous assistance on matters of regionalisation and second-tier governance.

During the conference the sub-regional development scenarios of Shkodër and Lezhë were presented together with a showcase of 29 pilot projects implemented in these two Qarks. Programme representatives and experts also presented aspects of regionalisation and the role of Qarks in regional development. One particularly relevant topic covered was the strategies and models that regional development in Albania can pursue.

One core feature of the Programme was the implementation of a 2 million Euro fund that went to 29 projects in Shkodër and Lezhë, contributing to developments in an array of sectors including tourism, infrastructure, waste management, and agrobusiness.

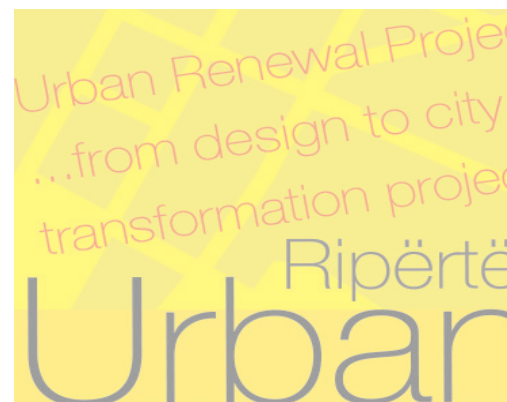


## Launch of the TEMPUS - DAPEEWB Project

The POLIS University, School of Architecture and Urban Development Policies in Tirana, brings in Albania a TEMPUS program for the first time managed by an Albanian institution. Together with 10 partners from the region and European Union member countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, POLIS University will work to develop vocational education in the field of energy efficiency.

The project "Development and Adaptation of Professional Programs on Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans" is part of the Tempus program funded by the European Union and has the objective to modernize higher education in the partner countries of Southeastern Europe, the Western Balkans, the Mediterranean and Central Asian countries. The project aims to train professionals in the field of energy efficiency thus addressing a market need in Albania.

The event was greeted by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Deputy-Minister Mr. Arber Mazniku, the Deputy. Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mrs. Gentjana Mara Sula, Director of Policies at the European Delegation in Albania, Mr.Clive Rumbold, and a representative from the National Tempus Office in Tirana, Ms. Edit Dibra. In their speech, Mr. Mazniku and Ms. Sula highlighted the importance of vocational education in Albania, encouraging young people to become active part of these programs, as a very efficient way to enter the job market.







## Mayors Forum for Urban Transformation

“Mayors Forum for Urban Transformation”, a first time event organized in Tirana, comes as an opportunity to allow for open discussion between central government, local government units and professionals. This national event was organized by the Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism and the National Agency of Territorial Planning (NTPA), in collaboration with the USAID Project “Planning and Local Governance Project” (PLGP) and POLIS University, within the “Tirana Architecture Week 2014”.

Participants in the event included the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Niko Peleshi, Deputy Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, Mr. Gjon Radovani, Director of the National Agency of Territorial Planning, Ms. Adelina Greca, the USAID Representative in Albania Mr. Marcus Johnson Project Director of PLGP Mr. Peter Clavelle (Simultaneously former mayor of Burlington, Vermont, USA), Director of the Mayors Institute for City Design, Ms. Trinity Simons, the Executive Director of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Mr. Dritan Shutina etc.

This national event aimed to bring on a common platform, the central authorities of planning, and mayors from the country as well as foreign counterparts, to share between them visions and issues, and to share experiences of urban management and effective ways to solve today’s challenges in Albanian cities.

A very important aspect of the “Mayors Forum for Urban Transformation” was to discuss possible projects that can be transformed into concrete improving actions in some municipalities of the country, with the support of NTPA and USAID Project “Planning and Local Governance Project”.

Mayors Forum - Urban Renewal Projects: From Plans to Urban Transformation Projects”, was part of the Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014.



## ENV.NET Project Activities



*Capacity Building for NGOs* - On 15-17 of April, the ENV.net team started the first round of capacity building of NGOs, in Tirana – Albania, with three days of training session on “EU project design process and environmental policy implementation”.

14 Albanian NGOs, from all over the country, followed the training session delivered by punto.sud and EEB in collaboration with Co-PLAN, while sharing their own experiences and challenges they had encounter while designing a project for an EU grant and understanding what are the main EU environmental policies that we have to keep in mind during the EU integration process.

*Energy, the Challenge of the Future* - Co-PLAN and the ENV.net team in Albania in collaboration with POLIS University and DAPEEWB (Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans) and ConSus (Connecting Science – Society Collaborations for Sustainable Innovations) project, participated in the Fair “Energy, the challenge of the future” from 7-9 November, with a dedicated stand presenting the various products, especially related to energy efficiency.

The fair came as an initiative of the Tirana EXPO Center and the Ministry of Energy and Industry, with different actors working in the field of energy participating and exposing their products to the wider community. The stand offered a great opportunity to offer citizens a glimpse as to how energy loss is calculated, and how much they could be saving if they were to thermo-insulate the house.





*Solar Capsule - Energy Saving Days* - Co-PLAN in collaboration with POLIS University, in the frame of ENV.net project organized an open awareness activity on issues related to energy efficiency in dwelling buildings on 18 and 19 of December 2014. The activity took place in the premises of Universe Trade Center (QTU), where the solar capsule served to promote all the awareness activities and brochures during those two days. The capsule was constructed in compliance with energy efficiency principles and a special session was dedicated to this topic, where the authors explained in detail the technology used. Another special session was dedicated to NGOs, close collaborators of Co-PLAN and ENV.net on energy efficiency issues, and implementors of small grant project awarded by ENV.net during 2014.

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Municipality of Tirana were invited to have an open discussion with the community regarding energy efficiency sector developments. A session dedicated to private businesses followed where private businesses promoted their Energy Efficient products, together with techniques for saving energy. During the activity, the community was offered awareness materials and short movies on energy efficiency issues, and the media covered the majority of the events.



## Roundtable on the Integrated Management of Solid Waste - Tirana



Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) organized a roundtable on the "Integrated Management of Waste in the City of Tirana". The event introduced the feasibility study on the integrated waste management in the city of Tirana, and aimed to initiate discussions with stakeholders, civil society organizations and businesses to identify the most appropriate solutions for the integrated management of urban waste in Tirana.

Participants in the round-table were the Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Lulzim Basha, Executive Director of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Mr. Dritan Shutina, representatives from the IFC (World Bank), as well as numerous representatives of civil society, experts in the field of solid waste management etc.

This activity proved to be particularly important for introducing the study to the civil society representatives and experts; to analyze the findings and suggestions of the study, and to initiate a discussion on this matter. The Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Basha, invited all participants to take a more proactive role in analyzing and expressing opinions and suggestions about the study. This roundtable, which was organized within the project ENV.net, funded by the European Union, took place on 29 October, 2014 in the premises of POLIS University, Tirana.

During 2013 the Municipality of Tirana, in cooperation with IFC, in the frame of the project "Public Private Partnership for Solid Waste Management in Tirana", prepared a feasibility study to examine the existing condition of waste management and propose possible solutions for an improved integrated management of solid waste.





## Urban Activism for Proactive City-Making

During 2014, Co-PLAN continued its work for the revitalization of public spaces in the city, this time in municipal unit no. 5 in Tirana, culminating in the inaugural event “Urban Activism for Proactive City-making - A celebration of urban activism and public space”. This event marked the successful completion of a lengthy phase of urban activism and participatory planning processes in the city of Tirana (municipal unit no.5), as part of the US Embassy supported project Performing Democracy: Urban Activism for Civic Democracy (2014- 2015). This project is currently being implemented as a cooperation between Co-PLAN, the Municipality of Tirana, and POLIS University.

The inaugural event marked the successful completion of a series of participatory planning and community activism for the public space rehabilitation in a neighbourhood in Tirana. The project, which resulted in increased green areas, lighting, recreational space and interaction community – public space, was implemented in cooperation with the community, the Municipality of Tirana, and POLIS University.

We believe this makes for a very important and positive practice to promote on a local and national level as it has brought together community, local authorities, civil society organizations and education institutions in identifying, planning and implementing a sustainable, jointly agreed solution to a widely encountered problem such is public space in Albania. Further, this project builds on *Act Now* principles and best practices, aiming to strengthen the role and responsibilities of citizens coming together and interacting as a community; it further aims to instill a culture of participation and co- sharing of responsibilities in the processes of city-making, fundamental for a healthy local democracy.



## Special Albanian Leadership Award

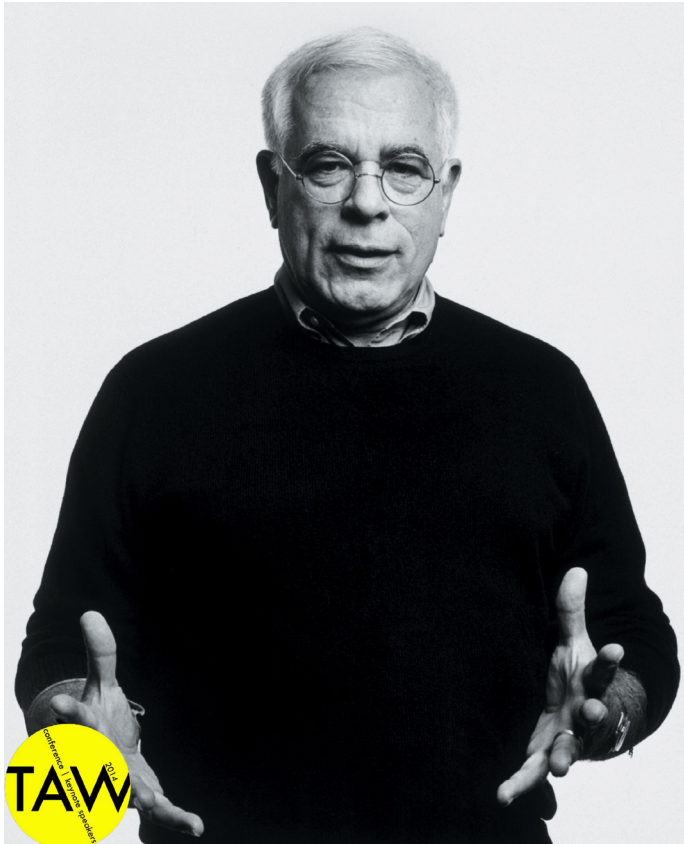
Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development and POLIS University, organized the ceremony of awarding the “Special Albanian Leadership Award 2014” to the distinguished personality Mr. Behgjet Pacolli. This prize was awarded to Mr. Pacolli as a citizen and an active politician who has channeled his energies and public engagement contributing to the consolidation of the state; political pluralism and democracy in Kosovo; successful entrepreneur in the fields of construction and development; supporter of civic - academic initiatives, and governmental projects for better cooperation; initiator of humanitarian missions to resolve crisis situations, as well as for the sensitivity to social responsibilities.

The Leadership Award has been granted for more than 10 years by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development as a tool to promote values and good examples in society in the areas of Governance, Media, Civil Society and Business.

This award aims to recognize civic and intellectual achievements of different individuals, who through their work serve as a positive role models for society, bringing innovation in governance, and exhibiting ethical standards in public communication. In addition to the above four categories, Co-PLAN awards the “Special Albanian Leadership Award” for outstanding figures of the broad impact across the Albanian territories. This award has been previously awarded to personalities such as: Mr. Edi Rama, Albania (2004), Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu, Kosovo (2008), and Mr. Arben Xhaferi, FYR of Macedonia (2009).







## Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014

The Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014 (TAW) is organized by POLIS University, in close cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana, Co-PLAN and numerous partners, for the purpose of : promoting the exchange of knowledge between professionals at a national and international level, in order to increase the public's interest in architecture and art design as disciplines ,which are closely connected to the contemporary development of cities; and to raise the interaction level between the professionals and the general public with the city as well as increase participation in decision-making and development processes.

Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014 (TAW) aimed at: strengthening the role of Architecture, Art, Design, and Culture as key elements in the development and integration processes of the Albanian cities and those of the region; exchanging national/international experiences in the fields of Architecture, Urban planning, Art design, and conceptual theories of contemporary cities, focusing on dynamic contexts (the case of the Balkan context); Cultivating the culture of citizen participation in city-making processes by increasing the interaction level between citizens and the city through urban activation, public art, and the more complex and long-term interventions in the city.

Tirana Architecture Weeks 2014 consisted of four main categories: Architecture events, Art Design events, Workshops, and Public Events, in the form of conferences, exhibitions, competitions, workshops, open forums, etc. At least 15 international experts including architects, urban planners, and artists participated in TAW 2014, spanning between September 18 – October 16, 2014, such as the world reknown Peter Eisenman, John Allen, Jesse Reiser, Hitoshi Abe, Jason Payne, Emilio Tunon, Ivan Mirkovski, Robert Melnick, Matthias Bauer, Helena Casanova, Marco Clausen, Transformatori (Dimitar Mehandjiev), AWARE (Anton Savov – Diana Hadzhitsenev), Chris Luth, Trinity Simons, Peter Clavelle, etc.







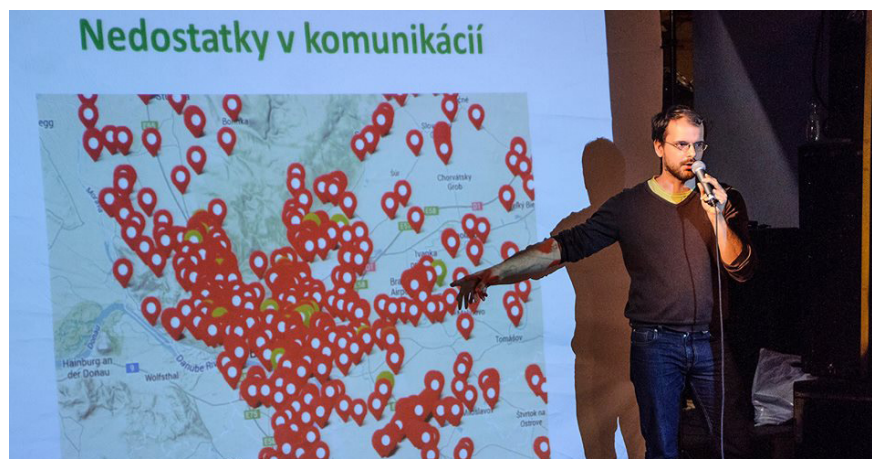




## City for Citizens – Citizens for City: Closing Conference

The conference dedicated to issues of Citizen engagement in City-making process, discussed volunteerism, cities, online and offline activism that improves them, and meaningful cooperation between municipalities, private and non-profit sector, and public. Organised in Bratislava, the conference posed different important questions such as: How are our cities? What do we know about them? Who identifies himself/herself with public space – municipality, public or is it a no man's land? Who should be involved in decision-making concerning public space? What is the role of an individual and what can s/he change? What data do we have about the cities? How do we work with this data?

During the conference, Co-PLAN presented its experience with participatory interventions in public space. The conference lasted four days: first day was mainly dedicated to the project City for citizens, citizens for city, with all project partners presenting their project results and experiences. The second day was dedicated to the topic of volunteerism introducing some Slovak initiatives. Local and foreign online tools for improving the cities were also presented on the third day. The fourth day was dedicated to Local Slovak initiative that improves public spaces. Besides presentations there were practical workshops led by experienced trainers. The workshops discussed work with volunteers, communication and creating good and solid arguments for your cause, participatory planning and two legal workshops advised on the topics of illegal buildings and parking.



## Places of Diversity: A Study Visit to Jordan

Co-PLAN, in collaboration with Expeditio (Montenegro) and Leaders of Tomorrow (Jordan), organized a study tour to Jordan. The aim of the study visit was to meet and network with local actors and organizations dealing with public spaces, intercultural dialogue and social issues, in order to exchange ideas on creative ways in which public spaces places can be improved to the benefit of both local community and visitors and on how different social values can be promoted in them.

Through site visits and meetings in Amman, Petra, and Rusaifa with local organizations and activists the partners had a chance to learn about challenges regarding public spaces in Jordan, as well as to exchange knowledge on different perspectives that focus on utilizing unused or abandoned public spaces in Jordan and other partners' countries.

Furthermore, the partners had a chance to meet with the members of the Jordanian Anna Lindh Foundation network, and through public presentations and informal exchange, to share ideas of different activities and interventions in public space, ranging from small scale to larger ones meant to improve the life of local residents and promote different social values.

The study visit also presented an opportunity for Co-PLAN, Expeditio and Leaders of Tomorrow to share the knowledge and experiences gained during the project implementation, as well as to discuss and plan the implementation of the remaining project activities.







# PROJECTS

## 3

- Planning Local Governance Program (PLGP)
- Program for Regional Development Northern Albania (RDP)
- ENV.net Platform in the Western Balkans
- Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans (DAPEEWB)
- Local Democracy Promotion Project - Lëviz Albania
- Monitoring the Implementation of Local Budgets in the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodër
- dldp 2 (Municipal Finance Component): Budget Execution and Evaluation
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- Places of Diversity - Public spaces as a field of intercultural dialogue and the promotion of social values
- Supporting the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Western Balkans
- dldp 2 (Solid Waste Component): Develop inter-LGU and composting models in the are of Puka
- dldpd 2 (Solid Waste Component): Develop inter-LGU model in the area of Malësia e Madhe

## Planning Local Governance Program (PLGP)

Implementation Period: 2012 – 2017

Donor: USAID

Fund: 984,599 USD

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Tetrattech ARD and Co-PLAN

During 2014, Co-PLAN in cooperation with TetraTech ARD worked to implement the USAID Project on Planning and Local Government (PLGP). The project is focused on the work at central and local levels to facilitate the acceptance of the principles of decentralized governance and to institute practical and effective methods and techniques for running the municipalities. The project focuses on four areas:

(1) Support for the Albanian government to implement effective policies and legislation for decentralization; (2) Improvement of local government; (3) Improving the management of local services; (4) Support for the Albanian Government and local governments for planning and management of urban and regional growth. Contribution of Co-PLAN in the project implementation focuses on components 1 and 4. Throughout 2014, the results achieved in the framework of the work on components 1 and 4 are:

- Co-PLAN supported the National Territorial Planning Agency (NTPA) in the process of reviewing the sectoral spatial planning legislation; the law “On Territorial planning and development” and its implementing regulations/bylaws.
- Training for the staff of the Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism (MZHUT) and NTPA, within the capacity building of public institutions for planning and development control of the territory, in the area of territorial planning and innovative instruments of land management.
- Support to NTPA in the design of the Scope of Work (Scope of-works) for the preparation of analysis within the draft National Territorial Plan.
- Supported several local units, in cooperation with the NTPA and POLIS, for the design of several projects (design briefs) for the urban renewal.
- An international conference titled “Mayors Forum on Urban Transformation” was organized in the context of assistance to local units of detailed project design. The conference focused on the role of mayors in urban transformation of their cities using the Urban Design for renewal of the residential areas.





During 2014, some of the main achievements and results under the Regional Development Program Northern Albania are:





- Co-PLAN through its role in the Regional Development Program Northern Albania, provided substantial contribution to the Territorial and Administrative Reform discourse by providing concrete proposals on the Regionalization of Albania – The Governance, Administrative and Territorial Reform that Albania needs on a Regional Level.

- RDP experts in close cooperation with both *Qarks* and other main local and regional actors, have been working on drafting an action plan and monitoring strategy building on the Regional Development Concept Documents of both Lezha and Shkodra *Qarks*.

- Three regional workshops were also held during 2014, covering aspects of Action Planning and Monitoring Model on RSDC for both Shkodra and Lezha *Qark*, Strategic Planning and monitoring, etc.



- Desk review for the monitoring of the approximation of the environmental legislation in Albania;
- Three sub grantee schemes were awarded to grass-root organizations on renewable energy and energy efficiency issues;





- One training session was organized for CSOs working in the field of environment on “EU project design process and implementation of Environmental Policy”.
- A number of awareness activities were organized including: a mass cleaning day with students in the southern part of the country, participation to a public fair to promote energy efficiency issues; awareness and dissemination activity in to share with the community materials on energy efficiency. TV programs and short video features on energy efficiency followed this series of events.
- A round table was organized on the feasibility study conducted on the waste management in the municipality of Tirana, with the participation of the Mayor of Tirana, CSOs, actors, etc.
- A research paper on EU water legislation situation on Albania was prepared.



## Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans

Implementation Period : 2013 – 2016

Donor: European Union (TEMPUS)

Fund: 825, 101 EUR

Implemented in: Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro

Implemented by: 11 Partners (specified below)

“Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans” is an EACEA Tempus project, officially launched in January 2014, marking a first for Albania since this is the first TEMPUS project to have an Albanian lead partner, namely POLIS University. The purpose of this project is to contribute to the modernization of education in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro and meet market needs by developing professional programs in energy efficiency. These programs will be developed and delivered at post-secondary diploma and at professional Master levels in 5 institutes in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. The project aims to prepare technicians with well-developed applied skills in this field of Energy Efficiency. These qualified technicians will be ready to work in the chosen profession as well as assist scientific researchers in the field with practical knowledge. The project aims to also establish lasting country-specific partnerships with the educational and business sector for student employment as well as provide policy recommendation for mainstreaming professional programs within each partner’s educational system by 2016. As a wider objective this project aims to address the lack of professional types of educational programs in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro in the field of Energy Efficiency. Thus, products and activities are geared towards fulfilling this main objective.

The project will initiate professional education programs in the field of Energy Efficiency that will vary according to national contexts and educational institution. These programs come as a response to the demand (from government, industry and potential students) for more applied skills, both in the two-year post-secondary diploma level and in the professional Masters level. The project will bring together expertise and experience for curriculum development and for practical application of energy efficiency. The study programs contain several thematic subjects including foundations, technical knowledge, applied skills,





European regulations in the field of energy efficiency, an internship and a final project. The two-year post-secondary diploma programs in particular will serve as a learning experience that will inform the Ministry of Education in the respective countries, and the educational sector at large, enabling them to replicate this type of professional education in many other fields, as also envisioned in education strategies. The professional Masters programs will equip students that already possess ample theoretical knowledge from the field with much needed applied and technical skills enhancing employment opportunities. The project has 11 partners in all, Polis University (AL), University Aleksandër Moisiu of Durrës (AL), University of Prishtina (Kosovo), University for Business and Technology (Kosovo), University of Montenegro (MNE), Albanian Constructors Association (AL), Co- PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (AL), University of Minho (POR), Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (NL), Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (GER), Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (SLK).

For 2014, some of the main activities and results include:

- The project launching event and kick-off meeting, with the participation of all partners, and notable personalities in the field of education.
- A number of teaching curricula on energy efficiency were enhanced, and have already become part of the academic program at POLIS University (Tiranë), and the University for Business and Technology (Prishtina).
- A National Seminar on Energy Efficiency was organized in Tirana: "Energy Efficiency in the housing sector and the response in the academic sector".
- A study tour to Germany was organized for the project partners, focusing on matters of energy efficiency.
- Two National Seminars were held on matters of Energy Efficiency, in Montenegro and in Kosovo;
- Three publications were prepared and published covering matters of energy efficiency;
- Several open lectures were organized with leading companies operating in the field of energy efficiency, such as Rehau, Knauf, Izoterm, etc.
- Participation in a number of Television programs addressing matters of energy efficiency, such as on the Albanian National Television, Top Channel, etc.

## Local Democracy Promotion Project - Lëviz Albania

Implementation Period: 2014 – 2019

Donor: Swiss Embassy in Albania

Fund: 6,600,000 CHF

Implemented in: Albania

Implemented by: Open Society Foundation Albania, Co-PLAN, Partners Albania

The project “Local Democracy Promotion Project - Lëviz Albania” was approved during 2014, bringing together The Open Society Foundation in Albania (OSFA), Co-PLAN and Partners Albania as implementing partners. The Swiss Development Cooperation supported project, aims to have a catalytic impact on the local democracy in Albania, through support to various drivers of change, be them citizens, community based groups or civil society organizations cultivating a locally rooted, demand-driven and influential civil society at sub-national level across Albania. More specifically, the project objectives are:

- (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.

To achieve this, the project consortium has fashioned a strategy that will:

- Mobilize local change agents in creative ways, - Spotlight national attention on their ideas and activities,
- Foster horizontal and vertical stakeholder coalitions to address vexing challenges, and - Promote strategic synergies between projects building demand for good governance and those strengthening the ability of public institutions to supply good governance.

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.



*Funded by:*



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Confederazione Svizzera  
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Embassy of Switzerland in Albania

*Implemented by:*



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**PARTNERSALBANIA**  
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

# LEVIZ

## Albania

Local Democracy in Action

[www.levizalbania.al](http://www.levizalbania.al)

## Monitoring the Implementation of Local Budgets in the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodër

Implementation Period: 2013 – 2014

Donor: Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS)

Fund: 23,960 USD

Implemented in: Municipalities of Fier and Shkodër, Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN

The project “Monitoring the Implementation of Local Budgets in the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodër” focused on transparency and accountability of finances on a local level. The project, which was in full compliance with the good governance and accountability principles, sought to nurture the dialogue between civil society organizations and local authorities, as well as citizens/media and local authorities. The project had an overall goal of providing data that taxpayers can use in exercising their right to require feedback on planning and the use of public funds. More specifically, the objectives of the project were: (1) Developing a methodology for monitoring of local budgets and testing it in two mid-level municipalities (Shkodra and Fier) in a period of 3-4 years focused on the current of governing mandate; (2) Breakdown of financial data on the implementation of the budgets during these years, in concrete terms of services and benefits for citizens; (3) Presentation of these data in community meetings with citizens in Shkodra and Fier (at least two meetings in each city); (4) Visualization and enabling the use of the financial data in long-term via the online platform that is being set up by OSFA.

A substantial part of the project is focused on developing a methodology and set of criteria, which will be used to monitor the implementation of local budgets in the two pilot municipalities. Some of the main activities and results achieved during 2014, were:

- A methodology for monitoring of local budgets was developed;
- The local budgets of the Municipalities of Fier and Shkodra were monitored.
- The financial data on the implementation of the budgets were translated in concrete terms of services and benefits for citizens;
- Capacities in the monitoring of local budgets and the use of public funds were built (both on a institutional and civil society level) ;
- Data was provided to [financatransparente.al](#) platform to enable monitoring of local budgets and public funds at local level;
- Four meetings with citizens and CSOs were organized in the cities of Shkodra and Fier to present the financial data.



## Public Finance Component: Budget Execution and Evaluation

### *Decentralization and Local Development Programme*

Implementation Period: 2014 - 2015

Donor: Helvetass Swiss Intercooperation Albania - (dlp)

Fund: 32,775 EUR

Implemented in: The Municipality of Shkodra, Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN and Metro\_POLIS shpk, Architecture and Planning Studio

The aim of this project is to build the capacities of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in Public Finance Management based on good local and national practices as well as international standards. On the other hand the knowledge package aims to guide LGUs in adopting practical uses of information and communications technology in order to support more transparent, efficient and effective local government operations, more client oriented public service delivery and more informed and engaged citizens, in line with relevant national strategies and good practices. It is expected that the project, supported by the Decentralisation and Local Development Programme (dlp), will work with LGUs so to improve processes and practices towards more transparent, accountable and participative strategic and financial management (planning / budgeting / execution / monitoring and reporting).

The expected results of this project are:

- Development of training curricula on budget execution and evaluation;
- Preparation of a working methodology and approach on BEE (to be tested in Shkodra Municipality).
- Workshop on training curricula complete cycle of financial management at local government;
- A PEFA based assessment in the Municipality of Shkodra.
- Linking the Financial Planning Tool with decision-making (local council) and annual budget process.
- Inputs and recommendations for creating a web-platform for council members reporting and consulting (through a set of indicators for local financial performance and budget execution and evaluation; communicate with local council, CSOs, citizens, MoF, donors, etc.).





## Support to Three Local Governance Units in Mobilizing Funding for the Improvement of Housing Conditions of Roma and Egyptian Communities

Implementation Period: 2014

Donor: Open Society Foundation for Albania (SOROS)

Fund: 19,700 USD

Implemented in: The cities of Fier, Berat, Elbasan, Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN

One of the new projects for 2014 was “Support to three Local Governance Units in mobilizing funding the improvement of Roma and Egyptian communities”. This project aimed to support the three Local Government Units in the preparation process of proposals for improving the housing situation in these three units, under the framework of calls for proposals by the Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism in full compliance with the terms of reference. The project aimed to achieve the following objectives: (1) Supporting 3 local government units (municipalities) in the process of securing funding from central funding scheme by 2015, to improve the housing conditions of Roma and Egyptian communities.; (2) Increasing the capacity of the relevant structures within these three units in the preparation of quality project proposals. Building a successful pilot practice which could serve other units in the fund raising for similar purposes; (3) Encouraging the inclusion of Roma and Egyptian communities in decision-making processes during the development of project proposals, and potentially in their implementation.

The main activities and results for 2014 were:

- Mapping the current situation and context and selection of three units, namely: Berat, Elbasan and Fier.
- Establishment of the work groups in each municipality and meetings with stakeholders in each municipality to mobilize their interest and support.
- The development of community participatory processes, questionnaires, and observation in the field
- Identification of the potential technologies and materials for use based in the findings on the type of interventions for improvement;
- Costing of the proposed actions as part of each project proposal;
- Supporting the project proposal writing process for each of the three units.









## City for Citizens – Citizens for City

Implementation period : 2013 -2014

Donor : Slovak Institute for Governance under the European Union Program “ City for Citizens”

Fund: 11,000 EUR

Implemented in: Tirana, Albania

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, in collaboration with the municipality , No.11 - Tiranë

The project City for Citizens, Citizens for City encourages active European citizenship, through local level forms of civic engagement. The project, which is funded by the European Union under the Europe for Citizens program (Action 1), is being implemented simultaneously in Albania, Slovakia, Romania, and Czech Republic. The objectives of the project City for citizens, citizens for city are as follows: (1)Promoting volunteering on local level, increasing awareness on volunteering as one of the forms of civic engagement and its benefits for whole society, demonstrate municipalities how to encourage volunteering ; (2) Encouraging active European citizenship and identity; (3) Collecting and promoting the examples of best practice of cooperation between the municipalities, civil society organizations and citizens reflecting Euro- pean democratic values such as common good, rule of law and openness with a special focus to use of new information and communication technologies as tools for enabling and encouraging civic participation.

Co-PLAN, as the implementing partner in Albania in collaboration with the Municipal Unit no. 11, worked on the identification, conceptualization and concrete realization of an urban intervention in a Lapraka Neighborhood. The community's reported lack of public space for them and children to socialize and engage in outdoor activities, was materialized into a project which was implemented together with the community, mainly relying on recyclable materials.

During 2014, Co-PLAN participated in the final conference of the City for Citizen – Citizen for City project, and presented the intervention performed in Tirana. It also summarized the methodology, and main lessons learnt into an article, also part of the project publication.







- Mapping of existing networks identifying existing stock of bottom-up initiatives in each of the three cities, namely in Tirana, Belgrade and Skopje.
- Three Regional Workshops were held in Belgrade and Skopje and Tirana - building on game play/ interactivity principles simulating coalition building around urgent issues of the neighborhoods, such as re-use of vacant and derelict spaces, infrastructural changes, economic and social (self) sustainability, and improvement of environmental conditions.
- Three exhibitions were organized in Belgrade and Skopje and Tirana to share with the wider body of experts, and the public.
- One dedicated website/blog was set up and regularly updated with news, interesting articles, and case studies: [www.iaauproject.com](http://www.iaauproject.com).







## Supporting the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Western Balkans

Implementation Period: July – October 2014

Donor: European Commission through Regional Cooperation Council

Fund: 10,758.12 EUR (Co-PLAN)

Implemented in: Western Balkans

Implemented by: Cultural Heritage without Borders, Europa Nostra, Expeditio and Co-PLAN

This project was implemented jointly by the consortium composed of Cultural Heritage without Borders, Europa Nostra Serbia, Expeditio Montenegro and Co-Plan Albania. The project was undertaken within the framework of the Ljubljana Process II: Rehabilitating our Common Heritage, a project financed by European Commission through Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and implemented by Regional Cooperation Council Task Force for Society and Culture (RCC TFCS), and technical assistance provided by the Council of Europe. The focus of the project was to develop site management plans with relevant training for 7 heritage sites in the Western Balkans. The geographical scope of intervention included 7 countries and 7 heritage sites: The Archaeological Park of Apollonia, Albania; The National Library/City Hall, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Roman City of Sisicia, Croatia; Archaeological Site of Heraclea Lyncestis, FYR of Macedonia; Gazi Mehmed pasha Hamam, Kosovo; Fortress Besac, Montenegro and Iustiniana Prima/Caricin Grad, Serbia. The project focused on development of a common methodology in the form of a Heritage Management Toolkit (Toolkit). The toolkit has outlined the process of development of plans, and it focused on participatory, transparent and interdisciplinary process that was consecutive in 7 countries. Some of the main results of the process were the delivery of seven (7) site management plans in both English and local language.

The process of development of the plans lasted 15 weeks, and it engaged over 160 stakeholders across the regions, who were consecutively discussing the future management of 7 above mentioned sites. The national project leaders assigned by each beneficiary country were involved in the process through quality supervision, advice and continuous support. The plans themselves were developed by 14 local experts, under the auspices of each consortium member, while they were led by 3 assigned key experts.









## Solid Waste Component: Develop inter-LGU model based on practices in the area of Malësia e Madhe

### *Decentralization and Local Development Program*

Implementation Period: 2014 - 2015

Donor: HELVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION Albania -(dldp)

Fund: 16,404 EUR

Implemented in: Malësia e Madhe

Implemented by: Co-PLAN and Metro\_POLIS shpk, Architecture and Planning Studio

“Develop inter-LGU model based on practices in the area of Malësia e Madhe” aims to improve the waste management service in the area of Malësia e Madhe in line with the national legislation and policy. The project has been designed for a 1-year-implementation-period, meaning that the expected results will be fulfilled with the given timeframe. In more specific terms and objectives, this project aims to: (1) Establish an integrated and effective waste collection/transportation scheme, where citizen raise waste collection coverage by a minimum of 20%; assess waste disposal condition and foresee improvement measures; (2) Prepare and share with City Council members a methodology and steps for the formation and function of inter-LGU cooperation; (3) Develop an effective billing and collection system based on cost & tariff model; (4) Apply the proposed waste standards and benchmarking procedure. Some of the main expected results of this project are:

- An Inter-LGU Agreement for the delivery of the solid waste management service.
- The development of a billing and collection system in line with proposed Cost& Tariff model, including a strategy how to bill and communicate tariffs to consumers and enforce their collection.
- Development of training materials for conducting effective and qualitative awareness campaign (PPTs).
- Adopted Pilot Model for Standards and Benchmarking, incorporated into technical specifications (waste collection delivery contract).
- A guideline for organization of inter-LGU cooperation in waste management sector; A preliminary Impact Assessment Report for the Dumpsite of Koplik; A rehabilitation/closure plan, including the relevant costs







