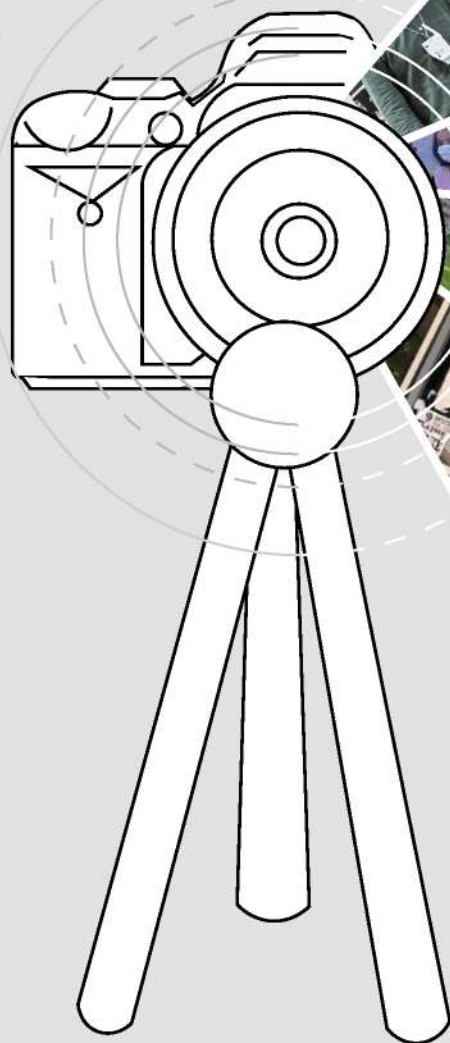


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



2020
365 days
in review

About Co-PLAN
Highlights
Projects
Publications



this is us

Co-PLANNING SINCE 1995

Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (hereinafter referred to as Co-PLAN) is a pioneering and leading know-how non-profit organization in the field of city-making and good governance. Co-PLAN has a long-standing experience and an extensive research portfolio in the realm of local government service provision; capacity development, development strategies; informal settlements integration, preparation of urban regulatory plans; environmental assessments, territorial management, preparation of strategic plans, etc. In addition, over the years Co-PLAN has been involved in strengthening of civil society, as a cross-cutting approach. The activity of Co-PLAN is built upon four key expertise areas, namely:

1. *Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning;*
2. *Decentralization and Local Regional Development;*
3. *Environmental Management and Planning;*
4. *Research and Policy Influencing*

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.

leading board

Co-PLAN is run by an Executive Director, who constantly consults the Directing Board of the organization as well as with the Strategic Collaborators and Advisors. Our board is a decision-making structure composed of three members:



Floreta Pirushi - Head of the Board

A lawyer by profession, Ms. Pirushi has conducted her postgraduate studies in the field of urban social matters and human resources in the Netherlands. She is qualified also in matters of institutional administration. Her professional experience includes: working for Co-PLAN, and later POLIS University, as well as experience with UNCHR and INSTAT projects. Since several years, she is part of the POLIS University Press team.



Tom Passero, Ph.D. - Board Member

A Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio, USA. He is also an adjunct instructor of marketing strategy for the Bowling Green State University Masters of Business Administration Program. He is a qualified practitioner of several assessment tools, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and TRACOM Social Styles.



Ester Caco - Board Member

A lawyer by qualification and experience. Ms. Caco has worked for the Ministry of Local Government, and later for VNG International. Currently working for the New York based “Marku, Beno & Tsamblakos, PLLC”, primarily focusing on migration related matters.

our team of talent



Dritan Shutina
Executive Director



Rudina Toto
Territorial Governance



Anila Bejko
**Urban and Regional
Governance**



Ogerta Gjknuri
Finance Management



Aida Ciro
**Acquisition and
Communication**



Merita Toska
**Economic
Development**



Zenel Bajrami
**City and Regional
Planning**



Ledjo Allkja
Spatial Planning



Rodion Gjoka
**Environmental
Mangement**



Oreola Caliqi
Accountant



Kejt Dhrami
Urban Planning



Imeldi Sokoli
**Spatial and
Environmental**



Fiona Imami
Urban Planning



Gert Delli
Urban Planning



Esmerina Hidri
Research Assistan



Paola Zhamo
**Junior Environmental
Expert**



Anisa Doko
Finance Assistant



Elvis Ndreka
**Environmental
Engineer**



Pranvera Rira
Executive Assistant



Viktor Merkuri
**Environmental Legal
Services Expert**



Klesta Galanxhi
**Multimedia
Expert**



Altion Qirko
Logistics

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

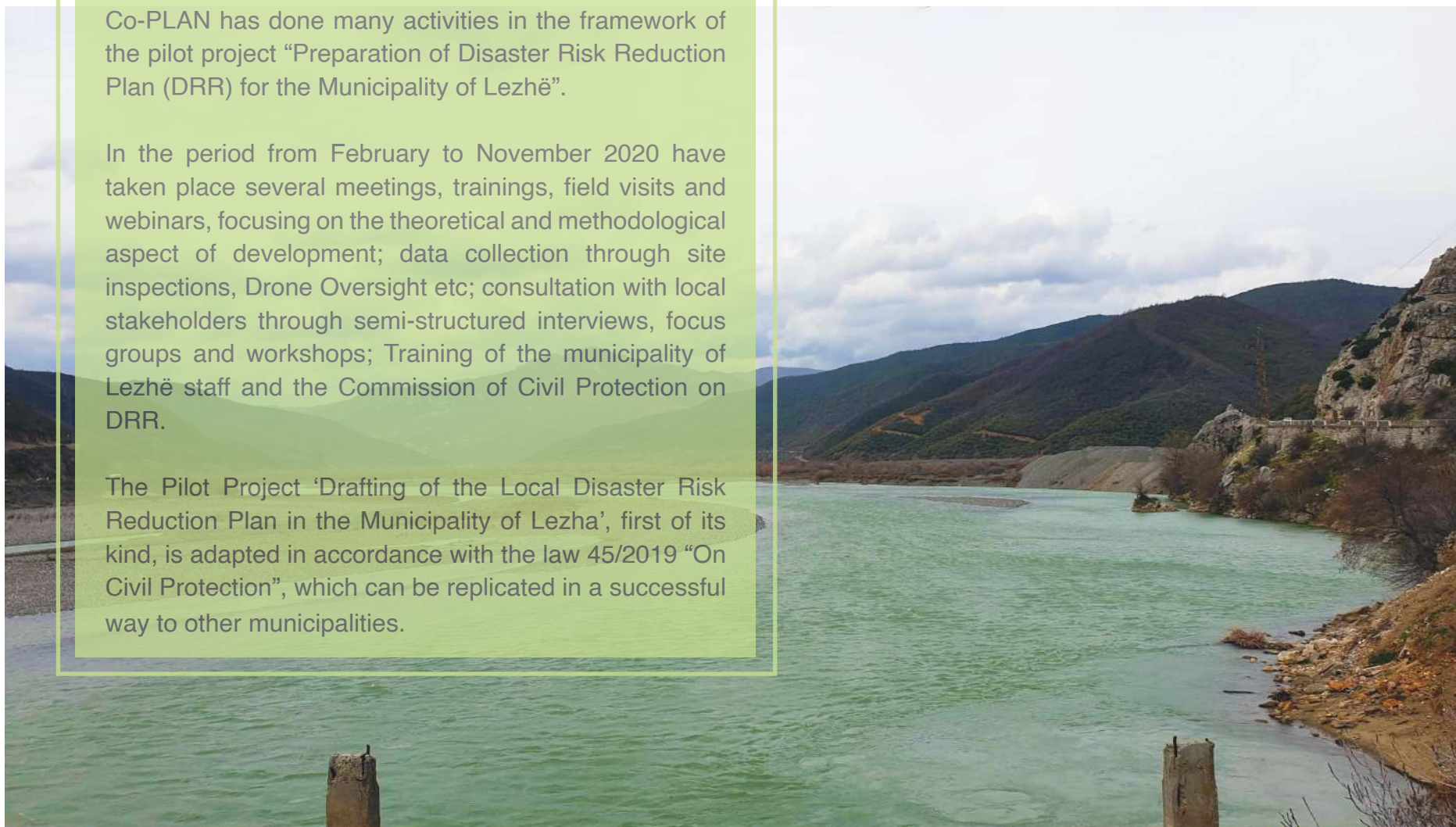
- 1** Disaster Risk Reduction, DRR
- 2** Inducing local economic development in underserved areas through the establishment of a Livestock Market and Educational Laboratory for Sustainable Livestock Farming in the Municipality of Lushnjë
- 3** Green Lungs for our cities - alternative and bottom-up monitoring platform for air quality, noise pollution and urban greenery for policy influencing at local level
- 4** ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the European Policy Agenda
- 5** Waste to Energy for the Western Balkans Cement Industry, W2E
- 6** Regional Development Programme Albania, RDPA
- 7** Local Democracy Promotion Project and The Municipal Financial Data Portal: Open Governance is Accountable Governance - Lëviz Albania
- 8** Sparking Activism Initiatives Locally, SAIL

PREPARATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLAN (DRR) FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHË

Co-PLAN has done many activities in the framework of the pilot project “Preparation of Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (DRR) for the Municipality of Lezhë”.

In the period from February to November 2020 have taken place several meetings, trainings, field visits and webinars, focusing on the theoretical and methodological aspect of development; data collection through site inspections, Drone Oversight etc; consultation with local stakeholders through semi-structured interviews, focus groups and workshops; Training of the municipality of Lezhë staff and the Commission of Civil Protection on DRR.

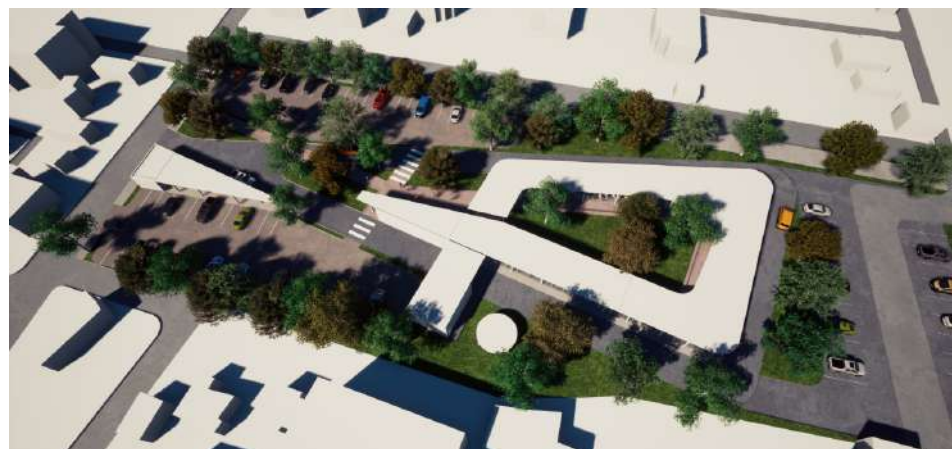
The Pilot Project ‘Drafting of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plan in the Municipality of Lezha’, first of its kind, is adapted in accordance with the law 45/2019 “On Civil Protection”, which can be replicated in a successful way to other municipalities.





INDUCING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UNDERSERVED AREAS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIVESTOCK MARKET AND EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUSHNJË

CO-PLAN, Institute For Habitat Development took part at the public hearing session, and was presented the Detailed Local Plan for the Center of the village of Bubullimë and the project for the construction of the livestock market. The infrastructure plan was discussed at the public hearing session, where CO-PLAN experts clarified the technical details of the project.



GREEN LUNGS FOR OUR CITIES ALTERNATIVE AND BOTTOM-UP MONITORING PLATFORM FOR AIR QUALITY, NOISE POLLUTION AND URBAN GREENERY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING AT LOCAL LEVEL

Alternative campaign

Co-PLAN has organized the alternative campaign to improvise and deliver addressing the pollution reduction in air and noise level during the pandemic isolation caused by COVID-19. Four key hot spots in Tirana for sixty days were monitored and comprehensive and dynamic information regarding the progressive decrease of several pollutants in the air was disseminated.

The monitoring process continued throughout the year 2020, but findings per each component were presented at the Second Annual Conference by representatives of each municipality aiming to give recommendations on how to improve the existing situation and to influence decision-makers regarding the environmental issues in Albania.



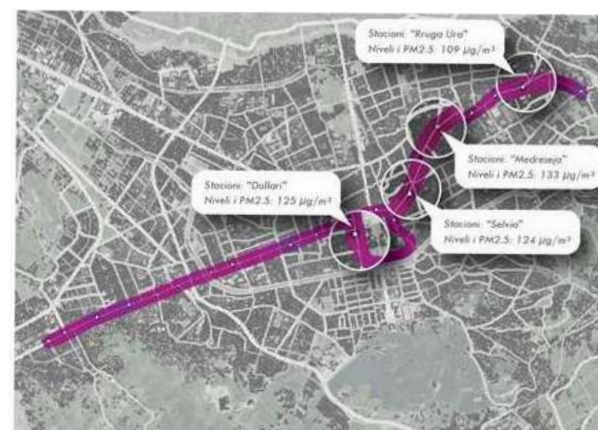
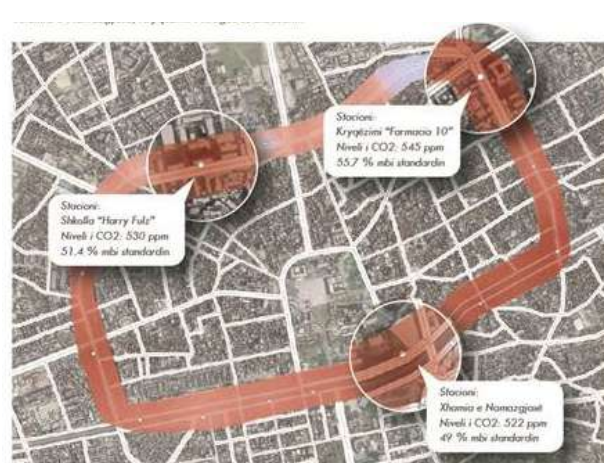


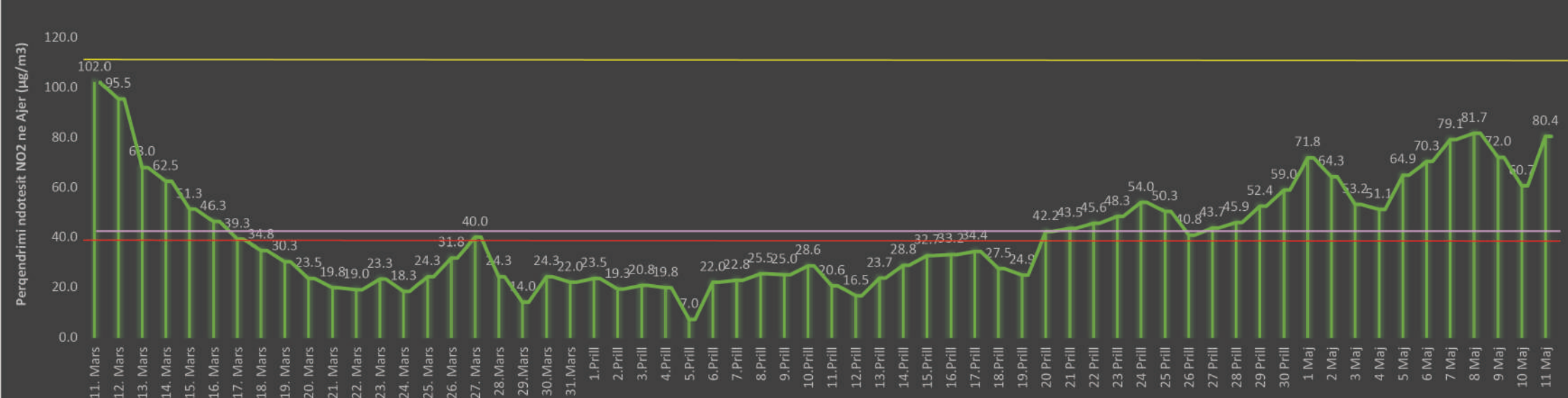
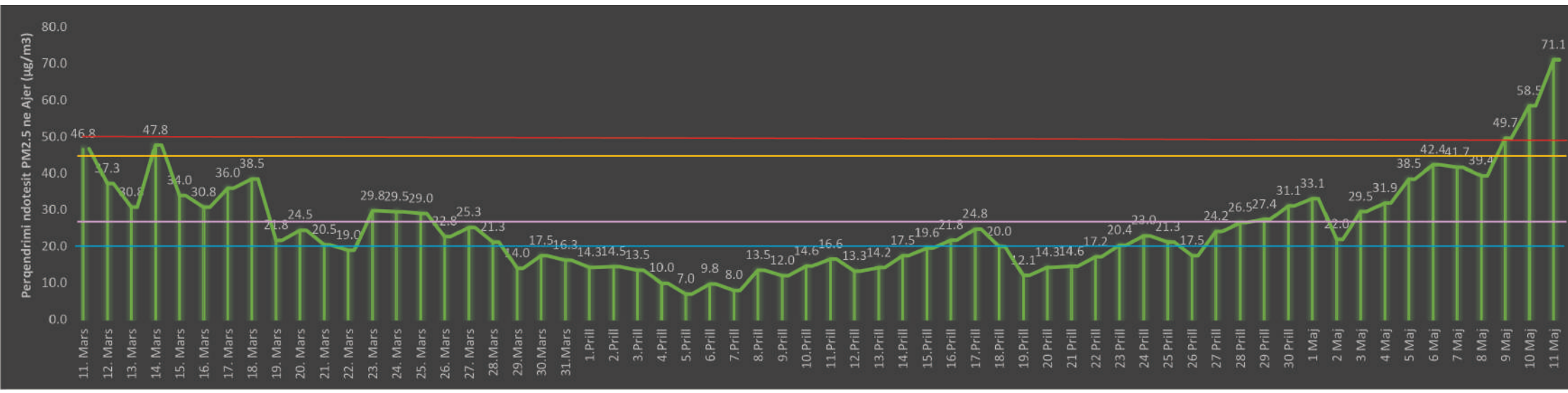
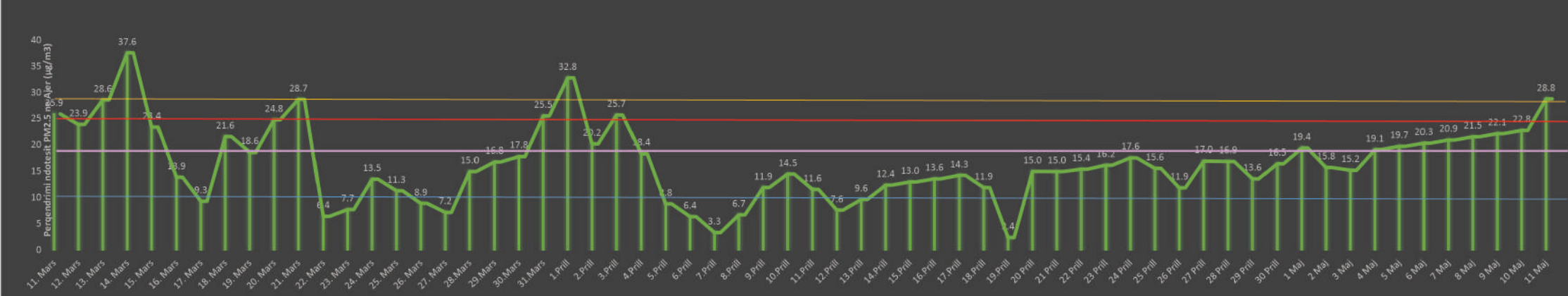
Workshops on behalf of the advocacy and calculation of ecosystem services of urban greenery

In April 2020, Co-PLAN organized online workshops with the main purpose to help municipalities to improve their GIS databases and to explain again the methodology to calculate the ecosystem services of urban greenery. Those workshops served to discuss every difficulty that representative of the municipalities had during the calculations of urban greenery.

The second National Campaign on “Daily Impact of Noise and Air Pollution in our Life”

During the implementation of the project “Green Lungs”, Co-PLAN held the second National Campaign on “Daily Impact of Noise and Air Pollution in our Life”, which consisted of identifying potential and indicative exposure of citizens throughout the four municipalities in areas where they frequent the most during their daily routine. Specifically, more than 120 specific locations (bus-stops, bike lanes, bank-automats) were subject of monitoring in all four cities where the project is being applied.



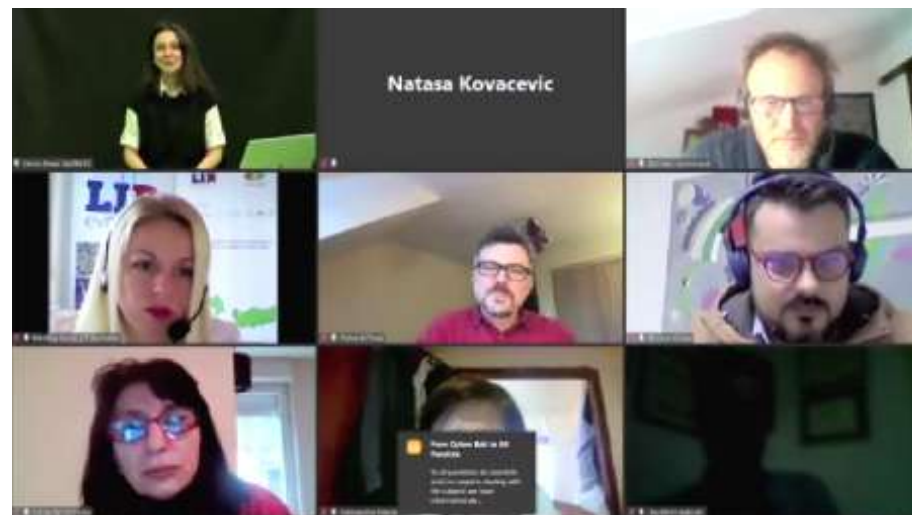


ENV.NET FACTORING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY IN THE EU POLICY AGENDA

Regional Conferences on Circular Economy

Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development organized Regional Conferences on Circular Economy in March 2020. The conference took place in Tirana and consisted on the discussion of the project's progress and a site-visit to a small company that applies circular economy restrictions.

During this conference representatives from academia, the private sector (businesses and chambers of commerce), civil society and state institutions from the region have been acquainted with European perspective of Circular Economy, challenges of the application of Circular Economy principles in the region and the role that needs to be played by municipalities to further promote this economic model. National organizations in Albanian presented some of the studies and findings with the aim to increase the understanding and reinforce critical thinking about circular economy through practical model approaches to the daily life of cities.



WASTE TO ENERGY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS CEMENT INDUSTRY

In 2020, time to time meetings from each country as part of this project were carried out through focal points. During this meeting have been discussed and prepared important draft documents including questionnaires for industry and households, the communication strategy as well as the study of the Albanian legislation on allowing the processing and use of rdf as a fuel in the cement industry of Albania.

First National Working Group Meeting

Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development in collaboration with other national partners organized the first national working group meeting. The meeting was successful for the project's development and involvement of all the actors in the process of discussion about waste management, legal framework and detailed expertise regarding the use of waste as an alternative fuel for the cement industry in Albania. The meeting took place in October 2020.



Focal Points meetings

Almost every two weeks meetings of the focal points were organized by Co-PLAN or GIZ. Those meetings served to discuss about every step of each partner country in the process of understanding all the project activities, reporting, national meetings, roundtables, workshops foreseen by the project.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ALBANIA

Planning and Programming Workshop-18 February 2020

RDPA Experts Anila Bejko and Fiona Imami held a full day internal workshop on Planning and Programming Document with the participation of Albanian Development Fund (ADF) and all four ADF Regional Units. The aim of this workshop was to share and further discuss with the ADF – as the main counterpart of the project and the responsible body for drafting of the planning and programming document – the work done so far with the National Plan for Regional Development and Cohesion and four Regional Plans for Regional Development and Cohesion. During the workshop, a special emphasis was given on the further discussion of the four National Strategic Objectives, and their reflections on the specific objectives/priorities in each of the four Regions.

Consultation Process of the project Law on Regional Development and Cohesion

Regional Development in Albania (RDPA) is supporting the Government of Albania and the Albanian Development Fund (ADF) in advancing the reform on regional development in Albania. In two years, the drafting/approval of the draft Law on Regional Development and Cohesion was finished.

During the period May – June 2020, RDPA held roundtables to discuss and introduce the draft Law on Regional Development and Cohesion, the implementation of the Regional Development Policy, the impact that this reform is expected to have at the central, regional, and local level and the role of local institutional and non-institutional actors in promoting socio-economic development based on potentials and good use of the regional resource.

RDPA supported the discussion regarding the Draft Law on Regional Development and Cohesion during the consultation processes with sixty-one Municipalities in the four Development Regions of Albania, as well as representatives of twelve Regions of the country, in five virtual meetings.

Launching of RDPA Grant Scheme in Support to the Earthquake Affected Areas

Regional Development in Albania (RDPA) launched the Grant Scheme to support areas affected by the earthquake, in an activity held at the premises of the Durres Amphitheatre. The activity took place on July 20, 2020, under the special participation of H.E. Adrian Maitre, Ambassador of Switzerland to Albania, Mrs. Simone Ungersbock head of the Austrian Development Agency, Mr. Dritan Agolli, Executive Director of the Albanian Development Fund, Executive Director of the Association for Local Autonomy, Mrs. Adelina Farrici as well as the representatives of 11 Municipalities, affected by the November earthquake, who are the potential beneficiaries of this Grant Scheme.



“The RDPA, through this scheme with a total grant of 2 million EURO, aims to support all communities and local government units directly affected by the earthquake to address complex development challenges in their territories, based on the identified potentials, following the strategic orientations of the recovery plan”

Mr. Carl Heller, Team Leader of the Regional Development Program in Albania.



Info Session Meetings and Capacity Building for Local Governments on Project Cycle Management

Regional Development in Albania (RDPA) in cooperation with the Albanian Development Fund organized the first information meeting (info session), with 11 municipalities targeted by the RDPA grant scheme.

The informative meeting was attended by the technical representatives of 11 municipalities and with the participation of the Association of Albanian Municipalities and the Association for Local Autonomy, with the aim at orienting and addressing questions from applicants (municipalities), during the application period and writing the project proposals.

In August 2020, RDPA continued supporting process with two-weeks cycle of individual trainings (workshops), “On the drafting of project proposals within the Grants Scheme of the RDPA” with 11 municipalities targeted in the RDPA Grant Scheme in support to the earthquake affected areas.

During this week, the RDPA team, with the support of the Albanian Development Fund and experts from the Association of Albanian Municipalities and the Association for Local Autonomy, assisted these 11 municipalities in clarifying and writing project proposals.

Approval of the Law no 102/2020 On Regional Development and Cohesion

The Albanian Parliament approved, on July 29, 2020, the Regional Development and Cohesion Law through the support of a solid majority, respectively eighty-one votes in favor, nine against, and three abstentions. The Law on RD and Cohesion will serve as the basis for bringing forward the preparation and approval of related complementary bylaws, consultation and approval of National and Regional Plans, as well as, the preparation of the Operational Programme on RD – all these key planning and programming documents defined by the Law for the implementation of the National Policy for Regional Development and Cohesion.

The processes of consultation and approval which have taken place during 2020, have required an extensive amount of time and brought actors together on board and actively engage them for the establishment of a successful reform on Regional Development, has managed to involve a wide range of institutional actors, such as Municipalities, ADF, Deputy Prime Minister’s Office, Council of Ministers, Parliament and MPs and Associations of LGUs into a constructive discussion.

The consultation process of the draft Law on Regional Development and Cohesion was organized in two phases: the first phase (from 6 March to 22 May 2020) included the

horizontal consultation with Line Ministries (12 Ministries and AKSHI); the second phase (May 2020) included the vertical consultation with LGUs, respectively, Municipalities, Qarks and LGUs associations (ALA, AMM, and Association of Qarks).

Awareness Raising Campaign in 12 Regions of Albania

Since December 17, 2020 is taking place, the Awareness Raising Campaign by targeting all regional development partners and stakeholders throughout the 12 Regions of Albania. This awareness-raising campaign is steered beyond consultation and towards the engagement of stakeholders by following a recognized three-step process: notification, consultation, and participation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the awareness meetings have been organized through two-round meeting events, making sure of involvement and face-to-face meeting of the institutional representatives (LGUs and deconcentrated bodies) and non-institutional actors (private sector, academia, CSO, etc.) in all 12 Qarks of the country. During 2020, four meetings in Lezha and Kukes Qark were organized, while at least twenty other meetings are expected to be concluded within March 2021.

The entire process of finalization of the draft law, consultation, and approval was supported and driven by the Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Albanian Development Fund, with the continuous support of the RDPA Programme.



Increasing employment opportunities for seasonal workers

1. On February 4, 2020, was held in Tirana a kick of meeting at the premises of the Ministry of Economy and Finance with the participation GIZ and NALED team, representatives from partner institutions such as the National Agency for Employment and Skills, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Institute of Social Insurance, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Tourism. The Co-PLAN team presented the preliminary research study and the project continuation was further discussed among partners to fit the current needs and priorities in Albania.
2. During March and April were conducted on-line survey and several phone/on-line interviews with potential seasonal workers and employers/business actors in agriculture and tourism sector in Albania. Around 156 on-line survey answers were collected and analyzed and more than 20 interviews with business sector employers and institutional actors related to seasonal employment.
3. The workshop “Towards Policy Recommendations” following up on the finalization of the Country Analysis Report was implemented on October 8, 2020. Together with the proposal on policy recommendations/ options provided by the project team, with the aim of further discussing these recommendations with the project Country Working Group.
4. Co-PLAN experts presented final findings and project products (country analysis report and policy recommendations) on the Regional Closing Event, which was held on-line on October 28, 2020, with the participation of GIZ and NALED team and representatives from partner organization from Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania.

Local Democracy Promotion Project and The Municipal Financial Data Portal: Open Governance is Accountable Governance - Lëviz Albania

Publication of the local budgets and fiscal packages for 61 municipalities in the country- Publication of monthly Informative Electronic Newsletters, covering the latest development in the area of local finances, frequent trends and legal amendments, for various bodies of researchers and experts.

SPARKING ACTIVISM INITIATIVES LOCALLY

National Activism Day 2020

National Activism Day 2020, a dedicated day to activism, happened everywhere in Albania under the theme “This Year We go Local”. Over the years the initiatives have been inspiring, hopeful and human. Because of the 2020 challenges, we encouraged initiatives that brought positive change, no matter how small.

#NAD2020 welcomed thirty-four young organizations, enthusiastic groups, individuals full of energy from ten cities in Albania bringing a good example of activism and citizenship followed by twenty-six activities that took place that day. Seven public and non-public figures explained the activism with words and eight awareness messages with different causes. With a pre-opening event consisting of a thematic projection in Tirana the celebrations were officially opened on 22nd for about 4 hours and 30 minutes of broadcasting and live connection with an estimated reach of 6700 viewers and unique views of 1600 viewers.





The activities that took place were related to different thematic such as:

- Bicycle marathon (Durrës)
- Projection in the central square of the city of videos related to activism (Durrës)
- Completion of the petition related to the causes that the activists are following in the city of Durrës.
- Raise your voice on urban pollution and its consequences (Tiranë)
- Improving the quality of public transport in the Municipality of Tirana through the use of Art + Activism (Tiranë)
- Peer education for prevention of Covid-19 (Tiranë)
- “Protest-exhibition” which recounts the causes pursued by Roma Community (Tiranë)
- Promoting the values benefits of solidarity work, on the framework of “Day of Solidarity” (Elbasan; Tiranë)
- Social and economic empowerment of disadvantaged girls and women (Mirditë)
- LGBTI + Perspective on Sustainable Development in Albanian context (Tirane)
- Future priorities of Youth Council (Tiranë)
- A Campaign related to environment by planting trees in Schools and Parks took place live that day by involving young people in improving the greenery of common areas. (Tiranë 3 schools and 1 public park; Shkodër; Durrës; Elbasan)
- Youth in Pogradec Promoters of Peace, Dialogue and Religious Tolerance (Pogradec)
- Raising citizens’ awareness of the importance of tourism as a sector that brings development (Bulqizë)



Launching event of Sparking Activism Initiatives Locally

The 30 years of civil society was celebrated with the launching of “Civil Society Capacity Building Program” on the premises of US Embassy in Tirana.

This program seeks to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations (CSOs) to hold government accountable and advocate for their priorities.

To give an appreciation for CSOs, a video reportage was prepared as an attempt to highlight and document in a modest way the process of the capacity building of civil society through years and their contribution in the process of democratization.



OUR PROJECTS

- 1** Preparation of Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (DRR) for the Municipality of Lezhë
- 2** Support Ministry of Finance and Economy conducting the mid-term review of the Social Housing Strategy (SHS) and its action plan and for Designing of Social Housing Municipal Plans
- 3** Inducing local economic development in underserved areas through the establishment of a Livestock Market and Educational Laboratory for Sustainable Livestock Farming in the Municipality of Lushnjë
- 4** Green Lungs for our cities - alternative and bottom-up monitoring platform for air quality, noise pollution and urban greenery for policy influencing at local level
- 5** ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the European Policy Agenda
- 6** Waste to Energy for the Western Balkans Cement Industry
- 7** Strong Municipalities
- 8** RDPA - Regional Development Programme Albania phase IV
- Increasing employment opportunities for seasonal workers
- 9** Local Democracy Promotion Project and The Municipal Financial Data Portal: Open Governance is Accountable Governance - Lëviz Albania
- 10** Dialogue for inclusive evidencebased policy development in Albania
- 11** Sparking Activism Initiatives Locally - SAIL
- 12** WSOS Professional Fellows Program

PREPARATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLAN (DRR) FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHË

Implementation Period: 01/2020 - 12/2020

Donor: UNDP- Albania

Fund: 60,000\$ + 50,000\$ (Co-Financing)

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

Reacting to the disaster, UNDP Albania mobilized its human resources and engaged in both the immediate response as well as in preparing for the recovery, in line with the Albania Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conclusions and building upon and complementing Government of Albania's efforts on improving the disaster risk management system in the country. In this respect, UNDP Albania embarked on two-speed action: Piloting concrete interventions to promote DRR and Developing longer-term assistance for establishing and institutionalizing coordination and cooperation in the DRR system by developing capacities and simultaneously linking national, prefecture and municipal bodies. Lezha municipality was the selected pilot for testing the approach and engaging in local DRR capacity building. The pilot would serve to develop and test approaches and ensure the methodology and application are fine-tuned and ready for replication in the remaining municipalities of Albania. As part of the joint efforts of UNDP and Co-PLAN, the following were the areas of intervention:

- Reacting to the disaster, UNDP Albania mobilized its human resources;
- Development of a Methodology for DRR in Albania;

- Support the Municipality of Lezhë in the preparation of the Risk Assessment, DRR Strategy and the Emergency Response Plan;
- Direct support through training and coaching for municipal staff and the commission of civil protection in Lezha to increase capacities in terms of DRR.

The project focused on institutional cooperation and the participation of various community groups in order to institutionalize the culture of disaster risk reduction and capacity building in Lezha.

From a METHODOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW, the project applied a comprehensive and integrated approach: Participatory planning & Various Instruments.

Participatory planning was seen as an optimal method, as it:

- a) Enabled the identification of specific problems in the territory in conditions of lack of periodic data and microdata
- b) Had the dual purpose of training the local community and other institutional instances through involvement in the project.



The following instruments were used:

- a) Direct observations through field visits;
- b) Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders (citizens, experts, businesses, etc.);
- c) Participatory risk mapping;
- d) Thematic focus groups (depending on the type of hazard, risk and sector);
- e) Participatory design of seasonal and historical risk calendars;
- f) Risk assessment using the GIS platform.

Types of Services Provided

Support municipality in the establishment of the Local Civil Protection Commission & Prepare the regulation and ToR for the Commission
 Data gathering from local and national institutions
 Data collection on risks and hazards through a participatory planning approach (risk mapping, historic disaster calendar, seasonal disaster calendar)

- Data collection through site inspections, Drone Oversight etc.
- Creating a GIS database for DRR
- Risk Mapping in GIS
- Risk Assessment focusing on Seismic, Hydrological, Flooding, Geo-Hazards, Wildfires, Climate Change, Pandemics and manmade risks.
- Consultation with local stakeholders through semi-structured interviews, focus groups and workshops
- Training of the municipality of Lezhë staff and the Commission of Civil Protection on DRR
- Support municipality of Lezhë in establishing the Civil Protection Commission
- Preparation of Risk Assessment Report (including GIS)
- Preparation of DRR Strategy
- Preparation of Civil Protection Plan
- Support municipality in the approval procedures

SUPPORT MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY CONDUCTING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY (SHS) AND ITS ACTION PLAN AND FOR DESIGNING OF SOCIAL HOUSING MUNICIPAL PLANS

Implementation Period: 09/2020 - 03/2021

Donor: UNDP- Albania

Fund: 6,615,605.00 ALL

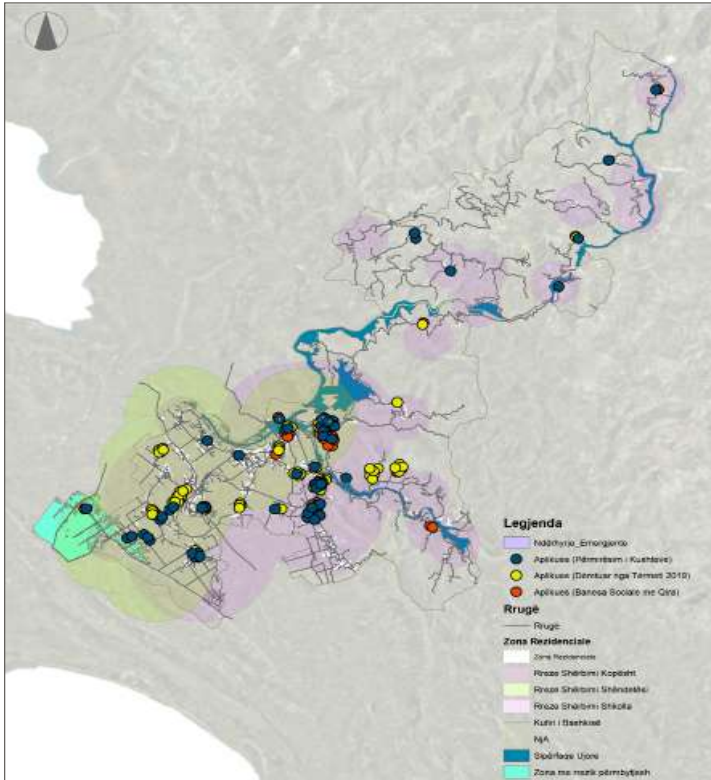
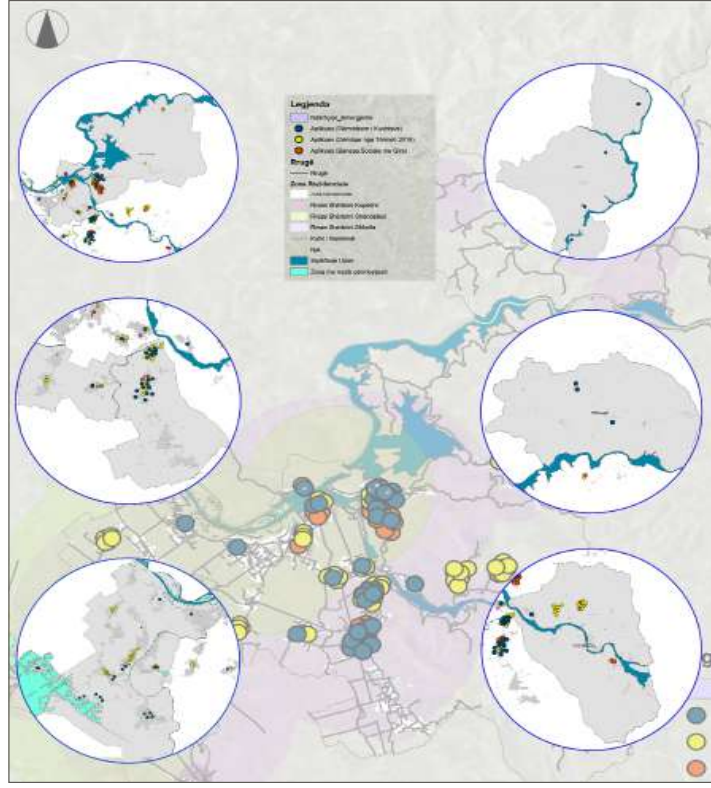
Implemented by: MetroPOLIS and Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

In 2016, the former Ministry of Urban Development approved the strategy of Social Housing 2016-2025. Following legal requirements and the recommendations of the strategy itself, MetroPOLIS and Co-PLAN are supporting the Directory of Housing in the Ministry of Finance and Economy to review the strategic document. The revision was based on an evaluation of the implementation of the existing strategy and an assessment of the current development situation in the sectors that have an impact on social housing. The process was supported by a survey targeting all municipalities, which received around 40 responses, and several meetings with interest groups: institutions at central level, organizations and representatives of vulnerable groups, etc. Parallel to the national level, 3 municipal social housing plans namely “5-year Social Housing Program” are being drafted, in the Municipalities of Vlora, Vau-Dejës and Përmet. These plans will be accompanied by a manual on how to design such instruments, which will serve as a model for other municipalities, for their respective 5-year social housing municipal plans. Additionally, Local Housing Plans will be conducted also for the municipalities of Tiranë and Korçë.

Types of Services Provided

- Support Ministry of Finance and Economy in the review of the Social Housing Strategy
- Conduct assessment of the implementation of the SHS
- Data gathering from local and national institutions
- Data collection on Social Housing at local level through a questionnaire with 61 municipalities
- Support the municipality of Vau-Dejës for the preparation of the Local Housing Plan
- Support the municipality of Përmet for the preparation of the Local Housing Plan
- Support the municipality of Vlorë for the preparation of the Local Housing Plan
- Support the municipality of Korçë for the preparation of the Local Housing Plan
- Support the municipality of Tiranë for the preparation of the Local Housing Plan



INDUCING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UNDERSERVED AREAS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIVESTOCK MARKET AND EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUSHNJË

Implementation Period: 09/2020 - 09/2022

Donor: IADSA (The Debt for Development Swap Agreement)

Fund: 42,160,632.00 ALL

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

The proposed project set forth by the Municipality of Lushnjë in partnership with Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development in response to the Italian-Albanian Debt for Development Swap Agreement (IADSA), has set overall objective that seeks to “Support sustainable, local development and promote green economy based on livestock farming and trading activity in the Municipality of Lushnjë”.



In more specific terms, the project aims to:

- *Boost local economic development through sustainable livestock farming activities;*
- *improve trading conditions and food security in the livestock farming sector.*

Types of Work Packages Provided

Drafting an Integrated Action Plan and building capacities for the sustainable management of Livestock Farming and Livestock Market in Lushnjë (including a feasibility study on the operation of the livestock market; a training module for veterinarians and other stakeholders; activity plan for organization of the educational and farm-related activities, etc.)

- Designing and implementing physical interventions on the Livestock Market and Educational Laboratory for Sustainable Livestock Farming

- Promotional and educational activities for increased market use
- Project Management – Monitoring and Evaluation
- The proposed project has been designed with sustainability as a fundamental guiding principle, and as such purposely adopts an environmentally conscious approach.
- Beneficiaries: wide array of local stakeholders, like:
 - residents of the Municipality of Lushnjë;
 - farmers in the region;
 - educational institutions;
 - veterinarians specialized in livestock products;
 - residents of the Administrative Unit of Bubullimë;
 - local business operators;
 - consumers of meat products in the region; etc



GREEN LUNGS FOR OUR CITIES - ALTERNATIVE AND BOTTOM-UP MONITORING PLATFORM FOR AIR QUALITY, NOISE POLLUTION AND URBAN GREENERY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING AT LOCAL LEVEL

Implementation Period: 03/2018 - 03/2021

Donor: European Delegation in Albania

Fund: 305,248 EUR

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action: Milieukontakt Albania (MiA) as partner organization and EPER Center, EkoMjedisë Durrës, Klubi Ekologjik Elbasan, Aahrus Center Shkodra, Green Center as sub-grantee beneficiaries.

Target country(ies) or region(s): Albania (Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodër).

This project is aimed at developing and piloting an alternative platform for monitoring and advocating policy-influencing on Cities Green Lungs – air quality, noise pollution, and urban greenery at local level. The European Delegation funded this 3-year project, which is piloted in the cities of Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan and Shkodër, is implemented by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Milieukontakt Albania, and five local organisations. The project focuses on developing and piloting an alternative platform for monitoring air-noise pollution and urban greenery (fully compliant to EU directives).

Given the overall objective of strengthening local environmental Civil Society Organizations to impact environmental policies and

performance at local level, the project also focuses on supporting CSOs in the process of producing qualitative monitoring data for improved advocacy and public awareness.

Types of Services Provided

- Establishment and development of monitoring practices and alternative means for local governments
- Capacity development of non-state actors
- Monitoring of harmonization of environmental legislation with EU acquis
- Alternative Monitoring Methodology “AMM” document consulted and disseminated with key-stakeholders
- Policy Paper defining transposition of national legislation on Air-Noise Pollution and Urban Greenery with EU Directives / Regulations

- Tirana City Centre monitored and database elaborated
- Financial support to CSOs through sub-granting concluded with 5 winning application. Comprising the initial application of AMM in the pilot areas of Elbasan, Durres and Fieri Municipalities.
- Results from the First National Campaign on “How Polluted are our Schools” published during the National Annual Conference in April 2019
- More than 5 open sessions held for the dissemination of initial results from monitoring practice in the pilot area of Tirana (ExpoCity Fair 2018, Polis Symposium 2018, Natural Science Faculty and in the respective kick-off event for Durres, Elbasan and Shkoder Municipalities).
- Generation of infographics, videos and media posts based on monitoring findings.
- Organization of the first and second National Annual Conference on behalf of the project.
- Publication of two Annual Bulletins (2019 and 2020) consisting on the findings per each municipality.
- Implementation of the second National Campaign on “Daily Impact of Noise and Air Pollution in our Life”.
- Production of thematic studies/articles relating to air & noise pollution (before and during the COVID-19 pandemic) and urban greenery.
- Organization of workshops aiming to train or help representatives of CSOs on how to calculate ecosystem services of the urban greenery



ENV.NET FACTORING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY IN THE EUROPEAN POLICY AGENDA

Implementation period: 31/12/2017 – 01/ 2021 (Phase III: 01/ 2018 – 01/ 2021)

Donor: European Commission

Fund: 975,000.00 EUR

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (As the Lead of project) and Punto.sud (Italy), European Environmental Bureau (Belgium), 4x4x4 Balkan Bridges (Macedonia), LIR Evolucija (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Green Home (Montenegro), Advocacy Training & Resource Center – ATRC (Kosovo), Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Serbia), TEMA (Turkey), as partner countries.

Implemented in: Western Balkan Countries and Turkey

“ENV.net factoring the environmental portfolio for WB and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda” is a regional project, bringing together seven partner organizations from the Western Balkan and Turkey and two European member-state based partners, aimed at factoring the environmental portfolio for the region of Western Balkans and Turkey in the European policy agenda.





This project is funded by the European Commission and has generated region-representation with evidence-supported input to contribute to EU discussions on matters of climate change and environment to further explore and introduce to the region new inter-related aspects such as circular economy. Co-PLAN as the Lead Applicant for this project was responsible for coordination among all network members; coordinating outreach and dissemination particularly through the newsletter and promotional events; ensuring scheduled communications, and monitoring processes took place; producing country specific reports based on monitoring results, status of circular economy in Albania; preparing the newsletter based on the input received from each partner; delivering guest lectures in universities organizing annual advocacy campaigns in Albania.

WASTE TO ENERGY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS CEMENT INDUSTRY

Implementation Period: 01/03/2020 – 31/12/2022

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Fund: 365,120,00 EUR

Implemented by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Implementing partners: Antea Cement Sh.a, Cementarnica USJE AD, Titan Cementara Kosjeric d.o.o.,

Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development, AMU Albanian Manufacturers Union, REC North Macedonia, RDA Zlatibor

Implemented in: Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia

Waste to Energy for the Western Balkans Cement Industry is a project set to be carried out in three countries of the Western Balkans. The main objective of the project is to set the preconditions for the use of household waste, industrial waste and waste tires for the cement production, in the local cement industry of Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The project gives opportunity for solid business models to motivate stakeholders to actively engage in efficient collection and re-use of processible waste, since waste can be treated as a valuable resource in Western Balkan Countries.

The following outcomes will contribute to achieving the project objectives:

1. Evaluating the potential of production and use of Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) / Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) in the cement industry;
2. Improving framework conditions for co-processing of waste as alternative fuel on local and national level by establishing an open dialogue and trust relationship with stakeholders;

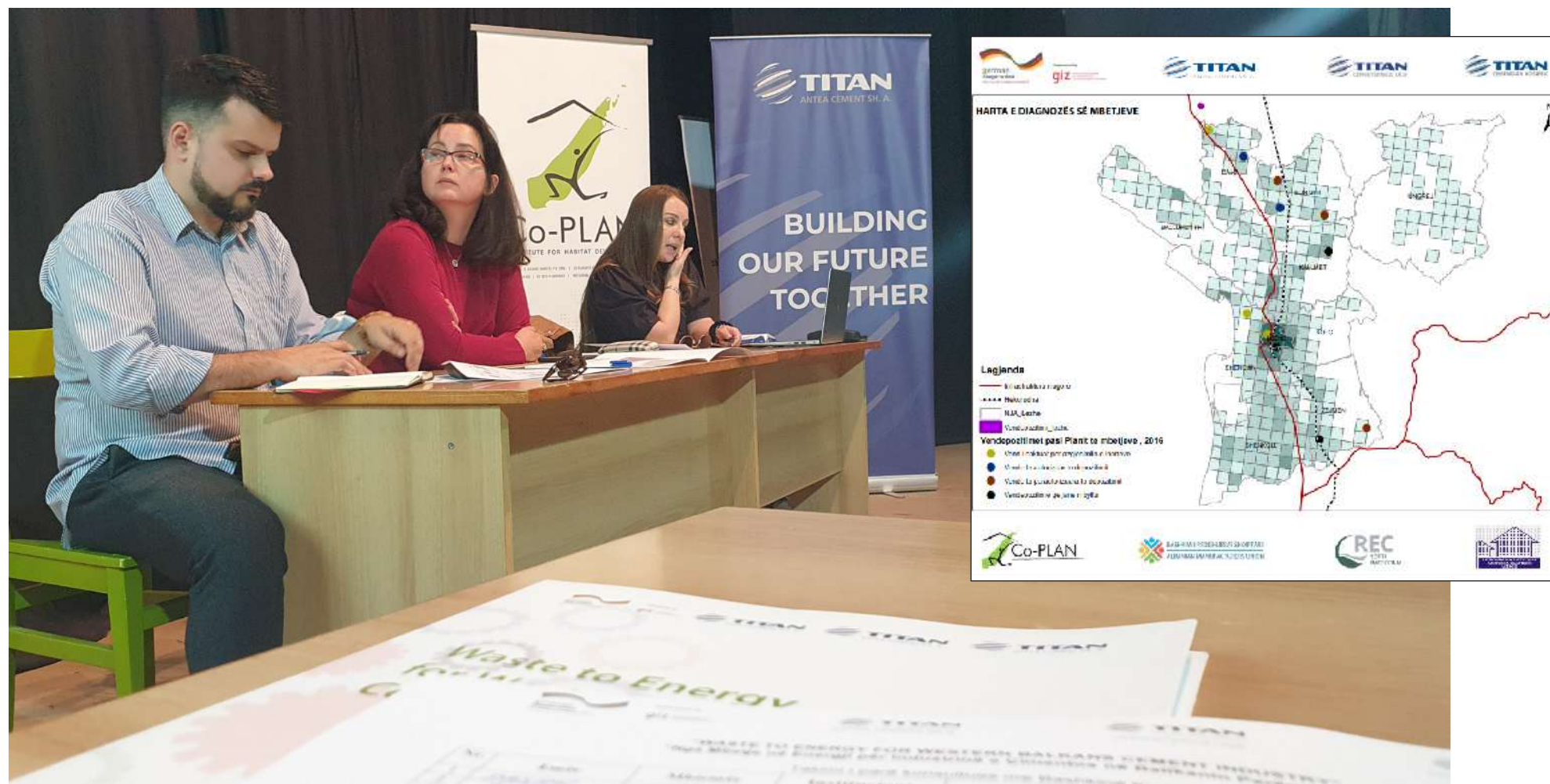
3. Raising awareness among the public on benefits of waste as alternative fuel;

4. Analyzing the establishment and utilization of the collection network for different waste streams.

Types of Services Provided

- A detailed market research to analyze the overall market potential and input availability of RDF within the countries;
- An open dialogue and trust relationship with local and central government on best state-of-the-art practices and knowledge transfer of technical and environmental standards related to co-processing of waste and monitoring emissions;
- Awareness raising campaigns targeting the local communities and local government to inform them about the economic and environmental advantages, possible risks and mitigations that differ burning fossil and alternative fuels;
- An analysis for the appropriate technology and location for RDF production in the region, financial and economic needs

- and investment risks for co-processing of alternative fuels, in order to allow for a cost-effective usage of different waste streams as RDF in the long-term.
- An analysis for the appropriate technology and location for RDF production in the region, financial and economic needs and investment risks for co-processing of alternative fuels, in order to allow for a cost-effective usage of different waste streams as RDF in the long-term.
- The TITAN Cement companies in Albania, Northern Macedonia and Serbia will provide technical and practical know-how, expertise and experience to implement effective and sustainable waste collection systems in accordance of actual laws in their countries of operations.



STRONG MUNICIPALITIES

Implementation Period: 06/2020 – 12/2020

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Fund: 29,900 EUR

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

Implemented in: Fier, Albania

This project was implemented in the Fier Region, specifically the municipality of Fier, Patos, Mallakastër, Lushnje, Divjakë within the Integrated Waste Management Component, and the beneficiaries are the residents of the administrative units since the aim is to improve the service related to waste management at a local level.

The project aimed to assist the 5 municipalities in these main components:

- *Integrated Waste Management;*
- *Expansion of the service area;*
- *Monitoring service performance;*
- *Increase of revenue from fee collection;*
- *Public information.*

Types of Services Provided

- Assist of local government actors on the adaptation of the Local Integrated Waste Management Plan, on all 5 municipalities.
- Monthly and 3-Monthly Reports on monitoring the performance of the waste management service on 5 municipalities



- Assist the municipalities on the Waste Management Tariff analysis and scenarios on better implementation of financial components.
- Waste Management Tariff Monitoring Reports
- Financial reports in the framework of local tariffs and waste management.
- Assist the municipalities in the framework of communication and better information of the public regarding the current situation of waste management by service providers, in order to reflect the situation in concrete acts.
- In the framework of the monitoring component, service monitoring templates were drafted (template for 1-month, 3-month) for the Municipal Council and the Mayor.
- In the public information component, an info-graphic information poster was prepared for each municipality.
- In the service expansion component, maps were created for the areas where the service will be expanded to calculate the number of new containers as well as the extension of the itinerary of waste service vehicles.



RDPA - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ALBANIA PHASE IV

Implementation Period: 04/2019 - 04/2023

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

Fund: 7.575.000,00 CHF

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

Implemented in: Albania

Regional Development Programme Albania IV (RDPA) is a project and joint continuous effort to support the Regional Development reform in Albania of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), implemented in partnership with the Government of Albania.

The main purpose of the RDPA programme is to reduce disparities in Albania by supporting the development of strong regions, so they can advance their potentials and provide better social and economic conditions for their citizens. As an effective regional policy for Albania is vital, both to tackle the historic regional disparities and to respond to the challenges of the modern knowledge economy, RDPA phase IV continues to support the Albanian Government in successfully setting up and implementing Regional policy. In this context the programme also aims to increase regional cohesion, reduce inequalities in resource utilization, productivity and social/environmental standards. This will increase management effectiveness and create an inclusive society with higher skills and better jobs for women and men.

Types of Services Provided

As a result, 3 main outputs are set for the implementing period of RDPA phase IV as following:

1. The central government successfully defines, coordinates and implements the institutional and legal framework for Regional Development. In this regard the program will:

- Provide support to the Government central institutions to coordinate, plan, monitor and evaluate Regional Development Policy application;
- Provide support to the Central Government institutions to coordinate and implement Regional Policy through a transparent and needs oriented financing mechanism;
- Support the international exposure of Regional Development of Albania.



2. The ADF as managing authority and other competent institutions and bodies for regional development, prepare and approve the Program frame for future use of EU funds and make effective and strategic use of increasing funds for the development of regions through partnership approach. As such, the Program will:

- Provide Support to the preparation process of Regional Development Planning and Programming documents through a participatory approach and strong reliance on partnership principle;
- Support the partnership mechanism and approach for strategic use of increasing funds for the development of regions;
- Support Regional Development bodies and institutions capacities to manage the implementation of Regional Development Policy.

3. The socio-economic conditions for Albanian citizens are improved through the implementation of Regional Development projects reflecting regional needs and priorities. As a result, the Program:

- Supports the Albanian Authorities capacities to establish a sound management and control system for managing public funds;
- Supports potential grant beneficiaries to improve their capacities to develop project proposals addressing regional competitiveness and cohesion needs;
- Supports Regional Development Units to strengthen their operational capacity to be engaged in preparation, implementation and monitoring of regional development grant schemes in partnership with national, regional and local level institutions.

Increasing employment opportunities for seasonal workers

Implementation Period: 01/03/2019 – 30/10/2020

Donor: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED)

Fund: 18,000 EURO

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

“Increasing Employment Opportunities for Seasonal Workers” project, implemented by NALED and GIZ, seeks to research on the existing framework of the engagement of workers on casual or temporary jobs of seasonal nature in three countries of the Western Balkans economies: Albania, North Macedonia and Montenegro. After a preliminary research study on seasonal workers in Albania (previously conducted by Co-PLAN - local experts in the first phase of the project in 2019, the results highlighted a certain potential for implementing the reform on increasing seasonal worker opportunities and streamline hiring of seasonal workers in Albania. For this reason, the research study conducted by Co-PLAN in this second phase, aimed at determining whether there was a need and potential to conduct reforms in the field of seasonal workers’ employment in Albania.

The local partners (Co-PLAN), through a comprehensive study, reflected the multidimensional approach and complexity of issues related to formalizing undeclared seasonal work in agriculture and tourism sectors in the country. The research study, being the very first one of its type in Albania, presents a clearer picture of the given situation, challenges, and opportunities related this specific labor type in Albania in the sectors of agriculture and tourism, and was the very first step towards reforming opportunities and new policy options for the seasonal employment system in the country.

Considering the immediate need to explore and give consideration in the employment system in Albania concerning the relatively high level of seasonal employment, this study was made possible by a joint and continuous effort between experts, advisors, and the relevant institutional representatives in Albania, through a very intensive participatory process, even though the most of the preparatory and research work was done under pandemic restrictions of Covid-19. During this analysis, the working team analyzed and evaluated different aspects concerning the employment system in Albania, from provisions of the legal framework to seasonal workers in numbers, registrations, and taxation systems as well as a thorough evaluation of the possible reforms.

As such reforming seasonal employment both horizontally and vertically for the agriculture and tourism sector separately, the working team provided general recommendations to be implemented in both sectors and a range of “policy elements” for each part of the reform (registration system, taxation & needed restrictions).

Final product of the project was the drafting of the recommended policy options for each sector to be considered and discussed with the Albanian Government to effectively and efficiently tackle the seasonal work reform in the country.

Note: The study gave specific attention to sustainability, gender equality issues and rights of the grass root and unrepresented communities, as women and minorities are most often undeclared seasonal workers.



LOCAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION PROJECT AND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL DATA PORTAL: OPEN GOVERNANCE IS ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE - LËVIZ ALBANIA

Implementation Period: 2014 – 2019 & 2016-2019 & 2019 – 2023 for “The Municipal Financial Data Portal”

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Fund: 6.600.000 CHF & 147,220.00 CHF for “The Municipal Financial Data Portal”

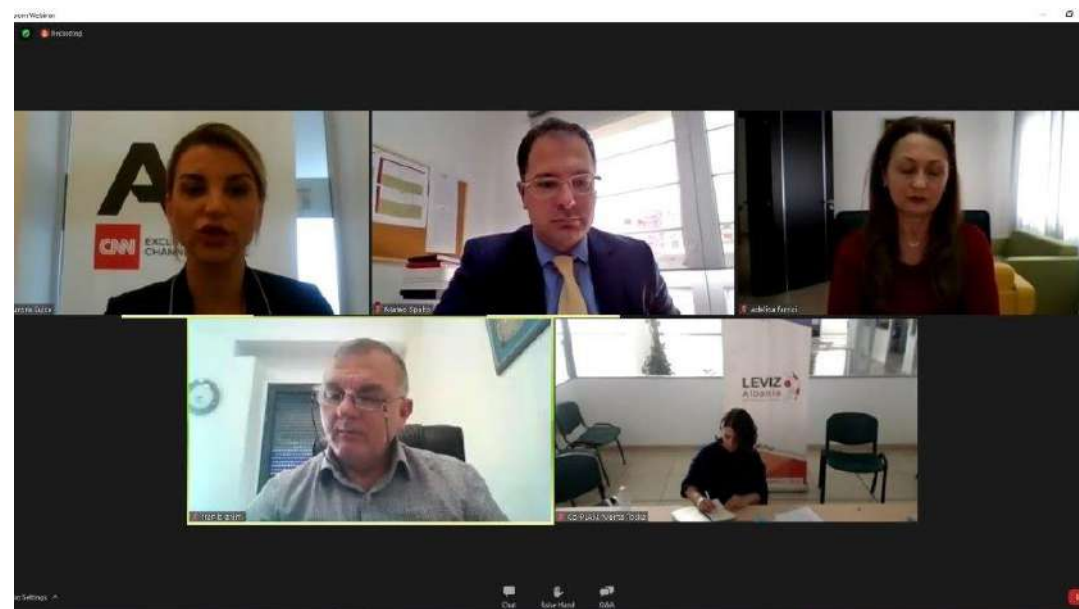
Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Open Society Foundation Albania (OSFA), Partners Albania.

Implemented in: 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 supports the project, aims to have a catalytic impact on the local democracy in Albania, through support to various drivers of change, such as 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: 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 and 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



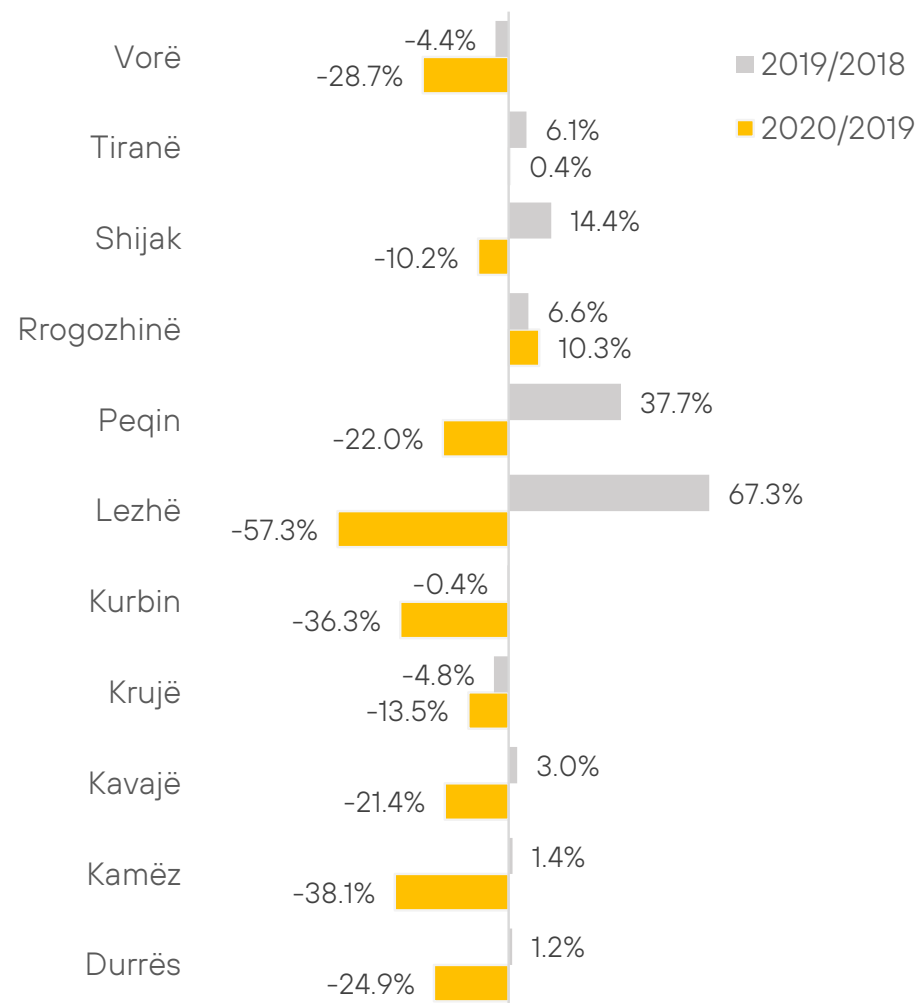
ability of public institutions to supply good governance. The expected result is a vast increase in citizen engagement and oversight of local governance leading to far greater transparency, accountability and improved public services.

As a strategic instrument that is being used for this project is: “The Municipal Financial Data Portal: Open Governance is Accountable Governance”.

In order to increase transparency in how local authorities manage local finances, the first systematic and easily accessible platform, www.financatvendore.al, was established in 2015. The platform, which started as a cooperation between Co-PLAN, OSFA & the Ministry of Finances, and later supported by LevizAlbania, aimed at informing stakeholders such as CSOs, media, citizens, institutions of the financial system, the municipalities themselves, research institutes, universities on how public funds are used. Currently, the municipal data platform offers a complete picture on the status of local finances: revenues - how much in taxes and tariffs is paid by citizens, and expenditures – how money is used in each municipality.

Since its establishment, a continuous work is being carried out in the enrichment, update, automation and population of the platform. This instrument enables different categories of users to access reliable, timely and real data on revenues sources of municipalities and on how they are allocating and spending the available financial resources. This allows for indepen-

dent monitoring of municipal financial performance, increasing transparency and accountability, thereby improving the positive pressure for effective and efficient public service delivery.



DIALOGUE FOR INCLUSIVE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

Implementation Period: 06/01/2020 - 06/07/2023

Donor: European Union

Fund: 1,000,000 EUR

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development and European Policy Center (EPC)

Implemented in: Albania

The proposed action, builds on the assumption that strengthening engagement and dialogue among state and non-state actors is crucial to the successful undertaking and implementation of the reform processes in Albania. This will require political will and actual opportunities and effective ways for the relevant actors to cooperate.

The Commissions latest strategy on the region and 2018 Report on Albania clearly point out, the country has demonstrated limited progress (and political will) with regard to important five sector reforms. More specifically, Albania has to step up its efforts in addressing: specific sector challenges, including the de-politisation and professional development of its public administration, the reform of the judicial system, the fight against corruption and organized crime, and the protection of human rights, minority rights, and property rights.

On an overall objective level, the proposed action aims to contribute to the improvement of public policy dialogue in Albania by strengthening policy dialogue in reform processes and by facilitating engagement and dialogue between central and local state institutions and non-state actors. It is in full compliance with the call's overall objective, and it addresses the need for more qualified non-state actors and increased involvement in the policy reforming processes.

The project aims to:

- Facilitate interaction and collaboration between state actors and non-state actors and support structured and evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes.
- Establish a capacity development platform to support non-state actors in areas related to public policy formulation, policy budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

- Set up a communication and learning platform on policy dialogue, to drive policymaking efforts, promote results, good practices, lesson learned, and continuous improvements.



SPARKING ACTIVISM INITIATIVES LOCALLY - SAIL

Implementation Period: 07/2020 - 12/2021

Donor: US Embassy in Tirana

Fund: 203,401,20 USD

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania

SAIL builds on the bequest of the 2016 initiated 'Kindle Advocacy' project, and tackles the need for the newly emerging activists and civil society organizations to articulate evidence-based responses in influencing policy-making in pressing issues related to governance, democracy, city-making, rights, and similar issues that shape and affect the lives of citizens in both urban and rural areas. The project aims to cultivate and boost the internal capacities of local CSOs and young activists to monitor, analyze, and undertake concrete steps/actions through an integral approach, providing the target groups

with both capacity development and advocating experience. A tailored capacity development program is envisioned in the form of workshops and coaching components, covering numerous core themes, pertinent to the aforementioned issues. **In the process the participants will have improved:**

- Their understanding of policymaking processes;
- Their knowledge of how to engage in policymaking and policy-influencing processes including monitoring, analysing, 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.

In the process, all the project findings and results, in the form of policy briefs, recommendations, and awareness raising campaigns are and will be used for influencing policy-making and policy-implementation of the actual causes of the participating organizations and activists, in structured moments such is the National Activism Day (NAD 2020, NAD 2021), and any other occasions viewed appropriate by the participants.

The project aims to:

- Strengthen internal capacities of local CSOs and young activists to monitor, analyses, and undertake concrete steps/actions related to policy making in the policy areas related to governance, democracy, city-making, rights, etc.
- Promote and spread the culture of activism and advocacy by facilitating interaction and collaboration between activists, civil society organisations, media, researchers, etc.) and support structured and evidence-based policy dialogue in pressing issues and important democracy and governance processes.

WSOS PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Implementation period: 15.10.2017 - 15.12.2021

Donor: U.S Department State


Fund: 33,027 USD

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

Implemented in: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia.

Co-PLAN coordinates the Professional 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.



2020

Virtual GLC Alumni REUNION

Covid-19 and Social Justice

"The future of Activism in Unpredictable Times"


Friday, September 11, 2020
5:30pm Albania, Hungary, Slovakia;
6:30pm Bulgaria, Romania,
11:30am U.S. EST.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING


Meeting ID: 892 7434 6358

Hosted by Esmerina Hidri, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Albania and Veronika Streclova, Center for Community Organizing, Slovakia

Master of Ceremony
Vladislav Petkov





Olga Popescu



Brian Silva



Tara Parrish



Hector Vaca



2020

Virtual GLC Alumni REUNION

Covid-19 and Social Justice

"Difficult Times require Innovative Solutions"

Thursday, September 10, 2020
5:30pm Albania, Hungary, Slovakia;
6:30pm Bulgaria, Romania,
11:30am U.S. EST.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

Meeting ID: 823 9286 7733

Hosted by Esmerina Hidri, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Albania and Veronika Streclova, Center for Community Organizing, Slovakia

Master of Ceremony
Dave Beckwith (Toledo, OH)




Janice El-Amin



Lew Finfer



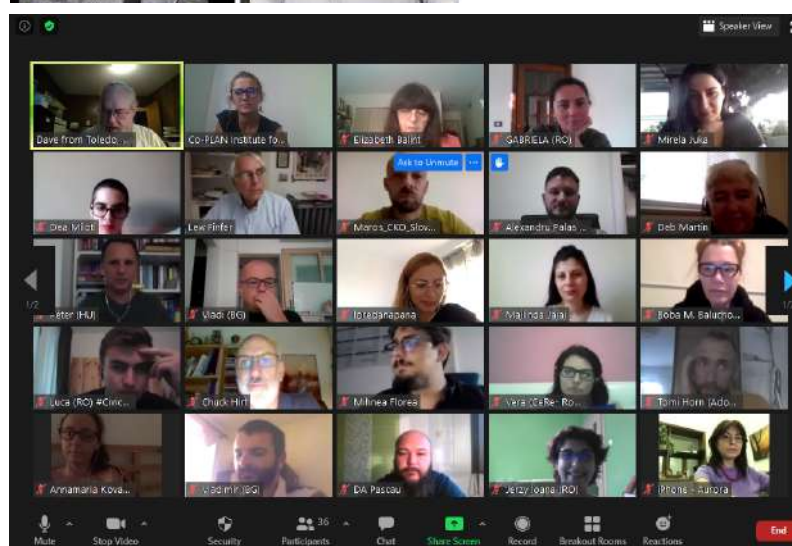
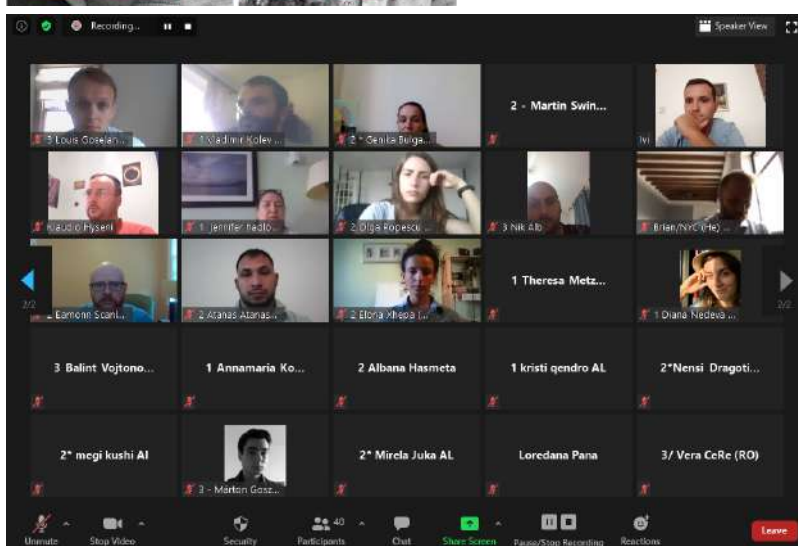
Maryana Borisova



Maros Chmelik



Dave Beckwith (Toledo, OH)



our publications



Annual Review of Territorial Governance in the Western Balkans is a periodical publication with select policy briefs on matters related to territorial governance, sketching the present situation, the Europeanisation process, the policy and the research and development agenda for the near future. The publication targets policy-makers and policy-influencing actors.

You can download the full material [here](#).



COVID-19 Success Stories Heroes

From the Ones who respond in difficult times

Edited by Elizabeth Balint
And Esmerina Hidri

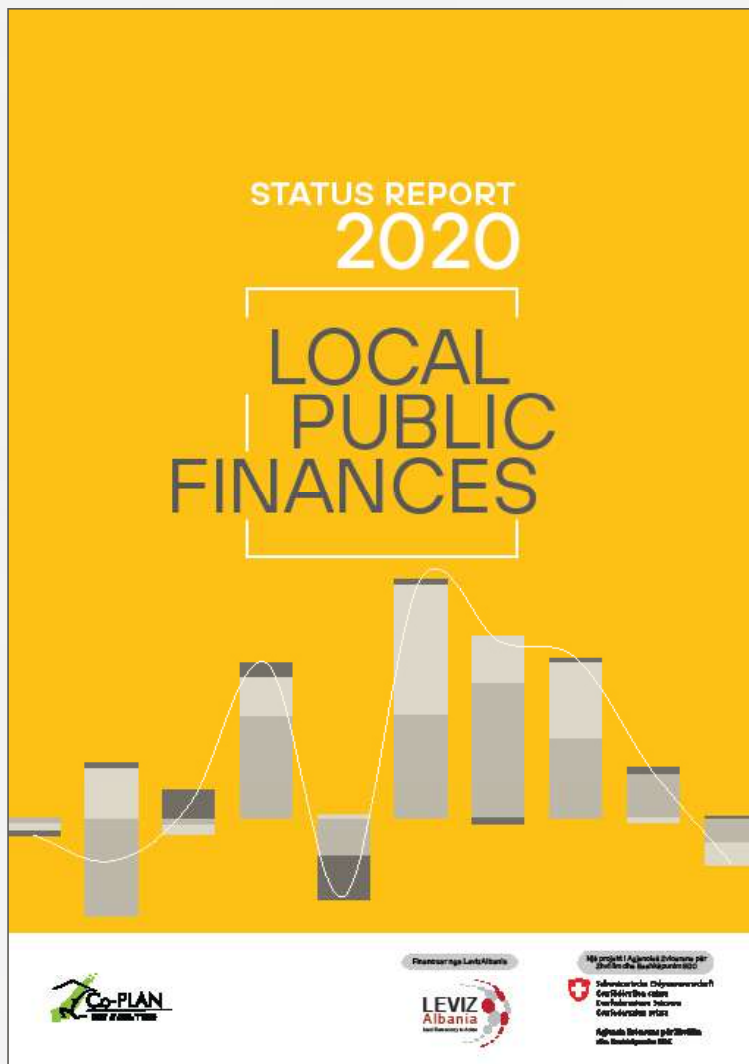
September 2020

“COVID Heroes” is a book of successful stories during the pandemic, and showing of appreciation for all our Alumni form Professional Fellowship Program, that yearn for transformation within themselves and across communities”.

The impact of the pandemic and all the challenges that we are faced with as part of our communities has us all made to shift into thinking and acting in distance, exploring innovative approaches to spark changes, while also taking care of one another.

“COVID Heroes” is full of inspiration, practical wisdom based in brave, thoughtful and collaborative efforts. We hope that it will be useful to people trying to respond to real crises through creative solutions that actually seek to build stronger communities.

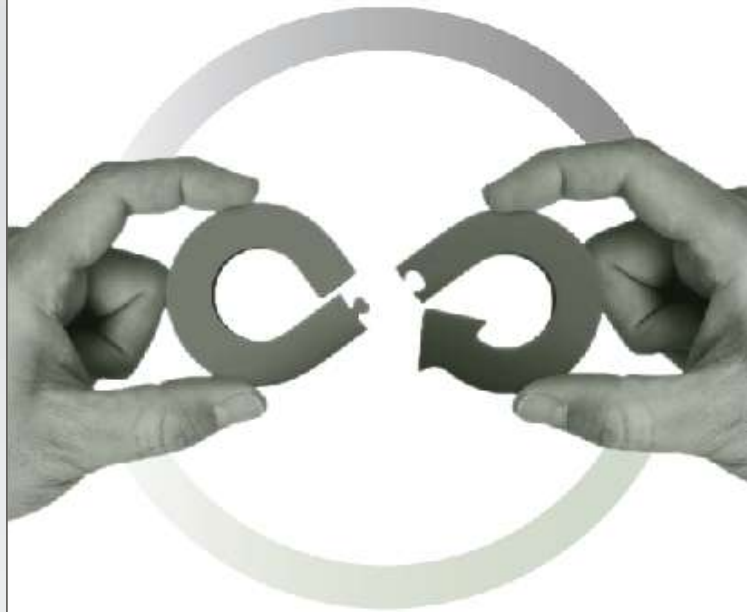
You can download the full material [here](#).



The “**Status Report on Local Public Finances for 2020**” offers a comprehensive insights into funding sources and their use by 61 municipalities in the country. This report summarizes the key findings and challenges faced by municipalities in the time of COVID-19 pandemic during 2020.

You can download the full material [here](#).

CIRCULAR ECONOMY REGIONAL REPORT



The transformation from a linear economy to a circular economy enables a more ecological use of natural resources, low carbon emissions, energy savings, and environmental protection, given that natural resources are depleting at a rapid pace as the world population grows.

The “**Circular Economy Regional Report**” consists of the continuation of the steps taken until 2020 by the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the context of the Circular Economy, followed by the relevant recommendations to improve the current situation.

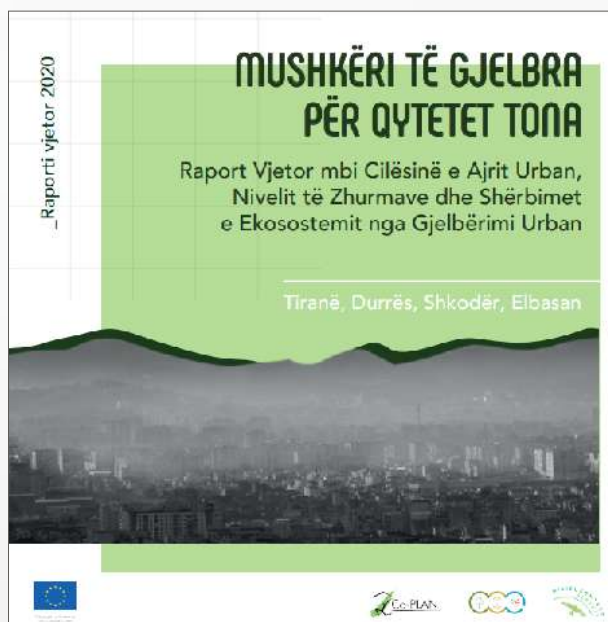
You can download the full material [here](#).



Green Lungs Report for our cities based on the Air and Noise Quality Monitoring campaign at Bus Stations has been an effective way to mobilize and address a public concern with one main goal: that of preserving and protecting the environment.

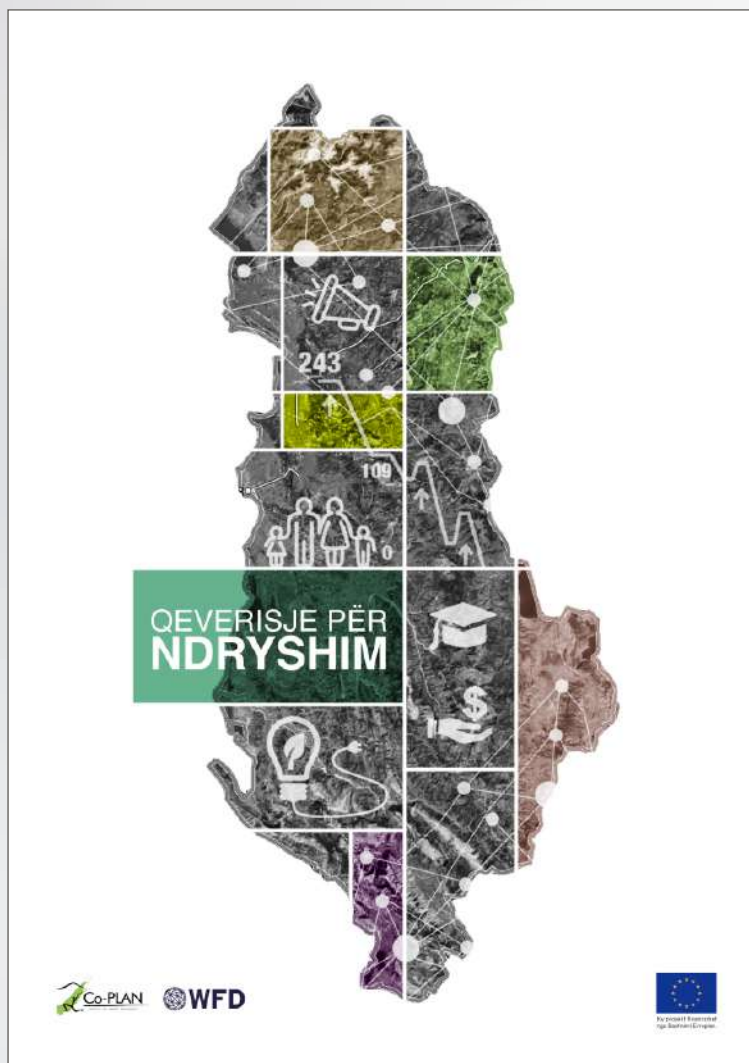
This campaign of this nature not only serves to better understand the current situation of air and noise quality, but also helps in educating the public on the effects caused by air pollution issues and the level of noise pollution.

You can download the full material [here](#).



The bulletin of 2020 is dedicated to the second consecutive publication of the project “Green Lungs for Our Cities”. The implementation of this project started in 2018 addressing Air & Noise Pollution and Urban Greenery Reduction in Albania, as an environmental concern. This environmental concern is accompanied by a number of challenges within the field of environment, starting from a misunderstanding of environmental reforms, which is associated with issues that require the strengthening of legislation, increasing the advocacy capacity of civil society organizations to exert pressure on policy-makers, to take measures against climate adaptation and urban pollution.

You can download the full material [here](#).



The “**Governance for Change: Proposals from Civil Society**” document contains proposals for change with a focus on economic and regional development; governance and decentralization; education, research and media; environment, energy and climate change; health and food safety; human rights, youth, art and culture.

You can download the full materia [here](#).

ANALYSIS OF SEASONAL WORKERS ENGAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM IN ALBANIA



The labor market in Albania is governed by the Labor Law, which does not recognize seasonal work as a specific form of labor engagement but views it as a part-time job.

Considering the immediate need to explore and give consideration in the employment system in Albania concerning the relatively high level of seasonal employment, a thorough analysis was undertaken during March – October 2020 by a joint and continuous effort between experts, advisors, and the relevant institutional representatives.

During this analysis, the working team analyzed and evaluated different aspects concerning the employment system and specifically seasonal/temporary employment in Albania, from provisions of the legal framework to seasonal workers in numbers, registrations, and taxation systems as well as a thorough evaluation of the possible reforms.

You can download the full material [here](#).

POLICY PAPER

**BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS IN ALBANIA: LEGAL AND
INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES**

Dr. Rudina Toto | Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

6 May 2020

This study builds on a questionnaire addressed to all municipalities in the country during April, to gather information on the current and future role of public and non-public actors at the local level, to address the crisis that accompanies COVID-19 pandemic, including the challenges these actors face and their needs.

The results and in-depth analyses of this study aim to influence policy-making and the decentralization process in addressing crises, to help strengthen the civil protection system at the local level, and to advocate on behalf of local government for the role and needs of local actors in crisis management.

You can download the full material [here](#).



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Annual
Report
2020