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ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Annual Report 2021

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table of content

projects 2021

| |
|--|
| (pg 10 - 13) |
| WBC-RRI.net- Embedding Responsible Research and Innovation in Western Balkan Countries: Enhancement of Self-Sustaining Research and Innovation Ecosystems |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>WBC.RRI-NET - Future Scenarios Workshop</i> |
| (pg 14 - 16) |
| Strengthening Municipal Disaster Risk Management Data in Albania |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>A series of workshops on DRM dataset with municipal administration</i> |
| (pg 17 -19) |
| Preparationof the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plan in the Municipality of Lezha |
| (pg 20) |
| Sustainable Farming - 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 |
| (pg 21 - 23) |
| Social Housing Strategy - Support Ministry of Finance and Economy Conducting the Midterm Review of the Social Housing Strategy (SHS) and its Action Plan and for Designing of Social Housing Municipal PlansLevel |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Raising Awareness on Regional Development</i> |
| (pg 24 - 34) |
| Regional Development Programme Albania phase IV |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Regional Development Awareness Campaign</i> |
| <i>Supporting Municipalities with Regional Development</i> |
| <i>Capacity Building for Local Governments - an ongoing set of trainings</i> |
| <i>Successfully completed Municipal Initiatives supported by RDPA</i> |
| (pg 35 - 38) |
| EU4M - EU for Municipalities |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Launching of the EU4M Promoting and Supporting Municipal Potential</i> |
| <i>Support to Municipalities for Local Economic Development</i> |
| (pg 39 - 45) |
| Green Lungs for Our Cities - Alternative and Bottom-Up Monitoring Platform for Air Quality,Noise Pollution and Urban Greenery for Policy Influencing at Localc Level |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>"Green Lungs for Our Cities"Third National Conference</i> |

| |
|---|
| (pg 46 - 50) |
| W2E - Waste to Energy for Western Balkans Cement Industry |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Municipal Solid Waste as an Alternative Fuel</i> |
| <i>National Working Group Consultations</i> |
| (pg 41 - 57) |
| Green-AL - Empower Grass-Root CSOs for Improved Innovative Environmental Protection in Albania |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Mobilising regional interest</i> |
| <i>Assessing Needs among environmental civic actors</i> |
| <i>Supporting Civic Actors in Advocating and Policy-influencing</i> |
| <i>Thematic trainings for CSOs</i> |
| (pg 58 - 63) |
| ideAL - Dialogue for Inclusive Evidence-Based Policy Development in Albania |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Enhancing Knowledge and skills of the ideAL Sub-Grantees</i> |
| <i>"Albania's Race to the EU: Views from the Pit Stop</i> |
| <i>National Forum "Governance for Change: Civil Society Proposals"</i> |
| (pg 64 - 81) |
| SAIL - Sparking Activism Initiatives Locally |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Sparks Online Workshops- Sparks are Introduced to the Program through Workshops</i> |
| <i>Local activism, the focus of #NAD2021</i> |
| (pg 82 - 84) |
| WSOS - Professional Fellows Program |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Alumni of the 'Professional Fellows Program' from Albania Reunion</i> |
| (pg 85 - 86) |
| Municipal Finances and Citizen Perception on Local Services |
| <i>Highlights</i> |
| <i>Local Public Finances Forum 2021</i> |
| (pg 87 - 88) |
| Better Employment Conditions for Seasonal Workers in Albania and Kosovo |
| (pg 89) |
| <i>publications 2021</i> |
| <i>supported projects highlights</i> |
| (pg 90- 92) |
| <i>Workshop on Future Scenarios for the EUSAIR and EUSDR regions, TEVI2050 (ESPON)</i> |
| <i>YA AESOP Conference 'Governing the Unknown: Adaptive Spatial Planning in the Age of Uncertainty'</i> |

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 Influencin

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



Dritan Shutina
Executive Director



Rudina Toto
Program Manager



Anila Bejko
Project Manager



Ogerta Gjikhuri
Head of Finance



Aida Ciro
Head of Acquisition and Strategic Communication



Merita Toska
Expert in Economic Development and Finance



Rodion Gjoka
Head of the Urban Environmental Management Unit



Kejt Dhrami
Head of the Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Unit



Ledjo Allkja
Spatial and Urban Planning Expert



Imeldi Sokoli
Urban Planner



Fiona Imami
Research Analysts



Gert Delli
Urban Planner



Rigon Harxhi
Research Assistant



Pranvera Rira
Executive Assistant



Rea Muka
Junior GIS and Planning Expert



Klesta Galanxhi
Multimedia Expert



Besmir Geziqi
Risk Assessment Expert



Anisa Doko
Finance / Project Assistant



Paola Zhamo
Junior Environmental Expert



Esmerina Hidri
Research Assistant



Altion Qirko
Logistics



Elvis Ndreka
Environmental Engineer



Androniqi Nini
Project / Finance Assistant



Erni Kocani
Environmental Expert



Drone imagery of the coastal area in Lezhe, showcasing the role of dunes against erosion

WBC.RRI-NET Future Scenarios Workshop

During 2021 we kickstarted our Horizon Project WBC.RRI-NET, where we conducted the primary mapping excercises on our anchor location in the Kune-Vaini lagoon ecosystem, by mapping:

- R&I and RRI actors
- Practices and Initiatives that promote R&I/S3
- Territorial policies adopted by authorities and policymakers for R&I/S3 development
- Territorial opportunities and territorial challenges in the form of a SWOT analysis.

Capitalizing on this process, the project consortium organized a 'Future Scenario Workshop', where all project partners reflected and presented arguments towards the institutional and territorial transformations they want to achieve out of the RRI 'anchor' initiatives in the respective territory. This was followed by a co-formulation of a future RRI-related vision, which are to be validated with regional stakeholders during 2022.

The workshop was organized online, through the Miro platform, and the results are expected to be published on a Working paper on future 2024 scenarios.

Screenshot of participants in online Future Scenarios Workshop



Strengthening Municipal Disaster Risk Management Data in Albania

Implementation Period: February 2021 - December 2021
Donor: World Bank Albania
Fund: 49,500 \$
Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development
Implemented in: Municipality of Vora, Municipality of Shkodra

Co-PLAN, in close collaboration with the National Agency of Civil Protection, provided a set of activities for reinforcing data management for disaster resilience; while also providing a methodology for standardizing the dataset and to improve institutional coordination, in compliance with national legislation and the SENDAI framework.

The project focused on 4 main components: Assessment of municipal data availability and legal framework; Capacity Building for all Municipalities; Intensified capacity building for pilot municipalities (Vora and Shkodra); and Guidance Note and Stakeholder Workshop for DRM data.

In more detail, Co-PLAN carried out the following actions:

- Preparation of desk study of international and national documents; Interviews with National Stakeholders

- Interviews with local stakeholders (8 municipalities)
- Preparation of Final Assessment Report of current situation of disaster data management
- Joint Meeting/ Workshop with NCAP, ASIG, WBG and Training of all 61 Albanian Municipalities in DRM and Albanian Legal Framework
- Training of all municipalities on DRM data and methods of data collection
- Training of all municipalities on DRM data and GIS, digitizing, geotagging, and transferring in national platforms
- Training of all municipalities on DRM data management, updating and reporting
- Stocktaking and analysis of existing data; Support municipalities of Vore and Shkodër to gather data from the national level

- Support municipalities of Vore and Shkodër to collect data through participatory methods with the community (preparation of questionnaire templates with community, field visit inspection templates
- Support municipalities of Vore and Shkodër in digitizing existing and new data (on the Job training for GIS)
- Support Municipalities of Vore and Shkodër in populating GIS database
- Train Municipalities of Vore and Shkodër on periodical updating of data and data management

- Train Municipalities of Vore and Shkodër to prepare yearly monitoring reports (report template and data update)

During the project Co-PLAN provided support for all municipalities in Albania, continuous on the job training for the Municipalities of Vore and Shkodër on DRM data, and designed a Guideline for creating, unifying and maintaining DRM data at local level, which serves as support for all municipalities in designing their DRR strategies.

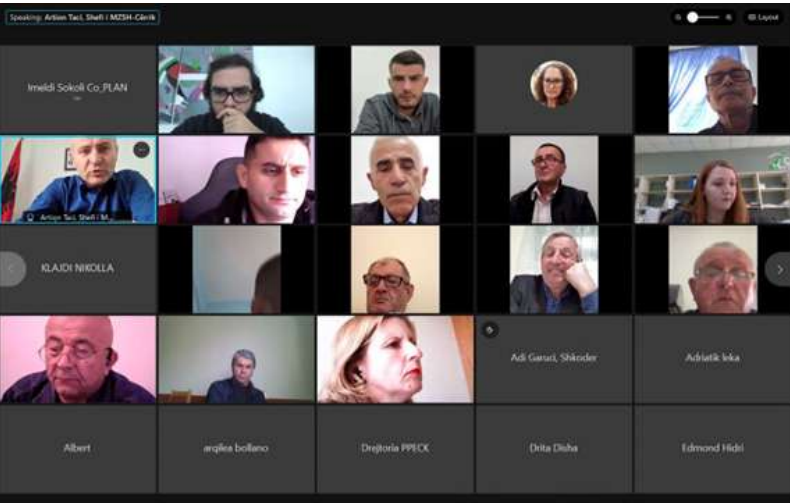
A series of workshops on DRM dataset with municipal administration

During the period October-November 2021, Co-PLAN conducted a series of (online) trainings with all municipalities of Albania with focus on disaster risk management data. The trainings were organized in the framework of the project 'Strengthening Municipal Disaster Risk Management Data in Albania', supported by the World Bank Albania. The 5 consecutive training sessions focused on:

- Introduction to main DRM principles and key findings from the project
- General overview of the Civil Protection legislation and institutional framework on Disaster Risk Management in Albania
- Training on DRM Datasets at national and local level
- GIS application for DRM and use of geospatial data
- DRM data reporting and monitoring

The trainings were organized with the support of the National Agency for Civil Protection and included the presence of municipal staff from all 61 municipalities, from the directories of civil protection, finance, urban planning and public services. The approach encouraged horizontal knowledge transfer on disaster resilience and capacitated the local government in developing hazard and risk assessments, and monitoring them in international platforms, such as DesInventar; InformIndex, etc.

Screenshot of participants in DRM online workshop



Preparation of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plan in the Municipality of Lezha

Implementation Period: January 2020 - March 2021
Donor: UNDP - Albania
Fund: 110,000 \$ (60,000\$ + 50,000\$ Co-Financing)
Implemented by: MetroPOLIS and Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development
Implemented in: Municipality of Lezhë, Albania

This project aimed to support the municipality of Lezha in preparing a DRR Plan, strategy and a Civil Emergency Plan. The pilot project was developed in 2020 and was finalized during 2021, thus becoming the first plan of its kind prepared for local authorities in Albania, pursuant to the legal changes of the Civil Protection sector in 2018.

The Municipality of Lezha faces numerous risks of geological, meteorological and hydrological nature, such as earthquakes, landslides, rockfalls, wildfires, snowstorms, windstorms, riverine and coastal flooding, impacting the socio-economic and physical capital in considerable way. The territory is even more vulnerable to climate change effects, due to the exposed coastal area, and the protected lagoon sites. On top of that, the pandemic situation impacted the healthcare and social conditions of the most peripheric settlements the most. In this context, the project aimed at developing an assessment of all territorial hazards, their exposure and the social, environmental, physical and cultural vulnerability; set out strategic priorities for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into Lezha's development plan; and preparing the local civil emergency plan, as per legal dispositions. The project

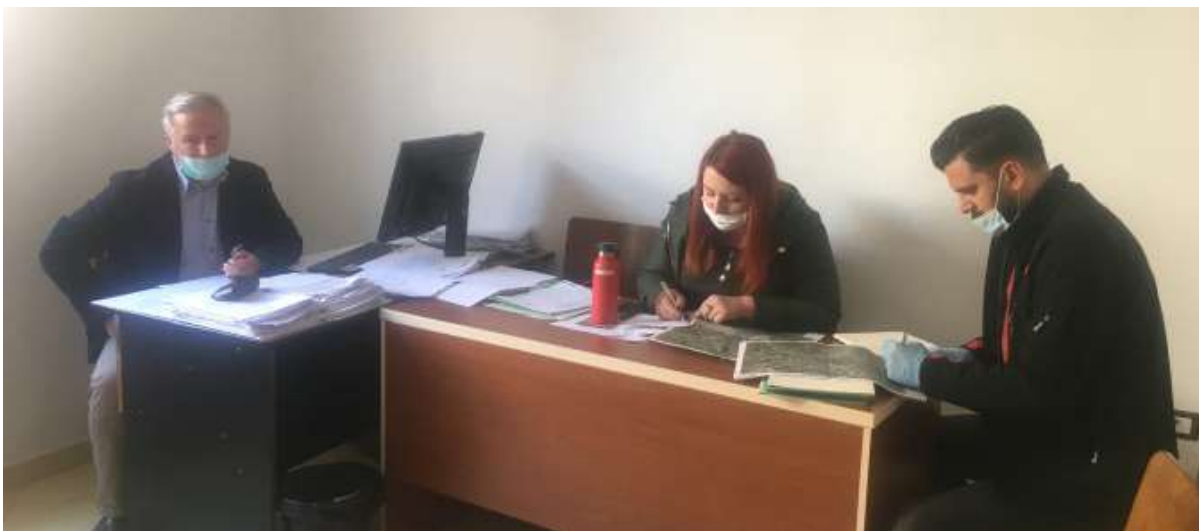
was designed to support the Municipality of Lezha and its newly established civil emergency directory to enhance risk-informed development and foster resilience. The risk assessment was carried out through various methods, by triangulating information from different primary and secondary sources: Direct observations; semi-structured interviews; participatory risk mapping; thematic focus groups; participatory design of risk seasonal and historic calendars.

During 2021, Co-PLAN and MetroPOLIS finalized and published the following products:

- Risk Assessment Report (including GIS database)
- DRR Strategy
- Civil Protection Plan
- A methodology for developing DRR strategies, to be replicated in other municipalities
- A progress report on the methodology carried out by the consultants

All materials are available at the [UNDP Albania website](#).

Project team on a number of sites visits, in the municipality of Lezha.



Sustainable Farming

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: July 2020 - July 2022

Donor: IADSA- Albania

Fund: 42,160,632.00 ALL

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

Implemented in: Municipality of Lushnje

This initiative is led by the Municipality of Lushnje in partnership with Co-PLAN, and seeks to Support sustainable, local development and promote green economy based on livestock farming and trading activity in the Municipality of Lushnje.

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.

The expected results of the intervention are:

- Market and trading conditions for agricultural products are enhanced
- Improved Food Security for livestock products is promoted
- Education and innovation for livestock farming activity is induced through creative, network-oriented activities

- Local economic development is improved by increasing jobs in the livestock farming sector and related business
- Green economy is promoted with focus on livestock waste management and energy efficient design

The proposed project has been designed with sustainability as a fundamental guiding principle, and as such purposely adopts an environmentally conscious approach. It will benefit a wide array of local stakeholders, like: residents of the Municipality of Lushnje; farmers in the region; educational institutions; veterinarians specialized in livestock products; residents of the Administrative Unit of Bubullime; local business operators; consumers of meat products in the region; etc.

During 2021, Co-PLAN supported the Municipality in designing and implementing the livestock market facility, and on different dissemination and outreach activities.

Social Housing Strategy

Support Ministry of Finance and Economy Conducting the Midterm Review of the Social Housing Strategy (SHS) and its Action Plan and for Designing of Social Housing Municipal Plans

Implementation Period: September 2020 - March 2021

Donor: UNDP - Albania

Fund: 6,615,605.00 ALL

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

Implemented in: Albania

During 2021 Co-PLAN, in consortium with MetroPOLIS, completed the project 'Support MFE in conducting the Mid-Term review of the Social Housing Strategy and its Action Plan and for designing Social Housing Municipal Plans'. Following legal requirements and the recommendations of the strategy itself, MetroPOLIS and Co-PLAN supported 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, 4 municipal social housing plans namely "5-year Social Housing Program" were drafted, in the Municipalities of Vlora,

Vau-Dejës, Përmet and Korçë. These plans were 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. Subsequently, Co-PLAN and UNDP also supported the Municipality of Tirana in drafting its Social Housing 5-year Program during 2021

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 Municipal Social Housing Plan

Guidelines for Municipal Housing Plans in four municipalities

During 2021, Co-PLAN and MetroPOLIS supported Ministry of Finance and Economy (Directory of Housing) in reviewing the National Social Housing Strategy, and in developing the first 4 Municipal Housing Plans according to the new legislation on Social Housing, through the UNDP Project 'Leave No One Behind'. In this framework, Co-PLAN developed a Guideline for Drafting Municipal Housing Plans, to support all municipalities in this new regulatory context. The Guideline was presented to all 61 municipalities during October 2021, in a consultancy process organized by MoFE for the New Government Program 2021-2025.

The Guideline is an assisting tool for local authorities in Albania to identify social housing needs and financial and operational

programming to address these needs, pursuant to Law no. 22/2018 'On social housing'. It therefore, helps the municipalities to design their 5-year Social Housing Programmes, as a mandatory instrument based on legal provisions in force, by also addressing cross-cutting issues, such as peripherality evaluation; risk assessment for hazard prone housing; and application of innovative instruments for development financing.

This guideline was also presented as best practice at the Centre for Excellence Centre of Excellence on Sustainable and Resilient Settlements, established by Co-PLAN, jointly with UNECE in 2021.

The Guideline can be accessed [here](#).



Regional Development Programme Albania phase IV

Implementation Period: April 2019 - April 2023
 Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 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 a 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.

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.
2. The ADF as managing authority and other competent institutions and bodies for regional development, prepare and approve the Programme frame for future use of EU funds and make effective and strategic use of increasing funds for the development of regions through partnership approach.
3. The socio-economic conditions for Albanian citizens are improved through the implementation of Regional Development projects reflecting regional needs and priorities.

Raising Awareness on Regional Development

Discussions on Regional Development in Albania have started since 2007 but only in 2018 the Regional Development policy began to take a completely new direction which is manifested by the approval of the first law regarding regional development in Albania. Law no. 102/2020 'On Regional Development and Cohesion'. This law reflects the complexity and dimensions of regional development and cohesion policy, which divides sectors, promotes a multidisciplinary approach and encompasses many levels of decision-making and jurisdiction, with a focus on a territorial approach.

Based on the latter, the Albanian Development Fund, a key partner in the implementation of RD reform in Albania, with the support of RDPA, since December 2020 took the initiative to hold a series of meetings in 12 regions of the country as part of the awareness raising campaign for RD with institutional and non-institutional actors. This campaign is essentially guided by the "Inform – Communicate – Listen – Reflect" approach to address the needs of sustainable and balanced development through a system that enables the implementation of the Regional Development and Cohesion Policy.

This awareness campaign started meeting with the actors in the Kukes Qark, on December 17, 2020, and followed by meetings week after week in all 12 Qarks of the country. With special attention to the situation caused by the COV-19 pandemic, meetings were organized in 2 or more sessions per Qark, dividing the actors into 2 significant interest groups between institutional actors (representatives of municipalities, de-concentrated institutions, and qark representatives) and non-institutional actors (business representatives, civil society, NGOs and academia).

Participants in these meetings, have assessed this initiative as a first step of recognition and further cooperation between actors for regional development and cohesion and an important step for discussion regarding Regional Monitoring Boards of RD in the future. During the meetings, a special place in the discussion was given to re-discuss local issues and suggestions for the creation of synergies in the region, as a positive approach taken by investments within the cohesion policy.



Supporting Municipalities with Regional Development Initiatives (2nd round)

On July 15th, 2021 RDPA launched the Second Grant Scheme targeting all municipalities of the Country. The Grant Scheme was prepared in alignment with the "Programme for Integrated and Sustainable Development of 100+ Villages of Albania 2022-2026" implemented by ADF, as the objectives of "100 villages" programme contribute to the RDPA objectives.

The scope and nature of the second Grant Scheme on Regional Development and Cohesion focused on regional development dimensions and encouragement of institutions and partners to collaborate through inter-municipal projects and/or projects with a clear regional development impact.

While the Grant Scheme had a 2 step approach till the final evaluation, 61 applications were delivered within the 20th of August 2021 in the "concept note" phase, out of which 55 were delivered by Municipalities. Based on the number of applications received, it is of outmost importance to highlight the high rate of participation by Municipalities with a total of 83%. Out of the evaluation, 20 Municipalities were preselected, to continue in writing the full project proposal. In the early January of 2022, the winning projects are expected to start with the implementation of the projects.



RDPA Second Grant Scheme lunching event



Capacity Building for Local Governments - an ongoing set of trainings

During July 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RDPA and Albanian School of Public Administration-ASPA, which will start in preparing and delivering a set of training which will enable to support and increase the capacities of the municipalities of the country to access and use efficiently and effectively the development funds, especially those of the EU.

In this framework, during September - November 2021, the first round of trainings on "Project cycle Management", was successfully finalized in the 4 Regions, with participation of all Municipalities of the country. Continuing with this successful practice, trainings on "Feasibility Study", "PRAG Rules", "Environmental Impact Assessment" etc, are expected to start in the beginning of 2022.



RDPA team and participants of the first round of trainings





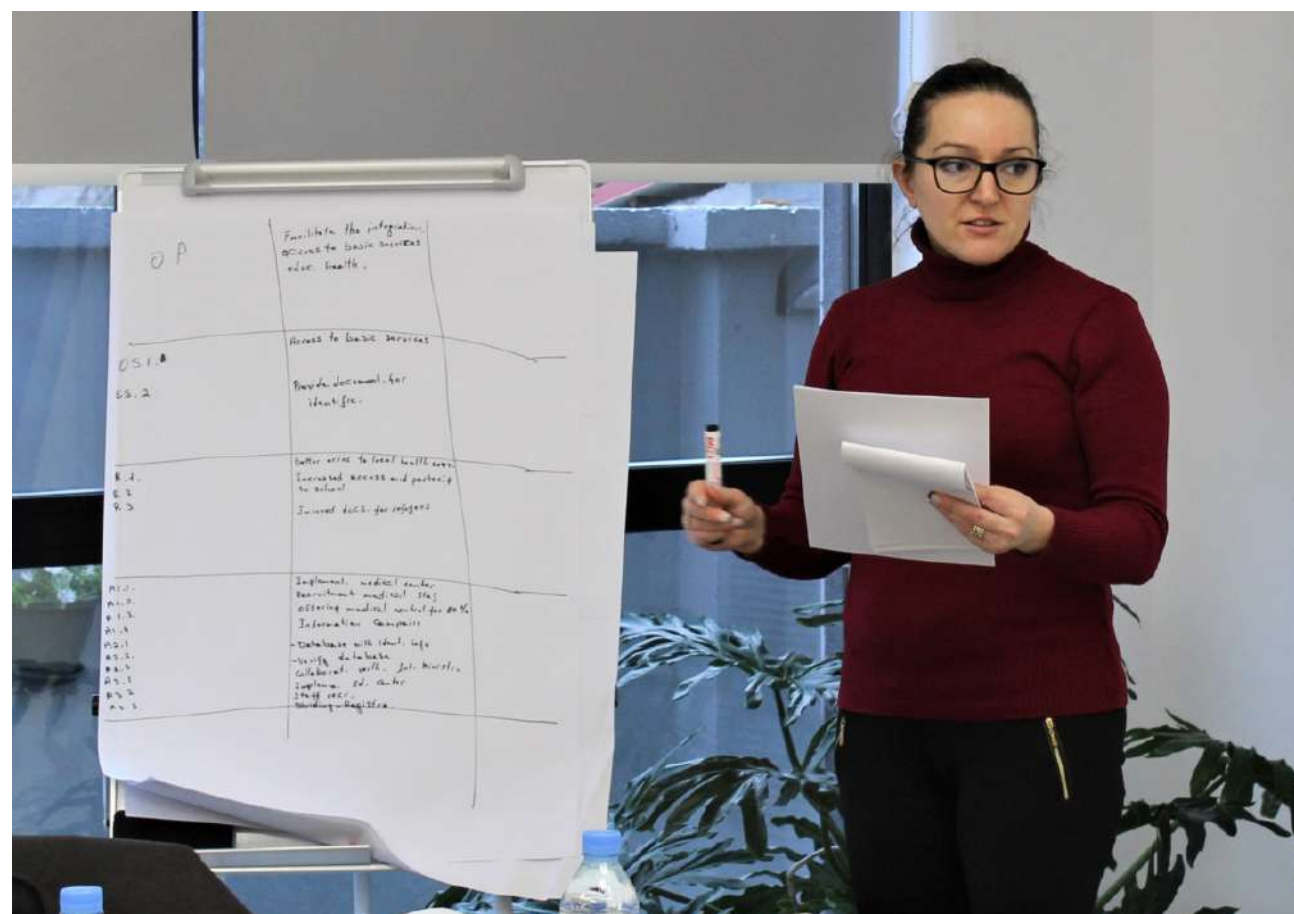
Project Cycle Management

Delivered by:

Denis Van Dam
Anila (Gjika) Bejko
Fiona Imami

Vlore, 8 – 9 November, 2021

Wifi
Hotel Bulevar
Bulevar



Successfully completed Municipal Initiatives supported by RDPA

a) "A nursery for Happy children" is the first inaugurated project in the frame of the Grant Scheme in Support to the Earthquake Affected Areas supported by the Swiss and Austrian governments. Municipality of Kamza, one of the beneficiaries of the Grant Scheme which is being implemented by the Regional Development Programme in close collaboration with the Fondi Shqiptar i Zhvillimit, has finalised its project which concerned the construction of a full-time nursery in Babrru Qender. This is the first full time nursery in the whole territory of Kamza Municipality and will be open for 80 children, including children from Roma and Egyptian communities. This project will have a relevant impact not only to the early education of 80 children but also to the increase of wellbeing of families and citizens of the local community. Because of its full-time service, both parents can have more opportunities to work ensuring a good educational service for their children age 0-36 months.

b) Another successful project was inaugurated under the Grant Scheme in Support of Earthquake Affected Areas. The project was inaugurated in December in the presence of the Mayor of Lezha, Mr. Pjerin Ndreu and the Ambassador of Switzerland in Albania, Mr. Adrian Maitre. The project consists in building two bridges on the Drini River in Lezha, connexting two parts of the city who were not previously accessible, while becoming a new attraction and landmark to Lezha.

During February 2022, Regional Development Program in Albania will continue with the implementation and monitoring of projects in close cooperation with the Albanian Development Fund.

EU₄M EU for Municipalities

Implementation Period: 1/06/ 2021 - 31/11/2023

Donor: European Delegation in Albania

Fund: 2.647.236,75 EUR

Implemented by: NALAS, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe ,Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Eco Partners, Association for Local Autonomy and Albanian Association of Municipalities
Implemented in: Albania

EU for Municipalities is a new project funded by the European Union. It aims at fostering municipalities' development potential and improving the socio-economic and environmental conditions of local communities in Albania. The project will address the main problems affecting the quality of life and economic prospects of the local communities by aligning them with European standards.

The priority of the "EU for Municipalities" project is to support strategic processes, which will enable local government actors to mobilize resources to implement their plans and strategies. The EU for Municipalities will help create a better practice for local government and citizens on how to prioritize the development of local communities and the direct role that the EU can play in improving governance and the quality of life of citizens. Through the support of municipalities in Albania, the project will affect the development and increase of their contribution to the European Union integration proces.

What will EU₄M do:

1. Address the fundamental problems that affect the quality of life of local communities in Albania through investments in infrastructure and the improvement of public services
2. Contribute to the creation of a favourable enabling environment for local economic development and social cohesion
3. Support municipalities in fundraising capacities to finance capital investment projects (as included in their strategic development plans)
4. Strengthen local government human capacities to absorb and implement EU financial assistance and increase the success rate in other potential EU financial instruments
5. Create a "best practice" model for local governments and citizens on how development priorities should be defined, streamlined and implemented. national legislation on Air-Noise Pollution and Urban Greenery with EU Directives / Regulations

Launching of the EU4M Promoting and Supporting Municipal Potential

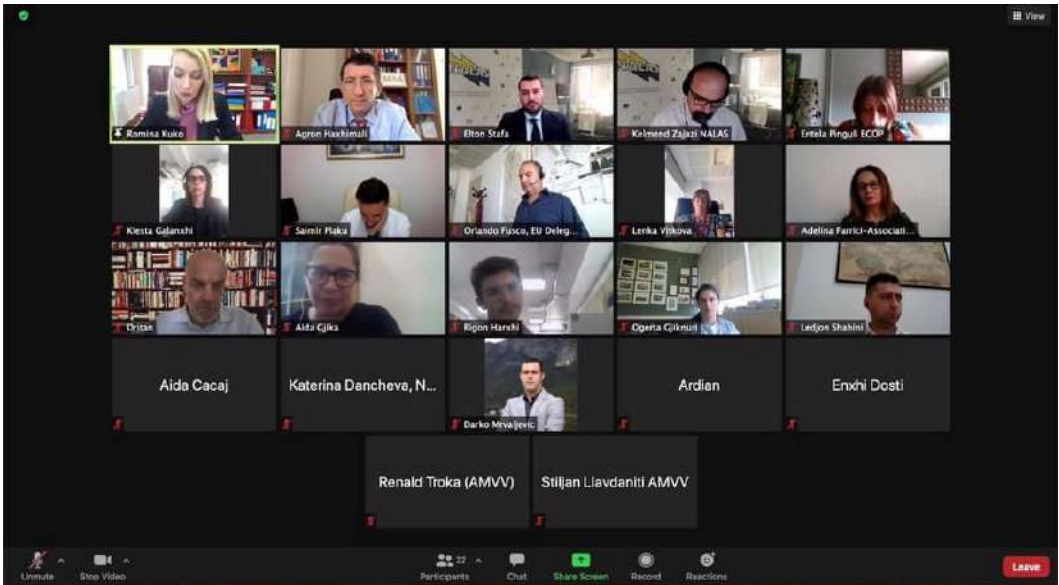
The “EU for Municipalities” project in Albania has started the implementation. The project will promote the development potential of municipalities and improve the socio-economic and environmental conditions of local communities in Albania.

During the kick-off meeting, the representatives from the Delegation of the European Union in Albania, Mrs. Lenka Vitkova and Mr. Orlando Fusco, Deputy Minister of Interior, Mrs. Romina Kuko, and partners discussed the importance of the project and in particular its grant scheme

for municipalities in Albania that will improve the quality of life of citizens and increase the municipalities’ contribution to the EU integration process.

This project is implemented by the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS), Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, EcoPartners for Sustainable Development, the Association of Albanian Municipalities and the Association for Local Autonomy of Albania, with the financial support of the European Union.

EU for Municipalities kick-off event



Support to Municipalities for Local Economic Development

The “EU for Municipalities” project team presented the first call for applications for investment grants in four information sessions held in Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec, and Tirana. Representatives of 61 Albanian municipalities from the northern, southern, southeastern, and center regions were introduced to the priority areas and application criteria in the first call of the grant scheme, open by January 17, 2022.

The first call for grants is focused on the rehabilitation and modernization of local public infrastructure and services as well as the promotion, support of sustainable and inclusive local economic development and the creation of new jobs.



EU for Municipalities project team in Pogradec and Vlora





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

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

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

6. Tirana City Centre monitored and database elaborated
7. 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.
8. Results from the First National Campaign on "How Polluted are our Schools" published during the National Annual Conference in April 2019
9. 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).
10. Generation of infographics, videos and media posts based on monitoring findings.
11. Organization of the first and second National Annual Conference on behalf of the project.
12. Publication of two Annual Bulletins (2019 and 2020) consisting on the findings per each municipality.
13. Implementation of the second National Campaign on "Daily Impact of Noise and Air Pollution in our Life".
14. Production of thematic studies/articles relating to air & noise pollution (before and during the COVID-19 pandemic) and urban greenery.
15. Organization of workshops aiming to train or help representatives of CSOs on how to calculate ecosystem services of the urban greenery.

"Green Lungs for Our Cities" Third National Conference

The Annual Conference of the project "Green Lungs for Our Cities" took place on March 17, 2021, implemented by Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development in cooperation with Milieukontakt Albania and funded by the European Union.

In this conference were presented all the findings of air quality, noise levels and urban greenery during 2018-2021 in Tirana, Durres, Elbasan and Shkodra.

In general, there are 970 monitoring stations with about 33'000 air quality measurements for 8 respective components and the most worrying values are presented in the city of Durrës for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) (230 µ / m₃) and for the particulate matter (Dust) PM_{2.5} (196µ / m₃).

Regarding the level of noise pollution, in all four municipalities there are 886 monitoring stations in 2 intervals: morning and evening where generally there is a worrying excess of values above the allowed Albanian and European standards. The highest values were recorded in the city of Tirana, respectively near the former square "Shqiponja" with 132 dB during morning and 90 dB during evening.

Through the observation, digitalization and analysis of about 38'000 urban trees, the calculation of the ecosystem services provided by the urban greenery in the four respective cities has been conducted. The monetary value preserved by these services, not only for the improvement of air quality, but also for the improvement of public health reaches the value of 672,000,000 ALL/year.

Working group of the Third National Conference "Green Lungs for Our Cities"







Third National Conference "Green Lungs for Our Cities". Arion Sauku/ Milieukontakt Albania, Paola Zhamo/Co-PLAN, Valbona Mazreku/ Milieukontakt Albania, Mevis Struga/ ETMI.

Third National Conference "Green Lungs for Our Cities".

W2E

Waste to Energy for Western Balkans Cement Industry

Implementation Period: March 2020 - December 2022

Donor: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
and TITAN Group

Fund: 356,120.00 EUR

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

Implemented in: Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia

The main objective of the project “Waste to Energy for Western Balkans Cement Industry” is to set the preconditions for the use of household waste, industrial waste and waste tyres for the cement production in three countries of the Western Balkan: Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia in the local cement industry.

The implementing partners are 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 and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The project allows for solid business models that motivate stakeholders to actively engage in efficient collection and re-use of processible

waste, as 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 RDF/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 the awareness among the public on benefits of waste as alternative fuel;
4. Analysing the establishment and utilization of the collection network for different waste streams.

Municipal Solid Waste as an Alternative Fuel

In these meetings the objectives and progress of the project were discussed, findings and conditions and technical and legal challenges for the use of municipal solid waste as an alternative fuel. The representatives of the participating municipalities and businesses expressed their readiness for cooperation in the framework of improving the waste management system and reducing their respective costs.

During year 2021 the project carried out:

1. A detailed market research to analyse the overall market potential and input availability of RDF within Albania;
2. An open dialogue with local and central government;
3. Communication strategy and dedicated action plan on public awareness campaigns targeting the local communities.



Round tables with Albanian Municipalities

National Working Group Consultations

On December 9, 2021, the second meeting of the National Working Group was held, with the participation of key representatives from municipalities, central institutions and experts in the field. During the meeting, the wish for cooperation between the parties was highlighted as well as the invitation from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy to cooperate and to be coherent with the plans and feasibility studies in process.



Meeting of the National Working Group

During this period, several important documents have been prepared for the project and for the study of new possibilities for the production of alternative fuels, the improvement of infrastructure and waste management service as well as the implementation of the remaining technical and legal criteria:

- 1. Communication Strategy
- 2. Plan of Activities
- 3. Market Research Study
- 4. Position Paper

Rodion Gjoka, Project Manager, during the meeting with the National Working Group





Green-AL

Empower Grass-Root CSOs for Improved Innovative Environmental Protection in Albania

Implementation Period: 1/01/2021 - 31/12/2023
 Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 with funds from the Swedish Government
 Fund: 1.223.100 EUR
 Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development,
 CISP, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli
 COSV, Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario
 VIS Albania, Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo
 Implemented in: Albania

The project “Empower Grass-Root CSOs for Improved Innovative Environmental Protection in Albania” (Green-AL) aims to the empowerment of ECSOs and other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address environmental challenges in Albania.

The Project focuses on the strengthening the capacities of ECSOs and the creation of new opportunities for collaboration among CSOs, grass-root organisations, community organisations, public authorities, educational institutions and private sector at different levels in such way to create the premises to build a vibrant, empowered and collaborative environment that can raise issues from the local level that can impact the national policy level.

The overall objective of the Green-AL project is to contribute to the improvement and factorization of environmental CSOs to

effectively address environmental challenges in Albania for tangible change.

In more specific terms, the project aims to achieve the following Specific Objectives:

1. To enhance the capacity of Albanian local environmental CSOs, through a comprehensive, and capacity building strategy implementation.
2. To introduce innovative models in environmental management and capacity development through a comprehensive and integrated sub-grant scheme addressing environmental topics at local level.
3. To factor the CSOs’ evidence-informed input and advocacy role in environmental policy-making processes.

Mobilising regional interest

During February 2021, Green-AL project consortium organized 4 informative sessions throughout the country (Tiranë, Shkodër, Kukës and Vlorë) in order to provide further information related to the project objectives and to reach out a large number of

stakeholders such as CSOs, public institutions, business representatives and community. In these events, the financial support and grant scheme directed to environmental protection in Albania was presented to more than 180 representatives.



Infosessions in Tiranë, Shkodër, Kukës and Vlorë

Assessing Needs among environmental civic actors

In order to assess the capacity, operations and scope of activists and CSOs at National and sub-national levels, focused on environmental and gender-equality issues, Green-AL partners launched a needs assessment process. This process consisted on the socio-economic, politico-cultural, legal environment and context

within which activists and CSOs operate; the human, material, financial and technical capacities of activists and CSOs operating at the regional and national levels. In total, 103 representatives from CSOs and 91 activists took part in the process and 8 environmental issues were highlighted.

Participants of Needs Assessment Process



Supporting Civic Actors in Advocating and Policy-influencing

During July 2021, was launched the Initiative and Partnership grant call which targeted new organizations located in small municipalities and rural areas that seek funding to address local issues that come to the aid of the local community and consolidated organizations seeking to collaborate with environmental organizations and other groups of interest. A total of 77 applications were received, 22 out of which were awarded.

On the other hand, on December 2021 was launched the Networking, Advocacy and Influence in Policy Making grant call which aims to empower CSOs to address issues related to the natural and urban environment at the local level, through networking, advocacy and influencing policy-making processes at the regional and national level.



Partnership Grants Ceremony

Thematic trainings for CSOs

The findings from the Needs Assessment report were reflected in an Incubation Process, in which Green-AL project consortium have initiated to conduct a series of thematic trainings for CSOs and activists to achieve enhancement of their capacity, innovation and

evidence-informed input and advocacy role in environmental policy-making processes. So far, 10 trainings were organised in all regions of Albania and more than 200 people from CSOs, public institutions, academia and community have participated in these events.



Moments from trainings as part of the Incubation Process

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF GREEN-AL GRANTS

103 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN TOTAL / 31 AWARDED

Initiative and Partnership Grants - 22



Environmental awareness & education



Waste management & recycling



Water pollution monitoring



Promotion of ecotourism and ecological cities



Community engagement on protecting resources

Regional and National Networks Grants - 9



Air pollution monitoring



Biodiversity protection and promotion



Climate change impacts on agriculture



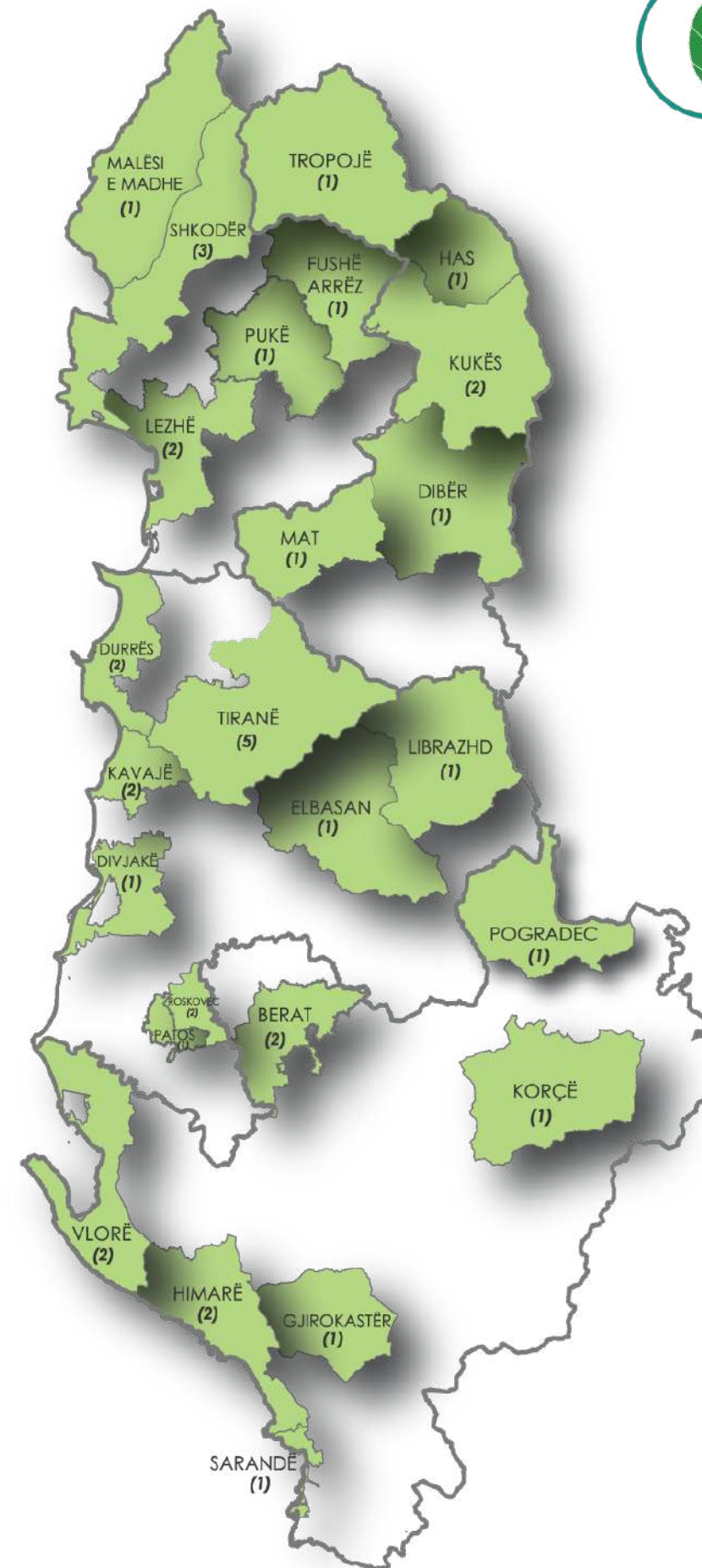
Circular economy



Sustainable river basin management



Energy efficiency



ideAL

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.

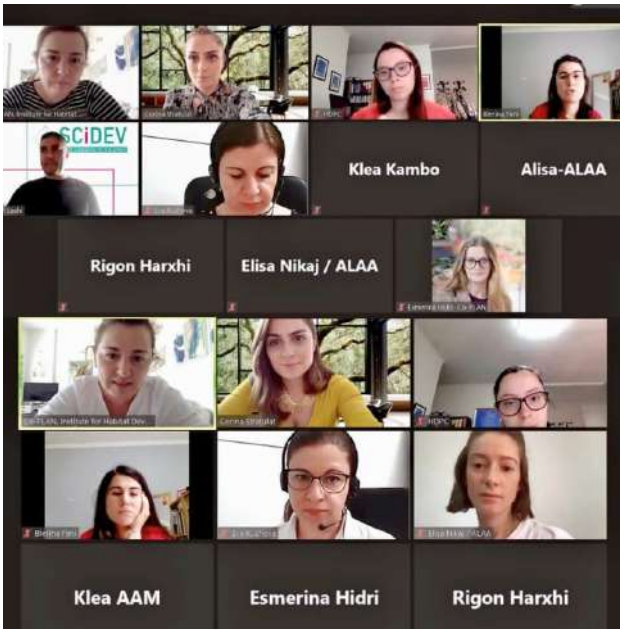
The project aims to:

- 1. Facilitate interaction and collaboration between state actors and non-state actors and support structured and evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes.
- 2. Establish a capacity development platform to support non-state actors in areas related to public policy formulation, policy budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
- 3. Set up a communication and learning platform on policy dialogue, to drive policymaking efforts, promote results, good practices, lesson learned, and continuous improvements.

Enhancing Knowledge and skills of the ideAL Sub-Grantees

The cycle of five thematic pieces was organized for the sub-grants of the "ideAL – Dialogue for inclusive evidence-based policy development in Albania" project. Two pieces of training in a row were held in May while the last three pieces of training took place in December. The trainings were lectured by experts from the European Policy Center (EPC) on topics related to the importance of communication in influencing the policy cycle and ways to draft important

documents for advocacy as well as ethics in the policy-making process, transparency of civil society organizations. civil, models of good governance and practices followed by different countries in these areas. This cycle was conducted as part of ideAL activities to improve the capacity of civil society actors to influence policy-making.



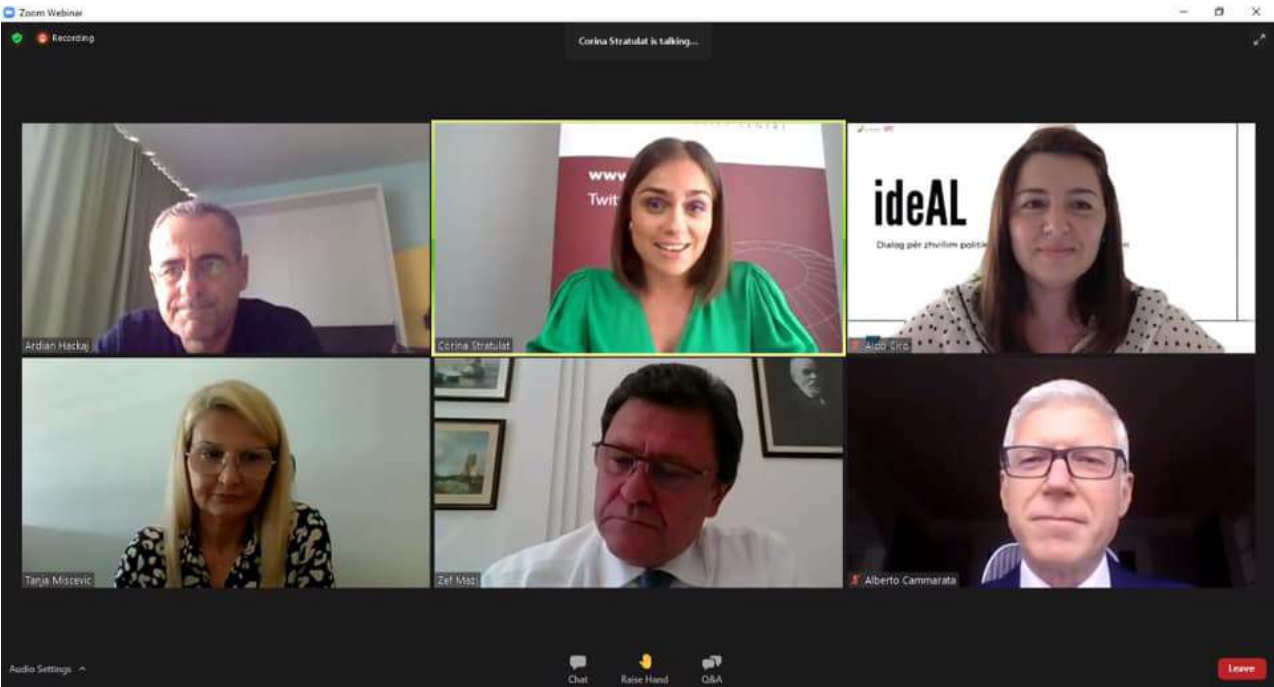
Moments from trainings with ideAL sub-grantees



“Albania’s Race to the EU: Views from the Pit Stop”

On June 23 in cooperation with the European Policy Center (EPC, Belgium) was organized the Online Policy Dialogue: Albania’s race to the EU: Views from the pit stop”. The event served to discuss the challenges that Albania faces in the process of integration into the European Union, as an important issue in the political agenda of the Albanian government even after the last parliamentary elections. Deputy Head of Unit for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina,

European Commission, Alberto Cammarata; Chief Negotiator for EU Accession of Albania, Zef Mazi; Tanja Mišćević, Deputy Secretary-General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); and Ardian Haçkaj, Research Director and Coordinator of Tirana Connectivity Forum, Cooperation and Development Institute; attended the event and shared valuable recommendations on this process.



Participants during the Online Policy Dialogue “Albania’s Race to the EU: Views from the Pit Stop”

National Forum “Governance for Change: Civil Society Proposals”

Co-PLAN, the Institute for Habitat Development and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in collaboration with a wide range of contributing organizations and A2 CNN - Exclusive News Channel Affiliate organized in February the national forum “Governance for Change: Civil Society Proposals”. This forum was conceived as a pre-election platform,

where civil society actors from different sectors raised issues by articulating proposals for change. Thematic sessions were held during the forum, where the recommendations were summarized in a written document to be presented to policy makers, with the objective to have it reflected in the respective electoral agendas and programs.





Photos during the National Forum "Governance for Change: Civil Society Proposals"



Participants during the National Forum "Governance for Change: Civil Society Proposals"

SAIL

Sparking Activism Initiatives Locally

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 evidencebased 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:

- 1. Their understanding of policymaking processes;
- 2. Their knowledge of how to engage in policymaking and policy-influencing processes including monitoring, analysing, influencing;
- 3. How to establish dialogue platforms with the local/regional/ and national authorities;
- 4. How to raise particular pressing issues within the sector, and;
- 5. 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 policymaking 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:

- 1. 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.

- 2. 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.

Sparks Online Workshops

Sparks are Introduced to the Program

During the First Workshop

The opening meeting of the SAIL (Sparkling Activism Initiatives Locally) project brought together a select group of participants in the spark program. During this meeting, the participants were introduced to their mentors and each other to start together with the

journey towards implementing their initiatives and bringing changes to the community. This first workshop was accompanied by a combination of theory and discussion focusing on the need for change and the impact that this initiative will bring.

Sparks Back Together in the Second Workshop

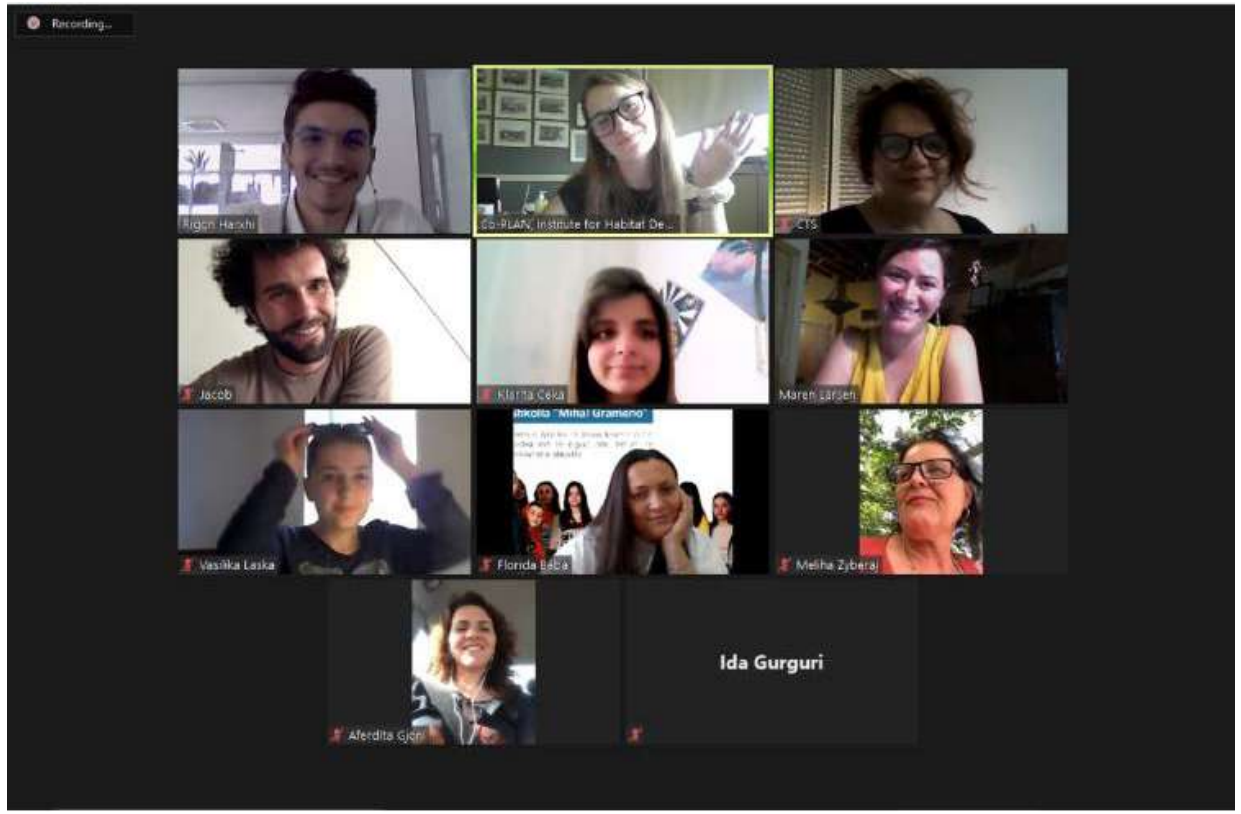
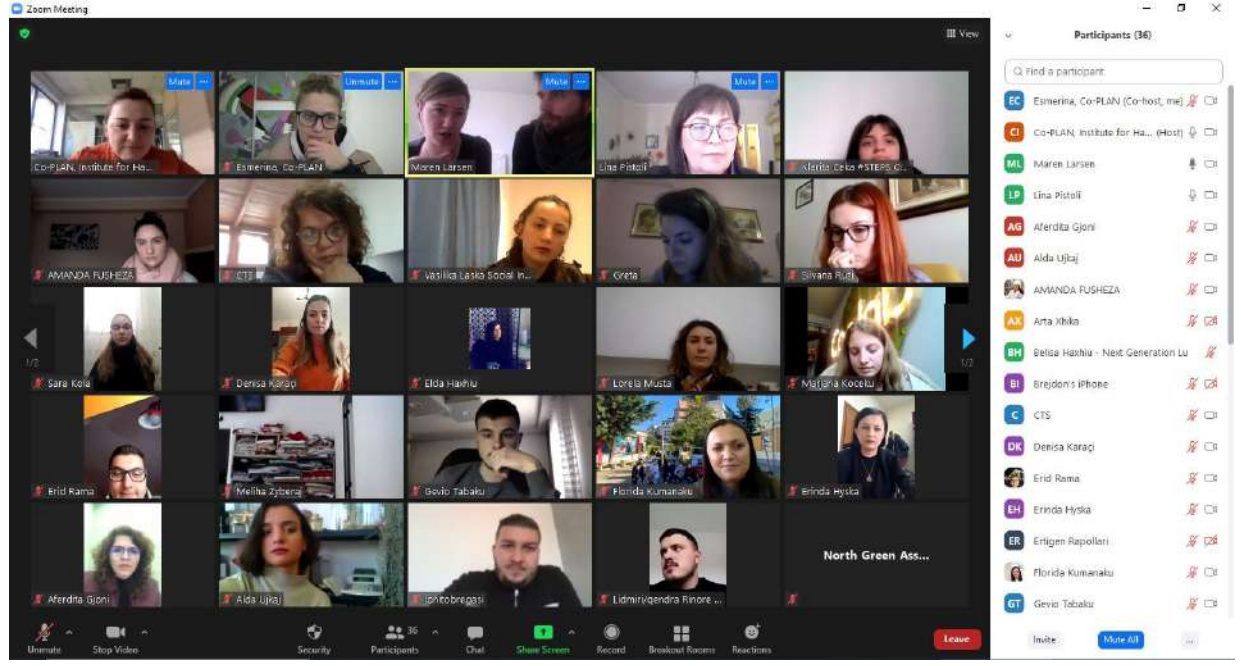
Mentors of Co-PLAN conducted the second workshop with the spark program participants to support them towards achieving the changes they seek to bring to the community. This

meeting was accompanied by group discussions about the initiatives of each participant and the definition of goals and steps to be followed for the implementation of individual work plans.

The Third Thematic Workshop

The spark program mentors conducted the third workshop with all participants. The workshop focused on concrete techniques and processes for each person's initiatives, helping them with practical and theoretical information on implementing the initiatives and achieving positive results in the community. Participants

of the program during this workshop learned more about designing questionnaires and conducting interviews and planning communication campaigns on social media. Further, they were introduced to the ways of cooperation and mobilization of the group as well as the ways to achieve public support.



Moments from the Sparks Online Workshops



Sparks Meet in Tirana

The program team organized a two-day interactive workshop with sparks from Tirana, Fieri, Bulqiza, Lezha, Vau Dejes. During the two days, mentors Maren Larsen and Jacob Geuder conducted interactive activities with focus on civic activism closely related to real situations in Albania and introduced participants to the main tools of activism to achieve positive changes related to issues of youth, environment, marginalized groups, culture, and community.



Two-day interactive workshop with sparks from Tirana, Fieri, Bulqiza, Lezha, Vau Dejes.

Two-day interactive workshop with Sparks from Tirana, Fieri, Bulqiza, Lezha, Vau Dejes.



Coaching Local Activists

For two weeks in a row, the mentors held meetings with participants to discuss and become more familiar with the ways, approaches, and practices associated with their initiatives. 23 initiatives were selected as part of the #spark program to address issues from

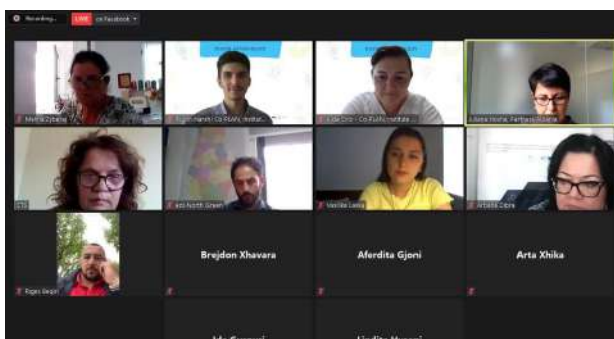
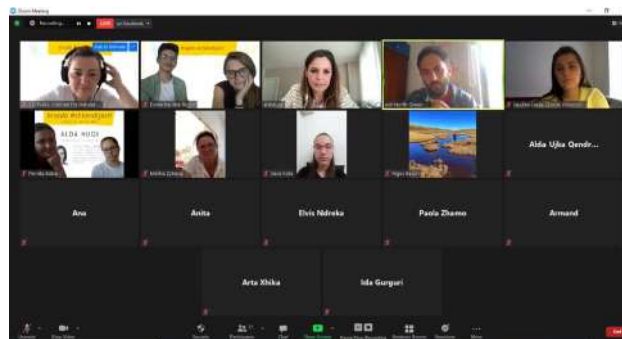
different areas of Albania. The initiatives were focused on environmental issues, youth, education, empowerment of women in society, and support for marginalized groups such as members of the Roma community or those with disabilities



Spark Conversations

For several weeks, "Spark Conversation" a cycle of online meetings took place, where the program participants and a wide group of the public were introduced to stories from the

life and professional moments of prominent personalities from various fields in Albania, Kosovo, and diaspora.



EVER TRIED. EVER FAILED. NO MATTER. TRY AGAIN. FAIL AGAIN. FAIL BETTER. ■ EVER TRIED. EVER FAILED. NO MATTER. TRY AGAIN. FAIL AGAIN. FAIL BETTER. ■

#nad 2021
Dita Kombëtare e Aktivizimit

Co-PLAN
INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

22 Tetor
Panair i Shoqërisë Civile
Ora 10:30
Nisma Aktivistësh Kudo në Vend

Edukim

Kulturë

Mjedis

Rini

Të Drejtat e Grave

Të Drejtat e Njeriut

Të Drejtat e Kafshëve

Qytete të Jetueshme

Komunitetet e Margjinalizuara

N D R Y S H I M

U.S. EMBASSY
Tirana, Albania

Local activism, the focus of #NAD2021

For the fourth consecutive year, Co-PLAN, the Institute for Habitat Development with the support of the United States Embassy in Albania organizes on October 22, 2021, the National Day of Activism (NAD 2021).

Focused on activism at the local level, under the slogan "Act wherever you are, and how you can", the fourth edition was celebrated by more than 50 organizations, youth groups and young activists everywhere in Albania. The Activism Fair, in Skanderbeg Square in Tirana and local activities held in over 25 municipalities of the country marked NAD 2021.

The activity in Tirana was attended by the Deputy Chief of Public Relations at the United

States Embassy, Amanda Roberson, who welcomed the event and highlighting the importance of civic engagement, activism, and volunteerism.

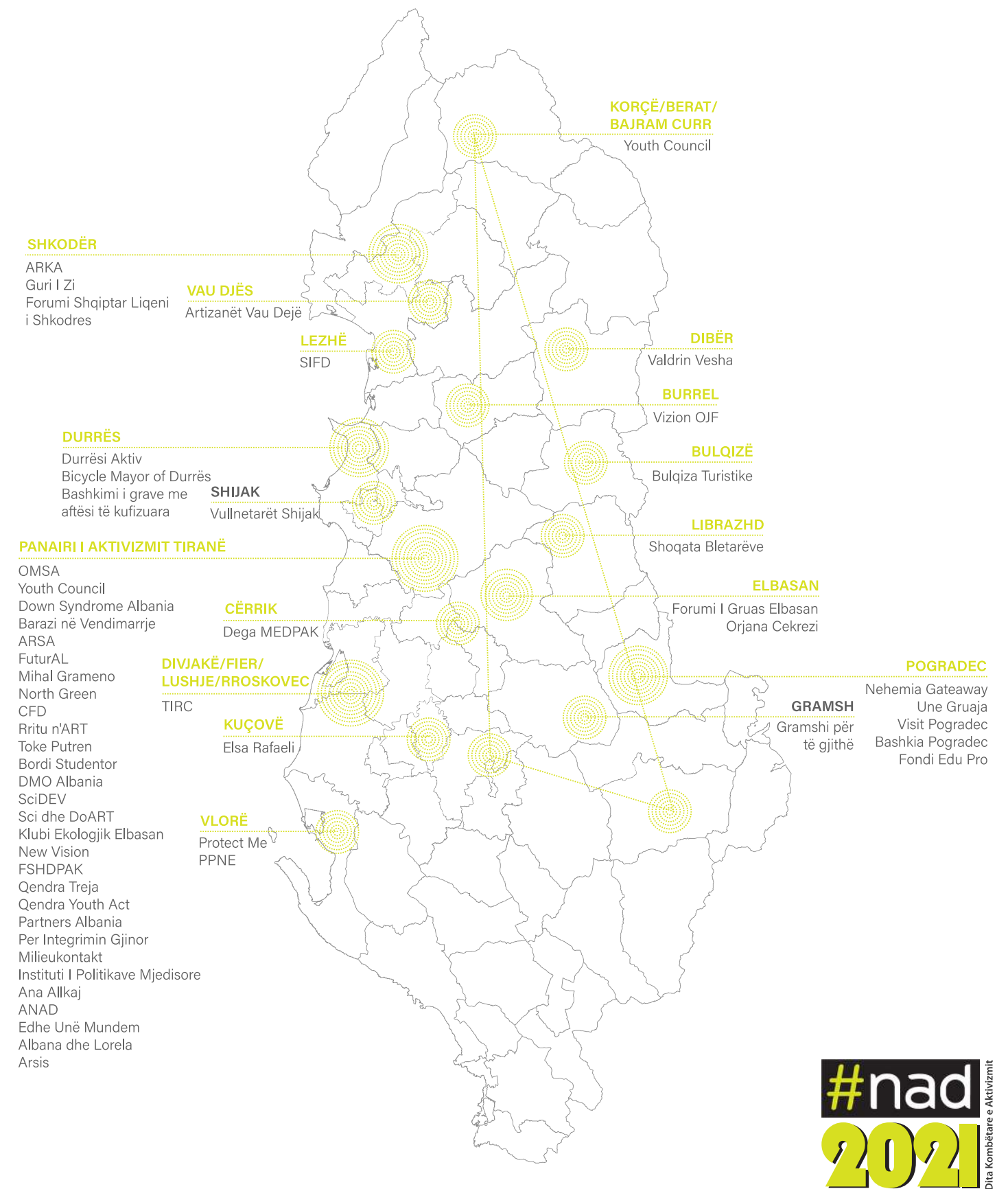
NAD, already a tradition, is a day dedicated to people and initiatives who dare and get involved to improve things that concern society, but also a day to celebrate and encourage the activity of young activists.

This day is part of the US Embassy Civil Society Program, "Spark of Local Activism Initiatives," implemented by Co-PLAN, which helps local activists and organizations work on issues such as women's rights, youth engagement, environment, tourism, etc.

Co-PLAN team during NAD 2021



PJESËMARRRËS NË NAD2021





Participants of Activism Fair in Tirana- NAD 2021



Nxenesit e Liceu Artistik "Jordan Misja" me nismen RitunArt



Moments from the Activism Fair in Tirana- NAD 2021

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

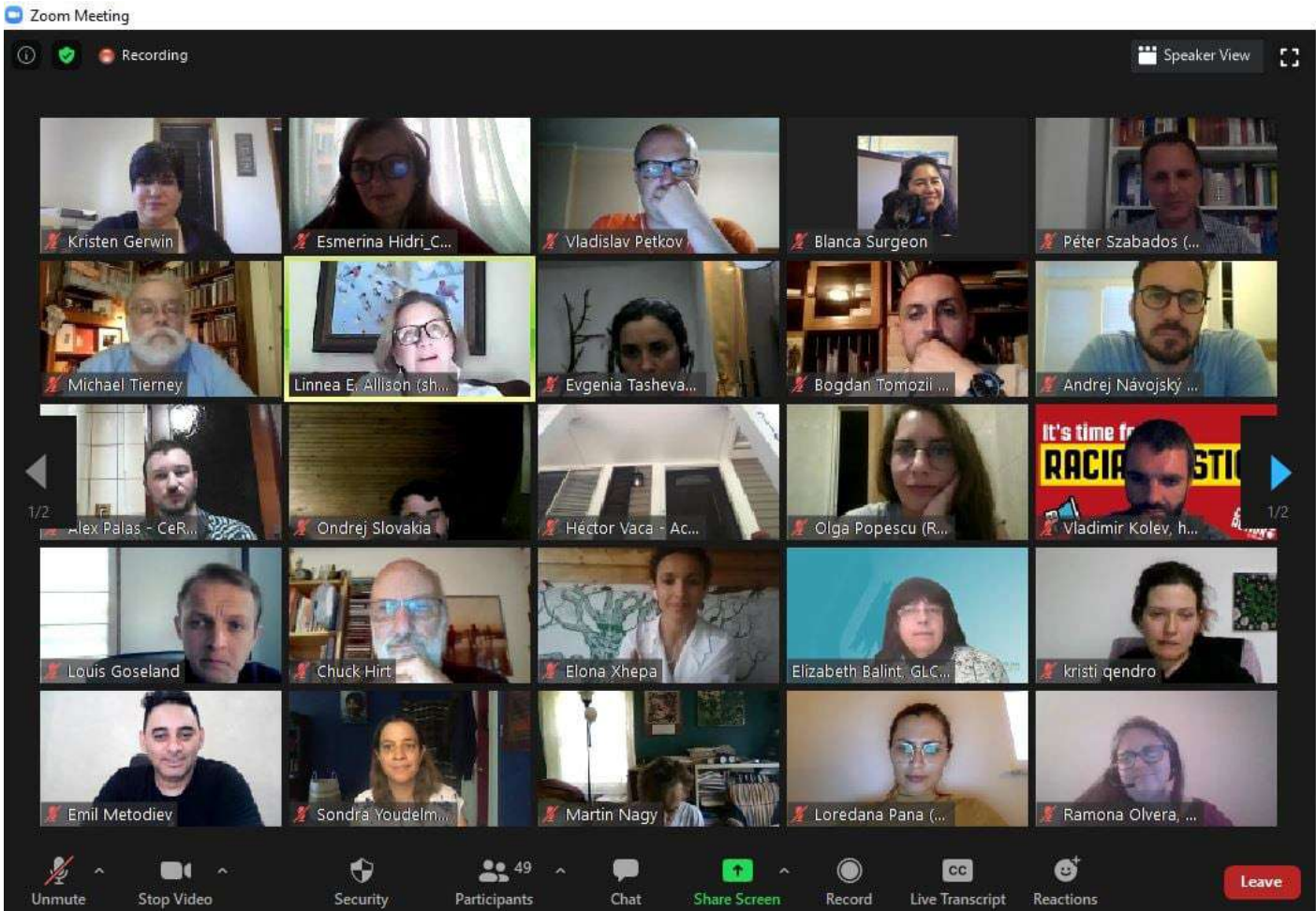
Co-PLAN coordinates the Professional Fellows Program for Albania, financed by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is organized by the WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. – Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC). This program 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.

Alumni of the 'Professional Fellows Program' from Albania Reunion

The reunion was held with Alumni of the 'Professional Fellows Program' from Albania to share their experiences in community organizing and the contribution they make every day to improve the context of activism and decision-making in Albanian society. The

three-day event took place also online with the group of other Alumni from Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and served as a space to discuss new ideas and projects that can positively affect the overcoming of challenges and current issues that affect our society.



Moments from the meeting of the Alumni of the Professional Fellows Program



Moments from the two-day workshops Albanian Alumni Reunion



Municipal Finances and Citizen Perception on Local Services

Implementation Period: 01 July 2019 - 30 June 2023
Donor: Supported by LevizAlbania, a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC.
Fund: 174,220.00 CHF
Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development
Implemented in: Albania

The “Municipal Finances and Citizen Perception on Local Services” project main objective is to provide a complete picture of the status of local finances of Albanian municipalities in a periodical, structured and internationally comparable manner.

The Local Finances Platform www.financatvendore.al offers disaggregated data (item-based and at the municipal level), ensuring a time series on local finances since 2010. Complementary to the quantitative information (the data), quarterly narrative reports and theme-based articles inform on developments in revenues and expenditures, achievements and challenges faced by municipalities in pursuing their mandated functions and competencies.

Specific objectives:

1. To offer a reliable, methodologically sound source of information, to all

stakeholders, including the municipalities, CSOs, citizens, academia, experts, media, etc., for improved planning and further detailed investigations into local governance issues.

2. To enable local constituencies to influence municipality's decisions on how public money is spent based on specific community's priorities;
3. To obtain an assessment of the citizen perception on local taxations, what drives their decision to pay or not to pay taxes, their perception of local services provided, and their willingness to pay for improved services. Exploring citizens' perception of local taxation and local services, the driving factors, and tax compliance challenges at the local level enable the system improvement from a citizen perspective.

Local Public Finances Forum 2021

The Local Public Finances Forum 2021, in its fourth round, brought together local finances experts, donor community, representatives of municipalities, media and civil society actors to discuss the latest developments and expectations on municipal finances. Co-PLAN experts presented the latest findings from the "Status Report on Local Public Finances 2020", offering comprehensive insights into

local public financial management under the pressure of the natural disaster situations of the late 2019 earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Local Public Finances Forum 2021 took place in the framework of the Local Democracy Week 2021 of LevizAlbania.



Better Employment Conditions for Seasonal Workers in Albania and Kosovo

Implementation Period: September 2021 - December 2023
 Donor: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
 Fund: 86'064.25 EU + 28'783 (forwarded Grant to D+ Kosovo)
 Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Democracy Plus (D+)
 Implemented in: Albania and Kosovo

Seasonal work is usually not registered and it largely contributes to the shadow economy. Seasonal workers are often not provided with adequate working conditions, and due to more difficult supervision and weak bargaining position, they are often forced to accept such conditions. Considering the seasonal nature of work, the employees are engaged on a casual or temporary basis, while a great number of employees are employed informally, on factual work, i.e. without a contract of employment or another form of work engagement as a legal basis under labour regulations.

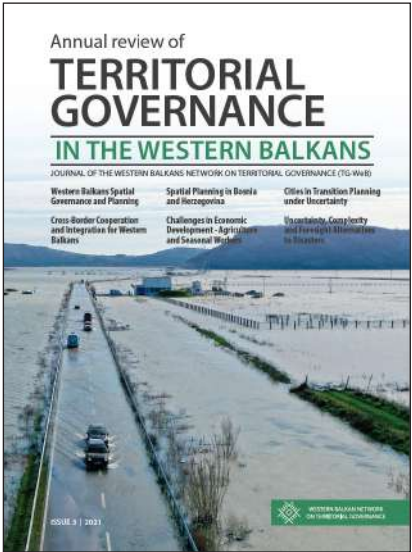
Given the context, the overall objective of the project is to increase seasonal worker's engagement in the labor market and provide them with better employment opportunities through an electronic registrations system. Following the overall objective, the specific objectives are drawn for each country, based on specific context, as follows:

1. Facilitate and coordinate the processes of the Country Working Group in order to improve Policy Making and the Legal framework related to labour issues and specifically those of seasonal workers in Albania by assessing, revising and giving specific recommendations on the identified regulations;
2. Assess, Improve and adapt the existing e-registration system in Albania for seasonal workers related issues and requirements;
3. Improve engagement and access to labour market of disadvantaged seasonal workers in Albania (returnees, women, Roma etc.) by creating new opportunities to find better employment;

4. Provide assistance and technical support in adopting a multi-level, multi-stakeholders approach in engaging, promoting and raising awareness throughout project delivery for better dissemination Seasonal Workers Policy and Reform implementation in Albania;
5. Disseminate information on results and lessons learned for the seasonal worker's employment model in the region & identify reform potential in Kosovo;
6. Provide targeted legal recommendations to policy makers for adaptation of legal framework related to seasonal/ temporary work, including support in implementation, in Kosovo;
7. Provide recommendations and validate necessity for an adapted e-registration system in the Kosovo, to support implementation of the new employment model for seasonal and temporary work.

Considering the need of reforming seasonal employment both horizontally and vertically for the agriculture (Albania and Kosovo) and tourism sector (Albania), tackling in the same time the high level of informality in the sector(s), improving policies related to the Seasonal Work and developing an IT registration system for seasonal workers, would enable great opportunities for the subject in both countries.

publications 2021



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.

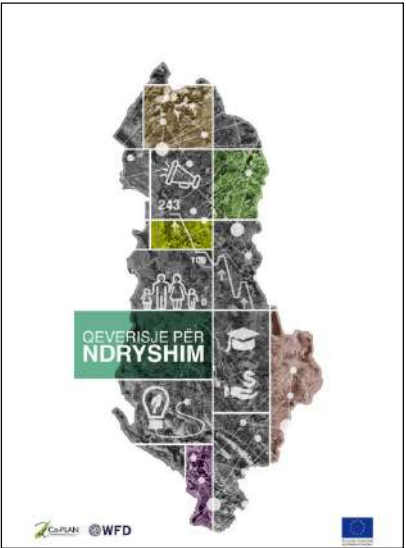
You can download the full material [here](#).



Green Lungs Bulletin 2021

is dedicated to the third publication within the project “Green Lungs for Our Cities”. The implementation of this project started in 2018 addressing air & noise pollution as well as the reduction of urban greenery in Albania, as some of the main environmental concerns in the country. In support of the 2020 bulletin, this publication comes with a comparative and reflective approach on the progress of environmental reforms and urban pollution for four study areas (Tirana, Durres, Elbasan and Shkodra).

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



Governance for Change: Proposals from Civil Society

is a document that contains proposals for changes presented throughout the forum, 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. The proposals come as direct and exclusive contributions of the participating organizations, which can be contacted for further research.

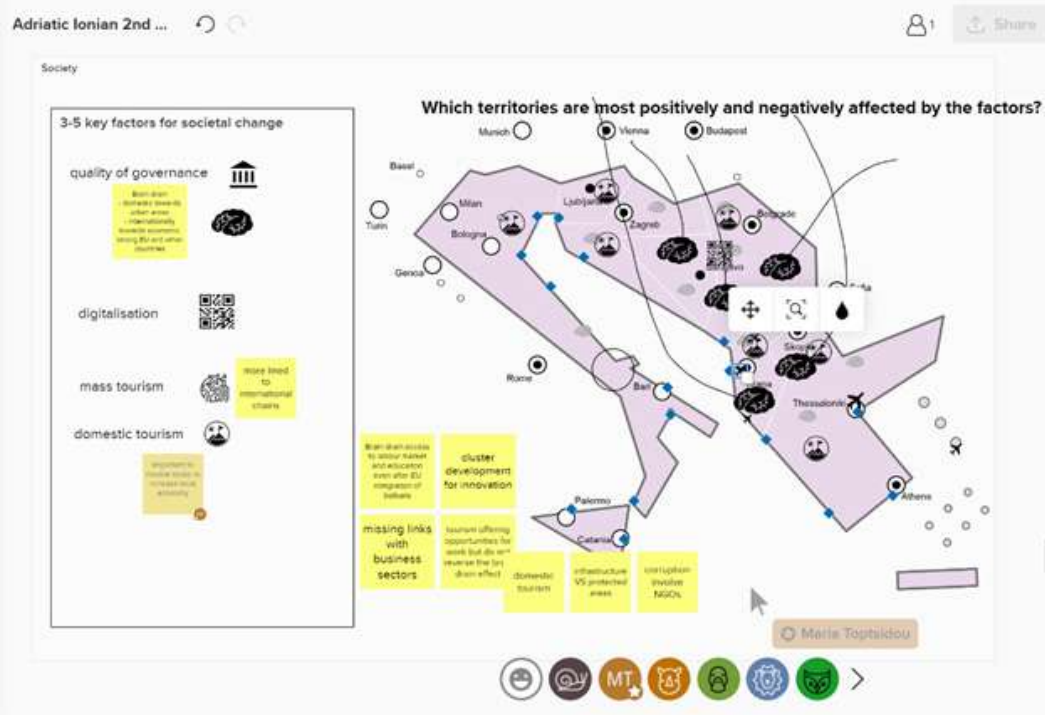
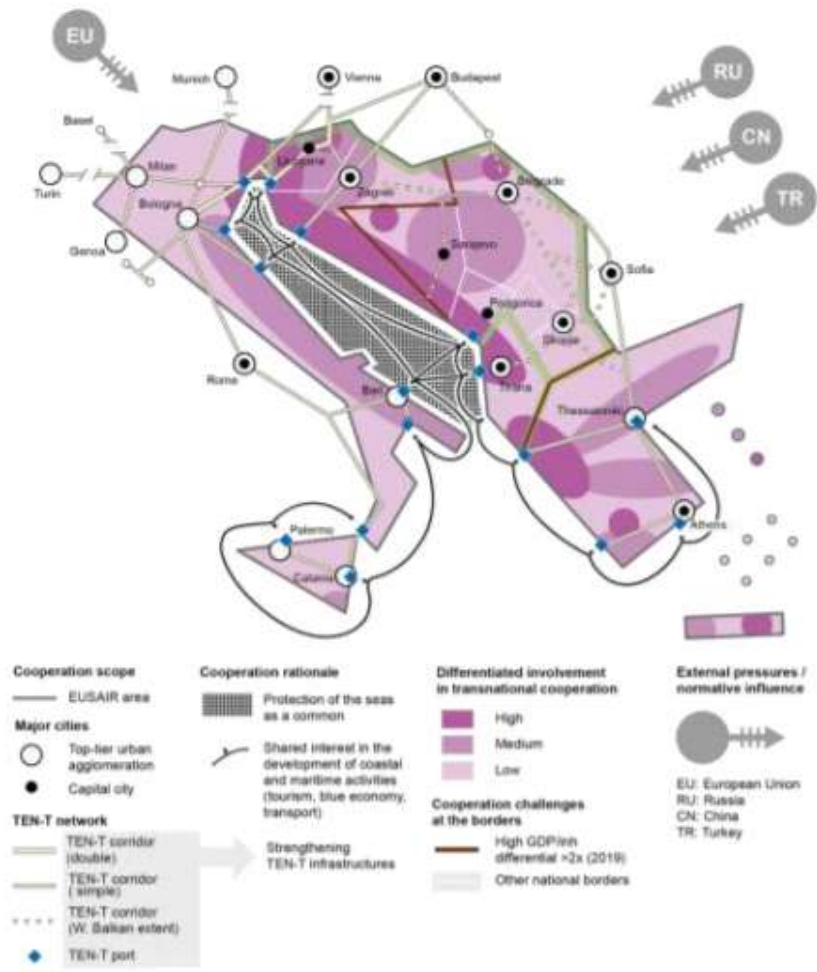
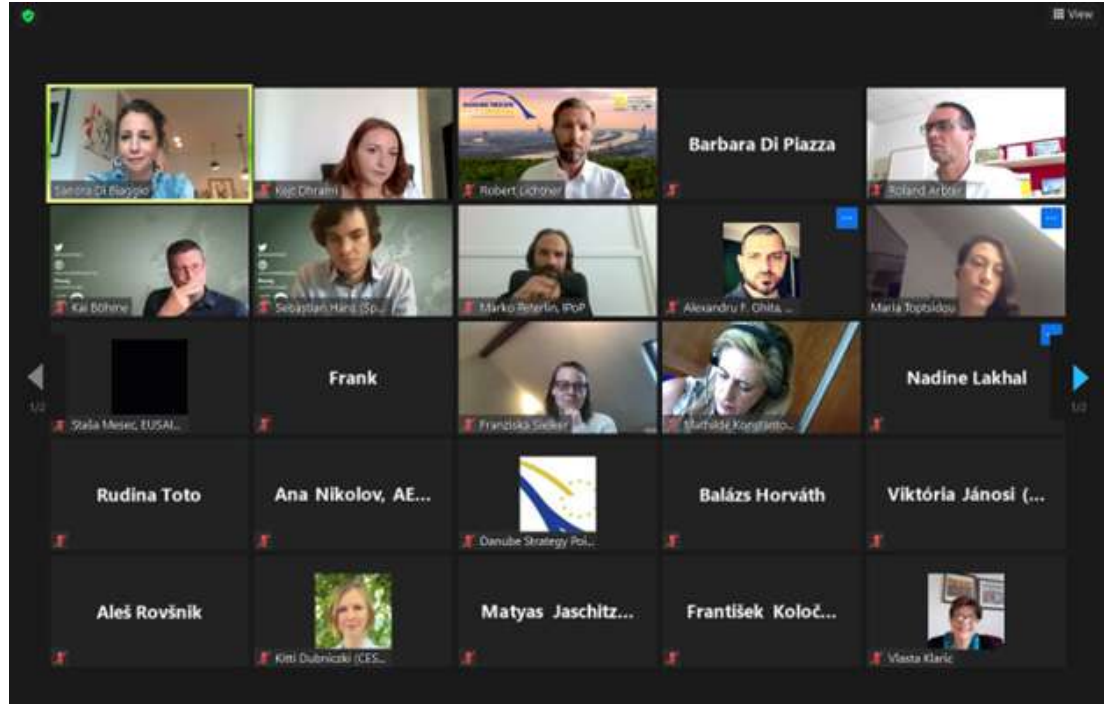
You can download the full material [here](#).

Workshop on Future Scenarios for the EUSAIR and EUSDR regions, TEVI2050 (ESPON)

During 2021-2022 Co-PLAN staff was engaged in the ESPON project TEVI 2020 -Territorial Scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic Ionian Macro-regions. The objective of this project was to develop territorial scenarios for the EUSDR (EU Strategy for the Danube Region) and EUSAIR (EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region) as the means to enhance the territorial dimension of the respective EU Strategies and to embed the territorial evidence in policymaking at relevant levels of the countries involved in their implementation. In more detail, the project sought to formulate a baseline territorial development scenario for the Danube Region and for the Adriatic and Ionian Region for 2050; as well as produce

alternative development scenarios for both regions, through a participatory dialogue with the steering committee and possibly involving other stakeholders, to ultimately develop recommendations on possible policy pathways. On 2 November 2021 an innovative and interactive role-play workshop took place, to draft and develop alternative 2050 territorial scenarios for the Danube and Adriatic regions. The workshop followed a series of online meetings of the established steering committee, which supported the co-design of the baseline scenario, as well as discussion of key factors affecting the economic, social, governance and environmental aspects of the macro-regions.

Screenshot from the online workshop



YA AESOP Conference 'Governing the Unknown: Adaptive Spatial Planning in the Age of Uncertainty'

Co-PLAN staff supported the organization of the Aesop Young Academic Conference, which this year was organized by POLIS University, during the period 29 March - 2 April 2021. The Conference hosted more than 50 young professionals and PhD students from all educational institutions in Europe, to further enhance the professional and academic network, and to discuss on the main topic: "Governing the Unknown: Adaptive Spatial Planning in the Age of Uncertainty".

The online conference organized various scientific activities, 6 track sessions for the participants, 4 workshops with regional and national actors; 1 Roundtable; Expert Clinic Activities, and many other events. Main highlights of the keynotes included:

- Prof. Dr. Yvonne Rydin: 'Planning in Low-Growth Contexts'
- Dr. Rudina Toto: 'The Post-Pandemic Right to the City'
- Dr. Naja Marot: Urban tourism, planning and pandemic – what to learn?
- Dr. Ana Peric: 'Adaptive Spatial Planning and Governance, a look through the lens of Planning Culture'
- Assoc. Prof. Giancarlo Cotella: 'Understanding and comparing spatial governance and planning in Europe. Between domestic traditions and EU influence'
- Prof. Dr Ben Davy: Moderator of the Roundtable titled: 'Next Generation Planning – Revolution or Evolution?'

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

| K1 | K4 | K5 |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| PROF. DR. YVONNE RYDIN | DR. ANA PERIC | ASSOC. PROF. GIANCARLO COTELLA |
| | | |
| K2 | K3 | ROUNDTABLE |
| DR. RUDINA TOTO | DR. NAJA MAROT | Prof. DR. Ben Davy |
| | | |

"GOVERNING THE UNKNOWN, ADAPTIVE SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY"

15th AESOP Young Academics Conference
March/ April 2021
TIRANA, ALBANIA

AESOP YA POLIS Co-PLAN

