

donordialogue

ISSUE No. 21, Monthly E-briefing - September 2008

A Joint Effort of the Donor Technical Secretariat
and the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination

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Let's work together to make development assistance effective



Photo 1: Accra High Level Forum, 2 to 4 September 2004 - DSDC Director Albana Vokshi at the Roundtable on "Ownership" (Photo: DTS/Nevila Çomo)

High Level Forum on aid efficiency

More than 1,200 government officials of aid-receiving countries, donor institutions, foundations, parliaments, and NGOs gathered from 2 to 4 September 2008 in Accra, Ghana, at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The Government's participation was funded by the World Bank, the Swiss Development Co-operation and the European Commission. The aim of the Forum was for the development community to review the progress made on the Paris commitments. It was structured around four complementary segments: the

plenary sessions; the marketplace of ideas, providing room for sharing knowledge and presenting innovative ideas; the ministerial segment, addressing key policy level concerns and endorsing the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA); and nine Roundtables. The roundtables covered the areas of the five pillars of the Paris Declaration. The Department for Strategy and Donor Co-ordination (DSDC) Director, Albana Vokshi was amongst the panellists at the roundtable on the first dimension of the Paris Declaration, facilitated and co-financed by Switzerland. Ms. Vokshi presented the case



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Austria supports Albania through Delivering as One UN

The Government of Austria is supporting UN reform at the country level by contributing 250,000 Euros to the One UN Coherence Fund in Albania. An agreement was signed by the Austrian Government and the UN in the presence of Albanian Government and the UN team on 16 September 2008. The One UN Coherence Fund finances major strategic priorities of the One UN Programme, as jointly determined by the Government and the UN. "The Austrian support is a welcome contribution to national priorities, The One UN initiative is in line with the Government's efforts to harmonize external assistance, and the Coherence Fund allows the Government to direct funding to strategic programme areas. We can consider it as a success story and expect other donors to join soon," said DSDC Director, Albana Vokshi.

Photo: left to right, Ms. Albana Vokshi, Director of the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination; Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, UN Resident Coordinator in Albania; and H. E. Mr. Klaus Derkowitzsch, Austrian Ambassador to Albania sign the agreement in the presence of the UN Country Team (Photo: UNDP Albania)



Photo 2: Accra High level Forum, 2 to 4 September 2004 – Deputy Minister of Finance Sherefedin Shehu and DSDC Director Albana Vokshi presenting the case of Albania at the Marketplace of Ideas (Photo: DST/Nevila Çomo)

» High Level Forum on aid efficiency

of Albania and the role played by different actors during the NSDI consultation process. One of the main events was the Marketplace of Ideas that offered a visual and interactive setting for 136 participating countries and organisations to share their success in implementing Paris Declaration goals. Through a gallery of posters, participants had the chance to learn about best practices. Albania was represented with a poster on the theme of "Ownership," highlighting the steps that had been undertaken, the results achieved so far, and the lessons learnt. The event ended with the endorsement of the Accra Agenda for Action, committing to actions that will accelerate the implementation of the Paris Declaration. These actions will focus on ways to: ensure that developing

countries play the lead role in determining development strategies and organising the programmes to realise those strategies; build effective partnerships that include all actors; and enhance the delivery of development results. To view the Accra Agreement for Action, please click [here](#). For more information on the Accra High level Forum, please click [here](#).

Inauguration of the first parcel of Sharra's urban waste collection

On 18 September 2008, the Italian Ambassador in Albania and the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, inaugurated the first of the four parcels to be used for urban waste disposal in Tirana under the Tirana's Urban waste management initiative. It is financed by the Italian Development Cooperation through a six million Euro soft loan and a 400,000 Euros grant for the planning, monitoring and finalization of some major interventions. The projects aims at effectively managing the waste disposal issues and transform it into an economic resource. The initiative confirms the commitment of the Italian Government to sustain Albania in developing its basic service infrastructure in accordance to EU standards. On of the benefits of the Programme is in the flexible approach mixing vocational



training components, strengthening the organizational framework, and providing equipment supplies that will allow the disposal of 2.5 million cubic metres of urban waste and prevent environmental-related risks through the construction of a drainage system for polluted water. The project represents an innovative test to realize strategies in the waste management cycle and in the management of natural resources and environment. The Municipality of Tirana is participating in the implementation of the project.

EDUCATION

Inauguration of informatics Laboratory of Hotolist School in Librazhd

On 6 September 2008, in the framework of the Programme Support to the secondary education system in Albania, Phase I, Prime Minister Sali Berisha launched the new IT laboratory in a school in Hotolisht Village (Librazhd). The aim of the programme is to supply new IT technologies such as hardware and software tools and the training of IT trainers. The project was financed through an Italian Development Co-operation grant of about 1 Million Euros, and has already provided for the training of 150 teachers and the equipment of 37 laboratories in secondary schools. "The Programme contributed significantly to the national priority on increasing knowledge on information

Photo: Inauguration of IT laboratory in Hotolisht (Photo: Italian Development Cooperation)



Photo: Italian Ambassador and the Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication at the inauguration of Sharra's waste disposal (Photo: Italian Development Cooperation)

technologies," said Prime Minister Berisha. Italy is strongly engaged in the reduction of digital divide in Albania, with several ongoing initiatives at various levels. The second phase of the programme is under development and foresees the provision of other computer laboratories and further training for lecturers on IT and on teaching techniques.

Official Launch of PAMECA III

The Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania



Opening of Austrian School in Shkodra

On 8 September 2008, the Austrian School Peter Mahringer was inaugurated in Shkodra. Senior Government officials, including Prime Minister Sali Berisha, as well as the Austrian Minister for Education Mrs. Claudia Schmied attended the event. In her opening speech, the School's Director, Gerlinde Tagini, stressed the fresh impetus this new school gives to vocational education. Graduates from the Austrian School will obtain the Austrian as well as the Albanian school-leaving certificates. Subjects are taught in German and Albanian, but also English plays an important role too. The school building is provided with modern facilities as well as a path breaking low energy concept granted by the Austrian Development Cooperation. The School is one of six Austrian Schools abroad and the Investment of some 1 million Euros was financed by the Austrian Ministry of Education. For further information see: www.htl-shkoder.com.



Photo: Sector Working Group meeting on Environment (Photo: DSDC)

» (PAMECA III) was officially launched on 11 September 2008 in a ceremony at which the Head of EC Delegation, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan, Director for Western Balkans, DG Enlargement, Pierre Mirel, Minister of Interior, Bujar Nishani, General Director of Police, Ahmet Prenci, and Head of Mission of PAMECA III, Michael Colbourne delivered speeches. PAMECA III, is a three year 5.5 million Euros EC funded project under IPA 2007. It will build upon the EU funded Assistance to the Albanian State Police provided by PAMECA I and II. The Mission aims to bring the performance of the State Police closer to EU standards in the field of policing. An inception phase began in May 2008 during which PAMECA III experts identified key activities in: strategic advice; human resources, training, financial and technical resources and IT; integrated border and management; public order and security and a fight against organised crime and terrorism. A three year work plan was presented at the launch. With much of the legislative and strategic framework regulating police activity now in place PAMECA III will place an emphasis on the implementation and development of practices and procedures. A key priority will be to build partnerships and engage in effective dialogue with other key stakeholders.

Meetings of the Sector Working Groups

SWG Meeting on Environment Issues

A meeting of the SWG on Environment was held on 24 September 2008. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration in collaboration with the Dutch Embassy, Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination and the DTS. The aim was to consult to discuss and to establish terms of reference and working procedures for the working group and to pave the way for improved and active co-operation and co-ordination in the environment sector.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Taulant Bino, who briefed the participants on the environment situation in Albania, and the objectives for the fulfilment of the EU environmental standards, focusing on, air and water quality, noises, urban waste management, soil erosion, biodiversity and protected areas as well as forests and pastures. There were several discussions on the focus and the mission of this working group, taking into account that the environment is a cross-cutting theme and integrated in natural resources and rural development. To view documents from this meeting, please click [here](#).

Photo: Official launch of PAMECA III



SWG Meeting on Regional Development

A meeting of the SWG on Regional Development was held on 22 September 2008. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Economy Trade and Energy (METE) in co-operation with the DSDC and the DTS. The aim was to discuss about the progress in implementation of the Action Plan for Regional Development Cross-Cutting Strategy, Government priorities and challenges concerning regional development and the links it has with the decentralisation reform process. The meeting was opened by Deputy Minister, Enno Bozdo followed by a presentation from the donor focal point, Rahel Bösch the Deputy Country Director of the Swiss Development Cooperation. The necessity of a better collaboration between donors and METE to harmonise interventions and to more efficiently use donor financial assistance to the regional development was pointed out in the meeting. To view the presentations and the minutes of the meeting, please click [here](#).

SWG Meeting on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence – Focus: “Women in Elections”

Women in Elections was the topic of the sector working group meeting held on 16 September 2008 by the Ministry of Labour, Social Services and Equal Opportunities. The meeting chaired by Deputy Minister, Marieta Zaçe, brought together interested donors active on gender equality and domestic violence issues. She briefed participants on the progress in implementing the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence, and on the implications of the recent adoption of the Law No. 9970 On Gender Equality in Society, and the efforts of the Ministry, with the support of UN and OSCE, in preparing sub-legal acts on Domestic Violence and Gender Equality. This includes also the development of the recommendations prepared with UNIFEM support for the introduction and implementation of Law No. 9970 into the new Electoral Code. Donors



Photo: Marjeta Zaçe, Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Services and Equal Opportunities, chairing the SWG on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence on 16 September 2008 (Photo: UNIFEM Albania)

presented the respective plans, which included capacity building and support for women candidates and strengthening the existing network of women in politics. It also foresees support to women candidates to run for elections and post-elections assistance in Parliament (OSCE Presence), mobilising women as a political constituency and as voters (UNIFEM – UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality). Another component is working with the youth and youth parliaments on women in leadership and the role of young women in elections. To view the minutes and other documents from the meeting, please click [here](#).

Switzerland Continues to Support the Programme on Food Safety Systems for Albania

Joint co-operation between Switzerland, through the Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection focuses on providing technical assistance in food safety systems through the implementation of programme components on Hazard Analysis and

Sustainable Agriculture Support in Albania Project, Funded by Switzerland, Reviewed

The Switzerland Government has been supporting the Organic Agriculture Support in Albania (SASA) project, being implemented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL/Switzerland) since April 2001. The aim is to improve the economic situation of the rural population through a sustainable use of natural resources in selected areas. The project mainly covers activities in the Durrës and Tirana regions: focusing on farm research, market development, gender, inspection and certification and policy dialogue. The project aims at creating self-sufficient organisations along the organic value chain that can provide important services to organic operators and so improve their competition in the market. In order to assess the project's results and its relevance as well as to provide options for decisions, Switzerland assigned an External Review mission that took place in September 2008.



Ministry of Health, WHO and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation meet on the Maternal and Child Health Reform project

On 12 September 2008, the Ministry of Health (MoH) presented an action plan for the project Maternal and Child Health Reform that aimed at reducing maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality. The Maternal and Child Health Reform project is financially supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Co-operation. The action plan was drafted following a workshop held by the Ministry of Health with support from WHO involving health experts from both the central and regional levels and from other stakeholders such as UN agencies, bilateral agencies and NGOs. This allowed the WHO to identify how its expertise could best support the MoH in carrying out reforms in relation to mother and child health.



Photo: Stand with Bio Agricultural Products: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, supported by SASA project, Fair Activity in Tirana, on 28 September 2008.



Critical Control Points (HACCP) in 2008: an inception visit and meetings with the Competent Authorities for Food and Veterinary Inspection and representatives from the fish processing industry; a traceability workshop to cover the pre-requisite programme and the HACCP approach and an evaluation visit at the selected companies to assess the progress made by participants of the workshop. The objective of the recent evaluation visit, undertaken in September 2008, was to provide further support to the processing companies on the progress made in implementing the HACCP system and to advise them on product specification and documentation. Attention was given to

the mollusc sector, as there is a special need in training employees and regional inspectors for HACCP and especially on quality and safety issues. The creation of a programme, to support sea food processing companies with promotional activities on EU markets such as trade fair activities was another important step.

Italy finances two new NGO projects

Two new projects have been approved this month by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first 800,000 Euros initiative, Urban Inclusion of Kombinat's suburb families through Professional training, will be implemented by the Italian NGO, COLOR. The initiative looks to improve living conditions of people living in the Kombinat area by offering them access to new professional opportunities through social promotion and vocational training. The second project, Valorization of Tourism, Environment and local production in Permet, is co-financed by the Italian Co-operation through a 900,000 Euros grant, and will be implemented by the NGO CESVI. The initiative aims at sustaining the development of rural communities and local production according to international standards on safety and environmental protection.



Photo: Meeting of the Ministry of Health, WHO and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation on the Maternal and Child Health Reform project

National Conference on Building the Capacities of Albanian Local Authorities

A National Conference Building the capacities of Albanian local authorities was held on 9 October 2008 in Tirana. The event was a joint initiative of the Association of Albanian Municipalities (AAM), the Council of Europe, the OSCE Presence in Albania, and the Open Society Institute and brought together local government representatives. The Conference focused on the conclusions of the Leadership Programme implemented by the AAM and its partners since 2007 in the Municipalities of Berat, Shijak, Kamez, Lac and Permet with the aim to help them build their capacity to develop a clear municipal vision, and to make it come true through effective management and with strong involvement of the local community. This activity has led to the drafting of comprehensive Community Plans reflecting the priorities of the Municipalities for the years to come and the action plans needed to be undertaken to meet them. Some projects dealing with the creation of citizens' information office and financial management have also been implemented thanks to the programme. A National Guide to Community Planning was officially presented during the Conference and it later distributed to all Municipalities.

OSCE Presence assists Albanian public officials get experience on environment and trafficking in human beings issues

From 8 to 12 September 2008 ten participants from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE), and civil society took part in a study tour to Finland supported by the OSCE Presence in Albania. The visit aimed to strengthen public participation in the conducting of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) during planning processes. The Delegation was provided an insight into best practice examples of EIA procedures in Finland, supplemented by visits to several projects where methodologies for public consultation were shown. The visit is an excellent opportunity for participants to better understand practical and meaningful

Photo: Ute Rodrian, Director Regional Office Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia



ways in which to engage citizens in planning processes, and how these might be applied in Albania. On 10-11 September 2008, the Presence led another study trip for General Prosecutors' Office and Serious Crimes Prosecution Office officials to the OSCE Conference on Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking held in Helsinki. The Albanian delegation presented a case study of co-operation between Albanian and Norwegian law enforcement agencies in the prosecution of trafficking in human beings.

From the new KfW Director

Since 1988, Albania has benefited from some 360 million Euros from Official Development Assistance for investment projects financed by KfW on behalf of the German Government. The financial support focuses on the water and energy sectors as well as on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. KfW has contributed to the development of these sectors, providing expertise and innovation that have yielded results. The energy sector

is a pillar of the German Albanian Financial Co-operation with contributions of some 90 million Euros. It has supported the energy sector with a broad range of activities, including the connection of Albania to the European high-voltage-net via a 400 KV line from Elbasan to Podgorica and the creation of a guarantee facility for investments in small Hydropower plants and the expansion of energy production, transmission and distribution in Southern-Albania (Saranda-Gjirokastra). The projects support the stability of the power supply. Since 1992, KfW Entwicklungsbank has been pioneering innovative approaches and could mobilize substantial investments (EUR 120 million) in the area of water supply. Setting a landmark in micro and SME-financing, in 1995 it initiated the creation of FEFAD Foundation and FEFAD Bank, today known as ProCredit Bank. Based on the success in Albania, ProCredit Banks' business model expanded all over South-Eastern Europe. The KfW Office in Tirana is hosting the newly appointed resident Regional Director for Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, Ms Ute Rodrian. ■

In-country Missions

Italy

An Italian Mission to develop the private sector through the constitution of a line of credit in favour of the Small and Medium enterprises (SME) began in September. The initiative

is aimed at contributing to Albania's economic growth, reinforcing the SME, favouring the access to the private banking system, and achieving joint results that will create permanent interaction mechanisms between the SME and the banking sector.

An Italian expert from the General Directorate for Development Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in order to assist the METE. From September to November, the expert will provide technical assistance and ensure the necessary co-ordination between the various institutions and societies participating to the realization of the Programme for the technical and managerial restructuring of the KESH and the enhancement of the Albanian Electrical System.

From 25 September to 18 October 2008, an assessment Mission will take place within the Programme Medical Emergency System Strategy. The initiative aims to support the MoH to improve hospital emergency health services.

In September 2008 an Italian mission has started to monitor and assess the necessary actions to be taken in order to strengthen the water service delivered to the population of Tirana and neighbouring municipalities and to furnish technical assistance. This mission took place within the programme for the Rehabilitation of the water and sewage system in Tirana.

World Bank

The World Bank (WB) Supervision Mission for the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) on Capacity Building Support to Implement the Integrated Planning System (IPS) visited from 29 September to 3 October 2008. The mission assessed the implementation of the IPS MDTF and focused on: an assessment of the progress of transition to fully automated operations in Treasury Offices using the new treasury system; an assessment of the progress in several IPS components and carried out a procurement post review and updated the financial management assessment.

A WB Preparation Mission for the Proposed Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) for Privatization of the Distribution System Operator (DSO) took place from 26 August to 5 September 2008, following a Government request. The mission was focused on: the status of

preparation for the DSO privatization by the Government, ERE, KESH, the DSO and the bidders; the financial and commercial structure of the DSO privatization; the regulatory provisions that would be covered by the PRG and the selection of the commercial bank that would issue the letter of credit.

A Supervision Mission, for the Albania – Secondary and Local Roads Project visited from 18 to 26 September 2008. The aim was to confirm the status of project components, the implementation of the work by the contracted consultant and an update of the project performance indicators for inclusion in the first Implementation status Report.

A Supervision Mission for the Land Administration & Management Project (LAMP), and Tirana Regulatory Plan Project took place from 15-19 September 2008. The aim was to review progress in the implementation of all components, with a focus on

the computerization of IPRO systems, twinning arrangement between IPRO and NLS, and the first registration. Another goal was the finalisation of the draft Territorial Planning Law for submission to the Council of Ministers, the procurement of regulatory plan package II. A section of the project team supervised the implementation of the Tirana Regulatory Plan project, with a focus on reviewing the draft final report and preparation for the completion report to the donor.

A WB mission for an Albania Mining Sector Assessment took place from 29 September to 3 October 2008. The mission visited for a review and consultation on the findings of the Albania Mining Sector Assessment. The mission included discussions with government officials, industry and civil society on the findings of the (draft) Mining Sector Review; and discussed alignment of the government's draft mining sector strategy with proposed sector reforms detailed in the report. ■

donor*dialogue*

As of 1 April 2008, the European Commission is the current Chair of the DTS Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Donor Dialogue (both positive and negative) are strongly encouraged – and we promise to print all such comments received!

Want to contribute?

If you would like to contribute, send your text to the Donor Technical Secretariat (DTS) Office (nevila.como@aidharmonisation.org.al) by the 1st of every month. An ideal word count for submissions is around 100 words.

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