

government **donor** dialogue

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A Joint Effort of the Donor Technical Secretariat
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Photo: Prime Minister Berisha during the signing of the letter of understanding for the ratification of the 6th and final review of the 3 year agreement with IMF on 8 January 2009

Albania concludes successfully three-year program with IMF

On 8 January 2009, Prime Minister Sali Berisha, Finance Minister Ridvan Bode and Bank of Albania Governor Ardian Fullani, in the presence of IMF Resident Representative Ann-Margret Westin, signed the last Letter of Intent with the IMF under the three-year PRGF/EFF program. Prime Minister Berisha expressed his gratitude to the IMF for being a valuable partner during Albania's period of transition and for helping the Government to adopt fiscal and monetary policies that have helped the country establish macroeconomic stability and growth. He said that the end of the programme

marked the end of the economic transition in Albania and said that his Government remained willing to cooperate with the Fund in this new post-programme phase. On 28 January, the IMF's Executive Board adopted the last review under the programme. Deputy Managing Director, Murilo Portugal, commended the Albanian authorities for their strong performance during the programme. Mr. Portugal said that the continued steadfast implementation of sound economic policies and commitment to reform were necessary in order to face the current global economic downturn.

In this issue

- Albania concludes three-year program with IMF
- 2006-2007 NSDI Progress Report
- Meeting of the IPS SG
- EC adopts National Programme for Albania
- Multi-Beneficiary Programme for 2009
- Italian-Albanian Program for development of SMEs
- TIKa Activities in Albania
- 2009 Action Plan for Anticorruption Strategy
- New USAID Anti-Trafficking report
- Strengthening Albania's Health System
- Donor support to environment protection
- Sector Working Groups and their meetings

2006-2007 NSDI Progress Report published

The DSDC issued at the end of December the 2006-2007 NSDI Progress Report. The Report was prepared in co-operation with the line ministries and other main state institutions based on high level indicators defined in the NSDI, focusing on progress achieved so far, especially on priorities in the framework of NATO and European Integration. The report is a key component of the monitoring system for the implementation of IPS. It also includes an evaluation of progress made toward reaching Millennium Development Goals as well as the further steps that need to be undertaken. The draft was consulted with civil society and donor community in November 2008 and the final report reflects the feedback that has been received. The DSDC will make available printed copies of the Report to all interested stakeholders. An electronic version can be found at www.km.gov.al.



Photo: IPS SG meeting held on 30 January 2009

The Eighth Meeting of IPS Support Group

The Integrated Planning System Support Group held its eighth meeting on 30 January 2009. It was co-chaired by Deputy Minister of Finance, Sherefedin Shehu and Director of Aid Coordination Unit at the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC), Valbona Kuko. Officials from the Ministry of Finance, European Integration, the DSDC as well as from the donors supporting the IPS Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) were in attendance. The aim was to analyze IPS progress in 2008 and to look at the challenges in 2009. Mr. Shehu stressed that concrete steps were undertaken in terms of the procurement and disbursement in the framework of IPS MDTF implementation. The meeting continued with a detailed outline of IPS activities and processes by Mrs. Kuko. It was stated that the key IPS challenges for 2009 include the operationalisation of the functioning of IPS Co-ordination Group, the improvement of the overall inclusion of the European integration agenda on IPS co-ordination, the overall enhancement of the monitoring framework, the better reflection of EA projects in the budget and treasury systems, as well as the creation of IPISES and EAMIS. To view the minutes and presentations from this meeting, please click [here](#).

27th meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

On 6 January 2009, the Government's Strategic Planning Committee held its 27th meeting chaired by Prime Minister Berisha. The aim was to discuss and approve the 2010-2012 Macroeconomic Fiscal Framework. Prime Minister Berisha focused on policies that the Government is further implementing such as: the increase of investments, the increase of salaries and pensions and the reduction in tax. An increase of salaries with 4-12% and an increase of pensions by 10% is forecasted for 2010-2012, while investment expenditures is expected to reach 7% of GDP.

European Commission adopts the National Programme for Albania

On 19 December 2008, the European Commission adopted the National Programme for Albania under the IPA-Transition Assistance and Institution Building component in 2008 that will provide some 60.9 million Euros of funding. The programme consists of 24 projects to support Albania's political and economical reform process as well as the country's alignment with EU standards. Projects in the political field include the strengthening of Albania's administrative capacity, the construction of improved prison



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
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National Strategy for
Development and Integration

Progress Report
2006-2007

December 2008

Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination

and pre-trial detention facilities, the modernization of customs procedures, and the fight against corruption. In the economic field, the programme supports vocational education and training system, the improvement of secondary and local roads, and the promotion of the border region in Kukes. Financing is also foreseen for the support of Albania's maritime sector, for improving public protection against zoonotic diseases, for a reinforced national metrology system, an improved environmental monitoring system, and for a project aimed at improving highway routes. The programme also finances Albania's participation in Community Programmes. The Government along with other donors will provide co-financing for 9 out of 24 projects.

Launching event of the Italian-Albanian Programme for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises

On 20 January 2009, the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Embassy in Tirana and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy held a conference in Tirana to launch the Italian-Albanian Programme for the Development of SMEs. Funded by the Italian Government with a total amount of 30 Million Euros, it aims to contribute to the economical and social growth of Albania, facilitating the access to the credit system of the Albanian SMEs. The programme includes three main components: 25 million Euros as a soft loan for a Credit Line in favour of



Photo: Consultation process of Crosscutting Strategy on Information Society

Albanian SMEs; 2.5 million Euros as a soft loan for the creation of a Guarantee Fund supporting the SMEs access to the credit system; and 1.7 million Euros as a grant for Technical Assistance to Programme implementation and to promote both facilities towards Albanian SMEs. In October 2008, the Credit Line Steering Committee of the Program, composed by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy; Ministry of Finance, Bank of Albania and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Italian Embassy in Tirana, approved the Programme's functioning procedures. The Programme's priority sectors of intervention are: agriculture and agro food processing sector, renewable energies and energy efficiency/conservation projects, low environmental impact and pollution abatement, creating new job opportunities. The project is localized in the less developed area of the country (out of Tirana – Durres basin).

Photo: Launching event of the Italian Albanian Credit Line: Ridvan Bode, Minister of Finance, Genc. Ruli, Minister of the Economy, Trade and Energy, Saba D'Elia, Italian Ambassador to Tirana (Photo/Italian Development Cooperation)



The Crosscutting Strategy of Information Society is approved

The Crosscutting Strategy on Information Society prepared by the National Agency of Information Society was approved by Council of Ministers on 21 January 2009, following a wide public consultation process. The draft strategy was based on the National Strategy on Information Technology approved in 2003 and on the draft strategy on ICT prepared with UNDP support. The first draft was prepared at the start of 2008 that was then discussed in the Inter-Institutional Working Group in October 2008 and later consulted with civil society, the private sector and donors. The draft strategy was made public at the National Conference on Information Society on 20 November 2008. The strategy's aim is to co-ordinate the obligations stemming from Government commitments toward creating the Information Society. Some of the key priorities are: the improvement of IT infrastructure, e-governance and public service, e-business and legal framework. The strategy is accompanied by its own Action Plan.



Multi-Beneficiary Programme Co-ordination meeting in Brussels

On 14 to 17 January 2009, the European Commission held in Brussels the "Multi-Beneficiary Programme Co-ordination meeting" with the participation of all IPA Multi-beneficiary countries. The meeting brought together officials from DG ELARG, EC Delegations, National Authorities, Regional Cooperation Councils, and International Financial Institutions. The aim was to discuss the preliminary project ideas related to Multi-beneficiary Programme 2 for 2009. The programme will be presented during the next IPA Committee meeting to be held on 3 July 2009. Albanian Delegation was composed by representatives from the Ministry of European Integration, the DSDC and other related government officials.

plans of Ministries and their dependant institutions. It reflects the strategic and sectorial objectives and institutional measures set forth by the responsible institutions in the fight against corruption. The Action Plan will serve as a means to report to the EU on the progress in the field. The Council of Ministers created the Inter-Ministerial Working Group as the responsible structure for co-ordinating the implementation process of the Anticorruption Strategy, including monitoring its implementation and drafting and approving the annual integrated action plans.

USAID, HIDAA Support role of media and civil society in fight against corruption

In January 2009, USAID's Rule of Law Program, in partnership with the High Inspectorate of Declarations of Audits and Assets (HIDAA), held a workshop on Conflict of Interest (COI) and Asset Declarations in Vlora. This was the second workshop sponsored by USAID and HIDAA that has aimed to increase knowledge of the laws that govern conflicts of interest and declaration of assets and the cooperation of civil society and media in detecting and denouncing cases of corruption. USAID's Program Director, Fred Yeager, encouraged participants in their roles to investigate and denounce corruption of public officials. "Civic involvement in exposing and preventing such cases will help and support HIDAA in their efforts to administer the laws

relating to Conflict of Interest and Asset Declarations and to minimize corruption," he said. USAID's programme works with courts, oversight institutions like HIDAA, and watchdog organizations to fight corruption in Albania's public sector.

Overview of TIKA Activities in Albania

The Turkish International Co-operation and Development Agency (TIKA) Tirana Project Coordination Office had been operational since January 1996. Since then it has undertaken a variety of projects to assist Albania in its transition to international market economy and the integration into the internationally structured institutions through developing its political, social and cultural bodies. The Tirana Project Coordination Office has financed and held many training courses for diplomats, state officials, SMEs, banking experts, farmers and students. Several assistance programmes for the rehabilitation and equipment were provided to many schools and medical units all over Albania. More than 1.5 million Euros has been granted for projects undertaken since 2004. The Centre for the Mentally Disabled Children was rehabilitated in Berat in November 2008, with the financial support of 30,000 Euros. In 2009, TIKA Tirana Project Coordination Office will focus on health and cultural projects. Ongoing projects under implementation are: the reconstruction of the water pipe system for 6 villages in Kavaja, aiming to

2009 Action Plan for Anticorruption Strategy approved

On 30 January 2009, the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the Crosscutting Strategy on Prevention and Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance (2008-2013) held its first meeting of the year to seek approval for the updated integrated action plan of the strategy for 2009. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Genc Pollo and attended by all Deputy Ministers. The integrated 2009 Action Plan has been prepared based on the action

Photo: The Centre for the Mentally Disabled Children in Berat rehabilitated with financial support by TIKA Tirana Project Coordination Office in November 2008





Photo: The ongoing project of the TIKKA Tirana Project Coordination Office for the reconstruction of water pipe system in 6 villages of Kavaja.

maintain distribution of clean water; the rehabilitation of a kindergarten in Berat; and equipment with medical devices for the regional blood bank in Vlora. Some 500,000 Euro have already been reserved for these projects.

EU-funded project presents designs of pre-trial detention centres and prisons

On 23 January 2009, the project Design of Prisons and Pre-Trial Detention Centres, financed by the EU with 780,000 Euro was officially presented. The project includes the designs for three new prisons in Fier, Gjirokastra and Shkodra and three new pre trial detention centres in Elbasan, Berat and Kukës, addressing the main problems of the prison system. Strengthening the capacity of the

prison, in line with EU and international standards, is one of the key aims of the European Commission's cooperation with the Government. The designed prisons and pre-trial detention centres meet the requirements of a modern penitentiary system and foresee space for education, work, medical aid, recreation, cultural events and reintegration. The new designs lay the ground for a new, more constructive atmosphere in prisons and pre-trial detention centres as inmates will have the chance to be employed in the operation and the maintenance of the facilities. The EU has foreseen funds of 15.5 million Euros for the building of the new prisons and pre-trial detention centres. The Government will also contribute with additional funding by the state budget. The Head of the EC Delegation to Albania, Ambassador Helmuth Lohan said that "misconduct,

Health Centres to practice family medicine

In January 2009, the Ministry of Health announced the completion of two new health policy documents, the Framework for Family Medicine and the Basic Package of PHC Services that will improve the way primary health care services are delivered to citizens. Developed under the leadership of the Ministry, and in co-operation with partner organizations including, the Faculty of Medicine, the Health Insurance Institute, WHO-Albania, the American Academy of Family Physicians, USAID's PRO Shendetit project, and other donor and NGOs, these reforms aim to guarantee the provision of a comprehensive package of preventive and curative services for children, adults, and the elderly. People living in both rural and urban communities will have access to reproductive and mental health as well as receive information about promoting health lifestyles and behaviours.

mistreatment as well as inappropriate handling of conflicts in prisons are all reflected into a country's general human rights record and standing. Prisons must not only serve temporary punitive purposes. They should also prepare a safe return of detainees to society. Therefore, respect for human rights is of extreme importance in the prison environment."



Photo: The project Design of Prisons and Pre-Trial Detention Centres, financed by the EU with 780,000 Euro, presented on 23 January 2009. (Photo / EC Delegation in Albania)



Donor workshop: Identification and prioritisation of environmental hotspots' project

On 23 January 2009 a donors' workshop was held to inform donors about the results of the first phase of the Identification and prioritisation of environmental hotspots project. This project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is intended to provide the Government (and the donor community supporting the environment sector) with the necessary information to take informed decisions on the 'priority' with which the remediation of hotspots should be addressed. Various criteria are considered in this regard: environmental risks, public health risks, potential of the area to boost socio-economic development, feasibility of effective remediation. A second event to share information and explore interest and potential among donors to take on the actual remediation of the prioritised hotspots is expected in the last quarter of 2009.

New USAID Anti-Trafficking report announced

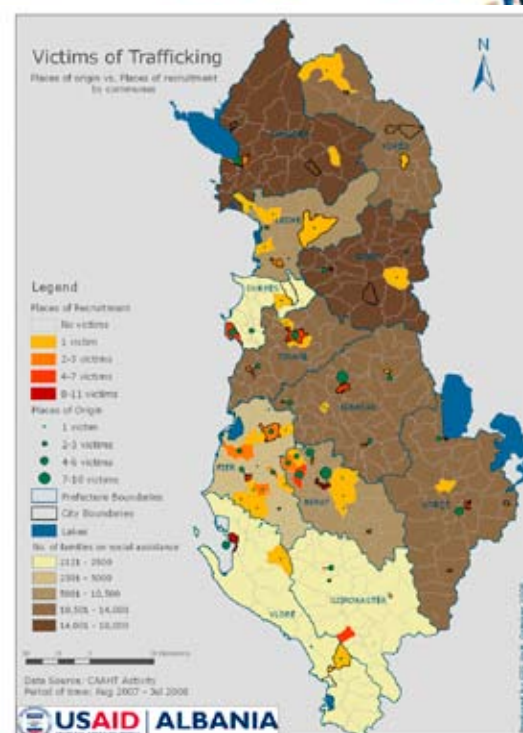
USAID's anti-trafficking programme announced the findings of its fourth annual report on the State of Efforts in Albania to Combat Trafficking of Persons. The report offers an overview and analysis of anti-trafficking policies and programmes in Albania related particularly to social services and education. This year's report draws on the data and experience of the nationwide network of government and civil society organizations that work with USAID's programme. The report contains an analysis of case data from victims of trafficking collected from Albania's National Anti-trafficking Shelter Coalition, which challenge a number of commonly held assumptions about the causes of vulnerability to trafficking. Key findings include:

- Most victims of trafficking were recruited in their community of origin and by someone they knew personally.
- Most victims of trafficking were recruited from the more urban areas of the country, and in the "moderately economically distressed" qarqe.
- Over half of the victims of trafficking assisted in the shelters had completed compulsory education.
- Over 90% of the victims of trafficking in the shelters come from the general Albanian population; only 9% were from the Roma and Balkan Egyptian minority communities.

The full report is available at: www.caaht.com

Italy and Health: strengthening the Albanian health system

The NGO AISPO new project Northern Albania: Strengthening the emergency aid system in the regional hospital of Shkoder, financed through some 800,000 Euros grant



by the Italian Development Co-operation, began its activities in January 2009. The aim is to improve health conditions of poorest population in the Shkoder Prefecture. The initiative aims at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency centre improving the delivery of health services in terms of quality and number of treated patient. Medical staff will be trained and updated on medical practices under the supervision and in co-operation with the Italian Hospital San Raffaele di Milano. This project was part of the Italian strategy to improve health conditions between 2002 and 2008. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed some 20 initiatives improving community health care and infrastructure in co-operation with the Government, health officials and civil society, identifying local health needs, prioritizing, planning and budgeting activities for more than 45 million Euros.

Photo: Trained medical staff key to establishing successful treatment clinics (Photo/Italian Development Cooperation)



GTZ launches the new Human Resource Development Programme

On 15 January 2009, a meeting with officials from the Council of Ministers, the DSDC, the Ministry of Education and GTZ was held in Tirana to introduce a new programme on Human Resource Development. The German experts have initiated a needs assessment concerning Vocational Education and Training system and have met with line ministries, the DSDC, donors and other key actors in the sector. The German expert, Teddy Sandler presented the newly designed seven years programme, composed by: a new component consisting on technical assistance at policy level, the continuation of the current assistance for the Professional Academy at Durres University (launched in 2007), as well as the VET project in north-east area (launched in 2008). The participants welcomed the new initiative of Germany to include all VET projects in a wider framework. The DSDC Co-ordinator, Mrs. Oriana Arapi commended the fact that the new programme had taken into consideration DSDC suggestions for introducing the programme nationwide, influencing regional and national policy making. The programme is designed to accommodate other projects from other donors, thus avoiding any duplication of donor support. The project will begin in September.

Photo: The German expert, Teddy Sandler introducing the new HRD Programme



Photo: Through SITA, Ylli Hysollari, an apple farmer in Korça can now receive daily information about the price of fruit and vegetables in wholesale markets throughout Albania. USAID's AAC program is collecting and analyzing data on production and market trends throughout the country and teaching farmers and traders how to use this information to identify market opportunities and make long-term decisions about production and marketing. (Photo/USAID Albania)



SMS messages help farmers get a better price

In January 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and USAID launched a new SMS-based market information system, SITA, to support farmers and agribusinesses. Through this system, farmers and traders will now receive daily price information as an SMS message for major commodities in six wholesale markets across Albania. The lack of timely and reliable information about current trade opportunities and conditions for farmers and agribusinesses is one of the main constraints in Albania's agriculture sector. Through USAID's Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness (AAC) programme, this market information system will improve access to data so that farmers can make more informed decisions about where and when to sell their products. In the next two months, the SMS system will provide on-demand data for a larger number of commodities. Farmers, traders, processors or anyone interested in receiving the information will be able to send a text message

requesting data, and will receive a response fifteen seconds later. To request a SITA daily price reports, send a text message to SITA at the following number: 067 26 02 626. SITA will also be available soon through the Green Market Website www.greenmarket.al

USAID presents new tool to improve local tax administration

In a press conference held in January 2009, attended by officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior, USAID presented a new tax manual to support reforms in tax administration. The Guidelines on the Administration of Local Taxes and Fees will serve as a tool in the professional growth and training of





Photo: Institute for Deaf Children in Tirana: an ordinary school day (Photo/Italian Development Cooperation)

local tax administrators and will directly support the success of local government finance reform. USAID Director, Roberta Mahoney, acknowledged the importance of this sector, noting that clear procedures, transparency of operation, and a professional staff with integrity are integral for the administration of local taxes and fees. The Guidelines are endorsed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior and will be available to all local government units.

Support for the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Gender Statistics and Indicators

Under the framework of the newly adopted gender equality law On Gender Equality in Albania, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, through the support of UNIFEM and UNFPA, established an Inter-Institutional Working Group. The Group is tasked with improving the monitoring the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Domestic Violence implementation as well as harmonising the collection, analysis and use of qualitative and quantitative indicators on the status of women and gender equality. The Working Group will ensure linkages with wider governmental monitoring and statistical processes being carried out. INSTAT will work closely with the Ministry in supporting the work of the Working Group. On 29 January 2009, the Group held the first meeting to

discuss the terms of reference and agree on the work plan. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Labour Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Marjeta Zace, who stressed the importance of improved co-ordination in the monitoring of the status of women. This initiative is carried out under the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and is supported by the UN Coherence Fund.

Disabled but not Unable: Recovery hearing disability in Albanian deaf children

Since 2002, Italy has supported the improvement of social and health structures for the treatment and rehabilitation of children with minor hearing disability, to promote the reintegration of disabled children and to reduce deaf mutism. A new project, second part of a completed one, is financed by the Development Co-operation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a 700,000 Euros grant, and will be implemented by the NGO MAGIS. The initiative aims at extending the prevention and treatment of hearing disabilities in Northern Albania, stimulating the adoption of European standard hearing and verbal rehabilitation procedures and raising the social awareness of the importance of early diagnosis. People with disabilities may be different but they have the same needs as everyone else: giving a helping

hand, they can live independently and contribute to society. These words inspire the work of MAGIS and its staff working for the Institute for Deaf Children in Tirana, a specialized structure providing intervention programmes and preparing children for better integration into society.

Meetings of the Justice and Home Affairs SWG and its sub-sectors

The International Consortium has planned to call a plenary meeting on the Justice and Home Affairs on 28 April 2009. During January 2009, the Consortium held three sub-sectors meetings on Justice and Home Affairs. A Training & Equipment sub-sector meeting was held 27 January 2009 to discuss the training needs of state police through reviewing a training plan drafted by the General Directorate of State Police. According to the plan, by December 2011, all State Police staff will be under a basic training. Trainings are forecast for different sectors such as those in border police and advanced training for different departments. The plan will involve financial contributions from all donors. Albanian instructors are expected to commit training along with the foreign experts. Witness protection meeting held on 28 January 2009 was chaired by Director of Witness Protection Directorate at the



Photo: Seminar for Small Hydropower Plant Investors and Consultants held in Tirana

State Police, Mrs. Aida Hajnaj, OSCE and ICITAP. The meeting focused on the current status of draft-law on witness protection and activities undertaken in this field. The draft-law is sent to Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and General Prosecutor for comments and is expected to be submitted to the Assembly for approval in February. The European Commission will assist through IPA 2010 in training and logistics of the Witness Protection Directorate with a fund of one million Euros in the framework of a twining project. The joint meeting of sub-committees on Prison Reform and Juvenile Justice took place on 29 January 2009. The meeting discussed the steps undertaken by two sub-committees during 2008 and the action plan towards establishing the probation service and the right of education for the detained persons. UNICEF is the donor focal point for the group on Juvenile Justice Reform. The group held four meetings in 2008 where the probation service, the law for legal assistance for the marginalized groups, the opening of new prisons, the newly approved laws on prisons were discussed. The Ministry of Justice has drafted a regulation in order to define the standards of probation service, organization and functioning of the responsible structure. Probation service is new to Albania and it will be accompanied by a public awareness campaign. The EU will finance this project within its IPA framework.

KfW supports Seminar for SHPP Investors and Consultants

Within the framework of the German-Albanian Financial Co-operation Programme Promotion of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, MVV decon had organised on behalf of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and KfW Entwicklungsbank a Seminar for Small Hydropower Plant Investors and Consultants. The seminar was held in Tirana between 13 to 16 January 2009 in co-operation with the National Agency of Natural Resources. The event focused on the techniques enabling investors and their consultants to prepare the documentation to be presented to interested business partners and financial institutions. Technical, economic and legal aspects of small hydropower plant investments were also discussed. Participating investors as well as Government experts and Programme partner banks all actively participated in the

discussion of specific topics of great relevance for the investors and their consultants.

Regional Conference in Sarajevo

On 27 to 28 January 2009, the Regional Conference entitled From economic transition to European Integration: two decades of change in South Eastern Europe was held by GTZ in Sarajevo. The aim was to review progress and achievements of the South-Eastern Europe countries during the transition and to lay out the challenges emerging from European integration. The support of GTZ and involvement of national stakeholders to successfully implement economic and legal reform policies were also discussed. Attention was given to the relevance of appropriate institutional settings for both successful economic transition and enhanced integration into the European market. The Albanian delegation was composed of the DSDC, ministry officials and NGOs representatives.



In-country Missions

World Bank

A World Bank Identification Mission for the Proposed Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project (DRMAP) visited from 28 January to 1 February 2009. Its aim was to discuss and agree with the Government officials on the possible scope and components of DRMAP project, identify key agencies to be involved in the project preparation and implementation, and agree on the next steps in the proposed project preparation.

A World Bank Inspection Panel Visit took place from 15 to 25 January 2009. The visit was related to two World Bank projects, Integrated Coastal Zone and Management Clean-up and Power Sector Generation and Restructuring. The aim was to address the concerns of people affected by these projects, and ensure that the World Bank adheres to its operational procedures.

A World Bank Technical Supervision Mission for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-up Project (APL-1), took place from 14 to 23 January 2009. The mission reviewed all components under the ICZMP project, with a particular focus on: progress related to the preparations for the public consultation activities for the Draft Southern Coastal Development Plan and draft Coastal Regulations; progress towards the finalization of the plan and regulations and subsequent government approval; and the formulation of options for land policy.

A World Bank mission for the Competitiveness and Investment Climate Assessment (ICA) and Business Environment Reform and Institutional Strengthening (BERIS) took place from 7 to 18 January 2009. The aim related to the ICA project was to conduct enterprise case studies and to participate in a workshop to present the preliminary findings of the estimation of OECD indicators of product market regulation for Albania. The aim related to the BERIS project was to provide assistance to Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy on the

inspections component of the project. A World Bank Supervision Mission for the Social Service Delivery Project took place from 8 to 15 January 2009. Its main aim was to monitor and assess the necessary actions to be taken, aiming at ensuring achievement of project's objectives and completion of all activities within project's life time.

A World Bank Scoping Mission for the Albania Mining Sector visited country from 8 to 10 January 2009. Its aim was to support an empirical analysis of the investment climate in the Albanian mining sector. In order to guide policy and actions to improve the investment climate, a short report will summarize the current sector activity; the overall performance, the strengths and weaknesses of the fiscal, legal and regulatory framework, and in attracting foreign investment.

A World Bank Follow-up Mission for the Proposed Second Policy Operation (DPO2), and Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) took place from 7 to 25 January 2009 to follow up on the mission finalized in December 2007. Meetings with key representatives from private sector and the donor community were held.

A World Bank Mission to provide Technical Assistance to the Bank

of Albania on Microfinance visited country from 20 January to 2 February 2009. Its aim was to assess the Albanian microfinance sector, specifically to: assess the current status of the microfinance sector (including the Savings and Credit Associations) the microfinance institutions (and any similar entities); to assess the adequacy of the current legal and regulatory framework as applicable to the sector; to participate in meetings with representatives from these institutions and associations, non-bank financial institutions, and the banks that are involved in micro lending to discuss strengths and problem being faced.

A World Bank Supervision Mission for the Health System Modernization Project, and Development Policy Operation, Preparation (DPO) took place from 22 to 29 January 2009. This mission focused on the overall health project progress, as well as issues such as the Integrated Health Information System development and the Contracting and Payment Methods activity. The team followed up on DPO core conditions by assisting the Ministry of Health and Health Insurance Institute in addressing major policy issues. ■

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As of October 2008, the UNDP is the current Chair of the Donor Technical Secretariat.

Any comments regarding Government-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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