

# Activities Report 2010



**PARTNERS - ALBANIA,**  
**CENTER FOR CHANGE**  
**AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

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## **I. PA BACKGROUND**

Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management is an Albanian organization, established in 2001. Partners Albania is member of Partners for Democratic Change International (incorporated in Brussels with a representative office since 2006), a global network of 20 independent Centers. Partners Albania is a member of some other European based networks.

Partners Albania builds the platforms for communities, civil society organizations, government and business to resolve conflict and advance constructive change. Partners Albania has over nine years of experience combining local knowledge with innovative tools and techniques to build sustainable solutions and effective leadership, under its key programmatic areas:

- 1. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- 2. PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AT CENTRAL LEVEL**
- 3. PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL LEVEL**
- 4. NGO SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 5. NGO LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
- 6. SOCIAL INCLUSION (SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER INTEGRATION)**

## **II. PA BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Elvana Zhezha	Chairwoman
Elvis Toçi	Deputy Chairman
Mirjeta Emini	Treasurer
Klodiana Kapo	Secretary
Alketa Qendro	Member
Pranvera Behushi	Member
Anduela Arbana	Member

### **STAFF**

Juliana Hoxha	Director
Rajmonda Duka	Senior Program Manager
Ariola Agolli	Trainer/Program Manager
Klotilda Tavani	Trainer/Program Manager
Arla Gruda	Trainer/Program Manager
Elona Kapexhiu	Senior Management Assistant
Klodiana Dervishi	Finance Officer
Arben Musaka	Driver

### III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through this report, Partners Albania is pleased to share with you the results of the activities and initiatives implemented during the year 2010. In this year, Partners Albania has continued to give its contribution toward building a sustainable democracy in Albania. Its efforts to a more responsive and proactive civil society, to a more transparent and accountable participatory governance at central and local level, to a more equal society providing equal chances for all its citizens, to a more sensitive society toward its members with less opportunities, has resulted in significant changes in all its working areas.

Partners Albania's experience and expertise is further developed and diversified due to collaborations and partnerships' established with national, regional and international organizations to implement initiatives and programs in support of the developments and reforms in the country and abroad.

Some highlights of Partners Albania work during 2010 are as follows:

*NGOs Development and Leadership* continues to be one of the main components of Partners Albania's work since its creation. Revision of Fiscal Legal Framework for the Non-for-Profit Sector, as an important element of the NGO legal framework, was in the focus of PA efforts to improve the legal environment for NGO sector in Albania during 2010.

In addition to that, Partners Albania has provided trainings and coaching for NGOs in Albania, and in the region aiming to build their capacities and to improve their performance in several issues concerning the sector as Advocacy, Lobbying, Fundraising, Project Cycle Management, Ethics at Work, etc.

Promoting *Good Governance and Participatory Processes* is another main component of Partners Albania's work that is further developed through several initiatives implemented in 2010, at Central and Local Level. Using different approaches, PA increased citizens' feedback and role to make public bodies more accountable, responsible and responsive toward their needs and priorities.

PA conducted the performance monitoring of the Business National Registration Center and the National Licensing Center all over Albania where these Centers are established, which results will contribute to further improvements in service delivery toward their customers.

Following the successful experience of the "I support Good Governance" initiative of the Local Elections of February 18, 2007, Partners Albania is expanding the initiative in the framework of the upcoming local elections of May 8, 2011 with four other Local Coalitions in four Albanian cities, advocating for citizens' issues.

*Women empowerment and Gender issues* are expanded to different level and social groups. Partners Albania has contributed to the promotion and increased awareness on a greater participation and representation of women in decision making structures at local and central level, at public and private institutions.

PA is been involved in gender policy and strategy making of central and local public institutions as General Directorate of Taxation and Albanian Municipalities, as well as in the preparation of school curricula making them gender sensitive mainstreaming gender issues on them.

*Promotion and Development of Philanthropy* is a new initiative started in 2010 by PA as an organized effort for the first time in Albania to increase awareness and sensibility of the society on philanthropic activities that improve people's lives.

## IV. PROJECTS

### 4.1. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED (ENDED IN 2010)

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Monitoring the performance of Business National Registration Center	October 2009- March 2010	Millennium Challenge Corporation Albania Threshold Program II	ALL 1,988,048	National Registration Center HQ and its branches in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrësi, Vlora, Fieri, Elbasani, Pogradeci, Gjirokastra, Saranda, Lushnja, Berati, Kavaja, Kruja, Lezha and Shkodra

One of the key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) is the reform in the business registration procedures, reducing its cost and the time needed to register a new business to one day, combining all the registration steps in a single procedure. This reform is an important step towards the overall goal of the government to improve the business climate in Albania.

An element of the reform was the establishment of The National Registration Center that began its operation on September 3, 2007, with support of the Albania Threshold Country Program. In addition to the main office in Tirana, it has 29 windows in: Tirana, Durrësi, Elbasani, Vlora, Korça, Shkodra, Fieri, Gjirokastra, Kruja, Rrësheni, Berati, Bulqiza, Kavaja, Lushnja, Pogradeci, Çorovoda, Librazhdi, Burreli, Bajram Curri, Gramshi, Peshkopia, Tepelena, Laçi, Lezha, Erseka, Përmeti, Puka, Saranda, Kukësi. The NRC windows in the districts have offered opportunities for the businesses to complete all the registration procedures at the local level.

Three years after the establishment of the NRC, Partners Albania conducted the monitoring of 17 NRC windows, three in Tirana and 14 windows in other municipalities aiming to assess the services of the NRC in terms of sustainability, quality, professionalism, transparency, fairness and effectiveness.

The assessment consisted in:

- Conduction of over 1 000 interviews with NRC customers, immediately after receiving a service from the respective NRC window.
- Organization of four focus group meetings with the NRC's clients to receive a deeper opinion about the functioning of this institution and its impact on business performance, and to raise issues of concern resulting from the business' experience with this institution. The meetings were held during February and March in Tirana, Durrës, Vlora and Shkodra.
- Conduction of interviews with employees of the NRC and the Department of Taxation in all the municipalities to monitor the NRC cooperation with other government agencies and the NRC's impact on business development in Albania.
- Organization of a workshop to discuss preliminary findings with participants in the assessment.

The results of the monitoring are published in the **Assessment Report of NRC Performance** in July 2010.



## FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH BUSINESSES

In Shkodra



In Tirana



In Durrësi



In Vlora



## NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN TIRANA



PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Monitoring performance of National Licensing Center	March – November 2010	Millennium Challenge Corporation Albania Threshold Program II	ALL 2,328,200	Albania

Within the framework of the assistance that the Albania Threshold Country Program II, provided to the Albanian government to reduce corruption in public administration (business licensing, construction permitting and tax administration) by streamlining administrative procedures and making them more transparent, thereby reducing the discretionary authority of public officials, was the establishment of the National Licensing Center in June 2009, as a one-stop-shop to streamline business licensing and permitting procedures.

Partners Albania conducted the first survey to monitor the NLC performance, aiming to gather data and assess the performance of the NLC, customer satisfaction and experiences with its services, and generate ideas for further improvement.

To achieve the goal, PA accomplished the following specific tasks:

- Establish a comprehensive telephone survey methodology for collecting reliable data on NLC performance and customer satisfaction;
- Design a survey questionnaire;
- Data gathering utilizing established quality control techniques; and
- Analyze and present the survey findings.

The survey targeted businesses whose licensing and permitting requests have been processed through the NLC, and was conducted in three rounds, including 300 applicants in each round.

The survey was administered to NLC customers that had direct experience requesting and receiving a service at the NLC headquarters or at regional sites where NLC services are offered. Questions addressed the overall experience and the most recent experience of the respondents with the NLC and their perception of the licensing procedures in general. The respondents were mostly the business administrator or the business legal representative identified in the database of unique applicants of NLC.

The results of the monitoring are published in the final report ***Monitoring the performance of the National Licensing Center***.

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Building the capacities of civil society organizations to promote participatory consultations in policy formulation processes in Albania	November 2009 - September 2010	Balkan Trust for Democracy	\$ 24,910	Albania

Like many countries in transition, Albania is faced with the need to develop and strengthen appropriate systems and practices to promote public participation and consultation processes in order to improve the quality of the formulated policies.

The process of policy formulation in Albania is divided between the line ministries and the public institutions. However, until now, experience has shown that neither the ministries nor other public institutions have enough capacities to carry out sustainable and regular public consultations with NGOs and interest groups. On the other hand, NGOs need to develop further their advocating, cooperating and monitoring capacities in order to become a significant factor in the process of formulating the policies that affect the groups they work for. Often, this has affected the quality of the political documents and the approved draft-laws, as well as their enforcement at the local and central level.

Considering the situation, Partners Albania initiated this project aiming to raise the capacity of the civil society organizations to engage and participate more effectively in the consultation processes related to policies and strategies, and to disseminate best practices through the development of advocacy and monitoring skills.

The project served as a linking bridge between representatives of NGOs working in the areas of education, social services and environmental issues and the respective ministries: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration.

Partners Albania delivered training programs to build the capacities of the involved NGOs on Advocacy and Lobbying, and Law Drafting Processes, providing them the skills and techniques to be successful in their participation in the policy making processes. By the other hand, representatives from the ministries involved in the project were trained on Participatory Governance Concepts, Tools, and Techniques, improving their skills and capacities to conduct successful consultation processes to formulate effective policies.

PA promoted participatory policy formulation processes as a means of educating and soliciting input from the public, facilitating dialogue between civil society and government officials, and transferring important policy knowledge to key stakeholders; Provided greater access to civil society and enabled NGOs and interest groups to interact with Government and to contribute to effective policy formulation;



Monitored the policy formulation processes to ensure that commitments are honored and the official publication truthfully represent the draft that was discussed and improved with the feedback received by the interest groups.

PA published the ***Participatory Consultative Processes, Practical Guide***, aiming at strengthening the principles of good governance in central administration institutions as well as raising the awareness of civil society experts on their role and expertise in these processes. The guide provides practical information on how to organize and conduct consultative processes.

## TRAINING SESSIONS ON PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES



## REGIONAL WORKSHOPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATORY POLICY FORMULATION PROCESSES AND DISCUSS BEST PRACTICES



PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Improving women's visibility and outreach at local and central level	November 2009 – May 2010	OSCE with the financial support of the Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Swedish International Development Agency	€ 23,910	Four regions: Fier, Vlorë, Gjirokastrë & Berat, including the Municipalities of Lushnja, Fieri, Ura Vajgurore, Berati, Kucova, Rroskoveci, Patosi, Vlora, Orikumi, Ballshi, Tepelena, Gjirokastra and Saranda

The level of democracy in a country can be measured when women do not only have the right to vote and exercise freely their active citizenship, but they can also participate and have the right to formulate political agendas, equally with their male counterparts. Even though Albania has committed itself to fulfill the requirements deriving from a diverse set of ratifications on human rights, still women in Albania face a number of gender-related challenges that hinder their full engagement in public and political life.

Despite awareness campaigns, lobbying at all levels, and changes in the electoral code for a greater involvement of women in higher levels of representation in decision-making structures, it still remains at low levels. This is noticed at local and central level, as well as in public administration and business sector, academic levels, etc.

Partners Albania throughout the years has implemented a number of programs focusing on empowerment of women and their role in society. Following the work in this sector, Partners-Albania started the implementation of the project "Improving the women's visibility and outreach at local and central level" in the framework of the OSCE three-year program "Enhancing Women's Role in Governance".

The main goal of the project was to improve women visibility and outreach at local and central level through promotion of women leaders across the political spectrum, provision of a platform for mutually reinforcing networking, and encouragement of the public authorities' response to women's needs at central and local level.

Partners Albania designed and implemented a course of actions, including activities with participation of women, local government and community members, as follows:

- Nine (9) Regional Forums on Women Leadership and Advocacy were organized in Fieri, Vlora, Saranda, Tepelena, Gjirokastra, Përmeti, Berati, Kucova and Lushnja from December to February 2010. A number of 155 women leaders and representatives of civil society, local government, business, education, health and social services public institutions, etc, shared and learned from each other successful experiences in leading positions, as well as the challenges that a woman should face to participate in the public life.

- Twelve (12) Training Programs on Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Rights were delivered in the Municipalities of Fieri, Orikumi, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Tepelena, Patosi, Ballshi, Rroskoveci, Kucova, Ura Vajgurore, Lushnja, and Vlora. The trainings served to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of 240 municipal council members and municipal staff on gender issues and the role of local government to mainstream gender issues in local programs and policies.
- Twenty-four (24) Community meetings on public services and gender mainstreaming were organized in Lushnja, Fieri, Patosi, Rroskoveci, Vlora, Orikumi, Saranda, Ballshi, Tepelena, Gjirokastra, Kucova, Ura Vajgurore (two in one city). About 800 citizens, man and women community members of different ages, professions, groups of interest discussed with Municipality' staff on public services from a gender perspective.

The initiative provided the opportunity to the women in 12 areas in the regions of Fieri, Vlora, Berati and Gjirokastra to profile themselves in the public life; increased knowledge of the local authorities and local councils on laws, concepts and attitudes that have the greatest impact on women's lives as well as increased responsiveness towards women's lives at local level; and discovered the views, priorities and needs of both men and women about the policies and services delivered by municipalities and communes.

## REGIONAL FORUMS



## TRAINING ON WOMEN RIGHTS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING





## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Lushnja



Roskovec



Patos



Vlora



#### 4.2. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION (STARTED IN 2010)

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Enhancing youth employment through training and labor market orientation	April 2010 – April 2011	Open Society Foundation for Albania	\$ 30,425	Vlora

The economic and financial crises that affected the world in September 2008, reached Albania in 2009. The economic conditions deteriorated during the summer season when Albanian economy showed the first signs of declining rates of economic and employment in general. The effects of the crisis were firstly noticed in some branches of the economy such as light industry, construction industry, retail and financial services. Experts are concerned about the progress of employment in 2010, because investment projects are scarce, while many sectors have reduced or stopped their further expansion. The current situation of unemployment, which is closely related to the level of education of jobseekers registered at employment offices, shows that training and qualification of unemployed young people who are looking for a job according to the needs of the labor market, age and gender, is one of the most important tasks currently facing the Vocational Education System in Albania.

The main purpose of the project “Enhancing youth employment through training and labor market orientation” is to reduce unemployment in Vlora region by increasing job opportunities for young people. Through this project, PA aims to support boys and girls in the city of Vlora, through information, training, assistance, and connections with employers in order to increase their chances to find a job.

The project is implemented in close partnership with Vlora Youth Center, and other local stakeholders that have offered a great support to the project as: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vlora, University of Vlora, Municipality of Vlora, and Regional Employment Office in Vlora. Partners Albania delivered trainings and assistance to build their capacities to better respond to the employment needs of youngsters.

During 2010, Partners Albania implemented a series of activities to support the youngsters and prepare them to be successful in their efforts to find a job, as follows:

- A number of 300 youngsters increased their knowledge and skills on how to prepare a CV, how to prepare for a job interviews and how to work in a team;
- A number of 100 youngsters were assisted to prepare their employment files, and 60 youngsters were assisted to prepare their CV for open job positions;
- A **Labor Market Research** was conducted and a report with main findings and recommendations is prepared, aiming to provide the beneficiaries with a picture of the current situation of employment opportunities and needs in Vlora, as well as the actions needed to match the offer and the requests, to increase the number of employers in the labor market;
- A bulletin with information on the services offered by the project, employment opportunities available, and success stories from young people participation in the project’ activities is published periodically;

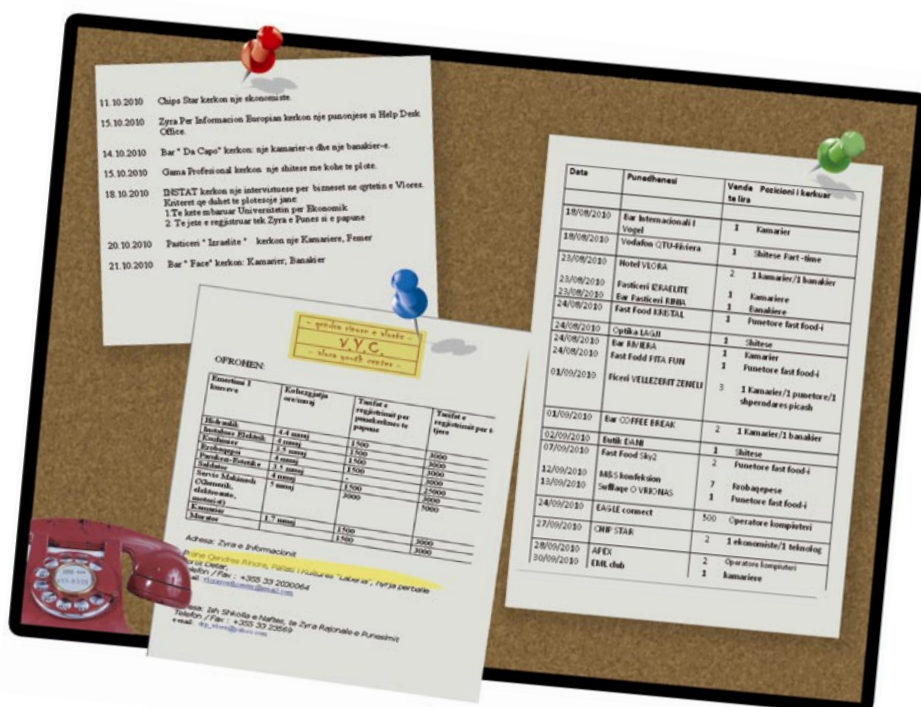


- As a result of the meetings, negotiations and lobbying with employers, a number of 50 youngsters assisted by the projects are employed by private companies and public institutions in Vlora.

PA will continue to assist young boys and girls in Vlora to increase their chances for successful employment through other activities in 2011.



## Training with youngsters



## Job and Training Announcements

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Strengthening Democratic Practices of Active Citizens participation in Electoral processes	September 2010 - September 2011	US Embassy & The Balkan Trust for Democracy	\$55.602	Elbasan, Berat, Pogradec, and Korça

While the democracy in Albania is progressing, the need for strengthening the democratic practices of citizens' participation in electoral processes remains strong. The country's political institutions and processes, particularly at the local level, are weak. Political parties and their candidates in local elections don't have specific political agendas, addressing citizens' local issues and concerns. Albanian citizens are still getting comfortable with the idea of advocating for their own interests and rights. Civil society groups have little experience translating issues into a political context, mobilizing forces to leverage political attention to common problems and collaborating with each other or with government.

Since local elections are seen as strategic opportunity to leverage intense attention to local issues during the election period to demand greater responsibility & accountability from candidates for Mayor and other local offices, to address the above mentioned problems, Partners Albania designed a special advocacy capacity building process to mobilize citizens to participate in local government decision-making.

The project "Strengthening Democratic Practices of Active Citizens Participation in Electoral Processes" is designed to support the democratization process in Albania, introducing and implementing democratic practices of citizens' participation in political processes during elections.

Through this initiative, Partners Albania aims to increase active involvement of citizens and local civic groups in the electoral process; to increase accountability of local elected leaders; and set the ground for replication of such initiatives among other groups at a national level, leading to the increase of confidence of Albanian citizens in a democratic electoral process.



In the timeframe of the project, prior to the Local Elections of 2011, Partners Albania will facilitate the establishment and advocacy efforts of local coalitions of interest groups in four cities of Albania (Korça, Pogradec, Berat, and Elbasan) during the electoral campaign and after the Local Elections of May 8, 2011. An integrated set of activities, incorporated in six main phases of the project, such as: (1) establishment of local coalitions, (2) capacity building, (3) design of advocacy campaign, (4) implementation of advocacy campaign, (5) monitoring of electoral pledges, and (6) best practice dissemination; will be implemented by each local coalition, in order to hold candidates

for Municipality Mayor accountable for their electoral pledges by influencing their political agenda around local issues of public interest.

In October – December 2010, Partners Albania organized local roundtables in Berat and Elbasan to discuss with local stakeholders and civil society organizations the citizens' needs and priorities that can be addressed through this initiative.

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Revision of Fiscal Legal framework for the Non-for-profit Sector	November 2010 - March 2011	Open Society Foundation for Albania	\$27,530	Albania

About a decade after developing the legal framework for non-for-profit sector in Albania, it still suffers from many shortcomings and leaves room for subjectivity in interpretation. In general, after the developments of the last years, it is estimated that the legal framework for the sector does not allow its stability and affects normal activity in his relations with the state. One of the main issues that arise is related with the fiscal framework for NGOs which is evasive and leaves room for subjectivity and abuse by the tax collectors.

The most problematic issue in the fiscal legislation has been and remains to be the Value Added Tax. The Amendment of December 26, 2007, made NGOs subject to the VAT for the first time, putting thus a clear sign of equality with the business sector. In terms of the existing legislation, the sector has no incentive to be oriented toward service delivery against payment, either with reduced fee. Reporting in the state is the same as a big business even after 18 years, creating thus a major financial and administrative obstacle for NGOs.

Partners Albania as a promoter of the changes and developments in the legal framework for the non-for-profit sector in Albania, undertakes this initiative aiming to improve the legal framework for the non-for-profit sector in Albania, mainly the fiscal one, which regulates the activity of the non-for-profit sector in Albania.

Considering the input of all the NGOs in Albania, as crucial for the improvements needed, during November – December 2010, Partners Albania organized a series of regional consultative meetings with representatives of the sector in Shkodër, Gjirokastër, Vlorë, Tiranë, Elbasan, Pogradec and Korçë. The meetings served to inform the participants on the legal framework regulating the activity of the non-for-profit sector in Albania, to identify problems faced by the sector as a result of the existing legal framework and its implementation, especially the fiscal one, and to receive their suggestions for potential improvements.

Discussions, consultations and assistance on the legal framework are also provided by email or telephone to about 40 Albanian NGOs and international organizations and donors in Albania, due to the dissemination of information and periodically reports about fiscal regulatory legislation. The information is also distributed to over 500 international organizations abroad, thanks to PA contact list.

The opinions and suggestions collected are forwarded to the joint working group that is established in October 2010 with government and civil society representatives in order to review and improve the fiscal framework governing the non-for-profit sector in Albania. Also, they will be attached to the evaluation report, prepared by a technical expert from ICNL on the problematic issues of the regulating legislation for NGOs in Albania.

The consultation process with the sector will continue to be an open process and will accompany all the stages of discussion, negotiation and drafting of the legislative proposals.



## Regional consultation workshops

Shkodra



Vlora



Tirana



Elbasani



Pogradeci



PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	DONOR	BUDGET	PLACE
Development of Philanthropy in Albania	December 2010 – December 2011	The Rockefeller Brother Foundation	\$ 70 000	Albania

Philanthropy in Albania, as in other parts of the world, is an ancient activity that has taken different shapes through the development of the society. And, as in other countries, even in Albania philanthropy activities has been exercised mostly and in the greater value by wealthy people that have the financial means to help and contribute to the well-being of the mankind through donations and charitable activities. The present economic and legal situation in Albania is not in favor of philanthropy. Most Albanians do not have financial means to provide substantial donations to help people or groups in need, even though they are sensitive and willing to help.

Philanthropy cases in Albania are taken for granted, transferred through informal communication means between people who know each other. There are no written reports or publications that can document officially philanthropy cases in Albania that have brought significant changes in the lives of people.

Currently, media is the only actor in the society that has undertaken some initiatives to promote philanthropy cases, but this is not made on regular bases and is sporadic and mostly based on the publicity reasons.

Based on the current situation, Partners Albania is implementing an organized initiative for the first time in Albania aiming to promote and further develop philanthropy initiatives, through studies, conferences, and publications, in close collaboration with the media.



## **V. SUPPORTING POLICY REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

### **5.1. GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

PA is involved in different initiatives aiming to mainstream gender issues in governance, working with central and local level authorities, as follows:

- ***Gender Mainstreaming at Local Government in Albania***

From September 2009, Partners-Albania through the Equity in Governance Project assisted Albanian Municipalities (Berati, Kamza, Laç, Gramsh, Lushnje, Vorë, Kavajë and Mini-Municipalities 1, 2, and 8 in Tirana), to mainstream gender issues in their local strategies and policies. PA gender experts delivered trainings on “Basics of Gender for Local Government” and “How to Improve Policies and Conduct Budget Monitoring from a Gender Perspective”, prepared the Gender Action Plan for Local Government (coauthor), and conducted coaching sessions for the preparation of the Gender Action Plan in the above Municipalities.

These activities aimed to increase the skills and capacities of Albanian municipalities in preparing plans and implementing policies which promote gender equality for the communities these municipalities are responsible for.

The assistance is provided in the framework of the support to the Directorate of Equal Opportunities Policies at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in implementing Albania’s National Action Plan for Gender Equality. The project is financially supported by Austrian Development Agency.

- ***Gender Equality Policy for the Institute of Tax Administration in Albania***

Partners Albania is providing assistance to the Albanian Tax Administration towards a gender mainstreaming process, to design an Institutional Policy Document and a Strategic Plan for its Implementation as regard Gender Equality. PA assistance consists of:

- Conduction of a survey on all the elements of the Tax Administration from a gender perspective
- Delivering basic gender trainings

The assistance is provided under the framework of the project “Gender Equality Policy for Tax Administration in Albania”, financed by SIDA, Sweden.

- ***Gender Education Curricula for teachers and students of high schools in Albania***

Since May 2009 up to November 2010, Partners Albania participated in the preparation of the extra-curricular program for high schools “Gender Equality and Human Rights; Citizenship; Domestic Violence; European Integration; Media, Reproductive Health; Career Development and Environment”. In addition to that, as part of this program, PA delivered trainings from this extra-curricular program for the teachers of high-schools in Shkodra, Elbasani, Korca and Tirana.

The initiative was under the management of Gender Alliance for Development Centre and the Albanian Institute for School Curricula, financed by AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) and Kwina till Kwina.

## **5.2. NGO SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

- ***Providing trainings on behalf of TACSO***

Partners Albania and MDF designed and delivered trainings and e-coaching sessions on Advocacy of Lobbying for NGOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. The trainings were organized by the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations (TACSO), in the framework of technical assistance provided for civil society in the Balkan region.

During October-November 2010, PA trainers conducted regional training programs in Lezha, Durrës, and Gjirokastra on “Fundraising and Revenue Generation”. The main objective of the trainings was the exposure of the participants toward various fundraising opportunities for NGOs, fundraising strategies, fundraising activities, communication with donors and EU funding mechanisms.

- ***Forum on effectiveness of civil society organizations in Albania***

Partners Albania supported the organization of the forum on effectiveness of civil society organizations development in Albania, in June 30th.

The consultative process with the civil society organizations in Albania is an initiative in the frame of an open dialoguing process that is being conducted among civil society actors all over the world, with the purpose of involving them in the way how the foreign aid will be oriented and defining their role with regard to the development of effectiveness.

The forum was organized by Refleksione Association in cooperation with Co-Plan (Institute for Habitat Development) and with support of TACSO, Partners Albania, the GTZ/GOPA project “Strengthening Civil Society and Democratic Structures in Albania” and the Human Development Promotion Center (HDPC).

- ***Trainings for Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)***

Partners Albania delivered training programs for Gender Alliance for Development Center’ staff to increase their skills and capacities in the topics: “Project Cycle Management” and ‘Ethics at Work”.

## **5.3. NATIONAL LICENSING CENTER (NLC) ROUNDTABLES WITH BUSINESS SECTOR**

Partners Albania facilitated and moderated a series of roundtables for the NLC with business community and other local actors in the cities of Elbasan, Shkodër, Fier, Vlora, and Tirana.

As part of an ongoing discussion on the licensing reform and improvement of NLC functioning, the roundtables served to introduce the participants with the reforms of business licensing in Albania, scope and functioning of NLC, the new processes and systems that NLC has introduced. The roundtables, also, served receive businesses’ feedback, and opinion regarding the functioning and services of NLC, as well as their suggestions for improvements needed.

Key findings of NLC assessment administrated by Partners Albania were presented at the roundtable in Tirana, in the presence of Mr. Enno Bozdo, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, MR. Andrew Maybrook, USAID/Albania Mission Program Office Director, and Mrs. Eneida Guria, Director of NLC.

The roundtables were organized in the framework of the support to the Millennium Challenge Corporation Albania Threshold Program II.

## VI. PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- European Conference on “Leading Sustainable and innovatively out of the Recession” Madrid, organized by Euclid Network and sponsored by the European Commission. A number of 100 delegates from across Europe participated at the conference. Juliana Hoxha made a presentation on “Doing More with Less”
- Round Table: Visions for the Future: A New Approach to Cooperation in the Western Balkans, organized by Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.
- Meeting of Euclid Network Members with Mrs. Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice President of the European Commission in Brussels.
- Conference “Role of Civil Society in the Integration Processes and Visa Liberalization” Kosova. Juliana Hoxha made a presentation on “Importance of NGO Networking in EU Integration”.
- Regional Conference “Role of Media in Philanthropy Development”, organized by Fund for Active Citizenship in Podgorica, Montenegro.
- “Forum for International Dialogue” in Barcelona, organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation Network. Two presentations were prepared and given on “Interreligious dialogue and the role of civil society” and “Intercultural tools for Conflict Resolution”.
- Regional Conference on Quality Assurance Systems for CSOs in the IPA region, organized by TACSO office in Croatia.
- Social Affairs and Employment Training, organized by Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC).
- Regional Meetings organized with NGOs in Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro as part of Partners Albania strategy of extending partnerships with neighboring countries.
- 10th assembly of Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI), organized in Lima, Peru.
- Regional conference “Quality Assurance Systems for CSOs in the IPA region” in Zagreb, Croatia.
- 4th Civil Society Initiative conference: “A Soul for Europe”, in Germany, Berlin.

## VII. PA NETWORK MEMBERSHIPS

**Partners for Democratic Change International**, a global network of 20 independent incorporated in Brussels with a representative office since 2006.

<http://www.pdci-network.org>

**Anna Lindh Euro - Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures**

<http://www.euromedalex.org>

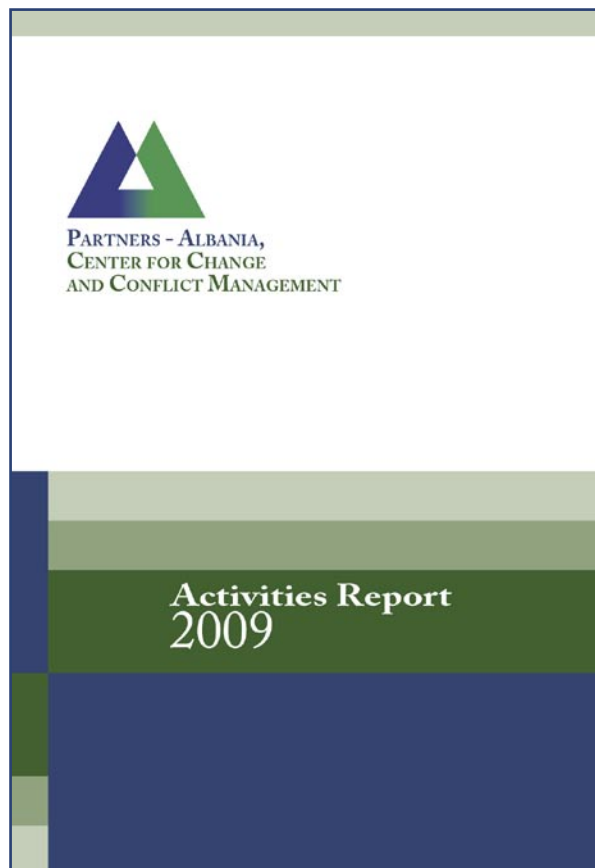
**Euclid Network**

<http://www.euclidnetwork.eu/>

Juliana Hoxha, PA Director joined the Board of Directors of Euclid Network in February 2010.

## VIII. PUBLICATIONS

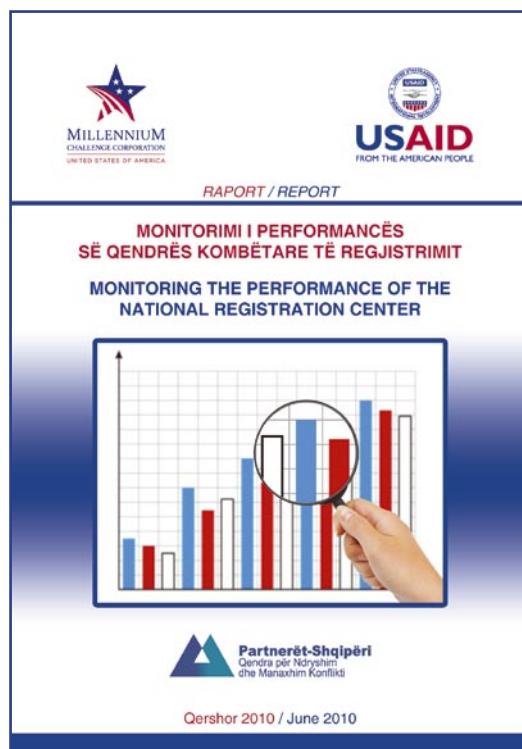
### ANNUAL REPORT 2009



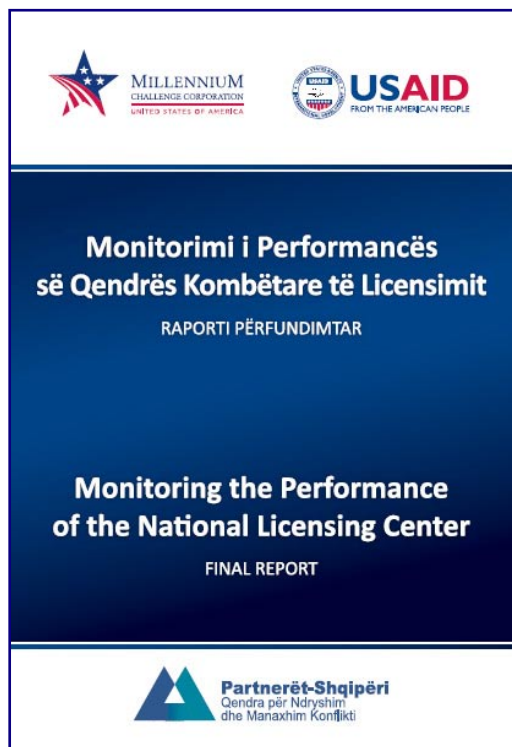
### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



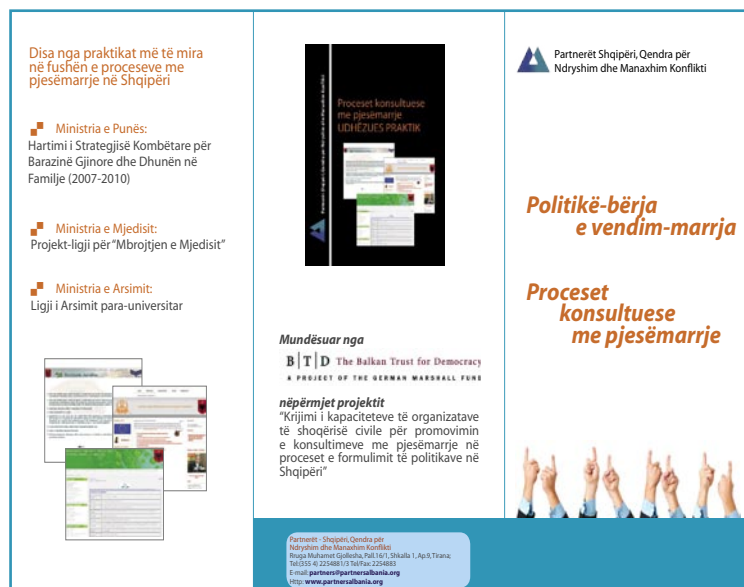
## MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NRC SURVEY REPORT



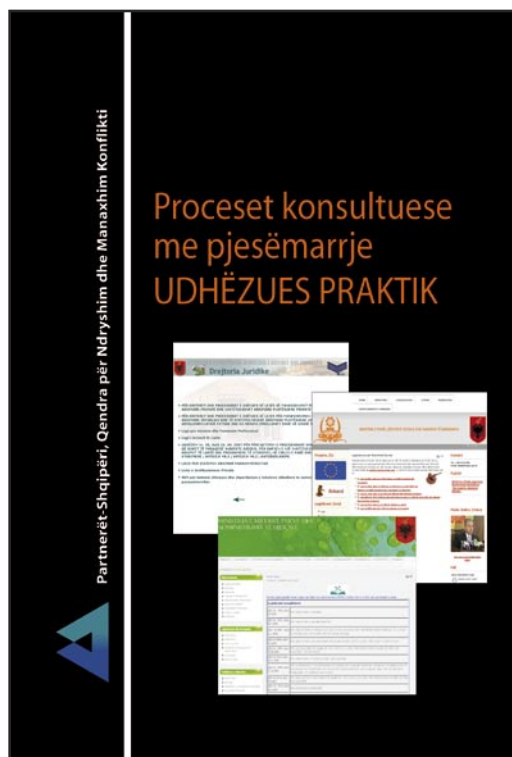
## MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NLC SURVEY REPORT



## LEAFLET ON PROMOTION OF PARTICIPATORY CONSULTATION PROCESSES PROJECT



## PRACTICAL GUIDE ON CONSULTATIVE PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES (IN ALBANIAN)

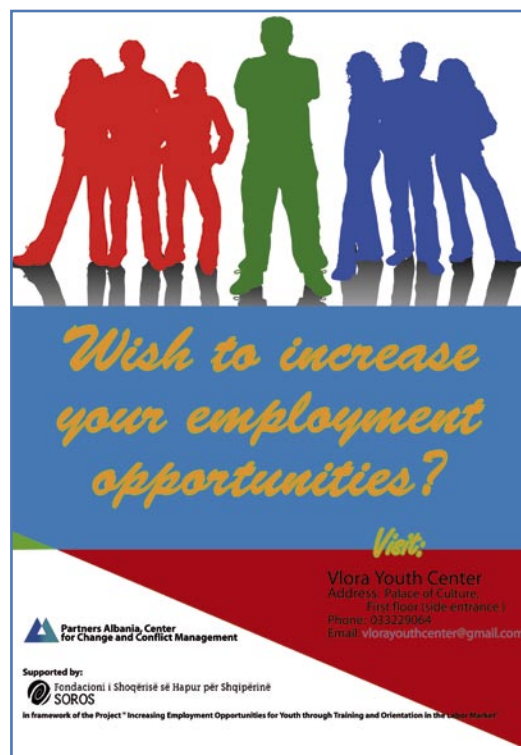




## LABOR MARKET SURVEY IN VLORA (IN ALBANIAN)



## POSTER ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT



## LEAFLET ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT



## INFORMATIVE BULLETIN ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (IN ALBANIAN)



## IX. FINANCES

ALB BB AUDITING SH.P.K.

### Independent auditors report

To the Board of Directors  
Partners Albania  
Center for Change and Conflit Management

Tirana, 30 March 2011

Rr "Muhamet Gjollështa"  
Pll 16/1, Shk 1, Ap 9, K5  
Tirana, Albania

#### 1. Report on Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Foundation Partners Albania Center for Change and Conflit Management (the Foundation) which comprise the Financial Position as of 31 December 2010 and the Statement of Total Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with National Accounting Standards approved following the Law Nr 9228 dt 29.04.2004 "On Accounting and Financial Statements" and the related changes. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### 2. Issue for attention

During the audit of financial statement for the period ended in 31 December 2009 we have highlight some issue. Therefore this report must be read with our report written in 10 may 2010, for the financial statement as of 31 December 2009.

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ALB BB AUDITING SH.P.K.

#### 3. Opinion

Our opinion, while taking into consideration the above emphasis of a matter pghr 2 and our conclusion at nr 3. , the accompanying financial statements prepared in accordance with the National Accounting Standards approved following the Law nr 9228 dt 29.04.2004 "On Accounting and Financial Statements and changes, give a true and fair view of the financial position of Foundation Partners Albania Center for Change and Conflit Management as of 31 December 2010 .

Signature : Lavdimir Fusha  
Managing Partner  
ALB BB Auditing Sh.p.k.

Date : 30 March 2011  
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