





C O N T E N T

FROM THE DIRECTOR

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

BOARD AND TEAM

WORK ACCORDING PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

PUBLICATIONS

PA WORK IN MEDIA FOCUS

SUPPORTERS

FINANCES

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear colleagues, partners and support institutions,

This report covers the work done during an unprecedented year, during which the world faced the biggest challenge in the last hundred years, the Covid-19 pandemic. Governing systems and our individual existence were heavily

impacted and threatened at so many levels.

Here at Partners, like in many organizations and institutions around the globe, our first concern was the safety of our staff and finding the best way to support them while working and juggling with their family and individual uncertainties.

As a team we came together to support each other in these heavy emotional times, but also to support our beneficiaries, from NPO grant recipients to social enterprises, to the non-for-profit sector at large. We succeeded to adjust in a swift manner all the contractual obligations with the third parties by factoring the challenges of the situation. In many instances, it was possible also thanks to the flexibility and understanding of our donors and support organizations.

Being a support organization, we felt the responsibility to mobilize quickly in identifying the challenges of the sector and design a rapid response to mitigate them, only three weeks after going into a severe lock down. Part of Partners Albania package was free access to zoom for more than 100 NPOs, in order for them not to stop community services and communication with beneficiaries, along with training and individual assistance on how to tailor existing and new services by using a variety of online platforms and tools.

We issued a public plea to the donor community inside and outside the country, calling for flexibility in procedures and an increase in funding for the non-for-profit sector in Albania, to support its efforts in addressing challenges related to Covid-19.

The year 2020 has been the biggest resilience test we could have ever imagined for us as individuals, institutions we work

and lead, management and delivery systems we have created. And, I am very proud to see how we have done our best to face and address the challenges, while they are still present.

By reading our annual report, I hope you will appreciate the team effort to preserve the relevance of our work in supporting the civil society, monitoring and facilitating the policy dialogue with the institutions, along with advocacy initiatives on important legislative developments impacting the sector.

Our international representation and participation in policy forums was intensified also as a way to gain support and recognition for pressing issues the civil society sector in Albania was facing due to Covid-19. Our pioneer work in the social reuse of confiscated assets got international recognition and developments in the field of philanthropy and social entrepreneurship were further consolidated.

We saw the online work and the increasing digital literacy as an opportunity to accelerate our digital agenda. Partners Albania worked in developing an innovative platform for start-ups in the Balkans, called Dua Partners Invest, which was launched in early 2021. It is also enabling Partners Albania to go paperless and address its green commitment by regulating most of the relations with the third parties through a centralized online system.

To close, I feel like more than any other time expressing my gratitude for our exceptional and dedicated staff that demonstrated to be up to the challenges of the time, our hard-working peer organizations and partners, networks that have always been present for us in needy times, but not only, and our donors and supporters who value our work and trust in our professionalism.

Sincerely,

Juliana Hoxha
Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Neritan Kallfa



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Program Manager
Kostandina Keruti



Project Manager
Maris Selamaj



Project Manager
Xhoana Zeqo



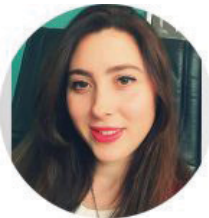
Project Manager
Ardiola Alikaj



Grants Manager
Ariola Memia



Grants Programme
Manager – Levizalbania
Iris Panariti



Individual Grants
Manager – Levizalbania
Eriona Kaceli



Program Assistant
Kristina Lato



Program Assistant
Era Sherifaj



Office Assistant
Ana Zenelaj



Logistics
Artan Sauku



Maintenance
Mare Papekaj

OUR IMPACT DURING 2020 AT A GLANCE

Facts



146 DAYS of
TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

200 DAYS of
COACHING SESSIONS

9 DAYS of
PUBLIC EVENTS

38 DAYS of
OTHER ACTIVITIES
Information Sessions, Focus Groups,
Community Meetings, Round Tables,
Networking Sessions, Forums, etc.




393 ACTIVITY
DAYS



 **Beneficiaries**

2,310 

3,036 DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS

726 

50

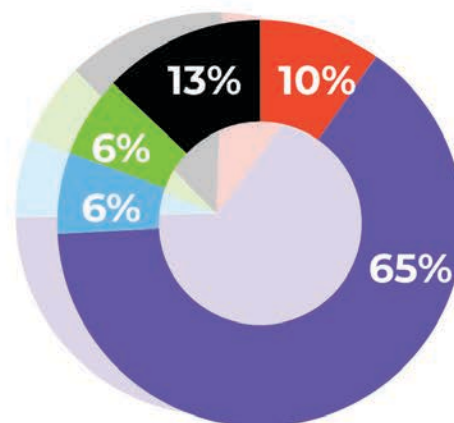
**Media
appearances**

30 PUBLICATIONS
BROCHURE
BROCHURE
MANUAL
MANUAL
REPORTS
REPORTS
PAPERS
PAPERS
BOOKLET
BOOKLET
GUIDELINES
GUIDELINES
STUDIES
STUDIES
PUBLICATIONS

Grants



-  Anti-corruption and transparent governance
-  Entrepreneurship
-  Environment protection
-  Media
-  Non-discrimination & Marginalised groups



*Financial schemes managed directly by Partners Albania, not including LevizAlbania and RisiAlbania projects.

375,000 EURO



34 Grants
awarded



Representation

23

Projects

24

Consultants

14

Donors

24

Partner
Organizations



LOCAL



REGIONAL



GLOBAL



PARTNERS ALBANIA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Public appeal to the donor community

Partners Albania made a public appeal to the donor community, to continue to support the non-profit sector and to show flexibility and adaptability to the situation, considering the physical distancing and the need for changes in strategies or program orientation in addressing the needs and issues related to the COVID-19 situation.

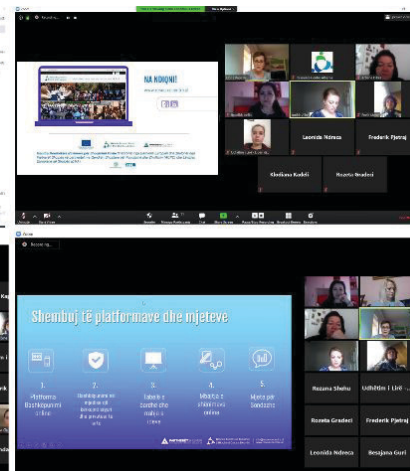
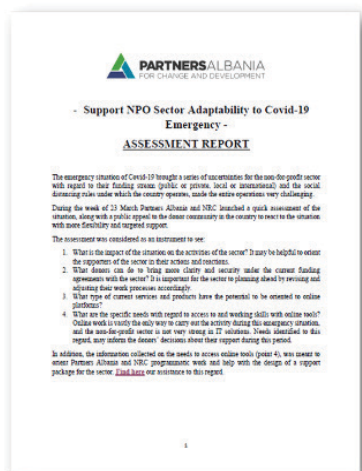
Support NPO sector adaptability to Covid-19 emergency - assessment report

During the week of 23 March, Partners Albania and the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania launched a quick assessment to measure the impact of the situation on the activities of the sector, the needs related to the adaptation of contractual agreements with donors for the future activities, and the specific needs with regard to access to and skills on working with online platforms, in order to orientate their services online.

Support package for the NPO sector under Covid-19 emergency situation

The information collected through the Sectors' Needs Assessment, was used by Partners Albania and the National Resource Center for Civil Society, to design and implement a support package for the sector which consisted in the provision of training on the use of online collaboration platforms for 76 representatives of interested NPOs, as well as one year free access in the Zoom platform for 41 organizations in Shkodër, Fushë-Arrëz, Tropojë, Dibër, Tiranë, Durrës, Lushnjë, Vlorë, Elbasan, Librazhd, Berat, Gjirokastrë, Përmet and Sarandë, working in the field of human rights, environmental protection, tourism and agriculture development, good governance, education, social services for persons with disabilities, women and girls, children and youth, marginalized groups, etc.

Since the free access in ZOOM was made available, the beneficiary organizations have conducted more than 100 trainings, 150 meetings with various actors and interest groups and have provided about 40 other online services such as information and counselling sessions for their interest groups and beneficiaries of their services.



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA

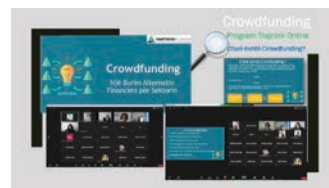
As an integrative part of Partners Albania, National Resource Centre for Civil Society (NRC) during 2020 has further consolidated its role as a platform of information, capacity building, networking and advocacy in the sector.

NRC organized over 160 capacity building activities such as regional training programs, coaching and mentoring sessions, and the NPO Academy Program for more than 900 CSO representatives across the country.

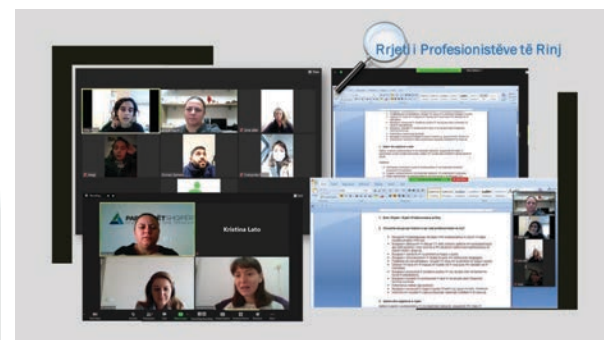
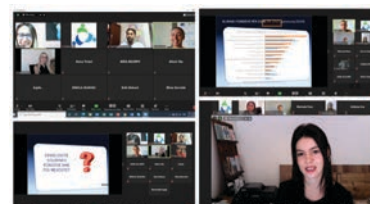
124 NPOs and informal groups were assisted through NRC helpdesk services, and 8 networks and coalitions of about 78 CSOs strengthened through a tailored capacity building program, for a greater impact of their initiatives and advancement of causes they advocate for.

131 CSOs were involved in advocacy initiatives for priority issues of the sector with regard to a more enabling legal and operating environment.

106 CSOs engaged in consultation meetings on the Code of Standards for NPOs, a self-regulatory mechanism for the sector, aiming to improve the work effectiveness of non-profit organizations, good governance, transparency and accountability.

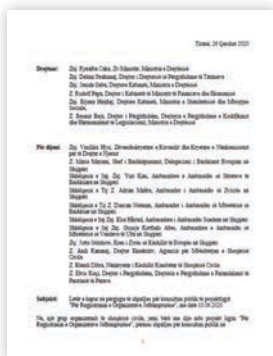


Providing Public Support and Working with the Private Sector- Fundraising and Philanthropy Academy 2020





ADVOCACY INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SECTOR



Reaction of civil society organizations regarding the draft law on the registration of non-profit organizations

On June 10, the Ministry of Justice published in the Electronic Register for Notification and Public Consultation, the draft law "On registration of non-profit organizations". Partners Albania and the National Resource Center immediately initiated a consultation process with civil society organizations to discuss the draft law and come up with concrete recommendations in its regard. Through an open letter addressed to the institutions responsible for drafting the law, as

well as donors and international organizations in the country, 27 civil society organizations part of the consultation process, expressed their concern about the draft law and provided their opinion and recommendations in principle and by articles of the law.

The Ministry of Justice responded positively to the request. The meeting took place and the comments and suggestions of the CSOs were welcomed, but in following the MoJ did not send any information or feedback on the changes in the draft Law and the reasons for not considering most of the recommendations.

Request to the Parliament for a hearing session on the draft law

The submission of the draft law by the Government to the Parliament was accompanied by a complete lack of information and transparency on the changes made after consultation with CSOs and other institutions that have a crucial role in the implementation of this law.

On behalf of the group of CSOs, a request for a hearing session was sent to the Parliament in October, to present the main problematics of the Draft Law in principle, and opening of a wide debate with the sector and all implementing institutions.

Consultation with civil society organizations on the new draft law on public procurement



For years, as part of its work towards an enabling environment for civil society, PA has contributed and advocated for the improvement of the legal framework and the development of social procurement practices. In February 2020, Partners

Albania and the National Resource Center conducted a consultation process with civil society organizations on the new draft law on public procurement. The input from the organizations were presented to the Director of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) in a meeting organized for this purpose.

The new law adopted in December 2020 allows CSOs to be involved in public procurement, which marks a positive development for the activity of CSOs, in particular to those providing services.

Opinion on the Draft Law "On the central register of bank accounts"

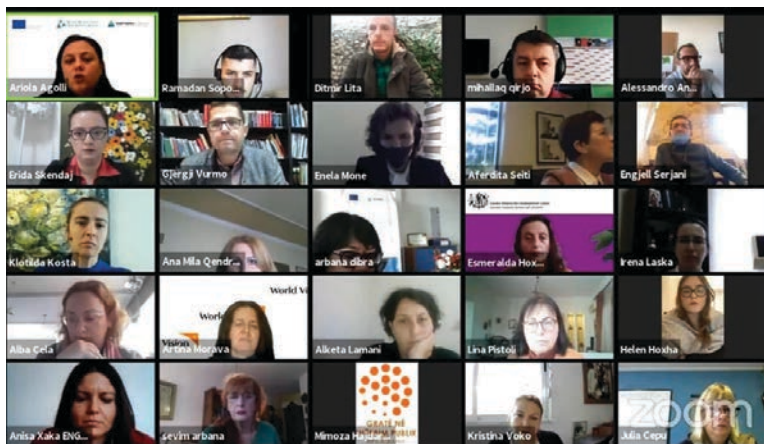
During October, civil society organizations, among other changes in the legal regulatory framework of the sector, were introduced to the government's legal initiative "On the central register of bank accounts". This draft law is part of a series of legal developments that have taken place in the last 18 months, with a direct effect on the organization and functioning of the sector, as part of preventive measures against terrorist financing and money laundering.

Despite the tight consultation deadlines, a group of NPOs under the leadership of NRC, reviewed the draft and presented a series of recommendations as part of their legal opinion to the Ministry of Finance. Despite lack of transparency in this consultation process, after the law approval was noticed that some important recommendations were reflected in the actual law.

National Conference of Civil Society in Albania

On December 4, 2020, the National Resource Center for Civil Society in Albania organised the National Conference of Civil Society in Albania.

The conference brought together over 130 representatives of civil society organizations, networks and civil society activists, as well as representatives of state institutions, donors and international organizations, to discuss issues related to the development of the sector and its role in policy-making, strengthening of democracy and in social economic development of the country.



Organised in two main sessions, in the introductory panel the conference provided an overview of the sector development on three aspects:

- (1) The shrinking space for civil society, enabling environment and the role of sector in the path toward EU Accession
 - (2) Rule of law, democracy and participation in policy making and legislative processes
 - (3) Fundamental rights, freedom of expression and media
- followed by 3 thematic discussions, further exploring the main problems, challenges and perspectives of the issues raised in the panel discussions.

During the second session of the Conference "Open Space Discussion", organizations had a chance to organize discussions based on issues they found more pressing in the sectors they work. Eight thematic workshops led by proposing organizations explored ways of collaborations to advance issues and dialogue with institutions and other actors.

The conference proceedings reflecting conclusions of the conference were widely shared with stakeholders.

Consultation with CSOs on IPA III Preparation

In July, following the call of European Commission for participation of civil society organizations in the process of preparation of IPA III, National Resource Centre widely promoted the call and organized a consultation process with CSOs on the IPA III programming framework and process. CSOs provided suggestions in relation to thematic priorities as well as on the IPA III implementation process. The document with the CSOs feedback and suggestions was sent to the European Commission and to TACSO 3, the project coordinating the feedback collection process at regional level (Western Balkan and Turkey).





Development of voluntarism and enabling legal environment



The National Resource Center in cooperation with Beyond Barriers association initiated a sector wide discussion on voluntarism and the enabling environment for its development in Albania. A series of meetings and round-tables with representatives of CSOs took place during 2020, to identify problems and challenges that organizations and informal groups encounter during the implementation of the legal framework for volunteering.

Four years after the adoption of Law 45/2016 "On Voluntarism", which regulates the field and voluntary service in the country, its implementation is lagging behind and the law is not gaining ground for recognition both by civil

society organizations and institutions responsible for its implementation.

In July 2020, 40 CSOs and networks of civil society organizations addressed an open letter to law enforcement institutions and all international partners and supporters, emphasizing the concerns with the law and challenges with its implementation. The dialogue started with the National Agency for Employment and Skills as one of the institutions in charge for the law implementation, will continue in 2021 at ministerial level, to discuss concrete actions in improving the legal framework for volunteering in Albania.

MONITORING MATRIX ON ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT - COUNTRY REPORT FOR ALBANIA



Partners Albania in cooperation with the National Resource Centre for Civil Society prepared the Monitoring Matrix on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, Country Report 2019.

The report highlighted that although there have been initiatives to improve the enabling environment, such as review of the Guidelines for Drafting Policies and Measures for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2019-2023, or the preparation and publication of the Guidelines on the VAT Refund Procedure for foreign donor funds for CSOs, during 2019 was noticed a tendency to increase the control of state institutions over the activity of CSOs.

This, through the adoption of laws part of the package on prevention of terrorist financing and money laundering, the law on youth, and the legal package on social enterprises. Strategies and mechanisms of cooperation State - CSO

(Civil Society Road map and National Council for Civil Society) did not yield results towards improving the enabling environment.

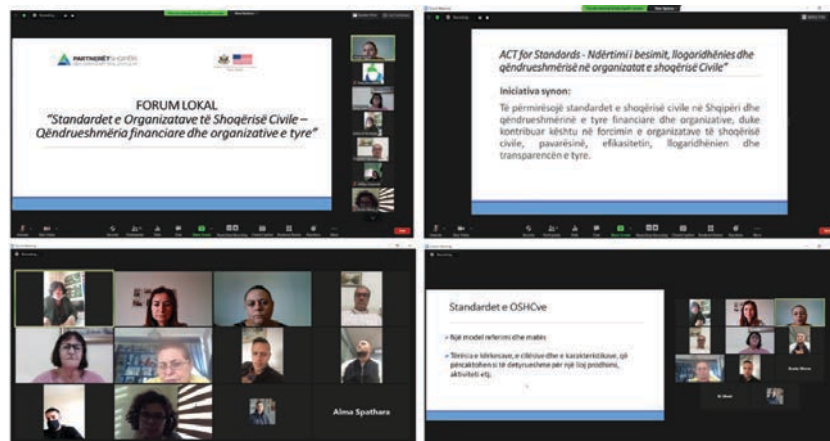
Other important issues, such as the adoption of the legal package against defamation despite the reactions of national and international organizations, or consulting processes which are not yet considered by state institutions as a tool for improving documents based on the recommendations of NGOs and groups other interests are part of the report's findings.

The Albanian report is part of a series of reports from seven Western Balkan countries, under the project "Protecting Civic Space - Regional Civil Society Hub funded by the Swedish International Cooperation and Development Agency (SIDA) and implemented by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network, a member of which is also Partners Albania.

NPO CODE OF STANDARDS

Throughout 2020, Partner Albania and NRC led the work on drafting the Code of Standards for CSOs, an early initiative of Partners Albania which was re-introduced in the sector last year.

The Code of Standards is a self-regulatory mechanism for the sector, aiming to improve the work effectiveness of non-profit organizations, good governance, transparency and accountability.



During 7 local forums that brought together about 100 representatives from organizations across the country, discussing the current standards applied throughout CSOs activity, the challenges to achieve and maintain these standards and the needs for further improvement.

It is a set of principles and commitments on how organizations operate, how they are governed, how they manage resources, their transparency and accountability to the stakeholders, their relationship with supporters and donors, management of conflicts of interest, etc.

Conceived as a sector's contribution to the sector, the Code is a practice established based on international and regional experiences and models of standards for civil society organizations such as the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) and The Global Standard for CSO Accountability.

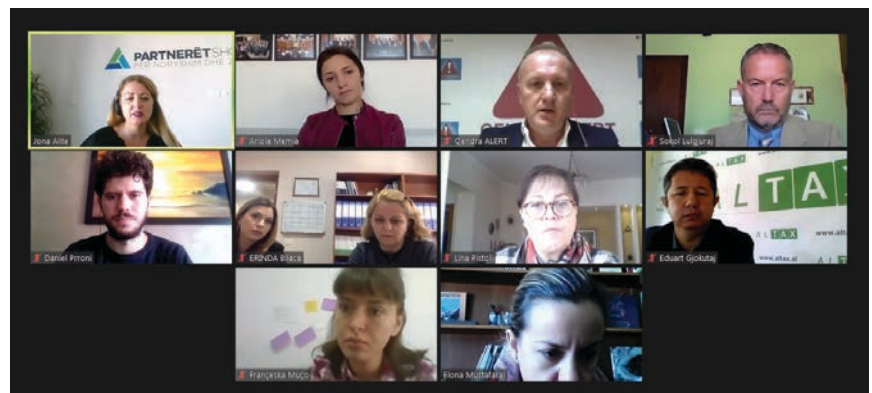
In December '20, Partners Albania started the sector empowerment program, assisting CSOs in raising their work standards as well as in using alternative methods of fundraising, towards greater financial and organizational sustainability. The training program will be followed by tailored individual assistance and mentoring at the organizational level for all participating CSOs.

The "Act for Standards - Building Trust, Accountability and Sustainability in Civil Society Organizations" project is supported by the Public Affairs Office of the United States Embassy in Tirana.

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

In October, Partners Albania started an assistance program to increase the effectiveness and quality of projects implemented by ten organizations from across the country, beneficiaries of the US Embassy Democracy Commission Grants Program.

The program consists of a series of trainings and technical assistance on organizational development issues, effective project management, effective communication with supporters and beneficiaries, and building effective advocacy campaigns.





THE CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME FOR ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

The Civil Society Programme for Albania and Kosovo is a three-year (2018-2021) programme funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pristina. The lead implementing organization of the programme is the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) with Partners Albania for Change and Development as partner organization.

The programme aims to support the democratic participation and development of a strong and vibrant civil society in Albania and Kosovo, by supporting NGOs that advance the EU accession process through contribution to one of the following thematic areas: Non-discrimination and gender equality; Independent media; Minorities and marginalized groups; Environment protection; Anti-corruption.



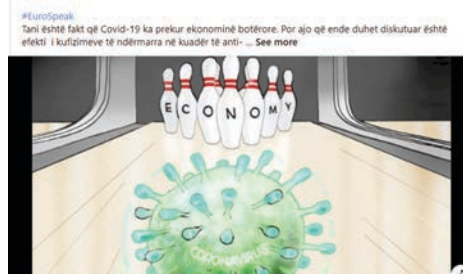
Our grantee organizations in 2020



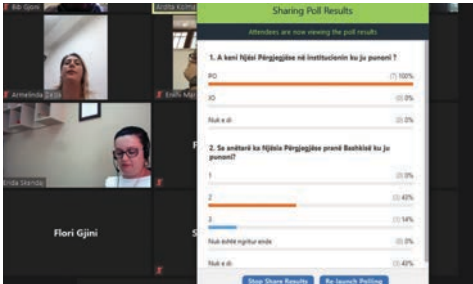
Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) has established self-advocacy groups of persons with disabilities in four cities of Albania (Tirana, Shkodra, Elbasan, and Vlorë), that are advocating for their rights on anti-discrimination and inclusion to local and central institutions. Advocacy cases are identified through door to door and group meetings in the community and are addressed with four municipalities and the Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination.



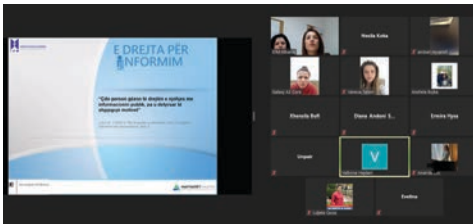
Forum of Free Thought is working for the identification and denouncing of mechanisms that cause censoring media freedom to report independently the governmental and political parties' activity. This is done through the monitoring of national TV channels, as well as interviews and focus-groups with journalists all over the country to measure the level of ready made news transmitted in visual media. Data and testimony on this phenomenon will be published in a report at the end of the project.



European Movement in Albania, through the EuroSpeak Online Portal is covering some of the most important topics on EU policies and EU integration process of Albania, presented as articles, infographics, video clips, and digests prepared by media and other experts on EU integration issues. Apart from informing Albanian citizens on these issues, the portal provides independent analysis which goes beyond fact listing or politicized statements.



Albanian Helsinki Committee through its work is influencing the design and implementation of anti-corruption policies, strategies and action plans dealing with corruption, or systems/mechanisms to prevent corruption at local level. It is raising awareness and informing employees in ten municipalities on the legal provision for whistle-blowers, and is contributing to an increased collaboration between municipalities and The High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest (HIDAACI) to treat and address the cases in an effective and objective manner.



The Institute for Democracy and Mediation is conducting "Civic monitoring of transparency and accountability at local self-government level" in twelve municipalities, regional administrative centers. Working with grass-root CSOs by strengthening their civic monitoring capacities and role as a watchdog against corruption, the project is contributing to improved municipal transparency and accountability, using a measurement system of transparency and accountability that has been prepared and implemented for this purpose.



REC Albania has established the NET-CLIMATE Network, as a tool for climate change makers in Albania to encourage the active participation of civil society in policy-making and contributing to the fulfillment of Albania's obligations under the Global Action for Climate Change. Through the network, 27 adaptation solutions to climate at a local level are published and promoted as solution models to be further replicated in the country and a publication on Low-Carbon Initiatives in Albania is published. An important component of the projects is education on climate change, through which teachers and students are being informed and involved in concrete activities on this issue.



Qendra Sociale Murialdo is contributing to the socio-economic integration of Roma community, with a special focus on women and children. Twenty women are being trained and skilled on textile production, as a way of self-employment and income generation for their families. More women from the community are involved in literacy and other courses, while children and youth are involved in non-formal education and sport activities with Roma and non-Roma children increasing inter-cultural dialogue and their integration.



BRIDGES OF COOPERATION: CIVIC SECTOR AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE CIVIL SOCIETY



February 2020, First session of the training program

Since December 2018, Partners Albania in cooperation with Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia implemented this initiative by contributing to improving the climate of cooperation and partnership between the non-profit, public and private sectors, to support the sustainability of non-profit sector.

14 CSOs supported through an individual training and technical assistance program developed business models for their organizations, and built partnerships with public institutions at the local level (engagement of 4 Municipalities in the country - Tirana, Elbasan, Fieri, Durrës) and with the private sector. Among the models that were developed were integration services for women victims of violence, legal consultancy for local self-government Units, legal consultancy for consumers, establishment of a virtual museum of Albanian values and tradition, as well as services that target and aim to engage young people.

In addition, the participating CSOs increased their knowledge on other issues that contribute to their sustainability, such as Crowdfunding, Fundraising, and Social Enterprises.

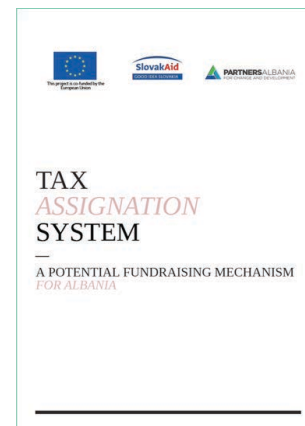
Partners Albania organized seven discussion and networking meetings with participating CSOs in the program and organizations that have successfully created business models, creating the opportunity for the participants in the program to get acquainted with the process of setting up a social enterprise, and the achievements and challenges encountered during the journey of these social enterprises.



March 2020, Intensive Training

In framework of this initiative, PA prepared a paper introducing a new concept for Albania, the tax assignment mechanism as a sustainable model for strengthening the CSO sector, improving their image, increasing public confidence and financial sustainability.

The document analyses the best models and practices of Southeast European countries and not only, which have been pioneers in the application of this mechanism.



PARTNERS ALBANIA, PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE WESTERN BALKANS CSO SUMMIT

Juliana Hoxha, Partners Albania Executive Director was part of the discussions of the Western Balkans CSO Summit organized by the Western Balkans Fund on February 27-29. The summit gathered representatives of civil society across Balkans, government representatives, donors and regional cooperation institutions discussing the importance of regional cooperation as a key factor to reconciliation and economic prosperity.



WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

In January 2020, TACSO 3 organized in Skopje the Regional Civil Society Forum with the participation of over 110 representatives of CSOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, as well as senior representatives from the European Commission and public institutions in the region.

The representatives of the European Commission presented the architecture of the new EU Pre - Accession Instrument for the EU budget period 2021-2027 (IPA III) for the first time and thereby opened a consultation process with CSOs on their recommendations for future support and use of EU funds in Western Balkan and Turkey.

National Resource Centre for Civil Society and about ten civil society organizations from Albania, participated in the event using it as an opportunity to raise important issues regarding the development of civil society sector in the region.





GREEN IDEAS COMPETITION 2020

Since 2012 Partners Albania organizes the “Green Businesses” annual competition. By supporting innovative, local sustainable economic development initiatives, the Green Business Competition aims to substantively contribute to building a peaceful, competitive, and prosperous Western Balkans and Greece region in line with the seven Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Green Business Competition 2020 was supported by Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Credins Bank. Twenty finalists selected from 41 competitors from small business ventures, non-profit organizations, social enterprises, and individuals, presented their business ideas during the two days of the competition organized in May.

The winning ideas of 2020 competition

LOT 1: Business Ideas at Conceptual Stage

Rinora Handmade producing artisan soaps and the first entirely natural luffa. Its products are now present in the market, and moreover, 10% of the profit goes towards supporting victims of domestic violence.



Preserving the traditional craft of filigree as well as training and hiring women from the rural areas of Shkodër and Vau i Dejës comprises the foundation of **Margjelo Filigran Albania's** activity, a social enterprise producing decorative objects, souvenirs and jewelry.



LOT 2: Businesses in Pre-Seed Stage

Julvin Marku is producing organic hazelnut oil from certified hazelnut fruit, and is cooperating with other farmers in Thumanë, Fushë – Krujë, thereby contributing to local economic development.



Kroi i Mjalitit is the initiative of Besart Lama who is cultivating bees and producing honey, honey bee milk, and honeycomb, with an impact even on increasing agriculture yields in the village of Shullazë, Kurbin. Through Partners Albania's support, only in the first six months they increased production up to 40%, expanding their market to outside of Albania.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODELS BUILDING RELATIONS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY - EMBRACE

2020 marked growing attention on social entrepreneurship development in Albania and the contribution of SEs in the socio-economic development of the country. Thus, Partners Albania contributed to the development of business models for 21 new and existing SEs from across the country, orienting them towards the maximization of revenues and economic profits, and their impact on social integration and employment of marginalized groups they serve, to drive societal transformations in these communities.

Business skills developed through various capacity-building programs, technical assistance, combined with seed funding and exposure to a wider community of local, regional, and international social entrepreneurs, contributed to an improved activity of these 21 CSOs engaged in social entrepreneurship activity.

In its third year, EMBRACE supported four new social enterprises located in Shkodra, Fieri, and Tirana, reaching a total number of 15 social enterprises supported by the program. These new enterprises focused on tourism development, promotion of local artisan products, cleaning services, and local bioproducts, contributed to the employment of 4 youngsters in tourism, 2 individuals from Roma community, and 2 women from low-income families.

In times when marginalized communities are coping with the COVID-19 impact, SEs supported by EMBRACE contributed to:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| TRAINING | ⇒ 13 youngsters on touristic guides, ⇒ 102 children on outdoor tourism, ⇒ 20 women in prison in handmade products, ⇒ 200 mothers and ⇒ 200 children on healthy food. |
| PROMOTION | ⇒ 5 enterprises in the tourism sector in Shkodra. |
| SUPPORT | ⇒ 200 women producers in rural areas through purchasing their products. |
| SERVICES | ⇒ 150 women victims of trafficking and domestic violence through revenues generated by the SE. |





SOCIAL REUSE OF CONFISCATED ASSETS FROM ORGANIZED CRIME

After a four-year journey, we finalized **C.A.U.S.E. Confiscated Assets Used for Social Experimentations**, the first initiative implemented in Albania and the Western Balkans, which created a model of sustainable re-use of confiscated assets from the organized crime, transforming them into social enterprises managed by civil society organizations. The **KeBuono Social Pastry** in Fier, the **KinFolk Coffee Library** in Durrës and the **Social Crafting Garage** in Saranda, are the three first social enterprises set up on confiscated assets, that offer educational, employment, and reintegration opportunities for individuals affected by or at-risk to be affected by criminal activity, such as women and girls victims of trafficking and domestic violence, and young people in the probation service or coming from marginalized groups.

These social enterprises serve the community at large by offering their products and services and conveying messages of trust to institutions and the rule of law, and are a living proof that what has been taken from the community can be returned to it thanks to the efforts and cooperation of all society actors.

Inauguration of Social Crafting Garage, 7 February '20, Saranda



Such messages were conveyed at the closing conference of the project, where a high-level discussion of key stakeholders involved in this initiative, highlighted the importance of social re-use of confiscated assets by civil society organizations and the need for support for such initiatives in the future. C.A.U.S.E. was implemented with the financial support of the European Union.

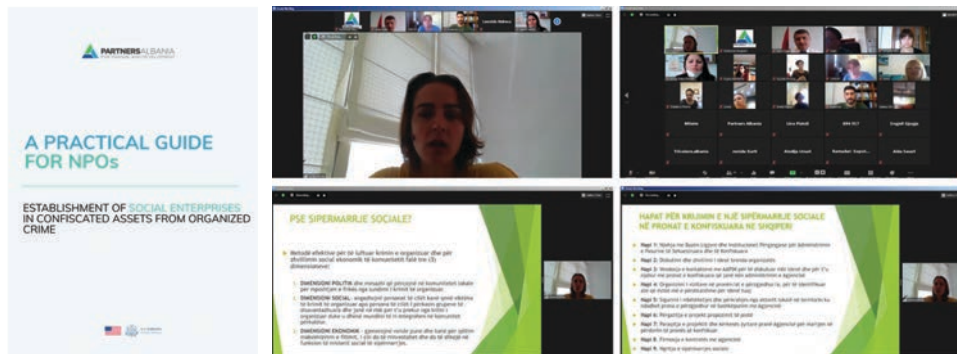
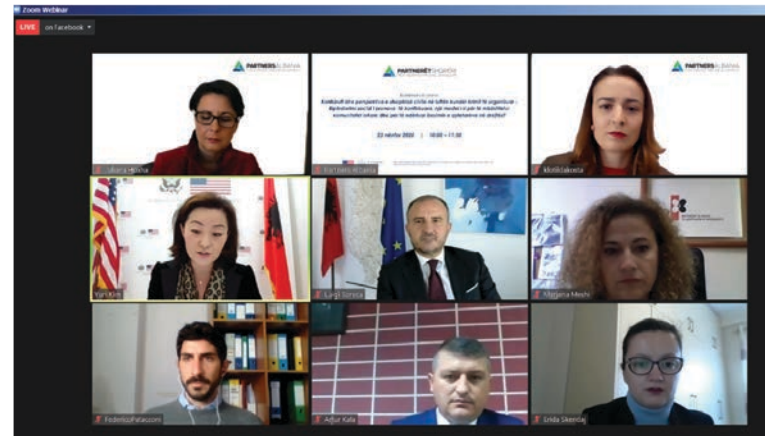
Following the efforts to standardize and promote this practice set by Partners Albania, with the support of the Small Grants Program of the Democracy Commission of the US Embassy in Tirana, during this year we conducted an extensive information-raising and awareness campaign on the social reuse of confiscated assets from organized crime.

In cooperation with the Agency for the Administration of Sequestered and Confiscated Property (AAPSK) we prepared the **Practical Guide for NGOs: Setting Up Social Enterprises in Assets Confiscated by Organized Crime**, which provides information on the legal basis and responsible institutions, describes the process, provides concrete examples and standard formats to assist all NGOs in their efforts to establish a social enterprise in an asset confiscated from organized crime, accompanied by an awareness spot broadcast on major television stations in the country.

The role of AAPSK and forms of cooperation with it were also promoted through an awareness spot, as well as a documentary that presents the opportunities and importance of social reuse of confiscated assets from organized crime by CSOs, as the most valuable form to affirm the value of legality and civic initiative against organized crime.

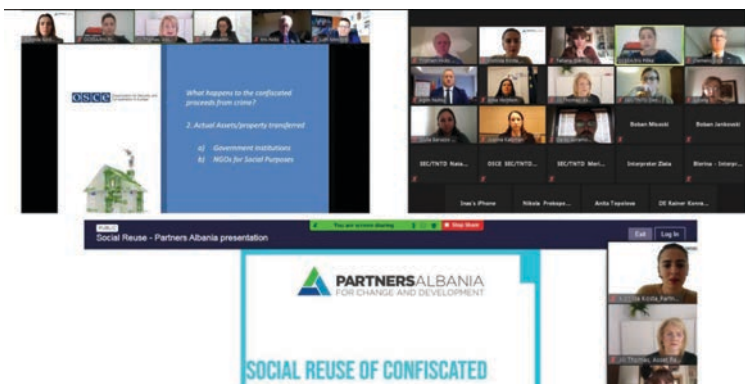


Part of the campaign was also a joint discussion with civil society organizations involved in various aspects of the fight against organized crime, such as awareness and monitoring, investigative media, provision of services to victims of crime, etc. This discussion, conducted in the presence of AAPSK, served to highlight the role and indisputable contribution of civil society organizations in the fight against organized crime, as well as to present their perspectives on the social reuse of confiscated assets as a new model in support of local communities and in building citizens trust in justice.



*During the presentation of the **Establishment of Social Enterprises in Confiscated Assets from the Organized Crime** – Practical Guide, providing the necessary steps that organizations should follow in undertaking such initiatives.*

The echo of this initiative of Partners Albania has gone beyond national borders, where it is being widely presented and promoted as a successful model to be followed by other countries in the region.



From the webinar organized by Project Ahead with organizations in Italy, where Klotilda Kosta, PA Director of Programs shared the Albanian model of re-using confiscated assets from organized crime for social purposes.



From the OSCE workshops on Addressing Organized Crime and Corruption through the Re-use of Confiscated Criminal Assets in Albania, part of a series of workshops organized in the frame of a regional initiative of OSCE on strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) through improved regional cooperation in asset seizure, confiscation, management, and re-use.

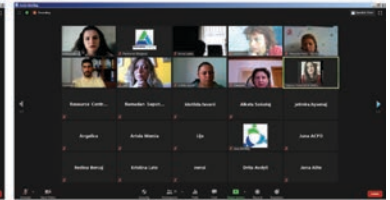
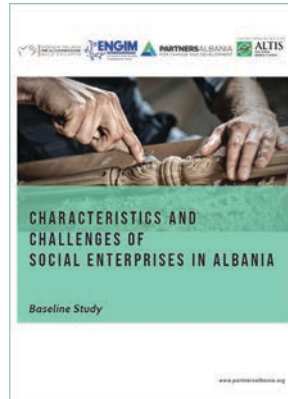


RISE-ALB, ENHANCING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ALBANIA

In 2020, Partners Albania in partnership with ENGIM Internazionale started RISE-ALB project supported by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The project aims the development of social enterprises, as a vehicle to improve the socio-economic inclusion of disadvantaged people.

Partners Albania prepared a baseline study capturing the latest developments and needs of social enterprises in Albania, which served as an input to design other components of the project.



One of the findings of the baseline study was that social enterprises depend only on traditional funding sources such as grants and sales. Therefore, Partners Albania also prepared a policy paper focused on alternative financial mechanisms such as business angels and venture capital aiming to raise awareness and knowledge of SEs in this regard. Both publications were disseminated in four round-tables with practitioners, decision makers and supporting organizations.

DUA PARTNER INVEST

www.duapartnerinvest.com



Partners Albania has over a decade of experience in developing and supporting the social entrepreneurship ecosystem through research, advocacy, funding, expertise and networking opportunities.

Dua Partner Invest platform is the latest enterprise of Partners Albania in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation, contributing to a number of SDGs. It is a virtual hub that serves the WVB6 start-up community, to boost connections, outreach, and access funding. Dua Partner Invest successfully helps overcome the barriers of access to finance by being a pivotal place and intersection of promising young talents who deal with the constant challenge of getting funding to put their ideas into practice.

The platform functions as a triangle "block-chain" composed by **consultants**, **investors**, and **entrepreneurs** across the Western Balkan region.



EUROPEAN LEVEL DISCUSSION ON THE SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Partners Albania is a member of DIESIS, one of the largest European networks specialized in supporting the development of the social economy, social entrepreneurship and social innovation through training, project design, consultancy, advisory services, technical assistance and research. In February, the network members gathered in Brussels to discuss the new Commission's strategy on social economy and social enterprises.

DIESIS POLICY LAB

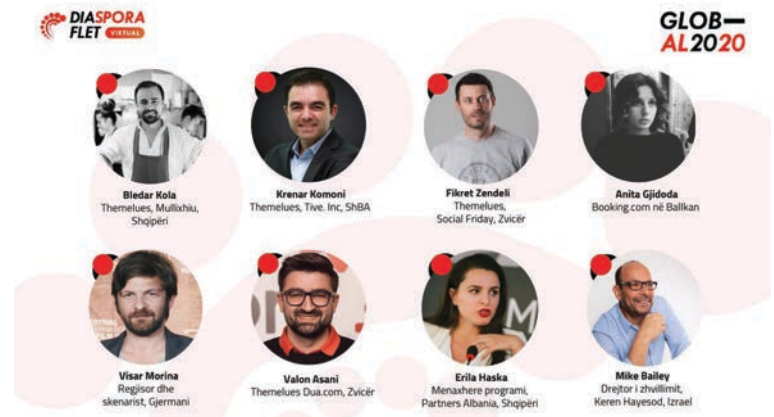
On 12 November 2020 was held the first workshop of the series #DiesisPolicyLab focused on the Western Balkans region and how in joint efforts, we can strengthen Social Economy (SE) ecosystem and make regional collaboration a reality. Partners Albania and other Diesis members, organizations supporting social enterprises from Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, together with the representative of DG Near at European Commission led the conversation and discussed the state of play of Social Economy in the region, both in the light of Covid-19 and the EU-Western Balkans relations.

As part of her discussion, Partners Albania Director Juliana Hoxha shared some recommendations for the European Commission regarding funding schemes that include Albania, to be more accessible, diverse and inclusive for all types of social enterprises operating in Albania.



PARTNERS ALBANIA PART OF "DIASPORA FLET" CONFERENCE

Erila Haska, Program Manager of Partners Albania was one of the speakers at Diaspora Flet 2021 conference organized by GERMIN. The conference brought together 2800 people from diaspora who discussed on pressing issues of the nation, as well as inspired through pitches showing their successful experience in the countries they reside. Ms. Haska presented the support that Partners Albania has provided to the social enterprises ecosystem, as well as its latest initiative in support of startups community - The Dua Partner Invest platform.



STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SOCIAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Partners Albania contributed to the Study on the Impact of the European Commission's Social Business Initiative (SBI) and its Follow-up Actions. The study commissioned by European Commission provides a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis of the impact of the SBI at both national and EU level. It includes an analysis of current needs and concludes with options for future policy initiatives.



MAKING THE LABOR MARKET WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALBANIA

RisiAlbania is a development project aimed at increasing the employment opportunities of young people. It is a SDC project, implemented by a consortium of partners comprised of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and Partners Albania.

Visit www.risialbania.al to learn about RisiAlbania work



WHAT WE DO

OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC

ABOUT US

GALLERY

CONTACT



RisiAlbania is an innovative project, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Economy and implemented by Helvetas and Partners Albania. The project works to provide more employment opportunities for young women and men in Albania, aged 15-29, in a socially inclusive and sustainable way, through interventions in main pillars like:



Job Demand

Increase the demand for new jobs in the private sector; tourism, agribusiness and information and communication technologies.

[More](#)



Skills Supply

Stimulate non-formal training providers offer through innovative programmes and methodologies in high demand from businesses in the sectors where the project stimulates job demand.

[More](#)



Career guidance & Intermediation

Improve labour market services through strengthening career guidance and intermediation services.

[More](#)



Gender & Social inclusion

Ensuring inclusiveness of vulnerable and socially excluded young people in the Albanian labour market through our interventions

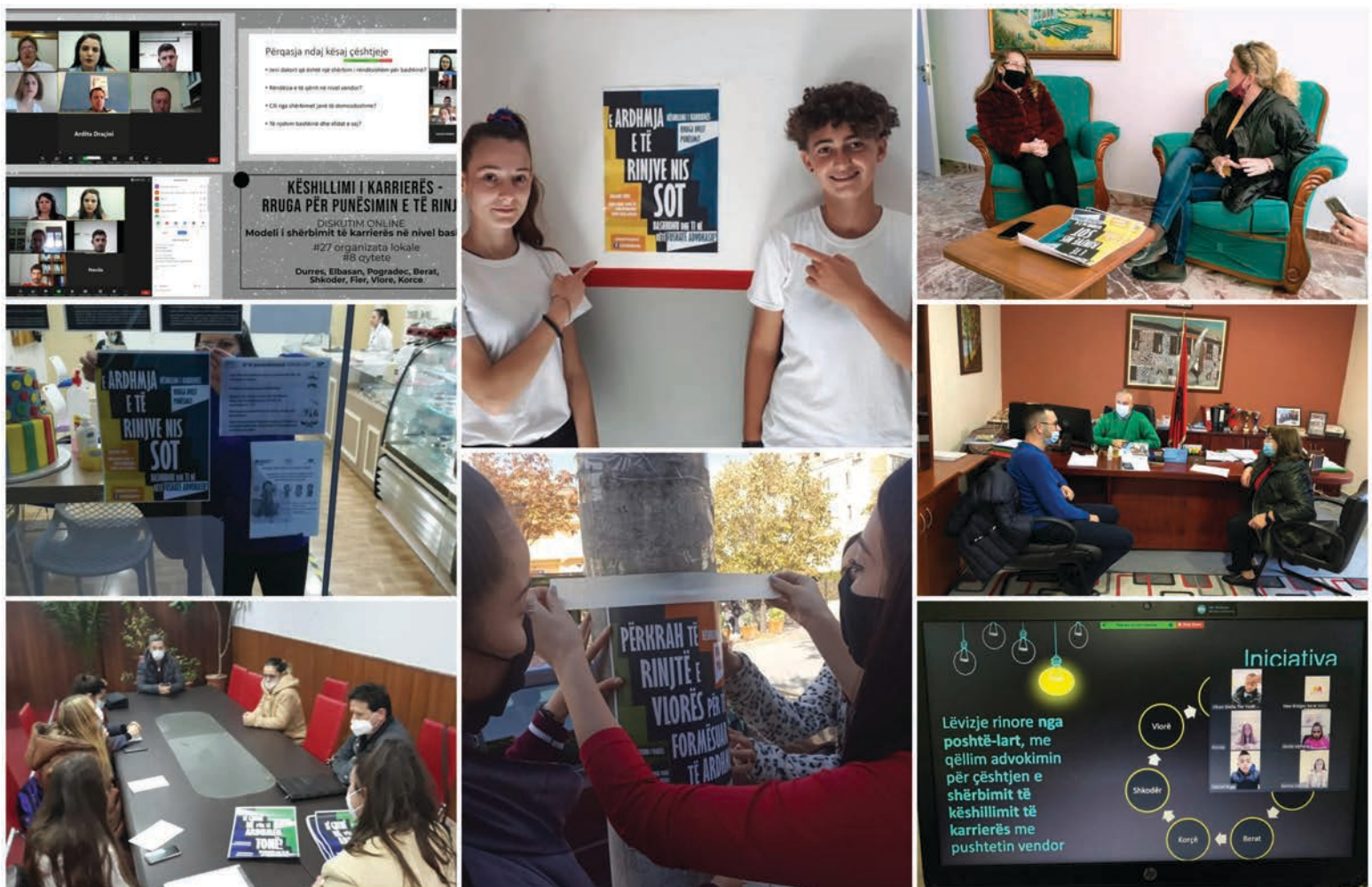
[More](#)

CAREER GUIDANCE – A MODEL TO OFFER CAREER SERVICES TO YOUTH AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Partners Albania in collaboration with RisiAlbania is working to advocate for establishment of career guidance as municipal service in Albania. This initiative is part of the strategy of RisiAlbania to improve career services in Albania, with a special focus on youth.

The model is currently being piloted in the Municipality of Tirana. The initiative consists in a bottom-up youth movement, which advocates for the importance of career guidance services to youth and to decision-makers at municipal level.

Throughout 2020, Partners Albania facilitated the work of nine coalitions of 27 youth organizations in nine cities, and assisted them to design and implement their advocacy campaigns in the respective municipalities, reaching out to youngsters in their cities and discussing issues related to their educational, training and occupational choices.





PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

One of the most prominent Partners Albania's activities under the philanthropy programmatic area, is the Philanthropy Awards organized since 2011, an annual event to express appreciation and gratitude to individuals, families and businesses who contribute to improving the quality of life in our society.

On February 7th, in the presence of distinguished guests from the Albanian government and members of Albanian Parliament, international institutions and donor agencies, representatives of the business sector, nonprofit organizations, media, and representatives of diplomatic bodies accredited in our country, Partners Albania presented the **Philanthropy Awards 2019**.





The Award for Contribution at National Level was granted to **SIGAL UNIQA Group AUSTRIA** with motivation: For the outstanding contribution in health, education, environment, sport, art and financial education in insurance field, specifically: Mobile Medical Clinic at country level, reconstruction of "Matosh Uka" high school in Fierza, Tropoja and the Sport Palace in Përmet, as well as establishment of the "Art and Culture" Club for citizens of Durrës." Ms. Anila Denaj, Minister of Finance and Economy presented the award.



The Award for Contribution at Local Level was granted to **Mrizi i Zanave** with motivation: For the contribution in promotion and development of traditional values of Fishta area in Lezha, turning it into a touristic and culinary attraction, strongly based in the development of family economy and employment of residents of the area. Mr. Silvio Pedrazzi, CEO of Intesa SanPaolo Bank Albania, presented the award.



The Award for Individual Contribution was granted to **Ms. Suela Bala**, with motivation: For the establishment of "Mobile Library" as an educational platform, and an integration window for children and youth in Lezha municipality, by creating a successful model that was transformed into an inclusive movement across the country". H.E. Mr. Soreca, Ambassador of European Union in Albania, presented the award.



"Pioneer of Philanthropy" Award was granted to **Mr. Hamza Rama** (posthumously), with motivation: "For the generous help and valuable contribution in alleviation of poverty and improvement of health condition of citizens and families in need in Lezha and surrounding villages, and for the financial support to Sports Club "Bardhyli" of Lezha". Ms. Mira Rakacolli, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection, presented the award.



Civic Engagement Recognition Award was granted to **Ms. Delina Fico**, with motivation: "For the valuable contribution to the protection of human rights and various social causes in the country, in particular for the protection of women's and girls' rights and the promotion of gender equality in Albanian society". Ms. Marinela Jazaj, Executive Director of Foreign Investors Association of Albania and Honorary Consul General of Norway in Albania presented the Award.



Special Award was granted to **Mr. Arben Cara**, with motivation: "For the utmost heroism and devotion in fulfilling the duty as firefighter, in the search and rescue efforts of the lives affected by the devastating earthquake of November 26, 2019, putting the mission of the profession first, even in the most extreme personal circumstances".

Mr. Petro Koçi, Deputy Minister of Defense, presented the Special Awards.



Special Award was granted to the Municipality of Prizreni, with motivation: "For the generous and unconditional help in hosting and accommodating Albanian citizens affected by the devastating earthquake of November 26, 2019, part of the tremendous support and solidarity of the brotherly people and institutions of Kosovo."



MONITORING OF PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITY

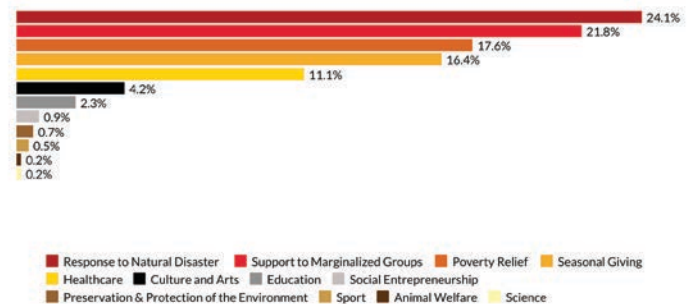
The year 2020 was unfortunately yet another difficult year due to the global pandemic Covid-19. This situation permanently altered everyone's way of life and introduced a new reality, and once again reminded us of the importance of philanthropy, solidarity and mutual aid which helped mitigate the effects of the situation and provided a source of support for all the people who were either directly or indirectly affected.

Through a careful daily monitoring of donations, campaigns and events published in various media outlets, social media, websites of public and non-public institutions during 2020, were identified 432 donation reports overall with a total amount of 103,688,004 ALL (844,411 EUR).

Beneficiaries



Fields of donations

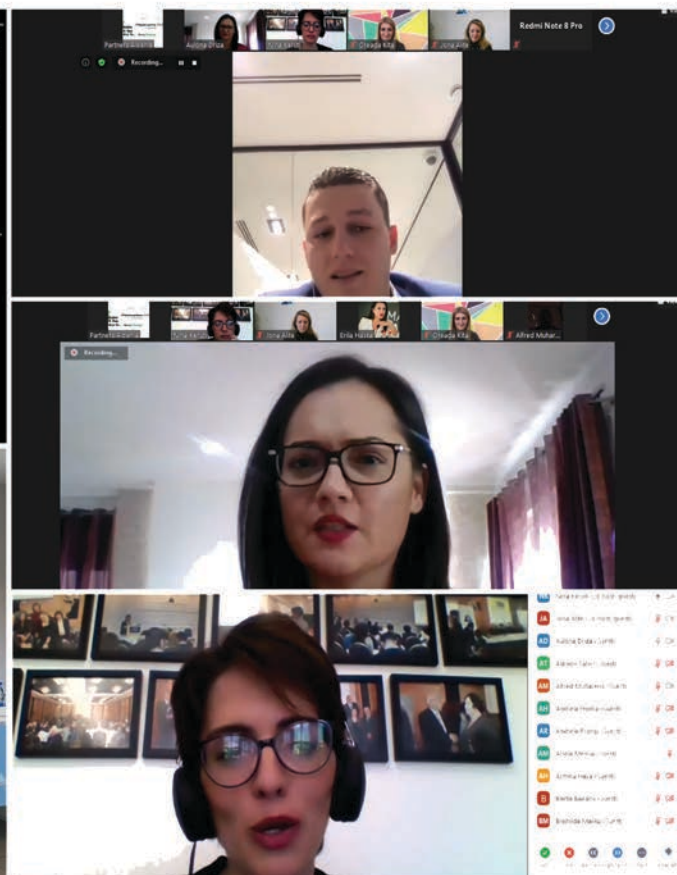
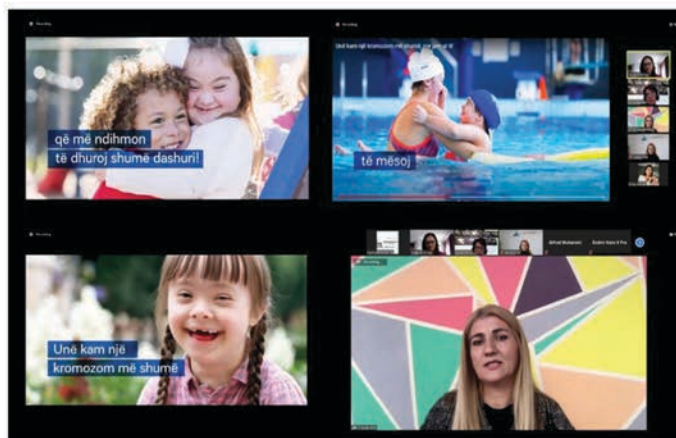


Number of donations



PHILANTHROPY WEEK 2020

Partners Albania introduced in 2020 the **Philanthropy Week**! A series of events took place during 9-13 November, including an online awareness campaign and promotion of philanthropic figures over the years, discussion forums with students, businesses, NGOs, individuals, and several discussions in the media to cover the topic but also the events of the week.





LEVIZ ALBANIA

www.levizalbania.al



LevizAlbania is a project that aims to strengthen the local democracy in Albania through the engagement of civil society actors and individuals as the champions of democracy. It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by a consortium of three successful Albanian organizations: Open Society Foundation for Albania, Partners Albania for Change and Development and Co-PLAN.

In its capacity as a consortia member, Partners Albania directly implements two strategic interventions in support of LevizAlbania work, as part of Value Added Support Services (VASS).

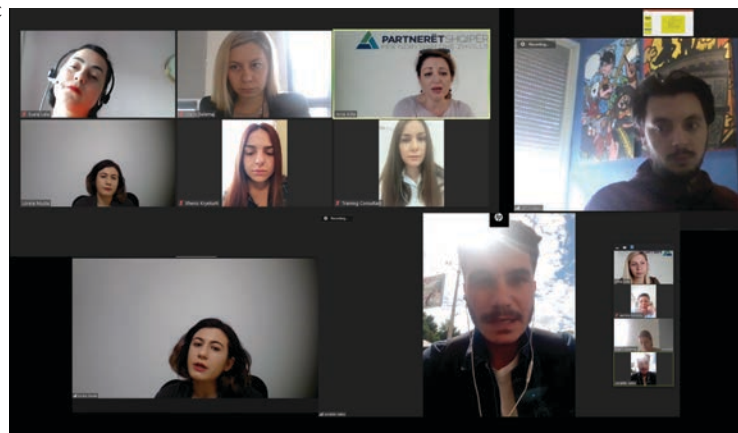
The first one comes in support of LevizAlbania sub-grantees for effective implementation of their projects, and the second one is focused on youth mobilization around local democracy issues.



22 LevizAlbania's grantees, CSOs and individuals, participated in 3 Thematic Networking Sessions, which enabled them to share plans and objectives, and initiatives under implementation. The discussion also helped finding space for joint advocacy action and coordination on the ground.

To address COVID-19 challenges of serving their constituents, the program contributed to increased knowledge and skills of LevizAlbania's grantees on use of Digital Technology for Online Learning and Community Participation.

16 LevizAlbania's grantees attended **32 days of mentoring sessions** on developing advocacy and lobbying capacity building programs for their beneficiaries, building bridges of cooperation with LG Units at local level, improvement of communication channels and tools for public information, orientation on how and where to ask for legal advice related to their actions, etc.



Youth Movement – A New Page for Local Communities is another initiative of Partners Albania in framework of VASS programme of LevizAlbania, aiming to create a movement of young people across the country, that through their civic engagement and volunteer work contribute to stronger local communities and a more responsible local government.

During the 2020, **12 youth camps** were organized, with participation of **158 youngsters**, high schools students from Vlora, Shkodra, Durrës, Pogradec, Elbasan and Tirana.

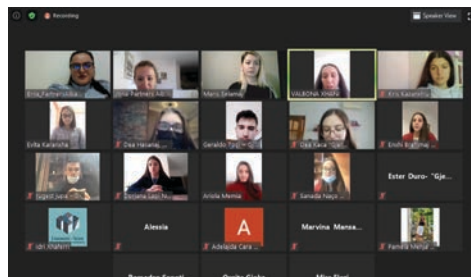
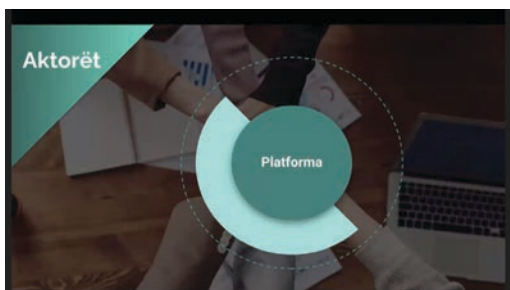
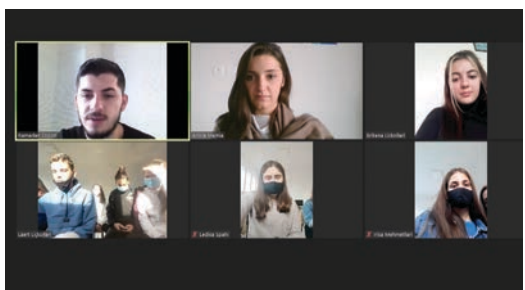
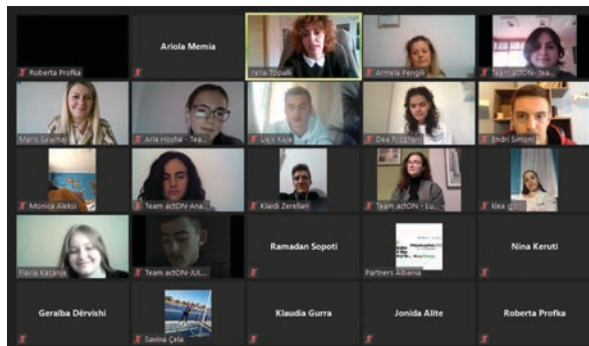
They implemented **12 initiatives**, serving as a model on how youngsters can participate and contribute in addressing issues in their communities.

In the frame of LevizAlbania's **Local Democracy Week** during 12-16 October 2020, Partners Albania organized "Youth Speak Up" event with the participation of youngsters from Vlora and Shkodra high schools. In the event participated representatives from Shkodra and Vlora municipalities, civil society organizations, media, academia, etc.

The four winning teams from the youth camps, shared with the guests their experiences, challenges, lessons learned, achievements and future plans on how they intend to stay engaged in their communities, either at school or in their neighborhoods.



From the Youth Camps with youngsters from Vlora, Shkodra, Durrës, Pogradec, Elbasan and Tirana. Due to Covid-19, part of the camps were organized online.





YOUTH HUB FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

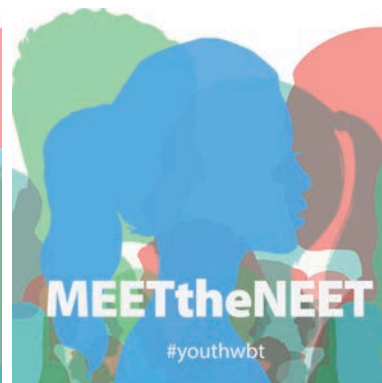
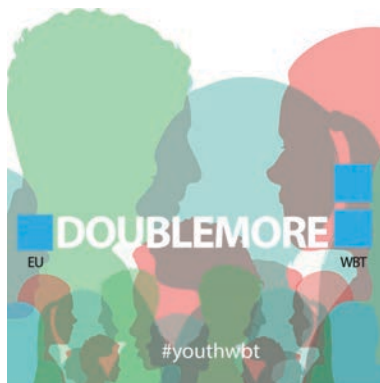
Since 2016, Partners Albania is part of the Youth Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey, a network of 20 youth organizations working to contribute to a greater involvement of young people in Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. The network's purpose is to foster social, economic and political inclusion of young women and men through implementation of policy advocacy initiatives, through organized partnership-building with stakeholders and through awareness-raising activities.

On March 2020, the Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey started implementing the **WB & T for EmploYouth** initiative which aims to create informed and constituency-based solutions for improved youth employment policies in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Along with fact-based advocacy, the project aims to build capacities of grass-root organizations in rural areas, to generate innovative ideas contributing to enhance employment opportunities for youth in NEET. Moreover, as part of the initiative, the network will provide financial support to 10 organizations to put their ideas into action.

During 8-15 December, the network organized an online campaign in all member countries, presenting key findings of the Youth Participation Index for 2019, showing the state of affairs regarding youth's political, social and economic participation. Youth Participation Index report is a guide for evidence based policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives of the network regarding youth participation. The project is supported by the European Union.



YOUTH PARTICIPATION WEEK 8. - 15. DECEMBER -
ALBANIA, MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA AND TURKEY



ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND NEGOTIATIONS

Since 2019, AIEN in cooperation with Partners Albania is implementing the "Academy of European Integration and Negotiations". It aims to contribute to the preparation of a European Albania, based on the principles of respect for the rule of law, human rights, freedom, free economic enterprise, solidarity and civic participation, through education and training.

Participants from state institutions, civil society, business organizations and media, began their journey in the second edition of the Academy conceived in 12 different interactive modules.

At the launching event, Partners Albania, as one of the implementing organizations, presented the earlier conducted study "Civil Society and Albania's EU Integration Process – A mutual evaluation of CSOs' capacities and institutions' readiness to carry out a comprehensive process".

AIEN is supported by the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) Albania.





BEST PRACTICES IN PROVIDING SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Partners Albania and UNDP Albania organized the National Competition "Best Practices in Provision of Social Care Services".

This event served to present and promote the 15 best practices in provision of social care services by municipal social care centres and civil society organizations. The practices were selected via a competitive process

whereby 200 service providers were invited to submit their practices related to services for individuals, families and groups in need. The practices were evaluated based on several criteria, such as: quality and suitability of service, innovation, results, centre ability, cooperation with other actors, the possibility for replication, etc.



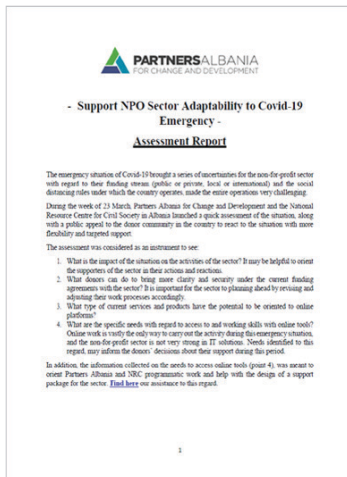
At the end of the event, a jury with members from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Interior - Agency for Local Self-Government Support, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Work, UNDP and the program "Leave no one behind" awarded 6 best practices among the 15 presented.



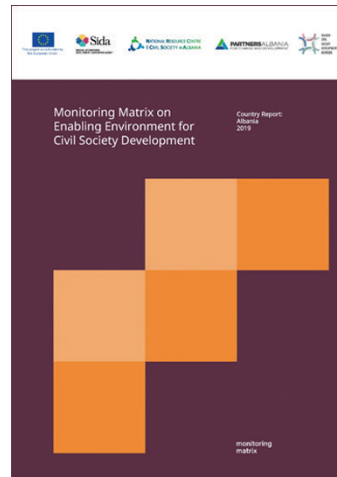
These practices are published in the *Catalogue of Best Practices for the Provision of Social Care Services*.



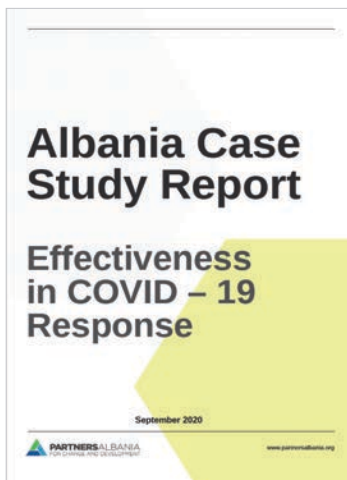
PUBLICATIONS



This report presents the findings of the assessment Partners Albania conducted right after the Covid-19 outbreak in March '20, to measure the impact of the pandemic on the activities of the sector, the needs related to the adaptation of contractual agreements with donors for the future activities, and the specific needs with regard to access to and skills on working with online platforms, in order to orientate their services online.



The Report presents the findings from the monitoring of practical and legal framework for the development of civil society. This is the 7th consecutive report issued in Albania. It is part of a series of country reports covering 7 countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey.



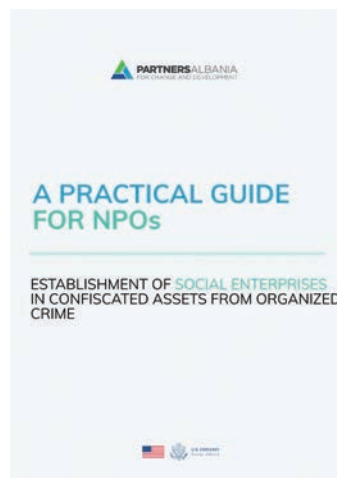
The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness coordinated a global activity, aimed to capture the application of effective development cooperation (EDC) principles in national and sectoral strategies and policies for Covid-19 response. As part of this global effort, country case studies were conducted all across the world. Partners Albania was selected to prepare the case study for Albania, one of the two countries selected in Europe (Armenia was the other country selected).



This study explores the characteristics of social enterprises in Albania according to three main principles: social dimension, economic dimension, and governing structure. It also presents the challenges and needs of their development.



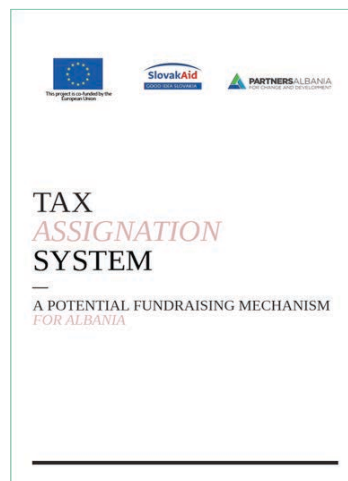
This informational booklet presents the journey of social enterprises supported through a capacity building program, financing schemes, networking at the national and international level, building partnerships with business, advocacy processes on the legal and regulatory framework in the country etc.



The *Practical Guide for NPOs - Establishment of Social Enterprises in Confiscated Assets from the Organized Crime* presents the necessary steps that organizations should follow in undertaking such initiatives, the responsible institutions, relevant legal framework, examples of successful entrepreneurship initiatives, etc.



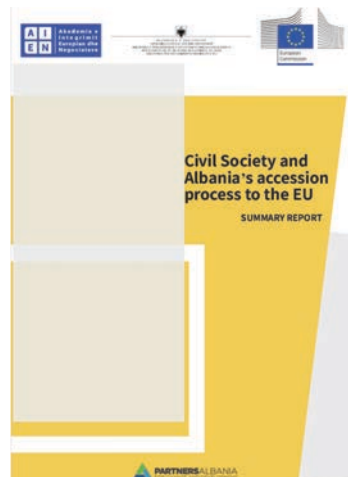
This baseline study provides an overview of policies for young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), subgroups that fall within this category, and statistics related to NEET youth in Albania. The study also provides an analysis of the legislative framework regarding the employment of youth from disadvantaged groups and NEET youth including strategies (for employment, youth and social issues), laws, directives, and support programs/measures at the national and regional level, at the same time presenting the quality of cooperation between different actors.



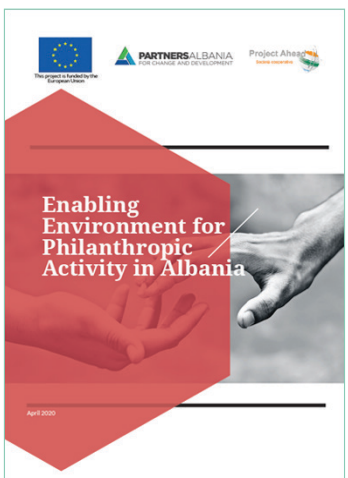
This paper introduces a new concept for Albania, the tax assignation mechanism as a sustainable model for strengthening the CSO sector, improving their image, increasing public confidence and financial sustainability.



This report provides an overview of the state of affairs regarding the political, social and economic participation of youth based on a set of predefined indicators. It serves as the guide for evidence-based policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives of the Youth Bank Hub Network regarding youth participation.



This is a summary report of the study "Civil Society and Albania's EU Integration Process – A mutual evaluation of CSOs' capacities and institutions' readiness to carry out a comprehensive process". The study was carried out by Partners Albania in framework of Academy of European Integration and Negotiations (AIEN).



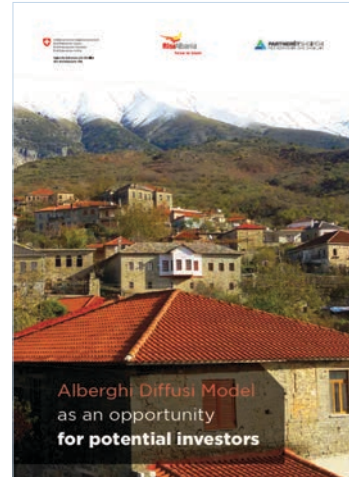
This paper presents an overview of the philanthropic state of affairs in Albania and provides the main trends and best practices from other countries, which could serve to a better comprehension of the dynamics from the stakeholders', part of the PO sector. The paper is structured based on the main indicators composing the philanthropic freedom such as tax and fiscal issues, cross-border philanthropic flows, the political environment in Albania as well as the main trends of the sector.



Facts on Philanthropic Activity report reflects the philanthropic activity in Albania during 2020. The report analyses the main sectors and issues supported, nature and value of the donations, geographic coverage and also the nature of donors and beneficiaries.



This catalogue presents 15 best practices in the provision of social care services in Albania, identified through an open application process from public and non-public providers of social care services in all municipalities all over the country.



This is an investment promotion brochure prepared by Risialbania and Partners Albania, promoting the implementation of Alberghi Diffusi model in Albania.



The green enterprises supported since 2012 and their impact on employment and economic development.

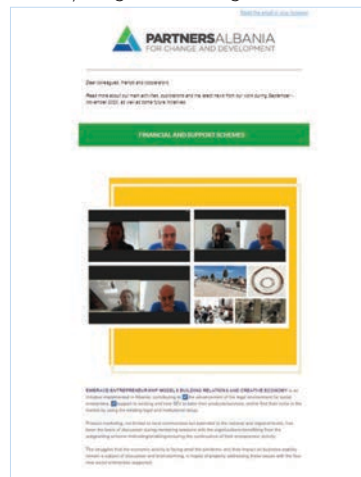


Annual report 2019 provides an overview of our work, supporters and beneficiaries during the previous year.



A collection of winners of Philanthropy Awards over the years.

Partners Albania's news digest, and National Resource Centre's Newsletter covering a wide range of developments in the civil society at country, regional and global level.



PARTNERS ALBANIA PROGRAMS IN MEDIA FOCUS



Ja çfarë do ndodhi me pasuritë e konfiskuara të kriminjtë/ Flet Drejtoresha e fondacionit: Po i kthejmë në ndërmarrje sociale



Drejtoresha e fondacionit "Partners Shqipëri", Juliana Hoxha, thotë në emisionin e "Në Shtet" se deri më tani të paktën 100 pasuritë e konfiskuara nga krimi, si të vëna nga kriminelët, janë kthyer në ndërmarrje sociale, që punësojnë të rinjtë.

Të keni më prirje, që janë në përvojën pastërthia sociale në Tiranë, që ka qenë dhe po "Diklo bar" në Durrës, si dhe një prirje në Sarandë, që janë kthyer në të tilla, ku punësojnë të rinjtë", thotë Hoxha.

Yuri Kim: Inkurajojmë Shqipërinë në luftën ndaj kimit të organizuar

04.02.2020 22:24



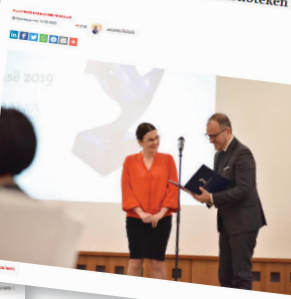
Ambasadorja e Shteteve të Bashkuara në Amerikë në Tiranë, Yuri Kim, thotë se lufta ndaj kriminjtë të organizuar është një prioritet i shtetit shqiptar dhe se ajo duhet të kthehet në një luftë të bashkuar.



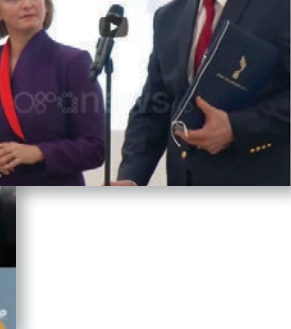
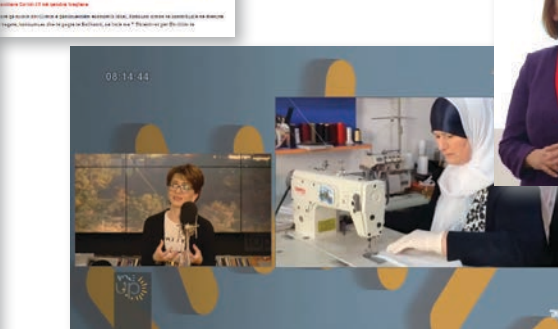
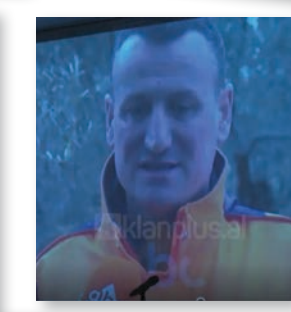
Shpallen fituesit e Çmimeve të Filantropisë 2019



Suela Bala, filantropja që dërgoi bibliotekën në fshatra



Hanza Rama barnatori e bamirësi më i njohur në Lezhë



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**AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO**

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Management of the Foundation "Partners Albania for Change and Development"

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Partners Albania for Change and Development (hereafter referred to as the "Foundation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, statement of activities, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2020, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the National Accounting Standard for Non-Profit Organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Albania, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

This version of our report/audit accompanying documents is a translation from the original, which was prepared in Albanian. All possible steps have been taken to ensure that the translation is an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of references, values or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this translation.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the National Accounting Standard for Non-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

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- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

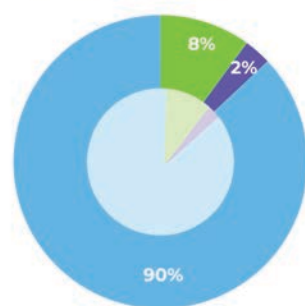
Grant Thornton sh.p.k.

Tirana, Shqipëri
21 April 2021

Adrian Kola, FCPA



Budget for FY 2020



135,967,830 ALL

- Foreign governments
- Fee from services
- Private foundations

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*Budget managed directly by Partners Albania, excluding LevizAlbania and RisiAlbania projects.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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