



**PARTNERS**ALBANIA  
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



# **ANNUAL REPORT** **2023**

## WHO WE ARE

Partners Albania is an independent Albanian NGO established in 2001, working to support civil society and facilitate inter-sector cooperation in order to strengthen democratic institutions and advance economic development.

Partners Albania is a member of the Code of Standards for Civil Society Organizations and plays the role of Secretariat of the Code through the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania.

Partners Albania is a member of Partners Network, a partnership of 19 independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East working for peaceful and democratic change.

Partners Albania is also a member of several global, European and regional networks such as BCSDN, ECAS, DIESIS, ANNA LINDH, WINGS, Alliance for Peacebuilding, CHANCE – Civil Hub Against organised Crime in Europe, etc.

[www.partnersalbania.org](http://www.partnersalbania.org)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to share with you our Annual Report 2023. It has been a year of growth, learning, and deepened collaboration at local, regional and global level where we witnessed the collective power of individuals and organizations working towards a shared vision.

Our efforts this year were centered on investing in people, organizations, and ideas that can make a lasting difference. From fostering sustainable entrepreneurship to providing crucial support to non-profit organizations, we have remained persistent in our commitment to building resilient communities. Our work, grounded in collaboration, has led to meaningful progress in key areas such as governance, transparency, social innovation, and philanthropy development.

This year, we have worked closely within the framework of Albania's EU integration agenda, ensuring that civil society plays a critical role in supporting this important national objective. The progress made in Albania's EU accession negotiations in 2023 has reinforced the need for greater alignment with European values of transparency, accountability, and participatory governance. Through our initiatives, Partners Albania has actively contributed to this alignment, advocating for a more engaged and empowered civil society that can hold institutions accountable and foster democratic governance.

We have continued our work towards development of philanthropy as a means to strengthen community-led initiatives. Through our philanthropic efforts, we have supported grassroots projects that address pressing societal needs and foster solidarity. Our flagship crowdfunding initiatives have empowered local communities by mobilizing resources from individual and corporate donors to support projects that range from education and environmental preservation to social inclusion. This work underscores the importance of a vibrant and engaged philanthropic culture in addressing Albania's challenges and seizing its opportunities.

We have had the privilege of supporting many initiatives that not only drive positive change but also create spaces for inclusive dialogue and participation. Whether through our capacity-building programs, legal support services, or advocacy efforts, we have witnessed the dedication of civil society actors and their determination to improve their communities. This is the real impact of our work: enabling actors in our targeted sectors to succeed and make a difference.

Our work in promoting social innovation and entrepreneurship has continued to inspire, as we supported enterprises focused on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community development. These efforts are an indication of the potential that exists in our country to create positive, lasting change, especially as Albania continues to move closer to its European integration goals. The values of inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation are at the heart of the EU's vision, and we are proud to see those same values reflected in the work of the Albanian civil society and entrepreneurship sector.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to advancing the values that drive our mission: inclusivity, collaboration, and resilience. We are grateful for the trust placed in us by our partners and supporters, whose belief in our work has been instrumental in achieving these results. Together, we will continue to champion the role of civil society as a key pillar in building a more just and sustainable future for all, fully aligned with the aspirations of Albania's EU integration.

Looking ahead to 2024, we recognize the need to build on this momentum with a more focused and intentional approach. Our strategy for the coming year will be laser-focused on measuring the real impact of our work by strengthening the processes that underpin our efforts. With the continued support of digital solutions, we aim to enhance how we track, evaluate, and scale the outcomes of our programs. This investment will allow us to refine our approach and ensure that every action we take is closely aligned with the needs and aspirations of the communities we serve, as well as Albania's broader integration into the European Union.

I am deeply grateful for the trust and support we have received from our partners and beneficiaries. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, foster innovation, and build a stronger, more resilient civil society that plays a pivotal role in Albania's future within the European Union.

**Juliana Hoxha**  
Director



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN 2023

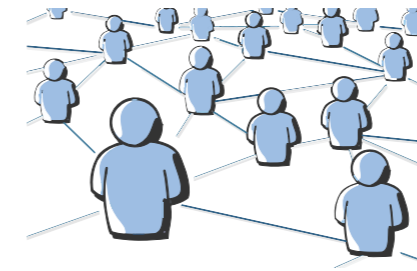
## Activities and participants



- » Training
- » Mentoring
- » Information sessions
- » Networking events
- » International conferences & public events
- » Competitions / Pitching event
- » Live crowdfunding events
- » Round tables
- » Study visits



## Social media followers and engagement



- » **30K** Followers  
2K more in 2023
- » **66K** Visits  
94% more in 2023
- » **500K** Reach  
25% more in 2023
- » **228%** More content engagement compared to 2022

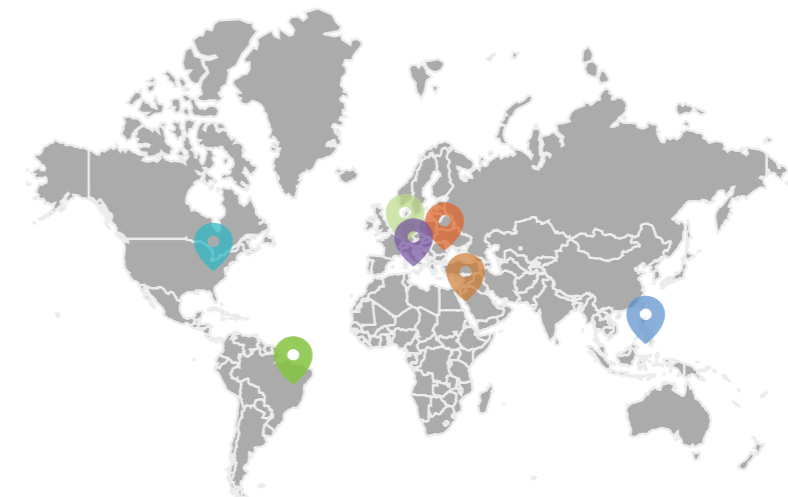
## Publications and media appearances



## Projects and partners



## Representation



- △ National
- △ Regional
- △ Global



## OUR PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

- ▶ Enabling Environment and Sustainable Development of Civil Society
- ▶ Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation
- ▶ Philanthropic activity and support infrastructure
- ▶ Transparent and accountable participatory governance

## OUR BENEFITIARIES

- ▶ Civil Society
- ▶ Innovative and Social Entrepreneurs
- ▶ Government institutions and policy-makers

## WHAT WE OFFER

- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Financial support
- ▶ Advocacy and research



# CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY

CIVIL SOCIETY



Networking event, Civil Society Week 2023, June 2nd 2023, Elbasan



## CAPACITY BUILDING

**7** PROGRAMS

- NPO Academy 2023
- Grants Management and monitoring
- CSOs Revenue Generation from fee-for-services
- NPO Exchange
- Resiliency +
- EU Aquis, CSO participation, and Involvement in the country's EU integration process
- Training on Demand

**22** TOPICS

- Organizational Adaptability (Resiliency +)
- Digital Advocacy - the use of technology and digital tools
- Fact-based Advocacy
- European Union Membership and the role of NPOs in this process
- Diversification of Funds through Paid Services
- Crowdfunding Campaigns
- Strategic Communication
- Legal Framework for the NPO sector in Albania
- Lobbying
- Financial Management: Budgeting and accounting, state obligations and reporting, VAT reimbursement procedures
- Human Resource Management and Internal Procedures
- Grant Management
- Constituents Mobilization, Network and Coalition Building
- Fundraising - Securing support from grants, public funds, philanthropy, and working with the private sector
- Strategic Planning
- Participatory Governance
- Project Proposal Writing and Project Management, EU Grants
- Organizational Development and Governance

**45** TRAINING DAYS

**310** MENTORING SESSIONS

**2** EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

**596** BENEFICIARIES

Gender Distribution



Beneficiaries outside the capital



## HELP-DESK SERVICES, NETWORKING, ASSISTANCE FOR NETWORKS

**573** REQUESTS FROM NPOS, ADDRESSED

**270** NPOs assisted

**27** REGIONAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

**142** NPOs, activists, youth, students, etc. informed about issues related to the development of civil society

**2** NATIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

**160** Participants

**5** NETWORKS ASSISTED

**6** Advocacy initiatives implemented



## TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



During the program, we had the privilege of visiting various central government and civil society institutions, where we learned about advocacy actions and the importance of management, administration, and monitoring of our actions. These acquired techniques are proving to be highly successful to be implemented in our communities. I recommend this program to every organization, as it presents a remarkable opportunity to engage in networking, share innovative practices, learn from others, and elevate awareness within our respective communities. As a direct outcome of this program, our organization was financially supported by one of the hosting organisations in the program - "AVEN" to implement a project with focus on prevention of direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in Mirdita Municipality. I express my gratitude for this opportunity and extend my recommendation to any organization with the aspirations and determination to bring development and positive change within their community.

**Arbërora Leti**

Founder of the organization "Opportunity, Balance & Overcoming", Rrëshen



I highly appreciate initiatives like the "NPO Exchange Program," which is why I readily accepted the invitation from Partners Albania. The program served as a platform for engaging in discussions with a specific focus on human rights and efforts against discrimination. By fostering collaborative efforts and encouraging the sharing of experiences, this program created a supporting environment for dialogue, enabling organizations to enhance their understanding of human rights principles and effective strategies to combat discrimination. I extend my heartfelt wishes for success to all the organizations involved in their crucial work, and I remain hopeful that various mechanisms will be leveraged to their fullest potential.

**Dr. Robert Gajda**

Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination



Participating in the NPO Academy has been one of the most fulfilling experiences in my civil society journey, enriching my knowledge and fostering valuable connections. The insights and skills I acquired have greatly benefited my organization by enhancing our networking efforts and renewing my passion as a leader of a local organization in Bulqizë. I believe everyone should participate in the NPO Academy, as it offers professional growth that positively impacts both individual organizations and the broader civil society.

**Riges Beqiri**

Nature and Tourism Association Bulqizë







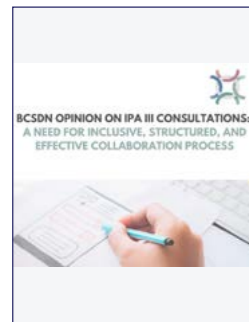
# ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY



Comments and recommendations addressed to the Financial Intelligence Agency for the report on the National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Albania



Letter from Partners Albania addressed to the High Judicial Council regarding Decision No. 445 "On the Approval of Standard Templates of the Electronic Registry of Non-Profit Organizations"



Contribution to the Multi-Country Action Document Package IPA III 2024, as part of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network



Partners Albania, part of the regional working group for the review of the Monitoring Matrix on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development Toolkit



Recommendations for DG NEAR Guidelines on EU support for civil society in the enlargement region 2021-2027



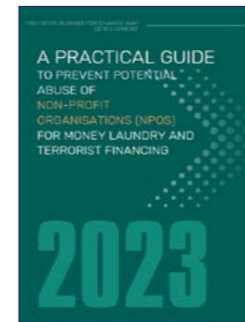
Contribution to the Regional Policy Document: AML / CTF Regulations and Implications on CSOs in the Western Balkans and Türkiye



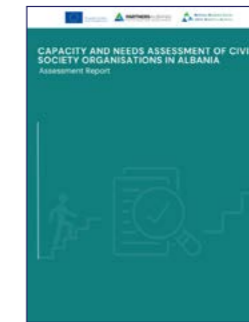
Contribution provided for the review of Recommendation 8 and the publication of FATF's Best Practices



Monitoring Matrix on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, Albania Report 2022



Practical guide to prevent potential abuse of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) for Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing



Capacity and Needs Assessment of Civil Society Organizations in Albania



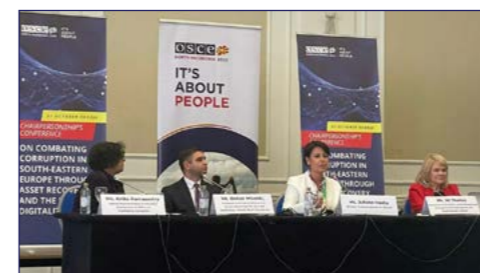
Scorecards on Albania's Progress and Level of Preparation towards EU membership

- Assessment of Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights)
- Assessment of Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom, Security)
- Assessment of the Political Criteria

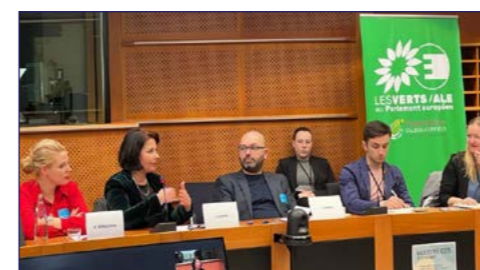
*Contribution to the regional agenda related to the enabling environment for civil society - 15 public events where Partners Albania was present on discussion panels as a speaker.*



*The EU Civil Society Forum for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2023, held on May 31 – June 1, 2023, in Podgorica, Montenegro, with the participation of European Union institutions working on Enlargement, civil society organizations, and public authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey.*



*OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia Regional Conference, held on October 31, 2023, in Skopje, focusing on combating corruption, money laundering, and facilitating asset recovery efforts in South-Eastern Europe.*



*Advocacy event "Back to the Roots of Democracy - Strengthening civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey" held in Brussels by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network, addressing the special role of civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the enlargement process.*



Round table of members of the negotiation team for Albania's integration into the European Union and representatives of civil society organizations, following the conclusion of the analytical review of the first group of chapters, including the judiciary and fundamental rights, with the European Commission.



The 9th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum, organized by the European Economic and Social Committee on October 19-20, 2023, in Thessaloniki, Greece, where several key issues were discussed such as the state of democracy in Southeast Europe, 2023 as the European Year of Skills, and the role of civil society in advancing the Green Agenda and promoting sustainable development in Southeast Europe.



Insightful exchange on Recommendation 8 by the Global NGO Coalition of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as part of the FATF Private Sector Consultative Forum held in Vienna on May 8-9, 2023.



The first global conference "Risks and Consequences: The Future of FATF's Recommendation 8 for Financial Integrity and for Civil Society," held in Bonn, Germany, on September 26-27, 2023, organized jointly by the EU AML/CFT Global Facility, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH's program 'Combating Illicit Financial Flows,' and the FATF Global NGO Coalition.



OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation Group meeting, held in Vienna in May 2023, focused on the fight against corruption through asset recovery.



CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) All-Country Meeting, held in March 2023 in Paris, to discuss the organization's new strategic plan aimed at achieving higher results and impact.



People-to-People event "EU TACSO 3 and the European Year of Skills - Skills for Non-Profit Organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey"- held in Tirana, on 21-22 November 2023, organized by TACSO 3.



Conference "Volunteering in The Western Balkans and Türkiye - Agenda For Action" held in Tirana, on March 28-29, 2023, organized by TACSO 3.



People-to-People regional meeting "EU Accession Negotiation Process: Learning Exchange Between CSOs from Montenegro and Serbia, with CSOs from Albania and North Macedonia" held in Tirana, on March 30-31, 2023, organized by TACSO 3.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Over the eight years of its implementation, LevizAlbania project has supported hundreds of initiatives that directly and indirectly involved citizens, including young men and women, the elderly, underserved communities, marginalized groups, and individuals eager to contribute. This effort has mobilized and inspired these groups to improve local governance, enhance the accountability of elected officials, and promote transparency and participation in decision-making processes.



# AKTIVIZMI

# LEVIZ

### 38,491

INVOLVED  
CITIZEN

### 309

SUPPORTED  
PROJECTS

### 61

MUNICIPALITIES  
REACHED



**9** CALLS FOR  
PROPOSALS



**23** PROJECTS  
RAPID RESPONSE



**12** STRATEGIC  
PROJECTS

DEDICATED

TO THE LOCAL

DEMOCRACY





# CAPACITY BUILDING OF INNOVATIVE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS





## CAPACITY BUILDING

**3** CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

- Grant management, financial management, and exchange of experience for TWIST grant beneficiaries
- Preparation of the business plan, and marketing and promotion for applicants interested in the Green Business Competition
- Wises4Youth - Capacity building program for young social entrepreneurs

**114** BENEFICIARIES

Gender of Participants



Beneficiaries outside the capital



**8** TRAINING DAYS

**6** STUDY VISITS

- Study visit to Italy on the social reuse of confiscated assets from organized crime (in framework of TWIST initiative)
- 5 study visits for young entrepreneurs in 5 Balkan countries (in framework of Wises4Youth program)

## INFORMATION AND NETWORKING

**13** REGIONAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

**693** Entrepreneurs, startups, and individuals with business ideas informed about the Green Ideas Competition and the Challenge Fund Call for Proposals.

**1** FAIR AND NETWORKING EVENT

**20** Green enterprises supported by Partners Albania were promoted at the public fair "The Future is Green," organized as part of the 2023 European Green Week.



# MAKING THE LABOUR MARKET WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALBANIA

RISI ALBANIA 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

» SKILLS SUPPLY

» CAREER GUIDANCE & INTERMEDIATION

» GENDER & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Some of the Risi Albania's main achievements in 2023:

## Private Sector Development and Job Creation

**Net Income and Investments:** Achieved €831,330 in net additional income and €1,349,288 in investments, surpassing the target. Specifically, agribusiness contributed €414,382 in net income and €845,911 in investment; tourism generated €210,430 in net income and €301,874 in investment; and ICT achieved €206,518 in net income and €201,503 in investment.

**Job Creation:** RisiAlbania generated 600 jobs in 2023 across agribusiness, ICT, and tourism.

## Career Guidance and Job Matching

**Placements and Career Services:** Achieved 876 job placements attributed to mediation and career guidance. Significant partnerships with the National Agency for Employment and Skills (NAES) increased job listings by 35%, helping match job seekers with employers more efficiently.

**Career Guidance Expansion:** Career services extended to new municipalities, equipping career centers with trained staff in Elbasan, Berat, and Lushnja, enhancing resources at the Career Centre in Tirana.

## Agribusiness

**Market Access and Standards:** Focused on high-value market access, RisiAlbania supported certification efforts for fruit and vegetable exporters, which includes now 21 exporters achieving GlobalG.A.P. standards. Additionally, initiatives for olive oil export improved quality awareness and access to international markets.

**Youth Engagement:** Agribusiness awareness initiatives targeted young Albanians, leading to an awareness campaign in high schools to inspire interest in agribusiness

## Tourism Development

**Sustainable Tourism:** In 2023, RisiAlbania continued supporting sustainable tourism initiatives, including certification for two additional tour operators, making a total of five certified in the Travelife standard.

**Local Partnerships:** Visit Gjirokastra and Visit Saranda worked on strengthening business models, digital channels, and regional partnerships to diversify tourism services. Additionally, the Albergo Diffuso model in Kruja received legal recognition as a form of accommodation in the Tourism Law, enabling future government support.

## ICT Sector

**Cybersecurity and Digital Services:** RisiAlbania facilitated job creation through the expansion of ICT services, especially in cybersecurity and e-commerce. This sector contributed to the establishment of 220 jobs in digital roles like IT security specialists and digital marketers.





# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## 3 SUPPORT SCHEMES

**TWIST: Towards a New Social Entrepreneurship Model in Confiscated Assets in Albania”**



**10**

*Supported enterprises  
(2 enterprises in confiscated assets)*

**22,730,500 ALL**

*The amount of financial support*

**Green Businesses Competition**



**5**

*Supported enterprises*

**3,263,800 ALL**

*The amount of financial support*

**Challenge Fund / EU4Innovation in support of innovative start-ups**



**1**

*Call for Proposals opened during 2023*

**247**

*applications*

- 117 LOT 1 Idea and Validation stage
- 48 LOT 2 Growth Stage
- 82 LOT 3 Scale-up Stage





# TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

INNOVATIVE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS



LIBERA

PRONÉ É  
KONFISKUAR

HIN  
RANTUJDO



One of the most important experiences was the visit to the social cooperative “Al di là dei Sogni”, founded on a confiscated property in the Caserta region. The testimony of the cooperative’s representative was both moving and inspiring. The project we are implementing with TWIST shares similarities and is especially valuable in its approach to training individuals with mental health challenges and marginalized communities. These experiences are incredibly insightful, as they provide a firsthand look at how social enterprises function and the solutions they offer for progress.

**Denada Shpuza** “Light Steps” Center, Shkodër

The study visit to social enterprises established on assets confiscated from organized crime in Italy made a profound impact on me. The official meeting with Mr. Bruno Corda, Director of the National Agency for the Administration and Destination of Assets Seized and Confiscated from Organized Crime in Italy, was particularly memorable. The transformation of a confiscated asset into a space for youth entertainment was inspiring, as entertainment through play is an integral part of youth education. The team spoke passionately about their work, openly sharing the difficulties and obstacles they had encountered. Their voluntary efforts were truly admirable, as were the sacrifices they made in the face of threats from criminals. They emphasized the importance of involving vulnerable groups in employment, demonstrating both seriousness and humility in their work. This visit offered invaluable insights that I believe will greatly enhance our work moving forward.

**Loreta Mamani** MKEZH, Gjirokastrë

As an entrepreneur always seeking opportunities to learn, create new experiences, and expand horizons, once I learned about the EYSET project, I saw it as an excellent opportunity to get involved with my enterprise, Dor Arta Handmade, which specializes in weaving traditional rugs. I joined the EYSET project to give Dor Arta the opportunity to showcase itself on international platforms. The online seminar on social entrepreneurship, led by experts in the field, was incredibly valuable and interactive, allowing us to present our businesses effectively. Additionally, participating in the creative video competition to present our enterprises was a highlight for me, as I was fortunate to be selected as one of the top-voted participants. This led to my participation in the final ISTO conference in Brussels, which was a significant milestone in my entrepreneurial journey. Sharing a piece of Albania and our rugs as a tourism product with a large international audience was an extraordinary experience that has inspired me to continue passionately preserving and promoting Albanian cultural heritage.

**Edlira Kurti** Entrepreneur

My participation in the WISEs4Youth program was an incredibly enriching journey filled with knowledge and experience. This opportunity allowed me to explore the concepts of entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, while also developing new skills in this area. Our visit to Croatia was particularly memorable, as it provided insight into the realities of local entrepreneurship. During our study visits, we had the chance to hear stories and experiences from local entrepreneurs, including their challenges and successes. This experience broadened our perspective and contributed to our growth as individuals and professionals in the entrepreneurial field.

Partners Albania played a vital role as an outstanding organizer, offering dedicated support and guidance to ensure that all participants had an unforgettable experience. Information was communicated effectively and efficiently, fostering a deep understanding and full engagement from everyone throughout the program. This attention to detail greatly enhanced the value of this exchange experience in the entrepreneurship field, and also personal development.

**Ulsi Beqiri** Student





# ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION



Policy paper: *Enhancing Social and Labour Inclusion of Young People through Exploiting Social Entrepreneurship and Resources in Tourism Value Chain*



*Sustainability Roadmap: A Guide for Young Entrepreneurs to Build Sustainable Social Enterprises - prepared as part of Wisers4Youth project*



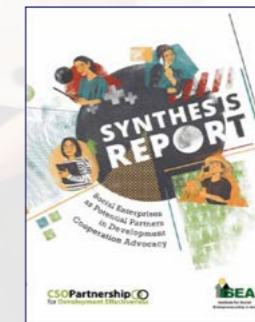
*Characteristics and Challenges of Social Enterprises in Albania – A Comparative Study (available in Albanian)*



*A set of tools empowering young social entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to replicate, adopt, or change, and apply the tools, strategies, and recommendations from Wisers4Youth project*



*The fair "The future is Green. Let's "paint" it together!", organized as part of the European Green Week 2023*



*Contributor for Albania in the study "Social enterprises as Potential Partners in Development Cooperation Advocacy"*



*The "Green Enterprises and Support for Startups in the Tourism and Agro-processing Sectors in Albania" event, organized as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW Albania).*

## Contribution to the regional agenda regarding social entrepreneurship

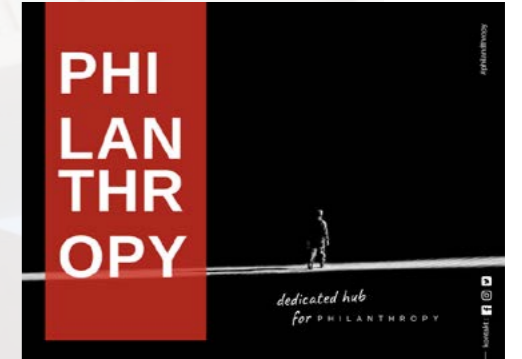


*The fourth edition of the Union for the Mediterranean Social Economy Conference held on October 17–18, 2023 in Barcelona, focused on the latest strategic developments at the European level, which hold promise for developments throughout the Mediterranean region.*

# ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH ON PHILANTHROPY AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



Partners Albania carries out daily monitoring of philanthropic activity in Albania and presents the findings through summary reports, with the goal of documenting these activities and helping the interested public better understand them.



*Philanthropy* is the first magazine in Albania to highlight developments surrounding various initiatives and issues related to philanthropic activity in the country.

## Contribution in the regional and global agenda related to philanthropy



Partners Albania is a member of WINGS, the only global network supporting the development of philanthropy, which spans 58 countries and consists of a community of more than 200 changemakers, dedicated to creating an enabling environment for philanthropy to thrive.



# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITY



*Giving Circles is an event that unites individuals from diverse backgrounds for a philanthropic mission, providing their expertise, time, and financial resources to support specific causes that foster social change in various communities.*

*Since 2018, Partners Albania has organized several Giving Circles events, enabling support for community initiatives in the fields of education, promotion of human rights, youth activism, environment and tourism, psycho-social services for children in need, and the improvement and creation of public spaces for the elderly, among others.*

**2** EVENTS ORGANIZED IN 2023

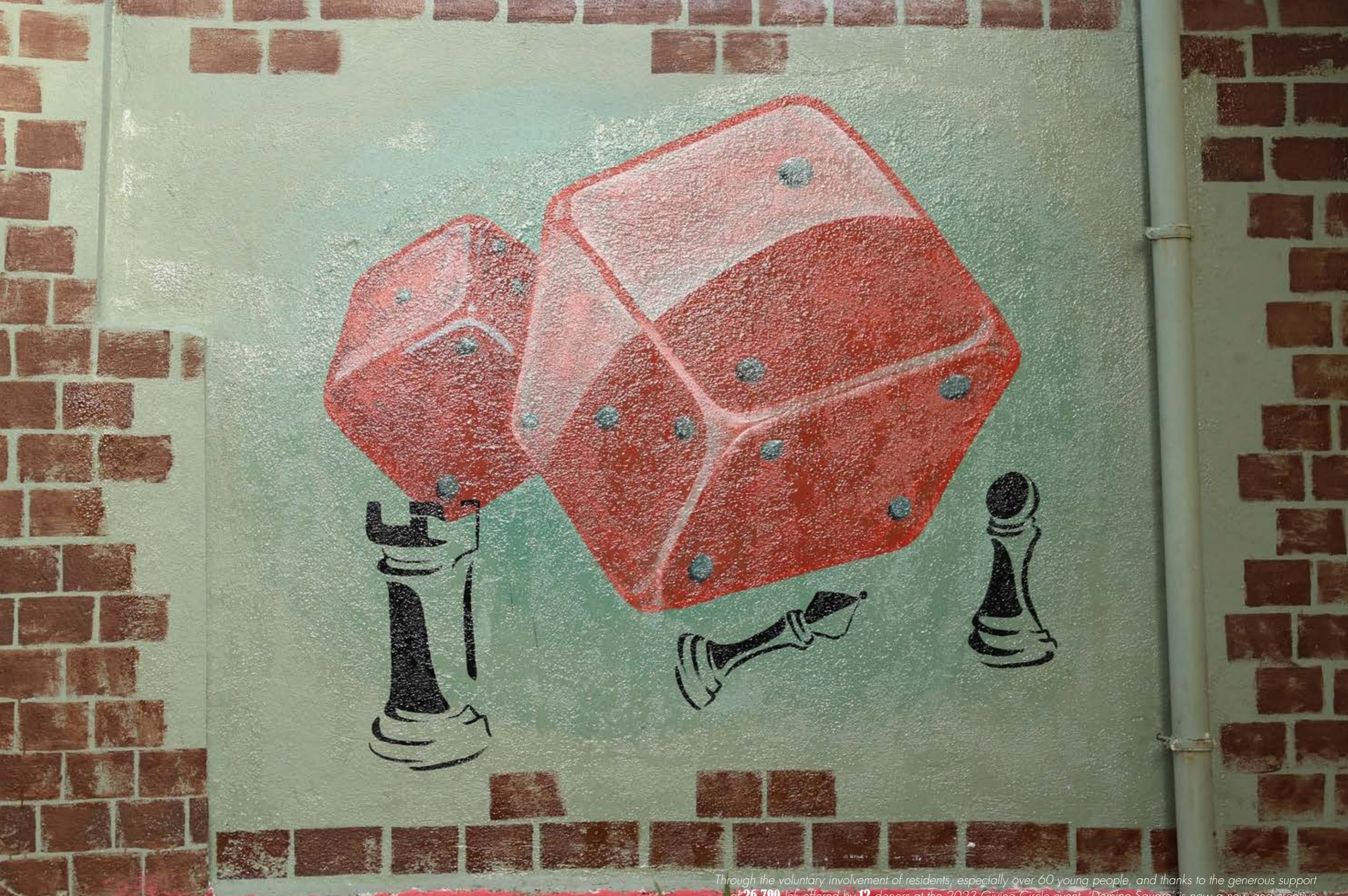
**7** SUPPORTED INITIATIVES IN 2023

**88** DONORS - INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

**4,818,384** CONTRIBUTION DONATED \*  
**ALL**

- **Specialized service for 25 children with different abilities, Tirana**
- **"Enjoying Nature," Librazhd**
- **Re-conceptualization of "Marigo Posio" Park, Vlorë**
- **Establishment of a resource class for the development of students with special needs, Bulqizë**
- **Revitalization of "Domino Square," Fushë-Krujë**
- **"A Future for Children in Need," Korçë**
- **"First Period Box", Shkozë (Tirana)**

\* The value refers to monetary contributions, material donations, and free consultancy offered during events.



Through the voluntary involvement of residents, especially over 60 young people, and thanks to the generous support of **26,790** lek offered by **12** donors at the 2023 Giving Circle event, 'Domino Square' is now a new and creative space, attractive to both the community and visitors.



# ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH FOR A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE



*The closing event of the initiative "Youth Movement, a New Page for Local Communities," implemented by Partners Albania as part of the LevizAlbania project. Albanian Assembly, May 31st, 2023.*



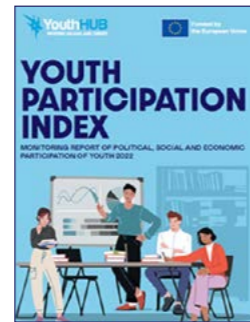
Comments and recommendations regarding measures outlined in the by the "Roadmap for the Functioning of Democratic Institutions".



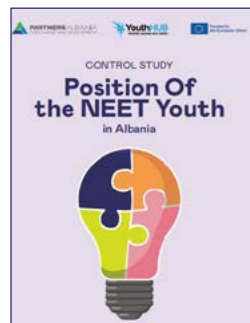
Participation and provision of recommendations during the consultation process between the Albanian Parliament, civil society organizations, and journalists for the development of standards and indicators for an open parliament.



Monitoring Report on Youth Political, Social, and Economic Participation – 2022



Youth Participation Index – Regional Monitoring Report on Youth Political, Social, and Economic Participation 2022



Position of NEET youth (not in education, employment, or training) in Albania, a comparative analysis 2019-2023



Series of advocacy roundtables for sharing and discussing the findings of the annual Monitoring Report on Youth Political, Social, and Economic Participation.

**Contribution to the regional agenda on transparent governance issues**



A series of meetings at the European Commission, the European Parliament, and international organizations in Brussels, together with our project partners from "Western Balkans and Turkey for EmploYouth," to discuss youth political, economic, and social inclusion at the national and regional levels.



Regional workshop "Cross-sectoral cooperation for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)," held in Montenegro on September 18-22, 2023, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative and UNCAC.



# TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



Since we work with young people, we were already aware that Albania was part of the Youth Hub for Western Balkans and Turkey, so we were following their news for possible cooperation opportunities. Through the open call opportunity, we submitted our application, and were selected to become part of the Youth Hub network, which was a tremendous help to the youth and our organization to promote their engagement at the national and regional level. In addition to the financial support that enabled the project's implementation, our participation in the Youth Hub network has been a remarkable opportunity for networking, valuable connections and introduction to organizations not only in Albania but also across the region.

**Saimir Bakalli** "Joscelyn Foundation", Elbasan

**WE HAVE SUPPORTED  
47 ORGANIZATIONS  
IN 5 WESTERN  
BALKANS  
COUNTRIES**



Poster from the "Youth Participation Week" campaign organized by the "Youth HUB for Western Balkans and Turkey".



# FEE-BASED SERVICES

**4** SERVICE CONTRACTS

**39** DAYS ACTIVITY

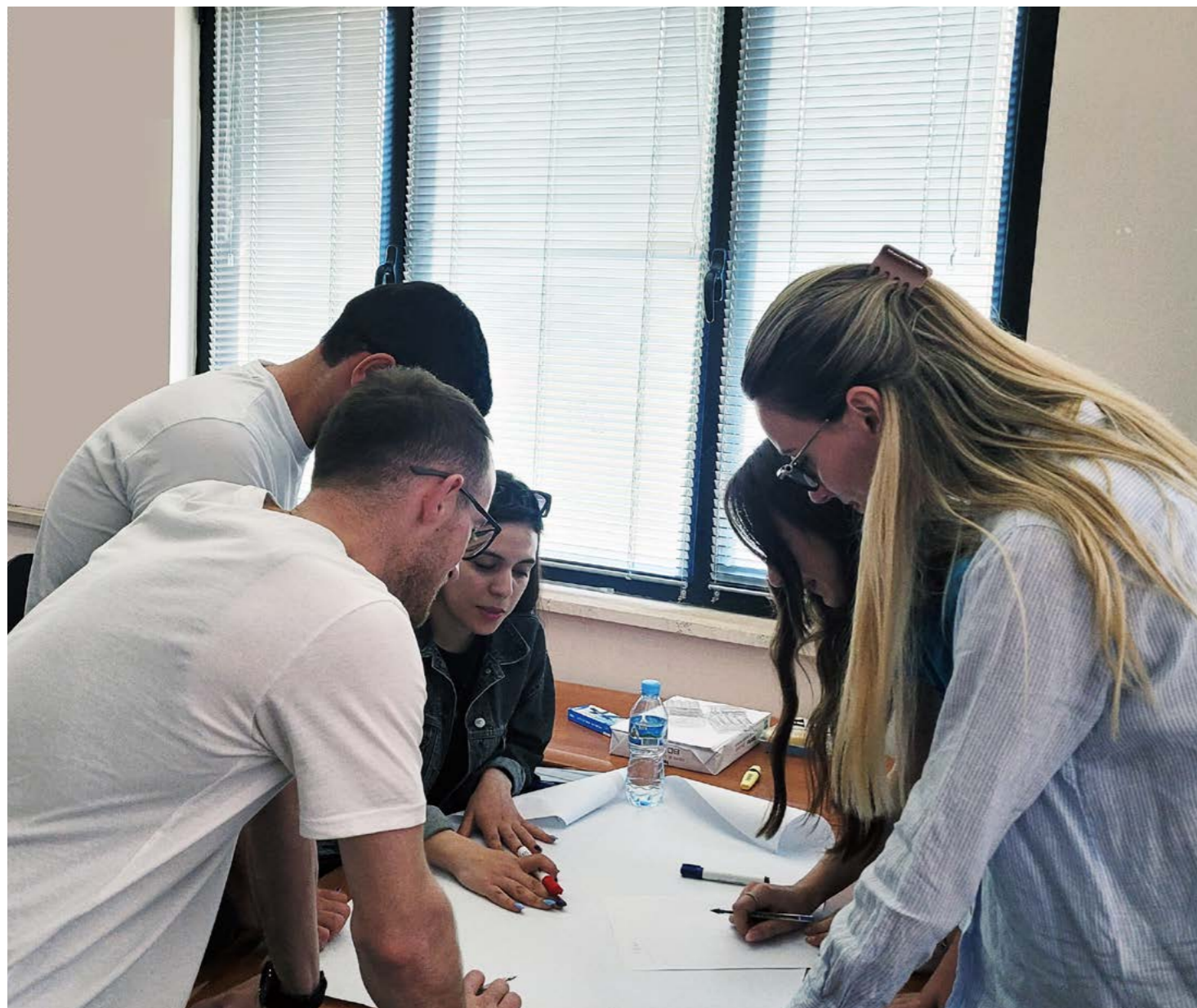


**250** BENEFICIARIES

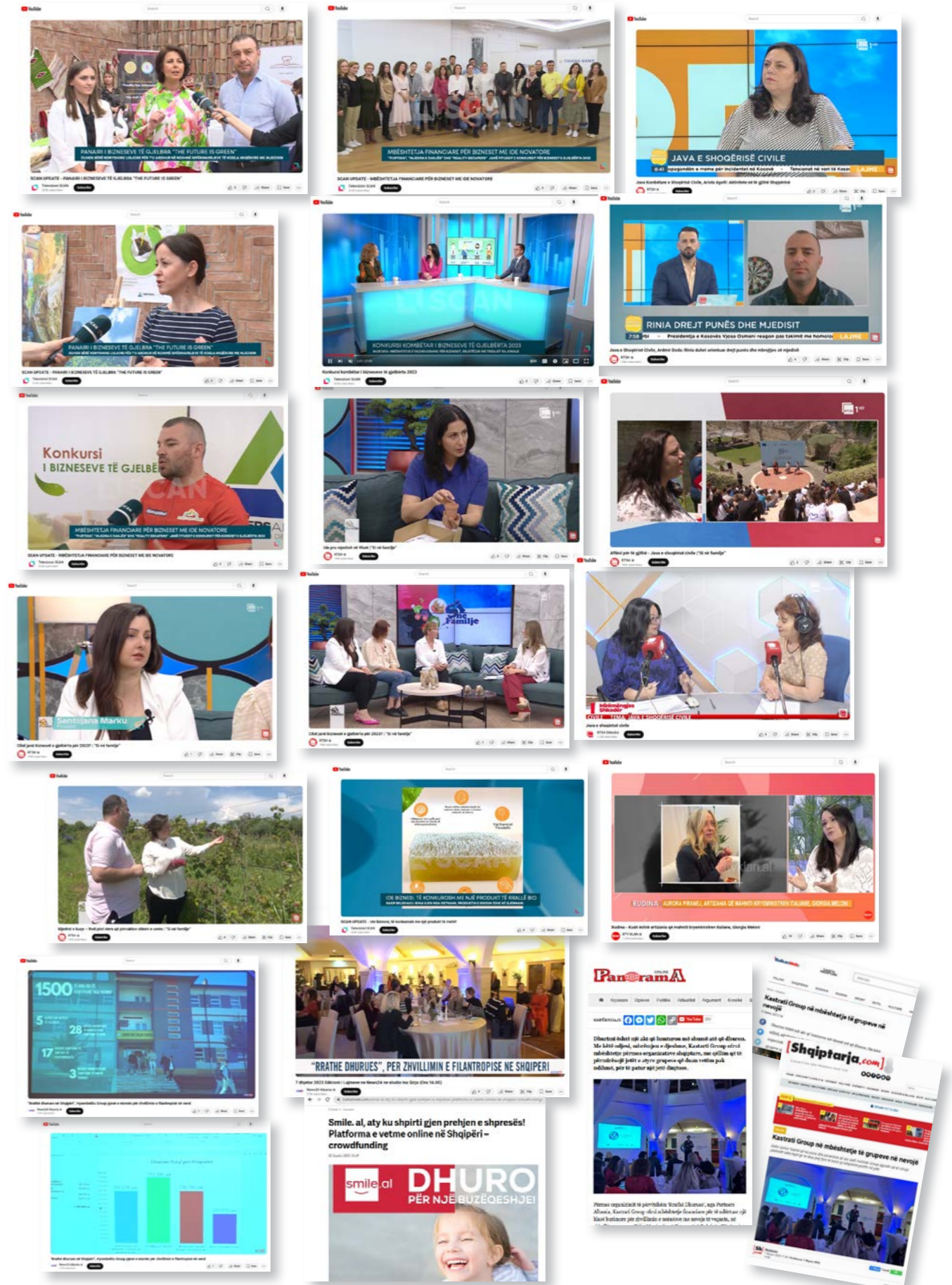
**11** TRAININGS

**24** MENTORING

Private sector  
International Organizations  
Local Organizations



# OUR WORK IN MEDIA FOCUS







# PROJECTS

## PROJECT

## DONOR

Local Democracy in Action - LEVIZ ALBANIA	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Making Labor Market work for young people in Albania - RISI Albania	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania	European Union
Toward a stronger, sustainable and resilient civil society in Albania	United States Embassy in Albania
Enhancing Philanthropic Activity and Support Infrastructure in Albania	Rockefeller Brother Funds
TWIST - ToWards a new social entrepreneurShip model in confiscaTed assets in Albania	European Union through the Delegation of the European Union in Albania
EU4Innovation, Phase II 2022-2026	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and EU Delegation in Albania
Western Balkan & Turkey for EmploYouth	European Commission
RISE-ALB Rafforzamento dell' Impreditorialita Sociale in Albania	Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione Allo Sviluppo (AICS)
Enabling and Protecting Civic Spaces-Illuminating New Solutions and Programmatic Innovations for Resilient Space (INPIRES)	USAID, through Partners Global
NPOs Sector Financial Terrorism Risk Assessment	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Albanian NPOs and FATF Recommendation 8	Human Security Collective (HSC) under GIZ Global Programme on Illicit Financial Flows
Protecting civic spare - Regional Civic Society Development Hub	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Balkan Civil Society Development Network
Empower Youth Organisations through Social Entrepreneurship in Tourism (EYSET)	European Union, Erasmus + Programme
WISEs4Youth in Western Balkans	European Union, Erasmus + Programme
Country Initiatives Framework	CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)
Giving Circle 2023	The Funding Network
Balkan Green Ideas - Sustainable Green Entrepreneurship Program in Western Balkan	Rockefeller Brother Funds through Balkan Green Foundation



# OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS AND CONTRACTORS





# FINANCES

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton Sh.p.a.  
 Rr. "Shefqet Kallmeti"  
 Nr. 111, Sh. Nr. 1, Fsh. 1  
 11010 Shkërbërë  
 Tërbërë

## 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" or "Organization") which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, 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 2023, 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 opinion is a translation from the original, which was prepared in Albanian. If possible, you may wish to refer to the original document as an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, laws 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.

This version of our report/audit opinion is a translation from the original, which was prepared in Albanian. If possible, you may wish to refer to the original document as an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, laws or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this translation.

- 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.a.

Tirana, Albania  
 20 June 2024

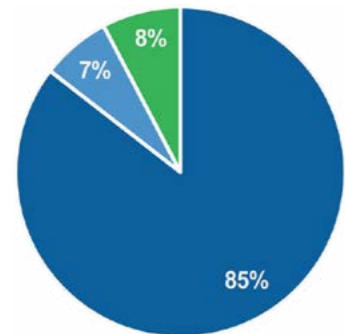
*Elvira Shkërbërë*  
 Auditor



This version of our report/audit opinion is a translation from the original, which was prepared in Albanian. If possible, you may wish to refer to the original document as an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, laws or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this translation.

## BUXHET FOR FY 2023

133,681,160 ALL



- Foreign governments
- Private foundations
- Fee based services

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



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023**