

PHI LAN THR OPY

7th

edition



dedicated hub
for PHILANTHROPY

#philanthropy

— contact:   



©PARTNERS ALBANIA FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

TIRANA, ALBANIA

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for PHILANTHROPY

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Welcome to the seventh edition of Philanthropy magazine!

"Philanthropy" magazine remains a vital source of information tracking the progress of philanthropic activities in Albania. This edition provides an overview of new initiatives and endeavours undertaken by various contributors to the philanthropic ecosystem during the period of July to December 2023.

A significant feature of this edition is the presentation of the findings from the **annual monitoring of philanthropic activity** in Albania. This report offers a comprehensive overview of the efforts and accomplishments made in this field over the past year.

In December, the fifth live crowdfunding event, "**Giving Circles 2023**," was successfully organized. The event surpassed expectations by raising an impressive amount of 2,306,505 Lek in support of four new community initiatives, exceeding the initial goal of 1,200,000 Lek. The event attracted individuals, business sector representatives, the donor community, civil society organizations, and media professionals who provided financial contributions, material support, and pro-bono consultancy to facilitate the implementation of the presented initiatives.

A b o u t u s



Seven innovative initiatives in the areas of social welfare, education, training, and innovation were introduced on the **Smile.al** crowdfunding platform. Contributions from both individuals and businesses will play a crucial role in meeting the diverse needs of local communities.

Additionally, in this edition, we are delighted to showcase some of the initiatives led by **Mr. Richard Lukaj**, a prominent figure in the Albanian diaspora, who has dedicated over 25 years to educational contributions. His involvement extends to social initiatives within Albanian communities. This section will also feature an interview with **Mr. Riges Beqiri**, a representative of the organization "Shoqata e Natyra e Turizmit Bulqiza," discussing the "Future Art Club" initiative.

The magazine provides dedicated coverage to the most successful campaigns aimed at assisting those in need. In this edition, you will be introduced to some of these impactful initiatives.

In November, "**European Community Foundation Initiative**" - ECFI held a meeting in Berlin, with Community Foundations Supporting Organisations, from different European countries, focusing the discussion on the vision and challenges the community foundations are facing and their efforts for development and sustainability.

Mrs. Juliana Hoxha, Director of Partners Albania for Change and Development provided insights into the latest developments in philanthropic activity and its ecosystem in the country during a discussion with the members of the Wings Network. You can find the full article in this edition.

Endowment & Foundation Mercer 2023" published the report "**Gauging risk, building resilience**". It reflects the views of over 115 investors of foundations and private institutions about the main challenges, on investments in this direction and future plans.

If you have any comments on any article in this edition or if you are interested in being part of the next edition, please write to erexhepi@partnersalbania.org.

Enjoy!

DATA ON PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITY

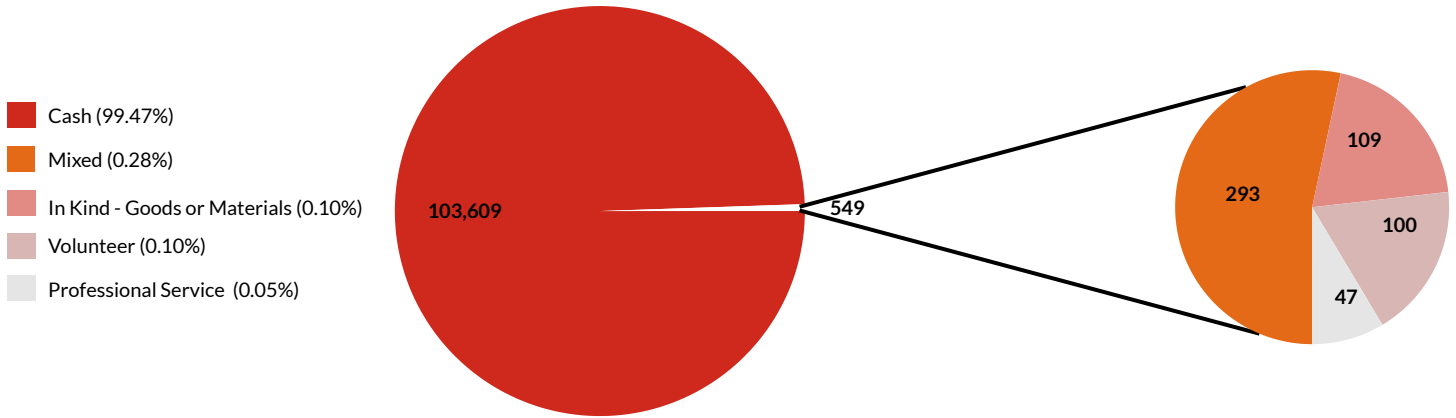
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

The following data reflect the philanthropic activity in Albania during 2023, based on the daily monitoring of the media, including social ones, as well as from the reports and publications of public and non-public institutions. The report analyses the main sectors and issues that have supported, the nature and value of donations, the geographical coverage as well as the nature of donors and beneficiaries.

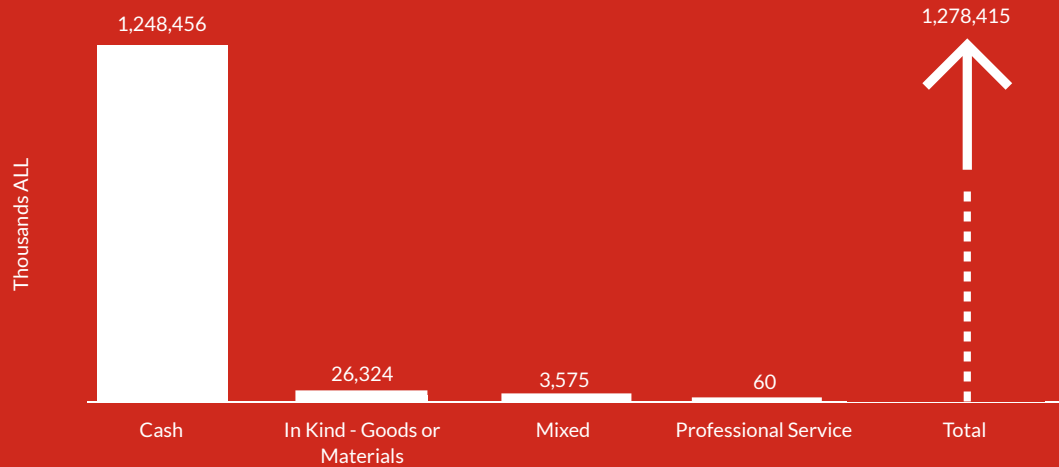
Through this monitoring, Partners Albania aims to increase public awareness of the philanthropic activity and inform all involved and interested actors about its social impact and value. During the year 2023, **a total number of 104,158** donations were registered with a donation **value of 1,278,415,181 Lek (12,351,837 Euro)**.

Compared to the data of 2022, there is an increase in the number of donors of 40%, while the total donation amount has approximately tripled. Online crowdfunding platforms continue to be the main donation channel in the country.

Number of donations by natyre



Value by Nature in ALL



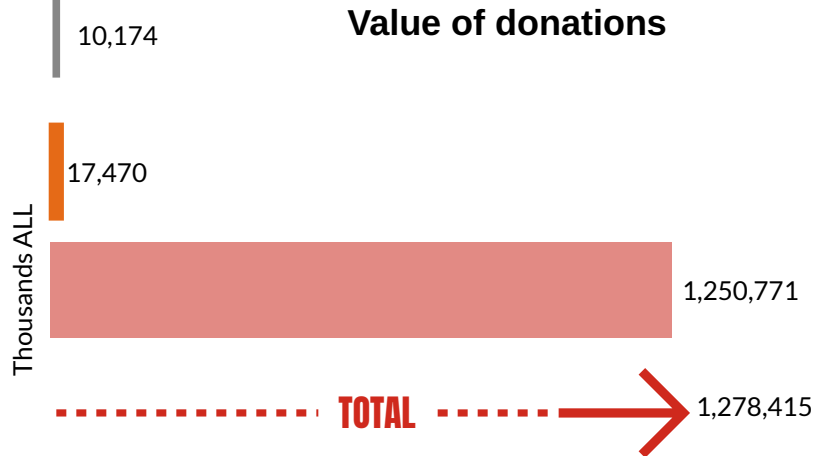
The three main forms of fundraising are through **Events**, **Campaigns** and **Direct**.

Type of Donations

128 Direct donations

567 donations through Events

103,463 donations through Campaigns



3 MAIN DONORS

by number

- #1 Credins Bank (47)
- #2 OTP Bank Albania (27)
- #3 American Bank of Investments (22)

3 MAIN DONATIONS

by value

#1 ProCredit Bank 25,450,000 ALL

ProCredit Bank reaffirms its commitment to environmental protection. The construction of the **ProEnergy Photovoltaic Park** is a proof of this.

#2 Individuals 20,285,348 ALL

Fundraising campaign "**Let's save Jasmina's life!**", who is in serious health condition.

#3 Individuals 17,413,935 ALL

Fundraising campaign "**To Save Erjona**", in support of a 6-year-old girl, who suffers from leukemia.

3 MAIN DONORS

by value

- #1 Bankers Petroleum Albania 711,200,000 ALL
- #2 Vodafone Fondation 2,860,000 ALL
- #3 Credins Bank 1,250,738 ALL

Fundraising Campaigns

413

Call for Donations

156

Social media and online crowdfunding campaigns

59

Online Crowdfunding Campaigns

18

Mega Campaigns

9

Facebook Social Impact Platform*

Events

124

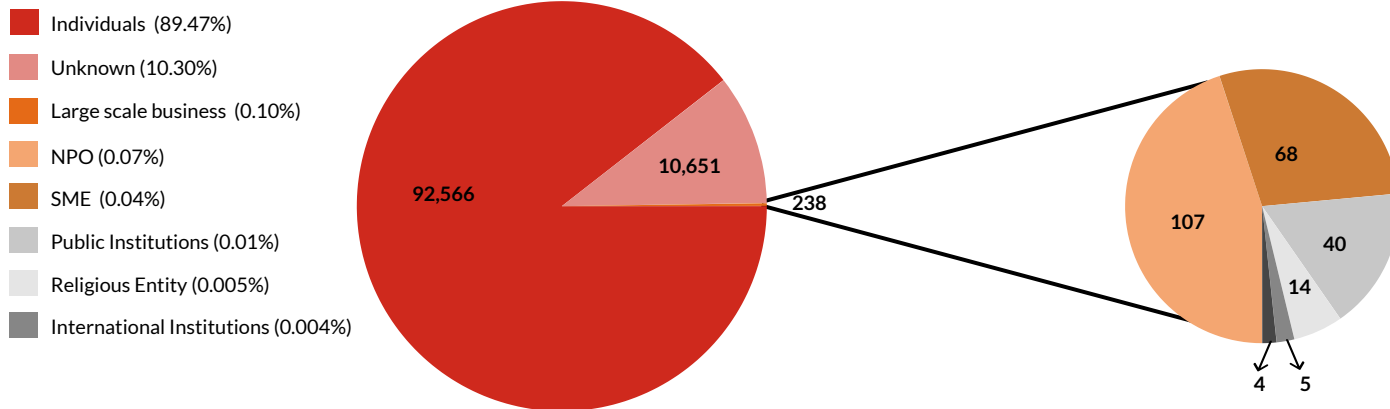
Live Events

64

Live Crowdfunding

*Facebook's dedicated fundraising platform for social causes.

Total Number of Donors by nature*

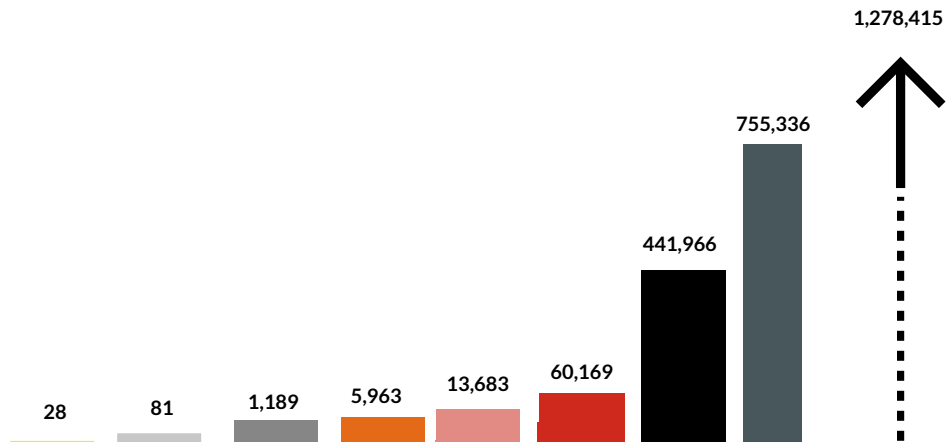


**In the frame of this analysis donors are calculated only once regardless of the number of donations carried out during all the monitoring process.*

Total Value of Donors by nature



Thousands ALL



Final Beneficiaries



- Children and Youth (48.05%)
- General Public (46.45%)
- Individuals/Families (5%)
- Other (0.3%)
- More than one category (0.1%)
- Animals (0.1%)



- In economic, health and social difficulties (89.55%)
- Religious / Faith communities (6.25%)
- Living in other countries (1.14%)
- General population (2.72%)
- Specific geography (0.35%)



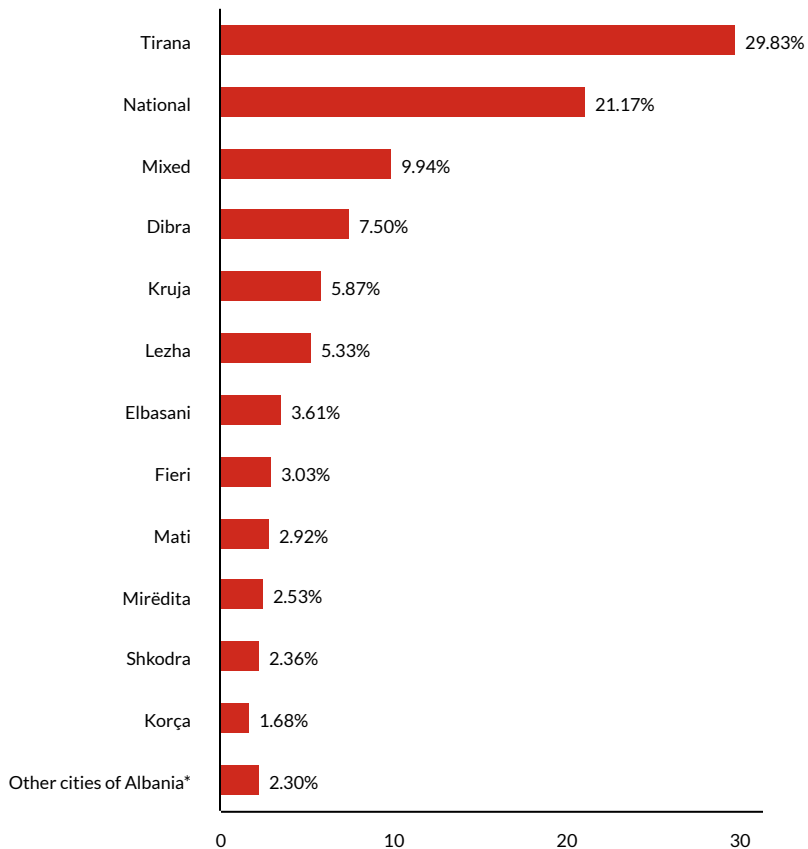
- In economic, health and social difficulties (50.99%)
- Elderly (43.06%)
- Women and Children At risk (5.95%)



- In economic, health and social difficulties (67.03%)
- Specific geography (18.22%)
- Children and youth (11.79%)
- Talented (2.96%)

Geographical Distribution of Beneficiaries

During 2023, **98.08%** of donations were distributed in Albania, while the rest abroad as shown graphically below:



*Lushnja, Durrësi, Vlora, Berati, Kukësi, Fieri, Gjirokastra, Pogradeci, Përmeti, Saranda, Kavaja, Tropoja, Kolonja, Tepelena, Malësi e Madhe.

Kosovo



0.27%

Foreign citizens



0.63%

Unknown

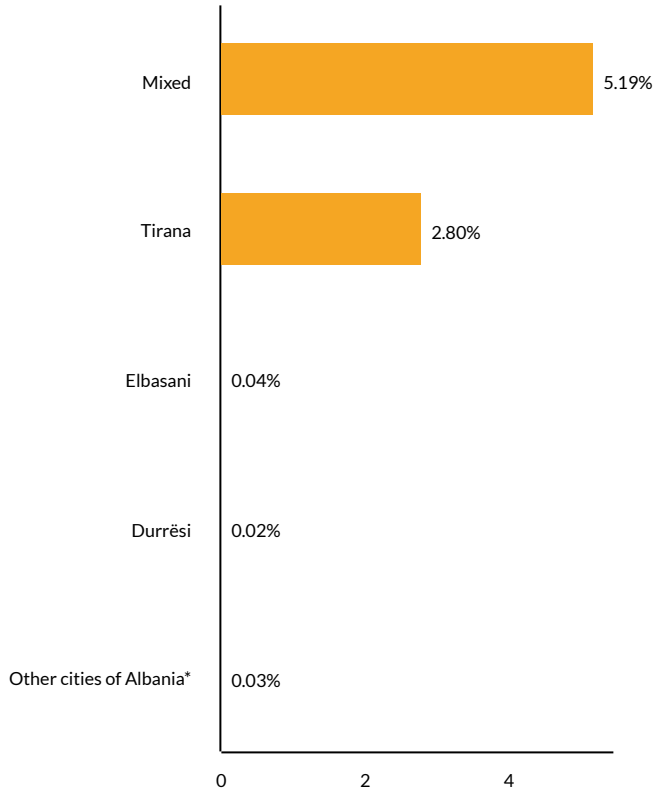


1.02%

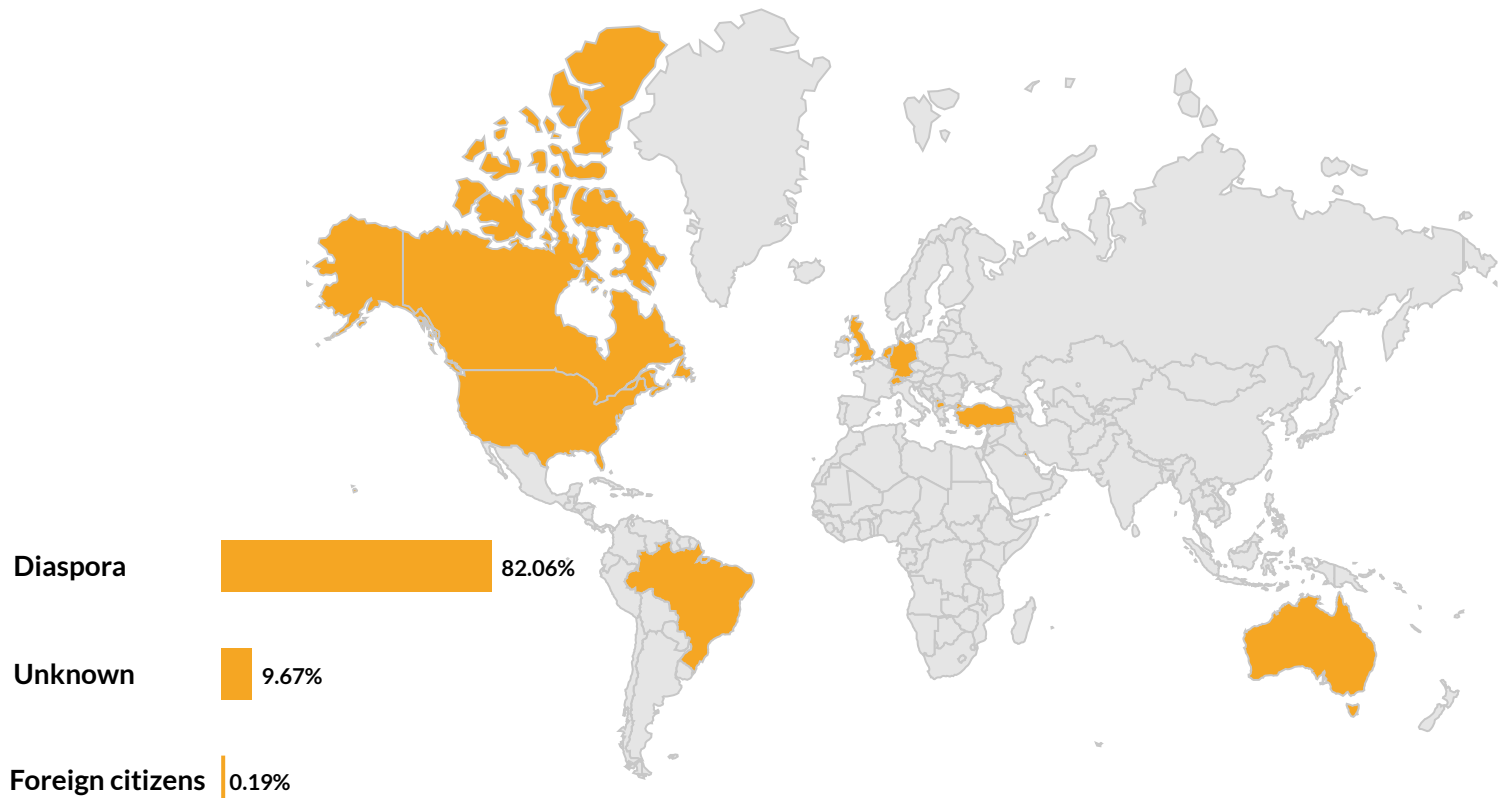


Geographical Distribution of Donors

82.06% of the donations were made by donors from the diaspora, while the rest from donors from Albania and foreign citizens.



* Fieri, Shkodra, Mati, Dibra, Korça, Berati, Lushnja, Porgradeci.

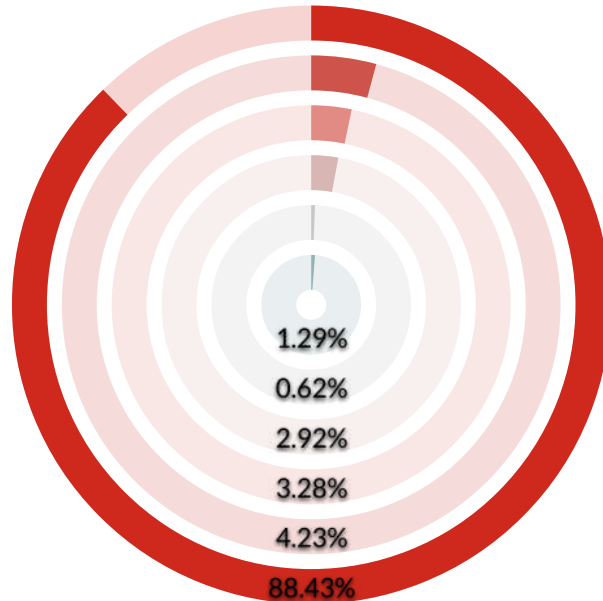


During 2023, the main **donations** consist in the following **5 fields**:

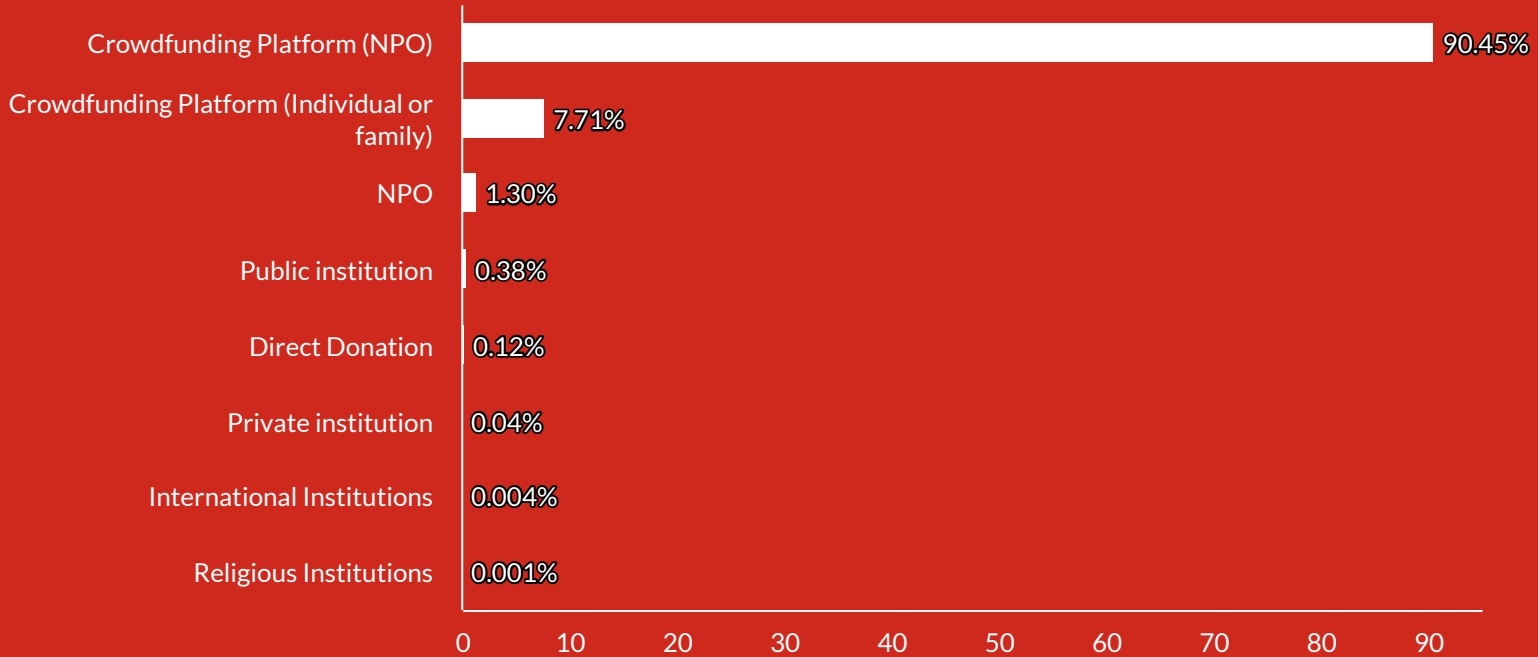
Meanwhile, the "Other" category includes donations in the field of: Sport(0.70%), Animal Welfare(0.11%), Education(0.11%) *Human Rights/Citizen Engagement*(0.11%), Art and Culture(0.10%), Preservation & Protection of the Environment(0.06%), Public Infrastructure(0.05%), Economic Development(0.03%) *Community Development* (0.02%), *Religious Activities* (0.01%),ect.

Fields of Donation

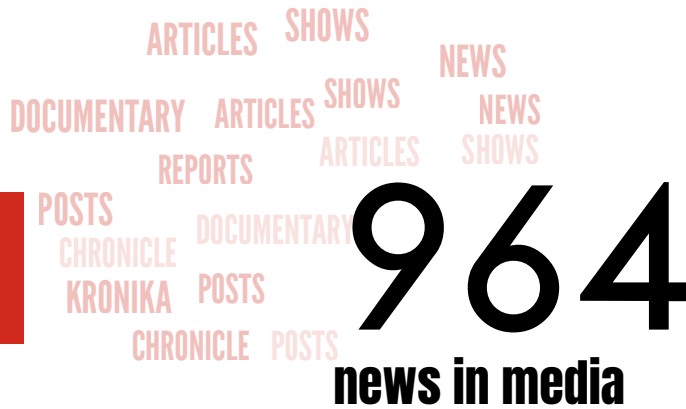
- Healthcare
- Poverty Relief
- Sesonal Giving
- Support to Marginalized Groups
- Response to Natural Disaster
- Other



Channels of Donations



Glossary



In 2023, 964 articles published at printed, audio-visual, and social media are already traced through the daily monitoring of the philanthropic activity in the country. The most frequently used platform for promotion was social media, with Facebook being one of the most used channels.

Also, the visual media generated numerous broadcasts and reports on various issues of interest. The official websites of public institutions retained their pivotal role in both promoting and reporting on advancements within the realm of donations.

Direct Donation - Donation that is carried out directly from the donor to the recipient

Fundraising campaign - Fundraising that occurs during a certain period of time for a particular social cause

Event - is short-term fundraising effort organized to raise funds for a specific purpose

Poverty Relief - Donations carried out with the aim to mitigate poverty for individuals or families living in economic difficulties or affected by previous natural disasters

Seasonal Giving - Donations made during the holidays season

General Public - Donations or contributions that have a significant impact in public at large.

Mass Individual - Large or small groups of individuals who donate

Mixed - Donations which are combined by more than one category / municipality

SME - Small and medium enterprises

Crowdfunding Platform (Individuals or families) - donations that are channelled through online crowdfunding platforms, created by individuals or families

Crowdfunding Platform (NPO) - donations channelled through online crowdfunding platforms, created by NPOs

Other - Any other category which does not fall under previous ones

20



G I V I N G C I R C L E

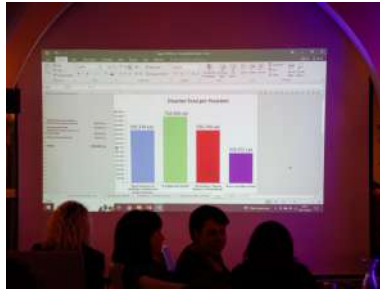
6 D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 3

On December 6th, was organized the fifth live crowdfunding event “Giving Circle”. This event creates the opportunity for individuals to come together around a philanthropic goal, in support of community initiatives. The main goal of the event is to encourage individual and corporate donations to support local initiatives of nonprofit organisations that aim for social change and a positive and sustainable transformation of communities.

The background features several overlapping circles of varying sizes and colors (light blue, light green, light purple). Each circle contains a stylized globe made of six segments (blue, green, dark blue, light blue, light green, light purple) and is surrounded by hands of the same color palette holding it. A solid red vertical bar is on the left side.

#GivingCircle
Albania

GIVING CIRCLE



The "Giving Circles" event exceeded expectations once again this year, demonstrating the power of unity and collective sensitivity to address community needs. The total amount collected of **2,306,505 Lek**, exceeded the set objective of 1,200,000 Lek, reaffirming the strong sense of civic solidarity towards communities in need.

Contributions raised through the event, and still ongoing, will support the following initiatives:

2023



The revitalization of "Domino Square" in Fushë-Kruje

Fushë-Kruja is a city facing various infrastructural challenges, with environmental issues being a prominent concern. Developing a strategy to address these challenges would significantly contribute to enhancing the city's infrastructure, creating a safer, and more appealing environment for both the community and visitors.

The project for the revitalization of 'Domino Square' aims to transform this space into a safe and appealing area for the entire community. Through the active involvement of residents, particularly young people, the goal is to enhance the environment, improve safety, and establish a new hub for cultural activities.

More than 60 young people will participate in this community initiative, actively contributing to the park's development, recruiting other volunteers and local artists, and organizing various events, such as "Earth Day," to raise awareness about environmental issues.

The primary outcome is the creation of an improved environment that is expected to be frequented by approximately 10,000 residents, including the Roma community, the elderly, and surrounding families.

If you want to contribute to this initiative, you can do so by contacting the implementing organization or through the bank account:

Porta Rome per Integrim OJF

Banka Kombetare Tregëtare
No. Account: 423001795CLPRCLALLSË
Swift codet: NCBAALTX

E ardhmja për fëmijët

This community initiative aims to address the educational and social inclusion needs of children from marginalized families in the city of Korça. It specifically targets the challenge of the absence of positive role models within families and the lack of prioritization of education in these communities. Furthermore, families in these areas frequently lack awareness of fundamental family values, effective parenting practices, and access to social consultations. Consequently, children in these communities are vulnerable to issues such as trafficking, early marriages, and the lack of social integrity.

From this initiative will benefit up to 100 children, aged 6-15 years old. Dedicated programs will be provided at the daycare centers for children, accompanied by life skills training for their parents.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to ensure the continuity of services for children and their families, simultaneously providing opportunities for parents' employment.

If you want to contribute to this initiative, you can do so by contacting the implementing organization or through the bank account:

Misioni Emanuel

Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania
No. Account: 73426431801
Swift code: USALALTR





Inclusive Learning: Holistic development of students with special needs

The number of pupils with special needs in the village of Shtupezë, Bulqizë is increasing. The scarcity of resource materials in school environments and therapeutic development centers for this group of children, coupled with the socio-economic context of the area, underscores the urgent need to establish a resource class dedicated to the development of pupils with special needs.

This community initiative aims to create an optimal learning environment within the premises of "Rifat Manjani" High School. This environment will be equipped with suitable didactic materials and personalized activities designed not only to enhance the pupils' intelligence but also to foster their social and emotional skills, facilitating their integration with typical pupils.

Additionally, the initiative aims to provide two standardized test modules, namely the "Moca" and "Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale," to assess the cognitive, emotional, social, communication, and problem-solving skills of children with special needs.

The overarching goal of this intervention is to support teachers and the psycho-social services of schools by providing them with appropriate didactic tools and a conducive environment.

If you want to contribute to this initiative, you can do so by contacting the implementing organization or through the bank account:

Shoqata e Natyres dhe Turizmit Bulqize
Banka Kombetare Tregtare
No. Account: 501007720CLTJCLALLDZ
Swift code: NCBAALTX



First Period Box

Një komunitet i vogël, në zonën e Shkozës, përballat me shqetësime të rëndësishme lidhur me shëndetin riprodhues të vajzave në nevojë. Mungesa e burimeve materiale dhe informacionit për këtë grup, së bashku me stigma të theksuara rreth menstruacioneve, çojnë në mungesën e mbështetjes së nevojshme për vajzat adoleshente.

Kjo nismë komunitare synon të ndihmojë vajzat që vijnë nga familje me të ardhura të pakta ekonomike duke ndërtuar dhe shpërndarë "kuti të periodës së parë", për t'ju ofruar atyre jo vetëm materiale të nevojshme dhe të domosdoshme, por edhe njohuri edukative dhe mbështetje emocionale gjatë kalimit të fazës nga fëmijëria në adoleshencë.

Ndërhyrja do të konsistojë në ndërtimin dhe shpërndarjen e kutive të periodës së parë për vajzat, trajnime informative dhe ndërtimin e një kulture të hapur dhe mbështetëse rreth shëndetit riprodhues në komunitetin e zonës së Shkozës, në Tiranë.

Kjo nismë do të ndikojë në rritjen e kulturës dhe sjelljes pranë të komunitetit në lidhje me shëndetin riprodhues, eliminimin e stigmës dhe promovimin e një mjedisi më të hapur dhe të informuar rreth kësaj çështjeje.

If you want to contribute to this initiative, you can do so by contacting the implementing organization or through the bank account:

Institute for Strategic Development
American Bank of Investment
No. Account: 002913561
Swift code: EMPOALTR



News 24



"RRATHE DHURUES", PER ZHVILLIMIN E FILANTROPISE NE SHQIPERI

7 dhjetor 2023 Edicioni i Lajmeve ne News24 ne studio Ina Qirjo (Ora 16.00)

News24 Albania 341K subscribers [Subscribe] [Like] [Comment] [Share] [Save]



Filantropia e "Rrathëve Dhurues" / News 24, pjesë e "Hysenbelliu Group", ndoqi eventin

PANORAMA TV 119K subscribers [Subscribe] [Like] [Comment] [Share] [Save]



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Dhurimi është një akt që lumturon më shumë atë që dhuron. Me këtë ndjesi, mbremjen e d Kastarti Group ofroi mbështetje përmes organizatave shqiptare, me qëllim që të përmirësojë atyre grupeve që duan vetëm pak ndihmë, për të patur një jetë dinjtoze.

ABC News

MEDIA APPARANCE



Syri.net



smile.al





S M I L E . A L

W W W . S M I L E . A L

Seven initiatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were announced as winners in the latest round of the call for applications and are now published on the **Smile.al** platform. Through online contributions from the public, donations will support the needs of local communities addressed through the presented causes on the platform.

We invite you to get acquainted with the initiatives:

7 NEW INITIATIVES



"Sensory" support for children with difficulties in sensory integration. Sensory bags.

The project aims to equip 20 children with special needs (cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and genetic disorders) in rural areas of Tirana and Durrës with a bag/kit of sensory teaching tools, aiming to develop the motoric skills of these children. This includes sensory assessment and training for parents to work with their children within the family and contribute to their development. This innovation will impact the reduction of their isolation in the future, offering a rehabilitation opportunity, and engaging parents in their care. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)



Speech Spark, Speech Therapy for Change.

Children with traumatic experiences have a higher probability of cognitive slowdown and difficulties in speaking. This affects their interaction and social relationships, emphasized by communication challenges. In "SOS Children's Villages," 19 children are identified who need speech therapy to improve their speaking abilities and influence their future development. Your support today will help in the rehabilitation of these children. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)



For a healthy and more economical life.

The motto "To live healthily and economically" should be part of every family's life in Albania. We discuss the challenges of the energy bill and the need for hot water, connecting these challenges with keywords such as "renewable energy" and "energy efficiency. Civic education and awareness are key to solving these challenges. In Lushnjë, the installation of solar panels in public institutions, an initiative undertaken by the "Zëri Qytetar" association, is a step towards raising awareness for renewable energy. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)



Hope's sounds.

The project "Sounds of Hope" aims to bring joy and hope to the sick children in the hospital of Durrës. "Lunah Education Center" will offer weekend activities for these children, based on Montessori principles, including music, art, foreign languages, handcrafts, computers, and animation. Join us to create a brighter and more enjoyable future for these young and courageous spirits during their toughest times. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)



Blind, but eager to read.

The project "Blind, yet Eager to Read" expresses the passion for reading of 3000 visually impaired individuals, seeking assistance to preserve this passion. In the last 20 years, the library has assisted over 3000 visually impaired individuals, providing access to reading, but financial challenges hinder this effort. The Association of the Visually Impaired in Albania appeals for your help, which will illuminate the minds of this target group. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)



Entrepreneurs of the future – Entrepreneurship labs in schools

Investments in school infrastructure increase year after year; however, schools still have needs. The establishment of "entrepreneurship labs" will provide opportunities for the practical development of students' skills, using information technology and friendly environments for them. This initiative by Junior Achievement of Albania utilizes games, teaching tools, and child-friendly platforms to help children learn in a practical way. These investments will benefit 320 students in two schools in Lezhë and Pogradec. For more information about the initiative, click [here](#)



R.I.D.E (Roma inclusive drive to education)

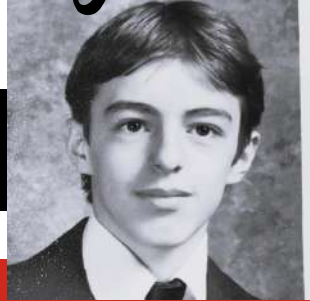
The project aims to integrate children and teens from Roma community in the Municipality of Fier, addressing challenges of discrimination at various levels. Through educational initiatives, the goal is to ensure their integration into the education system by providing transportation to school. Additionally, the project aims to promote intercultural dialogue and social harmony through artistic and sports activities at the Youth Center and the Murialdo Social Center. This initiative aims to impact the increase in the number of children continuing their education and reduce school dropout rates within the Roma community. For more information about the initiative, click: [here](#)

INTERVIEWS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES
OF PHILANTHROPIC
INITIATIVES IN
THE COUNTRY



S U P P O R T I N G
E D U C A T I O N

Richard Lukaj



Founder Lukaj Foundation

The distinguished Albanian-American banker, **Mr. Richard Lukaj**, is known for his philanthropic contribution in the field of education to support qualitative education for the youth. However, his activities are not solely focused on this field. Mr. Lukaj has undertaken other initiatives, led through the "Lukaj Foundation".

Could you please tell us how your work started and the reasons for undertaking philanthropic initiatives?

Since the fall of the communist regime in Albania in 1991, Albanians faced numerous challenges and changes. The desperate scenes of Albanian emigrants seeking a new life outside the country made headlines in the media and spurred the need for solidarity. Although I was young, I felt a personal obligation to help those who were in similar situations to what my family and I had experienced decades earlier. Thus, the "Albanian Relief Fund" was born, a dedicated initiative of the Albanian diaspora to contribute to the rebuilding of the country.

In this initiative, individuals with various abilities and experiences came together to work systematically, offering a platform of support and assistance for Albanians in need. This positive effort influenced their lives, providing not only material contributions but also a rich educational experience. Mobilization during the crisis showed that the power of collective collaboration can have an extraordinary impact on improving and developing community life, especially during a period when the needs in Albania were substantial.



Activities over the years

#Lukaj Foundation



What was the target group supported and in which areas/cities was the support extended?

Indeed, we have chosen not to publicize much about our philanthropic activities as we consider it a "moral obligation." Although some of our efforts have become known to the public, we have not aimed to promote them in the media.

Education has been one of the main priorities for me personally and for my family. Educating generations, especially the youth, has been a deliberate effort, as we believe that by supporting young Albanians, they have the right to quality education, contributing to the development of our nation's high intellectual potential.

My family and the "Lukaj Foundation" engage various resources for the development of education by offering scholarships to young individuals. These scholarships are awarded annually at "RIT Kosovo" University (A.U.K). We have extended this initiative to other universities in the region, collaborating with organizations like the Albanian-American Foundation "Trojet Tona," through which we supported 50 young individuals with scholarships last year. Additionally, in collaboration with the "Gjergj Kastrioti" Foundation, we have provided financial support to students who wish to pursue higher education in universities in the United States. In close cooperation with these organizations, we have assisted students in exploring opportunities for studying abroad, emphasizing the importance of choosing quality universities. Our role in this process focuses on creating partnerships with institutions and individuals who, through their analyses, select those in greater need of our support.

Likewise, an important priority is encouraging women's participation in every sphere of economic, political, and social life, among others. We have been involved in several initiatives on the empowerment of girls and women and have worked towards creating an enabling environment where women are rewarded fairly for their abilities. This is part of our vision for the future, focusing our commitment on creating female leaders in various fields and encouraging them to take leadership positions in society.

What has been the impact achieved so far by the initiatives undertaken?

I want to be straightforward; our projects have undergone a long implementation journey, facing various challenges and yielding different results for each. Some of them have not achieved the desired impact due to various factors that influenced their development with lower intensity. However, we hope that these initiatives will continue to evolve and find ways to have a positive impact in the future.

For example, the establishment of RIT Kosovo University has been a long and challenging project. Despite initially having limited capacities and numerous challenges, we are pleased to note that the university continues to grow year after year, opening new branches and attracting students from many cities beyond Kosovo, such as Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, etc. This initiative has brought activities and projects that have a visible impact on the life and development of the university community.

In the field of health, the "Action for Mothers and Children" initiative has served as evidence of our commitment to a social concern. Although there were challenges in the initial steps, our support for this initiative has helped increase capacities and reduce infant mortality. Despite difficulties, the initiative continues to contribute successfully to the health and well-being of the community.



What are your plans for the future?

The Board of “Lukaj Foundation” meets annually to discuss the priorities of support. Acknowledging significant challenges, we realize that it is not always possible to fulfil all our plans, but we remain committed to expand our contribution. To increase our impact, we have sought collaboration with other families and managed to amplify our efforts.

Additionally, we have undertaken initiatives to engage local capacities in the areas where we aim to intervene. Our donations are primarily made in the region, focusing on the specific needs of local communities, rather than dispersing them in America. This strategy has proven successful in enhancing our impact and addressing the unique challenges of communities in need.



Riges Beqiri



#FutureArtClub

Z. Riges Beqiri, Executive Director of “Shoqata e Natyrës dhe Turizmit” Bulqizë.

After completing his studies at the “Faculty of Economics in Tirana”, he returned to his hometown to practice his profession and promote the natural and cultural values of the area. "Future Art Club" is one of the recent initiatives that Mr. Beqiri has engaged in and implemented together with the youth of the city.

Can you please tell us more about, 'Future Art Club,' initiative, and the reasons for undertaking it?



"Future Art Club' is an innovative initiative that was successfully implemented in October 2023 by the "Shoqata e Natyrës dhe Turizmit" Bulqizë." The inspiration for this initiative came during our participation in the "GLC Professional Fellows Program - Reunion 2023" of the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, where it became clear that a new approach was needed to improve our community. 'Future Art Club' was introduced as an opportunity to mobilize the community to help the students of 'Xhevdet Doda' school in Bulqiza, focusing on developing artistic skills through painting.

The goal of this initiative was to gather a voluntary fund from individuals, to equip talented young people with the needed materials for painting, Considering the need for encouragement and support in the field of art, 'Future Art Club' emerged as a chance to bring positive changes and development to the community. The idea was to offer a platform where young talents could showcase their creativity in painting and develop their artistic skills. This initiative was seen as means to extend positive influence on the youth and encourage active community participation in supporting the artistic and cultural development of future generations.

What has been the target group supported, and in which areas has the support of 'Future Art Club' been extended?

The target group supported by "Future Art Club" is the 9-year school 'Xhevdet Doda' in the city of Bulqiza, consisting of 465 students. The initiative's goal is fundamental in addressing the needs of an important group in the community, providing them with a artistic platform for their development.

The support has involved providing necessary painting materials, including canvases, paints, brushes, and other tools for artistic work. Additionally, the support has focused on encouraging the young talents and promote their participation in artistic activities. This approach has served as a means to enhance the quality of education towards the development of artistic capacities and to bring inspiration and additional motivation for the students at this school.

What has been the impact so far from 'Future Art Club,' and how has it affected the target group?

'The impact so far from 'Future Art Club' has been significant. After sending the painting materials, the initiative quickly materialized into the painting competition 'E dua Atdheun' (I Love my Country). The students actively participated in this competition, presenting 73 beautiful artworks.

Students, parents, businesses, and local authorities engaged in this activity, showing support and admiration for the creativity of the youth. This has brought about a change not only physically but has also influenced how people value the talents of the young ones. 'Future Art Club' has brought a positive spirit, helping students see art as a mean of expressing emotions but also as a way to develop individually.





What are the future plans of 'Future Art Club'?

The association aims to continue the program, focusing on supporting local young talents. Increasing collaborations with the community, local institutions, central institutions, and the international community is a further step towards supporting the youth. The development of new artistic initiatives, their promotion, and the organization of competitions are part of our future plans.

F U N D R A I S I N G
C A M P A I G N S
F O R P E O P L E
I N N E E D

Campaigns

some of the campaigns carried out during July - December 2023.

MANE FOUNDATION



#2

"Mane Foundation" has provided financial support for the three children of the 'Likrama' family in Krrabë, Tirana. Also, with the contribution of Tirana Bank, their house has been renovated.

#1

"Fundjavë Ndryshe" Foundation, through the campaign "To help families in need", raised funds to assist Edlira and her daughters, who were at risk of being homeless."



#3

The students of the "GDQ International Christian School", in Tirana have organized a campaign to collect food to help families in need in Tirana.

FUNDJAVË NDRYSHE



#4

The friends of the 'Jonathan Center' in Vienna have organized a charity event aiming to raise funds to help children with special needs in Albania."





C O M M U N I T Y F O U N D A T I O N S



In November, the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) organized its annual meeting in Berlin, with the participation of Community Foundations Support Organizations, from Europe. This meeting served as a discussion forum on the issues and challenges faced by community foundations, with a focus on their role and sustainability.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS



In recent years, Community Foundations in Europe have been influenced in shaping their contribution as part of various global crises, including political, environmental, social, and economic challenges. Additionally, their sustainability is often impacted by public trust in their contribution. To enhance sustainability, it was agreed that more open communication, transparency towards supporters and the public, strategic interventions, and more effective management of support schemes are needed.

During the meeting, there was a recognition of the need for a new approach to encourage youth engagement and establish international partnerships. Proposals for issues such as migration, youth engagement, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were highlighted as some areas that ECFI will address in 2024. The importance of leveraging existing knowledge and experience among supporting organizations was also emphasized to improve coordination and collaboration among them.

ECFI Community Foundation Support Organisation (CFSO) Meeting

Berlin, 27-28 November 2023





DEVELOPMENTS FROM WINGS NETWORK

WINGS is a forum for collaborative problem-solving where the most prominent players in the philanthropic development ecosystem can share information and learn from each other. The network counts more than 180 member organizations spanning 57 countries, and Partners Albania is the representative organization for Albania.

A decade of change in Albania:

Juliana Hoxha, Director, Partners Albania

In a rapidly evolving world, philanthropy emerges as a beacon of hope and change. In the last decade, Partners Albania for Change and Development has witnessed and championed the development changes in Albania's philanthropic sector. We have been working to promote and support the sector's development through regular research and monitoring of the philanthropy field, consistent education, and the creation of spaces that facilitate giving and foster community engagement.



When we started to work, "philanthropy" in Albania was primarily associated with major US philanthropists rather than local initiatives, despite a rich giving culture during the 19th century brutally destroyed during 45 years of communism. However, (un)surprisingly, our preliminary research revealed active private sector contributions to public welfare. Still, the study highlighted several structural and non-structural impediments to philanthropic activity, such as misperception and/or fear of interpreting giving as tax evasion and lack of trust between donors and beneficiaries. The lack of infrastructure (intermediaries, crowd platforms) providing support and information about where to donate and who would benefit made giving difficult. Another challenge was the lack of fiscal incentives for private and corporate donations.

Today's picture is quite different, marking a vast improvement and development in just a decade. Even though the legal framework does not show significant progress, the changes are mainly related to an evolving culture of philanthropy from corporations and individual citizens in a new socio-economic setting. All these developments and regular analyses are brought to the public through our Philanthropy Magazine, which reflects on local developments and feeds the debate with global trends and practices.

Our regular monitoring of philanthropic activity, the only of this kind, provides valuable insights into the state of philanthropy in the country, which continues to create awareness and stimulus for philanthropic activity. These reports, issued monthly since 2015, based on data and facts reported by media, crowdfunding platforms, and government agencies' websites, are the best sources to evaluate the development of philanthropic activity. Although the data could be more accurate and the value of giving in the country is expected to be higher than the one reported by the media, it provides a good base to judge the main trends.

By analysing the last five years (2019 – first half of 2023), we see a steady exponential increase in giving, year by year. In 2019, Albania was hit by one of the most powerful earthquakes, resulting in 51 lost lives, 3,000 injured and tens of thousands of citizens remaining unsheltered. This year marked a record giving of EUR 12,5 million. In 2020, during the coronavirus, there was a temporary contraction in giving, which might be attributed partly to reduced media reporting and the poor economic performance of the private sector and family economy.

Philanthropic activity picked up again in 2021 with EUR 2,5 million in donations that were almost doubled in 2022 with EUR 4,4 million and have already been surpassed in the first half of 2023 with a total value of EUR 9.6 million.

While we see an increase in the value of donations, there is consistency over the years in the causes and the primary beneficiaries. The top three causes for donations are the eradication of poverty, improving health, and support in service provision for marginalised groups. Children and youth comprise the biggest group of beneficiaries, followed by women in fragile situations, and the elderly.

A significant development trend in Albania is the predominance of donations through online and offline campaigns, besides direct donations. In 2022, about 87% of the total volume of donations was collected this way, while for the first half of 2023, it was 99%. Online platforms like Facebook, Go Fund Me and local platforms like Smile.al, and Albanian Global Foundation are important channels used by individual donors. The number of donors follows the same progression, marking an increase in the number of individuals in philanthropic activity. For us and our work, this marks a significant and encouraging development, which is about increased citizens' involvement and strengthened human solidarity.

To serve this purpose, Partners Albania, for the last four years, has been organising Giving Circle events. These events bring together individuals from different fields, offering their expertise, time, and financial resources to support concrete causes that bring positive and sustainable transformation for the specific individuals and communities targeted. These causes are proposed by nonprofit organisations working on the ground after a pre-selection done by Partners Albania.

The transition from merely showcasing philanthropy in an award to organising giving circles stemmed from recognising the transformative power and collective impact of community-driven philanthropy. By organising giving circles, the aim was to create a tangible, sustainable framework that enables individuals not only to witness but also to actively participate in the philanthropic process, fostering a greater sense of ownership, connection, and impact within communities.

With the engagement of a loyal and dedicated group of about 125 individuals from different walks of life, 75 businesses and 25 nonprofit organisations, we have tripled the target of EUR 8,600 donations per event from year to year. Success has to do with the sensitivity of causes, such as providing psychotherapeutic, educational and sports services to 500 children and youngsters from 18 – 25 years old, free dental services for 400 children living in remote areas, recreational facilities for the elderly, etc.

The impact of the donations and the transparent lines of communication and accountability established between beneficiaries and donors also contribute to its success. In four years, the giving circles have supported 12 community initiatives in education, environment, health, promotion of human rights, youth activism, sports, and culture. They have directly impacted the lives of more than 1,500 children, youth, and elderly people and have improved various infrastructures by catalysing additional support from local governments and private businesses.

To quote our beloved Albanian Saint, Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

At Partners Albania, we believe that even small, genuine initiatives can cascade into transformative practices for a broader societal impact.

DEVELOPMENTS FROM EUROPE

[“Endowment & Foundation Mercer 2023”](#) published the report **“Gauging risk, building resilience”**. It reflects the views of over 115 investors of foundations and private institutions about the main challenges, on investments in this direction and future plans.

Mercer 2023, Endowment & Foundation Survey

The “Mercer 2023, Endowment & Foundation Survey” highlights how over 115 endowment and private institutional investors are meeting the challenges of economic uncertainty, assessing risk, portfolio diversification and building long-term sustainability. This study aims to advance collaboration and discussions about key issues of organizations, including recent investment decisions and future plans. At a time when the global economic landscape faces challenges such as inflation, fears of recession and geopolitical risks, private foundations and institutional investors are exploring new areas with increased vigilance.

The survey identifies four key areas of focus that are core to these investors:

- Risk and resilience
- Asset allocation
- Private markets
- Sustainability

For more read [here](#).





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