



Developing Skills for Endogenous Development Applying a Local Economic Development Approach in Northern Albania

A Stakeholders Workshop

30 -31 May 2006

**Colosseo Hotel
Shkoder; Albania**

The ILO will officially launch a Technical Cooperation Project on “Empowerment of women entrepreneurs, by supporting the revitalisation of the traditional Handicraft Sector in Northern Albania” funded by AGFUND targets the social and economic revitalization of Shkoder through entrepreneurship empowerment. The TC project under the umbrella of the ILO – LED approach will be an opportunity to co-ordinate actions by local, national and international players, not only in the handicraft sector but also in the field of cooperative promotion, social enterprise and local governance.

The OECD LEED Programme and its Centre for Local Development in Trento, Italy is contributing to this seminar with its work on partnerships and new forms of governance in fostering local employment and economic development. Local partnerships contribute to improving governance and helping to strengthen participatory approaches to the design and implementation of local development strategies. Increased transparency and consultation in relation to policy design and implementation, together with the modernisation of public administration, are supportive factors in the integration of local development resources and activities from the government, the business community and civil society. Local partnerships find themselves with a steadily growing number of tasks. To accomplish such tasks effectively, a number of different contextual factors are important: a supportive local community and enabling institutional framework, dedicated partners aware of the costs and benefits of partnership working; and an effective core partnership structure.

Purpose of the workshop

The workshop will be finalized with an agreement on an action plan, which outlines the next steps in the project and ideas for further cooperation amongst the main stakeholders.

This activity is a joint initiative by the Municipality of Shkoder, the Albanian Ministry of Labour, the OECD LEED Centre for Local Development and ILO. The stakeholder workshop will share experience of different initiatives in local development, discuss the findings of the rapid assessment of Handicraft Sector in Northern Albania, launch a LED Forum for Shkoder Region. The LED project “Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, by Supporting the Revitalization of the traditional Handicraft Sector in Northern Albania” will focus on activities amongst others to empower women in the Handicraft Sector in Shkoder Municipality and other target rural areas identified during the diagnosis stage. This will be done through establishing a LED Forum for Shkoder whose aim will be to assess needs, potentials and develop specific activities for the social and economic re-vitalization of the target Municipalities/Region, which can be replicable in other parts of Albania.

In addition, bilateral governmental development organizations active in Albania from Germany, Italy, Spain and other countries are invited to participate in this event together with main international organizations present in Albania.

Monday, 29 May 2006

17.00

“Exhibiting Local Skills – Local Crafts in Northern Albania”

An exhibition of local crafts is welcoming craftsmen and craftswomen from Shkoder and its neighbouring regions and invites seminar participants to engage in a first exchange of ideas and understandings of local economic development.

Tuesday, 30 May 2006

9:00 – 9:30

Workshop Opening

Welcome remarks:

ILO: Mr Alfred Topi, ILO National Correspondent in Albania

OECD: Ms Andrea R. Hofer

Italian Council in Shkoder: Dr. Roberto Orlando

Chair: *Mr Artan Harxhi*, Mayor of Shkoder

9:30 – 10:15

(i) Presentation of the workshop agenda; (ii) aims, roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the LED Forum;

Overview of the ILO Project

(iii) launching of the Shkoder Handicraft Forum as the initial working group of the LED Forum; and (iv) presentation of the ILO project and discussion of the participatory approach

Presentation by *Ms. Julie Vilorio-Williams*, ILO Senior Institutional Advisor on LED

10.15 – 10.30

Coffee break

10:30 – 13:00

DIAGNOSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS: THE REGION OF SHKODER

Chair: Director of the National Strategy for Socio-Economic Development NSSD (tbc)

10:30 – 11:15

ILO Diagnosis of the Shkoder Handicraft Sector in the Region

Presentation by *Mr. Andrea Salvini*, ILO and *Mr. Qemal Balliu*, ILO National Expert

Reactions on the diagnosis:

11.15- 11.30

A National View on Local Economic Development

Presentation by Ministry of Labour or by the Prefect

11:30 – 11:45

Regional Development Capacity and Needs, Barriers and Opportunities

Presentation by Chairperson of the Regional Council

11:45 – 12:00

Making a City Attractive. The Local Development Capacity and Needs, Barriers and Opportunities of the City of Shkoder

Presentation by *Mr Artan Harxhi* Mayor of Shkoder

12:00 – 13:00

Discussion

Discussants: *Mr. Omir Rusi*, GTZ Albania and *Mr. Simone Andreozzi*, AVSI Albania

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Buffet

14:00 – 15:30 PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

14:00 – 14:30 Developing Partnerships in Fostering Local Employment and Economic Development

Presentation by Ms. *Andrea R. Hofer*, OECD LEED Centre for Local Development

14:30 – 15:00 Building Partnerships in Albania – an Overview of Different Experiences

Presentation by Mr. *Kalyan Pandey*, Chief Technical Advisor, UNDP Local Governance Programme in Kukes

15:00 – 15:30 Bringing Actors together: A Partnership for Local Employment and Economic Development in Lezha

Presentation by Mr. *Bardh Rica*, Chairperson of Regional Council Lezha and *Francesco Panzica*, Programme Manager, ETF

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45 Discussion on Development Priorities and Needs in Shkoder

Moderation: *Mr Quemal Balliu*, ILO Consultant

Discussants: *Prof. Giovanni Solinas* and *Ms. Barbara Coe*, former Director of Worldlearning Albania

16:45 Wrap up of the day in light of the objectives of the seminar, *Julie Vilorio-Williams*, ILO

Wednesday, 31 May 2006

8:30 – 13:00 **TOOLS FOR LED AND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC PILLAR: THE ILO ROAD MAP FOR CREDIT AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Chair: Andrea Salvini

8:30 – 9:00 **Access to Finance as a Tool for Local Economic Development**

Presentation by Ms. Severine Deboos, ILO

9:00 – 9:30 **From Skills and Ideas to Realisation: Opportunities and Barriers in Policy Development and Delivery for Micro Credit and Co-operative Credit Schemes in Albania.**

Presentation by Ms. Barbara Coe, former Director of Worldlearning Albania

9:30 – 10:30 Open discussion

10.30 – 10.45 **Coffee-break**

10:45 – 13:00 **Work in Groups**

Group 1

Group 2

10:45 – 11:45 Value Chain and Local Economic Development Governance and Local Economic Development

Discussion

Discussion

11:45 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 13:00 Governance and Local Economic Development Value Chain and Local Economic Development

Discussion

Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Buffet

14:00 – 15:30 **Outlook – What is Adoptable in Albania and How to Facilitate the Implementation? Discussion and Call for ideas**

Moderation:

14.00 – 14.30 Reporting by the working group on the morning session

14.30 – 15.30 Reaction by the representatives of local stakeholders: entry points and follow up for co-operation, including the proposal of next steps.

15:30 – 16.00 Conclusions: ILO, Ms. *Julie Vilorja Williams* and OECD, Ms. *Andrea R. Hofer*

Closing remarks: *Mr Artan Harxhi* Mayor of Shkoder

16:00 Departure for Tirana