

# “ENGAGE THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIA”

*Supporting the Albanian Diaspora Institutions with Capacity Building*



## OBJECTIVE:

- Support the Government of Albania through technical assistance and capacity building to implement a comprehensive approach towards diaspora engagement for sustainable development in line with the overall policy framework.
- Support the development and the implementation of the Albanian National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025.



## TARGET GROUP:

- Diaspora engagement institutions and those responsible for the implementation National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025.
- Professionals from the Albanian Diaspora, mainly from Italy, France and Belgium.



## ACTIVITIES:

- 6 experts hired and placed in the institutions responsible for the implementation of different aspects of the Strategy: Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Bank of Albania.
- Training and certification of 17 public officials engaged with Diaspora Institutions on Project Cycle Management and Fundraising, in collaboration with ASPA.
- Physical infrastructure support to institutions created for the State Minister for Diaspora (SMD), as well as the establishment of new diaspora engagement structures, such as National Agency for Diaspora (NAD), and National Fund for Diaspora (NFD).
- Equipment and technical assistance to partner institutions also through training, study visits, international and local experts on diaspora policy.



## HOW IT WORKED:

Due to the changes in the GoA structure and the introduction of the SMD, as well as the establishment of new diaspora engagement structures, a set of capacity building actions and human resources were provided to the newly established entities, as well as other stakeholders involved in diaspora engagement. In that framework, the support included office equipment, seconded experts to support the work of the institution, renovation of premises for the National Fund for Diaspora and Centre of Publications for Diaspora, deployment of international and local expertise for the revision and implementation of the National Strategy for Diaspora and its Action Plan 2021–2025, support with local expertise to develop and implement the Diaspora Communications Strategy and its Action Plan 2021–2025. In addition, there was organized a study visit to Italy and Ireland to better understand good policies and best practices on diaspora engagement.

## MORE CONCRETELY:

- Physical infrastructure support and equipment were provided under the component of capacity building for some of the new Diaspora Engagement Institutions.
- Support with the development and maintenance of the website for the NFD and development of the Mobile App for Albanian Diaspora Business Chamber was provided.
- In coordination with SMD and NAD, the Programme has provided support for the design and printing of the compendium of diaspora policy and legislation as well as facilitation of participation in 2nd Diaspora Summit of Mr. Kingsley Aikins, CEO of Diaspora Matters and the Networking Institute, and Mr. Rosario Peta, Mayor of Piana degli Albanesi, from the Arbëresh community in Italy.
- Following the establishment of the NAD, the Programme provided support through human resources to the partner institutions through the secondment of experts from the Albanian diaspora.
- A study-visit in Italy and a study visit in Ireland were organized to provide capacity building to Albanian Diaspora engagement authorities.
- The Programme has supported the revision of the National Strategy for Diaspora (2021–2025) with national and international expertise.
- The Programme has supported the development of Diaspora Communications Strategy and its Action Plan 2021–2025, through a local and international expert.
- Two international and two local experts were selected to provide training curricula on ToT and related training focused on Project Cycle Management and Fundraising. The activities are implemented in cooperation with the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA). 17 officials from Albanian Diaspora Engagement Institutions were certified by ASPA.
- Seven Albanian fellows were seconded to the line ministries supporting with the implementation of National Strategy for Diaspora and its Action Plan 2021–2025.
- Albanian diaspora individuals from Albanian communities in Italy were selected as fellows to provide support on diaspora engagement related issues at the Albanian Embassy in Rome as well as at the General Consulates in Milan and Bari.
- Mapping and Profile research, with a repository of available skills and knowledge of Diaspora in Italy (5 selected regions), France and Belgium, disaggregated by sex, is available to be used as a basis for orienting policy development and implementation.
- Through the engagement and enhancing of the capacities of Albania Diaspora Associations in Italy and Albania, the Programme has contributed to the development of tourism and agriculture of Albania. Four Associations were engaged in the tourism and agricultural activities.