

“Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania”

Supporting and strengthening capacity building of policymaking and implementation for diaspora institutions in Albania

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Objective:

- Supporting 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.

Activities:

- Physical infrastructure support to institutions created by State Minister for Diaspora, as well as the establishment of new diaspora engagement structures, such as National Agency for Diaspora, and National Fund for Diaspora.
- Equipment and technical assistance to partner institutions also through training, study visits, international and local experts on diaspora policy.

Target group:

- Professionals from the Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium.
- Government institutions related to diaspora and investment (mainly Albanian State Minister of Diaspora, National Agency of Diaspora, National Fund for Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance).

How it works:

- Due to the changes in the GoA structure and the introduction of the State Minister for Diaspora, as well as the establishment of new diaspora engagement structures a set of capacity building in human resources are provided to the new entities as well as other stakeholders engaged in diaspora engagement as relevant. One of the program main goal is to provide capacity building support to the institutions responsible for the coordination of diaspora engagement actions as State Minister for Diaspora (SMD), National Agency for Diaspora (NAD), National Fund for Diaspora (NFD). In that framework, the support includes office equipment's, seconded experts to support the work of the institution, renovation of premises for the National Fund for Diaspora and Centre of Publication for Diaspora, deploy international and local expertise for the revision of the National Strategy for Diaspora and its related Action Plan 2018-2024 as well as study visit to Italy and Ireland to better understand good policies and practices on diaspora engagement. Also ToT (Training of Trainers) modules will be developed under the Programme which will be organized in cooperation with the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA) and focus on fund raising, project cycle management having as main beneficiaries the public officials working with diaspora institutions.

More concretely:

- Physical infrastructure support and equipment were provided under the component of capacity building for some of the new institutions which are engaged with diaspora policy issues.
- Support to the development and maintenance of the website for the National Fund for Diaspora (NFD) was provided.
- In coordination with SMD and NAD the Programme has provided support to 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 by seconding five experts from 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 (2018-2024) and its Action Plan through engagement of international and local experts.
- The Programme will support the Communication Strategy for SDM through engagement of international and local experts.
- Two international and two local experts were selected to provide training curricula on ToT and related training focused on Project Cycle Management and Fund raising. The activities are implemented in cooperation with the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA). Due to COVID-19 outbreak the trainings are delivered online via ASPA Webinar tool.
- As part of capacity building process, a number of Albanian Fellows from diaspora communities will be seconded to the line Ministries by supporting them in implementation of National Strategy for Diaspora (2018-2024) and its Action Plan.
- Albanian diaspora individuals from Albanian communities in Italy are 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 analysis of the profiles of the Albanian Diaspora community members in 5 pilot regions in Italy (Lombardy, Piedmont, Emilia Romagna and Lazio) as well as a mapping exercise in France and Belgium is realized from CESPI, based in Rome, in coordination with some Albanian Associations and Diaspora members in Italy. An online launching event will take place to present main research findings and results.
- A Call for Proposals for Albanian Diaspora Associations in Italy - ADAI Award - was launched to support such associations in their engagement to the social and economic development in the regions of Shkodra, Vlora and Gjirokastra. An expert's panel will review the proposals and will select those projects to be implemented in the targeted regions.