

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

Support the transfer of know-how and skills of Albanian diaspora in Italy through a Fellowship Scheme on territorial development of Albania
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Objective:

- Facilitate the engagement of members of Albanian highly skilled diaspora in Italy to the territorial development of Albania, through a Fellowship scheme, in order to facilitate know-how and skills transfer.

Activities:

- Fellowships in Albania to support territorial development, mainly from Albanian diaspora members in Italy with high skills.

Target Group:

- Researchers and professionals' members of Albanian Diaspora who have completed at least a full cycle of studies in Italy.
- Students of Albanian diaspora at Italian Universities.

How it works:

- The proposed fellowship scheme has the general objective to promote the transfer of knowledge and skills between the Albanian diaspora in Italy and its home country, in the fields of preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage through a research project. The project is named 'The Diaspora as a Resource for the Knowledge, Preservation and Enhancement of the Lesser Known Cultural sites in Albania' and aims to promote the transfer of knowledge and skills of Albanian Diaspora to the benefit of home country. 5 villages (“case studies”) have been selected: (1) the three villages of Bënja, Leusë, Kosinë in Përmet, (2) the mountain village of Razëm (Shkodra), and (3) the coast village of Zvërnec (Vlorë). The project includes an educational and a research action which will be implemented by a group of Fellows selected from Albanian diaspora young researchers in Italy. The educational action consists in thematic workshop organized partially in Italy and partially in Albania to make 3D survey of three cultural assets located in three villages of the Përmet municipality: the Church of St. Mary in Leusë; the Bridge of Katiu in

Benjë and the area surrounding of the Church of St. Mary in Kosinë. In the thematic workshop participated only Albanian students and students from the Albanian diaspora enrolled at the Italian University.

- The research action consists in four coordinated phases: 1) The methodological phase aims to define the methodological design of the research; 2) The Analysis phase aims at studying the endogenous potential (anthropic and natural) of 5 villages even through field research in the selected sites in Albania, 3) The Model phase which aims to design the Guidelines for the sustainable development of these sites in Albania. The guidelines on sustainable local/territorial development of these selected sites, designed utilizing the know-how of the Albanian diaspora young researchers selected, are expected to serve local Albanian authorities to design new policies and projects for local sustainable development by re-evaluating the importance of cultural heritage, material and immaterial; 4) The Piloting phase mainly envisages the elaboration of designing hypothesis related the 3 cultural monuments in the selected three villages of Përmet (Bënja, Leusë, Kosinë) previously surveyed in the Education Action.

More concretely:

- A request for Proposal for Fellowship Programme to support the territorial development of Albania was published on the IOM website and social media of IOM (www.albania.iom.int/vacancy and <https://www.facebook.com/IOMAlbania/>) and the University of Florence, Italy, Department of Architecture, was selected. The fellowship mechanism is in its implementation phase.
- Six Albanian diaspora young researcher from University of Florence, Department of Architecture, have been selected as Fellows and are working to complete the three stages of research action on territorial development on the 5 project selected sites: Bënja, Leusë, Kosinë in Përmet, (2) the mountain village of Razëm (Shkodra), and (3) the coast village of Zvërnec (Vlorë);
- It has been finalized the field survey of three cultural assets located in three villages of the Përmet municipality: the Church of St. Mary in Leusë; the Bridge of Katiu in Benjë and the area surrounding of the Church of St. Mary in Kosinë.
- The processing of the digitally acquired data (“points cloud”) was realized thanks to the laser scanner techniques of the Laboratory of Digital Survey of the Department of Architecture (DIDA) of University of Florence, Italy.
- An exhibition was organized in Tirana with support of State Ministry of Diaspora by the end of 2019 to display research work, videos and photos taken from the thematic workshop held in the three selected villages of the Përmet municipality on the Church of St. Mary in Leusë; the Bridge of Katiu in Benjë and the area surrounding of the Church of St. Mary in Kosinë;
- The research activities which have started since 1 February 2019 will be completed by 31 July 2020 when, potentially, a final event will be held from University of Florence where Albanian diaspora young researcher fellow are going to present the research findings and Territorial Development Guidelines of the 5 project selected sites: Bënja, Leusë, Kosinë in Përmet, (2) the mountain village of Razëm (Shkodra), and (3) the coast village of Zvërnec (Vlorë);
- Potentially others exhibition will be organized in Përmet, Shkodra and Vlorë.