



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO

Country Programming Document

for Albania 2014-2017







UNESCO Country Programming Document for Albania 2014-2017

Second edition - January 2015





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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASEMP	Adriatic Sea Environmental Master Plan
BRs	Biosphere Reserves
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DaO	Delivering as One
DOCO	Development Operations Coordination Office
DRT-F	Delivery Results Together Fund
DSS	Decisional Support System
ERNO	TV Network in South-East Europe
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GNI	Gross National Income
GoA-UN PoC	Government of Albania - United Nations Programme of Cooperation
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste, Italy)
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
INWEB	International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPS	Integrated Planning System
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MoEFWM	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration

MoTCYS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
MTBP	Medium Term Budget Programme
NAIS	National Agency for Information Society
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRA	Non-Resident Agency
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
PWG	Programme Working Group
RTDI	Research, Technological Development and Innovation
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SEE	South East Europe
UN	United Nations
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
UNV	United Nations Volunteers

KEY DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

(Source: HDR 2013)

Albania Country Profile	
Global	Value
HDI	0,739
HDI rank	70
Health	
Expenditure on health, public (% of GDP)	2,9
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	15
Life expectancy at birth (years)	76,9
Health Index	0,898
Education	
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	4,9
Expected years of schooling (of children under 7) (years)	11,3
Adult literacy rate, both sexes (% aged 15 and above)	95,9
Combined gross enrolment in education (both sexes) (%)	68
Education index	0,721
Income	
GDP per capita in PPP (constant 2005 international \$)	7,449
GNI per capita in PPP (constant 2005 international \$)	7,803
Poverty	
Intensity of deprivation	n.a.
Population living below \$1,25 PPP per day (%)	0,6
Gender	
Population with at least secondary education (female-male ratio)	0,916
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)	14,2
Labour force participation rate (female-male ratio)	0,7
Gender Inequality Index	0,333
Shares in Parliament (female-male ration)	0,197
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths of women per 100,000 live births)	31
Sustainability	
Adjusted net savings (% of GNI)	8,2
Carbon Dioxide Emissions per capita (tons)	0,4
Environmental Performance Index	n.a.
Demography	
Population total (thousands)	3216
Urban population (% of total population)	52,9

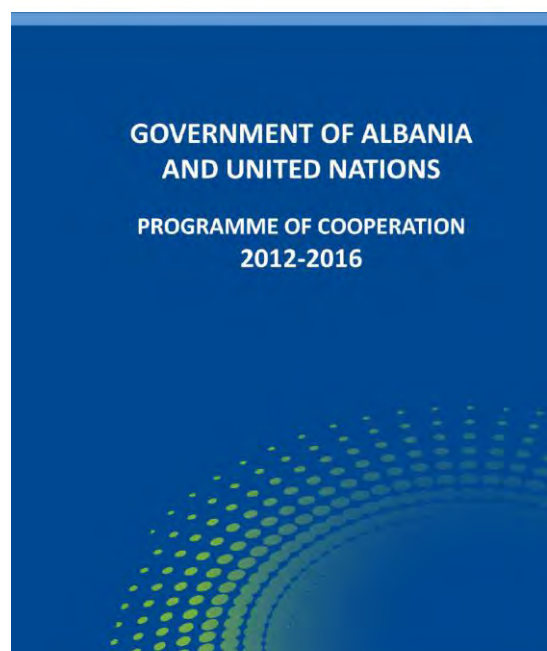
INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO Country Programming Document for Albania, hereby referred to as UCPD-Albania, sets the framework for the Organization's multi-sector cooperation strategy with Albania, in coherence and alignment with the country priorities and the Government of Albania - UN Programme of Cooperation (PoC) for 2012-2016. It is also aligned with the Organization's Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5).

This document is based on an analysis of the country's national priorities and strategies as expressed in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), as well as the priorities that must be addressed under the European Commission's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in order for Albania to be eligible to join the European Union. It also provides a more coherent picture of the challenges and opportunities for UNESCO within the Delivering as One Initiative, drawing from the Organization's experience, and identifies areas where UNESCO's multi-sectoral expertise could be more fully exploited.

Following the request made by the Prime Minister in December 2006, in January 2007 Albania was selected as one of eight countries around the world to pilot the "Delivering as One UN" – a UN Reform model adapted to each country's unique context. The underlining objective is to work towards a common UN presence in the country while capitalizing on the strengths and comparative advantages of different members of the UN family and looking at common elements.

In Albania, much progress has been made: A One UN Programme (2007-2011) was developed to enhance development results and impact by bringing together the comparative advantages of the UN system within a single strategic programme. A second phase has been elaborated as the Government of Albania – UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 (GoA-UN PoC). Both programmes were designed to support the European integration and



Cover from Government of Albania - UN Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2012-2016 ©UN Albania

development goals of Albania while complementing assistance provided by other multilateral and bilateral development partners in the country.

The priority areas included in the GoA-UN PoC were based on the existing priorities identified in the former One UN Programme, and streamlined at the request of the Government from five down to four. These four areas originally included: Governance and rule of law; Economy and environment; Regional and local development; and, Inclusive social policy.

However, following an intensive mid-term review in the first semester of 2014, the priority areas were again revised for the remaining period of the Programme of Cooperation mid-2014 through end-2016 with the results framework adjusted accordingly. The shift in priority areas bears in mind the lessons learned from the first two years of the PoC as well as the evolving development context in Albania. More specifically, the UNCT found that the old framework was fragmented with too many narrowly-defined outputs, leading to programmatic interventions being spread out over several outputs (and related management processes); it was also considered financially unviable, as only 18% of the budget was spent during the first 30% of the PoC duration. Lastly, a new Government was elected in 2013, with new programmatic opportunities and the UNCT felt a need to strengthen its position at the policy table.

The revised priority areas, intending to better focus and communicate the work of the UN in Albania, are thus as follows:


- Outcome 1. Human Rights
- Outcome 2. Inclusive Social Policies
- Outcome 3. Governance and Rule of Law
- Outcome 4. Regional and Local Development

A cornerstone of this Programme of Cooperation is the One Results Framework and the One Budgetary Framework. The One Results Framework encourages agencies to be results oriented and to align their work, and the One Budgetary Framework provides a clear picture of current sources of funding for One UN Programme activities as well as an overview of potential future funding through new modalities to promote coherence. Over twenty UN agencies are participating in the Programme of Cooperation, which was signed with the Government of Albania on 24 October 2011 following intensive consultations between UN Agencies, the Government of Albania and donors and civil society.

The One UN Programme represents an opportunity for UNESCO's intervention in Albania to have greater impact in addressing the challenges relevant to UNESCO as described in the following situation analysis. However, one of the key challenges in relation to the implementation of the One UN Programme is that it cuts across multiple internal UNESCO strategic planning documents (C/5s and C/4s).

To further accelerate coherence, efficiency and delivery at the country level, the One UN approach calls for un-earmarked commitments to the One UN Coherence Fund. This joint development fund aims to maximize the effectiveness of United Nations system delivery in Albania by pooling resources into a common fund for top national strategic priorities, as defined by the One UN Programme. It is meant to streamline, simplify and increase harmonization and predictability of resources. During the first phase (2007-2011), over USD 25 million was raised for the One UN Programme, of which UNESCO received USD 414,750 (75% of funds requested) and the Coherence Fund was noted to be a successful tool and sustainable resource for financing activities. For the second phase (2012-2016), no new un-earmarked funds were fundraised outside of the USD 15 million that was donated by the Government of Sweden for activities in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The GoA and 20 participating UN agencies then had to determine the best way to allocate the USD 1.5 million un-earmarked funds that remained from the previous cycle. No consensus was able to be reached on this and a decision was taken to allocate the funds in proportion to the annual financial contribution to be made by each UN agency, while maintaining a "solidarity" threshold of around USD 30,000 per agency. For 2012, UNESCO received USD 60,000 (USD 30,000 for Gender activities and USD 30,000 for un-earmarked activities) or 9% of total funds requested. 2013 saw only USD 30,000 for Gender activities receiving funding and in 2014 nothing was received, although Albania is now pursuing additional funds through the newly-launched Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) by DOCO.

From the outset of the Delivering as One planning process, UNESCO has been taking part in the discussions as a non-resident specialized agency (NRA) through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy). The presence of a National Professional Officer (NPO) from 2008-2012 greatly facilitated its participation in these processes, including being the only NRA to serve as Outcome Coordinator in the managerial processes. Within the framework of the One UN Programme and now the GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation, UNESCO has acquired an important and recognized role in science and research governance, environment and water management, cultural heritage preservation, cultural tourism, education as well as disaster risk reduction and preparedness.



This then is the purpose of the UCPD-Albania, which will serve as a programming and advocacy tool for UNESCO to clarify and assert its role and concrete contribution within the UNCT, and to succeed, in joint efforts with the local partners, and in particular with the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO counterparts in the relevant ministries, in ensuring the necessary political commitment and mobilizing adequate resources for the implementation of the proposed cooperation programme.

It is hoped that the UCPD-Albania, which would be further refined in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, will receive the adequate political and financial support required for its implementation. Successful implementation of the UCPD-Albania relies also on the extent of the consensus, commitment and partnerships it can trigger among the major local stakeholders, UN Country Team (UNCT) agencies and, equally importantly, donors and development agencies at large.



PART I:

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Albania is a middle income country and has made significant progress on a wide-ranging reform agenda progressing well towards meeting its national MDG targets. The country became a full member of NATO and officially applied for EU membership in April 2009. However, despite its progress, it still faces a number of development challenges.



The situation analysis for this UCPD was based primarily upon the following documents, which contain country assessments and situation analyses:

- The Government of Albania – UN Programme of Cooperation (2012-2016), (Government of Albania and the UN System);
- Albania Freedom of the Press Report 2013 (Freedom House);
- Albania National Human Development Report 2010: Capacity Development and Integration with the European Union (UNDP Albania);
- UNESCO Science Report 2010: The Current Status of Science around the World (UNESCO);
- UNESCO Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environments (UNESCO);
- 2013/4 Education for All Global Monitoring Report (UNESCO).

Through the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union (EU) on 12 June 2006, the Government has set EU accession as its highest national priority. The SAA sets out the terms and conditions for Albania's accession to the EU as a pre-candidate country. Associated with the SAA is a series of agreements that set out mutual commitments for development on a wide range of social, political and economic priorities. The SAA, along with the preparation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), define the framework for the nation's medium and longer-term development.

The latest NSDI (forthcoming) sets out Albania's national development and EU accession priorities over the eight-year period 2013-2020. The Government has also defined an Integrated Planning System (IPS), coordinated by the Prime-Minister's Cabinet, to ensure that its policy, coordination and financial processes function in a coherent, efficient and integrated manner. The IPS embraces the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) and other core planning processes such as the NSDI, European Integration, the government programme, the MDGs, GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation, and the management of public investment and external assistance. Strategies are now developed for some 20 sectors and 11 crosscutting sectors. The GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation fits within this overall national reform to align external assistance to national plans and to the medium-term budget.

The following sections highlight the Government's development policies and programmes in several specific areas of relevance for UNESCO.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Media freedom is a challenge that needs addressing more than ever in the Balkans, the countries of which want to join the European Union but are suffering the negative effects of the economic crisis. According to Reporters without Borders' annual Press Freedom Index, Albania's press freedom ranking in 2011 was 96th, dropping more than 10 places since last year when it placed 80th. The Balkan media's problems - use of the media for private or criminal interests, unfair competition in very small markets, and self-censorship by a growing number of badly paid journalists - are all prevalent within Albania. Also according to the Press Freedom Index, judicial officials - many of them poorly trained, allied with the government and often corrupt - seem more interested in harassing the media than ending impunity for those who threaten or physically attack journalists. Therefore there is still the need for the emergence of a more pluralistic and independent media.

The Constitution guarantees freedom of the press, and the media are vigorous and fairly diverse. However, outlets often display a strong political bias, and their reporting is influenced by the economic or political interests of their owners. Despite various attempts, the establishment of media accountability mechanisms to strengthen media professionalism and media ethics remains at embryonic stage. Libel remains a criminal offense, punishable by fines and up to two years in prison. Regulatory bodies are often seen as highly politicized and journalists sometimes face intimidation and assaults in response to critical reporting. The country's overall Press Freedom rating is "partly free".

The national radio and television syndicate, RTSh, is financially dependent on the State and typically shows a strong pro-government bias. Three private television stations have national reach, and dozens of smaller television and radio outlets also operate in a poorly regulated environment. Albanians have access to foreign radio content and television broadcasts from neighbouring Greece and Italy. There are a variety of daily and weekly newspapers, but circulation is low. Media outlets typically rely on financial support from owners and a few major advertisers, and self-censorship to suit their interests is common. Journalists are especially vulnerable to editorial pressure due to a lack of employment contracts and irregular pay.

Albania's connection to the world has improved through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Rapid development of mobile telephone services has resulted in more than 90 per cent national coverage. As far as Internet penetration is concerned, the most recent statistics by International Telecommunications Union (2008) claim that there are

currently about 750,000 Internet users in the country, or around 23.86 per cent of the population. This compares to 2,500 users in 2000, a massive improvement with growth primarily attributable to government efforts to increase Internet penetration through the creation of a favourable market and more liberalized Internet service.

The Government has identified the enhanced use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as being critical to improved governance and economic growth, launching a National Cross-Cutting Strategy on Information Society in 2009. ICTs are both a critical part of, as well as a means for, capacity development and are seen as an essential enabler for achievement of Albania's EU integration and national development objectives. Government websites are becoming a priority. Although ministries have improved their websites, the way they were initially designed reflected the work of the minister rather than offering information to the public. However, government websites still do not offer enough information on public policies and the information available is not always accessible in a user-friendly manner but rather presented as official decisions and papers. The rest of the information includes press releases, speeches of the ministers, visits and meetings.

CULTURE, CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Culture is emerging as a national priority for the Albanian administration as testified by the establishment of a specific Ministry with exclusive competence on culture.

Albania's cultural heritage is playing an important role in the social and economic development of the country, both at home and abroad. In particular, museums, archaeological parks, historical cities and other cultural sites are well-poised to be leveraged for sustainable cultural tourism development, which will help catapult the country in its progress towards EU accession, but these resources need to be further enhanced and preserved in order to fully realize their potential. Similarly, the cultural and creative sector of Albania has a great potential, not yet fully tapped, as a driver and enabler for the country's sustainable development, calling for a reinforced cooperation with regard to the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

Albania has ratified all UNESCO cultural Conventions, namely: Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol (1954); the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); the Convention Concerning the Protection of the

World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972); the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001); the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003); and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005). Although substantial progress has been achieved in the implementation of most conventions, some further institutional and professional capacity building with regard to some of these instruments (notably, the 1970, 2001, and 2005 Conventions) would further contribute to the effective enhancement of Albanian cultural resources. In this regard, the support to the ratification of the UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects of 1995 could also be considered.

Two sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List: Butrint, and the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra. Concerning Butrint, UNESCO received from civil society concerns over a new road project. An advisory mission was jointly undertaken by UNESCO and ICOMOS in August 2010 and the report stated that the construction of the road might “constitute an imminent danger to the World Heritage property, and accordingly recommends a number of measures to be taken to ensure compliance with the 1972 Convention. In order to improve the overall situation, measures must be taken to provide further technical assistance for the enhancement of the existing management plan in order to ensure the most adequate conditions for effective management and protection of the site”. Mitigation measures have been undertaken by the national authorities to reduce the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the challenge is to continue the monitoring process of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2010 mission report. The Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra are under significant development pressures and at present, the Historic Centre of Gjirokastra faces serious challenges to harmonize the legal framework for the proper conservation of this component of the World Heritage property. The 2012 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission defined a number of recommendations for the short and medium-term, and, as mentioned before, the challenge remains to ensure the implementation of the recommendations in a timely manner.

The Government of Albania is also actively engaged in the nomination process for a site included on Albania’s Tentative List for World Heritage: the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region, which has been selected as a Pilot Upstream project for a proposed transboundary extension to the existing World Heritage property in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Albania has one inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Albanian Folk Iso-Polyphony. As of 2005 (most recent data available), seven

indigenous languages are spoken in the country, representing 0.1% of the world's languages.

Culture, and more specifically, culture for sustainable development, has been part of the Government of Albania's (GoA) and the UN's agenda since the beginning of the One UN Programme in 2007. Linked under the result of the One UN Programme 2007-2011 for "more transparent and accountable governance", this clearly demonstrates that linking culture and/or development is considered the responsibility of the GoA. To support the Government in this, the UN will continue to commit itself for culture in the GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation (2012-2016), as evidenced under the original result 3.1.3: "Legal, institutional and human capacities developed for the effective management and promotion of cultural and natural heritage and of tourism, including the formulation and implementation of national policies and strategies that are in line with international standards". In the revised GoA-UN PoC, it is included under Output 3.4: "Line Ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods".

EDUCATION

The Government has pledged to achieve Education for All by 2015, but public spending on education in 2009 (latest data available) remained at only 3.8 per cent of gross domestic product. Despite recent investment, basic education enrolment has declined since 2003 and preschool education enrolment has stagnated at 50 per cent. The pre-school budget makes up only 4.5% of the total budget of the Ministry of Education and Science. Net enrolment for grades one to four (89 percent) and grades one to eight (94 percent) show that Albania is not on track to meet its MDG targets and corrective actions are needed. One third of Albanian children in compulsory school have a poor achievement record. The lack of Early Childhood Development services has contributed to poor educational attainment. Specific groups (Roma, Egyptians and children with disabilities) are disadvantaged in terms of access to education. Educational performance is worse in rural areas.

The Government recognizes that a public education system is critical to Albanian society and has embarked on a path to prepare students to excel in an information-based, technologically advanced society, to create technologically-savvy citizens and to prepare children for college and the work world. The Ministry of Education and Science is implementing the National Strategy on Pre-University Education, which addresses some of

these challenges. By providing ICT and Internet connectivity to all primary and secondary schools in the country, they aim to increase the quality and relevance of education, the effectiveness of education delivery, and facilitate greater access to information and services by marginalized groups and communities, which are key issues for the promotion of social inclusion. However, despite significant progress the ICT curriculum is still under development and the number of teachers trained in this area remains low.

The Albanian law on higher education has opened up opportunities for important developments, such as giving universities academic and organizational freedom as well as financial autonomy and establishment of private universities and higher education institutions. Strategic priorities that have been set by the Government include the need to increase the percentage of the age group of students in higher education, ensuring an effective system of quality assurance and accreditation, increasing the level of institutional autonomy, better integrating teaching and research, and improving teaching and financing.

Education in Albania has undergone reforms in the last few years and has begun to follow the Bologna process in terms of study cycles, academic standards, university admissions and other procedures. A working group has been established to lead the work for the implementation of the Bologna process. However, there needs to be a better match between what is offered and what types of curricula are provided to match the demands and skills set required from the market, and in the present case, the public sector as part of that market. As Albania's major public driver of development, the education sector's M&E capacities are central to addressing future human resources needs of the country and the skill mix of its labour force. There is an on-going public debate concerned with the quality assurance systems and the professionalism of all the 35 private universities which are up and running (out of 46 that were licensed).

Although several independent initiatives have been started by various actors over the last biennia, there are currently no established UNESCO Chairs or networks at higher education institutions in Albania.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The science system of Albania is in need of development, according to the 2010 UNESCO Science Report. Plans for the increase of national research and innovation budgets were voiced in the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation (NSSTI 2009-2015)

and the Business Innovation and Technology Strategy. However, according to a mini country report issued under the European Union, “by the end of 2011 it became evident that there is a growing gap between planned funding and actual funding allocated and disbursed to the Agencies that are supposed to implement foreseen programmes”. Domestic demand for R&D and for skilled employees remains relatively weak since the industry is dominated by small firms working in traditional industries that do not exploit new technologies. Ensuring an energy supply adequate to meet the current and future needs of Albania is another issue, but recently launched cross-border and bilateral S&T cooperation in agriculture and renewable energy is highly promising.

In parallel, there is a growing demand for education, which is perceived as being the best way to avoid unemployment or increase one’s chances of emigrating. The decreasing demand for R&D accompanied by a growing number of tertiary graduates would suggest that Southeast European economies are facing significant structural changes in terms of the demand for knowledge. Once very focused on R&D, demand for knowledge is becoming non-R&D-based.

In order to boost scientific research, specific curricula needs to be developed that is dedicated to training in research so as to increase the competences and abilities of students for scientific research. International partnerships could be also envisaged through engaging selected parts of existing national funding programmes in European programme coordination projects to combat societal challenges together with other programme owners such as research funding agencies, ministries and the European Commission. Further investment is needed to establish scientific laboratories in universities given the needs to renovate and enrich the scientific infrastructure. Lack of reliable data including on R&D performance statistics is still an open issue: neither reliable data from the UNESCO Statistical Office nor data available from EU sources such as Eurostat, the Innovation Union Competitiveness (IUC), or the Innovation Union (IU) scoreboard.

Rich in biological diversity and natural resources, Albania is home to 15 National Parks but only one Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme. Overexploitation and poor management have had significant negative effects on the diversity and abundance of biological wealth. Due to recent rapid growth, solid waste management as well as water and air quality have become pressing issues. Deforestation and land degradation also need to be addressed. The size of protected areas remains insufficient to ensure effective conservation of the country’s biological diversity.

Albania has put in place sound policy, legal and institutional frameworks for environmental management and protection. The Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is beginning to consider the wider implications of climate change. However, the transition to a market economy has led to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, together with weak enforcement of standards and regulations. Despite frequent floods and the risk of earthquakes, disaster response processes are not fully in place and disaster risk reduction is not yet well integrated into central and local development plans, although a Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response has existed within the Ministry of the Interior since 2000. Increased legal, institutional, human capacities and funding are still necessary to meet the levels appropriate for EU integration.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Albania has made significant progress towards achieving the vision, as set out in its National Strategy for Development and Integration 2007-2013 to be a “country with high living standards, which is integrated in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, is democratic, and guarantees the fundamental human rights and liberties”. It has ratified all nine core United Nations human rights treaties, and Albania’s ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI) has steadily moved up from 92nd in 2000 to 73rd in 2006 to 70th in 2011. Albania is serving as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017, demonstrating its commitment by reaffirming its universality, indivisibility, and interdependence. This is the first time Albania serves in the Council.

Managing external and internal migration remains a major development challenge. The increased internal migration from rural to urban areas stems from the growing economic and social divide between these areas. This, along with more effective law-enforcement responses to combating cross-border crimes, has led to increased internal trafficking in human beings, particularly of women and girls, even though it was formally criminalized in 2001.

Juvenile justice reform is incomplete: for example, some 75% of juvenile offenders are placed in detention while awaiting trial. Male juvenile offenders are confined in special sections of pre-trial detention facilities and a special section of the prison; adolescent girls are detained and serve sentences in facilities for women. Juveniles under age 14 may not be prosecuted for any crime or offence, and those over age 16 may be prosecuted for any offence; those aged 14 or 15 may be prosecuted only for crimes.

Historically marginalized groups, such as Roma, Egyptians, people with disabilities and the elderly, often remain excluded. Fulfilment of basic rights by these groups, especially Roma and Egyptians, is hobbled by established patterns of poverty, discrimination and exclusion. Social transfers are not always adequate and do not always reach those in need and systematic follow-up is lacking. People with disabilities and those living with HIV face difficulties in accessing social services related to health, rehabilitation and education and in securing employment. Antidiscrimination legislation is in place but implementation is slow and not fully monitored.

GENDER EQUALITY

The Albanian Constitution states that all individuals are equal before the law and that “no person will be unjustly discriminated against due to his or her sex”. Legislation makes provisions for treaties to supersede national law and the parliament has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Article 18, 2003 CEDAW). However, the physical integrity of Albanian women is poorly protected as the Constitution does not contain any specific provisions regarding domestic violence, spousal rape, or sexual harassment. In 2006, the Government of Albania adopted the country’s first legislation on domestic violence and is focused on preparing related sub-legislation to ensure the Law’s full implementation at the national and local level. The Government also adopted the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence in December 2007. The latest NGO Shadow Report to the UN CEDAW Committee (2010) noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of women who report domestic violence to the authorities, especially to the police, but also to non-profit organizations. However, despite the above progress, domestic violence remains widespread, with a majority of women having suffered some form of abuse, and discriminatory attitudes based on gender are still entrenched.

The relatively low participation of women in governance is a particular challenge as Albania ranks towards the bottom of the world scale in political participation of women, and has the lowest ranking within SEE. Only 16.4% made it to the Parliament out of the threshold of 30% set as mandatory for the lists of candidates of the running political parties. The same goes for the women dominated professions like education, which is mostly governed by men at all the levels of the education hierarchy. Although the legal and policy framework on gender has been strengthened, the main challenge lies in its implementation and appropriate budgeting



at national and local levels.

The access of young women and men to employment remains a challenge, as do high levels of employment in the informal economy. Discrimination in employment persists, despite the ratification of key conventions by Albania and a number of government initiatives aiming to end the practice. Another issue to address is the economic empowerment of women, whose participation in the labour market (51.8%) is much lower than that of men (73.3%).

The 2013 Gender Inequality Index (GII) placed Albania 44th out of 187 countries, a slip of 3 places since 2011. The 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) ranks Albania at 52nd place out of 86 countries in 2012; by contrast, its neighbour The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ranked 5th.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As it is seen from the situation analysis even though Albania continues to make progress there are major challenges for each sector relevant to UNESCO. The main obstacle remains the implementation and enforcement of new laws and legislations that carryover between terms of office. As noted in the 2011 One UN Report, this situation is partly a capacity issue and partly related to budgetary allocations. As few funds were raised for the UN Coherence Fund in 2011, allocations were less than anticipated and UNESCO received very little financing for its activities. Therefore fund-raising to implement the activities as planned for Albania in the coming years also remains a critical challenge for UNESCO.

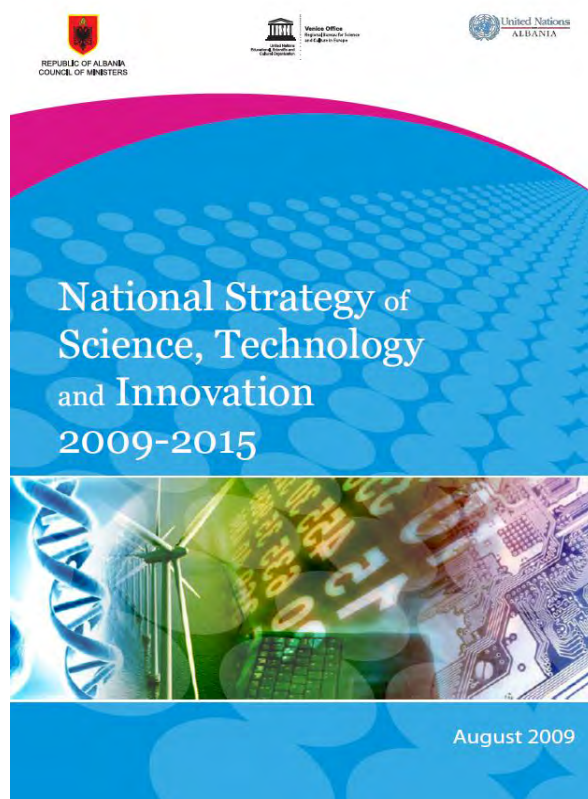
Another challenge is that a high turnover of staff in public administration interferes with the implementation of reforms, as it requires UN agencies to dedicate additional resources. New staff has to be briefed and trained accordingly.

PART II:

PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION - LESSONS LEARNED

Albania joined UNESCO on October 16, 1958. During the past few biennia, the country has primarily benefitted from culture and science activities, particularly as an implementing partner in the UNDP-UNESCO Joint Programme, “Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development”, funded under the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund.

Representatives from academies, universities, cultural institutions, etc., have been involved in their respective networks, participating in UNESCO regional activities as well as several international conferences organized by Albania together with UNESCO.



National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015, approved in July 2009 © UNESCO

RESULTS UNDER THE ONE UN PROGRAMME 2007-2011

As relevant to the areas of cooperation within the former One UN Programme (2007-2011), UNESCO primarily contributed to two of the five pillars, “More transparent and accountable governance” and “Environmentally sustainable development”. This is illustrated in the table below.

2007-2011 UNESCO Activities within the One UN Programme for Albania	
ACTIVITIES	Expenditure 2007-2011 (source)
More transparent and accountable governance	
Support the work of the Inter-ministerial, Advisory and Technical Working Groups on the Sectoral Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation; build institutional capacity for and monitor the collection of RTDI statistics and indicators	186,389 USD (RP, CF)
Increase the capacities of key stakeholders to protect cultural heritage at the archaeological parks through the promotion of sustainable tourism	USD 1,393,150 (MDG-F Spain under the Joint Programme)
Recommendations on new governance and management structure of the National History Museum adapted and adopted by the Government and begin of the transformation process	
Train staff employed at cultural heritage sites in management, conservation, protection and presentation	
Develop new legal instruments that link culture with other sectoral issues and Ministerial portfolios	
Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana	1,670,539 USD (RP, Italy, CF)
Restoration of the historic centre of Gjirokastra	1,097,251 USD (FIT Albania)
Safeguarding Albanian Iso-Polyphony	24,686 USD (CF)
Valorisation of Albania's cultural heritage for sustainable development	20,787 USD (CF)
Greater participation in public policy and decision-making	
No activities executed	
Increased and more equitable access to quality basic services	
No activities executed	
Regional development to reduce regional disparities	
No activities executed	
Environmentally sustainable development	
Risk preparedness and mitigation (seismology / floods / fires)	74,856 USD (RP, CF)
Development and first implementation with MoEFWM of a DSS for the assessment of water and energy strategies/policies and projects	37,000 USD (RP, IC)
TOTAL	4,504,658 USD
Source of Funds: RP=Regular Programme; CF=Coherence Fund; FIT=Funds-in-Trust; IC=Italian Contribution	

PILLAR 1: MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

The large majority of UNESCO's activities in 2007-2011 fell under this first pillar of the One UN Programme and later under the similar pillar of the Programme of Cooperation, dealing with more transparent and accountable governance. This reflects UNESCO's close working relationship with the Government of Albania and the policy-driven approach taken when working in the country. The various activities described below have resulted in stronger national capacities to design and implement policies in line with European and international standards and have contributed to the sustainable development of the country through the concretization of demonstration projects. For example, the country's cultural heritage was used as a catalyst for development under a number of activities, while at the same time being safeguarded for future generations.

The UNESCO Venice Office continued the implementation of the project “**Support the work of the Inter-ministerial, Advisory and Technical Working Groups on the Sectoral Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation; build institutional capacity for, and monitor the collection of RTDI statistics and indicators**”, which was also supported by the Coherence Fund for Albania. The “National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)”, approved in July 2009, was published in 2010 in a bilingual English-Albanian version. The Albanian Government (Prime-Minister and Minister of Education and Science) hosted in May 2010 a high-level Ministerial meeting highlighting the importance of Diaspora return to the implementation of this strategy. A Statistics and Indicators Working Group has been set up, involving the Ministry for Education and Science and the National Institute for Statistics (INSTAT) to collect reliable data in Science Technology and Innovation. A first pilot survey on R&D statistics in the public sector has been performed in 2009. Since a poor result was achieved, a second pilot survey on Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) statistics was launched in 2011, expanded to the private sector.

The MDG-F Joint Programme, “**Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development**”, was operationally closed on 6 December 2011. In 2010-2011, the following main results were achieved by UNESCO under this programme implemented jointly with UNDP:

- (i) The first ever MA-level Program on Cultural Resource Management was established with the University of Tirana to ensure for the future qualified managers of the cultural heritage of Albania was officially launched on 25

October 2010. The Program is considered to be one of the flagships of the JP by national counterparts and is fully accredited by the Albanian Ministry of Education and Science.

- (ii) The management and governance structure of the National History Museum (NHM) in Tirana was upgraded by introducing new positions and enabling the staff to acquire new knowledge and skills to better cope with the contemporary developments/challenges of museums today. The



National History Museum in Tirana, Albania © UNESCO/L. Bohatka

Conference room was converted into a multipurpose educational and film screening room.

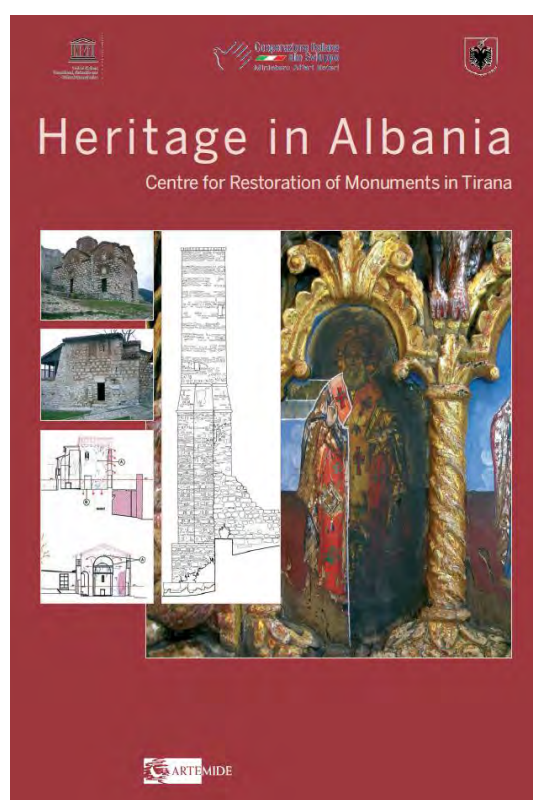
- (iii) The museum at Apollonia Archaeological Park was fully renovated with funds from the JP and reopened after nearly 20 years to the public. A report on the fiscal mechanisms and governance structure of the Archaeological park system has been shared with the national counterparts and printed in English and Albanian. Mapguides for Antigonea and Apollonia archaeological parks have been printed in English, Albanian and French languages and a multi-lingual audio-guide has been produced for Antigonea archaeological park.
- (iv) Albania's participation in the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAoC) has been supported via a revision of history and geography textbooks in line with the National Strategy on the UNAoC; a Rapid Response Media Mechanism on intercultural and interreligious issues was established; reports prepared and trainings with journalists organized on issues related to the National Strategy; two local NGOs have organized a series of UNAoC-related activities, like an essay competition, TV talk shows, a documentary film "Island of Peace", etc.; and an online UNAoC documentation centre has been linked to the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO's website, with some materials being available in print version, as well. The closing conference on all UNAoC-related activities was held in April 2011.

- (v) Optimization of the National Film Archive's performance was ensured by providing a 35mm film projector for the envisioning of the Albanian filmic fund, as well as the powerful film storage server for the digitized films. The National Film Archive (NFA) cinema hall is now up and running for public (for free) every Wednesday.
- (vi) Three study tours for best practices in management of cultural resources were undertaken: in March 2010, 10 managers from Albanian museums went to Milan; in April 2010, 3 Albanian museum managers went to Barcelona; and in April 2011, 10 managers from Albanian archaeological parks went to Rome and Pompeii.

In 2010-2011 the UNESCO Venice Office concluded a multi-year FIT project for the "Restoration and revitalization of the historic centre of **Gjirokastra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**". The roofs and facades of 17 historic monuments were restored with funds from the Albanian Government. One of the buildings restored was the home of an artisan centre which was financed from UNDP via the MDG-F Joint Programme on Culture and Development.

The UNESCO Venice Office continued also to provide support to the Government of Albania towards the activities of the **Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana** which works to create conditions for the strengthening and further development of institutions and professionals dealing with preservation of cultural

heritage. The 2nd restoration course and all other planned training activities were completed. A feasibility study on the transformation of the Centre into a UNESCO Category 2 Regional Centre has been finalized through funds from the Coherence Fund for Albania, as well as two 3-month training courses and a publication on the Centre's activities, which was finalized and distributed in July 2011. Regional courses on specific topics related to the restoration of movable and immovable heritage were supported by UNESCO and organized



UNESCO Heritage in Albania: Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana (Report), 2011 © UNESCO

by the centre in 2012 and 2013 (one new course has been launched for 2014), open to the participation of young professionals from Albania and from all the SEE countries.

Within the project “Safeguarding Albanian Iso-Polyphony”, the Albanian Music Council, with UNESCO’s support, has completed an electronic database of **Albanian folk iso-polyphony** and continued to support and promote the safeguarding of this element of Albanian intangible cultural heritage. This second phase of the project has been financed by the Coherence Fund for Albania and ended in March 2010; a third phase of the project followed, supported by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Actions implemented under the activity, “Valorizing Albania’s Cultural Heritage” included a national workshop entitled “Raising awareness on the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property in South-East Europe”, organized in November 2011 in Tirana in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. This event brought together key national players in Albania concerned by the implementation of the UNESCO 1970 Convention, international experts (Interpol, Federal Office of Culture in Switzerland, Directorate for the Documentation and the Protection of Cultural Goods in the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism, UNESCO 1970 Convention Secretariat) and representatives involved in communication and outreach policies and strategies. This meeting spawned debates and included the presentation of the Albanian version of the video produced by the UNESCO Venice Office on the **fight against the illicit trafficking** in SEE. Albania also participated in the workshop “Building capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in South-East Europe” held in Gaziantep, Turkey (19-21 November 2012), which was developed within the framework of UNESCO’s new global initiative, “Culture: a Bridge to Development” and thanks to the 1970 Convention Emergency fund.

PILLAR 5: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2007-2011 activities undertaken with the Government of Albania related to environmentally sustainable development were strongly linked to territorial management. As the country did not yet have any Biosphere Reserve at that time, activities focused on other defined areas, such as cultural heritage sites.

A 2-year project on “**Natural Risk Preparedness and Mitigation - Building capacity in the field of risk mitigation for Cultural Heritage properties**” was executed in 2010-2011. It

aimed to help Albania improve its response capacity to seismic risk thereby mitigating possible negative effects on its cultural heritage, as elements of a more general strategy aimed at reducing the impact of climate change effects as well as man-induced natural disasters.

Under the framework of this project, the UNESCO Venice Office and ICCROM organized a **training workshop in Berat**, on 19-24 November 2011, attended by 15 persons (selected cultural sites managers, municipal and civil protection agency representatives) from major heritage sites of Albania (Gjirokastra, Berat, Saranda-Butrint and Apollonia archaeological



Group photo from November 2011 Training Workshop in Berat
©UNESCO/D. Poletto

park). The general objective of the training was to introduce the disaster risk issue within the developing process of WHS disaster risk management plans. The workshop was developed through a participatory methodology and upon the newly issued WHC-ICCROM World Heritage Resource Manual for disaster risk management. Special focus was devoted to risk preparedness for

earthquakes and fires, through the participation of highly qualified international experts on such fields of expertise. This training and later coaching mission to each of the WHS of Albania, left a strong legacy among the stakeholders which led to the incorporation of the DRR principles in to the new management plan of Berat and a specific consultation meeting were held in Butrint in order to achieve the same result. As a follow-up to this activity, the proceedings from the trainings were prepared in a CNR-UNESCO publication, "Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage Sites in Albania", which will be printed in late 2014.

Lastly, in the framework of the One UN Programme 2007-2011 UNESCO worked with Albanian authorities on processes which led to the eventual designation of the first **MAB Biosphere Reserve** in the country, a transboundary site with The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ohrid-Prespa Watershed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. In this view, a MAB National Committee was established in support of these processes and to make sure their positive impact could go beyond the designation itself. Support has also been offered for Transboundary Biosphere Reserves between Albania and Montenegro concerning the

Skadar/Shkodra Lake.

2012-2013 RESULTS UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2012-2016

As it was with the first One UN Programme, UNESCO continued to be active in contributing to the goals of the new PoC for the years 2012-2016. In 2012-2013, UNESCO contributed to three of the four new priority areas.

PRIORITY AREA 1: GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

With support from the UN Coherence Fund (via funding earmarked for Gender activities by the Swedish Government) and in cooperation with other UN agencies, UNESCO supported gender-related activities in Albania in 2012-2014. The first was the celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development on 9 November 2012; this was the first time that World Science Day has been celebrated in the country and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Albania, the day was marked by focusing attention on the important **role of Albanian women in science** at a public round table entitled “Women in Science and non-traditional settings”. The round table brought together important Albanian women scientists, representatives of several line ministries, and international guests, among them Ms. Vita Majce, 2012 L’Oréal-UNESCO International Fellow “For Women in Science” from Slovenia. The activities pursuant to this meeting intend to promote women scientists as “science spokespersons” and career mentors to encourage future generations of Albanian women to continue their studies in science, with the potential to upgrade their intellectual capacity, social contribution and their opportunities for gender equality. The round table also pointed out the need for a better organization of women scientists and to vocalize their contribution in various decision-making processes in various life sectors. The Ministry of Education and Science reiterated its support to these initiatives and UNESCO promoted the meeting of the Albanian Women in Science Network in Tirana on 25 June 2014 with the participation of Ms. Mimoza Hafizi, a member of the Parliament and an astronomer in the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Tirana University, along with other women parliamentarians. *Expenditure 2012: 15,000 USD from the Coherence Fund plus 5,000 USD in-kind contribution from the UNESCO Regular Programme (PoC output 1.1.2)*

A second activity was a **journalists' training on "Gender and Media"** held on 7-8 December 2012 in Tirana. Albanian journalists were invited to apply UNESCO's Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) to be better informed when dealing with gender issues in the media sphere. These indicators are designed to assist people working in the media to assess progress on gender equality, identify challenges, and contribute to local, regional and global debates leading to the formulation of concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. The training incorporated not only a presentation of the GSIM by UNESCO but also a series of discussions led by Albanian experts in media/journalism, law and education on topics such as discrimination, violence against women and negative gender stereotyping. While the training was well-received, the true test will be if the media indicators are being applied and if they can be a successful measurement tool of gender sensitivity in the country. *Expenditure 2012: 15,000 USD from the Coherence Fund plus 5,000 USD in-kind contribution from the UNESCO Regular Programme (PoC output 1.1.2)*

In 2013, in close cooperation with UN Women, the UNESCO Venice Office followed up on the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media by holding a two-day workshop on their implementation and monitoring at the Office premises in Venice, Italy, on 30-31 May 2013. The participants of this workshop were 12 professional journalists holding leading positions or representing governance bodies of national television networks in Albania. Led by Alton Grizzle, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector (CI), and editor of the publication "Gender-Sensitive indicators for media: framework of indicators to gauge gender sensitivity in media operations and content", the workshop was held within the framework agreement between the Union of Albanian Journalists (UAJ) and the Albanian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on gender equality, with particular attention focused on women's' political participation, economic empowerment and the elimination of all forms of violence. *(Costs of event borne by UN Women)*

Under the project "Improving Science and Research Governance in Albania", supported by the Coherence Fund for Albania, in 2012-2013 the UNESCO Venice Office collaborated with the Albanian National Institute for Statistics (INSTAT) and the National Agency for Technology and Innovation (ARTI) to improve the quality of statistics on Research, Development and Innovation. A pilot survey for collecting data in line with the EU standards is under implementation on public and private sectors. Coordination and capacity building of INSTAT staff and interviewers were key steps for the success of the project. Availability of RDI data in compliance with international standards is a prerequisite to improve government planning and implementation of the sector strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation

as well as for accession to EU. *2012-2013 Estimated Expenditure: 20,000 USD from the Coherence Fund plus 15,000 USD from the Italian Contribution and extra-budgetary sources. (PoC output 1.2.3)*

With the support of the European Commission, UNESCO started in January 2013 to implement a 3-year project to **strengthen media accountability** in Albania. The establishment of media pilot-ombudsmen has been supported in three daily newspapers. The awareness about the importance of media self-regulation mechanisms has been raised and networking and exchanges of best practices with other media professionals within the region has been supported through a regional conference on 17 October 2013. In addition, other activities have evaluated the impact of new technologies on media ethics and professional reporting, in particular the issue of online hate speech that has been discussed at a roundtable in Tirana on 24 September 2013. Media ethical guidelines that better address issues of the online world are currently being discussed and promoted. In Tirana on 4 and 5 June 2014, UNESCO in cooperation with Access Info Europe, the South East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM) and the Albanian Media Institute organized a Legal Leaks training seminar. Around 30 journalists were trained to fully use laws to have access to information from not only their own country but also from other countries and international institutions. The training seminar included components of data journalism skills, with exercises on how to process, analyse and present data obtained under access to information requests, including use of data visualization techniques. Budget approximately 50.000 USD through various local and regional activities during 2013-2015.

PRIORITY AREA 2: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

Following the results achieved in previous years on risk management at cultural heritage sites, a **Conference on Disaster Risk Preparedness and Management in Cultural Heritage Sites** was organized by UNESCO-ICCROM and the EU-funded project SUSTCULT at the World Heritage property, Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra, on 8 May 2012. This was an occasion to demonstrate to local stakeholders the importance of an integrated approach for good World Heritage Sites' management, including the too-often neglected risk dimension. During the conference, the *Assessment Analysis of Seismic Risks and geo-hazard vulnerability of first level in major Cultural Heritage Sites of Albania*, conducted by a multidisciplinary team of Italian and Albanian researchers, was presented to the public. The report depicted the magnitude of seismic and broader geomorphologic

vulnerability at the World Heritage properties in Albania as well as at the Apollonia archaeological park, and could have an impact on policies as reliable scientific data can provide crucial support to decision-makers on geo-risk management. The data produced is very useful for designated site managers to adequately tailor actions according to the magnitude and nature of the risk(s) at stake. The conference also offered the opportunity to award trainees, upon public presentation of their work, certificates of attendance for the training made in Berat in 2011.

The conference was followed by site visits to the World Heritage properties of Butrint and Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra, thus providing a post-training coaching opportunity to the heritage and civil protection professionals, useful for their efforts in devising new management plans for their sites. This is in full compliance with the World Heritage Committee's Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties, which encourages all States Parties to develop disaster risk management plans for the World Heritage properties. Finally, a first draft of small scale joint action with the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF) entitled, "Technical assistance in Disaster Risk Preparedness to the World Heritage Site of Butrint" has been elaborated with ICCROM consultants. Monitoring is needed to see if the Disaster Risk management principles are now implemented in daily practice at cultural heritage sites. *Expenditure 2012: 6,000 USD from the Coherence Fund (PoC output 2.2.5).*

In 2013, the UNESCO Venice Office enhanced its support to risk preparedness through the initiation of two new projects: **IncREO**, which aims to produce an integrated Earth Observation (EO)-based map for disaster risk reduction (floods) and **FLOODIS**, which aims to produce an experimental early-warning system for floods, both to be tested/localized for the Shkodra Region. Both projects seek to improve policy-making and help develop the most appropriate action plans for risk preparedness. A key achievement under the IncREO project for 2013 so far is the built capacities of key responsible personnel to collect data to produce an integrated Earth Observation (EO)-based map for disaster risk reduction (in particular, that of floods) for the Shkodra region (training workshop held 14 May 2013). Having access to this data and the capacity to understand and "translate" it into information that can be used to shape policy and reduce the potential impact of disasters in this sensitive region, cannot be understated, particularly taking into account the past losses that have occurred from severe, unforeseen flooding in recent years. However, it is noted that the challenge still remains to fully institutionalize and incorporate these improved capacities into the political and policy-making structures so that they may continue to have an impact and offer opportunities for the further sustainable development of the country. The FLOODIS project

had its kick-off meeting in late October 2013 and is expected to end in 2015. *2013 Expenditure: 50,000 USD from European Commission for the IncREO project (PoC output 2.2.5)*

2013 also saw UNESCO continuing its work to promote the establishment of a MAB Biosphere Reserve (BR) in Albania, either at the national or transboundary levels. One of the key achievements that have resulted from UN interventions has been the establishment of the country's first Biosphere Reserve, recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The prerequisite for this was **the creation of a MAB National Committee**, which was accomplished under the auspices of the responsible ministry (Ministry of Environment), in close cooperation with the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO. What makes this achievement unique is that not only is Albania one of the last countries in SEE to join the MAB program, but that its first Biosphere Reserve is of a transboundary nature with The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Ohrid-Prespa Watershed), which will serve to help increase cross-border cooperation and management of shared resources, both water and terrestrial. The first meeting of the national MAB committee took place in Shkodra on 7-8 May 2013, and a sub-regional capacity building on "Towards sustainable development in the context of the Ohrid-Prespa Watershed proposed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve: from vision to action" was organized in cooperation with the joint secretariat of the Ohrid - Prespa Watershed Management Committee in Pogradec, Albania, on 12-13 December 2013. Albanian experts also attended the EuroMAB Conference in Canada in October 2013, sharing their experiences and actively participating in two events co-organized and supported by the UNESCO Venice Office - the workshop "Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR): Towards More Effective Management of Shared Ecosystems and Sustainable Development of Bordering Territories" and a training seminar "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)", conducted within the Conference and its related events.

PRIORITY AREA 3: REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Under the new PoC, on 23 May 2012 and under the third priority area of Regional and Local Development, certificates on successful completion of training courses on the conservation and restoration of cultural monuments were delivered by the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Aldo Bumçi, Ms. Yolanda Valle-Neff, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, and by H.E. Mr. Massimo Gaiani,

Ambassador of Republic of Italy to Albania, to 22 young Albanian experts who participated in the series of aforementioned training courses at the Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana, Albania.



November 2012 Training Workshop on Glass Restoration in Tirana Centre ©UNESCO/S. Sesum

The same Centre also hosted a 4-week basic **training course on the restoration of glass** under the auspices of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Albanian authorities starting 1 November 2012. Six young restorers/conservators (including researchers, or university students enrolled in study courses for 2nd level degrees) from around the region followed a series of lectures on the various theories surrounding glass composition, deterioration and production and restoration techniques, followed by 3 weeks devoted to practical work on artefacts selected by the Institute for Cultural Monuments and UNESCO from Albanian public collections. *Expenditure: 18,000 from UN Coherence Fund and 15,000 Italian Contribution*

In 2013, training activities at the Centre are continuing with the organization of the **first-ever regional training workshop on the restoration of Ottoman cultural heritage in South-East Europe**. UNESCO is cooperating with Albania in the preparation of a project proposal for the further enhancement of the Tirana Regional Centre on the Restoration of Cultural Heritage, to be possibly presented for financing within the debt-for-development swap programme between Italy and Albania. A project proposal for the organization workshop on rehabilitation of Ottoman heritage in the Balkans, in cooperation with Tirana Centre, proposed in April 2012 to the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), was approved in March 2013. The course ran for 3 weeks in Tirana and Berat, Albania, from 14 October to 1 November 2013. The training programme consisted of theoretical and practical

(hands-on) activities aimed to introduce relevant conservation and restoration techniques, in compliance with internationally recognized conservation principles and standards. Lectures and site work addressed the principles of conservation and restoration on monuments, buildings decorations and artifacts from the Ottoman period, with special focus on wall paintings, including insights into historical techniques of execution, deterioration processes, conservation treatments and methods, as well as maintenance requirements. The course also included a two-week field module in the city of Berat, part of the UNESCO World Heritage property, Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra, focusing on the complex of the King's Mosque, one of the oldest in Albania, built in the 15th century under Sultan Bayezid II (or Sultân Bayezid-î Velî). Training activities will be led by Turkish and Albanian experts. *Estimated 2013 expenditure: 53,970 USD from the Turkish Development Agency (TIKA) and 3,000 USD Italian Contribution*

Also in 2012, as part of its in-kind support to Member States without National Pavilions, UNESCO hosted at Palazzo Zorzi, its premises in Venice, the **Albanian Pavilion** at the Venice Biennale 13th International Exhibition of Architecture, 27 August – 29 November 2012. The exhibition, “In Heritage”, presented new modern approaches in Albania to art and architecture. In the exhibition, the visitor was able to revisit the concepts of cultural heritage and town planning, and was led through some of the most important cultural sites in Albania. This is the second participation of Albania to the International Architecture Exhibition in Venice; the first participation was in 2010, also with the support of the UNESCO Office in Venice under the auspices of the MDG-F Joint Programme on Culture and Development.

Experts from Albania regularly participated in all regional capacity-building initiatives promoted by UNESCO for South-East Europe in the field of culture, including the Regional Network of Experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as specific regional workshops on the management of designated sites.

Finally, Albania regularly participates at the highest level in the regional cooperation platforms on culture in South East Europe supported by UNESCO, thereby confirming the country's willingness to engage in the enhanced protection and promotion of the region's cultural resources, with special reference to the annual Summits of the SEE Heads of State and the annual Conferences of the SEE Ministers of Culture.


SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Even though UNESCO is a Non-Resident Agency in Albania, it has been actively working with the UNCT on the development of the One UN Initiative. The Director of the UNESCO Venice Office was invited to represent the non-resident agencies in the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) meetings from 2010-2011, while other Venice Office staff members regularly participate in the established One UN Technical Working Groups and later, the Output/Outcome Working Groups.

UNESCO's engagement in the One UN Programme has raised significantly the attention to and visibility of the Organization with regards to its work in the areas of science and research governance, preservation and safeguarding of intangible and tangible cultural heritage, and cultural tourism. Consequently, UNESCO has been given the lead in some of these areas within the UNCT, i.e. the UNESCO National Programme Officer (NPO) being requested to serve as the Outcome Coordinator for Culture and Tourism. This request demonstrates that UNESCO is seen as playing a key role in the country's development by both the Government and the other UN agencies. In addition, it also opened up opportunities for increased funding from donors for its programmes and led to increased cooperation with other sister agencies. However, this increased recognition has also meant an increased responsibility to contribute to the various planning, monitoring and reporting phases, particularly under the new UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, which has placed a strain on the human resources of the Organization. As UNESCO no longer has an NPO in the country, it will be both an opportunity and a challenge to coordinate and maintain the level of commitment as required by the resident agencies and UNRCO as agreed.

The experience of participating in the MDG-F Joint Programme, "Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development" proved to be a very positive experience for UNESCO. The Government fully owned the joint programme and steered its implementation according to national priorities. An ongoing dialogue was maintained with the Government and the National Commission for UNESCO throughout all stages of decision-making and implementation of activities, in order to ensure continued national ownership over any policy changes that were being generated by the JP.

UNESCO and UNDP experts worked closely together on technical issues related to the activities of the Joint Programme, contributing to more sound conclusions and decisions on specific activities and have used each other's expertise/consultants. Representatives of



participating agencies sat in respective evaluation panels set up on several issues and UNESCO was able to take advantage of UNDP country-level procurement systems to speed up activities and benefit from VAT exemptions.

Remaining challenges from the aforementioned activities include ensuring that the management plans for the World Heritage Sites are written and implemented according to international standards and that new local development at these sites is in line with the plans approved by the Government. It is also a challenge to ensure that the responsible institutions (Ministry of Culture) continue their efforts in order to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Centre for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage and to endow it with the necessary human and financial resources, according to the feasibility study already prepared by the Albanian authorities for the official request of recognition of the Centre as a UNESCO category 2. Monitoring should be done to see if the GSIM are being used and if they are an effective tool and improvements in the governance coordination of the STI system and statistics, including higher education, are still required in order to facilitate a full access to the European Research Area (ERA) and enhance the competitiveness of the country.

Remaining challenges also include the continuous training of other site managers in Albania and incorporating this emerging local expertise into site management plans and regional/national-level policies. Fund-raising for the water and energy DSS project and adapting it to any emerging needs is also a remaining challenge. Lastly, UNESCO is continuously ready to support the creation of additional Biosphere Reserves in the country, either at the national level or transboundary, which could become learning sites for incorporating sustainable development practices.

PART III:


PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

UNESCO's engagement in the UN Programme has raised significantly the attention to and visibility of the Organization with regards to its work in science and culture in the country. However, more must be done to draw upon the other areas where UNESCO has a key expertise, and to link in a more harmonized and comprehensive manner with UNESCO's regional-level activities. Some of the specific areas identified where UNESCO's expertise could be more fully utilized to assist the Albanian Government in achieving its development priorities include providing policy advice and promoting capacity building in ICT-enhanced learning, HIV and AIDS education (particularly in the context of EDUCAIDS*), education for sustainable development (ESD), gender mainstreaming, with a specific focus on preventing gender-based violence, promoting positive gender images, and capacity development to promote women's leadership, social inclusion of the most disadvantaged groups, the fight against human trafficking and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). UNESCO could also provide technical assistance to the Government in carrying out a participatory assessment of regulatory frameworks and public policies in order to reinforce their inclusiveness, particularly with respect to young people, women, migrant youth and persons with disabilities.[†] Programmes and actions related to climate change, risk preparedness and oceanographic-related issues of the Mediterranean Sea and coastal areas should also be established. Governance-oriented competences in the field of natural resources management and sustainable economic development (eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and cultural industries) could also be further fostered. Furthermore, UNESCO's Institute for Statistics could assist the Government in collecting, designing and introducing improved sex-disaggregated data and indicators so to better measure and track quality education. UNESCO could also support the Government's efforts to further mainstream human rights in the policy areas relating to its mandate.[‡]

* EDUCAIDS is the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS led by UNESCO – see resource materials at www.unesco.org/aids

[†] This action is related to but not covered by the scope of outputs 1.1.2 and 4.2.1 in the original UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 for which UNESCO has indicated support. The realization of the corresponding activities depends entirely on the availability of extra-budgetary funds.

[‡] This action is related to but not covered by the scope of output 1.1.2 in the original UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 for which UNESCO has indicated support. The realization of the corresponding activities depends entirely on the availability of extra-budgetary funds.



However, as there has been limited funding from the UN Coherence Fund available in the recent years and as a consequence of the financial constraints the Organization has been facing since the reduction in Regular Programme financing in November 2011, the majority of planned Science and Culture activities for 2014-2017 will be regional in scope, with participants from all Member States in the SEE sub-region invited to participate. Participants from the Black Sea and Caucasus region may also be invited to attend, depending on the nature of the activities. Funding for national-level activities may still be available in some focus countries where needs are pressing, such as for the development of national capacities on UNESCO Conventions, the finalization of management plans and when follow-up is needed for successful projects that can serve as models for other countries (such as the UN Joint Programmes funded by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund).

Care will be taken to try to integrate as many activities as possible that were already included in the GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation. The Regional Bureau in Venice will continue to fund-raise for the implementation of activities on a national-scale whenever possible.

Therefore, under the present UCPD, UNESCO seeks to build upon the results achieved during the last two biennia and to draw upon the lessons learned in addressing development issues in response to Albanian requests for assistance in specific areas and our indicated points of cooperation. The following table illustrates the outputs under the present GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation where UNESCO has indicated to provide support during 2012-2016.

Outputs where UNESCO has indicated support for Albania in the UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016				
OUTPUT	Regular / Core Funds	Other / Non-core Funds	Unfunded	TOTAL*
Governance and the Rule of Law				
1.1.2. Civil Society and media facilitate a public demand for human rights, gender equality and access to justice including the compliance with international legal instruments and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	25,000 USD	40,000 USD	200,000 USD	265,000 USD
1.2.3 State institution and non-Government institutions have the capacity to manage the demand, supply and use of disaggregated data for policy-making, service delivery and reporting	25,000 USD	50,000 USD	300,000 USD	375,000 USD
Economy and Environment				
2.2.1 The National Government has legal and regulatory mechanisms ready for implementation and ensures compliance with Multilateral Environment Agreements and the Rio Principles	20,000 USD	30,000 USD	100,000 USD	150,000 USD
2.2.2 Relevant line ministries have the organizational, technical and financial capacity to mainstream environment into national policy frameworks, ensure participation and expansion of the education for sustainable development in schools and implement public awareness on environment	20,000 USD	30,000 USD	100,000 USD	150,000 USD
2.2.5 State institutions and local governments have the capacity to manage disaster risk preparedness and prevention, and integrate specific plans for the national heritage sites	25,000 USD	25,000 USD	300,000 USD	350,000 USD
Regional and Local Development				
3.1.3 Legal institutions have the capacity to effectively manage and promote cultural and natural heritage, as well as tourism	70,000 USD	200,000 USD	300,000 USD	570,000 USD
Inclusive Social Policy				
4.2.1. Policies and practices in place to ensure inclusive participation and completion of pre-university education	0 USD	30,000 USD	100,000 USD	130,000 USD
4.2.2. Schools and communities ensure an appropriate environment for boys and girls to participate and thrive as citizens	0 USD	20,000 USD	130,000 USD	150,000 USD
TOTALS	185,000 USD	425,000 USD	1,530,000 USD	2,140,000 USD

*The amounts mentioned in this framework represent indicative figures as included in the signed PoC and are subject not only to resource availability but also to changing dynamics in the development context and national priorities.

UNESCO PRIORITY AREAS FOR SEE

On 16-17 May 2013, the Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), held a Programme Retreat with its Scientific Council* members to elaborate and endorse a set of strategic themes and priorities for the UNESCO Venice Office's interventions in the region over the 2014-2017 quadrennium. After extensive discussions also with the Regional Bureau's Steering Committee, the Venice Office strategy was finalized on 27 January 2014 as shown below:

Expected Result	Strategic Objective
Science for Responsible Development (SC)	
1	Interfacing between Science, Policy and Society promoted
2	Capacity in Science Technology & Innovation strengthened
3	Disaster Risk Reduction management improved
4	Biosphere Reserves as model sites for outreach enhanced
5	Water resources management strengthened
Enhancing Heritage and Creativity for Development (CLT)	
1	Capacities developed for the enhanced protection and management of cultural heritage
2	Awareness raised and policies improved for the promotion of creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions
3	Dialogue strengthened through reinforced regional cooperation on culture
Enhancing the role of Venice as a platform in the fields of Science and Culture (VEN)	
1	Venice enhanced as a hub for international cooperation and good practices promoted in the framework of EXPO 2015

For the first two strategic objectives and as mentioned earlier, Albanian experts and key personnel will be regularly invited to participate in and benefit from the activities to be organized in this respect; particular efforts will be made when there is an overlap between the outputs in the UN-Albania Programme of Cooperation UNESCO has indicated support for and the priorities listed above. National-level activities already in the pipeline for 2014-2017 are discussed below.

* As agreed in Italian Law 163 (4 June 1997), the UNESCO Office in Venice has two governing bodies for the use of the annual Italian Contribution it receives: the Scientific Council and the Steering Committee.

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOR 2014-2017

Albanian experts will be invited to the next editions of the **Ministerial Round Tables** on Regional Cooperation in **Science and Higher Education**, organized by UNESCO every two years in SEE since 2006. The Albanian Ministry of Education and Science is regularly represented during the Ministerial meeting and is anticipated to take part in the next one, as well as to the next meeting of the regional Ministerial Round Table for **Science, Technology & Innovation**, where Albania also usually actively participates.

Cooperation is planned to continue with the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as the National Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation, in the framework of the platform for Science, Technology and Innovation in the Western Balkan Countries established within the EU-FP7 project **WBC-INCO.NET**. Albanian experts will also continue to be invited to participate in the **sub-regional networks in basic sciences and engineering** in SEE countries in order to realize innovative common capacity-building initiatives, joint research and project proposals, in the areas of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Genetics and Biotechnology, Mathematics & Physics, and Phytochemistry, such as with the Southeastern European Network of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics (SEENET-MTP), established in 2003 under the auspices of the UNESCO Venice Office.

Albanian experts will continue to be involved in regional co-operative projects like **Management of trans-boundary karst aquifers zone**, a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project and the inclusion of Albanian research institutions into the SEE disasters assessment and mitigation network.

As finances are available, UNESCO is committed to continue to assist in the implementation of Albania risk-preparedness programmes in accordance with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). This includes the finalization of the two ongoing projects carried out with the cooperation with the Albanian National Commission of UNESCO: **IncREO** Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation (EU-FP7 Space; Collaborative project SPA.2012.1.1-04/Support to emergency response management) and **FLOODIS** Integrating GMES Emergency Services with satellite navigation and communication for establishing a flood information service (EU SPA.2013.1.1-06: Integrated downstream service activities and applications Stimulating development of downstream). A final evaluation workshop for the IncREO project will be held in October 2014, to discuss the incorporation of the IncREO product "QGIS", an open-source GIS program, into the Albanian General Directorate of Civil Emergencies' *Dewetra* system

for environmental monitoring and forecasting. Training on how to use QGIS will also be delivered at this time. A final conference for FLOODIS is foreseen for 2015.

Support for the **first Biosphere Reserve established** in Albania in June 2014, the Ohrid-Prespa Watershed Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) (shared with The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), will be prioritized as funding opportunities permit. Relevant stakeholders for Ohrid-Prespa Watershed TBR and the Shkodra Lake future TBR should be made well aware of their role in the management of these sites, and involved in defining a management plan and related action plan for these sites.

Following up on the establishment of the **MAB national committee**, a training of at least 30 participants from at least 5 line ministries and 5 Protected Areas is foreseen for upcoming years on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development tools and practices.

Another focus for 2014 consists in developing the **EF@School project**, the Ecological Footprint initiative, which caught the interest of the UNESCO National Commission in Albania that is ready to make a financial request to UNESCO's Participation Programme.

CULTURE ACTIVITIES FOR 2014-2017

In order to accelerate the country's development of its heritage resources, as discussed in the situation analysis, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in cooperation with UNESCO Venice Office has begun a project entitled "*Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region*", in support of the second phase of the pilot project "**Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid region**". Activities to be developed under this project will help enable the development and sustainability of cultural and natural heritage for economic development, such as sustainable cultural/natural tourism development, for example, building upon the past results the country achieved in cooperation with UNESCO, such as under the MDG-F Joint Programme, "Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development".

The duration of the project is 36 months with an overall budget of 2.64 million USD, funded by the European Union with a contribution of approximately 2.4 million USD (1.7 million EUR). The 10% co-financing Agreement between the Albanian Ministry of Environment and UNESCO is currently under preparation. The project will be carried by UNESCO in close partnership with the Governments of Albania and The former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, as well as the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention: ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM.

UNESCO is also continuing its cooperation with the IMK-Institute for Monuments of Culture and the **Centre for Restoration of Monuments** for future activities. Albanian authorities are currently considering reinforcing the centre's sustainability and operational capacities should the Centre be converted into a UNESCO Category 2 Centre. Short-term training courses are foreseen for 2014 (November 2014 Conservation of ceramics) and in 2015, a course on the conservation of wood.

UNESCO has continuously supported the Albanian local authorities in safeguarding the museum-city of **Gjirokastra** (part of the World Heritage site of Berat and Gjirokastra) and funding permitting, intends to assist the Government for the restoration of the House of Ismail Kadare and its conversion into a museum. The site has already been part in the part of heritage preservation and management plans for the restoration of historic monuments.

UNESCO also supported the needs-assessment survey on the **safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage** in Albania. The project is financed by the UNESCO Venice Office under the Italian contribution and implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Albania. The survey is expected to be completed in November 2014.

The Albanian Minister of Culture has also cooperated with UNESCO (through the Venice Office) to prepare two important joint resource-mobilization initiatives, respectively aimed to **strengthen arts and cultural education in Albania** (application to be submitted to the Italian-Albanian Debt for Development Swap Programme) and to support the entire **Culture sector in Albania as a driver and enabler for sustainable development** (the possibility to submit a joint proposal to the European Commission is currently being explored, within the framework of the new phase of IPA funds). In particular, the enhancement of arts and cultural education and the mainstreaming of culture within formal and non-formal education systems shall remain a priority for the Ministry of Culture of Albania, and UNESCO will be called upon to step up its efforts in terms of policy advice and capacity-building in this field (depending on the possibility to raise funds for specific extra-budgetary activities).

UNESCO foresees to continue involving Albanian institutions and experts in **regional cooperation platforms, activities and expert meetings** organized within the framework of the Global Initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development". This includes the annual Summits of SEE Heads of State, the annual meetings of the "Council of Ministers of Culture in South-Eastern Europe - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development", the network of experts


on intangible cultural heritage in SEE, the network of the regional centres of excellence on cultural heritage in SEE or the regional network of national history museums.

It shall be noted that the action of UNESCO in Albania as well as in the overall sub-region of South East Europe shall also take into consideration the priorities defined by the countries of region for the enhancement of regional cooperation on culture and development. Such priorities are embodied by the “Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South East Europe”, approved on 19 July 2014 by the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe – Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development, at the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, and they include: Improving the management of cultural heritage for inclusive economic development and environmental sustainability; Fighting the illicit trafficking of cultural property and promoting the restitution of illicitly trafficked exported or imported property; Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for inclusive social development and dialogue; Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions for inclusive economic growth and social cohesion; Development of cultural and arts education in the region for quality education and human development.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES FOR 2014-2017

Following up on previous achievements regarding Gender and Science and Gender and Media, and as funding is available, UNESCO will continue to support local partners for the two activities are foreseen for 2014. As a follow up to the Venice Workshop on **Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media**, the Union of Albanian Journalists will organize a public round table in Albania, where all participants will share their experiences and report on the conclusions. The participants were also asked to draft an Action Plan on how to integrate the UNESCO GSIM within the operational structures of their daily work philosophy at their TV stations.

Another follow-up activity based on past results achieved is the direct involvement of women experts and scientists as observers or “watchdogs” for using a gender lens/perspective on governmental policies in science through the **Albanian Women in Science Network (AWISN)**. There is great potential to “lobby” and encourage young women to study science and undertake scientific careers by calling upon existing Albanian women scientists and media/journalists to exchange and share their respective perspectives on issues such as natural risk preparedness, climate change, etc. Therefore this activity foresees the support to this national platform and network for women in the sciences in Albania, which has as one of



its aims encouraging and publishing Albanian women's research within the both national and international scientific communities. Members of the network have indicated an interest in learning how to better access external financing (EU funds and private sector) to support their activities in 2015 and a request was made to the Venice Office for continuing its support if possible.

In 2014 and 2015 UNESCO will continue implementing the EU-funded Project “media accountability in South East Europe” in Albania. The project foresees **training of journalists** on access to information and investigative journalism while further strengthening media professional and ethical standards.

UNESCO also foresees to support programmes encourage aiming at encouraging public responsibility on the use of information on the Internet. Such programme should encourage the media to engage with the audience and **raise awareness on the dangers of intolerant and hateful speech** particularly in the online environment.

MATRIX: UNESCO PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF ALBANIA 2014-2017

UNESCO Sector/ Programme	UNESCO activity (dates)	Expected results	UNESCO Main Line of Action (MLA)	Performance indicators and benchmark/targets	Est. RB funds (US\$)	Est. EXB funds and source (US\$)	Funds to be mobilized (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)	NEW GoA-UN PoC output
SC	Albanian participation in regional Ministerial round tables on cooperation in science and higher education and on Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) (bi-annually)	SC ER 1: Strengthening STI policies, the science-policy interface, and engagement with society, including vulnerable groups such as SIDS and indigenous peoples	MLA 1: Strengthening STI policies, governance and the science-policy-society interface	<u>Performance Indicator:</u> Number of representatives from Albania participating to the related Ministerial round tables <u>Target:</u> at least 1 representative from Albania participates to each of the related Ministerial round tables	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3.3
SC	Albanian experts participate to sub-regional networks in basic sciences and engineering, including the EU-FP7 project, WBC.INCO-Net (annually)	SC ER 1: Strengthening STI policies, the science-policy interface, and engagement with society, including vulnerable groups such as SIDS and indigenous peoples	MLA 1: Strengthening STI policies, governance and the science-policy-society interface	<u>Performance Indicator:</u> Number of representatives from Albania participating to sub-regional networks in basic sciences and engineering <u>Target:</u> at least 1 representative from Albania participates to sub-regional networks in basic sciences and engineering	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3.3
SC	Involvement of Albanian experts in regional co-operative project: Management of trans-boundary karst aquifers zone (annually)	SC ER 13: Knowledge, innovation, policies and human and institutional capacities for water security strengthened through improved international cooperation	SC MLA 6: Strengthening freshwater security	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Member States have improved groundwater and river basin governance at local, national and transboundary levels <u>Target:</u> 1 groundwater monitoring network established; 1 set of guidelines developed with the active participation of stakeholders to increase water availability through aquifer recharge and exchange of experience through at least 3 sub-regional case studies on transboundary aquifers and at least 5 transboundary river basins, at least 4 of which enable the establishment of cooperation frameworks	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	3.4

UNESCO Sector/ Programme	UNESCO activity (dates)	Expected results	UNESCO MLA	Performance indicators and benchmark/targets	Est. RB funds (US\$)	Est. EXB funds and source (US\$)	Funds to be mobilized (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)	NEW GoA-UN PoC output
SC	IncREO (Increasing Resilience through Earth Observation) in the Shkodra area to reduce impact of natural disasters (2012-2014)	SC ER 10: Risk reduction improved, early warning of natural hazards strengthened and disaster preparedness and resilience enhanced	SC MLA 4: Fostering international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction	<u>Performance indicator:</u> The incorporation of the EO-derived flood exposure maps of IncREO for the area of Shkodra into the environmental monitoring and forecasting system (DEWETRA) of the General Directorate of Civil Emergency, Institute of GeoSciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE) <u>Target:</u> IncREO project is incorporated	0	50,000 (EU)	0	50,000	4.4
SC	FLOODIS (Integrating GMES Emergency Services) in the Shkodra area to reduce impact of natural disasters (2013-2015)	SC ER 10: Risk reduction improved, early warning of natural hazards strengthened and disaster preparedness and resilience enhanced	SC MLA 4: Fostering international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Testing for the area of Shkodra of FLOODIS-developed mobile service for floods risk monitoring and mitigation <u>Target:</u> Testing is successful and incorporated into related systems of the General Directorate of Civil Emergency, Institute of GeoSciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE)	0	80,000 (EU)	0	80,000	4.4
SC	Support for the establishment of Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in Albania (ongoing 2014-2017)	SC ER 11: Use of biosphere reserves as learning places for equitable and sustainable development and for climate change mitigation and adaptation strengthened	SC MLA 5: Strengthening the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of (Transboundary) BRs established and fully functional <u>Target:</u> At least one (T)BR established and fully functional	5,000	10,000 (Italy)	50,000	65,000	3.4
SC	Training for members of the MAB National Committee, protected areas, and related line ministries on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (TBD)	SC ER 11: Use of biosphere reserves as learning places for equitable and sustainable development and for climate change mitigation and adaptation strengthened	SC MLA 5: Strengthening the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of institutions and site managers involved in a training <u>Target:</u> 5 line ministries and 5 protected areas represented in the training	0	5,000 (Italy)	35,000	40,000	3.4

UNESCO Sector/ Programme	UNESCO activity (dates)	Expected results	UNESCO Main Line of Action (MLA)	Performance indicators and benchmark/targets	Est. RB funds (US\$)	Est. EXB funds and source (US\$)	Funds to be mobilized (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)	NEW GoA-UN PoC output
SC/ED	Launching of a network of elementary and secondary schools applying the ecological footprint calculation as a tool for education for sustainable development (TBD)	SC ER 11: Use of biosphere reserves as learning places for equitable and sustainable development and for climate change mitigation and adaptation strengthened ED ER 1: National capacities strengthened to develop and implement policies and plans within a lifelong learning framework	SC MLA 5: Strengthening the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves ED MLA 1: Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of schools participating in the School EF network <u>Target:</u> At least 1 school participating in the first year	0	15,000 (Italy)	70,000	85,000	2.2
CLT	Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region (2014-2017)	CLT ER 1: Tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention	CLT MLA 1: Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of safeguarding plans developed and/ or implemented <u>Target:</u> 1 plan developed and/or implemented	0	2,400,000 (EU)	0	2,400,000	3.4
CLT	Support the Centre for the Restoration of Monuments for the preparation of their plan of activities (2014-2015)	CLT ER 1: Tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention	CLT MLA 1: Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of professionals from SEE trained <u>Target:</u> 20 professionals trained during the programming period	30,000	60,000 (Italy)	0	90,000	2.3
CLT	Support the safeguarding of the museum-city of Gjirokastra by restoring the house of writer Ismail Kadare and converting into a museum (2016)	CLT ER 1: Tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention	CLT MLA 1: Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of monuments within historical zone preserved <u>Target:</u> 1 monument restored and preserved	0	200,000 (Albania)	0	200,000	3.4

UNESCO Sector/ Programme	UNESCO activity (dates)	Expected results	UNESCO Main Line of Action (MLA)	Performance indicators and benchmark/targets	Est. RB funds (US\$)	Est. EXB funds and source (US\$)	Funds to be mobilized (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)	NEW GoA-UN PoC output
CLT	Community-based inventorying of the Intangible heritage conducted (November 2014)	CLT ER 6: National capacities strengthened and utilized to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, including indigenous and endangered languages, through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention	CLT MLA 2: Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Development and/or strengthening of national policies and human capacities in the field of intangible cultural heritage <u>Target:</u> Needs assessed and tentative work plan defined for implementation of future capacity-building actions	0	25,000 (Italy)	0	25,000	3.4
CLT/ED	Strengthen arts and cultural education in Albania (2015-2016)	CLT ER 7: National capacities strengthened and utilized for the development of policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions, through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention ED ER 1: National capacities strengthened to develop and implement policies and plans within a lifelong learning framework	CLT MLA 2: Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries ED MLA 1: Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Arts and culture mainstreamed within formal and informal educational programme. Trained delivered to relevant professionals and institutions <u>Target:</u> Educational curricula assessed and revised; capacities developed of relevant institutions and professionals in order to implement the revised curricula; coordination enhanced between relevant institutions.	0	0	650,000	650,000	2.2
CLT	Participation to regional cooperation platforms, activities and experts meeting organized within the framework of the Global Initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development" (ongoing)	CLT ER 5: Access to knowledge enhanced through the promotion of shared history and memory for reconciliation and dialogue	CLT MLA 1 Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development	<u>Performance Indicator:</u> Number of representatives from Albania participating in activities organized within the framework of the Global Initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development" <u>Target:</u> at least 1 representative from Albania participates in activities organized within the framework of the Global Initiative "Culture: a Bridge to Development"	15,000	15,000 (Italy)	0	30,000	3.4

UNESCO Sector/ Programme	UNESCO activity (dates)	Expected results	UNESCO Main Line of Action (MLA)	Performance indicators and benchmark/targets	Est. RB funds (US\$)	Est. EXB funds and source (US\$)	Funds to be mobilized (US\$)	Total Budget (US\$)	NEW GoA-UN PoC output
CLT	Participation to "Council of Ministers of Culture in South-Eastern Europe. Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development" (annually)	CLT ER 5: Access to knowledge enhanced through the promotion of shared history and memory for reconciliation and dialogue	CLT MLA 1 Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of representatives from Albania participating to the Council of Ministers of Culture in South-Eastern Europe. Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development <u>Target:</u> at least 1 representative from Albania participates to the Council of Ministers of Culture in South-Eastern Europe. Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development	15,000	15,000 (Italy)	0	30,000	3.4
CI / GE	Follow-up activities relating to the Gender-sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) (2014-2015)	CI ER 2: Pluralistic media institutions facilitated, including by adoption of gender-sensitive policies and through support for strengthened community media policy and practice, while citizens, and particularly youth, are empowered through enhanced media and information literacy (MIL) competencies	CI MLA 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of journalists trained on using the GSIM <u>Target:</u> 15 journalists trained by end-2015	10,000	10,000 (Coherence Fund)	10,000	30,000	3.2
SC / GE	Promotion of the meeting of the Albanian Women in Science Network (2014-2015)	SC ER 3: Mutual engagement of science with society reinforced to promote equity and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including SIDS and indigenous peoples	SC MLA 1: Strengthening STI policies, governance and the science-policy-society Interface	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of Albanian women scientists actively involved in the network <u>Target:</u> 30 Albanian women scientists actively involved in the network by end-2015	10,000	10,000 (Coherence Fund)	10,000	30,000	3.2
CI	Media Accountability in Southeast Europe (2014-2016)	Fostering attention to freedom of expression and reinforcement of media accountability and transparency in Albania	CI MLA 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of journalists trained and number of media accountability mechanisms created in Albania <u>Target:</u> At least 30 media professionals trained and 3 pilot-news ombudsmen created	0	50,000 (EU)	0	50,000	3.3

CI	Media and Information to enhance public responsibility of information use on and offline and to improve media self-regulation (2015-2016)	CI ER 2: Pluralistic media institutions are facilitated, including by adoption of gender-sensitive policies and through support for strengthened community media policy and practice, while citizens, and particularly youth, are empowered through enhanced media and information literacy (MIL) competencies	CI MLA 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions	<u>Performance indicator:</u> Number of citizens, teachers and journalist trained and steps taken to develop national MIL policies and strategies <u>Target:</u> 50 persons trained (30 women and 20 men) and 10 stakeholder groups actively involved in national consultation on MIL and policy advocacy	10,000	0	30,000	40,000	3.3
Totals					95,000	2,945,000	855,000	3,895,000	

PART IV: PARTNERSHIPS

UNESCO attaches high importance to its engagement in UNDAF and other common country programming activities, in particular in the light of the potential contributions to be offered by its fields of competence – education, sciences, culture and communication and information – towards poverty reduction, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.

The primary partner for UNESCO in the country is the National Commission of Albania for UNESCO, which was originally established in August 1959 and is comprised of:

- The General Assembly, which is composed of representatives from the Ministries of Education and Science, Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters who ensure the overall cooperation with the Albanian Government. In this framework, some of its members have been designated as focal points within an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) which was established in mid-2007 for participating in UN common country programming activities and especially in the process of the One UN Pilot;
- Seven sub-committees on education, natural sciences and technology, social and human sciences, culture and the arts, information and communication, youth and sports, women and development;
- A seven-member Executive Committee;
- The Secretariat.

These bodies ensure the overall cooperation with the Albanian Government. The Secretary-General of the National Commission periodically briefs the National Commission on the ongoing reform of the United Nations System and on UNESCO's decentralization approach and the Organization's main areas of competency.

It is very important that the National Commission and UNESCO Secretariat work hand-in-hand to mobilize interest within the Government regarding UNESCO's mandate and competences, particularly in cross-sectoral initiatives. Most of the decisions for funding from the Coherence Fund in Albania are taken by the output working groups, which meet with the line ministries in order to determine funding priorities. It is at this level where support is needed from our Government partners in order to ensure that UNESCO activities and commitments to the Government are adequately funded and prioritized.



It is important to note that the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed on 24 October 2008 between UNESCO and UNDP enhances the role of the Albanian National Commission through the One UN Programme. It breaks new ground by providing that Resident Coordinators may call on representatives of UNESCO's National Commissions in discussions on programming issues, especially in countries where UNESCO is a non-resident agency.

The National Commission has not been invited to sit at UNCT meetings. Nevertheless, its Secretary-General is regularly informed of the results of relevant discussions and negotiations by representatives of the UNESCO Venice Office. In addition, the Secretary-General of the Albanian National Commission represented the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the Programme Management Committee established for monitoring the MDG-F JP, and in this capacity offered needed expertise and provided feedback to the high-level representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the negotiation process and on the conclusions of the MDG-F joint programme for the promotion, preservation and protection of Albania's cultural heritage.

Other current key partners in Albania include:

- Office of the UN Resident Coordinator;
- UN Country Team members, particularly the agencies in which UNESCO cooperates in the framework of Joint Programming;
- Ministry of Culture;
- Ministry of Education and Sports;
- Ministry of Environment;
- University of Tirana;
- Institute of Cultural Monuments;
- National History Museum;
- Institute for Education Development;
- Ministry of Interior (Department of Civil Protection).

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE MEDIA


The UNESCO Venice Office actively promotes its activities in the country through local, national, and regional media outlets in order to achieve a better visibility of its work. The UNESCO Venice Office is regularly contacting journalists from all types of media by event, local and regional, and according to its needs. It has also established very good relationships with media related NGOs like the Albanian Media Institute (AMI), the Institute for Dialogue and Communication (IDC), Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations (AFALC), the Association of the Albanian Journalists.

The below table is a list of the national media regularly contacted with information about UNESCO activities in Albania and SEE.

Albanian Media Outlets		
Type	Name	Frequency
Newspaper	Gazeta Albania	Daily
	Gazeta Shqiptare	Daily
	SHQIP	Daily
	Koha Jone	Daily
	Klan	Daily
	Korrieri	Daily
	Shekulli	Daily
	Ballkan	Daily
	Albanian Daily News	Daily
News Agency	Albanian Telegraphic Agency	Daily
TV	RTSH	Daily
	TOP-CHANNEL	Daily
	VIZION +	Daily
	KOHA	Daily
Radio	Tirana	Daily
	Top Albania Radio	Daily

UNESCO also takes care to keep the UN Communications Officer within the UN Resident Coordinator's Office regularly informed about its activities in the country, as well as any partner agencies when activities are undertaken as part of a UN joint programme.

Cross-posting of news articles, vacancies, and calls for procurement between the different UN websites is standard practice.



For the future, UNESCO will seek to develop Memoranda of Understanding with the newspapers *Gazeta Albania* and *Korrieri*, TV networks *RTSH*, *TOP-CHANNEL*, *Klan* and *VISION+*; and the news agency *Albanian Telegraphic Agency*. These media outlet showed bigger interest in informing about UNESCO activities in Albania and the region which is worth recognition by the Organization. These media outlets have been the most receptive and responsive to the further dissemination of information on UNESCO activities. The general purpose of these partnerships would be to enhance public awareness of our message and activities through written and audio-visual products where the name and logo of UNESCO is present. The results of these partnerships would be measurable according to the area of collaboration (e.g. intangible cultural heritage) in terms of UNESCO name and logo exposure to the Media audience (statistical data) and comments by the readers/audience if any.





ANNEX 1: *REVISED* UN-GoA PoC RESULTS FRAMEWORK (2014-2016)



OUTCOME 1: Human Rights

Human Rights and gender equality considerations guide interactions between citizens and institutions.

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Fundamental Rights Index	2012 2014: 0.58	2016: 0.65	WJP: Rule of Law Index	Min of Social Welfare & Youth, Min of Justice	UN Women, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA
Extent to which justice system is affordable and accessible to women and men.	2012: 2014: 0.58	2016:	WJP: Rule of Law Index	Min of Justice	UN Women, UNDP, IOM
Number of cases brought to Anti-discrimination Office	2012: 104 complaints filed; 14 by the Commissioner herself.	2016: 600 report complaints filed and tracked sex disaggregated	Records of the Anti-Discrimination Office	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UN Women, UNDP, IOM

Output 1.1: Government of Albania meets its international human rights reporting obligations and application of normative standards through tracking implementation.

Albania adheres to international its human rights commitments, this includes normative reporting (CCR, CEDAW, CRPD, UN TIP Protocol, CPRMW) and contribution to periodic reviews, national tracking mechanisms, integration of recommendations in the NSDI and sectoral plans and effective ongoing dialogue to change practice.

Output Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Estimated degree of integration and implementation of normative reporting recommendations in policies and legislation	Con. Elim. Dis. Against Women: 30% Conv. Rights of Children: 20% Conv. Prot. Rights Migrant Workers, partial integration Family Planning HRP: 0% Conv. on Status of Refugees, Protocol on Status of Refugees: 40%	Con. Elim. Dis. Against Women: 70% Conv. Rights of Children: 70% Conv. Prot. Rights Migrant Workers, complete integration Family Planning HRP: 70% Conv. on Status of Refugees: 70%	Min of Social Welfare & Youth Min of Justice Min of Health Min of Interior	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UN Women, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR
Existence of national tracking mechanism to track Human Rights obligations.	zero	one	Min of Foreign Affairs, Min of Interior, Min of Social Welfare & Youth, Min of Justice	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM UNFPA

Output 1.2: The Ministry of Justice, state institutions and civil society channel public demand for justice and ensure support services are established and accessible to provide resolution.

State institutions raise awareness of duty bearers and rights holders, and duty bearers channel concerns, particularly in relation to women, girls and boys, supporting accountability of duty bearers and resolution to cases.

Output Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Number of Free Legal Aid cases annually supported by Government; noting women: man ratio	2012: zero 2014: zero	10 Ratio: at least 1:1	Min of Justice	Min of Justice	UNDP, UN Women
"Access" perception score	Baseline to be conducted in 2014		Annual Perception survey, on women and children's access to justice.	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR

Output 1.3: Mandated line ministries and state institutions ensure that their practices and policies effectively prevent and address violence (against women and children) in society.

Duty bearers and rights holders, pursue policy and its implementation in practice to prevent and address violence against women, children, migrants and marginalized groups; advocating for behavioral change and promoting social cohesion.

Output Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Existence of an obligatory core curriculum as part of professional education for police, social workers, health practitioners (doctors, nurses and others) and magistrates on all forms of violence against women and children and trafficking in human beings.	Police: No Social workers: No Health Practitioners: No Magistrates: Yes	Police: Yes Social workers: Yes Health Practitioners: Yes Magistrates: Yes	Records from ASP, Min of Social Welfare & Youth, Min of Health, School of Magistrates.	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UNDP, UN Women, WHO, UNFPA, IOM
Coverage / validity of mechanisms tracking, reporting and addressing violence against women and children.	Functioning CCR - 30% of municipalities	Functioning CCR - 50% of municipalities	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF
Proportion of men and women who think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable or tolerable	2013 perceptions from "Fjale Burri" study; 59% men & boys, 80% girls believe a man should never raise his hand against a woman.	65% of men & boys 85% of girls	"Perception Survey" Min of Social Welfare & Youth, INSTAT	Min of Social Welfare & Youth	UNDP, UN Women

**OUTCOME 2: Inclusive Social Policies
(covers Health, Education, Labour and Social Protection)**

The rights of individuals and groups are ensured through equitable, inclusive and evidence based sectoral policies.

UN agencies will assist the Government of Albania in designing and implementing a program of national reforms shaped by the country's international human rights commitments and European integration parameters. Equity and social inclusion are the cross-cutting considerations to guide the elaboration of sector-specific social policies, to ensure that Albania's growth and development model does not leave any population groups to perpetuated marginalization and hardship. Instead, the potential

of all members of Albanian society should be activated to benefit both individual and public wealth and prosperity.					
Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Sector-specific policies have explicit social inclusion targets	"X" policies out of "Z"	"Y" policies out of "Z"	Line ministries policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework	Line ministries and specialized bodies in health, education, labour, protection, urban development and agriculture sectors, INSTAT, professional associations, trade unions, CSOs, LGUs, PM's Office	WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNWOMEN, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNESCO
Social inclusion of Roma, Egyptians and other disadvantaged groups is increasingly achieved	Rated "2" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4) ¹	Rated at least "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	UN, EU and stakeholders qualitative assessment(s)		
Output 2.1: Health care policies and sector reform enabled towards equitable universal health coverage.					
The Government of Albania is rethinking its approach to public health care provision. UN agencies will assist national stakeholders in designing selected blocks of health care policies, with a special emphasis on access of particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups to quality health care services.					
Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
National policy addressing health inequities established and documented through functional health information system	Rated "2" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment	Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health, INSTAT, National Centre for Quality Safety and Accreditation of Health Institution, Health Insurance Fund, National Centre for Continuous Health Education, Mother Theresa University Hospital Center (MTUHC), civil society and nongovernmental organizations, associations of health care professionals, Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics (in	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, IAEA
Mechanisms established to ensure access and utilization of the Basic Package of Services (in line with evidence-based clinical guidelines and protocols)	Rated "2" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy documents and health sector strategy monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment		
Out-of-pocket health expenditures of private households as a proportion of total health expenditure	60%	40%	MoH policy documents, NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring framework, UN qualitative assessment, Ministry of Finance data, INSTAT		

¹ "1" – no progress or steps towards achieving the target are made; "2" – some limited and/or fragmented measures towards achieving the target are taken; "3" - consistent progress is made at systems level towards achieving the target; "4" – critical systemic changes are in place to ensure the target will be met.

Disease registries for NCDs(Cancer, CV, Diabetes) and rare diseases, established and functional	Rated “2” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoH policy document, MoH/MTUHC/IPH Cancer Registry, IAEA Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs), expert meetings and reports	collaboration with MTUHC as regards radiation safety infrastructure of hospital).	
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Output 2.2: Early childhood development and education policies ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for individuals and groups.

The Government of Albania acknowledges the critical importance of education for the country’s development and European integration agenda. The focus of UN agencies’ assistance is on early education which is perceived, especially in relation to marginalized children, as one of the most powerful social equalizers. The MoES will also be assisted in enriching school curricular with elements of life skills education on selected subjects.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2015	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
National ECD policy exists	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	Ministry of Education, Regional Education Directorates, Institute for Curricula and Development, Ministry of Health, Institute for Education Development, Parents Teachers Associations, Students’ Unions	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO
Policies and solutions developed to ensure equal access to KGs and pre-schooling across income quintiles	Rated “1” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated “3” (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoES policy and monitoring documents, LGUs administrative records	Ministries of Education, Finance and Social Welfare, Civil Registry Offices, LGUs, CSOs	
National comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education curricular is in line with international standards	No	Yes	MoES policy and monitoring documents	MoES, MoH, Institute for Education Development	

Output 2.3: Improved social dialogue leads to active employment and skills development policies and decent work for men and women.

The Government of Albania prioritizes the need to modernize its labour policies, to meet the ambition of the country’s economic development and European integration plans. UN assistance will be provided in establishing a social dialogue on labour issues, introducing active labour market measures and developing lifelong learning strategies, with a focus on equal opportunities for women throughout all the supported initiatives.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Social dialogue mechanism is established through meetings on National Labor Council	Once a year	Quarterly	MoSWY, specialized entities and NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring documents	MoSWY, National Employment Service, Labor Inspectorate, National Agency for VET, Trade Unions , Business Associations/ Employers Organizations	ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, IOM
# of active labour market measures implemented (including the ones targeting women and rural populations)	6 (vulnerable groups, youth, women, apprenticeships, recent graduates, disability)	8 (6 from above + entrepreneurship, rural)	MoSWY, specialized entities and NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring documents		

Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs introduced that ensure equal opportunities, with special orientation towards lifelong learning skills, for urban and rural communities	No	Yes	MoSWY and specialized entities monitoring documents and reports		
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Output 2.4: Social protection and inclusion mechanisms ensure that social needs of the disadvantaged individuals and groups are equally met.

The Government of Albania is in the process of reforming the national welfare system based on a combination of *cash* allowances and *care* services. The UN agencies' combined expertise will be offered to institutionalize and strengthen the profession of "social work", promote non-residential forms of care, optimize social protection budgets, develop sub-contracting modalities for NGO service providers and expand social housing measures – while targeting specifically the most marginalized groups and individuals. National framework for inclusive social policies to be explicitly formulated and monitored *across* multiple sectors will be supported.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
A system of social care services is in place	Rated "1" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoSWY and State Social Services (SSS) policy and monitoring documents	MoSWY, State Social Services, Ministries of Finance, Local Government Affairs and other line ministries, civil society organizations, Local Governance Units, Regional Councils	UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, IOM
Social inclusion coordinating and monitoring system is in place	Rated "1" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	Rated "3" (based on estimated rating from 1 to 4)	MoSWY, other concerned entities and NSDI 2015-2020 monitoring documents	Same as above; coordinating structures of the PM's Delivery Unit	

OUTCOME 3: Governance and Rule of Law

The Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key factors of exclusion of women

Outcome Indicator	Baseline 2012	Target 2015	Source of Data	Implementing Partners	UN Agencies
Open Budget Index Score	UNDP 47 in 2012 Open Budget Survey 2012	UNDP 60	UNDP Open Budget Survey 2014	DDPFFA (coordinating outcome partner) Delivery Unit of the Prime Ministry of the GoA	UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNHCR, UNIDO (esp. re economic governance), UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UNECE, UNCTAD, IOM,
Sector policies that include an evidence-based statement on gender inequality in relevant sector and provides for measures to combat it.	1	4	UN Women		
TI Corruption Index	CPI: 31 (2013)	CPI: 50	Transparency International		

Output 3.1: Parliament and electoral institutions have the capacity to perform core functions

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing Partners	UN Agencies
Public perception of trust in					UNDP, UNICEF,

parliament; EMBs; political parties ²	To be determined	To be determined in 2014/2015	Public Perception Survey ³	CEC (lead) Secretariat of the Parliament (GS) Political Parties Civil Society	UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNFPA
No. of parliamentary sessions / hearings for oversight of international and national human rights and gender equality obligations ⁴	2 topics on child rights and gender equality	3 discussions in parliamentary standing committees per topic	UNWOMEN records		

Output 3.2: Line ministries and public service delivery institutions are able to mainstream gender and conduct gender responsive planning and budgeting and evidence-based policy making at all levels

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing Partners	UN Agencies
Number of national policies with gender specific objectives and indicators	1	4	Department for Development Planning, Financing, and Foreign Aid (DDPFFA) and Delivery Unit (DU)	Ministry of Social Affairs and Youth (Lead) Multiple line ministries and public service delivery institutions	UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNESCO
Number of ministries and public institutions with gender equality objectives and targets in national planning and budgeting	0	6	MTBP		

Output 3.3: State, market, non-state institutions enabled to deliver their statutory mandates, prevent corruption; enforce rule of law

Adoption of standards, institutionalized systems and incentives for the reduction of corruption and stronger legislative, **civil society and public awareness and oversight**. Work will include **economic actors** as well as areas such as public procurement and key service delivery sectors, including non-distributive sectors such as judiciary, state police, national coordinators of anti-trafficking, asylum, fight against corruption etc. This are also includes the institutions and organizations that safeguard economic transactions by protecting property rights, enforcing contracts, and organizing collective action to set the rules, regulations, and information that are needed to lend feasibility or workability to the interactions among different economic actors, individual and corporate.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing Partners	UN Agencies
Perception of trust / satisfaction in public service delivery institutions (e.g. business licensing, judiciary, investment agencies, health, education) ⁵	To be determined	To be determined In 2014/2015	Public Perception Survey	National Coordinator for Anti-Corruption (lead) Ministry of Interior (lead) Ministry of Justice (lead) Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth Line Ministries as relevant	UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNESCO, UNECE, UNCTAD, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF, UNIDO
Percentage of migrants and asylum seekers receiving protection and integration services	20% (2013, asylum seekers and refugees) 4% of returning migrants contacted	50% 100%	National Employment Service (annual statistical analysis of Migration Counters)		

² Subject to further investments by the UN system.

³ Subject to further investments by the UN system.

⁴ Cross reference to Human Rights Outcome / Outputs.

⁵ Subject to further investments by the UN system.

	Migration Counters during 2012-2013	20%	INSTAT-IOM national survey on return migration		
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Output 3.4: Line Ministries ensure and enforce the conservation, sustainable use of public goods.

(Public goods and common goods: the air we breathe, cultural heritage, natural heritage, biodiversity, recreational areas, coasts, parks, urban spaces etc.)

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing Partners	UN Agencies
Percentage of protected areas with management plans and administrative structure in place (Proxy indicator for public / common good protection)	17%	25%	National Reports to the Convention on the Biological Biodiversity http://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04	Ministry of Environment (lead) Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Urban Dev and Tourism	UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO (esp. re economic governance), UNESCO, UNEP, UNECE, FAO

OUTCOME 4: Regional and Local Development

Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Decentralizations strategy adopted and commences implementation	Baseline: Policy being formulated	Policy adopted	UNDP Monitoring	Minister of Local Issues (Coordinating) Outcome partner	UNDP, UNWOMEN, ILO, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF

Output 4.1: State institutions at regional and local levels have the capacity to implement rural development and modernization of the agricultural sector

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Percentage of female beneficiaries of extension services.	10%		Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020	Ministry of Agriculture (lead)	UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDO, FAO, IFAD
Productivity in agro-processing given by Gross Value Added / Agricultural Working Units (GVA/AWU)	5,010,105 ALL	7,000,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020		
Labour productivity in the agricultural sector	447,000 ALL	715,000 ALL	Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020		

Output 4.2: Local Government Units and governance institutions have the technical, financial and human resources to deliver equitable public and administrative services for men and women and render account.

Achieving gender equality results, mitigating vulnerabilities through local governance practices of deepened democracy, effectiveness / efficiency and partnerships with civil society both in service delivery but also in watchdog functions. This output represents UN work towards increasing vertical and horizontal integration of Government as well as ensuring that local government units contribute to and are part of EU accession processes including increasing EU presence / funding at local levels.

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
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Proportion of Local Government Units using Community Based Scorecards to chart the experiences of their citizens (proxy for local participatory democracy)	13 LGU (communes and municipalities)	26 LGU	Community Based Scorecards (UNWOMEN records)	Ministry of Local Issues (lead)	UNWOMEN, UNDP
Ratio of total social/investment/service expenditure to total LGU expenditure (management efficiency ratio)(Proxy for effectiveness and local technical, fin. HR capacity)	32%	35%	Ministry of Finance		
Share of local revenue collection to total revenue (revenue collection efficiency ratio)	49%	53%	Ministry of Finance		

Output 4.3: National and sub-national government units have the capacity to generate and strengthen investments, employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for youth and women.

(Including *institutions for job creating investments*, enabling job creating trade, local investment climate/competitiveness local private sector development, joint ventures etc. financing frameworks for employment creating investments, e.g. organized industrial parks etc.; area based development work; incubation; entrepreneurship; link to employment policy dimension covered in the Social Inclusion Outcome)

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Net number of new enterprises created / proportion owned by women.	8650 (2013)	10000 Gov. target w %5 increase	QKR – National Registry	Ministry of Economy (lead)	UNDP, UNWOMEN, ILO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNECE, IOM, UNIDO

Output 4.4: Key ministries and local authorities adopt local, regional and national action on climate change adaptation (including short term e.g. DRR) and mitigation across sectors

Output Indicator	Baseline	Target 2016	Source of Data	Implementing partners	UN Agencies
Number of sectors mainstreaming CC mitigation / adaptation measures	0	2	CC National Communications http://unfccc.int/essential_background/library/items/3599.php?such=j&symbol=ALB/COM/2%20E#beg	Ministry of Energy (lead) Ministry of Environment CC Focal Point (co-lead)	UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Office in Venice

Palazzo Zorzi, Castello 4930
30122 Venice (Italy)

Mail: veniceoffice@unesco.org

Tel: + 39 041 260.15.11

Website: www.unesco.org/venice