

UNESCO Country Programming Document for

ALBANIA

2009-2010

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
PART I: SITUATION ANALYSIS	7
PART II: PROGRESS IN DELIVERING AS ONE	11
PART III: PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION	15
PART IV: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING UNESCO.....	22
PART V: PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS	23
ANNEX: UN SYSTEM CAPACITY AND THE DaO COHERNECE TOOLS	27
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	28

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's priorities and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (2006-2010) and as per the on-going joint programming process within the context of the 'Delivering as One Initiative.' It also focuses on how the Organization can assist the country in attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in meeting its international commitments.

This UCPD-Albania 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) over the years 2007-2010, 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.

Delivering as One in Albania

Following the request made by the Prime Minister in December 2006, Albania was selected in January 2007 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, such as One UN Programme, One Budgetary Framework, One Leader and One Office.

In Albania, much progress has been made in achieving the 4 "Ones". A One UN Programme has been developed to enhance development results and impact by bringing together the comparative advantages of the UN system within a single strategic programme. This Programme is designed to support the European integration and development goals of Albania while complementing the assistance provided by other multilateral and bilateral development partners.

A cornerstone of the One UN Programme 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. WHO recently joined the eleven UN agencies (FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNV) who initially signed up to the One UN programme, which was signed with the Government of Albania on 24 October 2007, following intensive consultations between UN Agencies, the Government of Albania, and donors and civil society.

To further accelerate coherence, efficiency and delivery at the country level, the One UN approach calls for un-earmarked commitments to the new 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. This Fund was established with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among participating Agencies in the One UN Programme for the administration of funds on 7 November 2007.

The total budget of the One UN Programme for 2007-2010 currently stands at US\$ 82 million. The estimated funding gap of the One UN Programme (2007-2010), which was US\$ 35 million at the time of its signature, has since been reduced to US\$ 19 million. This reduction is attributed to the contributions made to date to the Coherence Fund, and includes funds allocated to the joint programmes, as well as from other funds, mainly bi-lateral. As of November 2008, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria have provided funding to the One UN Coherence Fund. A draft resource mobilization strategy has been developed to identify the best options for mobilizing funds to the One UN Coherence Funds and for joint programmes.

The One UN Programme is being implemented in a collaborative manner under the strategic leadership of the Government of Albania, and by an empowered UN Resident Coordinator.

Regarding the One UN House, the target is that all resident agencies will have acquired accommodation in the One UN House.

Source: One United Nations Programme Albania: Programme Framework Document 2007-2010, and UN Albania Newsletter, November 2008.

The priority areas selected for inclusion in the One UN Programme are based on the existing priorities identified in the UNDAF 2006-2010, with two new key areas of focus added at the request of the Government. These are (i) gender equality and (ii) environmental management. The five priority areas that have been defined in the One UN Programme as areas where impact and development effectiveness could be further improved include:

- More transparent and accountable governance
- Greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making
- Increased and more equitable access to quality basic services
- Regional development to reduce disparities
- Environmentally sustainable development.

In all five priority areas, the core principles of gender equality and development of national capacity will be upheld and incorporated throughout the implementation of the One UN Programme. Achievable outcomes for these priority areas have been defined for the period 2007-2010, to be realized as far as possible through the implementation of eight joint programmes (JPs): (i) HIV/AIDS; (ii) Support to Minority Rights and Roma; (iii) Environment; (iv) Gender Equality; (v) Culture and Development; (vi) Economic Governance; (vii) Youth, Employment and Migration, and (viii) Regional Development.

Since November 2008, five JPs have been signed with the Government of Albania on Gender Equality, Culture and Development, Economic Governance, Youth Employment and Migration, and Regional Development. These JPs were developed by the UN team, together with the Government and other national partners. They are primarily funded by the Spanish MDG Fund, the European Commission, and the One UN Coherence Fund. In addition to the JPs, the One UN Programme has also been supporting the government to carry out statistical surveys, such as the Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). These surveys will provide quality data on poverty among the regions of the country and on population, health and nutrition. The data will then be used to steer national policymaking, and to target the programmes of UN agencies in the area of social exclusion.

Drawing on the resources of the One UN Coherence Fund, the UN is also promoting the modernization of Albania's administration and education system by supporting the establishment of the National Agency on Information Society, which sets the standards and procedures for Information and Communication Technology. Support is also being provided to the e-schools programme, which will equip all primary and secondary schools in Albania with computer labs by the end of 2008.

From the outset of the One UN Programme planning process, UNESCO has been taking part in the discussions as a non-resident specialized agency through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE), which is located in Venice. Within the framework of the One UN Programme, UNESCO has acquired an important and recognized role in science and research governance, environment and water management, cultural heritage preservation, and cultural tourism. There are however other areas in which UNESCO is engaged, particularly at the regional-level, that could be further enhanced so as to accelerate the realization of Albania's national development goals and its commitments to the MDGs, in collaboration and harmony with the other UN Agencies.

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

Country Assessment

Over the past few years, Albania has achieved high economic growth and has enjoyed macroeconomic stability. Macroeconomic reforms in Albania have contributed to growth, poverty reduction and moderate inflation. Annual growth rates have averaged 6% since 1998, and the poverty rate has fallen by seven percent over the past three years. Average annual income has risen from US\$ 1,390 in 2002 to US\$ 2,580 in 2005 (GNI per capita), but it remains among the lowest in Europe.

According to the LSMS conducted in 2005, the number of people below the national poverty line fell from 25.4% of the population in 2002 to 18.5% in 2005, with the MDG target of 13% by 2015. The population living below the \$1 per day international poverty line was 3.5%. The estimated size of the informal economy ranges from 30 to 50 percent of GDP.

In 2005, Albania's population was 3.1 million, representing a 6% decline from the 2000 population of about 3.3 million. Children and young people represent 46% of the population, making Albania one of the youngest countries in Europe. Within the country, urban population accounts for 65% of total population, up from 56% in 1990.

Despite the remarkable progress achieved in recent years, however, large disparities among various regions of the Albanian territory are still prevailing, in particular between the rural and the urban areas. Poverty is 66% higher in rural areas than in Tirana and 50% higher in rural areas than in other major urban centres. Necessary infrastructures (roads, water, electricity, etc.) are largely not functional or poorly maintained in the rural areas thus hampering the efforts of citizens to establish sustainable livelihoods.

Albania's ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI) has moved from 92nd in 2000 to 73rd in 2006. Similarly, the Gender related Development Index (GDI) placed Albania 77th in 2000 and by 2005, it had moved up to the 59th position. In 2005, the labour force participation rate in Albania was 61.5% (73% men and 50% women for the 15-59 age group). The rather low youth employment rate (37.1%) suggests that young people in Albania face additional barriers and constraints in accessing the labour market.

Albania is considered a low HIV prevalence country based on the number of diagnosed and reported cases. In a progress report to the UN General Assembly in 2008, Albania reported having 255 AIDS cases since 1993. Nevertheless the number of new infections is rising and the estimates show a high number of undiagnosed cases.

Albania is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration. With the assistance of the UN and other donors, progress has been made in achieving most of the country's MDGs and it will likely meet most of the targets by 2015, except for access to water and the realization of gender equality. These are two areas where more national attention and action, including increased funding, are required. The provision of other basic services also requires increased funding, particularly as regards to the health sector. The establishment of conservative national MDG targets may soon require the introduction of new and more ambitious targets related to poverty and other indicators to strengthen the social dimension of the EU accession process. In areas such as education, there is a continued risk of exclusion of certain "at risk" groups such as the poorest families, those in remote locations and Roma. Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, with 24.7% of Albania's children falling below the poverty line, which is approximately 30% higher than the national average for all age groups.

In recent years, there has been increasing pressures on the environment, which are largely related to rapid growth that is not particularly well planned. These pressures include 1) loss of biodiversity; 2) inherited historical pollution; 3) overexploitation of natural resources; 4) damage to natural and urban environments; 5) unsustainable consumption patterns, and 6) lack of economic incentives for the preservation, development and utilization of natural resources. The consequence of exposure to these environmental hazards is taking a toll on the health of the population, with a disproportionate impact on the poor.

Albania's overall situation can be explained in part by the legacies of the previous command economy: excessive centralization and politicization of decision-making, weaknesses in the development and enforcement of regulation, serious gaps in national human resources capacities, a weak civil service, and the persistence of organized crime and a large informal economy.

Pertinent development issues

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, one of the more significant of which was the adoption in September 2007 of a national plan for the implementation of the European Partnership. The SAA, along with the decision to join NATO and the preparation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), define the framework for the nation's medium and longer-term development.

The NSDI sets out Albania's national development and EU accession priorities over the seven-year period 2007-2013. 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, One UN Programme, and the management of public investment and external assistance. Strategies are now developed for some 20 sectors and 11 crosscutting sectors. The One UN Programme fits within this overall national reform to align external assistance to national plans and to the medium-term budget.

The following highlight the Government's development policies and programmes in several specific areas of relevance for UNESCO¹.

More transparent and accountable governance

European and Euro-Atlantic integration, along with comprehensive, rapid and sustainable growth, remain overarching goals for Albania. Consequently, socio-economic development, strategic planning, sound public finance and external assistance management, anti-corruption, powered by an increased use of Information and Communication Technology for development, represent major national priorities.

Poverty eradication

Although poverty figures have improved in recent years, approximately 3.5% of Albanians continue to live in extreme poverty (less than \$1 per day). There are significant disparities between urban and rural areas. The Government is addressing regional disparities and the needs of vulnerable groups through new strategies at the national level.

Improvement of pre-university education

Public expenditure in education reached an all time low of 2.5% of GDP in 2001. Since that time, public expenditure in education has been increasing and reached 3.25% in 2007. However, this is still below the recommended level of 4%, and continued low investment in education has led to declines in education quality. The pre-school budget makes up only 4.5% of the total budget of the Ministry of Education and Science. One third of Albanian children in compulsory school have a poor achievement record. The lack of Early Childhood Development (ECD) 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.

¹ Information presented in the following sections is based on and extracted from recent assessments of specific MDGs in Albania; see United Nations in Albania web site: <http://www.un.org.al/subindex.php?faq=details&id=14&mnu=15>.

Albania's school system needs major investment and reforms related to infrastructure, curricula and teaching methods, qualification of teachers, modern equipment and sanitation facilities. Enrolment rates are particularly low among marginalized groups such as Roma and children with disabilities. Emerging evidence suggests falling participation in education among the poor due to closure of many preschools and secondary vocational schools, declining education quality, increasing poverty rates, and fees for many education-related services. Net enrolment for grades one to four (89%) and grades one to eight (94%) show that Albania is not on track to meet its MDG targets and corrective actions are needed.

Selective basic education system performance targets

Performance indicator	2006	2012	EU 2004
School expectancy for five-year olds (years)	11.1	14	17.4
Average annual total compulsory instruction time for 7-8 year olds (hours)	570	660	750
Net enrolment rate in secondary education (%)	55	75	85
Percentage of females aged 15-24 years in education and training (%)	33	50	66
Total public expenditure on education as share of total public expenditure (%)	10.7	12.0	10.8
Share of total education expenditure allocated to recurrent non-salary purposes (%)	10.0	13.0	19.9
Average number of 15-year old students per computer in public sector schools	900	100	10
Mean performance of students aged 15 years on PISA mathematics literacy scale	381	425	495

Source: Results Framework and Monitoring (Annex 3) in 'Project Appraisal Document for an Education Excellence and Equity Project', World Bank, May 2006.

The Ministry of Education and Science is implementing the National Strategy on Pre-University Education for the period 2004-2015, which addresses many of these challenges. More international assistance is needed in this area; in particular, there's need to assist the Government in designing and putting in place a monitoring system with effective indicators to better measure and track quality education.

Reform of higher education and research

Albania has adopted a new law on higher education which opens up opportunities for important developments, such as giving universities academic and organizational freedom as well as financial autonomy. In addition, a working group has been established to lead the work for the implementation of the Bologna process. 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.

The system of scientific research is currently being reformed. Now research institutes are being integrated into universities so as to provide new direction to the development of research. In order to boost scientific research, specific curricula needs to be developed that is dedicated to training in research and aiming at increasing the competences and abilities of students for scientific research. In addition, further investment is needed to establish scientific laboratories in universities given the needs to renovate and enrich the scientific infrastructure.

Promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality

Progress has been made over the years in tackling the issues of domestic violence and women's political participation. In 2006, the Government of Albania adopted the country's first legislation on

domestic violence. Current focus is 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. One of the key priorities of the strategy is the need to eliminate gender gaps in education through ensuring equal access for girls and women to quality education and improvement of teaching programmes and textbooks which promote gender equality.

Combating HIV/AIDS

Based on reported prevalence of HIV and cases of HIV/AIDS, Albania is a low prevalence country. However, as in other eastern European countries, these figures can rise rapidly. Data shows that the risk of HIV transmission among injection drug users, homosexuals, the Roma community, and commercial sex workers is high. The National AIDS Programme is responsible for coordinating and implementing all HIV and AIDS related activities within the country, guided by the Strategy for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS in Albania (2004-2010). However, more efforts need to be directed towards prevention, particularly through the design and implementation of HIV education prevention programmes.

Ensuring environmental sustainability

Albania is rich in biological diversity and natural resources. However, 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.

Progress in environmental management and the legal framework in Albania regarding environmental issues is already quite comprehensive. However, increased legal, institutional, human capacities and funding are necessary to meet the levels appropriate for EU integration.

Information and Communication Technology

Albania's connection to the world has improved through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The number of Albanian Internet users has increased from 0.1 percent of the population in 2000 to 15 percent in 2006, while the number of Albanians with fixed telephone lines and mobile phones has increased from 1.4% in 1995 to 49.3% of the population in 2004.

The Government has identified ICT as a crucial enabler for the social and economic development of the country. In line with the National ICT Strategy and with support from the UN, the Government Electronic Network (GovNet) and e-Accounting projects aim to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies to Government institutions and their clients. The e-Schools project aims at reducing the "digital divide" through setting-up computer labs in all public schools in Albania. It is also moving towards increasing the effectiveness of the public administration through implementation of the national ICT strategy. Strengthening of the newly created National Agency for Information Society (NAIS), a wireless broadband network providing subsidized access to all public institutions in the country, government e-services and initiatives, remain the main areas of e-governance.

Culture and Development

The Government has also identified culture as an important vector for promoting pro-poor policies and socio-economic development. As such, the UN is assisting the Government in strengthening its national capacities in the field of culture and development, and articulating Albania's cultural identity and heritage for the promotion of the country's image abroad. Furthermore, the UN is providing policy advice and training for the development of capacities in the field of the protection, promotion and management of cultural assets, safeguarding of the most valuable cultural heritage monuments and sites, and strengthening the cultural industries sector for socio-economic development and achievement of the MDGs.

PART II: PROGRESS IN DELIVERING AS ONE²

Achievements of “Delivering as One UN” during the first year of UNESCO’s involvement

Four Joint Programmes (JPs) were formulated, signed and launched during 2008. These included the JPs on Culture and Development, Youth Employment and Migration, Gender Equality and Economic Governance. A total of seven agencies are participating. Joint Programmes on Roma and Minority Rights, Environment and Child Nutrition were formulated and await funding.

A key achievement in 2008 was the creation, refinement, and smooth functioning of the One UN Programme Governance system. The governance system is composed of a number of existing national bodies, documents and institutions. The Joint Executive Committee, the Programme Working Groups, together with the M&E Framework, the funding allocation criteria, the One Fund and the working principles, form a coherent system which gives the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT and the Government a clear oversight on what is happening in the “Delivering as One UN” process. This, in turn, has contributed to strengthened national leadership and ownership.

Fundamental to UN reform has been the evolution of a stronger, more unified UN Country Team (UNCT). Agencies’ actions and behavior in 2008 under the One UN Programme and the JPs show that agencies have put on par the importance of agencies’ remits, and UNCT priorities and attitudes are shifting from agency focus to a more UNCT focus.

Improved coordination and increased joint programming under the five main pillars have resulted in improved impact and awareness among direct beneficiaries (civil society organizations and Government) on key policy issues and strategies. For example, the UN team has expanded the definition of “social inclusion” to go beyond the European Commission’s interpretation to encompass nationally relevant priorities. Through strengthened and collective focus on “participation”, the UN has adopted a more cohesive approach to HRBA, recognizing that while agencies’ approaches may differ, HRBA is a priority for all members.

Throughout all five pillars of the One UN Programme, capacity development and gender equality remain core principles. Participating agencies agreed to adopt a common approach to capacity development throughout the implementation of the Programme.

One UN Programme and strategic positioning of the UN in Albania

Joint Programmes allowed for rationalization of the division of labor among agencies under one management structure and coordination, thereby reducing transaction costs. Each JP has a lead UN Agency which brings together the expertise of other agencies. For example, in the past, four agencies were working on gender equality separately in Albania; now these agencies are working together under the JP on Gender Equality, with leadership roles specified under outcome areas, based on agencies’ expertise. In Albania, JPs are implemented as a single programme under the overall guidance of a Programme Coordinator or a Chief Technical Advisor, with matrix reporting lines for staff of individual agencies. This approach avoids the problem of having compartmentalized mini-projects which run in parallel and independently of each other.

Under the One UN Programme, out of a total budget of US\$ 22 million for 2008, UN agencies delivered approximately US\$ 15 million, representing a delivery rate of approximately 70%.

Programme Working Groups (PWGs) became operational for each of the five pillars of the One UN Programme with UNEP as a non-resident agency leading the environment pillar. This called for innovative approaches to communication with the creation of a virtual team and increased use of video conferencing. PWGs coordinate with national sector groups to provide optimal support within the One UN Programme and to avoid duplication with other international partners. A strategic and

² Information is based on and extracted from: *Delivering as One United Nations in Albania – Stocktaking Report 2008*, March 2009, prepared by the UN Team and the Government of Albania.

results based, 2008 One UN Work plan was developed, in close collaboration with line ministries and with guidance from the Inter-ministerial working group (IMWG)³, which convened to rank the most urgent priorities for funding. The work plan was costed and linked to the budgetary framework as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework and hence, serves as a management and monitoring tool for UNCT with the PWGs playing a key role in monitoring the progress of planned results.

A UN interagency Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Group was established and developed a Monitoring and Evaluation framework, which was adopted in early 2009. The framework is linked to existing Government reporting requirements and global aid-effectiveness targets and defines outcome indicators and means of verification for the entire programme period.

One Budgetary Framework and One Fund

The establishment of a single budgetary framework and the One UN Coherence Fund allows for a transparent overview of the UN's financial resources and gaps in the country and provides an opportunity for international partners to channel resources to a single pooled fund, thereby simplifying and harmonizing resource management.

The Joint Executive Committee (JEC), co-chaired by the UNRC and the Government, reviews and approves One UN Coherence Fund allocation and acts much like a programme board for the One UN programme. During 2008, the JEC allocated US\$ 3.7 million from the Coherence Fund. Allocations were made according to agreed funding allocation criteria, which provide clear guidance on how the JEC should distribute available resources and what activities are eligible for funding. Spain, Norway, Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands have all contributed resources to the Coherence Fund. Given the limited amount of resources pledged to the Coherence Fund, the UN team, together with the Government, has allowed earmarked contributions to Joint Programmes and thematic areas.

One set of management practices

To support the expected increase in joint procurements, an Inter-Agency Local Procurement Advisory Committee (LPAC) was set up to act as an "advisory body" to the Resident Coordinator and UNCT on UN procurement matters related to common services. The interagency LPAC also ensures that the procurement and contract actions are transparent and in accordance with UN financial regulations and rules.

In 2008, UN agencies in Albania adopted a harmonized rate for national consultants. This was the result of an analysis of existing disparities among rates applied by agencies for consultants with similar level of expertise and seniority.

Focus on increased use of common services was a priority, especially within the context of implementation of Joint Programmes. Two Long Term Agreements (LTAs) were signed for translation and interpretation services. In addition, a tendering process for additional LTAs was completed for printing, travel, and mobile communications.

Communicating as One

A United Nations Communications Group made up of Communications officers from the participating resident and non resident agencies was established, and a unified communications and advocacy strategy was drafted and began implementation. The communications strategy aims at promoting "Delivering as One UN" in Albania by speaking as one. It aims to raise awareness regarding UN reform, its impact in Albania and its contribution to Albanian national priorities. It also aims at increasing the visibility and profile of the United Nations by focusing on substance and results.

In 2008, joint communications focused on giving key stakeholders compelling messages about the One UN Programme, the UN's role in the country, the concrete results that the UN delivers and its lasting impact on sustainable human development. This included the development of a dedicated web

³ The Inter-ministerial working group is composed of Secretary Generals of line ministries representing the primary counterparts of participating UN Agencies.

site to promote the UN in Albania, which has been a useful tool for agencies to promote their activities in a unified way. The extensive communications and media work generated many positive news stories about the One UN concept and programme.

To present the values and the goals of the “Delivering as One UN” initiative with impact and distinction, aiming to achieve positive recognition and easy retention, a branding exercise was carried out during the year. The new visual identity is designed to create a consistent, strong Programme-wide identity as well. The new brand is used in all joint communications.

One Leader: Enhanced role of UN Resident Coordinator and an empowered UN Country Team

The “Delivering as One” initiative encouraged innovative ways of working together where new ways of collaborating were introduced into all aspects of “Delivering as One”, i.e. One Programme, One Fund, One Leader/One Team, One set of management practices and One Communications. The difference in the way the UNCT in Albania works through “Delivering as One UN” is notable. Each member of the UN team has taken on key responsibilities to deliver as ‘One’ above and beyond their agency specific work. This has enriched the process and contribution of the team to common joint initiatives, such as the M&E Group, the Operations Management Team as well as leadership of the programme working groups (PWGs).

In June 2008, all participating UN agencies agreed and adopted a set of Working Principles which defines mutual accountability for the UNCT and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). This document laid the basis for a coherent and constructive working environment which responds to the principle of a stronger UNRC and an empowered country team.

The enhanced role of the UNRC in shaping the One UN Programme with the Government on behalf of the UN system and in guiding the strategic development of Joint Programmes and resource mobilization efforts has been recognized and appreciated by national and international partners and participating UN Agencies. The UNRC is called on to advocate for and to represent the broader UN agenda. The arrival of a UNDP Country Director to manage the day-to-day operations of UNDP Albania allowed the UNRC to devote undivided attention and time to the UN system and to provide strategic guidance on implementation of the One UN Programme.

Increased national leadership, ownership, and alignment with national priorities and development strategies

The Government showed increased ownership of the One UN Programme throughout 2008. As co-chair of the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) of the One UN Programme, the Government is more engaged in the decision making of fund allocation to the One UN Programme. This is one example of Government’s increased leadership of UN assistance in the country. The Government also increasingly guides UN Agencies on where they see their contribution and where UN agencies are best suited to address national priorities, in line with the UN’s comparative advantage. The emergence of strong ownership and leadership helps to ensure that external assistance is closely aligned with national priorities as defined in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2007-2013 and to avoid overlapping among donors. This requires the Government to make tough decisions at times, on where they see the UN working best. At a more strategic level, the Government wanted to review and make an assessment of the first year experience of implementation of the One UN Programme prior to inviting new agencies to join the One UN Programme.

The Government Modernization Committee (GMC), which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, is the highest decision making authority for monitoring progress and ensuring coordination of the One UN Programme in the country. After a consultation process with line ministries and the inter-ministerial working group – composed of line Ministries Secretary-Generals – the GMC decides on the requests that the Government of Albania will present for the final approval of the JEC.

The Government places high importance and actively works on the implementation of the Paris and Accra agendas. At the Third High-Level Forum on Aid-Effectiveness held in Accra in September 2008, Albania's progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration was highlighted, especially for indicators related to increased national ownership and leadership and increased alignment of external assistance with national plans. The Government sees the delivering as One UN effort contributing to this progress – as the One UN Programme better aligns activities with national priorities and its delivery mechanism is harmonized across participating UN agencies.

The Delivering as One (DaO) initiative and its tools and mechanisms such as the budgetary framework and One UN Programme Work Plan provides a clear overview of UN's work and resource allocation which helps the Government in its effort to strengthen and harmonize donor assistance. Although much still remains to be done in terms of using national financial system, the coordination role of the Government has been strengthened vis-à-vis the UN family.

In 2008, the regular contacts and communication between the Resident Coordinator and her office with the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) grew into a stable channel of interaction for matters related to the One UN Programme. The Office of the Resident Coordinator is increasingly used as a one-stop-shop for the Government for broader UN system support.

Involvement of line ministries

The involvement of line ministries in the DaO initiative was mixed, depending on their varying capacities. Ministries with strong and strategic leadership were more involved and led prioritization of UN's work. Overall coordination on the Government's side was conducted by DSDC, which consults regularly with line ministries on on-going and up-coming activities. Line Ministries involved in UN Joint Programmes started to change their attitude and began working with the various agencies involved as part of a single entity. Increasingly, ministries no longer contact agencies individually with various requests, as was the custom until last year, but approach the UN system through either the Resident Coordinator's Office or the lead agency of the Joint Programme with a single request. Another positive and unanticipated development stemming from increased UN coordination has been an increased coordination among line ministries. They are required to work together much more now under JPs than ever before.

To increase leadership of line ministries in the One UN Programme, the UN team and the Government agreed for relevant line ministries to participate in Programme Working Groups. Furthermore, attempts will also be made in 2009 to better link the Programme Working Groups to the donor coordination mechanisms under the Council of Ministries.

Contribution of Delivering as One process to capacity development efforts

Capacity development is at the core of the UN system's work in the country. Capacity development efforts focus on ensuring Albanian institutions and public administration are prepared for EU integration. UNDP's National Human Development Report this year focuses on Capacity Development for EU integration. It is expected to be used as a policy document for further discussion and follow up by the UNCT.

PART III: PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION

Culture and Development

UNESCO-BRESCE has a long history of working with the Government of Albania to protect its rich cultural heritage, to promote culture as a vector for development and as a means for enhancing regional cooperation among countries in South-East Europe, and to promote intercultural and inter-religious dialogue as a means of contributing to peace and stability in the region.



Centre for restoration and conservation of monuments in Tirana

Within the One UN Programme, UNESCO is responsible for leading a joint UN joint programme together with UNDP on Culture and Development: “Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development”. This JP is being funded by the Spanish Government through its MDG Achievement Fund. It aims to preserve, protect and promote Albania’s cultural heritage and support Albania’s participation in the Alliance of Civilizations. The JP focuses on the promotion of cultural tourism and aims at creating added values for the heritage sites of Albania. The execution of this programme was formulated in close consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It concentrates in particular on such transformative activities as: the conversion of the National History Museum into a modern cultural institution; the protection of and access to two of the country’s most important archaeological parks, Apollonia and Antigonea; strengthening the capacities of state employees and other cultural professionals to manage and preserve Albania’s cultural heritage; demonstrating the viability of new economic opportunities through cultural tourism in Gjirokastra and Berat; strengthening of national policies to safeguard Albania’s cultural heritage and developing new national capacities to promote a more accurate image of Albania’s culture abroad.

Considering that UNESCO is a Non Resident Agency (NRA) in Albania, a temporary resident staff member was appointed in the newly-established BRESCE Culture Project Antenna in the country for the two-year implementation period of this MDG-F Joint Project under the Culture and Development Programme. The project officer’s mission is to ensure the quality of the Joint Programme

implementation and to enhance cooperation within the UN Country Team and with the national institutions.

In addition to this JP, UNESCO-BRESCE is supporting the Government of Albania in preserving and promoting both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Albania through the following projects:

- (i) *'Capacity Building for preservation and restoration of cultural heritage'*. Thanks to this project, 20 participants are being trained through specialized courses within the Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana. The second and the third semester of the programme are to be completed in 2009.
- (ii) *'Restoration of the historic center of Gjirokastra'*: The entire restoration campaign will focus on restoring 20 monuments within the World Heritage Site of Gjirokastra.
- (iii) *'Safeguarding Albanian Iso-Polyphony'*: The Albanian folk Iso-polyphony was proclaimed by UNESCO a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005. This project, based on the national Action Plan accompanying the Albanian candidature file, aims to facilitate the safeguarding of this unique multi-voice tradition, focusing especially on its transmission of to the younger generation.
- (iv) Assistance in the implementation of the *'common Management Plan for Gjirokastra and Berat'* following its finalization in 2008; provision of technical assistance to the inclusion and follow-up of Albanian cultural heritage sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



Aerial view of Berat, Albania

UNESCO-BRESCE has also been assisting the Government in preventing the illicit traffic of cultural heritage and other illegal actions in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania, the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO, Interpol, UNIDROIT, and the Italian Comando Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale.

At the regional level, UNESCO has also been promoting dialogue among political leaders in countries of South-Eastern Europe as they work to create a common vision of the future that is based on international cooperation. UNESCO assisted with the organization of a series of regional meetings in Ohrid, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2003), Tirana, Albania (2004), Varna, Bulgaria (2005), Opatija, Croatia (2006), Bucharest, Romania (June 2007) and Athens, Greece (June 2008).

In Athens, Heads of States and other leaders from the South-Eastern European region adopted the Athens Declaration, which emphasizes “the role of cultural routes, itineraries and corridors as platforms for regional cooperation and foresees the development of a pool of joint projects on Cultural Water Routes as a means to contribute to stability and peace in the region”.



Aerial view of Berat, Albania

Education

Since 2001, UNESCO provided assistance to the Albanian Government through its extrabudgetary project on “Human Rights and Democracy Education in Albania”. The aim of this project, which was finalized in July 2008, was to promote human rights and democracy education in Albania through: establishing and consolidating the network of human rights and democracy education national and local teacher trainers; conducting teacher trainings on the existing human rights education materials; producing three up-to-date training manuals on "Human Rights & Democracy in Action" for primary and elementary schools and the UDHR Commentary for high schools; establishing the model of the effective school in human rights and democracy education.

UNESCO has been involved in assisting the Ministry of Education and Science with the implementation of the National Strategy on Pre-University Education through the implementation of a number of projects that focus on capacity building in education planning and administration, and on promoting quality education, particularly in the areas of human rights and democracy education and education for sustainable development.

UNESCO has also been assisting the Government to address its strategic priorities in the area of higher education through a number of regional activities implemented by UNESCO’s European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES) in Bucharest, Romania. For example, Albania was one of the beneficiaries of the UNESCO-CEPES project on “Brain Drain and the academic and intellectual labor market in Southeast Europe” with a number of other countries in Southeast Europe who have been strongly affected by the phenomena of brain drain and by dramatic changes in their academic and intellectual labor markets.

Science and Technology

Through its project “Improving Science and Research Governance in Albania”, UNESCO-BRESCE has been providing technical advice and expertise to the Ministry of Education and Science for the formulation of the National Strategy on Science and Innovation as well as in building capacities in the formulation and dissemination of science and technology statistics and indicators. The duration of the project was originally planned for twelve months (March 2008-March 2009); however, following

changes in the Albanian governmental structure in July 2008, the project has been extended to December 2009 and the initial work plan re-adjusted to reflect the cooperation with two different institutions, the Ministry of Education and Science (for the statistics part) and the Cabinet of the Prime Minister (for the Strategy formulation part). UNESCO is collaborating with three Working Groups within the framework of the project: a Working Group on Statistics and Indicators; a Technical Working Group, providing input and feedback on the Science, technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy; and an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to intervene in the final phase of the Strategy for its endorsement and submission to the Council of Ministers.

The Organization has also been working to strengthen cooperation among research institutions and scientists in the field of basic sciences, to reinforce scientific and research infrastructures, to reduce the brain-drain phenomenon, and to increase the role of women in the sciences through the Gender Alliance for Development Centre in Tirana.

A number of expert analyses have been carried on issues related to promoting access and dissemination of scientific information, the interrelation between investments in science and knowledge and economic development, and the role of the Academies of South-Eastern European countries in the production of global science as well as in their respective national science and research systems. The findings of these analyses and their specific recommendations have been used to assist Albanian authorities and policy-makers in developing policies in science and technology for development⁴.



© UNESCO/I. Nechifor

Tatjana Mulaj, Margarita Kuquali and Valbona Muda in the new UNESCO-HP Laboratory at the Polytechnic University of Tirana.

To assist the Government in developing gender sensitive policies that promote gender mainstreaming in scientific fields, particularly at advanced career levels, UNESCO-BRESCE conducted a study on 'Stereotypes on women scientists in Albania' that was published in 2007. The conclusions of this Study showed that the absence of policy mechanisms for effective implementation of existing laws on equal opportunities for women and men has resulted in significant gender inequalities. The Study highlighted the need to develop and implement gender sensitive policies that would help women scientists to balance their work and family life, and that provide opportunities for gender mainstreaming in scientific fields. Media training, the promotion of science among youngsters, and the creation of a database and a network of Albanian women scientists are other areas that could be further developed to improve women's careers paths in scientific fields.

⁴ The reports are available at http://www.unesco.org/science/psd/publications/s-p_series.shtml

To increase cooperation among universities and research institutions, UNESCO provided support for the development of a high technology grid computing laboratory at the Faculty of Physics at the Polytechnic University of Tirana within the framework of the UNESCO-Hewlett Packard (HP) partnership. The laboratory increases research opportunities at the master and doctor level and enhances cooperation between the Polytechnic University of Tirana and several research institutions in Italy, including the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy (ICTP).

Within the framework of the UNESCO-European Space Agency-Alcatel 'Space for Science' project, three research institutes in Tirana (Institute of Informatics and Applied Mathematics, Institute of Biological Research and the Institute of Seismology) were equipped with satellite communication infrastructure and services.

Environmental Management

UNESCO has been working to assist the Government in meeting its environmental NSDI priorities as reflected in the draft National Environmental Strategy, which focuses on a range of environmental issues. These priorities deal primarily with enforcing environmental protection laws so as to remediate polluted sites and to reduce threats to the environment, which include substantial reductions in the level of air and water pollution, so as to further enhance Albania's tourism potential. Within the context of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Albania, through its MAB National Committee, has been working with other members of EuroMAB to identify how to use Biosphere Reserves as 'open space laboratories' or 'learning sites' to implement innovative and integrated resource management tools to foster local sustainable development initiatives.



© UNESCO/E. Ruoss/2008

View of Skadar Lake

The Albanian MAB National Committee also participated in discussions on how to enhance transboundary cooperation with neighboring countries that border the Skadar Lake and the Ohrid Lake within the framework of the joint UNESCO-ROSTE-IUCN⁵ International Workshop on "MAB Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Cooperation in the SEE Region" held in Belgrade and the Tara National Park, Serbia & Montenegro. The development of transboundary protected areas according to the international guidelines of UNESCO and the Ramsar Convention are effective approaches to protect the landscape and biodiversity.

⁵ IUCN: The international Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Through UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Organization has been working to assist the Government in managing its water resources. The Albanian IHP National Committee has been actively involved in the following cooperative projects:

- “*Water Balance of the Danube River Basin*” implemented within the frame of the IHP Danube Cooperation. The results were presented on the occasion of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) 7th Ordinary Meeting (Vienna, December 2004);
- “*Assessment of Climate Change Effects on the Hydrological Cycle in SEE*”, implemented within the frame of the IHP Danube Cooperation and coordinated by the Bulgarian IHP National Committee;
- “*Assessment and Management of Transboundary Water Related Risks in the Balkans - TRANSRISKBA*” supported by the UNESCO-ROSTE and coordinated by the UNESCO Chair/INWEB⁶ Centre in Thessaloniki;
- Albanian experts contributed to the implementation of the “*Seismo-hydrogeological vulnerability of the environment and society in the Balkan region*” project, coordinated by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Geological Institute.

In addition, UNESCO-BRESCE commissioned in 2007 a Framework Report providing an overview of the state-of-the-art water management system and data sources in Albania, as well as in other SEE countries, with the aim of advising the national government in the country. This report has been used as a basis for the elaboration of the project “Development and first implementation with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management of a DSS⁷ for the assessment of water and energy strategies/policies and projects” to be implemented in 2009-2010.

Communication and Information

To assist the Government of Albania in implementing its national ICT strategy, UNESCO commissioned a report on strengthening the media and information sector in Albania through media reform and through specific training for media organizations. In this context, UNESCO-BRESCE convened a two-day media briefing concerning UNESCO and the UN Reform Process, which included invitees from the South Eastern European media and speakers from UNESCO Bureau of Public Information, the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO, the UN Resident Representative of Albania, the team working on the One UN Communication-Media Development Plan and the Director of the Albanian Media Institute. This interactive dialogue provided an opportunity for the media to obtain updated and coherent information related the One UN Albania programme and UNESCO's involvement as a non-resident agency. The Albanian Media Institute presented their report, “Media sector analysis in Albania”, previously commissioned by UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector in late 2007-08. This media briefing will be assessed in the light of UNESCO Media Development Indicators⁸ to identify media development gaps which would eventually permit UNESCO to elaborate a comprehensive media development strategy and strengthen its contacts network not only to share and exchange data, but also to be an information source on the progress of the One UN in Albania.

Albania is also a member of the ERNO TV Network, a regional TV news exchange network serving public broadcasters in South-East Europe supported by UNESCO. The ultimate aim of the Network is to strengthen democracy and peace in South-East Europe through public television.

⁶ INWEB: International Network of Water-environment Centres for the Balkans.

⁷ DSS: Decisional Support System.

⁸ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001631/163102e.pdf>

Promoting and applying UNESCO's Standard-Setting Instruments

UNESCO has been working to support the efforts of the Government to meet its international commitments to the following conventions adopted under the auspices of UNESCO solely or jointly with other International Organizations:

Convention	Date of Deposit of Instrument	Type of Instrument
Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, 6 September 1952	20/12/2003	Accession
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, 14 May 1954	20/12/1960	Accession
Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 14 December 1960	21/11/1963	Ratification
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. New York, 18 December 1979	11/05/1994	Accession
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, 14 November 1970	13/06/2002	Acceptance
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971	31/10/1995	Accession
Universal Copyright Convention as revised on 24 July 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Paris, 24 July 1971	04/11/2003	Accession
International Convention for the Protection of performers, producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, 26 October 1961	01/09/2000	Ratification
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms. Geneva, 29 October 1971	26/03/2001	Ratification
Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region. Lisbon, 11 April 1997	06/03/2002	Ratification
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural	10/07/1989	Ratification
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, 2 November 2001	19/03/2009	Ratification
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003	04/04/2006	Ratification
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005	17/11/2006	Accession
International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 20 October 2005	31/12/2006	Accession

UNESCO-BRESCE has also been working to assist the Government of Albania with the development of anti-doping education programmes – an application for funding was submitted under the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, which was established to assist countries in meeting the commitments of the International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005).

Resources

In addition to UNESCO Regular Programme funds, UNESCO-BRESCE financial resources are supplemented by extra-budgetary funds from:

- MDG Achievement Fund
- One UN Coherence Fund Albania
- The Italian and the Japanese Funds-in-Trust
- Self benefiting Funds-In-Trust Agreement
- Swiss voluntary contributions.

PART IV: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING UNESCO

Challenges

Even though UNESCO is a NRA in Albania, it has been actively working with the UNCT on the development of the One UN Initiative. The Director of UNESCO-BRESCE was invited to represent the non-resident agencies in the Joint One UN Executive Committee meetings, while other BRESCE staff have been participating regularly in the established One UN Technical Working Groups. These working groups follow up on the five pillars of the UN Results Framework (governance, participation, regional development, basic services and environment) to ensure UNESCO's engagement at the strategic and operational level. However, as UNESCO becomes more involved in working with the UNCT, and in designing and implementing joint programmes with other UN agencies, the Organization may need to enhance its field presence.

Although it was agreed with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania that UNESCO should not focus on being a resident Organization at the present time, UNESCO may need to identify other mechanisms to further its engagement at the country level. These mechanisms may include: deploying UNESCO staff on a temporary basis, identifying ways to increase the involvement of the Albanian National Commission in the activities of the UNCT, and engage more effectively with UNESCO's network of category 1 and category 2 institutes and centres, UNESCO Chairs, clubs and associations, national committees of intergovernmental programmes, and the Associated Schools Project Network.

Opportunities for UNESCO

UNESCO's participation in the One UN Programme has raised the attention to and visibility of the Organization with regards to its work in the areas of science and research governance, cultural heritage preservation, and cultural tourism. Consequently, UNESCO has been given the lead in these areas within the UNCT. 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, 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 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 EDUCAIDS⁹), education for sustainable development (ESD), gender mainstreaming, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Programmes and actions related to climate change, risk preparedness and oceanographic-related issues of the Mediterranean Sea and costal areas could be established. Furthermore, 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.

UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS) may also assist the Government in collecting, designing and introducing improved sex-disaggregated data and indicators so to better measure and track quality education.

⁹ EDUCAIDS is the UNAIDS Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS led by UNESCO; see resource materials at <http://www.unesco.org/aids>.

PART V: PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS

Cooperation Framework

Under the present UCPD, UNESCO seeks to build upon the results achieved during the last biennia and to draw on the lessons learned in addressing development issues identified and in responding to Albanian requests for assistance in specific areas.

The Organization will continue to assist the Government of Albania in the coming biennium in the areas reflected in the table below, which is a matrix of the development goals, outcomes, and expected results where UNESCO is listed as either a lead agency or as an implementing partner in the One UN Programme Integrated Results Framework and Budgetary Framework, and where funds have been provided either by the Spanish MDG Fund, the One UN Coherence Fund or through extrabudgetary resources.

DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1: MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE			
Outcome 1.1: National Institutions and Public Sector able to respond to the requirements of the EU Accession process, including implementation of the IPS			
One UN Programme Result 1.1.2	UNESCO Activities	Performance indicators and benchmarks	Implementing partners
National capacity strengthened to retain the required human resources in public sector and academia	- Support the work of the Inter-ministerial, Advisory and Technical Working Groups on the Sectoral Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Build institutional capacity for, and monitor the collection of RTDI statistics and indicators (Lead: UNESCO).	<p>STI national strategy formulated in accordance with the National Strategy for Development and Integration, and complementary to the National Strategy on Higher Education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 3 consultation meetings at national level organized; - at least 1 national survey on S&T launched for statistics and indicators; - at least 3 trained statisticians; <p>Number of people involved in European & international research programmes;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Education & Sciences (of Albania); - Albanian National Institute for Statistics (INSTAT); - Albanian National Commission for UNESCO; - Albanian Academy of Sciences (AAS); - Albanian Universities and research institutions - Chamber of Commerce; - NGOs; - UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Outcome 1.3: Government adopts economic policy, regulatory & institutional frameworks that promote pro-poor growth, socially inclusive legal & economic empowerment

One UN Programme Result 1.3.4	UNESCO Activities	Performance indicators and benchmarks	Implementing partners
<p>Government is better able to protect cultural heritage and promote cultural and sustainable ecotourism</p>	<p>Within the UNESCO-UNDP Joint Project "Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the operational plan for the rehabilitation of the National History Museum and to begin the works;(UNESCO and UNDP) 2. Train staff employed at cultural heritage sites in management, conservation, protection and presentation; (Lead: UNESCO) 3. Develop new legal instruments that link culture with other sectoral issues and Ministerial portfolios; (Lead: UNESCO) 4. Build Capacities for preservation and restoration of cultural heritage; (UNESCO) 5. Assist in the restoration of the historic center of Gjirokastra; (UNESCO) 6. Assist in the safeguarding Albanian Iso-Polyphony; (UNESCO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country's archaeological heritage safeguarded; progress made in providing support to Albania's participation in the Alliance of Civilizations; - the National History Museum in Tirana transformed into a modern cultural institution; - cultural heritage of Berat and Gjirokaster promoted; Refurbishment and promotion of different cultural monuments and sites; - Use of the traditional houses and buildings as family/community-based tourism establishments; - Improvement of archaeological parks' management through staff training and construction of infrastructure necessary to improve the visitor experience (i.e. road infrastructure, sign posts, facilities); - Revival of the handicrafts industry through the promotion of private initiative and training; - Revival of intangible heritage (i.e. iso-polyphony, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP; - Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports; - Ministry of Foreign Affairs; - Local Government authorities; - NGOs

DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2: GREATER PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

Outcome 2.2: Institutions and Forums in place to support people's participation and women's empowerment to take active part in policy formulation and decision-making.

One UN Programme Result 2.2.1	UNESCO Activities	Performance indicators and benchmarks	Implementing partners
<p>Media reports on development issues are more systematic and of better quality</p>	<p>Media trainings on One UN (UNESCO)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- % of issue specific, broad-based national coverage of human rights and gender equality issues in print, TV and radio media; 2- Expanded number of media outlets recognize the value of covering development issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNRC Office; - UNDP; - Albanian National Commission for UNESCO
<p>Promotion of women's participation in politics, decision making, public debate and the integration of gender equality policies in the implementation of the NSDI.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects developed with the Gender Alliance for Development Centre in Tirana; - Training offered to media institutions on gender issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater participation in public policy and decision making; - Civil Society better able to participate in public debate and advocate for state-citizen accountability 	

DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Outcome 5.1: Government meets environmental requirements of EU accession process and of multilateral environment agreements			
One UN Programme Result 5.1.3	UNESCO Activities	Performance indicators and benchmarks	Implementing partners
MoE has increased capacity for Environmental Assessment and information management	Development and first implementation with MoEFWM of a DSS for the assessment of water and energy strategies &/or policies and projects; (UNESCO).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoEFWM; - UNDP; - UNEP.

Partnerships

The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2008 between UNESCO and UNDP enhances the role of the Albanian National Commission through the One UN Programme. The Partnership Agreement 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 Albanian National Commission is mainly composed of representatives from the line Ministries, such as the Ministries of Education and Science, Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters. These representatives ensure the overall cooperation with the Albanian Government. In this framework, some of its members have been designated as focal points within the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), which was established in mid 2007 in order to participate in UN common country programming activities and especially in the process of the One UN-Albania Project. The Secretary-General of the National Commission has periodically briefed 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.

The focal points within the IMG have submitted, through technical guidance, to the Government Modernization Committee (GMC), the main priorities to be reflected in the Government's development approach with the UN family that is present in Albania. Moreover, the Secretary-General of the National Commission has regularly reported on the principal topics and possible areas of cooperation with UNESCO within the "delivering as one" process to the General Secretary of the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in his capacity as a high-level member of the GMC. The Secretary-General has also participated in meetings and negotiations underway between the Government's Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination and the UNCT.

The Commission has not been invited to sit at UNCT meetings. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General of the National Commission is regularly informed of the results of relevant discussions and negotiations by the BRESCE Director or other representatives of the Office. As already mentioned, the National Commission has participated in joint UNCT/Government steering mechanisms, through the high-level representatives of the main line Ministries -usually at the level of General Secretaries- and have been involved in every meeting or consultation with regard to common country programming.

In addition, the National Commission has 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, which was recently initiated in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local governments and NGOs.

A Project Management Committee has been established for monitoring the MDG-F joint programme for culture, which will be jointly implemented by the UNESCO-BRESCE and UNDP Albania. The Director of the UNESCO-BRESCE acts as the chair of the Project Management Committee and the Secretary-General of the Albanian National Commission for UNESCO represents the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in this Committee.

UNESCO-BRESCE will multiply its efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with the Albanian National Commission, its national, sub-regional and regional networks of policy makers, experts and specialised institutions as well as partners from among NGOs, the private sector and development agencies, and its UN partners to enhance its contribution to meeting Albania's development priorities.

Within the One UN Programme, UNESCO will continue to actively participate in the five One UN Technical Working Groups to enhance UNESCO's engagement at the strategic and operational levels. Interdisciplinary/intersectoral action will be enhanced to better address Albania's multidimensional development challenges, and the visibility and importance of the Organization's regional activities will be promoted. Gaps where UNESCO's specific expertise is not being utilized will be identified and a strategic action plan for addressing these areas through the increased mobilization of extrabudgetary funding will be developed. The Organization's limited resources will be used as far as possible as catalytic funds and seed money to generate extrabudgetary funds from bi- and multi-lateral donors.

ANNEX: UN system capacity and the DaO coherence tools

Governance of the One UN Programme

Government Modernization Committee (GMC)

The GMC serves as the Government's highest-level policy, coordination and decision making authority. The GMC determines strategic priorities, monitors progress on an annual basis and ensures coordination of the One UN Programme with other inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral policies and priorities. The GMC is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and comprises five Ministers. The GMC serves as the Government's highest-level policy, coordination and decision making authority for the One UN Programme.

Joint Executive Committee (JEC)

Executive and joint decision making functions associated with the Programme are performed by the JEC. The JEC is co-chaired by the Director of the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination of the Council of Ministers (DSDC) and the UN Resident Coordinator, and comprises the heads of participating UN Organizations. The JEC is responsible for reviewing and approving funding priorities, prioritizing and approving the allocation of resources mobilized through the One UN Coherence Fund and oversight of the Fund's management and operations. The Government, jointly with the Resident Coordinator, through the JEC, makes the final decisions on fund allocation based upon a well documented rationale.

Government Inter-Ministerial Working Group

The Working Group provides the GMC and JEC with technical advice on subjects falling within the scope of the programme and is composed of Secretary General level representatives of the line Ministries. Special ad hoc sub-working "task" groups may be set up to address specific issues that arise.

Resident UN Coordinator (RC) and UN Country Team (UNCT)

The RC provides strategic leadership and coordination throughout the programming process as the One UN Leader. The RC, jointly with the Government as a member of the JEC, reviews and approves fund priorities and ultimately makes decisions on the fund allocation. The UNCT, chaired by the RC, functions in a collegial and participatory manner. In the context of the One UN Programme and envisaged UN reforms, the UNCT engages in dialogue on reform and development priorities for Albania. The UNCT has designated substantive leadership to agencies for each of the One UN Programme outcome and thematic areas.

Administrative Agent (AA)

The UNDP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office has been appointed the Administrative Agent of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund. The functions of the AA include: receipt, administration and management of contributions from Donors; disbursement of such funds to the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the approved Annual Work Plans/Programme Documents; provision of consolidated narrative and financial reports on the use of the Albania One UN Coherence Fund.

Programme Working Groups (PWGs)

The PWGs are responsible for supporting the implementation and the achievements of Results of the One UN Programme. There is a lead Agency for each of the five Pillars of the One UN Programme. The five PWGs each contribute to the One UN Annual Work Plan, allowing the UN team and the Government to see the overall programme implementation plan for the year in a transparent and clear manner and also providing a monitoring tool for the PWG leaders and the UNCT. The PWGs are also tasked with monitoring the overall implementation of their Pillar and reporting back to the UNRC/UNCT on progress, as per the One UN's Monitoring and Evaluation schedule. The PWGs report to the Joint Executive Committee of the One UN Programme on a regular basis through their Chairs. The PWGs coordinate between each other as well as with national sector working groups to provide optimal support within the Programme and to avoid duplication with other international partners.

Source: Delivering as One United Nations in Albania – Stocktaking Report 2008, March 2009, prepared by the UN Team and the Government of Albania.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DaO	Delivering as One
ERNO	TV Network in South-East Europe
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
ICT	Information and Telecommunications Technologies
ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste, Italy)
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
MAB	Man and Biosphere
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MoEFWM	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration
MoTCYS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non Government Organization
PISA	(OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment
ROSTE	UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Europe (Venice, Italy)
RTDI	Research, Technological Development and Innovation
SEE	South East Europe
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
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, 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
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNV	United Nations Volunteers