

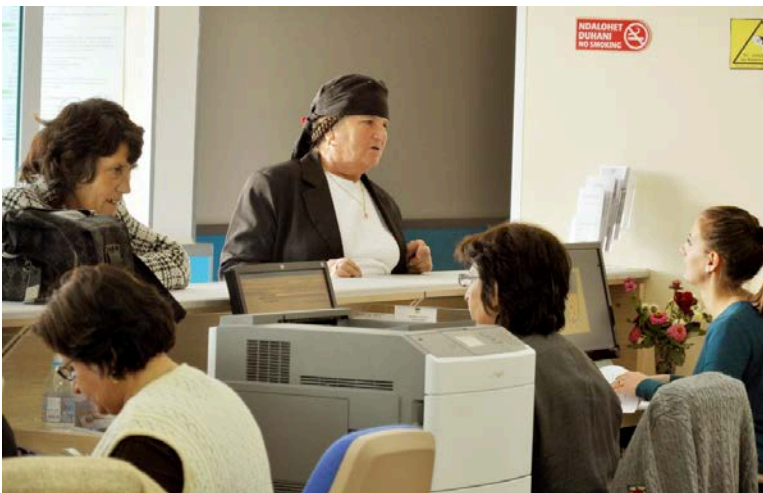


PROJECT FACTSHEET

Embassy of Switzerland in Albania

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

SUPPORTING DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Citizens of Bushat in northern Albania receive information and services at a new one-stop-shop. ©Leonard Qylafi

Switzerland supports Albania's transition to a democratic society. The decentralisation and local development programme (dl dp) strengthens local government in northern Albania and disseminates best practices at the national level. It has introduced new models for local government functioning in areas such as waste management, public finance management, and e-governance.

The aim of the decentralisation and local development programme (dl dp) is to improve local government services at the municipal level, to make the use of public resources transparent, effective and appropriate, and to increase civic participation. The Government of Albania has embarked on a decentralisation reform and is transferring more functions from the central to the municipal level. The programme strengthens the municipalities' capacities to manage their functions in order to improve the services for citizens.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Several innovative practices have been introduced as part of the programme's work in northern Albania:

Waste management

Public waste services have been introduced primarily in urban centers. Meanwhile, the coverage in rural areas is still very limited. Municipalities experience difficulties in coping with this function due to its complexity and costs. The project supports municipalities in waste treatment plans, cost and tariff analysis as well as the link to financial planning. A curriculum on waste management planning, monitoring and evaluation was developed by the project and is currently taught by the Albanian School of Public Administration – thus reaching all municipalities.

One-stop-shops

The dl dp programme piloted two integrated one-stop-shops, linking the administrative units in rural areas with the main municipality in providing electronic administrative services to citizens. A scaling up to other municipalities is ongoing.

Empowering women in politics

The programme promotes the representation of women and their involvement in political functions at all levels.

- To achieve greater representation in Parliament, a regional network of women in politics was established. The network helped the candidates in their election campaign and promoted peer learning.
- Support is given to public campaigns raising awareness of women's specific needs.

Improved performance of local government is noticeable in the areas where the Swiss decentralisation and local development programme is active. Examples of local waste management schemes

and the informing of citizens are now promoted at the national level. In addition, several concepts and methods proposed by the programme are taken up by the central government and curricula developed by dldp are used to train new staff working in municipalities all over the country.

BACKGROUND

In the last two decades, Albania has pledged to decentralise its administrative system and delegate more power and functions to local government. The decentralisation process requires support and capacity development at municipality level. A territorial and administration reform took place in 2015 and merged the former 373 local government units into 61 municipalities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Municipal services are improved for both women and men.
2. Institutions are supported in developing tools and study programmes that are nationally recognised.
3. Support is given to political reform at the national level.

RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS PHASES

- 15% of Albanian citizens benefit from improved and more inclusive services such as waste disposal and from the authorities' proactive communication with the public.
- Local authorities in Northern regions communicate proactively with the public.
- Best practices and service models transmitted nationwide.

CONTACT

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THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME

Decentralisation and Local Governance Programme

THEME

Local governance / Democratisation

COUNTRY

Albania

PARTNERS

Municipalities of Shkodër, Lezhë, Dibër, Durrës, and Kukës regions
Minister of State for Local Affairs
Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration
Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (implementation)

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To improve the quality of services provided by municipalities to citizens in northern Albania through capacity-building

TARGET GROUPS

Local government in five regions and their 850,000 inhabitants.

PHASE DURATION

January 2014 – December 2017

PHASE BUDGET

CHF 9'120'000

FUNDING

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)