



# Active Civil Society in Environmental Services Management

Promoting a network of organizations and joint local activity for a better management of environmental services in Albania

## Context

Albania still faces numerous challenges related to environment: poor waste management, lack of access to sewerage—and subsequent discharge on clean water streams, low consideration for public spaces, and excessive levels of pollution. In addition, accurate technical data and measurements are missing. At a time when legislation is progressing and new requirements have been introduced, there is a great need for clear action plans that involve also civil society. Cooperation between local and regional government and civil organizations is insufficient and little public information is provided.

## The goal

This situation prompted the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) to respond in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden. Under the program SENiOR-A it set out to support civil society organizations in the area of environmental services management. The main purpose is to promote a network of organizations that is prepared to improve environmental services management and to boost joint local responses to the current situation. Expected results include:

- Increased cooperation between local government, civil society and other actors
- Pollution data and measurements made available and unified
- Network NGO's participate in plans and strategies
- Number of information and awareness channels increased and local media engaged.

## Environmental Mapping

Civil society organizations can serve as missing links



between the government's institutions and the public. A novelty of the project is environmental monitoring and evaluation which will result in accurate data and in mapping of environmental hotspots. Experts map out problems related to environmental services and databases are created for the purpose of feeding into the plans. Data from 5 selected regions are then unified in a way that allows comparisons. This helps prepare a better plan of action for each area.

## Public Engagement

Another necessary component is the engagement of public and media in planning proper action to solve environmental problems. The public's interest must be captured and to this end information will be provide via the Internet, traditional media and open meetings. On the other hand, public information centers, boards, and special environmental days will serve to directly engage communities. A more aware public is the desired outcome of this project.

## MAIN FACTS

### DONORS:

- ✓ Regional Environmental Centre (REC)
- ✓ Embassy of Sweden

### PARTNERS:

- ✓ Agency for Local Economic Development - AULEDA
- ✓ Gjirokastra Foundation
- ✓ Today for the Future NGO
- ✓ Another Vision – Elbasan
- ✓ I Woman - Pogradec

### DURATION:

March 2014 – December 2014

### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Local inhabitants
- ✓ Local government units

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## About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society/Soros Foundation, etc.