



Waste Management and Environmental Protection

IPA Cross Border Cooperation Albania-Kosovo

Context

The participating municipalities of the cross-border region of Kosovo and Albania lay in the Drin watershed, including the largest rivers in both Albania (Black Drin) and Kosovo White Drin). The Drin river is an important natural resource both for its ecological diversity and for its economic benefits, as it has Albania's three largest hydroelectric dams; Fierza, Koman and Vau i Dejes. The eco-tourism potentials of the Drin river valley are also hampered by the pollution from recyclable waste, causing damage to the ecology and to the efficient functioning of the hydroelectric downstream. Therefore focus is placed on integrated waste management to both protect the Drin ecosystem and stimulate economic development through waste collection and recycling.

Goal

The overall objective of the project is to stimulate sustainable economic development and environmental protection through promotion of recycling and integrated waste management in the cross border region, by raising awareness and collaborative capacities amongst citizens, public institutions and enterprises. The main focus of the project will be environmental protection and economic development through promotion of integrated waste management with education, training and actions on the benefits of recycling.

Specific objectives

The specific objective of the project is to increase the knowledge and engagement of 5000 students, 300 teachers and 1000 citizens in the region on the benefits of sustainable waste management and recycling for environmental protection and economic development. The lack of

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awareness, education and activity amongst citizens on environmental issues has been detrimental to their behavioral norms and thus, social and environmental condition. Through this intervention, the environmental and social challenges become economic opportunities. By increasing the level of knowledge, engagement and collaboration of citizens and institutions on sustainable waste management and recycling, Kosovar and Albanian society is better able to move forward in the process of integrating into the European Union.

Results

These objectives contribute to the sustainable development process and are in line with the approved laws and strategies on the national and local levels in both Albania and Kosovo, and have support of key actors as they are essential to the process of EU integration. Kosovo's Laws on Waste and Waste Management Strategy recommend education and raising awareness on environmental protection.

Main Facts

PARTNERS:

- URI (Albania)
- Kukes Municipality (Albania)
- ATRC (Kosovo)
- Prizren Municipality (Kosovo)

DURATION:

September 2014 - March 2016

BENEFICIARIES:

- Kukes Municipality
- Prizren Municipality

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