



# Strengthening rule of law, awareness and legal advice for registration of property rights in Pogradec District

## Context

**Pogradec** is a city in southeastern Albania, situated on the shores of Ohrid Lake, with a population of around 70,000 inhabitants and one of the most touristic attractions in the country. Although more than 60 % of some 4 million that makes the estimated total of immovable property titles have been already registered, the process of first registration still is incomplete and the immovable property market is most active. Thus far, only part of villages on Pogradec district have been included in the first registration process, leaving out the registration of properties in valuable areas and villages, such as Hudenisht, Bucimas; Cerrave etc. The proposed project is designed to increase awareness and provide legal advice and build communication links between target groups in the project area and institutions, i.e., IPRO staff, in charge of property registration as well as URI project staff.

## Goal

The overall project goal targets assistance of citizens with information and awareness and legal aid for property rights and registration of property titles as a key element in regard with ensuring security of ownership titles, the right of property use in Albania.

## Main goals:

1. Strengthening the implementation of Law on Legal Aid by increasing organized and efficient flow of information and awareness of people about their property rights with



2. Strengthening cooperation between civil society organizations and Albanian authorities to provide legal assistance in regard with handling immovable property registration to ensure ownership titles in an effective manner.
3. Identify gaps in women's rights and access to immovable property, make recommendations on improvements and efforts that could be made to ensure that women's rights are fully protected.

## Aiming for sustainability

URI and IPRO Pogradec office will keep in touch with stakeholders, providing them with information and answer to their questions and concerns relevant to the registration process. As such, the public outreach campaign that combines focus group meetings and consultation services will serve a logistic role in the process by helping to efficiently interact with local population to coordinate demarcation and monitor activities.

## MAIN FACTS

### PARTNERS:

- ✓ Embassy of Netherlands

### DURATION:

November 2013 - May 2015

### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Pogradec District inhabitants

### EXPECTED RESULTS:

- ✓ Up to 100% of households that have unregistered properties have become aware of ongoing property registration process in Pogradec district.
- ✓ Up to 100% of businesses that have unregistered properties have become aware of ongoing property registration process in Pogradec district.
- ✓ Up to 50% of households and businesses are exposed to the legal advice rights and have received legal advice about property registration process.
- ✓ At the end of the project, registration of properties in the local IPRO has increased with up to 25% as compared with the beginning of the process.

### CONTACT:

Zana Vokopola  
Executive Director  
Urban Research Institute

Rr. Asim Vokshi, Nd.14  
Hyrja 11, Ap. 56  
Tirana, Albania  
Tel: +355 4 2256840  
E-mail: [zvokopola@uri.org.al](mailto:zvokopola@uri.org.al)  
Web: [www.uri.org.al](http://www.uri.org.al)

## 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.