

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AULEDA THE AGENCY OF VLORA REGION IN ALBANIA

In the framework of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Local Economic Development Agency AULEDA, the staff organized a series of events culminating in the closing ceremony, which took place on 30th of August 2013 in Vlora.

The gala ceremony was preceded by a photographic exhibition presenting AULEDA activities related to strategic planning, territorial education and vocational training, promotion and creation of SMEs, infrastructure improvement, social inclusion of vulnerable groups and creation of social enterprises, environmental protection and awareness raising, economic empowerment of women, promotion of international and cross-border cooperation, promotion of the Agency's model at national level.

The gala ceremony has been attended by representatives of stakeholders AULEDA has collaborated with in the last 10 years: local and regional public authorities, donors such as UNDP, ILS LEDA, Italian Cooperation, Italian Consulate in Vlora, OXFAM/QUODEV, civil society organizations, media, businesses and private organizations.

During the previous days, AULEDA had organized public events linked with the organization's ongoing projects, in order to show the local community the impact of its work on the territory.

On 25th of August, Vlora youngsters were involved in an up-cycling workshop aiming at raising their awareness on the importance of recycling; the workshop was one of the activities AULEDA is in charge of in the framework of the *Environmental Services Management* project (funded by Swedish Cooperation).

The following days, a fair of 34 local food and handcrafts producers took place, in the context of the project *Strengthen the gender capacity of LAG Adrijon-Vlora* (funded by Oxfam GB), aiming at sustaining local traditional productions and promoting tourism. On 29th of August the first free wi-fi area in Vlora was inaugurated, supported by the project *PITAGORA: Platform for the Information Technology Aimed at Getting Opportunities to reduce ICT Gap in the Adriatic Area*, funded by European Commission's IPA Adriatic Programme.



A Certificate of Appreciation has been given by AULEDA to: Mrs. Zineb Tourim Benjelloun, UNDP Ambassador; Giancarlo Canzanelli, ILS LEDA Program; Luigi Cafiero, Coordinator UNDP ART GOLD Program and Estevan Ikonomi, program administrator; Consulate of Italia in Vlora; Prefecture of Vlora; Regional Council of Vlora; Municipality of Vlora; Centre for Agro - culture Technology Transfer; Director of Agro-culture and Food; Association of Producers "Shushica"; Environment Adriatic Center, Vlore; Association of media and Journalists; Chamber of Commerce of Vlora; Psychiatric Hospital Directory; OXFAM Albania staff and Directory; Kliton Haxhiraj, President of Assembly AULEDA; Hasan Hallko, first director AULEDA; Mynyr Gjika, 2nd President of Board AULEDA; Sejmen Gjokoli, Cultural Centre Aulona; Diogjen Zeneli, ICT expert; Ermelinda Kordha, tourist expert and Edmond Beqiri, infrastructure expert; Bejaze Qejvani, representative of women association for medicinal herbs and crafts of Lumi Vlores.

The celebrations for the 10th anniversary of AULEDA had a strong local impact and contributed to reinforcing the deep connections of this LEDA with its territory. AULEDA is part of the National Catalogue of Innovations of Albania, realized and promoted by the Albanian Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation, in collaboration with B.A.ZH NGO, the IDEASS Program and UNDP.

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