

## PRESENTING THE NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF INNOVATIONS IN THE OPENING DAY OF THE INNOVATION WEEK IN ALBANIA



By Renata Uruci, BAHZ Director

The *Innovation Week* event was organized for the first time in Albania by the Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation from 10th to 16th May 2014. During the week, various initiatives, projects and ideas have been organized, aiming to provide innovative solutions to several problems that the country faces

During the Opening Ceremony of the *Innovation Week*, held in Tirana on 10th May, the Albanian Catalogue of Innovations for Human Development was presented in collaboration with the authors of the innovations as well as the authors of six studies published in the same catalogue.

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Vilma Tomco, Head of Department for European Agenda and Evis Tasellari, Head of Bilateral Relations Unit at the Albanian Agency for Research and Innovation AKTI. It was attended by high Albanian Authorities as Niko Peleshi, Deputy Prime Minister; Milena Harito, Minister for Innovation and Public Administration; Lindita Nikolli, Minister of Education and Sports; Manjola Gjoni, Executive Director of the Albanian Investment Development Agency AIDA; Mynyr Koni, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences; Mirlinda Karcenaj, Director at National Agency for Information Society NAIS; Lorenc Cala, Director of the State Authority for Geo-spatial Information ASIG and Rovena Bahiti, Director of the Albanian National Computer Security Agency ALCIRT.

In the first part of the Ceremony, opened by the Minister Milena Harito, all high Albanian Authorities highlighted the strategic role of innovation to modernize Albania in different sectors and the representatives of the specialized agencies presented the important scientific and technological advances of the respective areas of action.



The Director of AKTI, Edmond Agolli presented the mission of the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation to realize programs about science, technology and innovation in Albania and to fund projects for Small and Medium Business, in order to improve their technologies. In this framework, AKTI coordinated the production of the first Albanian Catalogue of Innovations for Human Development. The Director highlighted the national impact of this initiative that, thanks to the operational role of BAZH, involved more than 170 actors at national and regional level: ministers, local governments, specialized institutions, associations and social organizations.

In the second part of the Ceremony, chaired by the director of AKTI, Edmond Agolli and the Director of BAZH NGO, the *First Albanian Catalogue of Innovation for Human Development* built in 2012 in close collaboration between AKTI, BAZH, the IDEASS International Program and UNDP was presented to all the participants.

The BAHZ Director, focal point of IDEASS International Programme in Albania, underlined that the goal of Albanian Catalogue of Innovations for Human Development is the systematisation of creative practices of local actors bringing innovative solutions to common problems.

The Catalogue aims to strengthen the integrated territorial development processes increasing the use of innovation and it should be considered only as a beginning path of cooperation. A further step will be updating and enriching it with other innovations, as well as implementing a national and permanent service for human development innovation to identify, illustrate and transfer them to Albanian territorial development actors and abroad, promoting their use with technical assistance activities. During the presentation, through a video conference from Japan, the BAHZ scientific consultant Davide Rossi, presented the Albanian Catalogue as an important instrument to valorise the great potentialities of the Albanians in the field of research and innovation, to guarantee a sustainable development of the country. He underlined that all the innovations are original and transferable in other contexts, with a potential great impact to contribute to the economic and social development.

The authors of the 13 innovations included in the Catalogue presented their work with great success. Six studies funded by AKTI in the framework of the *National Program for Research and Development* and included in the Catalogue were also presented.

All the actors involved have identified the Catalogue as an important instrument to enhance the Albanian development actors and their ideas. In the same time the Catalogue is an instrument to create a network organized to transfer the know-how on innovative technologies and methodologies to the local actors interested in solutions to territorial problems.

During the event, the project for the implementation of a *National Service for Human Development Innovation*, based on the Albanian Catalogue and the international network of





the IDEASS program, was presented by AKTI and BAZH, to identify institutional, technical and financial partners.

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