

ART



ART GOLD ALBANIA PROGRAMME

**GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

in collaboration with
UNDP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNOPS

April 2008

PRESENTATION

The Albanian government put decentralization reform high on its agenda with particular emphasis on devolution of fiscal powers and enlargement of the fiscal autonomy of local governments. In this framework, the ART GOLD Albania Programme supports the Albanian government in implementing its national policies for decentralization and regional development, promoting and encouraging the participation of different local, national and international actors, creating and supporting innovative partnerships within a global system of cooperation. In line with the overall ART approach, the Programme acts at local, national and international levels, representing the expression of all the interested actors of international cooperation and establishing the basis for the Programme's progressive extension to other regions of the country.

In its first phase (September 2006 – March 2008), ART GOLD Albania operated in support of the regions of Durrës, Gjirokaster, Shkoder and Vlore. The Programme implemented the successful practices and strategies applied in the country through the UNDP Albania Local Governance Programme (LGP) and IFAD-UNOPS "PASARP" programmes, to support the government in implementing local plans and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) at the local level, focusing attention on the most vulnerable groups. In January 2007, Albania was selected as one of the countries around the world to pilot the "One United Nations Programme" (One UN). AGA is framed within the One UN overall strategy, aimed at enhancing development results and impact by working coherently and cost effectively as ONE, in collaboration with the government and other partners for the development, progress, rights and prosperity of all people in Albania.

ART GOLD Albania uses an inter-sectoral approach in the following complementary fields: governance; environmental protection and territorial planning; local economic development; local social and healthcare system; culture and education.



The international actors of decentralised cooperation, through ART GOLD Albania, establish development partnerships with the regional and municipal actors so that their contributions become part of local development strategies and plans elaborated through a participatory methodology.

ART GOLD Albania's participatory approach allows international best practices and innovations for local development to be exchanged and, when acquired, transferred to Albanian partners. To achieve this goal, the Programme makes use of ART international thematic networks, such as "IDEASS" (Innovations), ILS LEDA (Local Development) and the international network of decentralized cooperation, which are structural components of the ART Initiative. The ART Scientific Committee for human development cooperation supports the Programme with its international networks.

The ART GOLD Albania Programme is open to the participation of all interested international cooperation actors.

OVERVIEW

DURATION

ART GOLD Albania began in September 2006 and the first phase was in progress in March 2008. The second phase will start after the signature of the Programme Document between UNDP Tirana and the Albanian government and its envisaged duration is two years.

OPERATION AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Ministry of Interior is the national institution charged by the Albanian government to coordinate the Programme, through the Deputy Minister for Decentralization and Local Governments.

ART GOLD Albania is overseen by a National Steering Committee (NSC) chaired by the Deputy Minister for Decentralization and Local Governments. The NSC is integrated by inter-ministerial committees and working groups including: the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport; the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration; the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication; the Ministry of Education and Science. They provide the Programme with the national strategies for different sectors, which guide and coordinate the action implemented by AGA at national and local levels.

OPERATIONAL AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Local coordination is provided by the participatory working groups of the Durres, Gjirokaster, Shkoder and Vlore regions. They are headed by the presidents of the regions and made up of representatives of the municipalities and communes and by the relevant central government sectoral directorates, universities and interested social stakeholders. The working groups are responsible for the definition and implementation of strategic projects, in the Programme's different fields of action, fostering the active participation of the population, and for the preparation of territorial marketing documents. The working groups are also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the activities as well as coordinating different contributions from international cooperation partners.

COOPERATION PARTNERS

Up to March 2008, ART GOLD Albania collaborated with 42 decentralized cooperation actors, including 2 Italian territorial pacts involving together more than 30 municipalities. Moreover, ART GOLD Albania established collaborations with international partners such as UN agencies and programmes and international cooperation agencies (UNDP GEF – UNDP MedWetCoast - WHO Albania – FAO – IOM – World Bank – EDEM/USAID, GTZ, SIDA and SNV).

FUNDING

The AGA budget for the starting phase was US\$ 965,018, funded by the Italian Government. The decentralized cooperation network contributed to the Programme with funds totalling 240,000 euros. The three local economic development agencies (LEDAs) have a guarantee fund of US\$ 850,000 for credit activities in the territory. Finally, UNDP's GEF-SGP project contributed US\$ 47,500 towards the implementation of the IDEASS "Constructed Wetland – Ecological School". For the Programme's second phase, the initial budget is Euro 2,000,000, funded by the Italian Government.

RESULTS IN THE REGION OF SHKODER

The Region of Shkoder is located the north west, with an area of 3,184 km². It has a total population of 334,462 (source: Ministry of Interior, 2007). The region is divided into 3 districts: Shkoder (2 municipalities and 14 communes); Puke (2 municipalities and 8 communes); Malesi Madhe (1 municipality and 5 communes).

The Regional Work Group is headed by the President of the Regional Council and the Prefect. It brings together representatives of local public administrations and the private sector: the mayors of the priority municipalities, two associations, and TEULEDA (Local Economic Development Agency). A technical unit for decentralization and planning supports the Regional Work Group, in accordance with the national strategy for decentralization. The AGA Programme is implementing 10 projects in the region, in the following action fields:

GOVERNANCE

- Production of a territorial marketing document and a regional plan for international cooperation.
- Support to the regional technical unit in running costs and human resources for territorial data collection and systematisation inside a functional module of regional development, with Ministry of Interior and Teuleda.
- Training for regional technicians on territorial planning and regional development planning, with Ministry of Interior and TEULEDA.

THE COMPAGNIA DEI PARCHI PROJECT. THE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IDEASS PROGRAMME, SUPPORTS THE DESIGN OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ALBANIAN NATURAL PARK MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INITIATIVES, ON THE BASIS OF THE METHODOLOGIES OF THE ITALIAN COMPAGNIA DEI PARCHI CONSORTIUM, WHICH IS OFFERING ITS EXPERTISE TO THE WORKING COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT. SOME AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE INVOLVED, IN ORDER TO ACTIVATE AN INNOVATIVE TOURISM PRODUCT FOSTERING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THE PROJECT DEFINES THE STRATEGY FOR THE CREATION OF AN "ALBANIAN ALPS" PARK IN NORTHERN ALBANIA. THANKS TO THE PROJECT, THE "MEDITERRE" INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF EUROPEAN NATURAL PARKS DECIDED TO INVITE ALBANIA AS A SPECIAL GUEST TO THE NEXT EDITION OF THE EVENT (JUNE 2008).



LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Implementation of the IDEASS project Compagnia dei Parchi (The Park Company), with Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transport and the participation of UNDP GEF Small Grant Project, World Bank Albania, GTZ (German Cooperation), SNV (Dutch Cooperation), the local authorities of Shkoder, TEULEDA.
- Support to TEULEDA to: implement capacity building activities for local authorities on LED in 2 communes; support local authorities in developing LED plans in 2 communes; conduct a survey on the potential for territorial economic development in the region of Shkoder; develop and disseminate territorial marketing documents; provide services to UNDP projects in the Shkoder region.
- Project Construction of nets for the integrated development of rural areas, with the Molise Region, financed by Italian Law 84 and implemented by TEULEDA, for pilot interventions in tourism and food safety fields and to start building complex networks of relations between the two regions.
- TEULEDA is involved as a partner in 9 INTERREG III A Adriatic cross border projects.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Project Start up of the Mother Kangaroo Method in the Shkodra Hospital and support to regional territorial health centres, with the Ministry of Health, WHO, in partnership with the Tuscany Region and the A.Meyer University Children's Hospital of Florence.
- Support to the Albanian Ministry of Health for the creation of “protected houses” for ex psychiatric hospital patients in the framework of the national mental health care reform.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

- Establishing a computer lab in a high school in the Shkoder Region, with the Ministry of Education and Science, and the UNDP's e-Schools Project.
- In the framework of the Nei suoni dei luoghi project, ART GOLD provides the “Progetto Musica” association of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region with logistic and promotional support to implement the activity in the region.



RESULTS IN THE REGION OF DURRES

The Region of Durrës has a total surface area of 704 square kilometres. The total population is 397,925 (source: Ministry of Interior, 2007). The Region comprises 2 districts: Durrës (4 municipalities and 6 communes) and Kruja (2 municipalities, 4 communes). The Economic Development Agency of Durres Region, TAULEDA, works with the Regional Council. The AGA Programme is implementing 5 projects in the Region, in the following action fields:



GOVERNANCE

- Production of a territorial marketing document and a regional plan for international cooperation.

DURRES ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT. THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED IN 2002 UNDER THE FORMER PASARP PROGRAMME, IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND DEVELOP THE REGION'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE. IN APRIL 2003, THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT PASSED A LAW ON CULTURAL MONUMENTS, TO REGULATE CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY. IN THIS FRAMEWORK, AND USING THE LATEST GIS SYSTEM, THE DURRES MAP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RISK WAS PRODUCED. IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ART GOLD PROGRAMME, EXPERTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA AND ALBANIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS WERE ABLE TO RESTORE THE LATEST FINDINGS AND PRODUCE GRAPHIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION. THE COLLECTED DATA HAVE BEEN STUDIED BY THE PROJECT'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND LED TO NEW THEORIES ON THE HISTORY OF AN IMPORTANT MONUMENT AND ANCIENT ALBANIA. EXCAVATION WORK ENDED IN JULY 2007, WITH AN OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, ART GOLD ALBANIA, THE ITALIAN-ALBANIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, THE INSTITUTE OF MONUMENTS OF CULTURE, THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF DURRES, THE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA AND THE MEDIA.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- AGA supported TAULEDA in three INTERREG III A Adriatic cross border projects. The RWG and TAULEDA, in collaboration with decentralized cooperation actors, are implementing the following projects: The development of tourist systems in Albania - with Promadria and Marche Region; I@A-Interactive Portal of the Culture and Tourism with Union of Communes of Grecia Salentina.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Implementation of the Mother Kangaroo Method in the Durres Maternity Hospital and support to the regional territorial health centres, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO. The project is an extension of the Mother Kangaroo project in Shkoder.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

- The Durres Archaeological Project, with the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, the Albanian Institute of Monuments of Culture, the Archaeological Institute, the Municipality of Durres and the University of Parma (Italy).
- In the framework of the Nei suoni dei luoghi project, AGA provides the "Progetto Musica" association of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region with logistic and promotional support to implement the activity in the region, aimed at the promotion of trans-Adriatic territories and cultural decentralization.

RESULTS IN THE REGION OF VLORE

The Region of Vlore, located in the South West, has a total surface area of 2,719 square kilometres. The total population is 359,177 (source: Ministry of Interior, 2007). The region is divided into 3 districts: Vlore (4 municipalities and 9 communes), Saranda (2 municipalities and 7 communes), and Delvine (1 municipality and 3 communes).

The regional working group of Vlore includes the President of the Regional Council, the Prefect, the mayors of Vlore, Delvine, Novosele, Orikum, Saranda and Armen; the Director of the Regional Development Office; the Public Health Department, the Psychiatric Hospital, the University of Vlore and AULEDA. The AGA Programme is implementing 8 projects in the region, in the following action fields:

GOVERNANCE

- Production of a territorial marketing document and of a regional plan for international cooperation.
- Realization of a feasibility study for a management information system in the 3 employment offices of Vlore, Saranda and Delvine, with the Ministry of Labour and the Marche Region. The project will be implemented in the 2nd phase of ART GOLD Albania.



THE ECOLOGICAL SCHOOL. A CONSTRUCTED WETLAND SYSTEM FOR THE NATURAL DEPURATION OF WASTE WATERS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALBANIA, IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE ALBANIAN VILLAGE OF NARTA, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IDEASS PROGRAMME. THE SYSTEM, REALIZED UNDER THE SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE REGIONAL AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF TUSCANY (ARPAT), WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER ECOLOGICAL INITIATIVES, TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND REALIZE A DIDACTICAL CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. SEVERAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT, SUCH AS WORKSHOPS, TRAINING COURSES, CONCERTS

AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS, IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS. THANKS TO THE INTEREST GENERATED BY THE PROJECT, WHICH IS GOING TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ALBANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE LAKE OF PRESPIA ASKED FOR THE INNOVATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON A WIDER SCALE IN THEIR AREA, LOCATED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN ALBANIA, GREECE AND MACEDONIA.

ENVIRONMENT

- The Ecological School, for the environmental re-qualification of the Narta Lagoon in the framework of the IDEASS Programme, with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the UNDP's GEF-SGP and MedWetCoast projects, the Commune of Qender, the Municipality of Narta, the Universities of Tirana and Vlore and in partnership with the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Tuscany (ARPAT).

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Lumi i Vlore project, in collaboration with AULEDA, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Environment and in partnership with Marche Region, Lecce Province, Cosenza Province, Cerzeto Municipality, Arbëresh municipalities, University of Salerno, Parco dello Stretto, the Environmental Agency of the Territorial Pact of Northern Bari, "Parco Horcynus Orca" Literary Park, Acito and Partners Association of Matera, Union of Communes of Grecia Salentina.
- Support to AULEDA for: capacity building, including the recruitment of new personnel; training for local government authorities; implementation of the Lumi Vlore project through a working group, and a survey on the valley, including data collection and area mapping; public awareness activities.
- Support to AULEDA in two INTERREG III A Adriatic cross-border projects. AULEDA is also developing 5 projects in the region: Support to tourism income generating activities, with the Ministry of Tourism and the Marche Region; Financing enterprises involved in organic production, agro-tourism, fishing, textile and tailoring sectors, with the Ministry of Labour and the Marche Region; More greenness, more tourism, with the Regional Environmental Centre (REC); Vlora Citizen Information Centre, and the Vlore Municipality; Rural Economy Development, with the Orikum Municipality; The social integration of women in the area of Lumi Vlore, through income generation from the commerce of aromatic and medicinal plants, with SOROS Foundation, EDEM/USAID and EPCA (Elaboration and Export Herb Association).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Social enterprise for psychosocial and occupational integration of patients in the psychiatric hospital of Vlora, with the Puglia Region, WHO and the Albanian Ministry of Health.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

- In the framework of the Nei suoni dei luoghi project, AGA provides the "Progetto Musica" association of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region with logistic and promotional support to implement the activity in the region, aimed at the promotion of trans-Adriatic territories and cultural decentralization.



RESULTS IN THE REGION OF GJIROKASTER

The total surface area of the Gjirokaster Region, located in southern Albania, is 2,902 square kilometres. The total population is 161,817 (source: Ministry of Interior, 2007). The region comprises 3 districts: Gjirokaster (2 municipalities and 11 communes); Tepelena (2 municipalities and 8 communes); Permet (2 municipalities and 7 communes).

Until December 2007, a local Programme office was operating in the Regional Council and coordinated by a locally hired area manager. The Programme carried out all activities in close collaboration and under the direct supervision of the Regional Council and the municipal authorities of Gjirokaster, involving also community based organizations in the planning and implementation of the different projects. The AGA Programme is implementing 10 projects in the region, in the following action fields:

GOVERNANCE

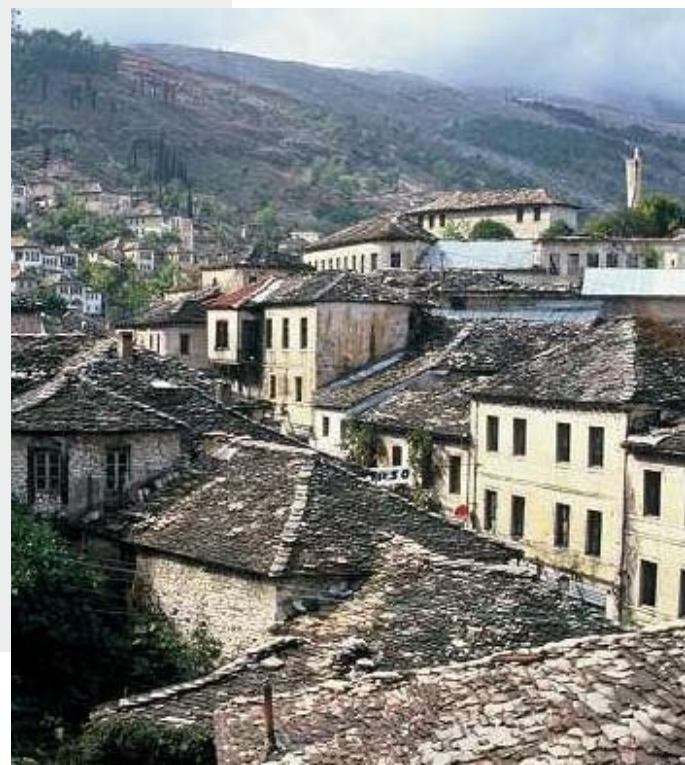
- Production of a territorial marketing document to promote local institutional and economic development by establishing partnerships with the cooperation actors.
- Provision of technical assistance on decentralized cooperation for regional and municipal authorities and social actors to attract the interest and support of decentralized cooperation partners.

TERRITORIAL, CULTURE AND EDUCATION SERVICES

- Beautiful Gjirokaster project, in collaboration with the Regional Council, the Municipality of Gjirokaster, the Gjirokaster Conservation and Development Office/Packard Humanities Institute.
- Survey on putting up cultural heritage signs for the major cultural sites of the city, in collaboration with UNDP Tirana Tourism Project Unit, the Municipality of Gjirokaster and the Conservation and Development Office (GCDO).

BEAUTIFUL GJIROKASTER. ART GOLD ALBANIA SUPPORTED TOURIST DEVELOPMENT IN GJIROKASTER THROUGH SEVERAL PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND RATIONAL USE OF TERRITORIAL SERVICES: REPLACE WINDOWS IN THE ARMAMENTS MUSEUM, TO ENSURE THE VIABILITY OF THIS MUSEUM FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE USE; BUS SCHEDULE SIGN REPLACEMENT, TO FACILITATE TOURIST AND URBAN TRAVEL AROUND AND IN AND OUT OF GJIROKASTER; PARK BENCHES AND COMMUNITY WASTE RECEPTACLES REPLACEMENT, TO ENCOURAGE BOTH TOURISTS AND RESIDENTS TO STAY LONGER IN THE OLD TOWN. THESE ACTIONS WERE FINALIZED IN NOVEMBER 2007. THE WHOLE PROCESS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WAS PARTICIPATORY AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE CAPACITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THROUGH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS.

- Support to Marche Region for the realization of aerophotogrammetry and territorial mapping of the Gjirokaster's old town centre, with the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Cultures, Youth and Sport.



RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

At the National Level, AGA guarantees the articulation and coordination of regional activities and national policies and programmes. The main projects and activities implemented by AGA at the national level in the different fields are:

GOVERNANCE

- Support to the government in implementing the national strategies for decentralization and regional development. In 2007 UNDP Albania and AGA organised numerous meetings with the Albanian government and with territorial actors to assist the government in piloting its new strategies, which seek to ensure that all regions can contribute to sustainable development and competitiveness.

ENVIRONMENT

- Constructed Wetlands. In the framework of the Constructed Wetland – Ecological School project in Vlora, a working committee was established in the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism aimed at the identification of safe environmental methodologies for waste water depuration, to be adopted at the national level.
- The Integrated Pest Management Package. Training courses and meetings with cultivators to improve the countrywide dissemination of Albanian IDEASS Innovations, in collaboration with FAO and the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support to the LEDAs of Shkoder, Durres and Vlore, aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment, offering integrated assistance to small and medium enterprises, focusing on the most disadvantaged sectors of the population.
- The IDEASS “Compagnia dei Parchi” project, with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Environment to support the design of a national strategy for Albanian natural park management and sustainable tourism initiatives.
- Remittance Project, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to utilize the three LEDAs to assist the re-entry of emigrants, and help put their business skills to use.
- Support to Agricultural production, with FAO Albania, to provide tools, assistance and a database for AGA activities in the framework of the Lumi i Vlore project

HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Support to national psychiatric care reform, with the Ministry of Health, to build a new system of territorial services offering an alternative to psychiatric hospitals, sustainable and compatible with European criteria, as recommended in the national plan.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

- Durres archaeology project, with the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, the University of Parma and the Civic Museums of Udine to protect and promote archaeological heritage.
- The Music Project, with: the “Progetto Musica” Association of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region; Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Sport and Youth; Region of Fier; Municipalities of Shkodra, Kruja, Tiranë, Durrës, Fier, Butrinti, Himare, Korça, Saranda; State Opera Theatre; Albania Radio and Television Orchestra, A.S.M.H. Consortium. ART GOLD Albania supported the organisation of more than 40 concerts, 6 opera and ballet performances, 2 master class editions, 2 film and documentary festivals, 2 art exhibitions, 2 theatre performances, and 3 international debates.

RESULTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

AGA promotes the internationalisation of the Albanian regions, in close collaboration with the international programmes and networks of the ART Initiative. At the international level, AGA activities are aimed at encouraging the exchange of experiences between the local communities of Albania and those of other countries involved in the realization of the MDGs.

PROMOTING DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

Since March 2008, links have been created and collaboration started with 42 decentralized cooperation actors. ART GOLD Albania provided technical assistance to Albanian authorities and partners by carrying out 14 missions to Albania by decentralized cooperation experts. Albanian national and local authorities participated in different events carried out in cooperation with Italian regions.

ILS LEDA

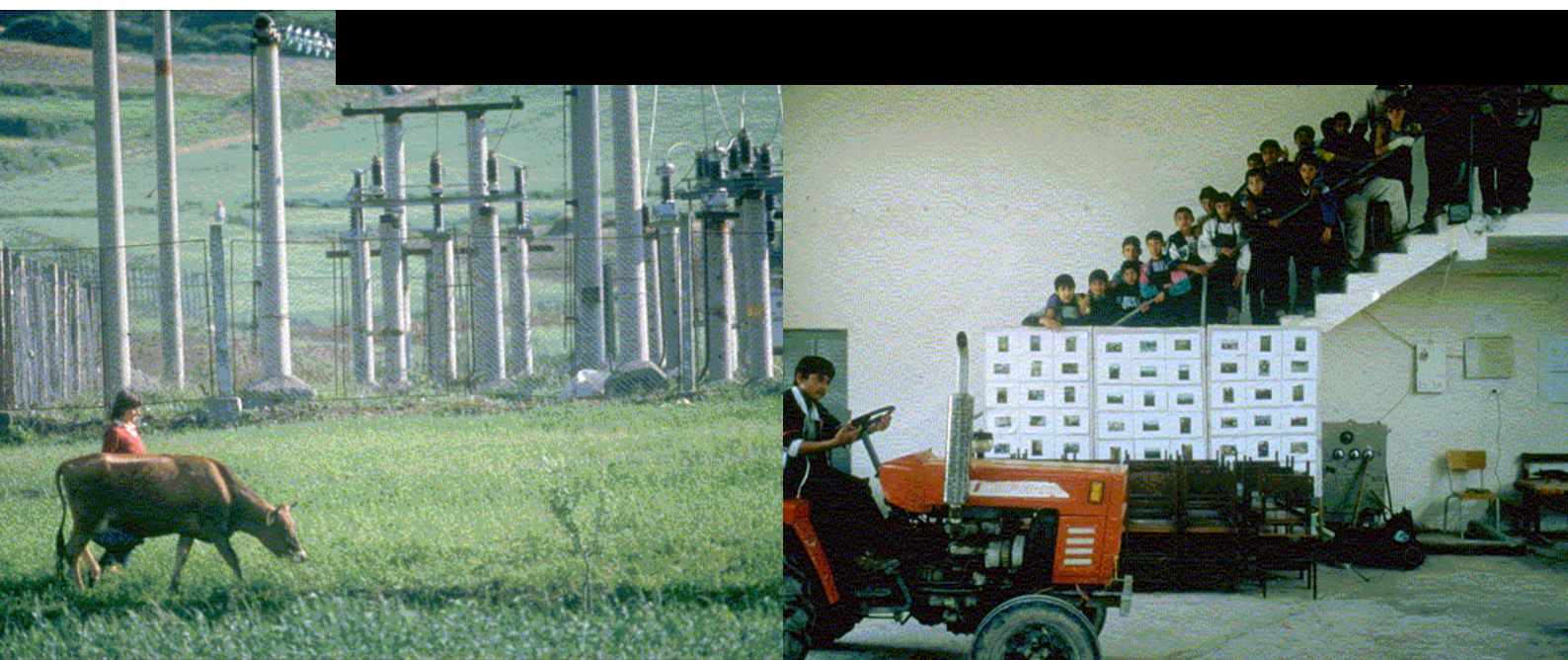
ART GOLD Albania helps regional LEDAs to establish partnerships with the economic actors of European territories involved in decentralized cooperation. Up to March 2008, the Programme and ILS/LEDA Network provided support to the LEDAs of Shkoder, Durres and Vlore in 16 international Interreg IIIA Italy-Albania and Adriatic cross-border projects, 8 missions by ILS LEDA experts to Albania, 5 international events in Italy, Holland and UK, and the implementation of 11 LED projects.

IDEASS

The following projects for the transfer of human development innovations are in progress, in collaboration with the IDEASS International Secretariat and the competent Albanian ministries and institutions:

- The Mother Kangaroo Method in Shkoder, with high-level technical assistance provided by the method's inventor Prof Hector Martinez of the University of Bogotá, Colombia, and the Meyer Hospital of Florence.
- Constructed Wetlands in the Narta municipality (Vlore Region), with high-level technical assistance provided by ARPAT (Tuscany Regional Agency for Environmental Protection).
- The Park Company for sustainable tourism, at the national level, with technical assistance provided by "La Compagnia dei Parchi" consortium. In this framework, the international events "Mediterre" (May 2008, Italy) and "Waiting for Mediterre" (April 2008, Albania) have been planned and organized.

In the framework of IDEASS, the interchange of data among International institutions helped to identify opportunities to transfer the Albanian innovation "The Integrated Pest Management Package" to Morocco, with the Institute for Plant Protection of the Hasan II University of Agadir and the Institute for Plant Protection of the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture.



CONTACTS

Norimasa Shimomura, UNDP Albania Country Office Director
norimasa.shimomura@undp.org

Piero D’Onofrio, ART GOLD Albania Coordinator
piero.donofrio@undp.org

Renata Uruci, IDEASS Albania Coordinator
renata.uruci@undp.org

THE ART INITIATIVE

ART is an international co-operation initiative that brings together programmes and activities of several United Nations Agencies: UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNHCR, UNOPS, WHO and others. It promotes a new type of multilateralism in which the United Nations system works with governments to promote the active participation of local communities and social actors from all countries. ART shares the Millennium Development Goals.

At present, ART GOLD Programmes are underway in Albania, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Lebanon, Morocco, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Uruguay. Other initiatives are being planned in Bolivia, Indonesia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Mozambique. Thematic ART networks also carry out activities in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The ART Initiative is supported by the governments of Belgium, France, Italy and Spain. The governments of other donor countries such as Canada, Japan, Monaco, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Commission, contribute to various ART country programmes. More than 400 regional and local governments, and their associations, such as CPMR, FOGAR, NRG4SD, REVES, ANCI, the Spanish Confederation of local and regional Cooperation Funds, collaborate with the ART Initiative at the international level and in countries.

