



## Decentralization and Regional Development, Phase II

### Objectives

The main objective of the Project is to assist the Albanian Government to improve the service provision quality for the citizen by supporting the local government units in offering to citizen services of higher quality and lower cost in one side and on the other side, the increase of devolved competences to Regions from those Municipalities and Communes without adequate capacities both of human and financial resources.

The consolidation of the Albanian Government vision regarding Qark or Region, as a second level of governance, is aimed to be reached through:

- Strengthening of local democracy
- Providing services of high quality closer to citizens
- Using more efficiently the funds of central government

### The main recommendation of the project

- The regional administrative reform process should be natural and simple.
- Actual regional institutions which seem to be relatively consolidated should be evaluated and enough space related to reforming should be created.
- Services provided by them should as a rule, be closer to citizens.
- Regional reformed institutions should represent at their best the community in quality cooperation projects, etc.



The role of the "Qark" is very important in this project. Detailed analysis showed that in many areas the competences of this institution, in order to perform with a higher efficiency, seek a normal cooperation of as many as possible local government units of the first level.

Those issues have been articulated from mayors and commune chiefs as well different regional councils' chairmen in the regional workshops organized in regions of Pogradec, Saranda, Berat, Shkodra and Tirana, where were present representatives of all Regions, Municipalities and Communes. This tour of workshops was organized in cooperation with Ministry of Interior in the framework of second phase implementation of the Project DRD.

### Final recommendations

- Compilation of agricultural development policies in regional level
- Definition of priorities dependent to each region's specifics and concentration of fund allocation from both central government budget and local government budget to the prior directions
- Monitoring the regional strategies

implementation process, progress analyze, identification of problems, the review and improvement of regional strategies.

### MAIN FACTS

#### PARTNERS:

- ✓ Sweden International Development Assistance (SIDA)/SIPU

#### DURATION:

2006-2008

#### BENEFICIARIES:

- ✓ Central and local Units

#### CONTACT:

Zana Vokopola  
Director

Urban Research Institute

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

### 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.