

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS AT HIGH RISK FOR ILLEGAL/INFORMAL ACTIVITIES LIKE CANNABIS CULTIVATION, IN GJIROKASTRA AND DROPULL (CALT)

Context

The Municipalities of Gjirokastra and Dropull have seen an increase in cannabis cultivation in recent years. Due to high unemployment, particularly in rural areas in these municipalities, many have turned to cannabis cultivation to provide for their families. To tackle the phenomenon in these areas, the project will implement activities which will increase employment opportunities and encourage legitimate self-employment, raise awareness against cannabis cultivation and trafficking, with a special focus on young men and women from families living on economic assistance and unemployed youth or youth with low educational attainment, and motivate, promote and support the cultivation of medicinal aromatic plants (MAPs).



Project Objectives

This project's specific objectives are to:

- i) Support MAPs cultivation and, later on, the production of artisanal cosmetic products, as economically viable alternatives to cannabis cultivation, with a focus on engaging young farmers, women farmers and their families, especially those who receive aid;
- ii) Increase public awareness against cannabis cultivation and trafficking in villages affected by the phenomenon, with a focus on youth whose families receive financial aid and unemployed youth or youth with low educational attainment.

Expected Deliverables

- Development of a visual identity and marketing of the artisanal cosmetic products;
- Reconstruction of the object to turn it into a multifunctional centre;
- Cooperation agreement between the municipalities and selected farmers;
- Purchase of a drying machine and setting up of a lab for the production of artisanal cosmetic products;
- Creation of two parcels of herbariums which will serve to conduct trainings and rehabilitate the surrounding area;
- Drafting of a business plan for the establishment of farmers' society;
- Creation of a booklet on success stories.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DONORS:

Regional Development Programme Albania (RDPA)

PARTNERS:

- Municipality of Gjirokastra
- Municipality of Dropull
- Urban Research Institute (URI)

DURATION:

01/02/2022 - 01/11/2022

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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 Foundation, etc.

