



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

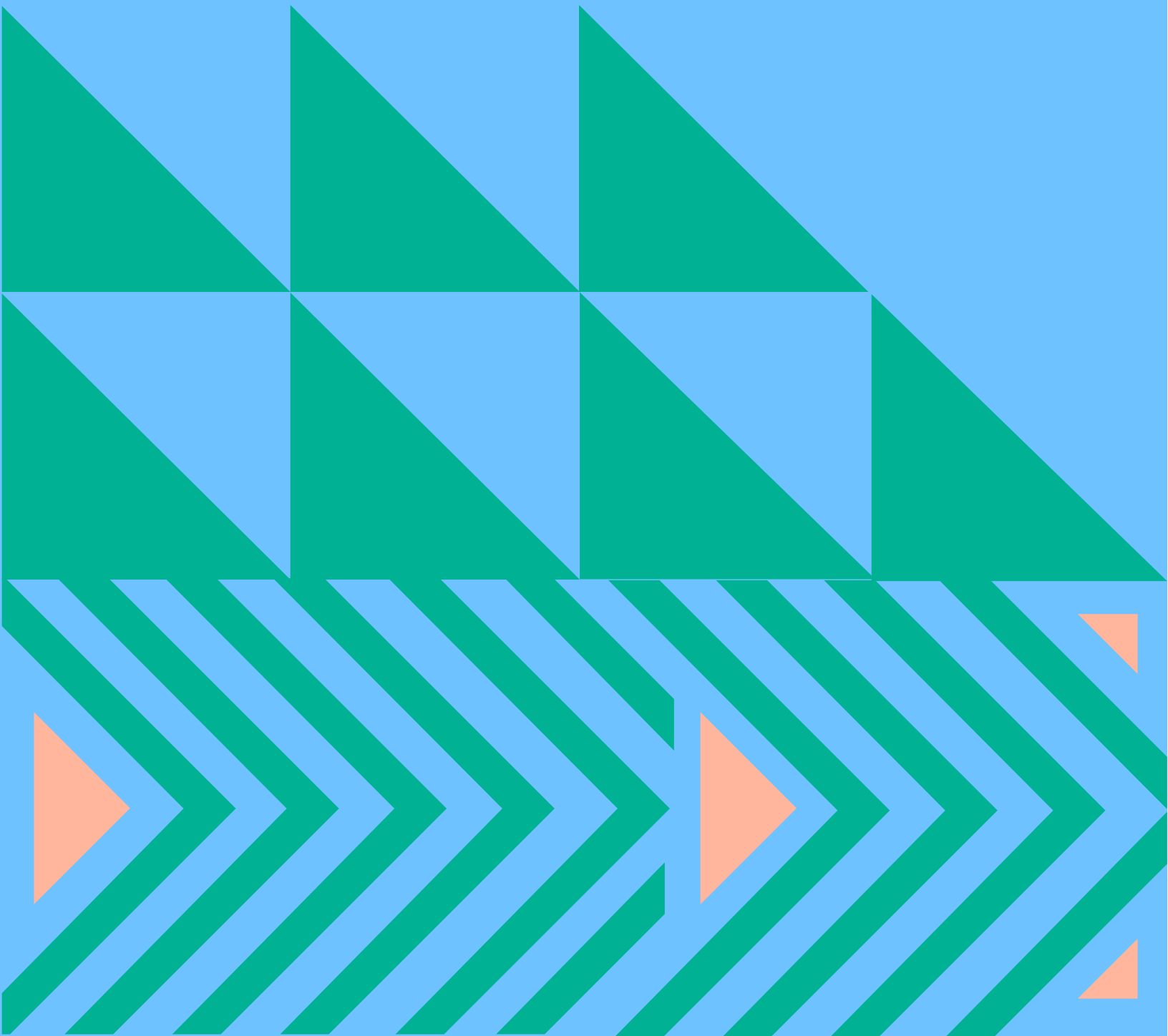


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About CO-PLAN

Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development is a non-profit organization. Since 1995, Co-PLAN has been dedicated to fostering sustainable development, catalyzing transformative change in urban and regional spaces, promoting good governance, addressing pressing environmental issues, cultivating civil society, and influencing local, national, and regional/international policies. With a focus on people and institutions, we aim to drive tangible social transformation and positive change by instilling change-driving knowledge in our society and ensuring through our persistent work that our habitats are smartly managed and resilient. Our work encompasses project-based engagement, research, grant-giving, capacity building, and active community engagement. This comprehensive approach, seamlessly incorporating technology and digital tools that strive towards innovative solutions, ensures a holistic and effective contribution to driving positive change. Co-PLAN operates upon six main areas of expertise:





**Territorial Governance
and Spatial Planning**



**Research and
Citizen Science**



**Environment and
Climate Resilience**



**Civil society
and activism**



**Economic Development,
Innovation and
Sustainable Tourism**



**Grant management/
cascade funding**

KEY Facts

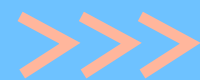
- ▶ Established partnerships with over **80%** of Local Governments across the country and regional and central government actors; consolidated network of partners locally, regionally, and internationally, promoting best values and good governance **since 1995**
- ▶ **200+** projects were implemented in Albania, the Western Balkans Region, and internationally, ranging from **10,000 to 5 million euros**, all implemented with the same dedication and accountability
- ▶ **Top experience** in the country related to grant management procedures and cascade funding, proven by several EU-funded projects

- ▶ **Extensive project portfolio** in the realm of central and local government reforms, local government service provision, capacity development, development strategies, informal settlements integration, preparation of spatial development plans, environmental assessments, climate change and resilient planning, territorial
- ▶ **Extensive research portfolio** in the realm of local and public finances, economic development, socioeconomic disparities, territorial and environmental governance, green transition, ecosystem services, citizens' engagement, etc. Implementer of several **Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects** focused on science education, research management, innovation actions, etc., taking up partner and leading roles
- ▶ Several **capacity development projects** (over half the project portfolio) specifically aim to increase the skills of Central and Local Government Authorities in improved public service provision, strategic planning, and project acquisition.

- ▶ Experience with **several donors**, including the EU, World Bank, USAID, SDC, ADA, SIDA, Italian Cooperation, Open Society Foundation, Cordaid, Novib, GIZ, etc.
- ▶ Initiator and coordinator of the **Territorial Governance Network in the Western Balkans** (TG-WeB) (<https://tg-web.eu>) and active member of international and regional networks such as the **River Cities Network** (<https://www.rivercities.world>), **Community of Practice for Affordable Housing in the Western Balkans**, etc.
- ▶ A team of **20 in-house professional experts**, with the majority having acquired post-graduate studies abroad and an additional consolidated pool of varied expertise to tap into as needed.
- ▶ **High employee retention** rate in the range 90 percent range.
- ▶ Embedded in **POLIS University, a strategic partner**, having the possibility to tap into the infrastructure (laboratories) and human resources available at the university.

Organizational Values

Co-PLAN is a value-driven organization, reflected in the projects it chooses to work on, the partners it engages with, and how it works. These values are:



State-of-the-art know-how and unbiased expertise

Since its establishment, the organization has relied on highly qualified local and international experts to provide qualitative, context-tailored solutions in all core field activities. We are committed to offering reliable, professional, and nonbiased services that transcend the politics of the day, ensuring integrity and credibility despite the challenges posed by Albania's often-changing political scene.

Partnerships

Form a core organizational value and are essential to our work. We believe change can only be positive, accomplished, and sustained if understood and accepted by the stakeholders involved. We partner with local communities, local governments (and central authorities), civil society organizations, and donor agencies and work on building relationships that go beyond a specific project's lifetime.

Participatory

Co-PLAN pioneers participatory planning, ensuring inclusive processes where local stakeholders' views and interests are central to decision-making, whether in urban planning, regional development, public space design, environmental projects, or neighborhood development.

Continuous Personal Development

Besides its values, Co-PLAN's main strength is its people. Personal development opportunities to further qualifications or enhance particular skills, regular organizational reflection (retreat) practices, and mentoring constitute regular practices for Co-PLAN and contribute to a notably increased and sustained level of expertise and experience among

Inclusivity

This is a core value of Co-PLAN, extending beyond external engagements to shape the organization's internal environment. Within Co-PLAN, inclusivity means fostering a workplace culture where every team member feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and experiences. This entails creating opportunities for open dialogue, actively seeking diverse viewpoints, and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities for professional growth.

Ethical Conduct

The organization adheres to ethical principles and integrity in all its activities, maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and honesty.

Directing BOARD

Co-PLAN is run by an Executive Director, who constantly consults the Directing Board of the organization as well as with the Strategic Collaborators and Advisors. However, it is the staff who constitute the core of the organization through direct engagement in implementing various projects and achieving visible and tangible results, while the board structures work to increase collaborative networks as well as to position the organisation more effectively in the Albanian civil society. The Board is a decision-making structure composed of three members, Floreta Pirushi, Tom Passero and Ester Caco. This board is chaired by Ms. Pirushi, and makes decisions about overall organizational policies and strategies.



Floreta Pirushi [Head of the Board] belongs to the first generation of idealistic young experts who joined the founding group of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development in the challenge of consolidating a qualitative, professional civil society organisation. She is a lawyer by profession, and has conducted her postgraduate studies in the field of urban social matters and human resources in the Netherlands. She is qualified also in matters of institutional administration. Her professional experience includes: working for Co-PLAN particularly in community development, and later POLIS University, as well as experience with UNCHR and INSTAT projects. Since several years, she is part of the POLIS University Press team and part of the coordinating group for Tirana Architecture Week and Tirana Design Week.



Tom Passero, Ph.D. [Board Member] is a Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio, USA. He is also an adjunct instructor of marketing strategy for the Bowling Green State University Masters of Business Administration Program. Prior to a career in academia, Tom spent the first 15 years of his professional career as a supply chain manager for Mead, Newell-Rubbermaid, Huffy, and Ernst & Young, LLP. During his second 15 years Tom has provided customer service, leadership, teaming, and organizational development consulting services for a list of global clients that include Coca-Cola, Lockheed-Martin, and Calphalon, and more locally, Wood County Health Services, Northwest Ohio Tax Commission Association, WSOS, the City of Oregon, and the Owens Leadership Academy. He is a qualified practitioner of several assessment tools, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and TRACOM Social Styles.



Ester Caco [Board Member] is a lawyer by qualification and experience. She was born in Tirana, where she completed her higher education, specializing in Law (1995), and worked for the Ministry of Local Government, and later for VNG International as a project manager. In 2001, Mrs. Caco and her family migrated to the United States, where she started working for the only Albanian Law Firm in New York City "Law office of Isejn Marku, PC" and later "Marku, Beno & Tsamblakos, PLLC", where she currently works as an Office Manager primarily specialised in migration related matters.

OUR TEAM >>>

At Co-PLAN, people like a good challenge, they are among the best experts in the fields they represent, and add valuable experience and professionalism Co-PLAN. Our experts are young, energetic, and come from different backgrounds, which represents best the work philosophy of Co-PLAN. Co-PLAN staff is qualified in several thematic areas: Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning, Environment and Climate Resilience, Economic Development, Innovation and Sustainable Tourism, Research and Citizens' Science and Civil society and activism.



Ledio ALLKJA
Spatial & Urban
Planning Expert



Aida CIRO
Communication and
Tourism Expert



Rodion GJOKA
Environmental Expert



Erni KOCANI
Environmental Expert



Enkela PORO
Environmental Engineer



Elvis NDREKA
Environmental Engineer



Dritan SHUTINA
Executive Director



Anila BEJKO (GJIKA)
Deputy Director



Ogerta GJIKUNRI
Finance Manager



Klesta GALANXHI
Multimedia Expert



Imeldi SOKOLI
Urban Planning Expert



Rea MUKA
GIS and Planning Expert



Merita TOSKA
Economic Development
and Public Finance Expert



Kejt DHRAMI
Spatial planning & Regional
Development Expert



Fiona IMAMI
Regional Development,
Planning & Monitoring Expert



Androniqi NINI
Finance Specialist



Erinda DHESKALI
Finance Specialist



Altion QIRKO
Administration Driver

KEY Activities

3 Forums on Protected Areas, Climate, Pollution - **Green-AL**

Conference, "From Vision to Action, for a Greener Future - **Green-AL**

RAB meeting - Conceptualization and contextualization of Green Transition in the WB - **GreenFORCE**

Summer School of Politecnico di Torino "Cities in Just Green Transitions with a focus on Turin post-carbon transformations" - **GreenFORCE**

Celebrating Differences - #nad2023

Mutual learning event 'Embedding RRI into the Green Agenda implementation in WB - **WB-CRRI.NET**

Findings on Ecosystem Services Study in Kune-Vain - **WB-CRRI.NET**

Challenges of the health system in response to civil emergencies - **ideAL**

National Forum: Prevention of agricultural land burning through legal improvements - **ideAL**

International Alumni Reunion in Albania - **Fellows Program**

3 Forums on Protected Areas, Climate, Pollution - **Green-AL**

Forum of Protected Areas January 26th, 2023

On January 26, 2023, Green-AL and the Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS) organized the "Forum for Protected Areas" in Tirana. The Forum aimed to raise awareness and discuss challenges and opportunities for nature conservation in Albania. The Forum brought together 70 participants, including representatives from local and foreign Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), universities, and environmental experts. They had the opportunity to discuss the challenges of protecting the protected areas, recognized as the richest biodiversity hotspots in Albania, Europe, and the world.

In particular the following concerns were raised:

- ▶ Natural and modified habitats in Protected Areas are threatened by policies and unsustainable economic activities.
- ▶ Reduction of Protected Wetland Areas through Decisions of the Council of Ministers No. 59/2022, No. 60/2022, and No. 694/2022.

At the conclusion of the Forum for Protected Areas, a [joint statement](#) signed by **49 CSOs** was released.



3 Forums on Protected Areas, Climate, Pollution - Green-AL

National Forum, Climate Change in Albania, March 28th, 2023

On March 28, 2023, in Tirana, the National Forum “Climate Change in Albania” was organized by Green – AL in collaboration with REC Albania and Forumi i Mendimit të Lirë. The Forum aimed to discuss the climate emergency, the level of preparedness to cope with and adapt to the consequences of a changing climate, particularly as Albania is recognized as one of the most vulnerable countries in the Mediterranean. The Forum was attended by 100 participants representatives of local and foreign CSOs, universities, environmental experts, local and national institutions who had the opportunity to discuss the challenges that Albania faces from climate change impact.

In particular the following topics were discussed:

- ▶ The framework of strategic climate documents remains out of date and unharmonized with developments in the country, region, and the European Union.
- ▶ Climate issues remain unintegrated in all sectors and development policies of the country, necessitating a more inter-sectoral approach.
- ▶ Financial resources to address the consequences of climate change are insufficient, and human resources remain limited and unqualified.

A [joint statement](#) signed by **63 CSOs** was released at the conclusion of the National Forum on Climate Change in Albania.



National Pollution Forum April 14th, 2023

On April 14, 2023, in Tirana, the National Pollution Forum was organized by Green-AL in collaboration with Milieukontakt Albania. The forum aimed to raise awareness and encourage both central and local institutions to implement more measures to address air, water, and soil pollution, as well as the impact of pollution on public health.

The event was attended by 60 participants, including representatives from local and international CSOs, universities, environmental experts, and local and national institutions. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the challenges Albania faces due to air, water, and soil pollution.

The following key topics were discussed:

- ▶ Lack of concrete commitments from state agencies to monitor, track, and reduce pollution in water, air, and land;
- ▶ Lack of transparency and public engagement in issues related to air, water, and soil pollution;
- ▶ Insufficient studies addressing the health and social consequences of pollution in communities;
- ▶ Inadequate financial resources to tackle the effects of pollution, alongside limited and under-qualified human resources and local authorities;

A [joint statement](#) signed by **50 CSOs** was released at the conclusion of the National Pollution Forum.



Conference: "From Vision to Action, for a Greener Future" - Green-AL

Green - AL National Conference, "From Vision to Action, for a Greener Future" December 7th, 2023

On December 7, 2023, the closing conference of the Green - AL project, titled "From Vision to Action, for a Greener Future" took place in Tirana. This project was implemented from January 2021 to December 2023 by the partnership between Co-PLAN, the Institute for Habitat Development, VIS Albania, COSV - Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo, and CISP - Sviluppo dei Popoli.

The conference provided a platform to showcase the accomplishments of the Green-AL project over its three-year implementation period. It also underscored the urgent need to address environmental issues in Albania, with a particular focus on the importance of actively involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in political and decision-making processes.

During the event, environmental CSOs financially supported by Green-AL, as well as other CSOs working in the environmental sector, had the opportunity to present their work and highlight the challenges faced by the communities they represent. This created a forum to bring attention to the environmental issues affecting both urban and rural areas of the country.

At this closing event, representatives of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Albania announced the continuation of support for environmental CSOs. The upcoming second phase of the Green-AL project, which will span four years, will continue to focus on environmental issues and the sustainable management of natural resources.



GreenFORCE - Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans

RAB meeting - Conceptualization and contextualization of Green Transition in the WB , April 2023, Tiranë, Albania

During April, GreenFORCE held its first Research Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in Tirana bringing together more than **20 researchers** actively involved in the project. During this

hybrid meeting **6 distinguished RAB members** discussed with GreenFORCE researchers the selection and the progress of the GreenFORCE research cases in **5 Western Balkan Countries**.



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Summer School of Politecnico di Torino "Cities in Just Green Transitions with a focus on Turin post-carbon transformations" September 2023, Italy

In September 2023, the first Summer School of GreenFORCE, organized by Politecnico di Torino, hosted **25 students** from the partner universities of UB-GeF, POLITO and POLIS,

jointly with **6 academic researchers** to engage in an intensive experience of "Cities in Just Green Transitions with a focus on Turin post-carbon transformations"



National Activism Day - NAD 2023

Celebrating Differences - #nad2023

2023 marked the sixth year of National Activism Day celebrated in Albania, a growing tradition dedicated cherishing civic activism of all forms with a geography that spans across the country echoing the importance of civic activism and its instrumental role in building a healthy democracy. Similarly to the previous five years, through #NAD2023 we aimed to highlight the importance of civic activism, to acknowledge the contribution of Albanian Activists from different fields and regions, as well as to showcase successful examples of advocacy efforts or initiatives.

For the first time since its conception, this year #NAD was celebrated as part of America Week held during the 2nd week of October. This

The five categories to be awarded included:



Appreciation



Activism



Courage



Community Engagement

In total, **35 nominations were received**. For transparency reasons, a **five-member jury** was set up, comprising of personalities with outstanding and tangible contributions in this field:





Ms. Bardhylka Kospiri

Activist for the rights of persons with disabilities



Ms. Etleva Sheshi

General Directorate of Social Protection Development, Ministry of Health and Social Protection



Mr. Robert Gajda

Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination



Ms. Blerta Drenofci

Executive Director of Albanian Disability Rights Foundation



Ms. Flavia Shehu

Clinical Psychologist, Down Syndrome Albania

AWARD WINNERS



GERSI TROKA

Courage Award



MEDPAK

Appreciation Award



SUELA LALA

Activism Award (as an individual)



OAZ' Foundation

Community Engagement Award



ANAD

Activism Award (as an organization)

The awards were announced and disseminated during the launching event of the National Activism Day and America Week, held on October 11, 2023.


The event was moderated by **PAO Mr. Chad Twitty**, and hosted several distinguished guests: **Charge d' Affaires Mr. David Wisner, Minister of Culture Ms. Elva Margariti, Minister of Health and Social Protection Ms. Albana Koçiu, Mr. RJ MITTE**. Approximately **250 people** participated to this event - comprising local organisations, activists, youth, people involved in disability rights movements or provision of services.

Following greeting remarks by Charge d' Affaires Mr. David Wisner, Minister of Culture Ms. Elva Margariti, a brief documentary was screened offering a different perspective to how disability can be viewed, and what the role of society and policymakers should be in promoting and valorizing differences.

RJ MITTE delivered a keynote speech sharing his personal story and his conviction, which in his words was: "The only person holding you back, is you". Following RJ MITTE's inspirational and encouraging talk, the five awards were announced and disseminated to the winners of this year.

All participants moved to the **FAIR OF ACTIVISM**, conveniently held at the Sheshi Italia. **Over 48 organisations** participated to this fair, having joined from different parts of Albania. The organisations had personalised stalls, and showcased for the public and the visitors aspects from their work. A big LED screen was installed (including audio) to screen various videos prepared by the different participating organisations and activists.

This year the fair was greeted by the Shkodër-based band 'The Door', comprising 24 talented young persons with various types of disabilities. Talented Singer Blerina Shalari also greeted the fair as she sang and played the piano. Two theatrical plays were also staged during the fair.



"The only person holding you back, is you".

Mr. RJ MITTE





Mutual learning event 'Embedding RRI into the Green Agenda implementation in WB', 11-13 October, Tirana, Albania

On 11-13 October Co-PLAN, together with MTE and with the support of Polis University, organized the Open Dialogue and Mutual Learning event titled 'Embedding RRI into the Green Agenda in Western Balkans'. The event was organized in the framework of the WBC-RRI.net project and focused on the green future of the Western Balkans, specifically the implementation of the Green Agenda and the challenges of the green transition. This event was aimed at integrating Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles into Smart Specialization Strategies (S3) and enhancing sustainability and inclusivity in the region.

The first day established a comprehensive understanding of the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans. Participants discussed the fundamental pillars of the Green Agenda, focusing on practical implementation challenges and equitable dimensions. Financial and institutional support mechanisms were critically examined, with insights drawn from Horizon/EU-funded projects. Key highlights included opening addresses by Almira Xhembulla, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, Besnik Aliaj, Rector of Polis University, and Elona Karafili, Deputy Rector. Keynote presentations featured Elvana Ramaj, MTE, on Albania's green transition efforts; Carlos Tapia from Nordregio, who discussed the Just Green Transition; and Mihone Kerolli on green transition and sustainability in the Western Balkans.

A roundtable discussion on best practices for implementing the Green Agenda included insights from Kejt Dhrami and Fiona Imami from Co-PLAN, Desiree Pecarz from ZSI GmbH, and Muhamet Mustafa and Luan Shllaku from the RIINVEST Institute. The day concluded with a workshop on integrating RRI principles

into green transition research and tours of Polis University's Innovation Factory and the Observatory of the Mediterranean Basin, followed by an evening tour in Durrës.

Building on the first day, the second day focused on the S3 Innovation agendas of the Western Balkans. Discussions centered around developing research and innovation strategies for smart specialization (RIS3) and the applicability of the place-based innovation approach.

Keynote presentations included:

- ▶ Dominique Foray from EPFL on the policy response to the Green Deal.
- ▶ Emanuele Fabbri from the European Commission, JRC, on the Smart Specialisation framework for the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region.
- ▶ Linda Pustina on S3 implementation in Albania.
- ▶ Mirela Muca on the National Research Agenda with a focus on sustainability.

Participants engaged in a group exercise and open discussion on the opportunities and challenges for S4+, focusing on inclusivity and sustainability. Policy recommendations for RRI enhancement of S3 were facilitated by experts from SEERC and Co-PLAN. The day also included an informal session with the Working Group 2 on Public Engagement and Science Education, and a field trip to the Kune Vaini lagoon to observe the Albanian citizen science pilot initiative.

The final day commenced with a networking side-event aligned with the International Conference on "Issues of Housing, Planning, and Resilient Development of the Territory," hosted by Polis University and the Albanian Science Academy. Concurrently, the WBC-RRI.net General

Assembly took place. The event concluded with an alternative walking tour of Tirana, providing participants with insights into the city's urban landscape and architectural heritage, thus bringing the three days of robust discussions and collaborative exploration to a close.



Co-Assessment workshop - WBC-RRI.net

Co-Assessment workshop: Validation of Findings on Ecosystem Services Study in Kune-Vain, WBC-RRI.net, September, Lezha

In September 2023, Co-PLAN finalized its research on applying 'citizen science' principles in assessing ecosystem services in Kune-Vain. In a dialogue roundtable, the project team presented the final findings to representatives of the region's quadruple helix stakeholders. Participants were introduced to the methodology used to measure the economic value of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, fishing, flood protection, wastewater treatment, and recreational and cultural services. This assessment was conducted in the context of the need for climate change adaptation and aims to encourage environmental education and evidence-based policymaking.

During the event, participants engaged in working groups to discuss the specific role of each actor in the transition towards adaptability and to share specific recommendations for the lagoon. The activity was further enriched by a presentation from Prof. Dr. Aleko Miho, who shared findings from research conducted at the Faculty of Natural Sciences on the wetland complex. This dialogue roundtable served as an important platform for exchanging final knowledge and strengthening collaboration between various actors in the field of environmental management and climate change adaptation.



Challenges of the health system in response to civil emergencies - ideAL

National Forum: Challenges of the health system in response to civil emergencies, May, 2023, Tiranë

Co-PLAN, in cooperation with the Association 'Together for Life', organized the National Forum of Civil Society Organizations "Challenges of the health system in response to civil emergencies", in the premises of Europe House Tirana.

The National Forum focused on analyzing the challenges faced by the health system in Albania during emergency situations, with a special focus on the earthquake of November 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic. In this forum, the improvement of the response and coordination of institutions was discussed, also focusing on strengthening the role of civil society organizations.

The purpose of the forum was to bring together through several discussion panels, civil

society organizations, professionals, experts, representatives from institutions including line ministries, and individuals interested in the field of public health to share knowledge on best practices related to the preparation and response to civil emergencies. Well-known experts in the fields of health, law and economics spoke about the multiple impact that emergencies reflect on society.

The meeting was also greeted by institutions with important contributions to our country, such as: Mrs. Chantal Nicod, Head of the Health and Governance Sector, at the Embassy of Switzerland in Albania, as well as representatives of the office of the World Health Organization in Albania - WHO Albania, etc.



Prevention of agricultural land burning through legal improvements - ideAL

National Forum: Prevention of agricultural land burning through legal improvements, 27 July 2023, Tiranë

Co-PLAN in cooperation with the Iliria Association organized a national forum on "Prevention of the burning of agricultural lands through legal improvements". This forum was intended to bring together some of the main actors in Albania to express their position and views on the burning of agricultural lands. The forum also aimed to define an agenda of next steps to work on the eradication of such practice.

During the discussion, findings from in-depth research were presented on the effect that the burning of agricultural lands has on biodiversity,

erosion and the increase in the cost of agricultural production due to the loss of nutrients in the soil as a result of fires.

In an effort to curb such phenomenon, ILIRIA drafted and proposed recommendations for the improvement of the national legislation, aiming at the implementation of good and sustainable agricultural practices, as is done in the countries of the European Union. The proposals of the Iliria Organization served for the drafting of the draft law "On some additions to law no. 9244, dated 17.6.2004, "on the protection of agricultural land", as amended.



International Alumni Reunion in Albania - Fellows Program

GLC Professional Fellows Program,
November 1-5, 2023, Golem, Kavajë

This event was the 7th physical alumni Reunion organized in Europe since the beginning of the GLC Professional Fellows Program in 2012. The overarching theme of this event was 'Strengthening Communities of Learning and Practice', with an aim to highlight the importance of the work each organizer does

and enable further networking opportunities amongst them. To achieve this the days of the event were filled with numerous events, such as plenary sessions, tailor-made workshops, thematical working meetings, networking sessions and cultural visits.



Annual Workshop 2023,
11 - 12 May, Skopje, North Macedonia

In May 2023, the two-day 6th Annual Workshop of the Western Balkan Network on Territorial Governance was held in Skopje, North Macedonia along with the online and on-site participation of more than 20 partners of the Network.

This year's workshop discussions were rounded on "Harvesting talents to address demographic transformations that are shaping societies and economies in WB" as one of the key challenges of the region.

Among other things' the discussions underscored that the Green Agenda and other policy commitments made by Western Balkan countries demand more profound societal and academic discussion to design place-sensitive and realistic pathways for regional development. In addition, the participants reflected on how to improve macroregional governance in the Western Balkans and finding new pathways to enhance the future of the network in terms of how to position it better in the region related to territorial governance issues.

Networking and Conferencing BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUCCESS



Revitalizing River Cities: Connecting Biodiversity and Justice, Leiden, Netherlands

Co-PLAN, an active member of the River Cities Network (RCN) since its inception in 2022, plays a crucial role in the global initiative dedicated to transforming urban rivers and waterways into vibrant, biodiverse, and resilient spaces. RCN brings together diverse stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, community leaders, and activists, to address the complex challenges posed by urban river and waterway disruption and degradation.

In September 2023, RCN members convened in Leiden at the Lorentz Center for a workshop to build a theoretical framework and practical tools to integrate the two pillars of the RCN alliance: transformational resilience (justice) and biodiversity restoration. The workshop, attended by 25 in-person participants and 15 online participants from 17 countries, explored key questions regarding the intersection of biosciences and social sciences/humanities perspectives on urban rivers and waterways and identified tools and methods for achieving revitalization.



Structured discussions throughout the workshop utilized the Three Horizons method, facilitating critical analysis of transitions in scenarios ranging from “business as usual” to “emerging futures.” The outcomes of these discussions laid the groundwork for future collaboration within the RCN, including developing a “manifesto” for policymakers and scholars and creating tools to advance interdisciplinary cooperation.

While the workshop did not yield immediate breakthroughs, it fostered valuable dialogue and knowledge sharing among participants, resulting in concrete outcomes that will guide RCN activities in the future. The high level of engagement throughout the workshop underscored its significance as a platform for collaboration and problem-solving in urban river restoration.

The insights and tools generated by the workshop will serve as the foundation for ongoing efforts to address the complex challenges facing urban rivers and waterways, ensuring a more sustainable and equitable future for communities worldwide.”



River Cities Network inaugural face-to-face meeting, November 25-27, 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

The River Cities Network held its inaugural face-to-face meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, from November 25-27, 2023. The event brought together principal investigators from RCN project teams, network coordinators, and advisors to stimulate interaction, engage with local communities, and discuss the network’s future strategies.

The three-day meeting was structured to maximize collaboration and learning between global researchers. The first and third days, held at the Montien Riverside Hotel, featured roundtable discussions on strategic issues for the RCN and presentations on Bangkok’s waterways context. The second day was dedicated to a field visit to the Bang Krachao urban orchard community, where participants engaged in hands-on fieldwork with local representatives. This community engagement focused on four

key challenges: land use change, flood barrier and excess saltwater issues, socioeconomic changes, and biodiversity loss. The interaction provided valuable insights into local disruption challenges and fostered a mutual exchange of knowledge between the RCN teams and the community. This meeting set a strong foundation for the RCN’s future activities, emphasizing the importance of collaborative approaches in addressing urban river management issues.

RCN is a transdisciplinary and global network to promote ecologically and socially inclusive revitalization of rivers and waterways and the landscapes, cities and neighborhoods that co-exist with them. Co-PLAN is part of the River Cities Network since 2022, working on Cross-border Buna riverine ecosystem. For more information about the Network see here: [Map | River Cities Network \(RCN\)](#)



Regional Studies Association's (RSA) Annual Conference 15-16, June 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Researchers from Co-PLAN, Polytechnic University of Turin and Center for Economic Analyses – CEA presented their working papers at the 2023 Regional Studies Association's (RSA) Annual Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as part of Special Session 51 'Assessing the Impacts of Just and Green Transition in the Western Balkans Region', on June 15 and 16, 2023. Special session 51 aimed to generate knowledge on just and green transition, governance, and place-based politics in the Western Balkans and facilitate exchange among EU and Western Balkans researchers. It contributes to filling the

gap in Western Balkans place-based evidence and perspectives concerning a combined EU – Western Balkans territorial development.

This conference was one of the largest knowledge exchange and networking gatherings in 2023. It brought together, from 50 different global territories, academics and policymakers to exchange news, views and research findings from the fields of regional studies and science, regional and economic development, policy and planning.



Learning Firsthand of Nordic Regional Cooperation

GreenFORCE - partners Co-PLAN, UB-GEF, CEA and Nordregio, came together in Iceland in mid-October 2023 to learn firsthand about the Nordic model of regional cooperation as part of a study visit organised by Nordregio, an institutional partner in this project and a research centre established by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the official body for inter-governmental co-operation in the Nordic Region.

As such, Nordregio plays a key role in the implementation of the Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Development and Planning and leads three Nordic Thematic Groups who came together from across the Nordics for meetings in Iceland. The participation in the Nordic Forum was a unique opportunity for the Western Balkans partners - Co-PLAN, UB-GEF and CEA to be active participants in the Forum and get hands-on insights into how the Nordic collaboration works. The events in Iceland encompassed several

key components, including Nordregio Forum, an annual conference that serves as a platform for professionals and policymakers working with regional, rural, and urban development in Nordic countries.

“It was stimulating to testify to the degree of cooperation among professionals and policymakers of the Nordic countries,” said Anila Bejko, Executive Director of Co-Plan. “During the forum, they were exchanging ideas, sharing new knowledge, examples, and experiences, while pushing national and regional policy agendas.”

Beyond the conference, participants engaged in parallel meetings of the three Nordic Thematic Groups, each focusing on distinct areas:

- (i) Green and Inclusive Rural Development;
- (ii) Green, Innovative and Resilient Regions,
- (iii) Green and Inclusive Urban Development.



Co-PLAN Participating in AESOP 35th Annual Congress in Lodz, Poland

During September 2023, GreenFORCE project and Co-PLAN were represented at the Project Space in the Policy Dialogues Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Conference **“Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans – Vision 2030 – Digital/Green/Health Pathways”** aimed at stimulating a policy dialogue on how to align priorities in the Western Balkans (WB), focusing on policymaking, stakeholder engagement

and policy implementation tools across three thematic areas: Digital Transformation, Green Deal and Healthy Societies.

In the concluding plenary session, our Researcher Fiona Imami contributed to the discussion among other regional experts in the Green Agenda issues, to reflect on the key takeaways and recommendations that arose from the general discussions of the conference.



2023 Projects

Donor: Supported by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida with funds from the Swedish Government

Duration: 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2023

Value of the project: 1.223.100 Euro

Budget for grants: 785.000 Euro

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development

COSV - Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario

VIS Albania - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo

CISP - Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli

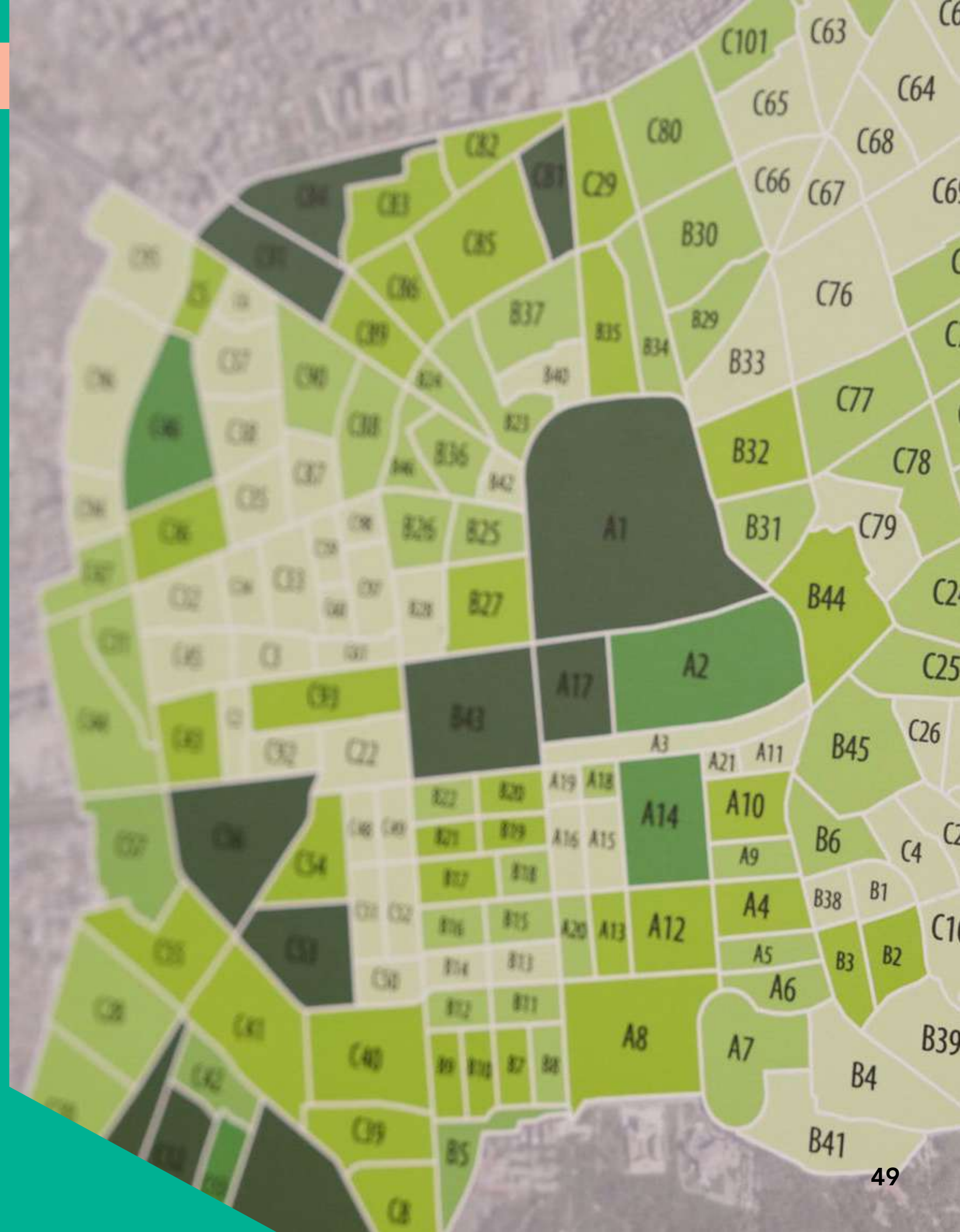
Implemented in: Albania

The project “Empower Grass-Root CSOs for Improved Innovative Environmental Protection in Albania”, Green-AL, aims to the empowerment of ECSOs and other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address environmental challenges in Albania. The project focuses on the strengthening the capacities of ECSOs and the creation of new opportunities for collaboration among CSOs, grass-root organisations, community organisations, public authorities, educational institutions, and private sector at different levels in such way to create the premises to build a vibrant, empowered and collaborative environment that can raise issues from the local level that can impact the national policy level.

The overall objective of the Green-AL project is to contribute to the improvement and factorization of environmental CSOs to effectively address environmental challenges in Albania for tangible change.

In more specific terms, the project aims to achieve the following Specific Objectives:

- ▶ SO1: To enhance the capacity of Albanian local environmental CSOs, through a comprehensive, and capacity building
- ▶ SO2: To introduce innovative models in environmental management and capacity development through a comprehensive and integrated sub-grant scheme addressing environmental topics at local
- ▶ SO3: To factor the CSOs’ evidence-informed input and advocacy role in environmental policy-making processes.



Donor: EU/ Horizon 2020 Programme

Duration: 04/07/2022 – 04/07/2025

Value of the project: 1 499 305 EUR

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development
University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography (UB-GEF) in Serbia
Center for Economic Analyses (CEA) in North Macedonia
Nordregio, pan-Nordic research organization, based in Sweden
Politecnico di Torino, Italy

GreenFORCE aims at fostering excellence in the “Western Balkans’ green transition” scientific research and innovation of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB GEF (Serbia), as a means to enhancing their research profile, strengthening research and management capacities of their staff, and contributing to convergence between Western Balkans (WB) and EU research capacities, as well as to wider policy initiatives for the WB region. This objective is reached through the twinning partnership of five organisations that will work closely to produce territorial knowledge through exploratory research and institutional learning; will transfer and exchange knowledge among partner organisations through applying the knowledge management cycle; and will engage in networking for sharing, cross-fertilizing and amplifying knowledge at the societal level. Ultimately, the ambition is to transcend from individual learning to enabling institutional learning, making sure that research and research management practices become institutionalised within the recipient organisations.

In addition, GreenFORCE contributes to the wider impacts of the destination (scientific, societal and economic) as a twinning project that makes use of a knowledge-creation and management cycle of actions to develop scientific research capacities and research management.

Its Specific objectives include:

- ▶ SO1: To enhance the research profiles and agendas of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB-GEF (Serbia), around green transitions in WB
- ▶ SO2: To strengthen the research administration and management capacities of the recipient partner organisations by developing and applying an innovative model of R&I collaboration between the WB and EU researchers in the consortium.
- ▶ SO3: To carry out knowledge generating, exploratory and comparative research on green transition processes, policies, costs and impacts, and its relation to spatial and regional policies, in WB and EU.
- ▶ SO4: To share, amplify, and exploit the knowledge generated by the research of the twinning partners into WB societal actors and networks interested and/or engaged in WB green transition practices, policies and/or decision-making.

During April, GreenFORCE held its **first Research Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in Tirana** bringing together more than **20 researchers** actively involved in the project. During this hybrid meeting **6 distinguished RAB members** discussed with GreenFORCE researchers the selection and the progress of the GreenFORCE research cases in 5 Western Balkan Countries.

The UB-GEF **3-day Scientific Conference “Green Agenda for the Western Balkan”**, brought more than **270 academics, students, researchers, decision makers and business representatives** from the region, to discuss on the future of Just Green Transition”

In September 2023, the first Summer School of GreenFORCE, organized by Politecnico di Torino, hosted **25 students** from the partner universities of UB-GeF, POLITO and POLIS, jointly with **6 academic researchers** to engage in an intensive experience of **“Cities in Just Green Transitions with a focus on Turin post-carbon transformations”**

9 Teaching exchanges & 2 secondment meetings organized among GreenFORCE Partners

2 Policy Briefs issued by Co-PLAN in the frame of Just Green Transition in the WB.



Social Housing, Support Municipalities in Albania to Design the 5-year Social Housing Municipal Plans

Donor: UNDP, Leave no one Behind, Phase 2

Duration: 09/2022 - 03/2023

Value of the project: 6,928,600 ALL

This project was supported by “**Leave no one Behind, Phase 2**”, a program implemented by the **United Nations Development Program in Albania**, funded by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**. This consultancy includes the municipalities of **Lushje, Berat, Elbasan, Librazhd, Pogradec, Kolonje, Devoll and Sarandë**, and was implemented by MetroPOLIS shpk and **Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development**.

The overarching objective of the Project ‘Support Municipalities in Albania to Design the 5-year Social Housing’ was to provide targeted assistance to a group of municipalities within Albania (9 in total) in developing comprehensive plans for municipal social housing over a five-year period. This initiative entails collaborative efforts to assess housing needs, engage

stakeholders, draft tailored housing strategies, and establish frameworks for sustainable housing solutions. By focusing on these municipalities, the project seeks to address housing challenges and enhance living standards, especially for vulnerable communities in Albania.

Its Specific objectives include:

The main activities / deliverables developed within this assignment are as follows:

- ▶ **SO1:** Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the social housing requirements among the most vulnerable demographics within their jurisdiction.
- ▶ **SO2:** Evaluate the municipality’s capabilities, encompassing human resources, technical expertise, financial resources, and organizational structures, to effectively address identified housing needs.
- ▶ **SO3:** Formulate precise action plans and provide accurate budgetary estimations for the seamless implementation of social housing initiatives, ensuring alignment with identified needs and available resources.

- ▶ Phase 1: Drafting of Inception report
- ▶ Phase 2: In-depth analysis, field survey and establishment of the integrated database
- ▶ Phase 3: Drafting of 5-year Social Housing Programs

- 9 MUNICIPAL HOUSING PLANS DRAFTED, CONSULTED AND PUBLISHED**
- 3 REGIONAL CO-DESIGN WORKSHOPS FOR VISIONING (+40 PARTICIPANTS)**
- 9 MUNICIPALITIES JOB TRAINING FOR MUNICIPAL STAFF**

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3 regional co-design workshops organized

Co-PLAN and MetroPOLIS conducted 3 regional Visioning Workshops to finalize the work on determining social housing priorities in 9 beneficiary municipalities. The workshops were held at the Municipalities of Elbasan, Lushnje, and Devoll during February-March 2023. Participants were dedicated work teams

for drafting the 5-year Social Housing Plan from the 9 beneficiary Municipalities. After a general presentation of the findings from the analyses for each municipality and the general framework of the visioning process, participants were divided into working groups to co-develop:

- ▶ Identification of the vision for social housing issues;
- ▶ Breaking down the vision into strategic objectives and sub-objectives
- ▶ Determining the approximate cost, possible source of funding, and time frame for each activity
- ▶ Setting monitoring indicators.



Donor: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division

Duration: PF23: 11/03/2022 – 31/05/2024
PF24: 01/05/2023 – 31/12/2024

Value of the project: PF23: 36,540 USD
PF24: 33,394 USD

Partners: Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) in the United States, Pro-European Network Association (PEN) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CKA) in Hungary, CeRe in Romania, Center for Community Organizing (CKO) in Slovakia

The Professional Fellows Program is a two-way, expenses-paid international exchange program focused on governance and society for emerging mid-level leaders from five Eastern European countries. It supports active citizens to be strong advocates for citizen-led democracy in Eastern Europe by providing in-person, virtual and blended professional development for them to develop skills for community organizing, citizen

engagement, community-led development and advocacy. Its expected outcomes are to provide community leaders with enhanced technical knowledge, leadership skills, and professional connections to spark positive change in their communities, as well as to build enduring connections between young professionals from the partner countries.

Specific objectives:

- ▶ Provide opportunities for European and American emerging leaders to collaborate and share ideas, approaches, and strategies regarding pressing challenges;
- ▶ Strengthen the leadership and professional skills of European participants and their U.S. mentors and counterparts;

- ▶ Build a global network of like-minded professionals;
- ▶ Learn U.S. best practices in citizen-led democracy and advocacy for marginalized/ underrepresented or rural communities;
- ▶ Explore diverse community organizing methods for solving problems in

IN NUMBERS

+30 PARTICIPANTS FROM ALBANIA HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE FELLOWSHIP (SINCE 2017)

+10 U.S. MENTORS HAVE VISITED ALBANIA AND ASSISTED FELLOWS IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PLANS.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

From September to October 2023, three Albanian fellows (Enron Seiti, Enkela Binaj and Kejsi Hysa) participated in a six-week fellowship in the United States alongside 18 other individuals from four Eastern European countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia).

The first week of the fellowship consisted of an orientation in Chicago, Illinois. This included an arrival orientation and training session, which involved active participation and team-building activities for the participants. Following that, the fellows had a four-week internship at select U.S. organizations, where they gained practical experience and collaborated closely with their respective mentors. Mr. Enron Seiti completed his internship with B.U.I.L.D. (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct-Action),

located in Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Enkela Binaj completed her internship at the Toledo Federation of Teachers in Toledo, Ohio, while Ms. Kejsi Hysa undertook her internship at Justice Matters in Lawrence, Kansas.

After completing their internships, all fellows attended a peer-to-peer learning session in Washington, D.C. The event allowed the fellows to share their experiences and debate the ideas they received while working at host organisations in the United States. The debate also focused on potential implementation techniques for some of the new concepts in their respective countries.

By the end of their internship, the Albanian participants developed 6-month Individual Action Plans for follow-up activities in their home country.



Donor: European Union

Duration: 01/06/2020 - 07/06/2023

Fund: 1,000,000 EUR

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development and European Policy Center (EPC, Belgium)

Implemented in: Albania

The project 'Dialogue for inclusive evidence-based policy development in Albania' (hereinafter referred to as IdeAL) successfully completed its 42 month-mandate on July 5, 2023. The overall objective of IdeAL was to contribute to the improvement of public policy dialogue in Albania by strengthening policy dialogue in reform processes and by facilitating engagement and dialogue between central and local state institutions and non-state actors. In more specific terms, the project aimed to (i) Facilitate interaction and collaboration between state actors and non- state actors (civil society, think tanks, social partners, media, researchers, etc.) and support structured and evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes; (ii) Establish a capacity development platform

to support non-state actors in areas related to public policy formulation, policy budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation; (iii) Set up a communication and learning platform on policy dialogue, to drive policymaking efforts, promote results, good practices, lesson learned, and continuous improvements. An important element of the project was that of offering technical and financial support for domestic non-state actors - including individuals or organisations. Such support, constituted an instrumental part of capacity-building and ensuring knowledge exchange and networking among different stakeholders. Three and a half years on, some of the key accomplishments of the project can be summarised as follows:

▶ At least **21 policy-influencing initiatives** were identified and supported in the process of pushing forward meaningful proposals aimed at introducing policy changes or improvements across a spectrum of topics that affect different aspects of our local reality and the bigger picture of policy-making at a central level.

▶ Numerous dialogues (**at least 42**) were initiated and advanced on a local or national level, in the form of round-tables, discussion tables, national forums, etc.;

▶ Several training sessions were organised by experienced professionals in matters of policy-influencing, advocacy, communicating for impact, policy-influencing and ethics, etc.;

▶ A solid collection of resources were developed, be it in the form of manuals, case study clips, or policy papers which have been shared through the dedicated platform www.ide-al.org.

▶ On numerous occasions, **such proposals were endorsed** by the relevant institutions as was the case in a number of sectors,

- Proposals on Chronic Disease Management Protocols in times of emergencies' brought forth by Together for Life;
- Proposals on a number of aspects within the tourism sectors including: Measures to curb informality among the tour guide community; Proposals to include DMOs and relevant provisions in the current Law for Tourism; proposals on introduction of certified standards in the hospitality sector in Albania; etc.
- Proposal on prevention of agricultural land burning - improvements to current legislation resulting in an amended law, as proposed by Iliria Association, currently awaiting approval in Parliament; etc.
- Proposal for reducing the retirement age of a particular society group of the Roma Community benefitting from the social pension, as proposed by Qendra T'Reja in cooperation with two other local organisations;

▶ Several exchange opportunities were offered to the most engaged sub-grantee organisations and individuals, amounting to over 50% of the supported sub-grantee organisations and individuals. Such exchange visits were in the form of structured exchanges and dialogue opportunities with EU-level policymakers, in Brussels, or other member states of interest, depending on the focus of the initiative of the specific organisations or individuals;

In view of a long tradition, Co-PLAN continued to offer its written contribution to the drafting process of the EU country progress report on Albania. Similarly, it has encouraged the community of organisations and individuals it supported, to adopt similar practices by contributing, especially when specifically solicited by the authorities.

Donor: European Delegation in Albania

Duration: 1/06/ 2021 - 31/11/2023

Fund: EUR 2,647,236.75

Implemented by: NALAS, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Eco Partners, Association for Local Autonomy and Albanian Association of Municipalities Implemented in: Albania

The overarching objective of EU4M project is to support the development potential of municipalities and improve environmental and socio-economic conditions in the local communities in Albania. Throughout its lifetime, the project aims at achieving the following specific objectives:

Support municipalities in implementing their strategic development objectives and plans to improve local public infrastructure and services

Strengthen municipal absorption and management capacities for EU funding

The priority of the EU4M is to support municipalities via grants in the fields of sustainable local economic development, local public infrastructure and services, innovation, job creation, youth empowerment, environmental protection, city greening as well as improving

access to and quality of education, social care, public health, sports, culture and other basic local government services.

EU4M has awarded 19 sub-grant contracts of up to 1.7 million EUR with 19 municipalities.

Through the sub-grant scheme, the project has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of human rights, gender equality, democracy and good governance and in particular children's rights. All the EU4M funded projects helped to improve access to and quality of local public services which is a significant contribution to promoting human rights and gender equality. Youth engagement and empowerment too is a common feature of the EU4M funded projects making a significant contribution to promoting children's rights. Similarly, the EU4M funded projects promote a new model of partnership between municipalities, local communities and civil society organizations when it comes to consultations for the investment projects to be funded by the Grant Scheme.

Some of the financed projects are as follows:



Municipality of Përmet

Improve Access to Public Services for Youth Empowerment



Municipality of Shkodër

Boost to Social Inclusion and Development of the Community



Municipality of Gjirokastër

Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination



Municipality of Berat

Executive Director of Albanian Disability Rights Foundation



Municipality of Mat

Clinical Psychologist, Down Syndrome Albania



Municipality of Pukë

Clinical Psychologist, Down Syndrome Albania

Donor: UNDP Albania within the project “Strengthening renewable skills in Albania” RESEAL and under the responsibility of the National Civil Defense Agency

Duration: 8 months

Fund: EUR 120,000

Implemented by: Co-PLAN- Institute for Habitat Development and MetroPOLIS

Implemented in: Albania

Albania is positioned in the Western Balkans and according to the World Risk Index (World Risk Index 2022), it is ranked 82 out of 192 countries in the world as the most exposed to natural disasters as well as among the countries with a high vulnerability factor to them.

The four main hazards affecting the country are earthquakes, floods, forest fires and landslides. The International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) shows that, during the period 1979-2019, floods accounted for a significant proportion of disaster events (38%), followed by earthquakes (15%).

The level of exposure and vulnerability to risks also comes as a result of the combination of various factors such as socio-economic, environmental processes and the institutional and political context in the country. On the other hand, the migratory movements of the population from rural areas towards the most urbanized areas of the country have increased the population density in urban areas, increasing the pressure on natural resources, accompanied by changes in land use as well as poor urban planning, to accommodate the needs for housing, infrastructure and services.

The County of Fier, due to its position in the western lowlands of the country as well as the water sources that cross it, the River Seman and Vjosa, among the largest in the country, is considered a County exposed to the risk of natural disasters.

Climate change has made the incidence of these events even higher, leaving local authorities and the population unprepared regarding the measures to be taken for prevention, preparation, response and recovery after a disaster. For this reason, it is necessary to develop strategies for reducing the risk of disasters for each municipality of this region.

For this reason, it is necessary for the municipalities to take concrete steps to prevent the risk, being in accordance with the law, no. 45/2019, dated 18.07.2019, “On civil protection” and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the period 2023-2030, continuing with the drafting of local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, which are the first step in addressing the issue institutionally.

The main purpose

- ▶ Drafting of local disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans for the 6 municipalities of Fier district in order to orient future activities and investments for disaster risk management in a comprehensive and inter-institutional manner.
- ▶ Drafting of local disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans for the 6 municipalities of Fier district in order to orient future activities and investments for disaster risk management in a comprehensive and inter-institutional manner.

Specific objectives

- ▶ To assist the municipalities of Fier district in the drafting of ZRF Strategies
- ▶ Development of a comprehensive and inter-institutional process for the drafting of ZRF Strategies;
- ▶ Increasing the awareness of institutions at the local/regional level, the community and businesses regarding the risk from natural disasters and the need for cooperation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

THE OPENING MEETING FOR THE PROJECT “DRAFTING LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND ACTION PLANS FOR 6 MUNICIPALITIES OF FIER DISTRICT”

In the framework of the development of the project “**Drafting Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Action Plans for the 6 Municipalities of Fier District**”, funded by UNDP within the RESEAL project and with the support of NCDa and funding from the Portuguese and Swedish Governments, the working group from Co-PLAN and MetroPOLIS held several meetings in the municipalities of Fier district.

On 18/12/2023, the first meeting was held with the presence of 6 mayors of Fier district, the prefect of the district, who is also the coordinator at the district level in support of the development of this process, as well as participants from **UNDP, NCDa and the Swedish Government.**

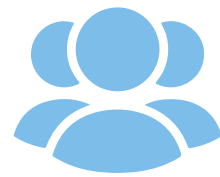
In the framework of: **Strengthening Regeneration Skills in Albania - UNDP RESEAL Project**

This kick-off aimed to present the goal and the process that will be followed for the design of strategies in these 6 municipalities by the Co-PLAN/MetroPOLIS working group. On the part of the mayors, their support and active involvement throughout this process was emphasized. In this kick-off, the most important issues of the municipalities were also presented, which would be discussed during the dedicated meetings in each municipality. In the meeting, the support and interest of the municipalities to be as proactive as possible and their desire for this process to be as comprehensive as possible was expressed.

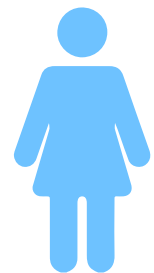
OPENING MEETING TO GET TO KNOW THE WORKING GROUPS WITH EACH MUNICIPALITY OF FIER DISTRICT.

During the following 4 days, 19/12-22/12, dedicated meetings were held with each municipality and the working groups that would cooperate in the drafting of the strategy. These meetings were held with the aim of consolidating the working groups, to ensure their inclusion in the process. From the Co-PLAN/MetroPOLIS working group, a description of the methodology and steps to be followed regarding the drafting of the DRR Strategies was made, with a focus on inclusiveness at the administrative unit level as well as the community.. Then the meeting focused on the development of an interactive training or workshop, from which the interaction of the working group of the respective municipality was expected. The working groups summarized the main risks they face, and during the discussions that took place, they suggested specific elements to be addressed during the drafting of the strategy. The workshops were considered successful, as there was cooperation and interactive discussions between both parties, and some of the issues expressed in the VRF documents were addressed.

Date: 19 December 2023
In the framework of: Strengthening Regeneration Skills in Albania - UNDP RESEAL Project



90



35



55



Donor: European Union, H2020-SwafS
Duration: 09/2022 - 03/2023
Fund: 197,000 EUR
Implemented in: Albania

The WBC-RRI.net project is one of the flagship research projects implemented by Co-PLAN, in partnership with the University of Novi Sad (Lead Partner); University of Banja Luka; ICT Cluster of Vojvodina; South-East European Research Centre (SEERC, Thessaloniki); Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI, Vienna); Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts; NCDIEL; European Science Foundation (ESF, Strasbourg); Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment, "ZONA" Association; Science and Technology Park in Montenegro; RTD Health Cluster in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Objective:

The overall aim of WBC-RRI.NET is to promote the implementation of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles at the territorial level in the Western Balkan Countries (WBCs), in order to promote the creation of a multi-level applicable guiding governance framework for R&I (Research and Innovation). The project's approach addresses five different territories in the Western Balkans, for which a pilot initiative is designed to implement RRI principles (such as gender balance in research, ethics, open access to research, public engagement, science education, etc.). In addition, at the macro-regional level, the project mobilizes an active dialogue of experience sharing and the design of a holistic framework for responsible research and innovation.

In Albania, the initiative implemented by Co-PLAN and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment is titled "Citizen Science in the Kune-

Vain Lagoon Wetland Ecosystem" and addresses two main components of RRI, specifically Public Engagement and Science Education in the territory of Lezha County. The main focus of this initiative in the Kune-Vain Lagoon is ecosystem services, emphasizing the low level of knowledge and mobilization of public and non-public actors towards environmental issues and the protection of similar ecosystems. Through this initiative, Co-PLAN worked closely with the Regional Administration of Protected Areas for Qark of Lezhe (RAPA) to create a knowledge platform regarding the value of ecosystem services, empowering both its management capacities and promoting knowledge transfer to the local community, under the conditions of climate change impacts. This was achieved by piloting for the first time the concept of citizen science, i.e., community engagement in all stages of research,

IN NUMBERS

4 OPEN EVENTS IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

+90 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN 3 WORKING GROUPS

1 AN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

ANCHOR INITIATIVE PRESENTED TO MAYOR OF LEZHA

In March 2023, Co-PLAN experts, Kejt Dhrami and Imeldi Sokoli, presented the study on the assessment of ecosystem services in the Kune-Vain Lagoon, in a consultative meeting with the staff of Lezha Municipality and regional actors. This consultative meeting was held in the presence of the Mayor of Lezha - Pjerin Ndreu, the Rector of Polis University - Prof. Dr. Besnik Aliaj, academic staff of Polis University, staff of Lezha Municipality, and a wider group of stakeholders.

The meeting also discussed the preliminary scientific findings of the study on new territorial planning instruments in the post-pandemic and post-crisis city, funded by NASRI and Polis University. The main issues of discussion were the methodology used for measuring and evaluating ecosystem services, as well as the current key findings for each identified service.



PARTICIPATION IN THE 'GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS' CONFERENCE, BELGRADE

The team of research experts from Co-PLAN, Kejt Dhrami and Rea Muka, presented the preliminary findings of the ecosystem services study at the International Scientific Conference 'Green Agenda for the Western Balkans',

organized by the University of Belgrade in June 2023. During the session, new methods for ecosystem assessment were discussed, and citizen science methods were evaluated as an innovative form of stakeholder engagement.

FRAMEWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION

As part of supporting civil society organizations through the GreenAL project, AOS, together with Republica and EcoAlbania, organized the second Forum of Protected Areas in July 2023. This forum aimed to update stakeholders on the continuity of the litigation process regarding the review of protected areas. During the forum, participants were informed about the court review process of protected

areas and were presented with the data and arguments collected by the plaintiffs. In support of this, Kejt Dhrami presented the preliminary findings of the ecosystem services assessment of the Kune-Vain lagoon, emphasizing that recreational services have the lowest value, while climate support services (flood limitation) have the highest economic and social value.



FOCUS GROUP WITH LAGOON RESIDENTS

On July 18, the project research team, consisting of Kejt Dhrami, Imeldi Sokoli, and Rea Muka, conducted a focus group with residents and key community members of the Kune-Vain lagoon. This meeting aimed to present the initial findings of the pilot initiative. During this focus group, the results of the observation carried out in resident families within the lagoon's area of influence were presented, and a preliminary assessment of lessons learned from this process was made, including specific recommendations from residents and

representatives of fishing entities and local restaurants. Additionally, participants took part in a self-assessment of knowledge before and after the observation process, which showed that community members engaged in the citizen science process had moderately improved their knowledge related to climate, adaptability, and ecosystem services. Meanwhile, reflecting on the feedback received, the community is seeking more practical solutions on the issue of water management in the lagoon.



PARTICIPATION IN OPEN EVENT 'ENGAGING SCIENCE WITH AND FOR YOUTH', BANJA LUKA

Co-PLAN staff, Kejt Dhrami and Rea Muka, participated in two very productive days in Banja Luka with students and professors from the Western Balkans discussing science and social innovation. The event "Engaging Science with and for Youth" had as its main goal the promotion of education in science and innovation, with students from all over the Western Balkans. Topics covered at the

event ranged from teaching young girls about technology, to supporting professors to improve their lectures. On this platform students from Universiteti Polis were given the opportunity to present their innovative work during their first year, together with other colleagues from the Western Balkans. During the event's workshops, students and pupils were asked to share their recommendations on how to make the lectures

of the STEM discipline more interesting and attractive, to build bridges between these two actors of teaching. Co-PLAN also presented its anchor initiative 'Participatory Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Kune-Vain Lagoon through Citizen Science' among other STEM researchers.



PARTICIPATION IN OPEN EVENT 'SCIENCE WITH AND FOR SOCIETY', NOVI SAD

In May 2023, the University of Novi Sad hosted a two-day event as part of the WBC-RRI.NET project, focusing on engaging academia with public/citizens and business. The event attracted over 40 participants each day from Western Balkans and beyond. The first day centered on citizen science, featuring a keynote presentation by Enrico M. Balli from the European Citizen Science Association, a roundtable discussion on citizen science projects, and a workshop on

developing citizen science initiatives. The event aimed to facilitate open dialogue and mutual learning between academia, public sector, and industry representatives, showcasing good practices in engaging academia in innovation creation processes and promoting citizen science in the region. Co-PLAN was represented by Kejt Dhrami, who shared the experience of piloting citizen science in Albania.



PARTICIPATION IN OPEN EVENT 'OPEN SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND SMART SPECIALISATION', OHRID

In July 2023, MASA and NCDIEL organized an open dialogue and mutual learning event in Ohrid, structured in two parts over two days. The first day, titled "Future of Open Science," explored current trends shaping Open Science in the EU and associated countries, including the European Open Science Cloud's efforts in the Western Balkans, research assessment reform, and the future of transferable skills for researchers. The second day, "Collaboration for Innovation & Smart Specialisation," focused on Smart Specialisation strategies and aimed to initiate work on recommendations for Regional

Innovation Systems. This session facilitated the creation of three working groups to embed Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles in the design, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation phases of Smart Specialisation Strategies. The event's conclusions were intended to contribute to a future Policy Brief (published in 2024). Co-PLAN was represented by Kejt Dhrami, Imeldi Sokoli and Rudina Pasholli.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN VIENNA

In December, WBC-RRI.NET partners got together in Vienna to talk about the project’s sustainability, work packages, upcoming public

events, and next steps! The 2 day event was organized by Zentrum für Soziale Innovation – ZSI.



Donor: Supported by LevizAlbania, a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC.

Duration: 01/07/2019 – 30/06/2023

Value of the project: 174,220.00 CHF

Implemented by: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, WHO ELSE?

The “Municipal Finances and Citizen Perception on Local Services” project’s main objective is to provide a complete picture of the status of local finances of Albanian municipalities in a periodical, structured and internationally comparable manner. The Local Finances Platform www.financatvendore.al offers disaggregated data (item-based and at the municipal level),

ensuring a time series on local finances since 2010. Complementary to the quantitative information (the data), quarterly narrative reports and theme-based articles inform on developments in revenues and expenditures, achievements and challenges municipalities face in pursuing their mandated functions and competencies.

Specific objectives

- ▶ To offer a reliable, methodologically sound source of information to all stakeholders, including the municipalities, CSOs, citizens, academia, experts, media, etc., for improved planning and further detailed investigations into local governance issues.
- ▶ To enable local constituencies to influence the municipality’s decisions on how public money is spent based on community priorities;
- ▶ Surveys of citizens’ perceptions as a tool to improve the system: (i) Survey on citizen perception of local taxations, what drives their decision to pay or not to pay taxes, their perception of local services provided, and their willingness to pay for improved services; (ii) Survey of citizens perceptions on water services and their willingness to pay for improved services.

IN NUMBERS

+52 **QUARTERS OF DATA FOR 61 MUNICIPALITIES**

+31 **LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCES REPORTS**

+30 **MEDIA PROGRAMS REFERENCING THE PLATFORM**

+50 **MEDIA ARTICLES**

61 **MUNICIPAL PROFILES**

22,671 **USERS (JULY 2023)**

Smart WB, Curricula innovation in climate-smart urban development based on green and energy efficiency with the non-academic sector

Donor: European Education and Culture Executive Agency, through ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE

Duration: 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2026

Value of the project: 715,074.00 EUR

10,547.00 EUR managed by Co-PLAN

In 2023 Co-PLAN started implementing a new Erasmus project, in partnership with the University of Montenegro (lead); University of Niš; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Austria (BOKU); University of Zagreb; Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC); Technische Hochschule Ostwestfalen-Lippe; University of Sarajevo; Dzemal Bijedić University of Mostar; University of Bihać; European University of Tirana; Polytechnic University of Tirana; Polis University; Environmental movement Ozon; Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Chamber of Engineers of Montenegro CEM; and Aarhus center. The project is expected to end in 2026. The role of Co-PLAN, among other non-academic partners, is to support curricula innovation and bridging the gap between societal needs and academic production within HEI-s, through collaborative learning in climate-related issues.

Specific objectives

- ▶ To initiate WB community engagement enhancement by promoting emission reduction approaches and low-carbon technologies.
- ▶ To implement an interactive web-based platform to share knowledge and know-how practical examples among project partners and stakeholders.
- ▶ To improve the competencies and skills of teaching staff in WB HEIs by acquiring best-practice examples and innovations.

The Smart WB project aims to improve the quality of higher education in the climate-smart urban development (CSUD) field, strengthening its relevance for the labor market and society, enhancing relations between HEIs in WB partner countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) and the economic and social environment by establishing a technological platform for cooperation, exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices, modernising universities' courses in line with EU trends and improving the level of competencies and skills of teaching staff.

- ▶ To modernize university courses in the climate-smart urban development field in collaboration with the industry sector in line with the Bologna requirements.
- ▶ To create technological preconditions for WB HEIs by procuring up-to-date

IN NUMBERS

- 1** ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STATUS IN CLIMATE-SMART URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- 2** TEAM-BASED TRAININGS ORGANIZED (NIS, DUBROVNIK)
- 2** STAFF-TRAININGS ORGANIZED (AS, MADRID)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS ON CURRICULA INNOVATION IN CLIMATE-SMART URBAN DEVELOPMENT BASED ON GREEN AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITH THE NON-ACADEMIC SECTOR

A training session for teaching staff was held at the Center for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik from May 9 to 11, 2023, as part of the project. The training was attended by representatives from partner universities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Date: May 9 to 11, 2023

Place: Center for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb

and Montenegro. Co-PLAN was represented by our research staff, Enkela Poro. The three-day program aimed to emphasize the significance and provide guidelines for the development of education in the era of the digital revolution.



WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE-FRIENDLY AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

From May 31 to June 2, 2023, Co-PLAN staff Enkela Poro participated in the Workshop on climate-friendly and innovative solutions: current and future challenges, held at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU). The three-day workshop brought together 22 participants from 14 institutions, focusing on various aspects of climate-smart urban development (CSUD). Key activities included:

- ▶ Presentations on EU initiatives and policies related to CSUD
- ▶ Discussions on the current status and future challenges of the SmartWB project



Date: May 31 to June 2, 2023
Place: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Austria

Updates on various work packages, including analysis of current status in climate-smart urban development, project management, and dissemination activities. The workshop provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange and capacity building among urban planning professionals from Western Balkan countries and EU partner institutions.

- ▶ Reports on existing curricula related to CSUD
- ▶ World Café sessions for SWOT analysis of CSUD in Montenegro, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina

CO-PLAN PARTICIPATES IN SMART WB PROJECT TRAINING IN MADRID

In December 2023, Co-PLAN's Ogerta Gjicknuri attended a three-day staff training event for the Smart WB project in Madrid, Spain. The training, organized by Rey Juan Carlos University, took place from December 12 to 14 and covered a wide range of topics relevant to smart and sustainable urban development. The first day of the workshop focused on energy efficiency in buildings, showcasing past and current projects from the Engineering and Technical School (ETSIT) that utilize wireless sensor networks (WSN). Participants engaged in a hands-on workshop on monitoring management and visualization techniques using dashboards for time series



Date: 12-14 December
Place: Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain

data, which is crucial for effective monitoring of smart spaces. Another significant component of the training involved the creation of digital twins using alternative software for intelligent space design and categorization. This session provided valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies for urban planning and management. The event also explored innovative educational approaches, with lectures on educational gamification and podcast creation, offering new perspectives on knowledge dissemination and public engagement in urban development projects. On the final day, the focus shifted to circular economy principles for sustainable waste management.

future PROJECTS

GreenAL

The “Supporting Environmental Civil Society Organizations 2024 – 2027 (Green-A)” project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, aims to expand on the knowledge, insights and achievements of the Green-AL I project. For this second phase of Green-AL, the main objective is to nurture and further empower Albanian environmental CSOs for effective participation and contribution vis a vis EU acquis and negotiations processes in Albania, as well as proactively contribute to address, through advocacy, policy-influencing and evidence-based data monitoring, the environmental challenges from local to national levels.

CROSS-REIS

CROSS-REIS, an EU-Horizon funded project, fosters scientific excellence and innovation by enhancing cooperation among higher education and research institutions across European countries and Widening countries. It aims to advance towards a regenerative economy paradigm, supporting green and digital transitions. Through exchanges, conferences, and partnerships, it promotes diverse research communities, strengthens institutions within innovative ecosystems, and advocates for open knowledge sharing. Additionally, it seeks to reform research assessment systems, enhance science-business links, and promote gender equality. By aligning with ERA Policy Agenda actions, it accelerates societal transitions and encourages collaboration with international entities. Ultimately, CROSS-REIS empowers universities to drive change and excel in research and innovation.

CCL

Circular City Labs (CCL) Tirana is a pilot for the Urban Partnership Accelerator Initiative (UPAI) in Albania project. The project aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by promoting economically viable reusable systems and strengthening the participation of women in local circular economies in the municipality of Tirana. The specific objective of the assignment consists of reusable packaging systems developed and tested in the City of Tirana, and the participation of women in the local circular economies is strengthened, eventually reducing GHG emissions in the City through waste prevention. The specific objective represents a multifaceted approach to sustainability involving:

- Identifying, prototyping, testing, and implementing packaging solutions with materials that can be used multiple times rather than discarded after a single use. The testing aspect implies thoroughly evaluating these reusable packaging systems’ economic viability, effectiveness, durability, and practicality
- Strengthening and empowering women’s participation in local circular economies. Strengthening women’s participation could involve creating opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, or leadership roles within circular economy initiatives.
- Contributing to the municipality of Tirana’s environmental goals through an innovative response in preventing waste and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Tirana for a better urban inclusive life.

The CCL project is carried out by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in collaboration with ICLEI, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany.

EFFORT

The overall project objective of this project is to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings for two municipalities and substantially decreasing the energy consumption, by implementing innovative equipment and promoting sustainable building management practices. The project also aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration between the two municipalities, promoting cross-border cooperation and the sharing of experiences and best practices related to energy efficiency.

Expected results of the project are:

- Evaluation and energy audit of 10 public buildings in Mirditë Municipality and Junik Municipality;
- Drafting of local Energy Efficiency Plans (including strategic measures for energy reduction/saving) to be implemented in a short-term period at the local level.
- Drafting of technical projects for the installation of innovative equipment (photovoltaic panels, central heating system and thermal insulation).
- Installation of innovative energy-saving equipment by the 3rd year of the project (photovoltaic panels in 10 public buildings), including piloting the installation of a thermal heating system in a building in Junik and thermal insulation in a building in Mirdita.
- Capacity building in terms of improving energy efficiency practices, to identify energy saving opportunities and effectively manage equipment through a comprehensive training program that contributes to a more sustainable and cost-effective operation of public facilities.
- Informing the local community and mainly students and interest groups in both units about energy efficiency practices through awareness activities and educational initiatives carried out

78 by the project.

SPARKs

The project 'SPARKs: Supporting Civic Activism and Advocacy Initiatives in Albania' (hereinafter referred to as SPARK) implemented by Co- PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, tackles the need to expand and strengthen the community of activists in Albania by enhancing their internal capacities to monitor, analyze, and undertake concrete actions contributing to tangible change to their communities or groups they represent. SPARK aims to promote and spread the culture of activism and advocacy nationwide by facilitating interaction and exchange between activists, civil society organizations, media, researchers, etc. and support structured and evidence-based policy dialogue in pressing issues and important democracy and governance processes.

To make this happen, a series of tailored capacity development and coaching processes are envisioned in the form of workshops and coaching components, covering theoretical and practical aspects of activism and advocacy. In the process the participants will have improved their knowledge of how to engage in various activism forms, and in advocacy processes (monitoring, analyzing, influencing), how to establish dialogue platforms with the local/regional/ and national authorities, how to raise particular pressing issues within the sector, and how to initiate lobbying and advocacy actions in view of influencing policy-making.

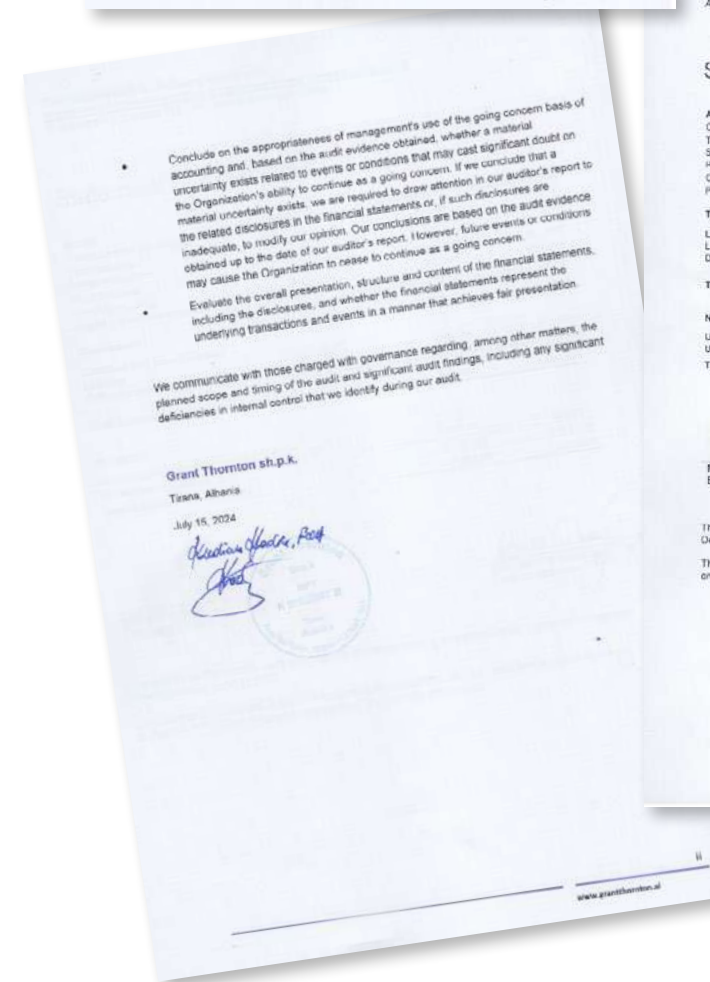
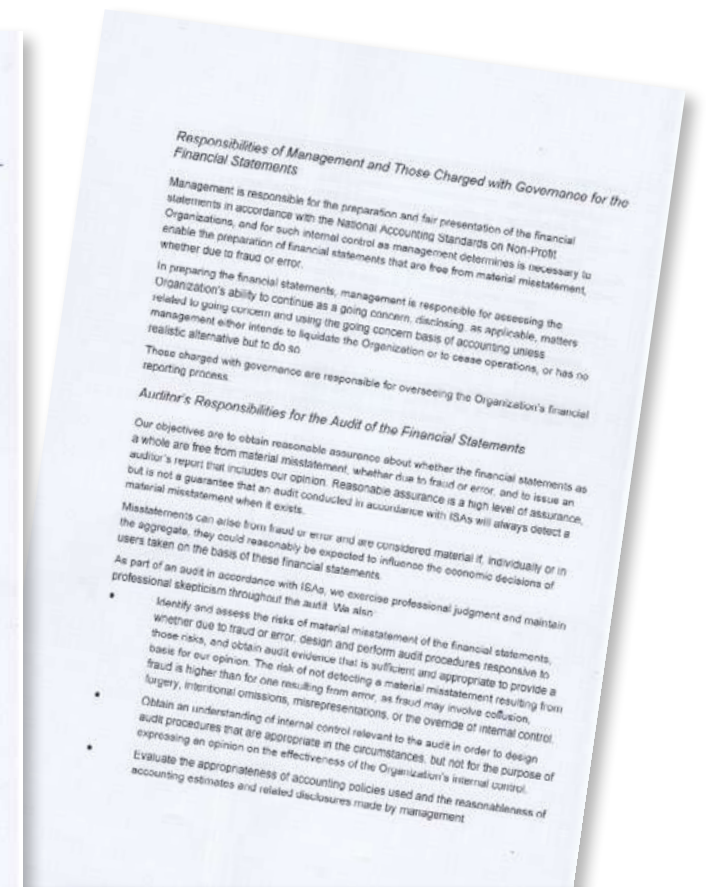
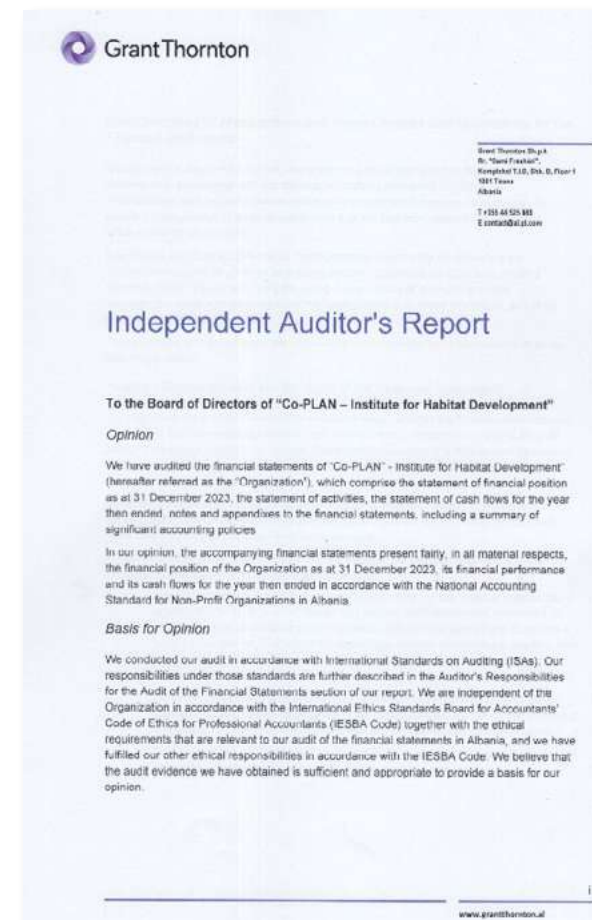
TURN

The EU's transition to a circular economy will reduce pressure on natural resources and will create sustainable growth and jobs. It is also a prerequisite to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss. In March 2020, the European Commission adopted the new circular economy action plan (CEAP), that is one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal, Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth. The new action plan targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, aims to ensure that waste is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible, and introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.

The project TURN has the objective to mobilizing social partners, industrial relations actors and undertakings towards the CE, in order to make workers aware that the production system they are part is respectful of nature and environment and to ensure their skills and tools to dialogue with the company strength to this objective. The project is finalized to improve expertise and knowledge on industrial relations through analysis and research in the field of CE, at EU level, as well as in comparative terms, identifying convergences and differences in the responding of the industrial relations systems in place in the EU Member States and in Candidate Countries, contributing to developing and reinforcing quality and effectiveness of industrial relations structures and processes in the Member States and in Europe as a whole.

Transparency & Accountability

Transparency and accountability, are key values for Co-PLAN, and closely related to the consolidation and success of the organization. Co-PLAN's financial transparency is based on strong financial management. Each year, Co-PLAN is audited by an authorized international auditing company. The auditing reports are made available to all the interested parties upon request.



Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development
Statement of financial position for the year ended December 31, 2023
Amounts are expressed in EUR unless otherwise stated.

Statement of Financial Position

| Assets | Note | 31 December 2023 | 31 December 2022 |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 4 | 822,391 | 1,640,772 |
| Term deposits | 5 | 877,193 | - |
| Subgrants/partners | 6 | - | 200,242 |
| Project debtors | 7 | 88,108 | 351,390 |
| Other receivables | 8 | 307,541 | 398,394 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 9 | 16,022 | 42,916 |
| Total assets | | 2,128,225 | 2,507,684 |
| Liabilities and project funding | | | |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Deferred income | 10 | 166,752 | 217,131 |
| | 11 | 805,411 | 1,188,224 |
| Total liabilities | | 948,193 | 1,406,355 |
| Net assets | | | |
| Unrestricted net assets | 12 | 1,183,130 | 1,102,329 |
| Unrestricted net assets | | 1,183,130 | 1,102,329 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | | 2,128,225 | 2,507,684 |

Mrs. Anila Bajko
Executive Director

Mrs. Ogerta Gjokaj
Finance Manager

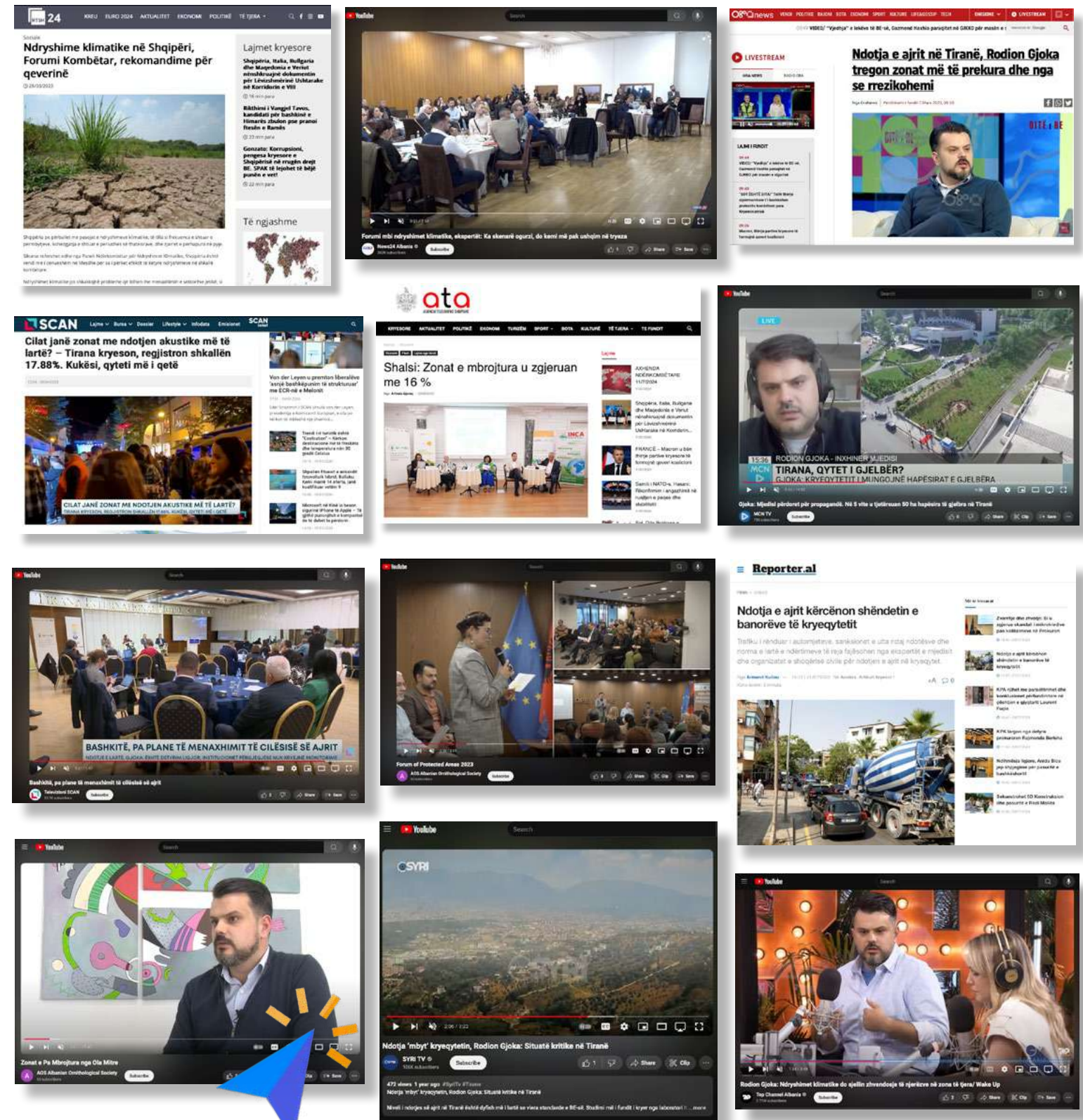
These financial statements were approved by the Management Board of Co-Plan - Institute for Habitat Development on April 30, 2024.

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the notes and appendices set out on pages 4 to 15 which form an integral part of the financial statements.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE MEDIA PRESENCE

Coverage in Broadcast Media - Radio - Online Platforms during 2023

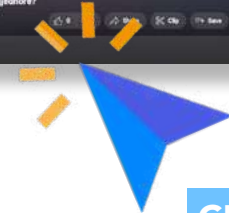
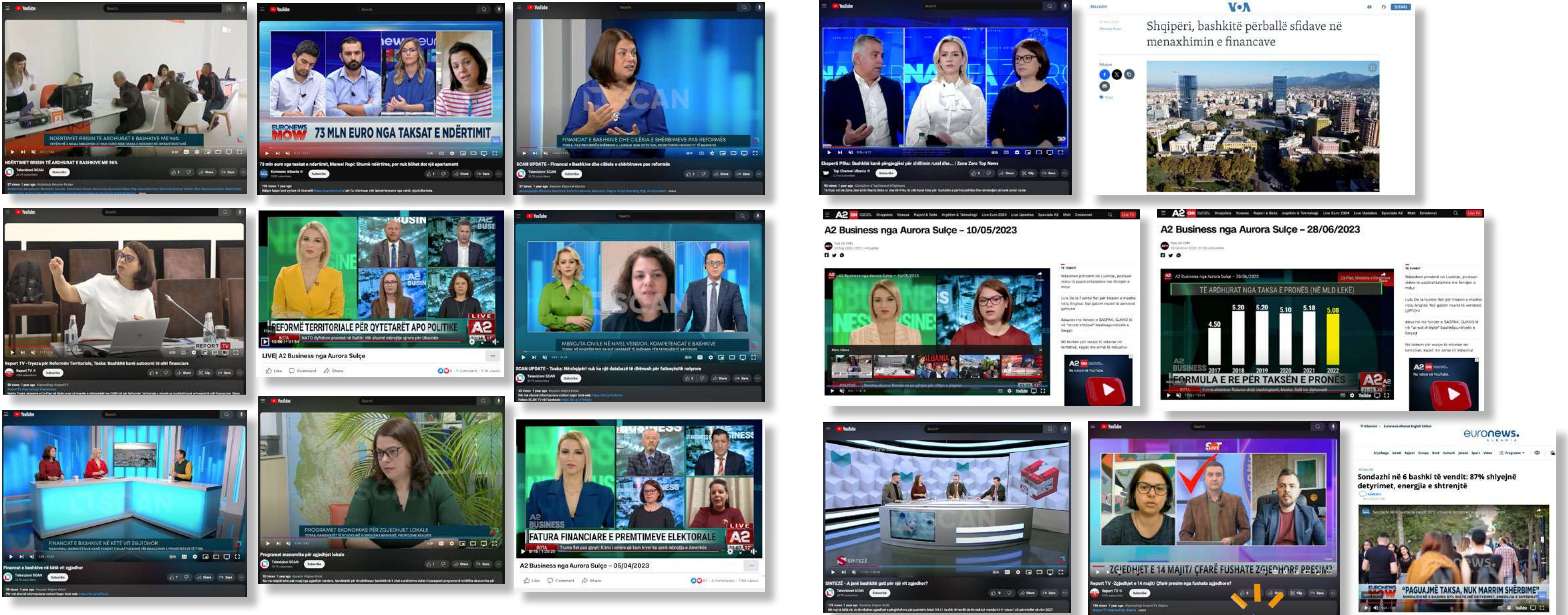
Publications & Media Presence



CLICK ON IMAGES TO WATCH!

MUNICIPAL FINANCES MEDIA PRESENCE

Coverage in Broadcast Media - Radio - Online Platforms during 2023



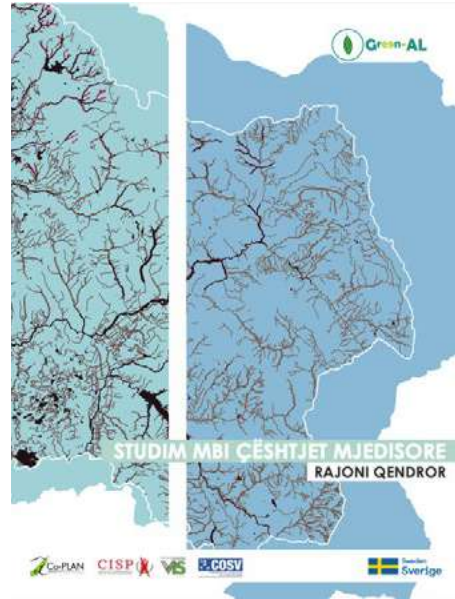
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PUBLICATIONS

Co-PLAN's publication for 2023



STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
NORTH-EAST REGION



STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
CENTRAL REGION



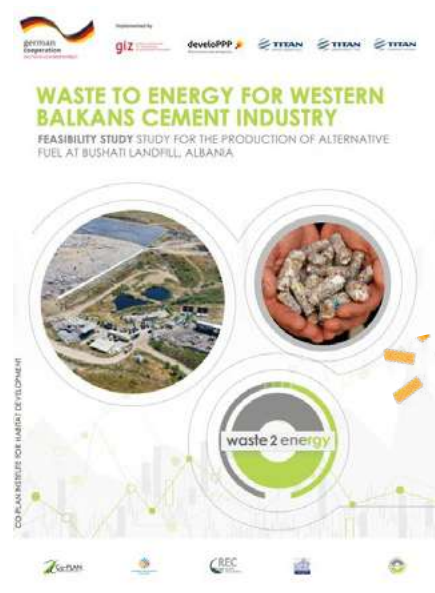
REGIONAL MAPPING REPORT
ON GREEN TRANSITION



REPORT ON WESTERN BALKANS
JUST GREEN TRANSITION CONCEPTUALISATION



JUST GREEN TRANSITION IN THE WB
OVERCOMING TRANSITIONS FATIGUE



WASTE 2 ENERGY
FEASIBILITY STUDY

CLICK ON IMAGES
TO READ



STATUS REPORT
LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCES 2022



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF WASTE
AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF
ENERGY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

