

# NPO EXCHANGE PROGRAM





© Partners Albania for Change and Development. All rights reserved.  
Tirana, Albania 2024

**Contact:**



[www.partnersalbania.org](http://www.partnersalbania.org)



[partners@partnersalbania.org](mailto:partners@partnersalbania.org)



U.S. EMBASSY  
Tirana, Albania

This publication was made possible thanks to the financial support of the US Embassy in Tirana. Its content is the sole responsibility of Partners Albania for Change and Development and does not necessarily reflect the views of the US Embassy in Tirana.

# NPO EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The NPO Exchange Program is one of the newest initiatives of Partners Albania, following several years of work in supporting the strengthening of the NPO sector, building inter-sectorial dialogue for the involvement of NPOs in policy-making and decision-making processes.

The program contributes to increasing the capacities of newly established organizations, operating in various cities across the country, enabling improved access to information and collaboration with other important organizations and institutions in the country."

Participants in the program are selected through an open call for expressions of interest. The program is a combination of onsite visits to NPOs, public and private institutions, discussion sessions with experts from different fields, as well as mentoring sessions to implement the acquired knowledge into practice.

This brochure presents a series of testimonials from participants in the programs organized during 2023 - 2024. Partners Albania plans to organize additional programs as part of a long-term intervention in support the civil society sector.

THIRRJE PËR SHPREHJE  
INTERESI

## PROGRAMI I SHKËMBIMIT TË OJF-VE



Vizito faqen tonë të Internetit  
[www.partnersalbania.org](http://www.partnersalbania.org)



**APLIKO TANI !**



Programi i Shkëmbimit të OJF-ve

*Apliko tani*



**52**

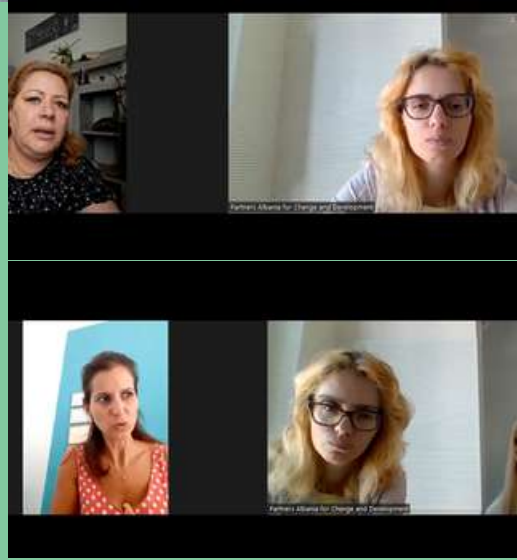
representatives  
of 39 NPOs in  
18 cities

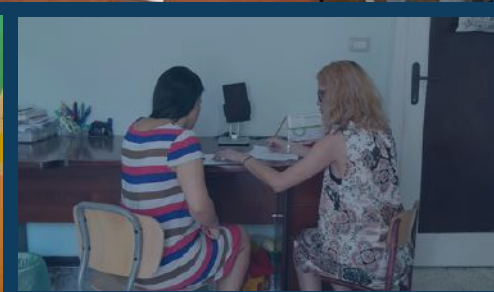


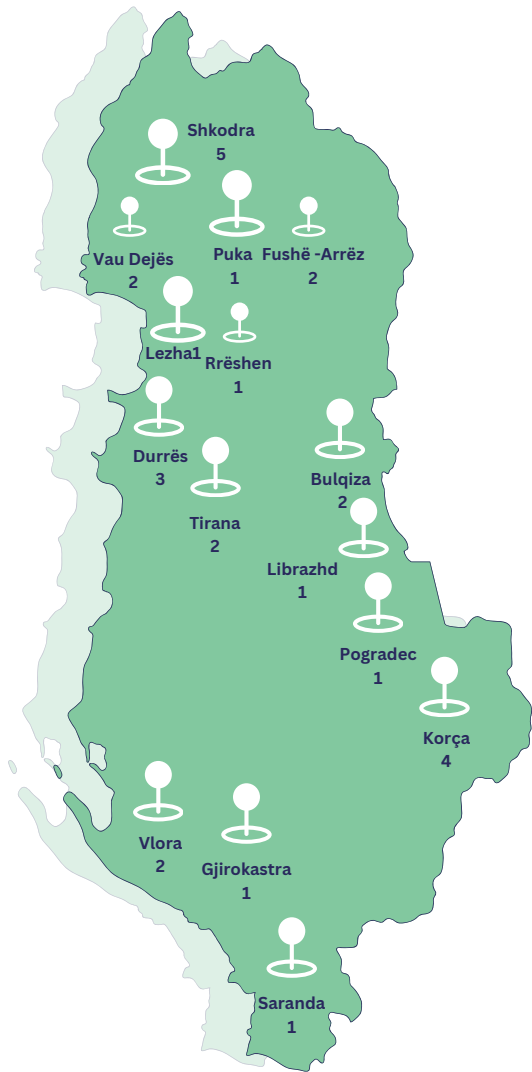
**4**  
programs



**70**  
mentoring  
sessions





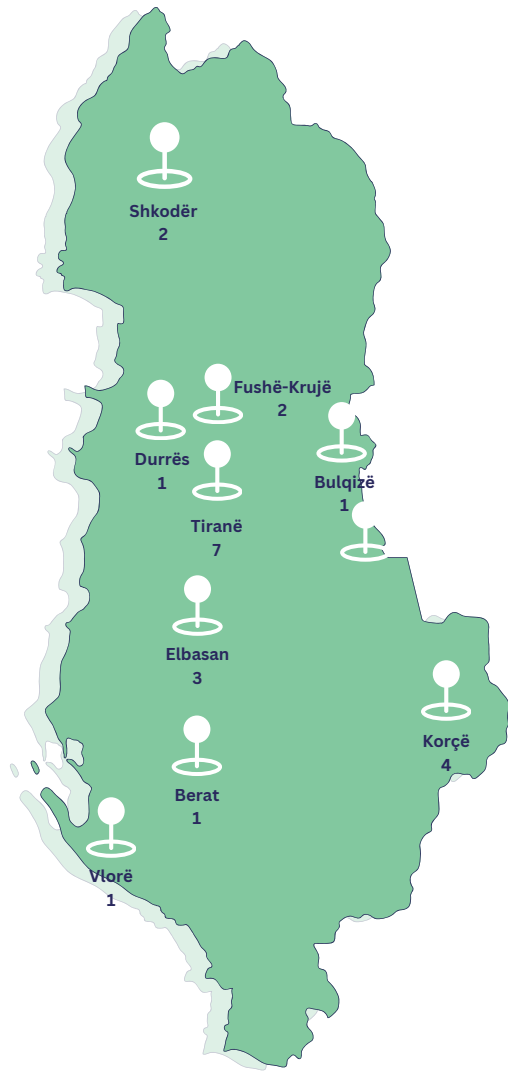


## Program 1

PARTICIPANTS	ORGANISATION	CITY
Abdyl Arifaj	Albanian Apitherapy Association	Puka
Arbërora Leti	Opportunity, Balance & Overcoming	Rrësheni
Ardiola Alikaj	Visit Saranda	Saranda
Arnisa Xhaferi	Women Centre "Light Steps"	Shkodra
Bleona Kadana	Puka Youth Center	Puka
Donika Marshashi	Shoqata Komuniteti Papa Xhovani XXIII	Shkodra
Klaudio Hyseni	Durrësi Active Center	Durrës
Meliha Zyberaj	Artizanët e Vaut Dejës	Vau Dejës
Mira Prekperaj	Shoqata Komuniteti Papa Xhovani XXIII	Shkodra
Sara Marku	Pranë Teje	Lezha
Shaqir Jugu	Soek-In	Librazhdi
Valbona Lluka	Artizanët e Vaut Dejës	Vau Dejës

## Program 2

Aishe Tufa	Rural Voice	Bulqiza
Arjola Bajramaj	Gjelbërimi 2000	Vlorë
Bruna Flamuraj	Dorcas Aid Internacional Albania	Korçë
Bruna Gerveshi	Association MKEZH	Gjirokastra
Dentila Garipi	Lunah - Education Center	Durrësi
Elda Vendresha	Lunah - Education Center	Durrësi
Emand Agolli	Shoqata Kujdestari i Fëmijëve	Pogradeci
Ervin Dallaku	Emmanuel Mission Foundation	Korçë
Ilda Mitre	Emmanuel Mission Foundation	Korçë
Kristina Gjinaj	Social Center in Helping People in Need	Fushë-Arrëzi
Nordana Hasa	Horizont Sërisht	Shkodra
Marinela Sela	Horizont Sërisht	Shkodra
Oliana Manaj	Vatra Psycho-Social Center	Vlorë
Paola Qafa	Social Center in Helping People in Need	Fushë-Arrëzi
Pranvera Dhima	Path of Hope	Tirana
Sali Xhaferri	Rural Voice	Bulqiza
Xhensila Mirashi	Act Think Center	Korçë

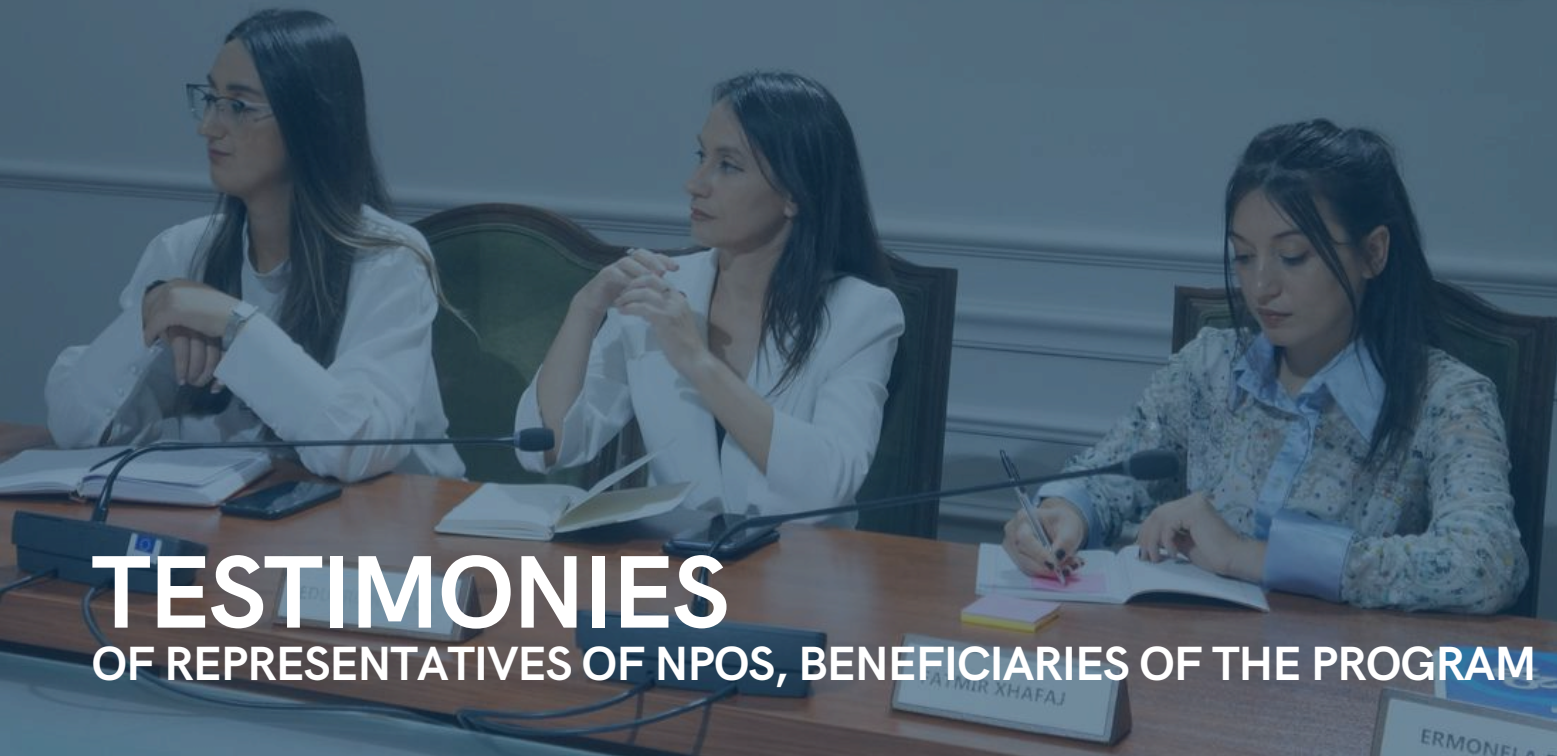


### Program 3

PARTICIPANTS	ORGANISATION	CITY
Anxhela Shkurtaj	Xhubleta e Alpeve Shqiptare	Shkodra
Athinela Teko	Dorcas Aid International Albania	Korça
Erinda Hametaj	Albanian Institute of Food and Innovation	Tirana
Ermal Çukani	Youth Bulding Community	Vlora
Fatmira Dajlani	Porta Rome për Integrim	Fushë-Kruja
Florinda Braho	Equilibrium Center	Tirana
Helena Ceka	Durrësi Active Center	Durrësi
Leonard Olli	Korçarët Ndihmojmë Korçarët	Korça
Megi Krasniqi	Joscelyn Fondation	Elbasani
Renisa Beqiri	Bulqizë Nature and Tourism Association	Bulqiza
Resiljan Baku	Porta Rome për Integrim	Fushë-Kruja
Samira Pikuli	Dorcas Aid International Albania	Korça
Sara Daberdini	InnerChild	Tirana
Sibora Kaja	Joscelyn Fondation	Elbasani
Sonila Boga	Equilibrium Center	Tirana
Suela Ndoja	'Projekti Shpresë' Association	Shkodra

### Program 4

Joana Rista	Beyond Barriers	Tirana
Jura Citozi	Albanian Consumer Center	Tirana
Pajtim Nikolli	Albanian Institute of Sciences	Tirana
Qamile Gishti	RDA Berat	Berati
Raxhi Rakipi	Goodtree Foundation	Elbasani
Vasien Xhelili	Mary Potter Palliative Care Center	Korça
Anduen Gjini	Center Womnia	Tirana



# TESTIMONIES

OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NPOS, BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM





## Oliana Manaj

Hello! My name is Oliana Manaj, and I represent the "Vatra Psycho-Social Center" in Vlora. I had the honor of participating in the NGO Exchange Program organized by Partners Albania. I found this program both inspiring and valuable, as I had the opportunity to meet new activists and organizations operating in Albania, who are a true source of inspiration for the work they do for our country. Furthermore, visits to various civil society institutions and organizations helped me gain a deeper understanding of the efforts being made to address various issues in Albanian society.

With full conviction, I highly recommend this exchange program to all similar organizations. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, learn about the work of institutions, and share experiences and best practices. Thank you!



## Kristina Gjinaj

My name is Kristina Gjinaj, and I am a member of the "Social Center in Helping People in Need - QSNNN". I am very happy to have been part of these exchange meetings, as I have met potential organizations to collaborate with in the future. I also became acquainted with grant support opportunities for new projects. I had the opportunity to be in the Albanian Parliament to meet important representatives, allowing me to present my organization and explore partnerships for the future. Looking forward, I aspire to engage in consultative processes for upcoming legislative initiatives in the Albanian Parliament. Thank you!



**Aishe Tufa**

I am Aishe Tufa from Bulqiza. I participated in the NPO Exchange Program organized by Partners Albania, representing the "Rural Voice", a newly established organization, focused on the environmental issues. During those four days, we had the opportunity to closely interact and communicate with many other institutions and associations, which were highly productive. I can confidently say, that this is one of the most practical and realistic programs I have ever been a part of. I highly recommend participation in this program for every newly established organization. I am grateful to have been part of this program. Thank you!



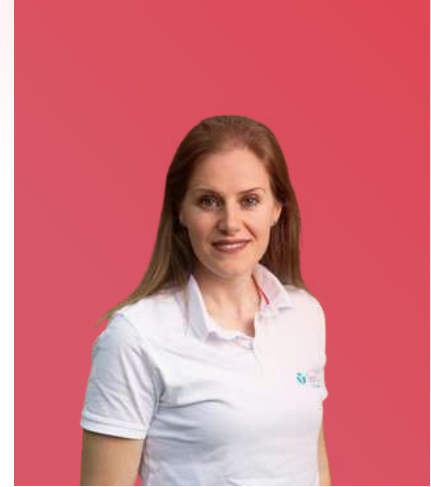
**Pranvera Dhima**

I am Pranvera Dhima, the Executive Director of the "Path of Hope", a counselling and therapy center for children and adults in Tirana. For the first time this year, I became part of the NPO Exchange Program, organized by Partners Albania, where I had the opportunity to meet colleagues, professionals, leaders and representatives from various organizations of civil society, operating throughout Albania. Collaboration with other NPOs holds an immense significance for us. While we can accomplish certain tasks individually, coming together enables us to achieve greater outcomes. In this program, we had the opportunity to get to know institutions that support civil society, and also had the chance to explore potential funding opportunities for the organization. It's important to be part of a larger network, and Partners Albania is doing an excellent job in creating opportunities for the networking of NPOs throughout the country. I would highly recommend the program to each of you. The time invested in the program is of a significant value!



## Ilda Mitre

I am Ilda, representing the "Emmanuel Mission Foundation" based in the city of Korça. I want to emphasize that the experience in this exchange program has been exceptional for me. It has had a significant positive impact on my personal development, and I believe it will also contribute to the growth of my organization. It has allowed me to get to know numerous institutions and organizations, and I had the opportunity to learn more about them and their work. In my view, this experience is valuable for any organization, and I strongly recommend it to all. If Partners Albania has plans to implement a similar program in the future, I encourage everyone to participate, as it is an excellent opportunity.



## Bruna Flamuraj

I am Bruna, representing "Dorcas Aid International Albania". I want to express my gratitude to Partners Albania for this exchange program among organizations. I believe that these programs should be frequent, offering an opportunity to learn from the best practices of peer organizations. For me, this program has been very valuable, and I hope it will have a positive impact on my organization as well. Thank you!



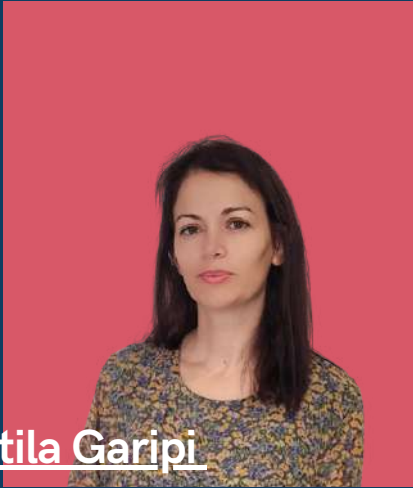
## Ermand Agolli

Hello! I am Ermand Agolli, and I come from the city of Pogradec. I represent the “Kujdestari i Fëmijëve” foundation, an organisation that helps orphaned and children in need. I would like to express my gratitude to Partners Albania for the exceptional support it has provided during these days, enabling us to meet many institutions and seek support for our projects from various organizations. Thank you very much!



## Bruna Gërveshti

I am Bruna Gërveshti, a member of the “Multifunctional Association for Culture, Education and Development” (MKEZH) from Gjirokastra. Participating in this program has been a great experience, allowing me to connect with numerous non-profit organizations across Albania, from the southern to the northern regions. The program provided a unique opportunity to learn from the diverse experiences of these organizations, particularly in the field of advocacy for various issues and their approaches to addressing these concerns. Moreover, engaging with public institutions during this program has been exceptionally enriching, contributing to my growth both as an individual and as a member of the organisation. I highly recommend this program with great enthusiasm, as it has significantly contributed to my professional and personal development.



**Dentila Garipi**

I am Dentila Garipi, the Executive Director of the "Lunah - Education Center", in the city of Durrësi. The NPO Exchange Program has been valuable for me and my colleagues at the center in extending our knowledge and assisting in our professional development and motivation. We have expanded our network thanks to this program. I am grateful to the host organizations in this program, on behalf of all other members of our center, and I believe that every newly established organization should strive to provide their organizations with a more contemporary approach. Thank you, Partners Albania, for this opportunity.



**Elda Vendresha**

I am Elda Vendresha from "Lunah - Education Center" and I was part of this program implemented by Partners Albania, contributing to the development of non-profit organizations. Given that our organization is relatively new, this program has been very enriching for me. It has allowed me to understand more deeply how a non-profit organization should function. Also, we had the opportunity to collaborate with many other organizations that share similar goals. I enthusiastically recommend this program.



## **Sali Xhaferri**

Participating in the NPO Exchange Program among non-profit organizations, has been a highly beneficial opportunity, for the "Rural Voice" organization. This program has enabled us to establish new connections and crucial collaborations within the sector. Additionally, it has provided us with information on both private and public institutions. We firmly believe that these newfound connections will play a pivotal role in supporting our future projects.



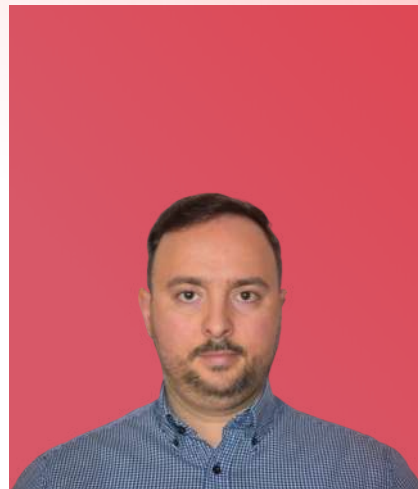
## **Xhensila Mirashi**

At "Act Think Center", collaboration is the key of our work, where everyone involved stands to gain, and no one loses. The NPO Exchange Program gave us the opportunity to further develop partnerships within the colleagues in the sector and extend them beyond. The expansion of our network and the exchange of experiences among fellow organizations, as well as with colleagues from public institutions, greatly enhanced the purpose and objectives of this program. We are grateful to Partners Albania for the excellent opportunity they have provided us, as we feel empowered to address our causes and be more productive within the community we represent.



## Ervin Dallaku

My name is Ervin Dallaku and I work at the "Emmanuel Mission Foundation" in the city of Korça. Participating in the NPO Exchange Program, organized by Partners Albania, has been a truly excellent experience for me. It is a program that provides the opportunity to get acquainted with information on the functions of institutions, as well as facilitates the exchange of experiences among organizations in different cities of the country. I encourage and recommend non-profit organizations to become part of this program.



## Klaudio Hyseni

I am Klaudio Hyseni, representing the organisation "Durrësi Activ". I attended the NPO Exchange Program which I consider important for all NPOs. We had the opportunity of visiting both local and central government institutions, and organizations operating in the city of Tirana. Based on this enriching experience, I highly recommend this program to other organizations in other cities. The program contributes to advancing of advocacy work of NPOs, fostering connections with other organizations, and gaining a comprehensive understanding of central government institutions' roles and functions. I encourage all eligible organizations to participate in this program.



## **Arnisa Xhaferi**

I am Arnisa Xhaferi, lawyer at Women Centre “Light Steps”, operating in Shkodër. I actively participated in the NPO Exchange Program organized by Partners Albania. Throughout the program, we delved into insightful discussions and gathered valuable information. Important topics as public funding, importance of NPO standards, significance of engaging in networks and development of fee-based services in support of target groups were covered during the program. This experience has been enriching, not only for me personally but also for other young professionals. It provides a practical and insightful exposure to diverse activities of NPOs not only in the capital but throughout Albania.



## **Nordana Hasa**

My name is Nordana Hasa from the “Sërisht Horizont” organization, in Shkodra. Participation in the NPO Exchange Program was a valuable experience, both on a personal and professional level. I wasn’t familiar with this program initially, but I got valuable information regarding the operations of public institutions and organizations based in Tirana. During the program, we learned about various advocacy campaigns and acquired knowledge on new tools and mechanisms for advocating on human rights and public participation. The program facilitated the creation of meaningful partnerships between participants and the hosting institutions. I strongly recommend this program to other organizations, as it offers the needed experience to create a positive impact on the community. Thank you!





**Paola Qafa**

I am Paola Qafa and I come from the "Social Center for Helping People in Need" (QSNNN) organisation, operating in Fushë Arrëz with the mission of advocating for the elderly and the environment, as well as assisting other marginalized groups in Fushë-Arrëz. I have been a volunteer in our organization for several years, and I recently assumed the role of project manager. The NPO Exchange Program has proven to be exceptionally valuable for me, offering a comprehensive understanding of civil society operation across Albania. This exposure has been profoundly inspiring, revealing the huge potential within this field and showcasing what can be achieved. Despite my limited experience, this program has enlightened me to the fact that every individual holds the power to bring meaningful changes within society. Thank you!



**Sara Marku**

I am Sara Marku from Lezha, a member of the "Prane Teje" organisation. The NPO Exchange Program was highly significant for me personally, but also beneficial and informative for the association I represent. As a new NPO, this experience acquainted us with information on numerous initiatives of civil society organizations and institutions, helping us to explore opportunities for future collaborations. In addition, we had the opportunity to be introduced with the central government institutions. I extend an invitation to newly established organizations and encourage them to engage in programs like this. It represents an outstanding opportunity to broaden their network significantly.



## Suela Ndoja

The exchange of experiences through the NPO Program was an invaluable opportunity for me as the Activities Coordinator at the 'Projekti Shpresa' Association in Shkodra. This program challenged me to engage in professional growth, enhancing my interpersonal skills and intercultural competencies. I also built lasting connections and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of collaboration in fostering a more tolerant and sustainable society. This exchange is a unique opportunity for civil society professionals to share interests and contribute to a brighter future.



## Arbërorë Leti

I am Arbërorë, the founder of "Opportunity, Balance & Overcoming," an organization operating in the city of Rrëshen. I am delighted to share my experience from the comprehensive four-day program organized by Partners Albania. During the program, we had the privilege of visiting various central government and civil society institutions, where we learned about advocacy actions and the importance of management, administration, and monitoring of our actions. These acquired techniques are proving to be highly successful to be implemented in our communities. I recommend this program to every organization, as it presents a remarkable opportunity to engage in networking, share innovative practices, learn from others, and elevate awareness within our respective communities. As a direct outcome of this program, our organization was financially supported by one of the hosting organisations in the program - "AWEN" to implement a project with focus on prevention of direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in Mirdita Municipality. I express my gratitude for this opportunity and extend my recommendation to any organization with the aspirations and determination to bring development and positive change within their community.



## Sibora Kaja

As a Financial Officer at the 'Joscelyn Foundation' in Elbasan, an organization dedicated to empowering vulnerable communities, participating in the NPO Exchange Program provided me with the opportunity to connect with professionals and leaders from various organizations. This experience enriched my professional skills and broadened my perspective on community empowerment. The program has had a profound impact on my professional development, and I recommend it to any organization aiming to grow and make a positive impact on the community.



## Megi Krasniqi

I am a Project Coordinator at the 'Joscelyn Foundation,' based in Elbasan. The exchange with other organizations and public institutions from across Albania has been immensely valuable, not only for me as a professional but also for our organization as a whole. I extend my gratitude to Partners Albania for providing us with this opportunity, which has made us feel more productive and connected to the community we represent.



## Helena Ceka

I am Helena, a representative of the organization "Durrësi Activ". The NPO Exchange Program was valuable to me, as it came at just the right time. After being away from Albania for several years, I was eager to better understand the work of organizations and institutions in the country. This program provided an excellent introduction and the opportunity to collaborate with other active colleagues in the NPO sector. The program's organization made us feel both comfortable and productive throughout the week. I highly recommend this program to anyone seeking professional development and a closer understanding of the work of NPOs and institutions in Albania.



## Samira Pikuli

I am a social worker for the project 'Adopto një të Moshuar' implemented in Korça by "Dorcas Aid International Albania". The NPO Exchange Program was a valuable experience, allowing us to connect with other organizations and understand the challenges they face. Through the program, we had the opportunity to collaborate with participating organizations and engage in meaningful discussions with state institutions, who listened to our concerns. This program helped us build common ground that strengthens cooperation and creates opportunities for a stronger support network. I suggest this experience for every organization, as new ideas contribute to improving our work.



**Renisa Beqiri**

I am Renisa, a representative of the "Shoqata e Natyrës dhe Turizmit Bulqizë". Participating in the NPO Exchange Program has been immensely valuable at personal and organizational level. The program was an excellent platform for networking and collaboration. Over several consecutive days, participants have the opportunity to share experiences and ideas with representatives from other NPOs, enhancing and refining their vision. The well-organized daily activities foster new bridges of cooperation, expand ideas for current or potential projects, and encourage reflection on areas for improvement within the structure of the NPO they work with or lead. Additionally, the program offers a opportunity to promote the organization's ideas and gain both financial and programmatic support. For these reasons, I especially encourage new organizations to actively participate in this program. It offers precisely what organizations need: networking, meetings with institutions and potential donors, promotion, technical assistance, and training from professionals in the field, among other benefits.



**Resilian Baku**

As a young individual actively engaged with the organization "Porta Rome per Integrim", I can say that this program was incredibly productive. It provides opportunities to build new connections and expand your professional network, making work more efficient and effective while significantly enhancing development prospects.

Additionally, the capacity building and exchange component are very important. They enable participants to become active, well-prepared professionals, ready to contribute to the development of future projects.



## Fatmira Dajlani

As the Executive Director of "Porta Rome per Integrim", I believe that such experiences are incredibly valuable. They help us deepen our understanding of organizations operating in different regions, offering insights into the similarities and differences in how we work and collaborate within civil society.

One aspect I particularly value is the exchange of experiences and best practices, which strengthens our ability to improve work on the field. I hope these activities can be organized more frequently and expanded to include other regions, such as Kosovo, Serbia, and North Macedonia. This would further promote regional cooperation and contribute to building a stronger civil society network across the Balkans.



## Anxhela Shkurtaj

My name is Anxhela, and I represent the association "Xhubleta e Alpeve Shqiptare" in the NPO Exchange Program. Participating in this program was an enriching experience. Over the four days of the program, I gained valuable information about project applications and implementation.

Most importantly, the exchange of experiences among participating organizations made this program truly extraordinary for me. I highly recommend this program, especially to new NPOs, as it provides an excellent opportunity to connect with other organizations and expand opportunities for progress and the development of the association's activities.



## Rea Balliu

My name is Rea Balliu, and I represent the “Diakonia Albania Foundation”. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Partners Albania for giving me the opportunity to be part of the program. This was incredibly valuable to me, providing new knowledge, opportunities to build networks and partnerships to expand my professional horizons. I highly recommend this program to anyone seeking personal and professional growth.



## Jura Citozi

The NPO Exchange Program was an incredibly valuable experience for the “Qendra Konsumatori Shqiptar”. We were able to establish collaborations with key stakeholders, which I believe will be helpful in the future. Additionally, we had the opportunity to promote our work and emphasize the importance of the NPO sector. Partners Albania also provided us with valuable support, facilitating us to design one of our advocacy campaigns, as an important step for the growth and promotion of our activities.



## Joana Rista

I am Joana Rista from the “Beyond Barriers” association. The NPO Exchange Program provided an excellent opportunity to explore new approaches and practices directly related to the work of civil society organizations. I had the chance to meet new organizations and activists, who serve as a source of inspiration with their dedication and work in the community. Visits to institutions and discussions with representatives helped me gain a better understanding of the efforts being made to address various challenges.

I highly recommend this program to all organizations, as it is a unique opportunity to learn about effective practices and experiences within our field.



## Vasien Xhelili

I represent the “Mary Potter Palliative Care Center.” The NPO Exchange Program organized by Partners Albania had a positive impact on me. The program was well-organized, featuring visits to various institutions that made each day both engaging and diverse. The information shared, the exchange of contacts with fellow participants, and the meetings with representatives from different institutions were incredibly valuable for my organization.

These connections and the knowledge gained through the program will play a crucial role in shaping our future projects.





## Pajtim Nikolli

I am Pajtim Nikolli from the "Albanian Institute of Sciences" (AIS). Participating in the NPO Exchange Program was an enriching professional experience. It provided us with the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of the functioning and organization of various public institutions and to learn new mechanisms for engaging in policy-making processes.

The exchange of experiences and the chance to connect with new colleagues from civil society organizations was inspiring as well. I appreciate the impactful work of service-oriented organizations such as the Mary Potter Palliative Care Center in Korça and the Jonathan Center in Tirana. I am deeply grateful to Partners Albania for this opportunity and I recommend this program to other organizations across the country. Thank you!



# Testimonies

## OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF HOST INSTITUTIONS



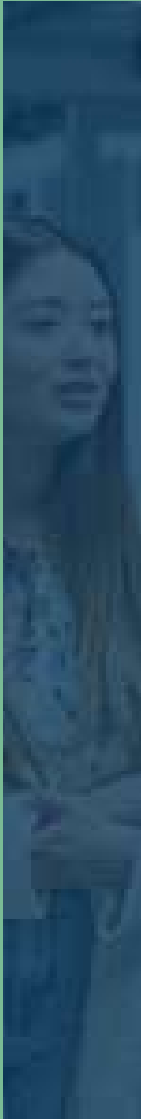


**19**  
host  
institutions



# List of host institutions

- 1.ADRF (Albanian Disability Rights Foundation)
- 2.Agency for the Support of Civil Society (AMSHC)
- 3.Albanian Legal and Territorial Research Institute (Qendra A.L.T.R.I)
- 4.Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN Albania)
- 5.Beyond Barriers
6. Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data
- 7.Credins Bank
- 8.Credins Foundation
- 9.Initiative for Social Change - ARSIS
10. Jonathan Center
11. Mane Foundation
12. Parliamentary Institute
13. People's Advocate
14. Roma Active Albania
15. Science and Innovation for Development Centre (SCiDEV)
16. SOEK-In 'Librazhd Youth Center'
17. The Assembly of Albania
18. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination
19. The Women Empowerment Network in Albania (AWEN)



## LEFTERIJE LUZI

*Director of the Committee Service,  
Albanian Parliament*



As the representative from the Albanian Parliament, I am pleased to affirm the longstanding and successful collaborations that the Albanian Parliament has maintained with civil society, including Partners Albania. I endorse and support initiatives as the NPO Exchange Program. It is not only beneficial for newly established NPOs, but also for our institution, enabling us to come together, exchange ideas, share information, and collaborate on impactful initiatives that transcend geographical boundaries and draw upon shared expertise. Through such collaborations, organizations can significantly enhance their capacity to positively influence the lives of the diverse groups and communities they are dedicated to serving. I firmly believe that supporting and participating in this program aligns with our institution's overarching goals of openness, transparency, and fostering collaboration for the betterment of the public good.

The NPO Exchange Program proved to be an engaging and enlightening initiative, contributing significantly to the empowerment and advancement of civil society. The partnership with numerous institutions, along with informative presentations and collaborations, highlighted the vast opportunities available to NPOs. Recognizing the pivotal role civil society plays in the overall development of the country, this collaboration is important. Credins Bank, as a partner in this program, has been deeply involved in various activities and had the pleasure of hosting over 30 NPOs at its premises. During these interactions, we took pride in sharing insights into our Corporate Social Responsibility and introducing our online platform, Smile.al. This platform offers a valuable and alternative opportunity for the NPOs to showcase their projects and activities, undoubtedly making a significant impact on the development, education, and well-being of Albanian society.

**TESTIMONIES**  
**OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**OF HOST INSTITUTIONS**



**VALBONA GURI**  
*Head of Marketing,  
Credins Bank*

**BLERJANA BINO**

*Executive Director, SCiDEV*



For AWEN, engagements of this kind hold immense value and are of interest. Networking stands as a fundamental pillar for us, encompassing all the dynamics it holds. Our vision has always encompassed a proactive approach to cultivating expansive collaborations with partner organizations, regardless of the formality of the connection. Partners Albania, through this exchange program, significantly contributes not only to the enrichment of our network but also to the cultivation of an open, sustainable environment for non-profit organizations (NPOs). Each organization visiting AWEN, brought a unique and invaluable contribution, providing deeper insights through their dedicated work, sacrifices, and daily commitment to various causes. At AWEN, we collectively learned from their experiences.

**TESTIMONIES**  
**OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**OF HOST INSTITUTIONS**

SCiDEV had the pleasure of hosting at her premises, 30 representatives from non-profit organisations (NPOs) from Durrësi, Saranda, Rrësheni, Shkodra, Librazhdi, Lezha, Puka, Vau Dejës, Bulqiza, Gjirokastra, Korca, Maliqi, and Pogradeci. The Program was an excellent opportunity for us to exchange our organizational experiences and engage in meaningful discussions regarding our ongoing initiatives. The opportunity allowed us to gain a more comprehensive perspective on the impact of our collective efforts, as well as to actively learn from the invaluable experiences of fellow NPOs. Such interactions are vital in facilitating collaboration, enabling us and our partners to strengthen our cooperative efforts and extend the positive influence of our work within society.



**INES LESKAJ**

*Executive Director, AWEN*

## BLERTA DRENOFCI (CANI)

*Executive Director, ADRF*



The greatest dilemma and primary challenge faced by nonprofit organizations lies in achieving sustainability. Frequently, the ever-evolving nature of the social issue we strive to address, coupled with the financial limitations, leads organizations to approach the introduction of fee-based services with caution. However, by fostering a collaborative environment for the exchange of ideas and experiences, we are better positioned to recognize the opportunities within our operational context. This facilitates the encouragement of creative thinking for innovative solutions and a more pragmatic understanding of the risks that necessitate careful management. Above all, such interactions bolster our collective courage to embark on new initiatives regarding these services. We extend our sincere gratitude to Partners Albania for its steadfast efforts in creating an enabling environment wherein non-profit organizations can be strengthened and sustainable. Additionally, we express our deep appreciation to be a hosting organization in the NPO Exchange Program. Welcome back to you as well!

**TESTIMONIES**  
OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF HOST INSTITUTIONS

I felt a deep sense of appreciation for the opportunity to share the experiences of the organization I represent with a group of enthusiastic and dedicated professionals. Their passion and determination to create a positive impact within their targeted communities and fields is truly inspiring. The day was intense and rewarding, involving not only the exchange of experiences but also a rich interchange of ideas and strategies aimed at improving how organizations navigate the challenges encountered in their work. This Program is not only valuable for the sector presently but will remain essential for its advancement in the future.



## OREADA KITA

*Executive Director,  
Jonathan Center*



**KRISTINA VOKO**

*Executive Director, BIRN Albania*



Effective communication with the media is important for non-profit organizations, enabling them to amplify their work while upholding ethical standards and considering the interests of all stakeholder groups, especially those that are marginalized. In this regard, I firmly believe that the NPO Exchange Program has been immensely significant. It not only allowed representatives of local organizations to exchange experiences with their peers in different regions of the country but also served as a vital reminder for all of us. It reminded us of the challenges that civil society faces in our country and, above all, the common values that unite us all.

I highly appreciate initiatives like the NPO Exchange Program, which is why I readily accepted the invitation from Partners Albania. The program served as a platform for engaging in discussions with a specific focus on human rights and efforts against discrimination. By fostering collaborative efforts and encouraging the sharing of experiences, this program created a supporting environment for dialogue, enabling organizations to enhance their understanding of human rights principles and effective strategies to combat discrimination. I extend my heartfelt wishes for success to all the organizations involved in their crucial work, and I remain hopeful that various mechanisms will be leveraged to their fullest potential.



**DR. ROBERT GAJDA**

*Commissioner for Protection  
from Discrimination*

**TESTIMONIES**  
**OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**OF HOST INSTITUTIONS**





