



TWIST

TOWARDS A NEW SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODEL IN CONFISCATED ASSETS IN ALBANIA



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the European Union



PARTNERS ALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



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"TWIST - Towards a New Model of Social Entrepreneurship in Confiscated Assets in Albania", project is financed by the European Union and implemented by LIBERA-Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie, Partners Albania for Change and Development, and the Municipality of Tirana in cooperation with the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets.

LIBERA - associations, names and numbers against mafia

LIBERA is a network of associations, social cooperatives, movements and groups, schools, unions, dioceses, parishes, and scout groups, involved in a commitment not only against mafias, corruption, crime and those who feed them, but also strongly 'for': for social justice, the search for truth, the protection of rights, transparent politics, a democratic legality based on equality, a living and shared memory, and for a citizenship that lives up to the spirit and hopes of the Constitution. Established in 1995, it is present throughout Italy in 20 regional coordination groups, 82 provincial coordination groups and 278 local groups. 90 international organizations belong to the Libera Internazionale network, in 42 countries in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Committed in the fight against organized crime and corruption, Libera is involved in education, awareness raising and actions on responsibility and democratic legality.

Since the beginning, Libera has activated and promoted numerous projects and initiatives in the fight against organised crime and corruption including: the promotion of Law 109/96 on the social re-use of confiscated assets from mafias and OC; the memory of the innocent victims of the mafia and the support of their families. In particular, Libera has carried out a first census of positive experiences of social use of confiscated assets: there are over 867 associations and cooperatives assigned assets in Italy, which deal with inclusion and services for people, job reintegration, training and youth aggregation, urban and cultural regeneration, accompaniment to victims and their families.

Libera also focuses on keeping alive the memory and remembrance of the innocent victims of the Mafia. These men, women and children lost their lives at the hands of mafia violence while defending freedom and democracy. For this reason, every year on 21st March, Libera organises the National Day in memory of the innocent victims of the Mafia. Only by turning memory into an instrument of commitment and responsibility can the seeds of new hope be sown.

Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA)

PA was founded in 2001 with initial funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Partners for Democratic Change, now known as Partners Global. As a member of the Partners Network, which includes 19 independent organizations across Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East, PA has been committed to promoting peaceful and democratic change. The organization's mission is to bolster civil society and inter-sector cooperation, thus enhancing democratic institutions and economic development in Albania. PA has dedicated itself to strengthening civil society and fostering collaboration between non-profit organizations (NPOs), state institutions, academia, and the private sector. This commitment aims to address Albania's primary democratization challenge: enhancing the interaction between citizens and state institutions through a robust civil society. PA's activities span four key areas: 1. *Creating an Enabling Environment and Sustainable Development for NPOs*; 2. *Promoting Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation*; 3. *Enhancing Philanthropic Activity and Support Infrastructure*; and 4. *Fostering Transparent and Accountable Participatory Governance*. Developing an innovative standard model for the social reuse of assets confiscated from organized crime and corruption through social enterprises (SEs) holds significant potential for implementing subsidiary welfare services and revitalizing vulnerable communities. PA has introduced in Albania, in 2016, the model for the social reuse of confiscated assets through the implementation of the "C.A.U.S.E - Confiscated Assets used for Social Experimentations" project. This first initiative in the country and in the Western Balkans region has been followed up by diverse actions with an long-term impact at vulnerable communities.

The Municipality of Tirana

Municipality of Tirana governs Albania's capital, encompassing urban planning, public services, and infrastructure development. Key projects include major urban redevelopment initiatives, public transport enhancements, and the creation of green spaces. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to modernize the city and enhance residents' quality of life. Involving the Tirana Municipality as partner, has contributed to an increased the role in informing other Municipalities on social reuse model, ensuring their cooperation during the project life.

The Agency for the Administration of the Seized and Confiscated Assets (AASCA)

AASCA is established in 2008 based on Law no. 9284, dated 30.09.2004 "For the prevention and fight against organized crime" changed with Law no. 10 192 dated 03.12.2009 "For the prevention and fight against organized crime and trafficking through preventive measures against assets". It is a state institution under the Ministry responsible for public order and security, responsible for the administration and/or use of seized and confiscated assets from organized crime, such as: bank accounts, vehicles, lands, buildings, machinery, equipment's as well confiscated enterprises. Its headquarters are in Tirana.

SUMMARY OF TWIST OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT

TWIST – Towards a New Social Entrepreneurship Model in Confiscated Assets in Albania aimed to create a sustainable social entrepreneurship model in Albania by utilizing assets confiscated from organized crime and corruption for the benefit of the community. It focused on strengthening social entrepreneurship for socio-economic development of the targeted communities, contributing to an inclusive economy.

TWIST engaged Albanian citizens, particularly marginalized groups and those impacted or at risk of being affected by organized crime. Through social entrepreneurship (SE) models, it enabled communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to benefit from resources recovered from organized crime. The initiative contributed to the creation of job opportunities, positively impacting vulnerable groups such as victims of organized crime and domestic violence, minors, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the unemployed.

TWIST also played a key role in strengthening cross-sector collaboration and support. Civil Society Organizations, as well as local and central government institutions in Albania, enhanced their synergy and cooperation in supporting existing SEs and establishing new ones on confiscated assets. This effort facilitated the implementation of new entrepreneurship models with significant positive impact on local communities across the country.

MAIN PILLARS OF INTERVENTION

1 Capacity building for 180 representatives of NPOs, public institutions, and the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) on the management of a confiscated asset through social entrepreneurship as a practice of social reuse.

2 Management of a subgranting scheme for the establishment and advancement of 2 SEs in confiscated assets and development of 8 new entrepreneurship models by the supported NPOs.

3 Development of 2 studies on the management and impact of social enterprises and increased role of local institutions in the support and the advancement of social reuse model.

4 Over 15 roundtables and awareness raising events on the impact of social entrepreneurship and social reuse of confiscated assets model.

5 A study visit in social enterprises in confiscated assets in Italy to learn from the best practices.

6 An International Conference on the best practices and challenges on the implementation of social reuse model.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOS



TIRANA



SHKODRA



VLORA



SUB-GRANTING SCHEME

1

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED

3

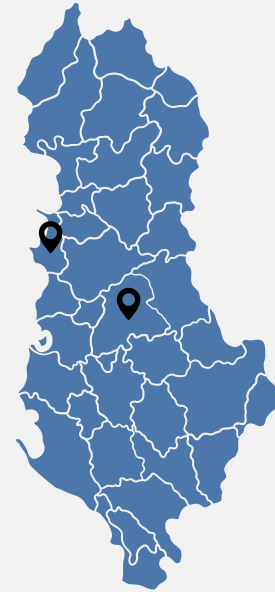
INFORMATIVE SESSIONS HELD

2 CONFISCATED
ASSETS



ELBASAN

DURRËS



62 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED

230,000 EUR

TOTAL FUND



12,000 - 65,000 EUR
FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS

20

APPLICATIONS

10 WINNING PROJECTS

10 Implementing Organizations

12-14 MONTHS

**Duration of the TWIST
Financial Support**

5 YEARS

**Contract with AAPSC for the
REUSE of the CONFISCATED
ASSETS FOR FREE**

**LOT 1: SUB-GRANTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN
CONFISCATED ASSETS.**

4 APPLICATIONS

**LOT 2: SUB-GRANTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF
NEW AND EXISTING MODELS OF SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES.**

16 APPLICATIONS

TWIST PROJECT LAUNCHING EVENT



April 2022

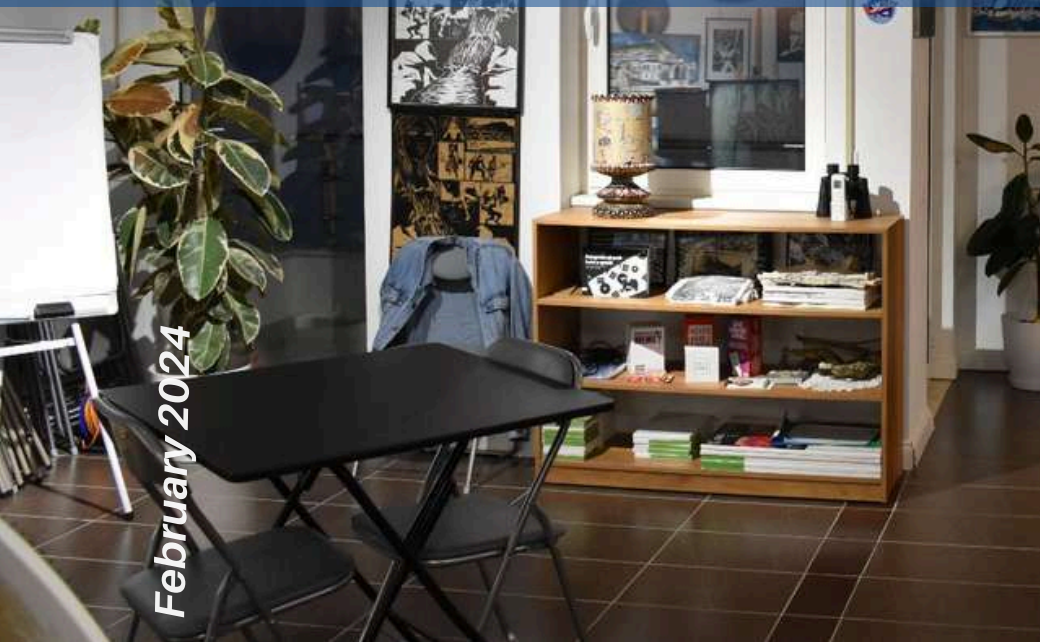
OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF SUB-GRANTEES



October 2023



INAGURATION OF “ART AND ACTIVISM CENTER” DURRES



February 2024



VISITS AT “MY CRAFT TRADITION”, ELBASAN

October 2023





March 2025



A large, abstract watercolor splash in shades of light green and teal serves as the background for the text.

FACT SHEETS OF SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

ART AND ACTIVISM CENTER

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

"Durrësi Aktiv" is a new organization established in 2019 in Durrës. Its mission is to inspire and empower citizens towards activism to change their reality. Their goal is to improve the lives of citizens through economic, political, environmental, and social changes.



"Taulantia" Promenade, "Epikadeve" Str.,
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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 65,000

Geographical coverage: Durrës Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The "Art & Activism Center" in Durrës is a newly established social enterprise located in a property confiscated from organized crime and corrupt high officials. Through this entrepreneurial activity, "Durrësi Aktiv" empowers young artists to create positive change by leveraging the power of the arts and exploring creative ways to generate social and economic value.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Transformation of the confiscated apartment into a vibrant space with studios, galleries, and workshops for young artists.
- Development of a business and marketing plan to ensure further financing and sustainability of the social enterprise.
- Promotion of the youngsters' artwork and entrepreneurial activity of the Center in five public events and national fairs.
- Creation of <https://durresiaktiv.al/shop>, exposing all artworks of the young artists.
- Generated incomes for twenty-two young artists, through their exposure in workshops, exhibitions, fairs and enhanced professional networking among artists' community.



PRESERVE THE TRADITION

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

Joscelyn Foundation was established in 2015 in Elbasan. Its mission is to contribute to the empowerment of the community, especially children and youth, through the provision of psychosocial services, formal and non-formal education, awareness, and advocacy.

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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: August 2023 - September 2024

Total budget: € 58,220

Geographical coverage: Elbasan Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This action contributed to scaling up the social entrepreneurship activity of "My Tradition" established in a confiscated asset from organized crime in Elbasan. It empowered vulnerable, long-term unemployed women by providing them with skills and employment opportunities.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Employment of three long-term unemployed women in the social enterprise.
- Enhanced capacities of ten women and girls from vulnerable communities in the handloom profession.
- Increased information and awareness of 100 youngsters (60 female and 40 male) on social entrepreneurship and its impact on communities.
- Increased sales and revenues through marketing of products at local, national and regional fairs.
- Established collaboration and partnership with local and central institutions (the Municipality of Elbasan, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, etc.), promoting the SE, its products and the social-economic impact in the targeted community.



PROSPERITY

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

"Qendra Sociale në Ndihmë të Njerëzve në Nevojë" (QSNNN) was established in Fushë-Arrëz. Its mission is to strengthen the community in the northern area of Albania through information, education, entrepreneurship and awareness programs, community services, advocacy, and environmental protection

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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 12,000

Geographical coverage: Fushë-Arrëz Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This action has successfully empowered disadvantaged women in Fushë-Arrëz area, northern Albania, maximizing their social and economic well-being, and strengthened the well-functioning of the social enterprise "PROSPERITY".

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Bolstered operations of the social enterprise "PROSPERITY," enhancing the capacity to support more women and expand the impact.
- Achievement of official status "Social Enterprise" from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, raising awareness about its potential for economic empowerment and sustainable development of the region.
- Increased capacities of eighteen disadvantaged women in identifying, collecting, processing, storing, and packaging medicinal herbs and forest fruits.
- Employment of nine disadvantaged women from Fushë-Arrëz Municipality.
- Enhanced medicinal herb industry and local economy by improving access to 53 locally medicinal and aromatic herbs.



ENCOURAGING THE SELF-EMPLOYMENT OF ROMA YOUTH THROUGH THE WILLOW WEAVING CRAFT

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

The Association "Multifunctional for Culture, Education, and Development MKEZH" in the Gjirokastra region contributes to the protection of rights, engagement, integration, and promotion of youth through awareness, advocacy, capacity building, and fostering active citizenship in their communities.

📍 "18 Shtatori" Neighbourhood, "Tahir Kadare"
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**SUPPORTED
SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES**

Project duration: September 2023 - June 2024

Total budget: € 11,993

Geographical coverage: Gjirokastra Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The action contributed to the empowerment of Roma youth by enhancing their skills and promoting the preservation of traditional willow weaving. It fostered self-employment among young artisans, enabling them to produce artisanal products and sustain cultural heritage.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Increased capacities of 2 artisans and 6 youngsters from Roma community in willow weaving, enhancing their employment opportunities and social inclusion.
- Design and production of 30 new handcrafted products using willow weaving techniques.
- Development of a business model and online marketing strategy for the willow weaving products, targeting the tourism sector in Gjirokastrë and online sales through social media platforms.
- Promotion of the handcrafted products through social networks and fairs, demonstrating a new model of self-employment for Roma youth as a viable path for socio-economic empowerment.



ROMA AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE UNION

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

Together for the Integration of Roma Community (TIRC) works to promote the economic development of the Roma community and their equal integration into Albanian society. This is achieved through engaging young people and amplifying the Roma voice in areas such as agriculture, education, employment, health, and housing.

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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - June 2024

Total budget: € 11,995

Geographical coverage: Fier Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The initiative contributed to the establishment of a sustainable Roma agricultural cooperative by assisting with land ownership acquisition and enhancing farmers' skills. This action empowered farmers with market knowledge and provided essential support for sustainable agricultural practices and economic growth within the Roma community.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Establishment of an Agricultural Cooperative, engaging five local Roma farmers.
- Land cultivation and planting through the provision of financial support to farmers from Roma community.
- Increased skills and capacities of ten farmers on rules and procedures for property certification, cooperative formation, agricultural market dynamics and marketing strategies.
- Effective exposure in formal and online markets, enhancing the SE visibility and market presence.



DRITA CLEANING SERVICE

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

"The "Voice of Roma in Albania" association aims to promote the social and economic development of the Roma community and their equal integration into Albanian society. This is achieved through empowering young people, amplifying the Roma voice in the fields of education, employment, health, and housing, and advocating for the respect and fulfillment of Roma community rights.

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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 11,937.50

Geographical coverage: Fier Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The Social Enterprise "Drita - Cleaning Service" has strengthened the socio-economic inclusion and integration of Roma and Egyptian community members living in disadvantaged conditions. This was achieved through creating safe and sustainable jobs through the scaling-up of the Social Enterprise.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Development of a business and marketing plan contributing to the enhancement of the entrepreneurial activity.
- Employment of ten Roma and Egyptian women and youth from disadvantaged communities, ensuring income generation, thus better living.
- Established cooperation and partnership with local institutions (Municipality of Fier, Local Employment Office) in identifying unemployed individuals from the Roma community to enable their future employment at Drita - Cleaning Service.
- Established partnership with local businesses, contributing to income generation and sustainability of the SE.



ARTI' ZANAVE - FAIRY ART GIVES AND TAKES

SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

The Women's Center "Light Steps" aims to promote and guarantee human rights, ensuring that every person is treated equally by and in front of the law. It advocates for protection from any form of discrimination based on gender, race, color, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, political, religious, or philosophical beliefs, economic, educational, or social status, pregnancy, parental affiliation, parental responsibility, age, family or marital status, residence, health status, genetic predisposition, disability, membership in a specific group, or any other reason, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

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Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 11,970

Geographical coverage: Shkodra Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The enhancement of services provided by "Arti Zanave" has contributed to the sustainability of the social enterprise, ensuring an increase in the number of women and girls who are victims of domestic violence benefiting from free legal and psychosocial services.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Extended range of services to attract more customers and increase catering orders.
- Full-time employment of two marginalized women, ensuring their financial independence.
- Promotion of local products by supporting 82 local farmers and producers through the sale of their products, contributing to the local economy.
- Increased revenues from the sales of both fresh and processed products, contributing to the financial health of the enterprise.
- Provision of free legal support to 250 individuals through the anti-violence service, providing crucial legal aid for victims of domestic violence.
- Education of 150 children and their mothers about the importance of healthy food and nutrition.



TIRANA GREEN LIVING 2

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

The Centre for Culinary Education (QEK) is a non-profit organization that serves as a Revolutionary Culinary Education Center. Beyond its primary goal of culinary education, it leverages additional resources to increasingly engage in sustainable food systems and promote sustainable livelihoods.



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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 12,000

Geographical coverage: Tirana, Kamza, Vora
Municipalities

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The "Tirana Green Living 2" aimed to enhance its entrepreneurial activity through service provision, skill improvement, and employment for vulnerable groups, including potential victims of organized crime. The action raised awareness about sustainable living and local products, leveraging QEK's best practices to foster a skilled workforce and promote a more inclusive, environmentally conscious community.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Enhanced the production capabilities and services of the Social Enterprise through the acquisition of new equipment.
- Increased revenues by 30%, driven by new clients purchasing the products.
- Increased the capacities of 20 young people and women with special needs, including those with mental health issues, in cooking and life skills, thereby enhancing their employment opportunities, self-confidence, and autonomy.
- Employment of five women (4 full-time and 1 part-time) at the Social Enterprise.
- Provision of daily cooked meals to 2,000 individuals and 600 disadvantaged families over 10 months, addressing food insecurity and food waste issue.
- Supporting of local farmers and producers by purchasing their products.



IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

The "Women, Community, Environment (CE-HD)" organization envisions a society where equality forms the foundation of the dynamic harmony between the community and the environment. In this vision, women are integral part to the whole, contributing to and benefiting from a productive community.

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**SUPPORTED
SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES**

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 12,000

Geographical coverage: Roskovec Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

This action aimed to enhance the social and economic empowerment of unemployed women and victims of domestic violence in Roskovec Municipality. By expanding the product range and marketing strategies of the existing social enterprise, the project sought to improve the integration of these women into the community and strengthen the overall activity of the social enterprise.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Increased capacities of fifteen women in the production chain for organic cream production.
- Boosted sales of the artisanal cream and expanded the product's marketing from Roskovec to Fier and Tirana.
- Generated incomes from sales, ensuring economic growth for fifteen women from vulnerable groups in Roskovec Municipality.
- Enhanced partnership with the Municipality of Roskovec and local businesses to identify other unemployed women and facilitate their inclusion in the labor market.



TOURISM TO CHANGE

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

CELIM has been operating in Albania since 1999 and its mission is: pursuing a concrete and efficient action based on a united, solidary and sustainable development of society. The organization's focus is the implementation of projects especially at environmental protection and impact to change.

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SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project duration: September 2023 - August 2024

Total budget: € 11,700

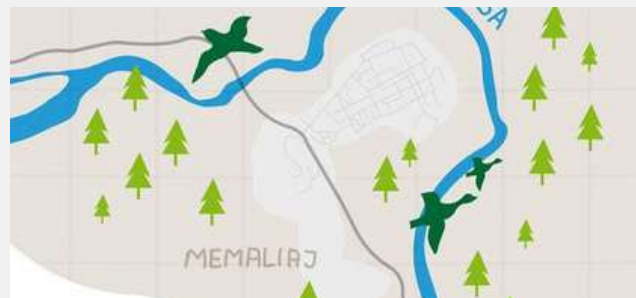
Geographical coverage: Memaliaj Municipality

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

The action "Tourism to Change" has contributed to job creation for young unemployed Albanians. It established the first Info Point along the Vjosa River Basin in Memaliaj Municipality, aiming to promote and enhance the local tourism.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION

- Increased capacities of ten NEET individuals (4 women and 6 men) in tourism legislation, travel organization and management, marketing, and English Skills in Tourism.
- Development of a business plan and marketing strategy to ensure the sustainability of the entrepreneurial activity.
- Establishment of the first Info Point near Toc Village, in Memaliaj Municipality.
- Part-time employment of four women and girls from the NEET category, who will offer tourism services at the Info Point in Memaliaj Municipality.
- Creation of two touristic packages for the Vjosa River Basin area.
- Strengthened partnerships with Memaliaj Municipality to ensure the effective implementation of the action and its sustainability.
- Enhanced collaboration with local businesses, hotels, agritourism entities, and food and wine producers to improve the local tourism offering.



STUDY VISIT

The Study Visit to Italy, held in November 2023, included 10 representatives from the winning SEs, along with a delegation from the partnership (Partners Albania for Change and Development and the Municipality of Tirana).

This experience achieved key outcomes for the project's success, including enhancing knowledge of the social reuse of confiscated assets based on Italian examples. It facilitated peer exchanges between Albanian CSOs and Italian social enterprises, providing valuable insight into Italy's legislative model, which can help improve Albanian legislation.

Sharing these positive experiences fosters trust in building a fairer, more transparent society.



November 2024



STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

"TWIST Evaluation Impact Research" is an evaluation study on the impact of the TWIST project, regarding the effects on its beneficiaries, mainly civil society organizations (CSOs) and their relationships with the targeted local and central institutions in Albania. The study examines the achievements and challenges of the interventions through desk research, interviews, and focus groups with a wide range of beneficiaries.

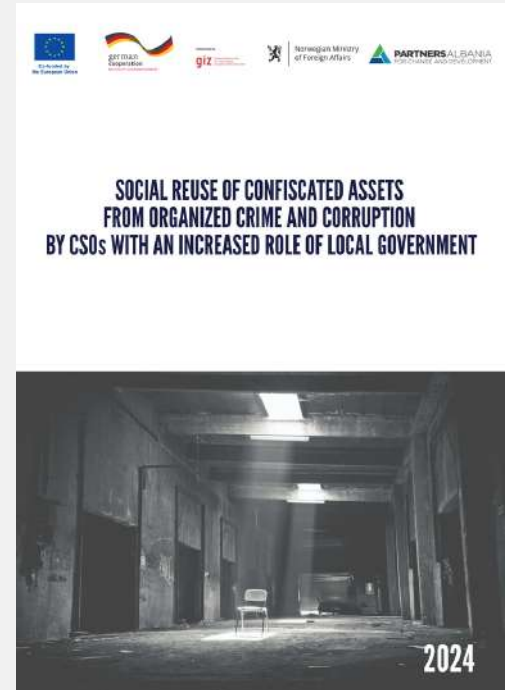
It also explores the impact of social enterprises working with communities in need and vulnerable groups, as well as their capacity to develop strategic partnerships with public institutions. From this perspective, the study provides recommendations to strengthen the role of municipalities in this process and offers guidance on possible development pathways to foster relationships among the stakeholders targeted by the project.



STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

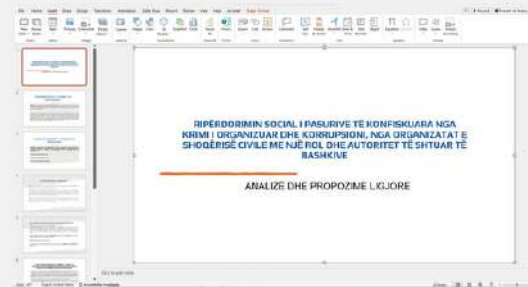
Study - *"Social reuse of confiscated assets from organized crime and corruption by CSOs with an increased role of local government"*, presents an analysis of the legal framework on social reuse of confiscated assets by CSOs and the role of local self-government units in this regard and provide recommendations for an increased role of Municipalities in the process.

Additionally, the study provides an analysis on the contribution of SEs in social integration and employment of marginalized communities. An evaluation of the impact through gender lenses of the activities of social entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities is conducted, presenting crucial data and recommendations for the future.





**NATIONAL ROUND TABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY
TIRANA, MAY 2024**



NATIONAL ROUND TABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY
FIER, MAY 2024



**LOCAL ROUND TABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY
SHKODRA, NOVEMBER 2024**



LOCAL ROUND TABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY
KORCA, NOVEMBER 2024



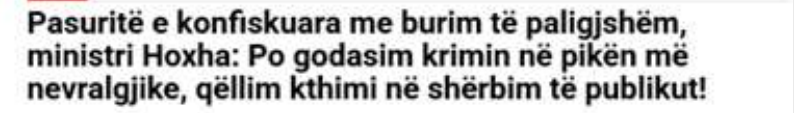
**LOCAL ROUND TABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY
GJIROKASTRA, NOVEMBER 2024**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FROM ILLICIT GAINS TO PUBLIC GOOD: THE FUTURE OF CONFISCATED ASSETS



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FROM ILLICIT GAINS TO PUBLIC GOOD: THE FUTURE OF CONFISCATED ASSETS





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