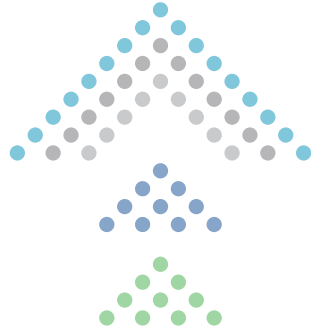




PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report 2025





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Who We Are

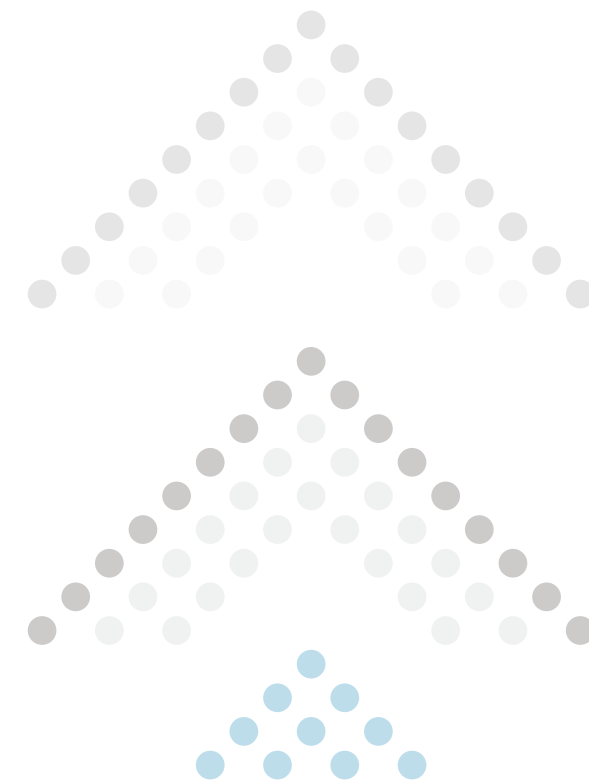
Partners Albania is an independent Albanian NGO established in 2001, working to support civil society and facilitate inter-sector cooperation in order to strengthen democratic institutions and advance economic development.

Partners Albania is a member of the Code of Standards for Civil Society Organizations and plays the role of Secretariat of the Code through the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania.

Partners Albania is a member of Partners Network, a partnership of 19 independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East working for peaceful and democratic change.

Partners Albania is also a member of several global, European and regional networks such as BCSDN, ECAS, DIESIS, ANNA LINDH, WINGS, Alliance for Peacebuilding, CHANCE – Civil Hub Against organised Crime in Europe, etc.

www.partnersalbania.org





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Juliana Hoxha
Director



The year 2025 confronted civil society in Albania with a new and complex reality. Developments at the global level reshaped the political and financial landscape in which organizations like ours operate. The sudden interruption of United States assistance significantly reduced the funding available for the non-profit sector, while geopolitical priorities across Europe shifted toward security concerns. At the same time, civil society in Albania experienced a wave of public attacks and misinformation that challenged the credibility of organizations working to promote democratic values and civic participation.

For Partners Albania, this context required careful reflection and adaptation. Our first responsibility was to safeguard the stability of our organization and remain a reliable partner for the communities and organizations we work with. At the same time, we needed to reconsider how best to support civil society at a moment when both the operating environment and the expectations toward the sector are rapidly evolving.

What remained clear throughout the year was the importance of keeping civil society closely connected to Albania's path toward European integration. The opening of accession negotiations created renewed momentum for reforms and legislative alignment with European standards. . These developments reinforced the importance of ensuring that legislative and institutional changes reflect European standards while remaining responsive to the realities of Albanian society.

Throughout the year our team remained actively engaged in policy dialogue and legislative processes related to this agenda. We provided legal opinions, recommendations, and technical input on draft laws and policy frameworks that shape the enabling environment for civil society and democratic governance. These contributions addressed areas such as fiscal regulations affecting non-profit organizations, legal provisions related to anti money laundering frameworks, the law on volunteering, and broader public administration reforms. Through these processes we continued to advocate for legislation that strengthens transparency, accountability, and the independence of civic actors.

Our engagement also extended beyond national processes. Through dialogue with European institutions and participation in regional initiatives we worked to ensure that the perspectives of Albanian civil society are heard within broader discussions about democratic reforms and EU enlargement. Participation in policy dialogues and exchanges in Brussels and across the region created opportunities to share experiences from Albania while building stronger alliances with partners who face similar challenges.

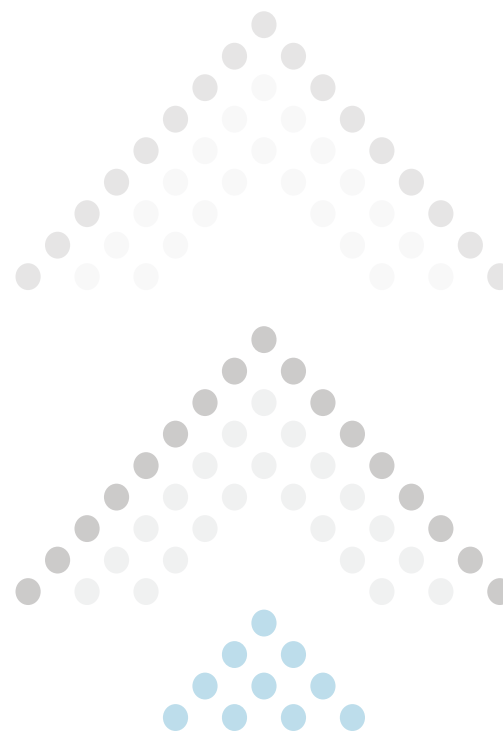
At the same time we continued to support initiatives that bring innovation and civic energy into local communities. Throughout the year we worked with organizations, entrepreneurs, and community initiatives that are developing practical responses to social and environmental challenges. Supporting their ideas, strengthening their capacities, and connecting them with opportunities for collaboration remains one of the most meaningful aspects of our work.

Another important dimension of our work has been strengthening trust and cooperation between civil society, institutions, and citizens. Through research, dialogue platforms, and capacity development initiatives we encouraged more open and participatory decision making processes. Our experience continues to show that sustainable reforms require not only strong institutions but also active and informed civic participation.

Looking back at 2025 it is clear that the challenges facing civil society are not temporary. They are part of a broader transformation in the way democratic institutions, international cooperation, and civic engagement evolve in our region and beyond. Yet these challenges also reaffirm the importance of the work we do. Civil society plays a critical role in protecting democratic values, promoting accountability, and ensuring that public policies respond to the needs of citizens.

I remain deeply grateful to the team of Partners Albania whose dedication and professionalism continue to guide our work in demanding times. I also wish to thank our partners, donors, and the many organizations and individuals who share our commitment to strengthening democracy and civic participation in Albania.

Together we will continue working to ensure that Albania's path toward the European Union is accompanied by stronger institutions, active citizens, and a vibrant civil society that contributes to shaping the country's future.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN 2025

Activities and participants

Days of Activity

348



Direct Participants

2463



Activities

316

Training
Mentoring
Information sessions
Networking events
International conferences & public events
Competitions / Pitching events
Live crowdfunding events
Round tables
Study visits

Lecturers & Experts Engaged

76



Social media followers and engagement



Followers

46k

3K new followers in 2025

Reach

2.1M

400% more than previous year

Visits

89k

145% more than previous year

Engagement

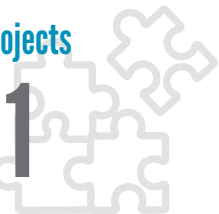
8k

186% more than previous year

Projects and Partners

Projects

11



Implementing Partners

29



Donors

6

Publications and media appearances

Publications

27

Studies Reports
Magazines Brochures
News digests



Articles and media appearances

45+



Representation

National Regional Global

Partners Albania, member of networks:

PARTNERS NETWORK
BALKAN CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
EUROPEAN CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE (ECAS)
DIESIS
ANNA LINDH
WINGS
ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING
CHANCE – CIVIL HUB AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME IN EUROPE



 **PARTNERSALBANIA**
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



OUR PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

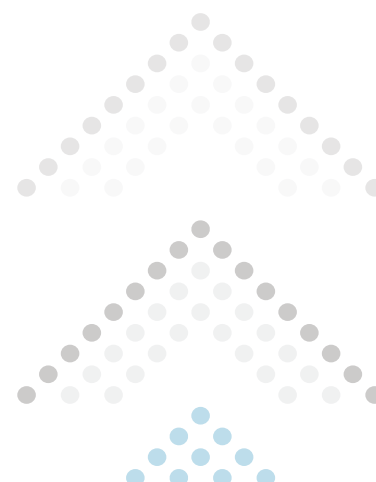
- ▶ **Enabling Environment and Sustainable Development of Civil Society**
- ▶ **Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation**
- ▶ **Philanthropic activity and support infrastructure**
- ▶ **Transparent and accountable participatory governance**

WHAT WE OFFER

- ▶ **Capacity building**
- ▶ **Financial support**
- ▶ **Advocacy and research**

OUR BENEFITIARIES

- ▶ **Civil Society**
- ▶ **Innovative and Social Entrepreneurs**
- ▶ **Government institutions and policy-makers**





During the national launching event of the new four-year programme of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society (2025–2029), supported by the European Union and implemented by Partners Albania in partnership with the Albanian Center for Population and Development and the European Movement in Albania. The event was part of the Civil Society Week 2025 activities. Tirana, 20 June 2025

Capacity Building

4 Programs

- *NPO Academy*
- *Advanced Financial Management Academy for NPOs (for the first time in Albania)*
- *EU Aquis, Engagement and Role of CSOs in the Country's EU Integration Process*
- *Training on Demand*

Training & Mentoring Days

51

Topics

25

Lectors & Guest Speakers

25

Beneficiaries

385

Topics

Legal and Fiscal Framework for CSOs

- Non-Profit Sector Fundamentals: Understanding the legal and fiscal governance framework
- Legal Framework for the NPO Sector in Albania
- VAT Exemption Procedures for projects funded by foreign donors in Albania

Internal Financial Management

- Financial Management: Budgeting and accounting; obligations and reporting to the state
- Strategic Financial Planning: Budgeting for impact on the organization's mission
- Financial Governance: Establishing clear and transparent financial practices within the organization
- Financial Management Tools: Software, automation, and analytics
- Procurement, Financial Control, and Risk Management

Fundraising and Income Diversification

- Income Diversification: Income-generating initiatives
- Fundraising: Grants, public funds, and the private sector
- The Importance of Crowdfunding Platforms as an alternative form of financing – Smile.al platform
- Securing Grant Funding: Project proposal writing and project management; EU grants

Grant and Project Management

- Effective Grant Management: Compliance and reporting for grant-funded initiatives

Advocacy, Mobilization, and Civic Participation

- Advocacy and Lobbying
- Mobilizing Supporters: Building networks and coalitions
- Strengthening Civil Society for participation and influence in budgeting processes
- Participatory Governance

Communication and Digital Transformation

- Strategic communication for NPOs in the digital era
- Strengthening digital competencies and the use of Artificial Intelligence for CSOs

Strategic planning and organizational development

- Strategic planning
- Organizational development and governance: Human resource management and internal procedures
- Impact measurement methodologies: Effective communication of the organization's social impact

European Integration and Civil Society

- EU accession and the role of NPOs in this process
- Partnership for Europe: Role of civil society, academic institutions, and key stakeholders in the integration process and the country's sustainable development

CAPACITY BUILDING OF CIVIL SOCIETY



Help-desk services, information and networking

Requests from NPOs addressed

517

291 NPOs and activists assisted

Regional meetings and forums

25

567 Participants: NPOs, activists, and other stakeholders

Registrations in the Online NPO Directory

184

Announcements shared with the sector

309

Calls for Project Proposals, Public Consultation Notices, Training Opportunities, Events, Surveys, etc.

Mobile Resource Centre

6 cities

8 meetings

202 participants (NPOs, young activists, representatives of public institutions)

Organizer and supporters of
Civil Society Week 2025

59 organizations

172 activities throughout Albania (21 financially supported activities)

12 regions, 24 municipalities

Civil Society Week
Albania 2025



From the “Resilient Voices: Western Balkans Civil Society in a Changing World” Conference, held on 1st October 2025 in Tirana. During the conference, a Joint Declaration was also signed, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation, joint advocacy, and sustained support for civil society as key elements for strengthening democracy and the European integration process in the Western Balkans.

ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY



Letter addressed to tax authorities and donors raising concerns regarding the implementation of fiscal changes affecting projects financed through grants from foreign donors, for which a zero VAT rate applies.



Legal opinion on the draft law "On Some Additions and Amendments to Law No. 80/2021 'On the Registration of Non-Profit Organisations,'" addressed to the Ministry of Justice and the Parliament.



Legal opinion on the amendments to the draft law "On Some Additions and Amendments to Law No. 9917, dated 19 May 2008, 'On the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing,' as amended."



Open Letter on the Assessment of the Government Policy Roadmap towards an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2019–2023 and the Development of the Roadmap for the Period 2024–2027.



Public call to the European Union institutions, EU member states, and other organisations supporting civil society, on the concerning situation of shrinking financial support to the sector.



Analysis and recommendations on the Law "On Volunteerism".



Contribution to the EU Strategy for Civil Society, as part of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN).



Analysis and recommendations for improving the draft Law "On Lobbying".

Contribution to the regional agenda related to the enabling environment for civil society



Western Balkans Civil Society Policy Dialogue in Brussels, 24–26 February 2025, where, as part of the BCSDN network, we met with EU institutions, civil society networks, and regional partners to advocate for a more inclusive, democratic, and rights-based enlargement process, with a strong focus on civic space, meaningful civil society participation, and the protection of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.



Strategic meetings in Brussels on 23–24 June 2025, within the framework of the Country Growth Plan Dialogue, as part of an Albanian delegation comprising representatives of civil society, the Parliament, and the Investment Council. The meetings provided an opportunity for strategic discussions with DG ENEST, DG EXPO of the European Parliament, the EESC, and the Albania's Mission to the EU.



Constructive dialogue with Commissioner Marta Kos on the important role of civil society in the EU integration process and the need for clearer civic-space benchmarks, stronger participation mechanisms, and more accessible funding to support inclusive and sustainable reforms. Brussels, November 2025.



The second meeting of the EU–Albania Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), held on 21 November 2025 at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels. JCC serves as a structured platform for representatives of EU and Albanian civil society to follow Albania's accession process, exchange views on key developments, and raise issues relevant to the country's path toward EU membership.



Firmëtarë të deklaratës së përbashkët të nënshkruar nga 45 organizata të shoqërisë civile nga Ballkani Perëndimor, Ukraina dhe Moldavia, drejtuar institucioneve të Bashkimit Evropian. Në deklaratë kërkohet që zgjerimi i BE-së të trajtohet si prioritet strategjik dhe buxhetor në Kuadrin Shumëvjeçar Financiar të BE-së 2028–2034, duke siguruar fonde të mjaftueshme dhe të parashikueshme për procesin e integritimit.



MEGAPHONE 2025, TechSoup Europe's flagship annual event dedicated to digital transformation, civic technology, and social impact innovation. The event brought together civil society leaders, technology experts, and professionals from across Europe to explore how digital tools, artificial intelligence, and data can strengthen organisational resilience, public trust, and civic engagement. It provided an important space for sharing experiences and examining emerging trends in technology that support the nonprofit sector.



Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development, Country report for Albania.

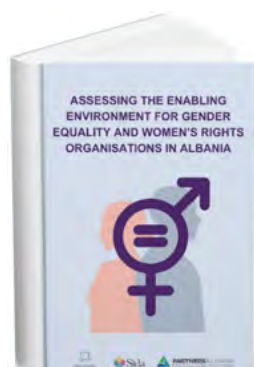


Contribution to the development of the Regional Monitoring Matrix Report on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Western Balkans and Türkiye.



Scorecards on Albania's Progress and Level of Preparation towards EU membership

- Assessment of Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights)
- Assessment of Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom, Security)
- Assessment of the Political Criteria



Assessment of the Enabling Environment for Gender Equality and Women's Rights Organisations in Albania.



Contribution to the development of the report "The Missing Lens- Rethinking the Enabling Environment for Gender Equality and Civil Society in the Western Balkans 2025."



Contribution to the development of the report "Donor Support, Civic Space, and the Future of Civil Society in the Western Balkans."



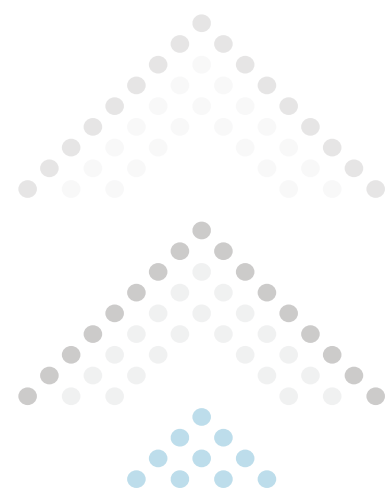
Proceedings of the Regional Conference "Resilient Voices: Western Balkans Civil Society in a Changing World", held on 1 October 2025 in Tirana.



National workshop on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), held on 27 November, providing a space for dialogue on the growing challenges posed by strategic lawsuits against public participation in Albania and the need for a more effective institutional and legal response.



Series of informational materials on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).



CHALLENGE FUND

FINANCE FORWARD: ZHBLLOKIMI I KAPITALIT PËR RRITJEN E STARTUPEVE

EVENT RRJETËZIMI

JAVËS GLOBALE TË SIPËRMARRJES 2025



NDËRTOJMË SË BASHKU

Again in 2025, for the third consecutive year, we were supporters and partners of Global Entrepreneurship Week – GEW Albania 2025, with activities organized as part of the Challenge Fund, as well as participation in discussion panels on social entrepreneurship and innovation.

The event “Finance Forward: Unlocking Capital for Startup Growth” brought together policymakers, financial institutions, investors, international partners, and startup founders to discuss alternative financing instruments, including crowdfunding, sustainable finance, and support programmes.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF INNOVATIVE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

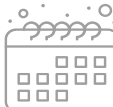


Capacity Building

3 Incubation Programs

- Green Businesses Program
- Challenge Fund EU4Innovation
- Glass waste management

Training Days

22 

Mentoring Days

188 

Experts and Mentors

25 

International Study Visits

3 ⁵³ participants (startups, investors, representatives of public institutions)

Beneficiaries

259 

Information and Networking

Regional Information Sessions

19 ⁴³¹ Entrepreneurs, startups, and individuals with business ideas informed about the Green Businesses Competition and the Challenge Fund Call for Proposals

Fairs

3 ³⁰ Startups and businesses supported by Partners Albania through its entrepreneurship programmes were promoted at Infest 2025, Future2Tech, and the Tirana International Fair

Networking Events

3 ⁶⁰ Entrepreneurs and other stakeholders of the ecosystem

Press trip

1 ⁹ Journalists participated in visits to three startups supported through the Challenge Fund, promoting them through articles in the print media and TV programmes

MAKING THE LABOUR MARKET WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALBANIA



RisiAlbania is a project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by a consortium led by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, in partnership with Partners Albania for Change and Development. Since its launch in 2013, the project has aimed to improve youth employment in Albania by strengthening private sector growth, enhancing career guidance and job mediation services, and expanding market-relevant skills training.

Over more than a decade of implementation, RisiAlbania has generated significant and measurable impact on Albania's labour market. The project has facilitated employment for more than **19,000** young women and men, helping them access better and more inclusive job opportunities. It has also supported over **12,000** young people in acquiring market-relevant skills, particularly in sectors with strong growth potential such as ICT, tourism, and agribusiness.

In addition, more than **100,000** young people have benefited from improved career guidance services, enabling them to make informed career choices and transition more effectively from education to employment. Through its private sector development interventions, the project has also helped businesses grow and improve productivity, generating over **€3.9 million** in additional income for companies.

Beyond direct results, RisiAlbania has contributed to systemic improvements in Albania's labour market ecosystem. These include the establishment and strengthening of career guidance services in universities and municipalities, improved job-matching and employment intermediation services, and the development of innovative non-formal training programs aligned with labour market needs.

Overall, RisiAlbania has helped build a more inclusive, market-driven employment system, fostering stronger cooperation between the private sector, training providers, and public institutions. Its work has contributed to sustainable job creation, improved employability of Albanian youth, and stronger labour market institutions across the country.





Visit to Albaponik, one of the startups supported through the Challenge Fund | EU4Innovation. Albaponik grows fresh, high-quality leafy greens using hydroponic farming methods. 30 April 2025.



During the launching event of the “reuseAglass” initiative, supported through the Incubation and Grant Management for Glass Waste Solution Program from Lab of Tomorrow. The event brought together innovators, environmental advocates, artists, and communities to demonstrate that change begins where community and creativity come together around a shared goal: giving glass a second life! Tirana, 25 October 2025



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

3 Sub Granting Schemes

Challenge Fund

EU4INNOVATION



Call for Proposals opened in 2025

1

The total contracted amount

311,936 Euro

Startups supported

17



GREEN BUSINESSES Competition

Supported Enterprises

4

The total contracted amount

41,335 Euro



Incubation and Grant Management for Glass Waste Solution from Lab of Tomorrow

EU 4 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND LIVABLE CITIES



Implemented by



Teams of businesses financially supported

3

The total contracted amount

206,776 Euro

TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

“

The Challenge Fund has been crucial in helping Bliss advance its mission of making mental health support accessible, culturally relevant, and stigma-free. At a critical early stage, the Fund enabled us to build and test solutions designed for communities that are often overlooked by traditional mental health systems. With this support, we were able to prioritise impact, invest in trust, and design care that truly meets people where they are, in their language, culture, and lived experience. The Challenge Fund's belief in purpose-driven innovation has helped us transform our mission into real, meaningful support for the people who need it most..

Jona Doda
Founder of "Bliss"

“

Participation in the Incubation and Grant Program for Glass Waste Management significantly strengthened the professional and organizational capacities of the "Circular Art Hub" team, helping us improve the planning, implementation, and management of projects in the fields of recycling and the circular economy, in line with European standards. Partners Albania provided continuous support throughout all stages, particularly in narrative and financial reporting, turning the process into a genuine opportunity for growth. Thanks to this collaboration, we also increased the visibility of our work through the opportunity to participate in the Tirana International Fair and EU4GreenGen. We are grateful for this effective and professional collaboration and look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

Erinda Hametaj
Project Manager of the "Circular Art Hub" team

“

Participating in the Green Business Competition, and especially being awarded a grant, was an opportunity that had a significant impact on the development of my business. This grant was the main driving force behind the opening of my new shop-workshop, which has now taken shape. I also had the pleasure of participating in the regional competition, where I met people with similar passions and exchanged inspiring experiences on sustainable practices. It was a valuable opportunity to learn and build connections that will positively contribute to the development of my business.

Alketa Muharemi
Founder of "Jorean Handmade"

Jorean Handmade premises, one of the businesses supported through the 2025 Green Business Competition.



Funded by
the European Union

implemented by



PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



in cooperation with



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

TIRANA, ALBANIA FEBRUARY 12TH, 2025



The international conference "From Illicit Gains to the Public Good: The Future of Confiscated Assets," organised by Partners Albania and the Italian organisation Libera Contro le Mafie, Tirana, 12 February 2025. The conference marked the conclusion of the project TWIST: "Towards a New Model of Social Entrepreneurship in Confiscated Assets in Albania," which contributed to strengthening a sustainable model for the management and reuse of confiscated assets in Albania.



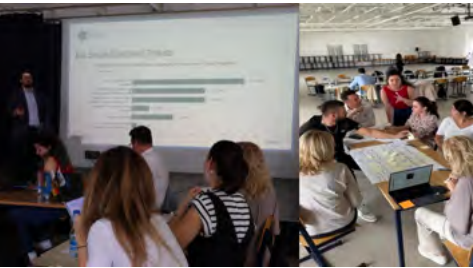
Balkan Green Ideas 2025, the 14th edition of the regional competition of green ideas with environmental, social, and economic impact. Albania was represented by three entrepreneurs, winners of the 2025 National Green Business Competition, organized by Partners Albania.



Regional event **CEE4Impact Day**, held in Budapest on 8–9 November, an opportunity to exchange experiences and explore collaboration opportunities with regional peers and European impact investors, aiming to support the growth and sustainability of local social enterprises.



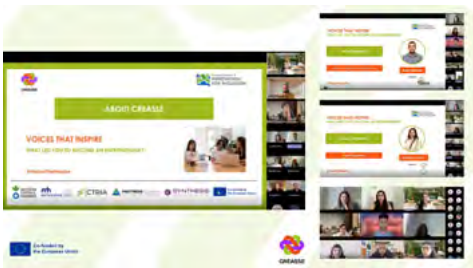
Impact Week 2025 – “Brighter Together” event held in Malmö on 18–20 November, a global gathering of actors in philanthropy, finance, and social innovation, to explore models and practices that support the development and scaling of the social economy, creating opportunities for international cooperation and knowledge exchange.



Kick-off meeting of the **TtraSE** project held in Matera, in February, and the “Co-Creation Lab” interactive event held in September in Kosovo, for trainers, experts, and Social Economy stakeholders in Arts and Crafts, to reflect and co-design solutions for the twin transition of the Social Enterprises in the Arts and Crafts sector.



A series of regional meetings among partner organizations implementing the **CREASSE** initiative, aimed at developing Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) activities as a transformational force that can drive systemic and positive change in rural areas.



EU Online Event: **“Voices that Inspire – What Led You to Become an Entrepreneur?”** held on June 18, 2025, featuring 10 speakers sharing their journeys in purpose-driven entrepreneurship, and bringing together aspiring and experienced entrepreneurs, changemakers, and key SSE actors. Albanian founders Sentiļjana Marku (Danja’s Raspberries) and Rakip Belishaku (Rinora Handmade) shared their journeys in sustainable agriculture and eco-innovation, alongside entrepreneurs from Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, and Spain.



ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION



The first Assessment Report of the Startup Ecosystem in Albania. The findings serve as a roadmap for strengthening support for Albanian startups and creating an environment where innovative ideas can grow into sustainable businesses. The study was supported by Challenge Fund | EU4Innovation.



Brochure showcasing the social enterprises established and supported over the years through the National Green Business Competition in Albania, as well as their impact on employment and the economy.



The report **“New paths for Twin Transition of Social Enterprises in Arts and Crafts Sector”** focuses on the systems established for Social Enterprises and Vocational Education and Training / Continuing Vocational Education and Training, supporting these systems across the European Union and the Western Balkans region.



Online awareness campaign dedicated to raising awareness and deepening understanding of the Social and Solidarity Economy.



At the **RISE Forum**, one of the events of GEW2025, part of the advocacy panel dedicated to social entrepreneurship in Albania, where we highlighted, among other issues, the urgent need to review the Law on Social Enterprises, as well as the strengthening of cooperation and interaction among ecosystem actors to ensure sustainable support.



During European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos’s visit to Tradita ime Artizanale, a social enterprise in Elbasan and one of the initiatives supported through the TWIST project. The enterprise contributes to the employment of women and girls from vulnerable communities, while preserving traditional cultural heritage and values.

Type of Donations

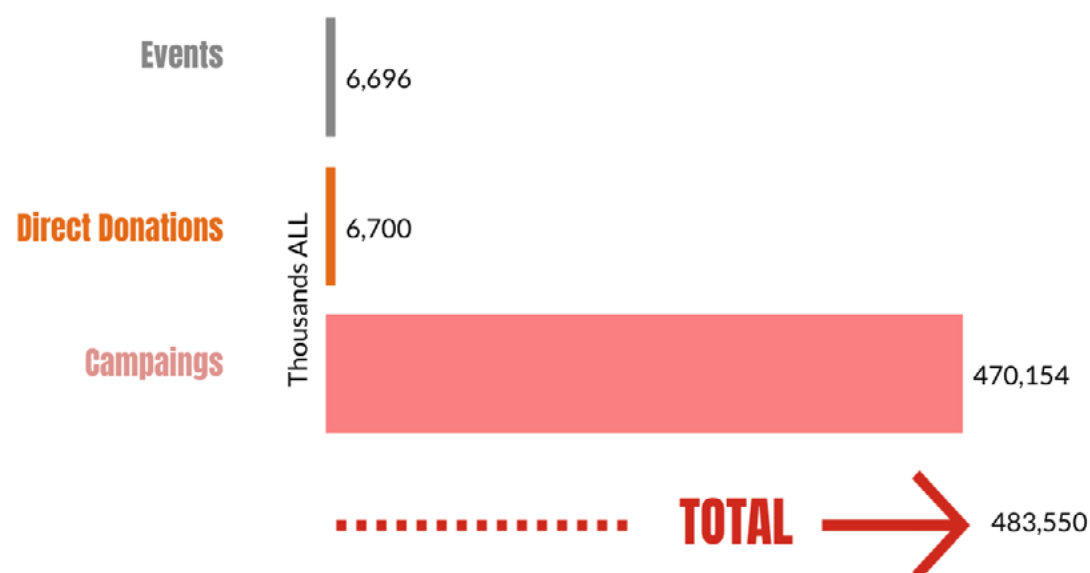
The three main forms of fundraising are through *Events*, *Campaigns* and *Direct*.

582 donations through Events

180 Direct donations

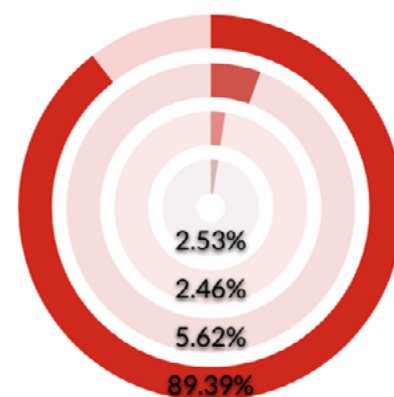
104,260 donations through Campaigns

Value of donations



Fields of Donation

- Healthcare
- Support to Marginalized Groups
- Religious Based Humanitarian Activities
- Other



Fundraising Campaigns

414
Call for Donations

49
Online Crowdfunding Campaigns

2
Campaigns through Facebook Social Impact Platform*

167
Social Media and Online Crowdfunding campaigns

32
Mega Campaigns

Geographical Distribution of Beneficiaries

99.71% of donations were distributed in Albania



1014
articles in media serving as information source about donation cases

ARTICLES SHOWS NEWS
DOCUMENTARY ARTICLES SHOWS NEWS
REPORTS ARTICLES SHOWS
POSTS CHRONICLE DOCUMENTARY
KRONIKA POSTS
CHRONICLE POSTS

A space dedicated to supporting community initiatives and social causes



PARTNERËT E FORTË

#Rritje Dhurues Shqipëri

Partners of the Giving Circles Albania

The 7th event Giving Circles Albania, Tirana, 20 October 2025.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Since 2018, Partners Albania has organized seven **Giving Circles Albania** events, through which 22 community initiatives have been supported in areas such as education, human rights promotion, youth activism, environmental protection and tourism development, psychosocial services for children in need, the improvement or creation of public spaces for elderly, etc. Designed in a live-crowdfunding format, "Giving Circles" brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, who contribute their expertise, time, and financial resources to support specific causes presented at the event, benefiting communities in need.



1 event "GIVING CIRCLES" in 2025, 7th edition

45 donors (Individuals and Entities)

2,214,628 contribution donated*

* The value in ALL refers to monetary contributions, material donations, and free consultancy offered during events.

3 initiatives supported in 2025

The Listening Bench

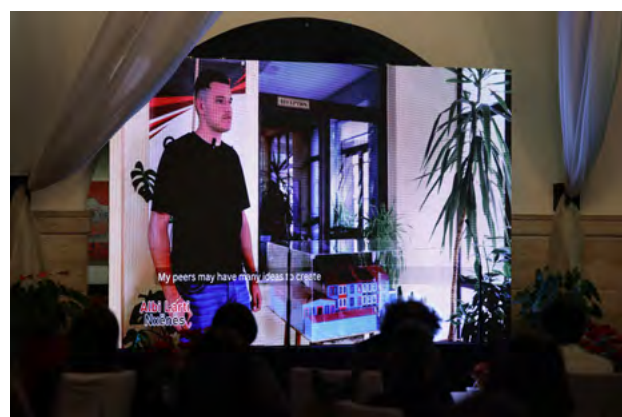
An idea that transforms public spaces in Mat into places that speak! Implementing organization: "Together Foundation".

MALGA

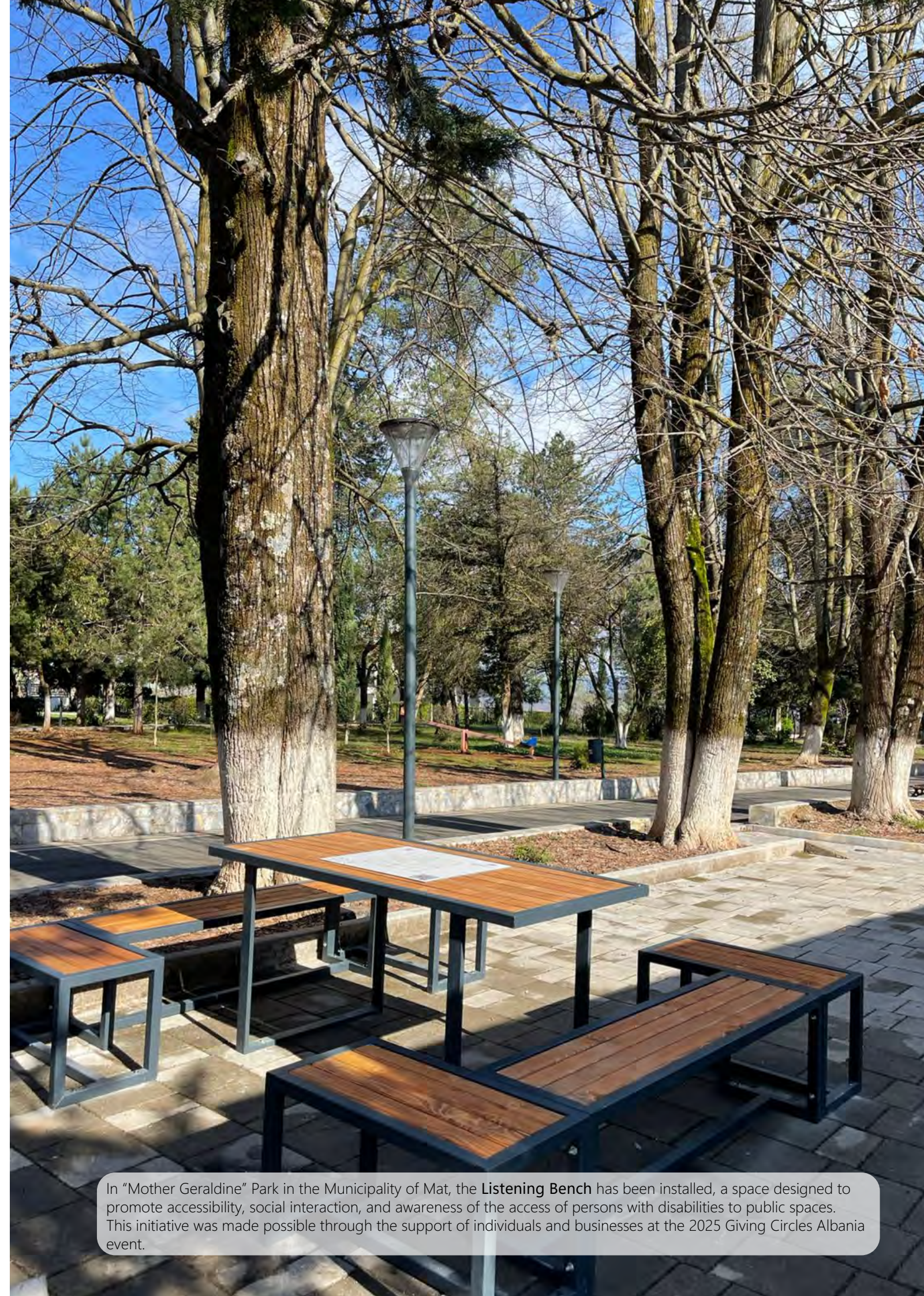
A mission to revive the "Lurë-Mali i Dejës" National Park, which has suffered damage over the years. Implementing organization: "Network Albania".

The Future Young Creators of Korça

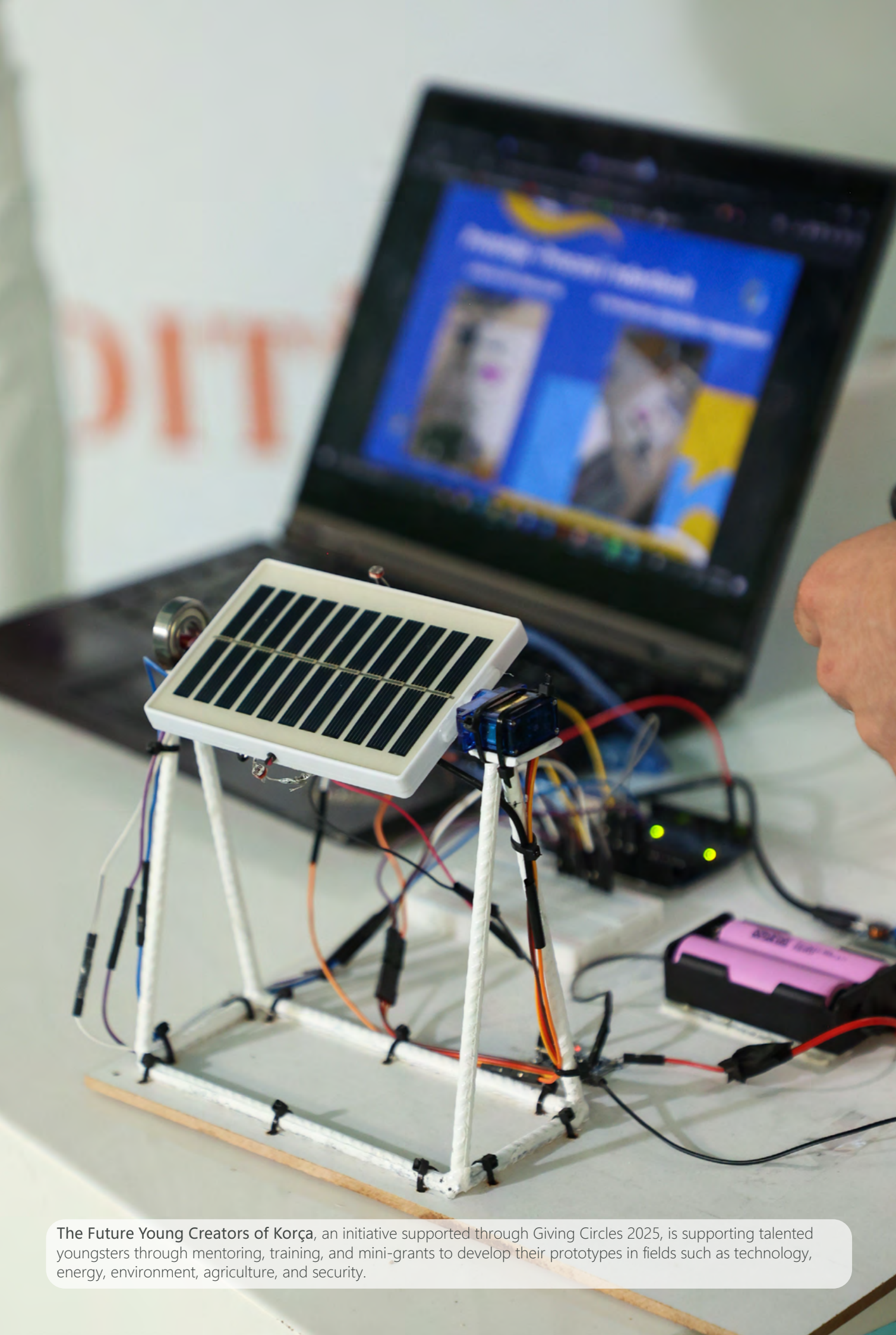
Around 50 young people aged 14–22 in Korçë trained through technology camps for youth, turning their business ideas into tangible products! Implementing organization: Community Foundation "Korçars Help the Korçars".



During presentation of the initiatives at the Giving Circles 2025 event



In "Mother Geraldine" Park in the Municipality of Mat, the **Listening Bench** has been installed, a space designed to promote accessibility, social interaction, and awareness of the access of persons with disabilities to public spaces. This initiative was made possible through the support of individuals and businesses at the 2025 Giving Circles Albania event.



The Future Young Creators of Korça, an initiative supported through Giving Circles 2025, is supporting talented youngsters through mentoring, training, and mini-grants to develop their prototypes in fields such as technology, energy, environment, agriculture, and security.

“

As a newly established organization, it was a great opportunity for us to be one of the three initiatives selected for the “Giving Circles 2025” event.

Not only did we have the opportunity to present our initiative **MALGA** to the audience and establish an initial funding base, but the event also helped us reach an even broader audience.

We are grateful to Partners Albania for providing this opportunity for us and for the continued support they have shown. Thank you!

Majlinda Hoxha
Network Albania



TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFITIARIES



Through the **MALGA – Mobilizing Action for Lura's Green Awakening** initiative, and thanks to the support received during the 2025 Giving Circles event, greenery is being restored in the Lurë-Mali i Dejës National Park. Using the Fukuoka method, approximately 5,200 seed balls containing fir seeds have been planted, laying the foundation for a long-term process of regenerating the area.



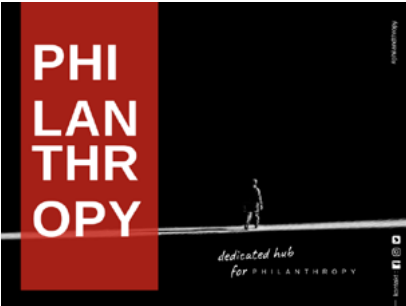
ECFI Annual Meeting, held on 24–25 November 2025 in Vienna, where supporting organizations of community foundations from across Europe exchanged experiences, reinforced partnerships, and reflected on the role of community philanthropy in a developing social and democratic context. The meeting focused on key developments in 2025, including youth participation, climate change, emergency response, and local capacity building, as well as defining priorities for 2026, while also marking the 10th anniversary of ECFI.



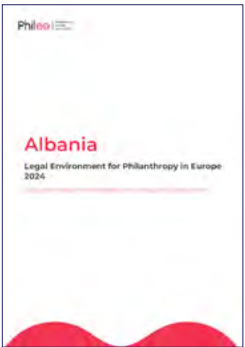
ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH ON PHILANTHROPY AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



The National Report “Community Foundations in Albania” presents the first in-depth assessment of the establishment of community foundations, with a particular focus on the first foundation created in the country, analyzing the challenges, opportunities, and their potential for local development.



Philanthropy is a magazine highlighting developments surrounding various initiatives and issues related to philanthropic activity in the country.



Contribution to the development of Albania’s Country Profile on the legal and fiscal framework of philanthropy, part of the collaboration with the European Philanthropy Association (Philea).



Contribution to the development of the Albania Country Report as part of the 2025 Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI).



Regional meeting held on 22 October 2025 in Skopje, organized by the European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) and Konekt, bringing together leaders of community foundations and supporting organizations from across the Balkans to discuss the strengthening and further development of this model in the region.



ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH FOR A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE



Analysis and Recommendations for the Intersectoral Strategy on Public Administration Reform 2024-2030.



Analysis and Recommendations on the Draft Law on Whistleblowing and Whistleblower Protection.



Analysis and Recommendations on the National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2026-2030, and the 2026-2028 Action Plan.



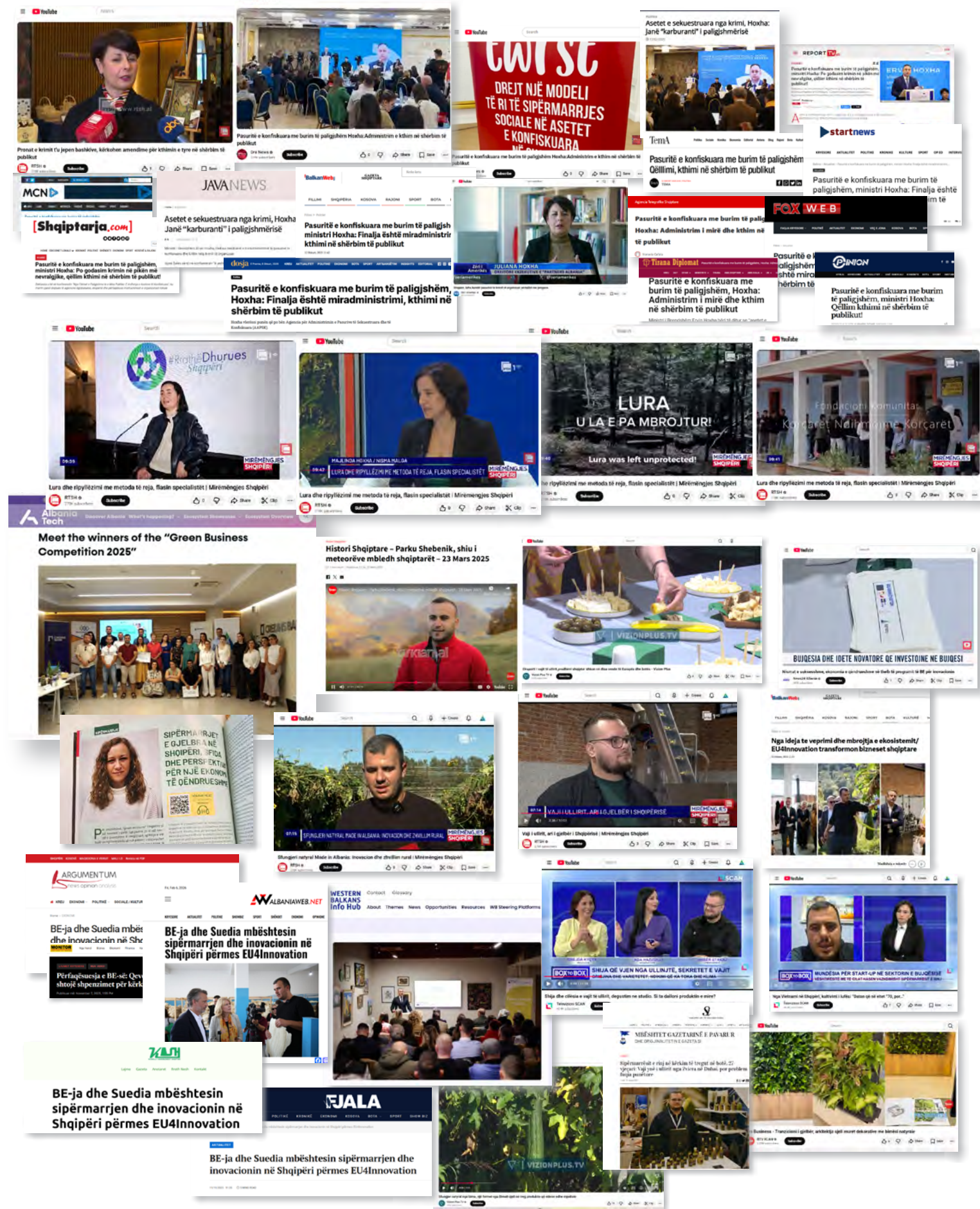
Monitoring Report on Youth Political, Social, and Economic Participation 2024 Country Report for Albania, prepared in collaboration with the organization Beyond Barriers.



Partners Albania and UNICEF Albania signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing children's rights, strengthening civic space, and promoting responsible and transparent governance. The cooperation will focus on fostering evidence-based policy dialogue, mobilizing resources for children and young people, and supporting reforms that promote social inclusion and increased accountability, in the framework of the 2024-2030 Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, as well as initiatives such as the European Child Guarantee and the Youth Guarantee.



OUR WORK IN MEDIA FOCUS



PROJECT	DONOR
Making Labor Market work for Young People in Albania - RISI Albania	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania	European Union
Challenge Fund EU4Innovation, Faza II 2022-2026	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and EU Delegation in Albania
TWIST - ToWards a new social entrepreneurShip model in confiscaTed assets in Albania	European Union through the Delegation of the European Union in Albania
Enhancing Philanthropic Activity and Support Infrastructure in Albania	Rockefeller Brother Funds
Protecting civic spare - Regional Civic Society Development Hub	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Balkan Civil Society Development Network
Invest for Change - I4C	European Union
Civil Society Engagement in Public Budgeting Processes	International Budget Partnership
CREASSE – Fostering Rural and Inclusive Social and Solidarity Economy (2024-2026)	European Commission/ Erasmus +
TtraSE - Twin Transition for Social Enterprises in Arts and Craft Sector	European Commission/ Erasmus +
Circular Economy for sustainable urban development in Albania	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH / European Commission



Funded by the European Union



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Sweden
Sverige



Philanthropy for an Interdependent World



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Together for Democratic Change



HELVETAS
ALBANIA



Balkan Civil Society Development Network





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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Management of the Foundation "Partners Albania for Change and Development"

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Partners Albania for Change and Development (hereafter referred as the "Foundation" or "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, statement of activities, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2025, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the National Accounting Standard for Non-Profit Organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Albania, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the National Accounting Standard for Non-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

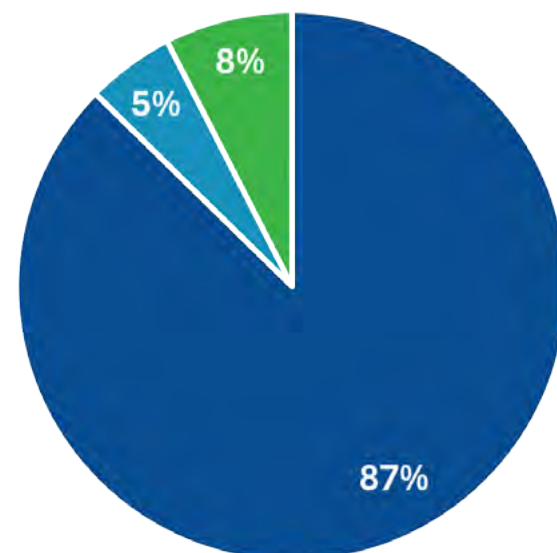
Grant Thornton sh.p.k.
Tirana, Albania
8 June 2025



This version of our audited accompanying documents is a translation from the original, which was prepared in Albanian. If possible, please refer to the original to ensure that the translation is an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, views or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this translation.

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Buxhet for FY 2025



Foreign Governments

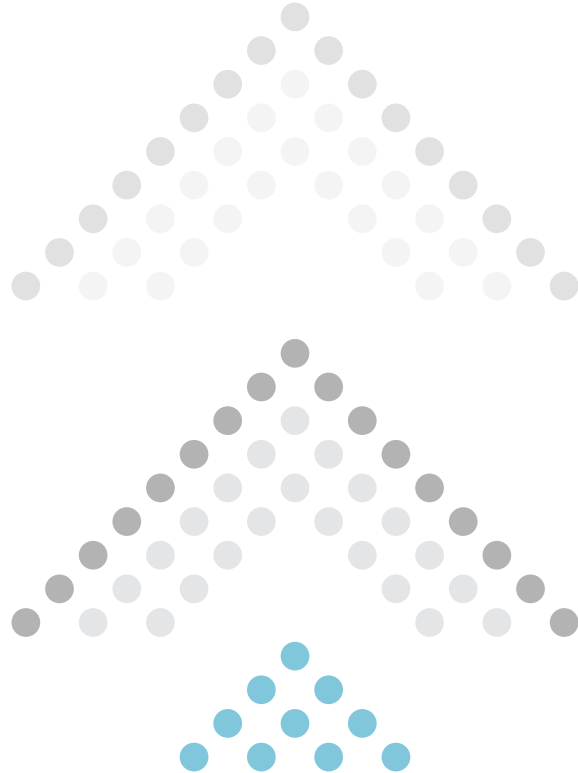


Fee based services



Private Foundations

200,100,105 ALL



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