

Status of development of RD Network in Albania

Institute for Democracy and
Mediation



Albanian Context



- **National Strategy for Rural Development, *Adopted in 2007* ;**
- **Law on Agriculture and Rural Developmen; *Adapted in 2007***
- **Public Authority for the implementation of the Strategy is **Ministry of Agriculture****

Civil Society and the Need for Rural Networking

Albanian EU Integration process in EU imposes some concrete engagement on national policies needed for RD

There is a need to invest on:

- *Information of population*
- *Increase and capacity building of human social capital*
- *Enabling of residents in rural areas and their motivation to enter into local public-private partnerships*

Necessary Steps:

- Set up and functioning of LAGs
- Increase of capacities of LAG members
- Elaboration of Local Development Strategies
- There are some pilot experiences already coming from SNV, OXFAM, etc but there is a need for a national synergy, taking into consideration:
 - *Local Government vision and capacities*
 - *Low level of association and rural business associations;*
 - *Level of rural civil society in the country*

Development of a National Rural Network

- There is so much work to be done in Albania in this field, that efforts from all approaches are required, and that the process should be oriented as national synergy.
- Supportive of this is the set up of a **National Rural Development Network**, as a partnership tool at the local and national level
- In Albania: the best approach would be a bottom-up, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture

Development of a National Rural Network

- The Ministry would be a leading actor but not the implementer of the process;
- Civil Society –Implementing role , taking into consideration the experience and capacities of CS which could serve efficiently as a supportive unit for all the network;

Development of a National Rural Network

- Facilitation of the process of establishment of Rural Development Network (RDN) in Albania – this is one of the key elements to prepare for the forthcoming EU integration.
- IDM and other actors have already started work for the mobilization of actors at the local and central level;

Development of a National Rural Network

- The aim is to have an all-inclusive initiative, with 12 regions (Qarks) of Albania; non-government organizations, local authorities (Qarks and communes), chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, media; and other interest groups;
- **Creation of a Parliamentary Cross-Party Group** in support of rural development in Albania. This group would enhance debate within the parliament in terms of supporting policies related to rural development in Albania.

Thank you !

Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Rr. Shenasi Dishnica
Nr. 37, P. O. BOX:8177
Tel (++ 355 4) 2400241
Tel-Fax (++ 355 4) 2400640

E-mail: info@idmalbania.org
Web: www.idmalbania.org