

INVITATION

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The Regional Development Programme Northern Albania aims at contributing to an equitable social and economic development of Shkodra and Lezha Regions. The programme kindly invites you to the:

RDP Planning Workshop
in Hotel Colosseo, Shkodra
on 15th through 16th June 2011

The two-day Planning Workshop is an essential part of the programme's Inception Phase. It aims at testing on the ground the hypothesis expressed in the project document and designing the most effective and efficient ways of dealing with issues identified that are within the program's scope. RDP completed in a collaborative fashion a series of assessments and would like to present and discuss the assessment conclusions and recommendations arrived at. As a result of the workshop, programme beneficiaries are expected to recommend a set of specific activities to be undertaken during the remaining 3 ½ years of the programme's duration which will lead to the achievement of the programme's Expected Results. The recommendations worked out during the workshop will serve as a basis for the revision of the programme document and the Logical Framework.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event and sharing together with our beneficiaries and partners the main aspects of this programme.

With best regards,

Daniel C. Wagner
Programme Team Leader

AGENDA

RDP NORTHERN ALBANIA PLANNING WORKSHOP

Shkodra, Hotel Colosseo, 15-16 June 2011

Day 1 – Wednesday, 15th June 2011

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| 10:00 – 10:30 | Registration (coffee & refreshments served) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Welcome addresses by the key central & local officials and guests |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Presentation of the workshop rationale and proposed agenda |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Presentation of the initial RDP workshop document that synthesizes the conclusions and recommendations of the 6 assessments completed in advance of the workshop into a newly proposed revised project concept – by Dan Wagner |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | Discussion session no 1 - on activities related to ER 3 - Development Planning , including: strengthening of the role of qarks as key players in regional development, new model and role for a Regional Development Agency and Local Action Groups in partnership with LGU's in the Albanian context; moderated by Shpetim Quku with expert input of Robert Lukesch |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee break |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | Discussion session no 2 – on activities related to ER 4 – the RDP fund , including: setting up the fund, how it could be managed, categories of projects to be funded by RDP (the three windows) – to be moderated by Rudina Toto with expert input of Richard Hummelbrunner |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Discussion session no 3 – on gender and poverty alleviation as horizontal / cross-cutting themes as well as addressed by specific project initiatives (related to window 3 of the RDP fund) – moderated by Rudina Toto and supported by Dan Wagner |
| 17:00 | Conclusion of Day 1. |

Day 2 – Thursday, 16th June 2011

- 9:00 – 9:15 Recapitulation of discussions during Day 1 and how they feed into the next discussion sessions – by Dritan Shutina
- 9:15 – 10:30 **Discussion session no 4** – on activities related to **ER 2 – the capacity and institutional development** – including: HR issues, capacities required for newly defined institutions - moderated by Shpetim Quku with expert input of Pascal Arnold
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Discussion session no 5** – on activities related to **ER 1 – effective institutional framework** – including: work with the central-level partners and other institutions, shaping the framework for further decentralization particularly related to regional development – to be moderated by Dritan Shutina with the support of Pascal Arnold and Dan Wagner
- 12:15 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:00 Principles and outline of the **RDP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan** – brief presentation by Richard Hummelbrunner and Elida Metaj
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Plenary session** – bringing together the results of the discussion sessions – including: how the discussions influence the final shape of the programme – panel discussion with participation of all international experts and the project team
- 15:00 – 15:30 Summary and next steps – by Dan Wagner
- 15:30 Workshop is adjourned.