ALCDF













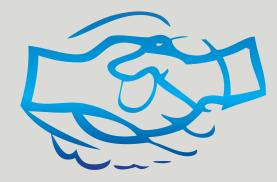
Annual Report 2011



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ALBANIAN LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION





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ALCDF

ALBANIAN LOCAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2011

is is the first report of ALCDF Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation. It presents first steps as a foundation and continues work on implementation of the program and activities during the period January 2011-December 2011.

The information and content of this report is approved by the ALCDF Board of Directors. The entire content of this report, including articles, photographs, etc. are protected by law and are subject to copyright. This annual report is published in two languages, English and Albanian. Electronic version can be found on the internet on ALCDF web page under the section Reports: www.alcdf.org











WELCOME

Fatos HakorjaPresident of Board of Directors

Dear reader

s president of the Board of ALCDF, I am honored that on behalf of other Board Members, who with their professionalism and work modestly contribute to the development of different sectors of Albanian society, convey my highest consideration to the hard and important work developed by Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation during the year 2011.

It has been a year full of commitment to first clarify the philosophy of the foundation, in order to adapt it to the Albanian reality, to institutionalize and make it known to the regions of Albania and we are very proud that here we succeeded in doing so. This Annual Report presents these achievements and accomplishments to date.

Capacity development is a new concept in the terminology used in our country, mainly in organizations and development sector, and less in other sectors and professions. This does not mean that we have a lack of capacity, rather than a non formalized market of professionals and expertise. As such, the market behaves based on the individual and friendly relations and not leaded by the market demand. Albania has excellent professionals in the sectors of agriculture, finance, engineering etc, but the experts often do not feel appreciated, paid and not even informed most of the times on the requirements or opportunities the market offers.

ALCDF opens the possibility of formalizing the development of these capacities by stimulating the interaction between demand and supply within the service market, modernizing communications and interconnection of this market, giving more information, creating and encouraging networking and sharing the best regional and European experiences

Partnerships for Innovation Fund (P4I) and the Market Facilitation Unit (PREXAlbania) are the mechanisms that will promote and support the realization of innovative ideas and enable the professional market to modernize through communication, information, and networking, best practices, cases, methods and successful studies.

ALCDF contributes to the development of local capacities, promoting local initiatives, innovative ideas that through a good local leadership provide effective and efficient solutions improving the quality of life for rural communities that are less favored but also for urban areas.

I do believe, that in this journey, we will have the support and cooperation of all our partners, donors co financiers in order to bring about the positive change we are working for.

About ALCDF

lbanian Local Capacity Development Foundation (ALCDF) vision is a financially sustainable and vibrant Local Capacity Development Facility serving rural communities in Albania. Its final goal is the socio-economic well-being and prosperity in rural areas of Albania.

ALCDF target markets are rural innovators, service providers, banks, donors and businesses. ALCDF's funding model is a combination of donor financing and income generation from its web based service directory and tendering portal and other capacity building services. ALCDF is now securing donor financing to support its mission and operations.

ALCDF is composed of a team of professionals, focused and engaged in achieving impact, and the same vision for the organization's betterment of rural Albania. Our extended team and extensive network makes our approach effective and efficient.

Partnerships for Innovation (P4I fund) and Market Facilitation services are its approach for the achieving of ALCDFs vision, goal, mission and objectives.

Through P4I, ALCDF supports local organizations and enterprises (both financially and service market facilitating activities) to meet their ambitions through the acquisition of business and professional services. The approach of ALCDF is based on open market business and institutional practices. Through this direct approach, ALCDF contributes to local capacity development and connecting demand for and the supply of these services in rural areas. ALCDF supports the provision of quality assurance services such as defining terms of references, tendering, contracting and coaching for service delivery and relationship building between applicants and service providers. ALCDF's PREXA*lbania* portal (www.prexalbania.com) is a vibrant web-based business and professional service directory and tendering portal.

Both components - services are closely integrated and support each-other. P4I disseminate information on grants and ensure participation of applicants/benefitiaries as well as Service providers thorugh PREXA*lbania* web Portal.









Lindita MangaALCDF Executive Director

The Change we brought in 2011

e Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation (ALCDF) is a new approach to rural development. ALCDF's approach is to strengthen enterprises and organizations' development through the acquisition of the business and professional services, and interventions to make a more engaging market environment. ALCDF will realize its vision of well-being and prosperity in rural areas of Albania through two operational approaches; the provision of financial support through the Partnerships for Innovation Fund and Market Facilitation Unit.

Partnerships for Innovation Fund

In 2011, ALCDF's Partnerships for Innovation Fund (P4I) fund **supported 81 rural organizations** and enterprise to acquire business and professional services in the Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism and Local Governance sectors. The direct investment from applicants and ALCDF resulted in over **€250,000 in contracted services**.

(P4I) promotes rural organizations and enterprises' development by financially supporting their acquisition of business and professional services. Its approach is straightforward; applicants demonstrate how services can fulfill their aspirations, their experience and capacity to benefit from these services, and to provide a minimum of 20% of the cost for these services. P4I ensured transparency, competition, and efficiency through providing expertise advisory services in the selection of proposals, and support in tendering and contracting, and quality assurance in the delivery of services.

Supported applicants acquired expertise services for feasibility studies, business planning, increasing production, expanding domestic and export market, drafting local development and sector plans, improving local infrastructure such as drinking water and hygiene services, sustainable environmental development, bio-energy and carbon sequestration, access to the EC's IPA funding, and a diversity of tailored services for specific innovative opportunities.

Market Facilitation Unit

ALCDF's market facilitation activities accelerate sustainable rural development through strengthening market environment for interaction and relationship-building between those demanding and supplying business and professional services.

In 2011, ALCDF's service provider directory and tending portal, PREX *Albania* (www.prexalbania.com) was fully activated. This portal, a multi-sided market enables a cost effective way to market business and professional services, and through a tendering function, directly connects those requesting and supplying services. By the end of the 2011, over **1300 service providers were registered** and 230 Service Providers had participated in over 81 tender opportunities. Other services promote the discussion between service providers, and the sharing of resources to improve the transactions, and business methods.

ALCDF Board of Directors



Fatos Hakorja, President

Senior Editor and Journalist for Klan Media Group



Elvana Zhezha Member

Country Director, SNV Albania and Kosovë



Mr. Henk van den Dool Member

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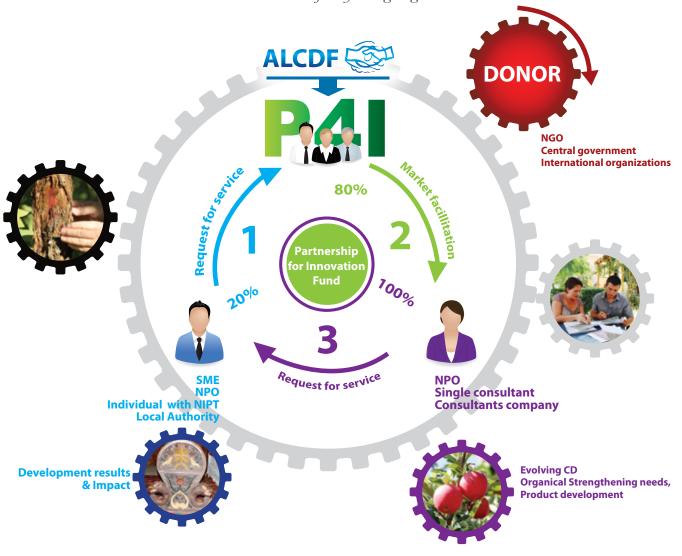


Sybi Hida Member

Member of Parliament

The Fund "Partnerships for Innovation" (P41)

P4I is the financial support for the acquisition of CD services by local demand actors, to scale solutions and innovations. *Project cycle organogram:*



P4I is the fund which is envisioned to improve the functioning of the Service Environment through provision of support to applicants for accessing of Capacity Development Services. It serves to connect the applicants for services to commercial and / or grant financing opportunities.

Furthermore, P4I Fund aims to enable the eligible applicants to enter into or expand market activities and to generate income.

In 2011, P4I was active in the rural areas of the Korce, Elbasan, Diber and Tirane regions. There is a strong demand to expand to other regions of Albania.

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Market Facilitation Unit (PREXA*lbania*)

What is MFU Mission?

Brokering by connecting people and making market information transparent and accessible.

How?

By building a social business site where businesses of any type meet together to find out the latest updates of each other and interact on issues of mutual interest by

- Creating a match meeting habitat (called Service Environment), where applicants and SP find each-other (PREXAlbania.com and ALCDF Website)
- Making market information transparent and reachable by creating a Knowledge UNIT
- Testing and promoting Innovations (Best practices, at Regional and National level etc.)
- Fund raising activities (Annual Report, grant launching events, Report meetings with Donors, applicants and Service Providers and other stakeholders, cooperating in Public and Private initiatives)
- Public Awareness campaign
 - Meetings at regional level (local stakeholders)
 - Mass media (TVs, Newspapers, bloggers)
 - ALCDF Webpage, leaflets posters, publications, etc.

What is PREXAlbania?

PREXAlbania is a business and professionals' web based directory and tendering Portal for capacity building services. PREXAlbania offers a broad range of support to capacity service providers, especially marketing services, tools and methods. Those are:

• A page for each service provider, including a biography (whether individual or organization), areas of expertise and interest, experience (listing professional activities or projects), geographic focus area, and references. The facility will also



note other information such as the projects the service provider has accomplished under the facility.

• Organization of all service providers by sector. There are pull-down search menus for specialization, geographic region, or other items in order to create shorter lists.

• A page for

current tender notices, whether for the P4I Fund, other clients, or links to tender sites. Further pages will elaborate the specifics of the tender and provide mailing and printing options.

• A list of important announcements of new general business or specific sector offers for training and professional development opportunities.

PREXAlbania results for the year 2011

- Contracting of 81 number of service providers through Portal
- About 4.000 number of contracted days.
- 1300 Members/Service Providers registered during 2011
- About 6300 clicks during 2011

ALCDF strengths

- A well defined and clear Business Plan
- A wide database of PREXA*lbania* users and members (about 1300 Service Providers ranging from NGOs, organizations of any type, experts, private companies, think tanks, businesses, universities to individuals, sole proprietors, SME-s etc)
- A network at national and international level (ALCDF regional mentors, LCDF coordination unit in Hague, ALCDF Board of Directors)

ALCDF areas of intervention









Agriculture -

In 2011 ALCDF's Partnerships for Innovation Fund received **41 applications** to support acquiring business and professional expertise in the Agriculture sector. **28 applicants** successfully received support.

Applicants were from private companies, non-government organization and local authorities from the Diber, Korca, Tirane and Elbasan regions. Small producer groups, agro-processors to associations and local governments are all involved in the betterment of the agricultural sector. Applicants' projects are group according to the primary services delivered.

Supporting Sector policy and analysis of crop and product market potential:

5 projects required expertise for detailed situational analysis and recommendations for the future development of various sub-sector and crops such as viticulture, fruit horticulture, beekeeping, olives, potatoes and livestock. Analysis was aligned to local

development interests and market realities.

Increasing agricultural productivity

10 projects directly focused on increasing crop and agro-processing productivity for apples, apple juice, wine, honey, olives, olive oil, raki and milk. Expertise was acquired for business planning, improving varieties or breed productivity, increasing

density of planted areas, organic production methods and improving techniques and

technology.

Improving agricultural infrastructure:

3 projects focused on improving infrastructure and agricultural land structure.

Technical expertise was acquired for studies and technical projects on harvest and storage, agricultural markets, land protection and irrigation, and feasibility studies for

Agriculture Centres.

Expanding market access

7 projects focused on increasing access for agricultural products in national and international markets. Experts conducted full marketing studies, synthesis of market

information, defining quality and volume for market access, conditions and terms

for export.

Implementing standards and certification

3 projects targeted certification for national and international markets. Demand and

expertise were focused on certification of origin, BIO and ISSO certification, and

issues of market credibility and producer's market image.

Number of organizations contracted to deliver services: 28

Number of service days: 1.516 days

Forestry.









The Partnerships for Innovation Fund has supported projects in the sector of Forestry in Albania. There were **69 applications** done by this sector, while **19** of them were supported financially.

The supported applications by formalized rural actors (private NPO-s or local authorities) affect Forestry Development by increasing farmer families income, production and opportunities for exploiting secondary forest products, export volumes as well as increasing main actors' capacities in these sectors including improving environment in four Albanian regions, Diber, Korce, Tirane and Elbasan.

Throughout the selected Service Providers in CDS, the supported projects by Partnerships for Innovation Fund offered a professional expertise for the Service Seekers in the following:

Studies and projects to increase the nut crops

6 projects included studies and support for expanding the nut crop areas, natural nuts effective use, improving product quality, raising farmers capacities in collecting-cultivation and nut trade, business plans to benefit from the Ministry's subsidiary scheme etc.

Increasing income through an effective exploitation of secondary forest products

6 projects focused directly in increasing production of secondary forest products such as medicinal plants, forest fruits, fauna etc by developing rural actors' capacities in collecting, cumulating, storage, processing, trading, exporting etc. Capacitiy Development consisted on increasing awareness and providing technical knowledge, technology and new practices, getting to know the market, business plans, manuals, sector development plans, chain value analysis and development, round tables, demonstrations etc.

Strengthening the organizational and institutional capacities of Associations and Federations of Communal Forestry

4 projects were supported in strengthening the organizational and institutional capacities of the associations of forestry users in a commune level, private forestry users association, medicinal plants associations and regional and national level federations. The projects were also centered in expanding and strengthening memberships, problem analysis and strategic solutions, strengthening relations between local government and other key actors, increasing technical-professional and organizational capacities, knowledge of the law and consolidating lobbying and advocacy power.

Increasing opportunities for forestry products market access

3 projects focused in increasing forest products access to the domestic and foreign market by offering full marketing studies, market information, improving product's quality and volume, conditions and acknowledging domestic market, establishing terrain for forestry market, information and exports access of forestry and bio products.

Increasing innovative efforts in the sector of forestry

Some the above mentioned supported projects have also implemented straightforward activities for study and research on Sustainable Environment Development, studies on carbon, bio-energy, biomass as well we new techniques on fighting several forest diseases.

Number of organizations contracted to deliver services: 19

Number of service days: 840 days

In 2011 ALCDF's Partnerships for Innovation Fund received 24 applications to support acquiring business and professional expertise in the tourism sector. 17 applicants successfully received support.

Applicants from private came non-government companies, organization and local authorities from the Diber, Korca, Tirane Elbasan regions. Relatively remote villages to mini-destination attractions, such as a natural spa region, were represented. Applicants' projects are grouped according to the primary services delivered.



projects encompassing nine communes requested expertise for developing Tourism Action Plans (TAP) projects. These TAP processes covered the identification of opportunities and challenges for the development of tourism in the local areas, identification of touristic resources whether cultural, or



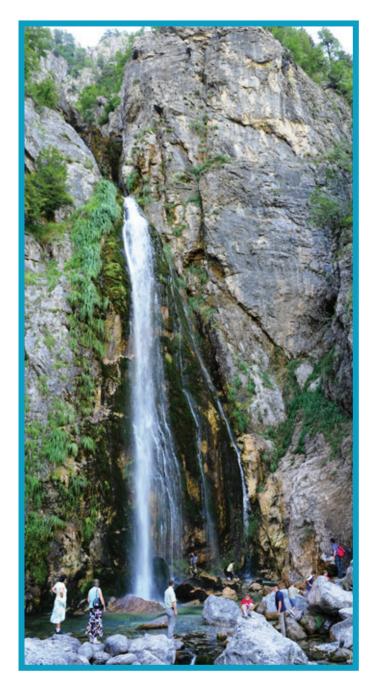




attractions, tourism promotion, strengthening tourism action groups, and the creation of other community-based organizations or processes for putting plan into action.

Family-based traditional and cultural tourism

5 projects focused on the potential presented by traditions and culture, both as a



family tourism niche market and family-based tourism services. The promotion of popular costumes, traditional woven dishes, and locally grown food, especially organic products, were prominent. These projects were complimented by the promotion of the culture of family hospitality and home stays. Professional support focused on an engaging process for the identification and, development of these services and products, and there promotion to increase family incomes.

Mountain tourism and ecotourism

3 projects targeted the development of mountain and eco-tourism. Expertise was acquired for identifying the ecological values and mountain destinations, focusing on natural scenery and wilderness regions for trekking and climbing enthusiasts. Expertise services

were deployed for the training of tour guides, and for promotion to tour agencies, both nationally and internationally.

Strengthening the private sector capacities in the tourism sector

4 applicants required services to improve the capacities and services their companies or organizations. The expertise acquired was employed to develop business and marketing plans, and improve the quality of services.

Number of organizations contracted to deliver services: 17 Number of Service days: 767 days

Local Government





In 2011 ALCDF's Partnerships for Innovation Fund supported Commune and Municipal, Region and Prefecture government administrations and agencies. P4I received **126 applications** from local governments to acquire business and professional services. **42 applicants** successfully received support.

The diversity of applicants from a village committee through regional administrations, and spanning from improving administrative performance through to long term strategic planning speaks of diverse aspirations and opportunities. The engaged involvement of citizens in these projects was a common theme running through the applications and an important skill requirement of business and professional service providers. Projects are grouped according to the primary services delivered:

Local Government's Administration Human Resource Development

10 supported projects required expertise for trainings, facilitative processes especially related to participatory budgeting, human resources management and leadership, trainings and practices for strategic development planning.

Local Development Plans and Sector Planning

10 projects requiring technical and professional services for the development of plans for local development in tourism, agriculture, forestry, viticulture, etero-oil plants, urban area planning and health.

Regional Development Policy and Plans

8 projects demanded professional skills accordingly to the standards and of Albanian government and the European Commission for regional development strategy, identification of new innovative businesses, natural resources management,



regional park management, forestry administration, water management, inter-communal projects.

Community Services

8 projects required tailored expertise for improving drinkable water supply and administration, planning and developing parks, improving health care, disaster management and civil emergencies.

Acquisition of EC and Albanian Government Funds

6 projects required professional skills for strengthened local Government capacities to mobilize funds for drafted studies and projects for capturing ministry grants, regional investment funds and the European Commission's Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA) funding.

Number of organizations contracted to deliver services: 42

Number of service days: 954 days



Impact on:

Women

Women participate in the different groups and decision-making bodies within ALCDF's P4I, such as the project selection team, the tender and contracting group and the quality assurance group.

P4I has directly and indirectly supported and stimulated the improvement of living conditions for women in rural areas through:

Increased participation of women in decision making for local development policies.

30% of the groups' members involved in local development plans have been women. So far P4I has supported one project on regional development, **6 projects** on local development at the Commune level, **5 projects** for tourism action



plans, **3 projects** on zoning (land use planning) and **7 projects** for the development of area specific activities such as agriculture, livestock, chestnuts, vineyards and olive (oil) cultivation.

Increased revenue by increasing forest products and activities

20 projects are directly focus on improving and increasing the incomes by forest

production and activities like; chestnuts, hazel nuts, walnuts, medical plants for local market and exports. Also there are many activities direct focus on women participation on forest policies and activities in local level like forest land reform, forestation etc.

Increased revenue by increasing agricultural production

28 projects are directly focus on increasing production of apple, wine, olive, livestock products, and other crops. These projects will increase production and improving market access and income.

Increased income of rural families by employment in the tourism sector





In 17 projects the main benefit is women's self-employment. Women are supported to develop mountain trekking, tourism, family tourism and traditional tourism, especially through accessing business and professional services.

Improved access in infrastructure and drinking water

3 projects that improve

access to drinking water, water for irrigation and market gardens.

Improved the health and hygiene in rural families

2 projects that focus on increasing the awareness of rural women for health and hygiene.

Increased opportunities for women's involvement in the business and professional service market

81 projects between applicants and service providers have been financially supported by P4I. Out of the 81 Service Providers contracted, **37** are women or lead of the organization. Also one category in portal PrexAlbania is dedicated to gender issues.









Private Sector Development in Rural Albania -



Even though the private sector is weak and inexperienced in seeking external support there was significant demand.

41 applications for acquiring business and professional serviceswere received.

18 applicants from Dibra, Korça, Elbasan and Tirana regions successfully received support.

Applicant's projects are grouped according to the primary serviced acquired.

Business planning

7 projects required expertise to undertake business planning for apple harvesting, apple juice production, a tourism agency, a barley malt facility, and wholesale of agricultural products for both the domestic and export markets.



5 projects required marketing and distribution expertise.

Marketing plans were product specific for Raki and Wine, Natural

Thermal Spa, Goat Cheese, Mountain Honey and Apple. Marketing research linked to distribution and sales plans focused on the preparations for the Bio-Products fair in Germany, exporting agricultural products to the Ukraine, the export of medicinal plants to European markets, and distribution of olive oil in local Elbasan markets.

Management

4 projects sought business expertise to improve management know-how. Building management skills spanned sectors and product lines, whether for family or destination tourism, increasing the scale and scope of business activity in agro-processing, and knowledge for investment and financial performance.

Customer Service

2 project sought customer service expertise to improve the delivery of services and products. Customer services, especially for hospitality were strongly sought after for knowledge of mountain and eco-tourism guiding and hotel services.

Number of organizations contracted to deliver services: 18









Civil Society Organizations in Rural Albania



2011 ALCDF's Partnerships for Innovation Fund catalyzed civil society organizations to build their capacities to better serve constituencies and membership, to improve social. economic and environmental conditions, and good governance the Agriculture, across Forestry, Tourism and Local Governance sectors.

Participating civil society organizations were from Dibra, Korça, Elbasan and Tirana region.

53 applications for acquiring business and professional services were received by P4I.

22 applicants successfully received support.

The expertise provided was an excellent skill-building opportunity for civil society organizations because of their common function as service providers to their members or the public. Projects also built skills and confidence to access EU opportunities and Albanian Government funds. Applicants' projects are grouped according to the primary services acquired.

Increase Production, Productivity and Market Access

7 projects focused on accessing expertise to improve production and market access in the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors. Notable were market studies for products such as olive oil, potatoes and honey. Services for the tourism sector focused on family homestays, traditional foods, and traditional products, and for the forest sector studies on and technical services for NTFPs, medicinal plants' collecting, storage and trade. Improving domestic and foreign market access focused on expertise for quality standards, packaging and labeling, generating market knowledge, and market information.

Social inclusion for Disadvantaged Groups:

2 projects sought expertise for social inclusion of women and disadvantaged

groups relating to employment, health and recreation. Notable projects strengthening were women's participation decision-making processes organizations and community, and designing of a recreation facility for disabled physically people.



Increasing Capacities of Civil Society Organizations:

5 projects accessed expertise for trainings; facilitation processes new techniques and methodologies, and institutional strengthening and organizational development processes.

Sustainable Development:

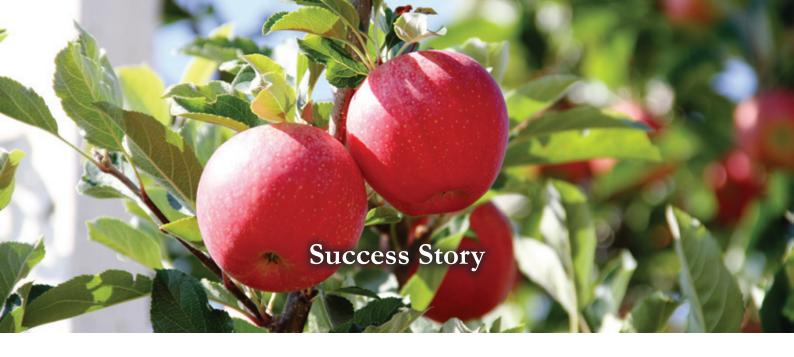
5 projects required expertise for sustainable environment development such as biodiversity conservation, forest land reform, sustainable forestry, and eco-tourism

development.

Innovative Techniques and Products:

3 projects were focused on acquiring expertise for new innovation such as study on the potential of biomass/bio energy, fighting nut tree diseases and carbon sequestration studies.





"Apple Marketing Plan" of Dvoran Village

Serjan Bregu is a 39 years man, born and raised in the village of Dvoran of Mollas Commune in Korca region. At age of fifteen he quits school for giving a hand to his father with farming. Apples, plums, grapes, pears etc, these are the trees that his family for generations has planted the land. As soon as you meet Serjan you can not help noticing the strong hand movements, which accompany his speech to make more understandable to the interlocutor what he says. There are quite a few years that he is returned to the occupations as farmer after a long migration in Greece and England, where, in addition to language and culture has acquired the profession of mechanic and "car seller":, as he accents. "But the man merits his own Land - says Serjan. This was the reason that together with his wife and his three little daughters made him come back to the beloved Land and change the wastelands into fertile soil, as his father and his ancestors used to do. For more than 5 years Serjan has restored plantations of old apples and pears, revived them with seedlings and grafted young fruit qualities (about 14 varieties of apple trees, 7 pears, 5 plums and some of some grape varieties), but saved and developed and Albanian qualities, already competing with foreign ones. Last year's productivity and profit had led to the economy of Serjan and his farm workers increase significantly. But this was was not enough to Serjan. He was having a new economic growth not tested before which led him to challenges such as:

- 1. Finding new markets for sales within a short time not predicted,
- 2. Having a marketing plan, which included:
- a. working plans,
- b. training for workers,

- c. introduction of new varieties, of plants etc
- d. Building apple juice processing line,
- e. giving a name /
 certificate to maintain
 the "brand" of apple
 and fruit quality of
 Mollas area, etc.

These were Serjan's dilemmas and when he heard about ALCDF



Foundation was assisting farmers for solving such problems, he came to foundation's office with a simple request for a study about a "Marketing Plan for apples of Dvoran village".

ALCDF Selection Team reviewed the request of the applicant and decided to cofinance the study during the First Round of Partnership for Innovations Fund. The application was "translated" into Terms of Reference and tender was launched through PREXAlbania portal to find the best Service Provider. Three Service Providers participated into ALCDF tender. After a detailed review, the Selection Team chose SOL Center, worthy to prepare the Apple Marketing Plan for DvoranVillage.

SOL Center would use the modern methods and efficient methodology to achieve the main aim of the project. Based on the SWOT analysis through internal and external assessment, the methodology ollowed, expected results, marketing oriented objectives etc,. SOL Center offered an impressive marketing plan, which was based on the key objectives of the service seeker. Apple Marketing Plan was compiled from June 23 until September 11, 2011. The implementation of this project was crowned with the job training of Mr. Serjan Bregu and his workers on "how to practice and pursue implementation of a Marketing Plan". SOL Center will certainly assist in every step and through difficulties that will bring to future implementation. The summer production of apple and other fruits grew by 10% thanks to the Apple marketing Plan.

ALCDF assisted through its components and has set up a project evaluation team at the local level. The project amounted **1845 Euros**.

Financial and Audit Report







3.1 Overview

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The ALCDF prepared the following three financial statements for the period from 1 December 2010 until 31 December 2011:

Balance Sheet

Item	Amount in EUR as of 31 Dec 2011
I. Assets	
1. Current Assets	
Bank and Cash	327,915
Receivables	31,420
Total Current Assets	359,335
2. Non-Current Assets	
Fixed Assets	7,452
Accumulated Depreciation	-1,222
Total Non-Current Assets	6,230
Total Assets	365,566
II. Liabilities, Project Funding and Other Fu	nds
1. Liabilities	274,843
2. Program Fund	84,492
3. Other Funds	6,230
Total Liabilities and Funds	365,566



ALCDF on the NEWS





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