

# wbc-inco.net

Co-ordination of Research Policies  
with the Western Balkan Countries



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**D8.48 / 1: Report on the mapping of the WBC  
Innovation infrastructures**

# Albania

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# 1 Introduction

Innovation is understood as activities resulting in the successful implementation of creative ideas that result in the improvement of technology, services, goods, etc. with a positive impact on a society.

Since innovation is also considered a key driver of the economy, especially when it leads to a competitive advantage or increasing productivity, innovation policy is being shaped at the national level. Research institutions are considered as main carriers of innovation activity while private sector takes over the implementation and commercialisation of the innovative ideas in the form of products.

These are the main actors that form the innovation system of the country. In line with this, framework conditions regulating the complex relations between these actors are essential to build an innovation-friendly environment and foster innovation infrastructure in the country.

The main objective of this report is to add to a common understanding of the national innovation system in Albania and to map the Albanian innovation infrastructure and stakeholders. Thus, the report aims to facilitate the identification of potential partner organisations for STI cooperations from the country.

To this end, the report identifies innovation-related government institutions, programmes as well as innovation infrastructures such as Technology and Innovation Centres, Clusters, Technology and Science Parks, Business Start-up centres, Technology Incubators and other related organisations.

This report is based on a previous report of the FP6 project SEE-SCIENCE.EU produced in 2008 and work carried out in the frame of the FP7 project WBC-INCO.NET. The Centre for Social Innovation carried out desk research in February/March 2011 which was updated by expert input from local project partners (relevant ministries and agencies). Furthermore, the organisations mapped in the first phase have been invited by e-mail to verify the information in the report. Finally, local experts have been involved in completing and categorizing the information collected in the report.

Currently, there is no report or directory that presents an up-to-date and comprehensive status quo of innovation institutions and programmes in the Western Balkan Countries (WBC).

With this series of reports devoted to the innovation infrastructures in WBC, we aim to bridge this gap. The published country reports cover innovation systems of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Montenegro and Serbia. In order to ensure coherence of the series, all of the reports follow the same structure and objectives.

The report at hand – which covers **Albania**, in conformity with other reports from the series, maps the state of affairs in June 2011 and will be published on the homepage WBC-INCO.NET and widely disseminated to our 29 project partners, the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan countries, EU institutions, PRO INNO Europe, ClusterCollaboration.eu, European Cluster Observatory and TCI Network. The final report can be freely disseminated to any other party that might find it useful.

**WBC-INCO.NET**, an FP7 funded project running from 2008 to 2013 with a total of 29 project partners, aims at the enhancement of the integration of Western Balkan Countries in the European Research Area (ERA). Its core objectives are to support the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology (S&T), to identify RTDI cooperation potentials and priorities for take-up in FP and other EU programmes, to enhance participation of WB researchers in EU projects, to analyse innovation needs and barriers in the WBC, to exchange information and best practices on innovation policies and to establish closer cooperation between research and innovation. WBC-INCO.NET is being coordinated by the [Centre for Social Innovation](#).



Hereby, we would like to acknowledge the input of all contributing organisations who kindly accepted to provide us with necessary feedback.

Despite the utmost effort of the authors to provide an accurate and up-to-date picture, some of the contact and content information provided in this report may become obsolete in the course of time. If you come across any information that is missing, invalid or has altered in the meantime, we will be pleased to receive a short notification e-mail to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net). The outputs of the report will be transferred to and regularly updated within the Organisation Directory on the homepage [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net).

The report is a WBC-INCO.NET deliverable that is co-funded by the European Community's Programme for International Cooperation under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013). Neither the Community, nor WBC-INCO.NET project partners and Centre for Social Innovation, as a main publisher of this report, are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

## 2 Key Funding Organisations and Instruments

For a successful innovation policy, effective strategies, action plans, instruments and approaches are needed. National governments bear the responsibility for the development and implementation of these measures. Therefore, it is necessary to study the national framework in order to receive a detailed overview of the innovation system of Albania and identify best practices.

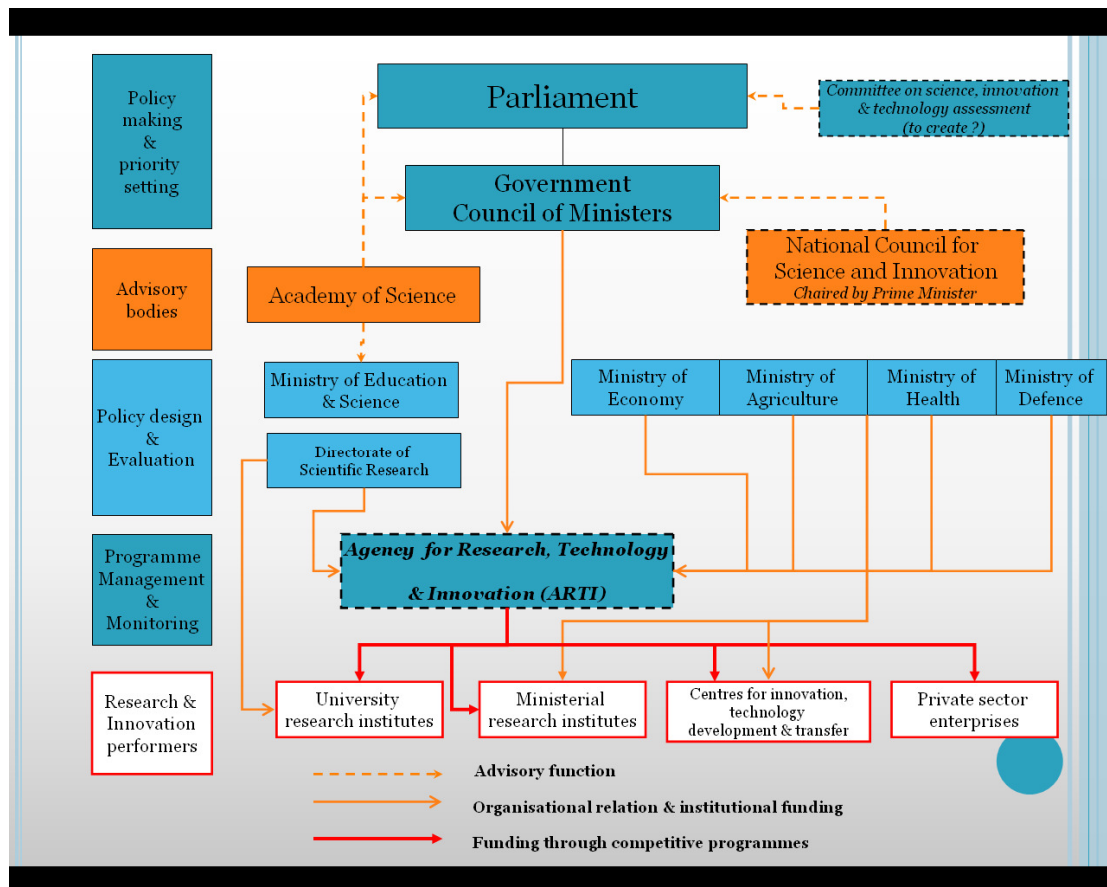


Figure 1: National Innovation System (Ajazi / Stefani 2010)

International donors and institutions are aware of the significance of innovation for the competitiveness and development of national economies. Therefore, different key programmes and instruments have been created to support activities initiating and fostering innovation and development, in addition to the national funding scheme.

## 2.1 Key National Ministries

The following ministries are actively involved in the formulation and promotion of the national innovation policy.

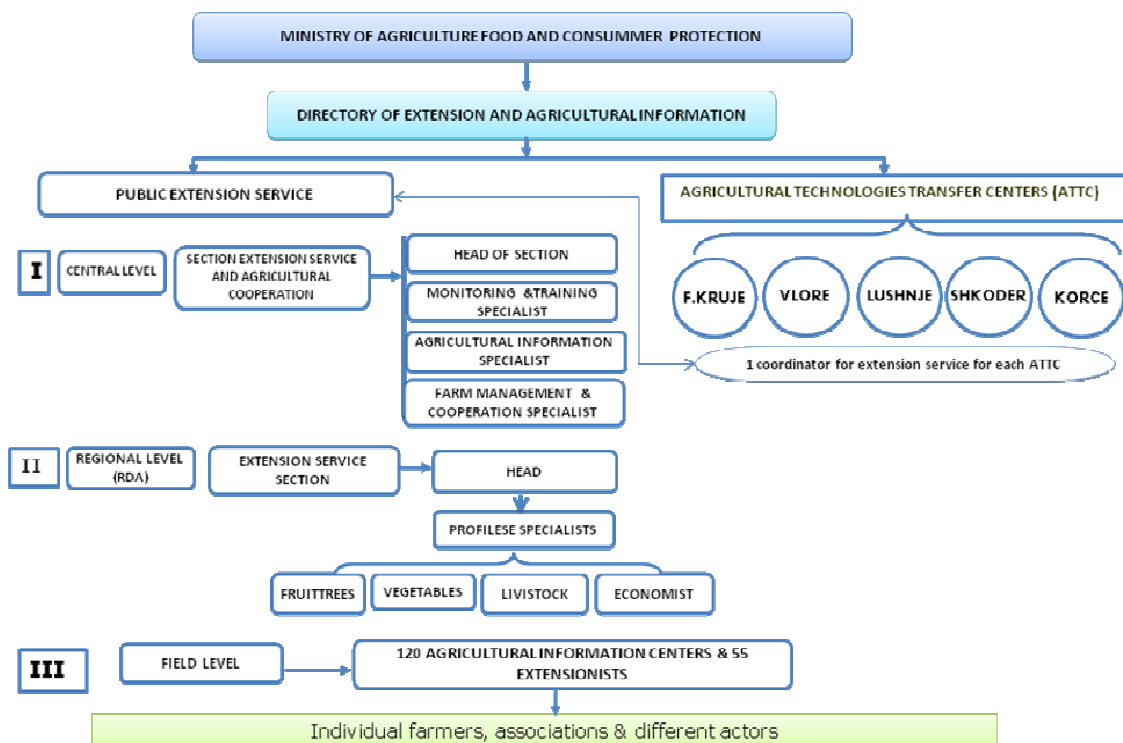
### Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection

Acronym: MBUMK/MAFCP

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Bujqësisë, Ushqimit dhe Mbrojtjes së Konsumatorit

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture financially supports activities in the area of applied research and technology transfer in fields relevant for agricultural community especially for the growth in the agriculture sector. In the centre stands the production of higher value crops, livestock, processing, and some agricultural niche markets.



**Figure 2: Part of the organisation chart of MAFCP- Department of Extension Service, Research and Agricultural Information and Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTC)**

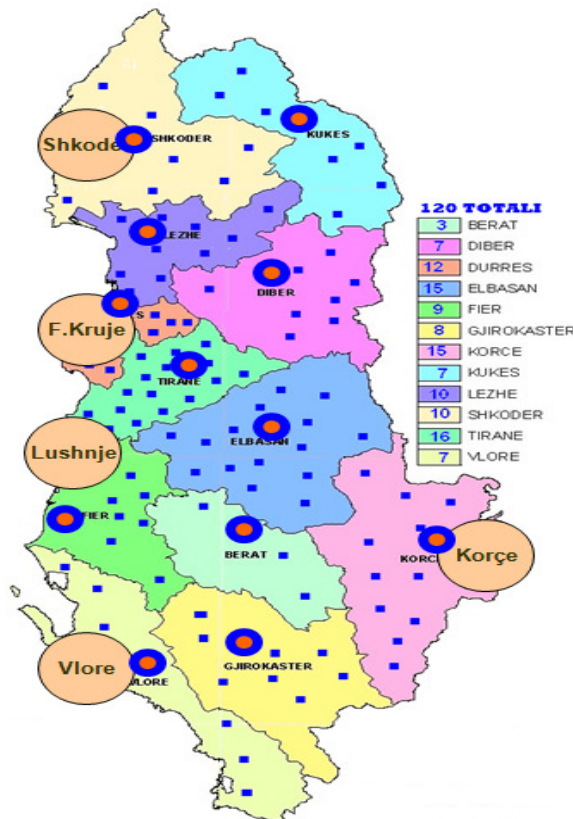


The Department for Extension Service and Agricultural Information in MAFCP is responsible for handling the strategy, management, organisation and coordination of advisory and extension services which include many actors such as public services, NGOs, private input dealers, various projects financed by foreign donors, etc. Five Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTC) were established in 2006 that operate under this department as shown above.

The Department further offers technical and economic assistance to different categories of farmers in order to increase their production and income. With a large number of farmers and relatively limited number of extensionists, establishment of Agricultural Information Centres has started in 2002. These Centres currently cover the most important areas in terms of agricultural production and provide farmers with information on basis of their requirements and needs.

Agricultural Information Centres (AIT) are located in more important agricultural production zones of the country and they provide farmers and rural businesses with information on:

- Techniques and technologies for crop and livestock production;
- Agro-inputs and product prices;
- Farm management;
- Business plans;
- Credit possibilities;
- Processing;
- Legislation changes etc.



**Figure 3: Distribution of the Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTC) and the Agricultural Information Centres (AIT)**

The relevant strategic documents include:

- Sectorial Strategy for Agriculture and Food (SSBU) 2007-2013
- Cross Cutting Strategy for Rural Development (SKZHR) 2007-2013
- Cross Cutting Strategy of Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance 2007-2013

Schemes of direct support 2010-2011 include:

1. Planting of olives, citrus and fruit trees;
2. Planting vineyards;
3. Water drops in orchards, citrus and intensive olive groves;
4. Production of agricultural bio products from cultivated plants;
5. Buying plastic cover for greenhouses with technical and solar heating;
6. Production of extra-virgin olive oil;
7. Payment incentives for productive dairy farms, for livestock farms and matriculated sheep flocks of 50 and more accruing to specific conditions;
8. Promotion of lending in agriculture:
  - a. support by subsidy of up to 70% of interest for 3 consecutive years for credits for storage and processing of agriculture and livestock products as well as agriculture mechanical equipment/vehicles;

b. creating a credit guarantee fund for the agriculture and agro-industry credit activities as well as those for export of up to 50% of the principal amount

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## Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Department of Competitiveness Policy

Acronym: METE

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Ekonomisë, Tregtisë dhe Energjetikës

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Competitiveness Policy Department at METE is in charge of designing policies for investment developments, exports and SMEs. The specific objectives are linked in promoting free entrepreneurship, encouraging the development of business innovation in order to increase their competitiveness in regional and global markets. Furthermore, the department of business promotion is also responsible for strengthening the ability of the relevant Albanian institutions to develop, implement and monitor the SME policy, enabling to develop entrepreneurship and innovation programs.

This department is also involved in designing policies that support business innovation, including:

- Access to finance;
- Access to human resources;
- Adequate basic physical infrastructure;
- Firm-level capabilities;
- Inter-firm linkages and collaboration;
- General business services; etc.

A Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Development of SMEs for the period 2011-2016 has been prepared with the assistance of the Project IPA 2007 "Supporting SMEs to become more competitive in the EU market" in order to

increase the competitiveness and capacity growth of Albanian enterprises and is approved with DCM No. 104, dated 9.02.2011, a new policy in compliance with EU policy. The strategy will be implemented by METE in cooperation with other stakeholders and the main objectives of national strategic programme are to develop innovation in key sectors; to initiate, import, modify and diffuse new technologies in enterprises; to increase the capacity of business supporting organisations to assist in the innovation of enterprises; to assist directly with technical information; to assist enterprises to gain external funding for innovation activities; and to enable the creation and survival of new innovative firms (METE 2011: 4). For this purpose, four main programmes / projects will be implemented in the period 2011-2016:

- **Innovation Fund:**

Through the provision of direct financial support, this fund aims to support SMEs to identify their innovation and technology needs as well as to develop the necessary capacities to develop innovations. On one hand, the fund grants subsidies to enable firms to audit their innovation needs and to identify new technologies and partners; on the other hand, subsidies and loans are allocated for investment in new products, process improvement through technology adoption, ICT strategic development and internationalisation (METE 2011:8).

- **Business Innovation Services:**

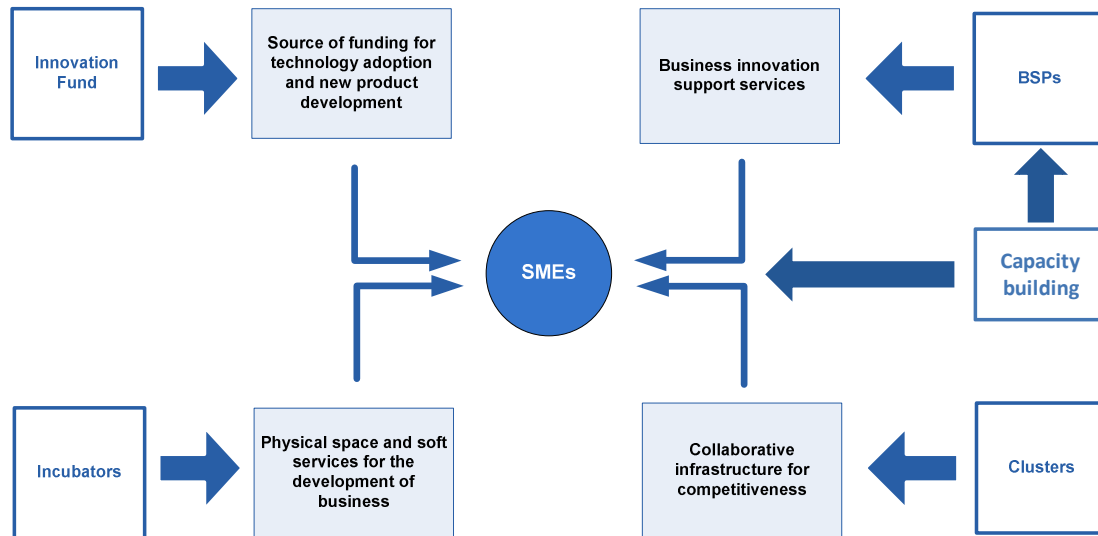
This programme focuses on four priorities: the provision of information services to SMEs concerning innovation and technology improvement; the integration of business service providers (BSPs) into an information provision and advice network; capacity building of BSPs in innovation/technology auditing and innovation management; and the facilitation of SMEs' access to finance (METE 2011:8).

- **Business Incubator Programme:**

The objective of this programme is to develop a supporting infrastructure helping innovative start-ups. To this end, a pilot business incubator (BI) will be established in Tirana in 2013.

- **Albanian Cluster Programme (ACP):**

ACP aims to enhance the Albanian economy by supporting Albanian clusters with the largest development potential (METE 2011: 9). In the initial phase, the creation and development of four clusters will be fostered. The establishment of two additional clusters will follow from 2014 on.



**Figure 4: Provision of integrated support to firms' innovation (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, 2011)**

A three-year Competitiveness Fund (2010-2012) in value of a quarter million Euros per year was also established in order to support SMEs to increase their competitiveness (Sykja, Bashkim 2010: 34). Furthermore, an export grant scheme and an export credit guarantee fund was launched to facilitate exports by SMEs.

Summing up, the relevant funding programmes include:

- Competitiveness Fund 1.2 mio EUR 2007-2012 (from state budget);
- Export Credit Guarantee Fund 1.2 mio EUR 2007-2013 (from state budget);
- SME Credit Line 25 mio EUR (soft loan supported by the Italian Government);
- Loan Gurantee Fund 2.5 mio EUR (soft loan supported by the Italian Government).

Current stategic documents include:

- The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2007-2013;
- The Business & Investment Development Strategy (BIDS) 2007-2013;
- Strategic Programme for the Development of Innovation & Technology of SMEs for the period 2011-2016 and its Action Plan BITS.

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## Ministry of Education and Science

Acronym: MASH

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Arsimit dhe Shkencës

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Ministry of Education and Science is the state authority presiding over Higher Education and Science in Albania. In terms of science, it supports the activities of the relevant state institutions and of the personnel serving in these institutions. It encourages the development of scientific and technological activities even outside the state institutions, supporting a range of private (organisations and persons), domestic and foreign entities, NGOs and agencies, which are specifically concerned with scientific research in Albania. The state policies regarding scientific research and technological development activities are considered to be an integral part of the country's general economic and social development policies.

Seven National Programmes of Research and Development were drafted in order to address the entire scientific community in the country:

- Social Sciences and Albanology;
- Information Systems and Technologies;
- Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology;
- Water and Energy;
- Biodiversity and the Environment;
- Health;
- Materials.

A small scale competitiveness funding programme with a budget of \$5 million is run by MES (Ajazi / Stefani 2010). Furthermore, there are five programmes addressing the Albanian education and research system:

- Research Infrastructure Fund;
- Centres of Excellence in Science;
- Research Eagles Grants;
- National Technology Programme;
- Science Promotion and Education Programme (Ajazi, 2010).

Bilateral S&T programmes with Greece and Italy, for example, form an important part of the international policy of the Ministry. The MES also represents Albania in the field of Higher Education and R&D in all international organisations such as UNESCO, Council of Europe, etc.

Summing up, relevant strategic documents include

- National Strategy of Education 2004-2015;
- National Strategy for Pre-University Education 2009-2013;
- National Strategy for Higher Education (SKALA) 2008-2013;
- National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015

The relevant fund is Fund of Excellence (704,870 EUR per year), The other funding supporting programmes which have been conducted by MASH until 2010 have been transferred or are being transferred to the Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI), established in 2010.

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## Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration

Acronym: MoEFWA

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Mjedisit, Pyjeve dhe Administrimit të Ujrave

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The mission of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA) is to draft and propose policies, strategies and action plans for the protection and administration of the environment, forests, waters and fisheries in order to achieve sustainable development, and to improve the quality of life and enable the country to join the European Union. The accomplishment of this mission is carried out through participation, initiation and coordination of the activities that lead to long term developments and well being, by protecting the nature and raising the awareness of the public opinion.

The MoEFWA's main tasks include:

- Implementing relevant national policies;
- Defining priority environmental and forestry investments;
- Development of national research programs in the environmental field;
- Coordinating environmental protection-related activities of the other ministries and local authorities.

The MoEFWA may propose measures for the protection and preservation of the environment, forestry and water resources and is responsible for the implementation of water policy and forestry policy.

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## Ministry of Health

Acronym: MoH

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Shëndetësisë

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Ministry of Health has the mission of health policy implementation of the government Programme. The ministry drafts the health policy for the national level



and determines the development and planning of the health service at national level and according to the areas.

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## Ministry of Innovation and Information & Communication Technology

Acronym: MITIK

Organisation title in local language: Ministria e Inovacionit dhe Teknologjise se Informacionit dhe Komunikimit

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

In April 2010, the Ministry for Innovation and Information and Communication Technology was established. The ministry deals with the technological innovation through which the Albanian economy is being developed, with the integration of education with scientific study and with the usage of new technologies of information and communication to prosper and grow. The focus is on policies regarding technological innovation, research and development of new technical solutions, in an environment that integrates academic productivity capacity of the country for the benefit of our community, businesses and economy. The ministry has a small staff and has two main dependent agencies: the National Agency for Information Society (NAIS) and the National Authority for Electronic Certification (AKCE), also an independent, regulatory body in the field of electronic communications and postal service, Authority of Electronic and Postal Communications (AKEP).

The relevant strategic documents include

- Cross Cutting Strategy on Information Society (2008-2013);
- National Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015;
- National e-Strategy;
- National Plan of Radiofrequency.

Main support activities are

- E-gov project;
- Digital Albania, 2009-2013 (including the National Broadband Network, GIS project, and administrative reform) – supported also by the UNDP.

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## 2.2 Key National Agencies

Following national agencies are active in the field of innovation policy.

### Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI)

Acronym: ARTI

Organisation title in local language: Agjencia e Kërkimit, Teknologjisë dhe Inovacionit (AKTI)

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) is a public, legal institution under the competences of the Council of Ministers. ARTI was established with the Decision of Council of Ministers and has started its activity in March 2010. ARTI aims to build a modern system of science, strengthen the research and technology, as well as their integration inside the higher education system. Furthermore, ARTI facilitates the exchange of knowledge, mutual activities and partnership within and outside the country.

ARTI is a coordinating and guiding structure for sustainable development of the country which cooperates with institutions in the field of science and technology in line with national priorities, development of scientific and technological policies and management of Research and Development institutes. The Agency operates as a coordinating structure for programs and projects based on national and international bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Albania and other countries.

ARTI is in charge of the coordination of the following programmes:

- **National programmes of Research and Development:**

National programmes of Research and Development encompass three-year programmes and projects implemented in certain priority areas selected by the Council of Scientific Policy and Technological Development (CSPTD). For the period 2010-2012, there are seven programmes in the areas of Social Sciences and Albanology; Information Systems and Technologies; Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology; Water and Energy; Biodiversity and the Environment; Health; and Materials.

- **International Programmes:**

Bilateral S&T programmes and multilateral programmes (FP7).

- **Research Infrastructure Programme:**

The objective of the research infrastructure programme is to improve the equipment and facilities of public research institutes and universities in order to enable research and research projects on international standards. To this end, communities of engineering, science and technology; professional and polytechnic institutes; and entrepreneurial universities and technical institutes with a focus on business incubation and community development are being created.

- **Programme of Centres of Excellence in Science (CES):**

This programme should implement the objective of the national strategy of science, technology and innovation 2009-2015 to establish 4-5 Centres of Excellence in Science.

- **Programme for Technology Transfer and Innovation:**

The main purpose of this programme is to promote the linkage between science and private sector to foster the development of the Albanian economy.

- **Programme for Young Researchers:**

This programme aims to address the Albanian government's goal to double the number of researchers (DSCS 2009: 16) by financing researchers to conduct PhD studies in Albania, to attend PhD trainings in the EU; and providing grants to researchers returning to Albania.

- **Brain Gain Programme:**

The purpose of this programme is to motivate talented scholars to return to Albania by supporting universities and public administration to employ persons with higher qualification.

## Contact

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## Agency of Environment and Forestry (AEF)

Acronym: AEF

Organisation title in local language: Agjencia e Mjedisit dhe Pyjeve

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The Agency of Environment and Forestry was set up through the restructuring of two institutes directly dependent upon the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MEFWA). The structure was approved by Order of the Albanian Prime Minister.

The duties and scope of activities of the AEF are stipulated in Albania's environmental legislation. The Agency is envisaged to act as the central focus for

Dissemination level: Public

environmental monitoring and to provide high quality reference and general laboratory services

The Environmental legal framework in Albania defines a set of duties for MEFWA, and is going through a process of approximation to EU legislation.

Mission of AEF is to restore, improve and protect the environment, while ensuring sustainable development

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### **Contact person:**

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## **Agency of Nuclear Energy (ANE)**

Acronym: ANE

Organisation title in local language: Agjencia e Energjisë Bërthamore

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

It is a very new agency with the target to prepare the framework legislation in accordance with EU legislation. Preparation for the full legal framework for the national nuclear program started in June 2010.

### **Contact**

Address: Tirana, Albania

### **Contact person:**

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## **Albanian Agency for Business and Investment (AIDA)**

Acronym: AIDA

Organisation title in local language: Agjencia Shqiptare e Zhvillimit dhe Investimeve

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

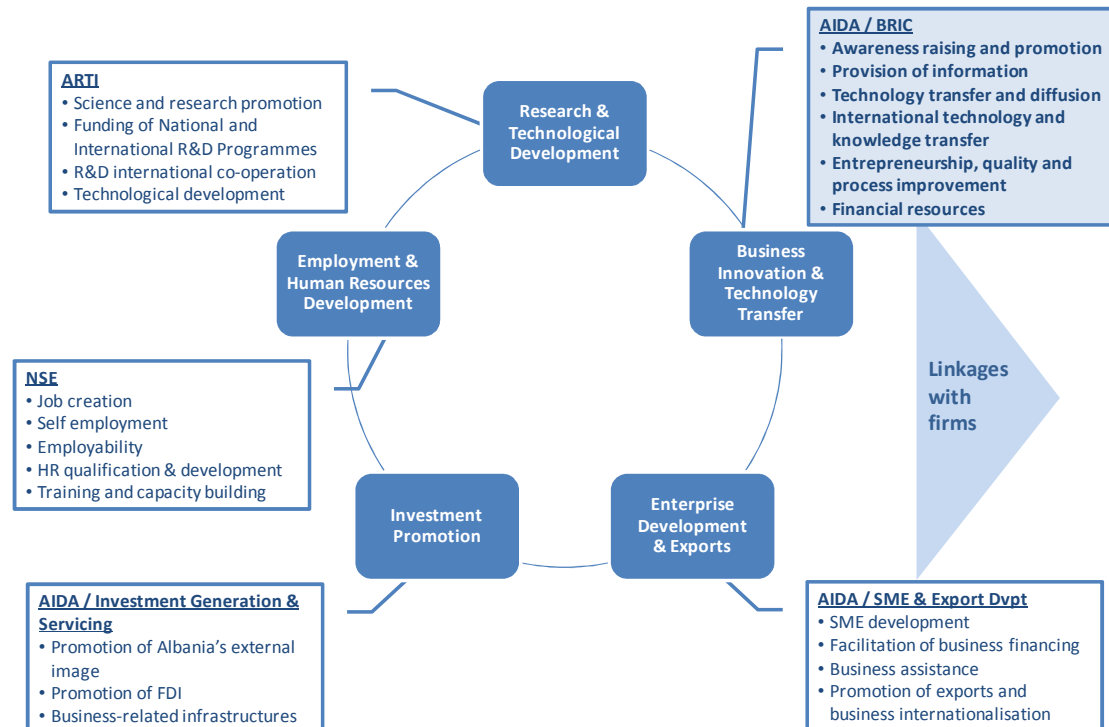
The Government of Albania through the Law no. 10303, dated 15.07.2010 "On creation and organization and functioning of the Albanian Investment Development Agency" that entered into force on 26 August 2010, creates AIDA as an investment promotion agency, and as a key player for attracting FDIs in the country. The

Agency, in view of its activities, performs all acts and undertakes all the necessary initiatives to support private sector development and improving business climate, pursuing and helping private commercial entities in all phases of their economic activity as well as by intermediating and cooperating with investors and state authorities. The new Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA) is established replacing the former Albanian Agency of Investment and Business (Albinvest) and has three main mandates: facilitation and support to direct investments in Albania; increasing competitiveness of small and medium enterprises in Albania; and promotion of export of goods and services.

The Agency manages

- The government Competitiveness Fund – 200.000 Euro/year
- Export Credit Guarantee Fund (ECGF) – 1,6 million Euro /6 years

Within AIDA, a specific Division, denominated Business Relay and Innovation Centre (BRIC), will have the express role of implementing the Business Innovation and Technology Strategy (BITS) and Business Innovation Technology Action Plan (BITS). The Albanian Government has recently adopted the (BITS) and its respective Action Plan (BITAP), through the Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) no. 104, dated 09.02.2011.



**Figure 5: Innovation Support Organisations within the National Innovation System (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, 2011)**

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**National Agency for Information Society (NAIS)**

Acronym: NAIS

Organisation title in local language: Agjencia Kombëtare e Shoqërisë së Informacionit (AKSHI)

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The National Agency on Information Society (NAIS) was established by the Albanian Council of Ministers in 2007 and became fully operational in 2008. Its mission is to coordinate all of the Government of Albania's activities in the field of Information and Communication.

The object of National Agency of Information Society (NAIS):

- Implementation of strategies for the development of IS sector and especially ICT;
- Co-ordination of programs in the field of IS and especially ICT;
- Promotion of investment in the field of IS;
- Compilation of practices of minister competencies regarding to the electronic communications legislation framework;
- Promotion of new technologies in the field of IS;
- Contribute in education and promotion of ICT use by the public.

**Contact**

Website: [www.akshi.gov.al](http://www.akshi.gov.al); [www.e-albania.al/web/Our Mission National Agency for Information Society 55 2.php](http://www.e-albania.al/web/Our_Mission_National_Agency_for_Information_Society_55_2.php)

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## National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN)

Acronym: AKBN  
Organisation title in local language: Agjencia Kombëtare e Burimeve Natyrore  
Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The National Agency for Natural Resources protects and manages the interests of Albania in hydrocarbon, mining and energy field.  
The scope of AKBN is the development and supervision of the rational exploitation of natural resources based on Government policies, and the monitoring of their post-exploitation in the sectors of mining, hydrocarbons and hydropower with these tasks and responsibilities:

- The agency consults and cooperates with the relevant government structures for the development of policies in the area of mining, hydrocarbons and energy;
- It implements government policies in the area of mining, hydrocarbons and energy;
- It provides within its scope, the government critical opinion on studies and projects in the areas of mining, hydrocarbons and energy that have been presented by government or private entities from the country or abroad. In special cases it asks for specialized assistance.

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## 2.3 Key Programmes and Instruments

National and international donors and institutions are aware of the significance of innovation for the competitiveness and development of national economies. Therefore, different key programmes and instruments have been created to support activities that initiate and foster innovation and development.

### **Business Environment Reform and Institutional Strengthening Project / World Bank (BERIS)**

Acronym: BERIS

Organisation type: Project (Other)

The Albania Business Environment Reform and Institutional Strengthening Project 2006-2012 aims to assist the Government in:

- Facilitating business entry and operations in the formal economy;
- Strengthening the enterprise sector's capability to increase exports towards region and european union (EU) markets.

The project consists of the following three components:

- Facilitating business entry and operations by improving quality of business regulations, including their potential impact on market competition;
- Strengthening the enterprise sector's capability to export to regional and EU markets by developing further the Metrology, Standards, Testing and Quality system;
- Project coordination support component.

Since January 2011 a new website [www.rlb.gov.al](http://www.rlb.gov.al) (electronic legal registry of businesses) is in function, where all the individuals and businesses can find the business legislation information and news in Albania.

#### **Contact**

Website:

<http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=73230&theSitePK=301412&menuPK=301444&Projectid=P096643>; [www.rlb.gov.al](http://www.rlb.gov.al)

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**Central European Initiative Know-how Exchange Programme (CEI KEP)**

Acronym: CEI KEP  
Organisation type: Programme (Other)

Created in 2004, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) of the Central European Initiative (CEI) is a grant facility supporting the transfer of best practice and transformation experience from CEI EU to non-EU Member States. The CEI member states are currently: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

In order to achieve its objectives, KEP finances capacity building and technical assistance in its non-EU member countries carried out by experts from the CEI EU member states. The programme mainly aims to:

- Strengthen the economic and social advancement of the CEI non-EU Member States;
- Help the recent EU members in their transformation from recipients to donors (emerging donors) of development assistance;
- Promote the principles of foreign development aid and support international collaboration among institutions in CEI member countries.

Projects supported under the KEP shall have an economic background, covering economic transition or institution building and shall be carried out by using combinations of know-how transfer tools (e.g. study tours, secondment of staff, peer reviews, preparation of manuals, etc.) which promise effective transfer of given know-how and its successful implementation by the recipient institution. The projects have to contribute to one of the priority areas: 1) European Integration, Capacity Building and Market Economy; 2) Infrastructure Planning and Development; 3) Agriculture, Energy and Environment. The programme is open to all public and private sector bodies, international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) registered in CEI member states.

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**Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)**

Acronym: CIP

Organisation type: Programme (CIP)

The EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, CIP supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions. It encourages a better take-up and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and helps to develop the information society. It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency. The CIP runs from 2007 to 2013 with an overall budget of € 3.6 billion.

The CIP is divided into three operational programmes.

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Commission in June 2008, Albania joined the CIP and is eligible for EIP, the first pillar of CIP, but it is not yet participating in the Enterprise Europe Network or EIP's financial instruments (EC 2010: 88).

### Contact

#### Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

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Postal address: European Commission, Enterprise & Industry Directorate General, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

#### ICT Policy Support Programme

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Address: European Commission, Information Society and Media Directorate General, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

#### Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/contact/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/contact/index_en.htm)

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### **Economic Development and Employment Promotion Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**

Acronym: GIZ

Organisation type: Programme

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) focuses on two priority areas in Albania:

- sustainable economic development;

- water supply in Albania.

To this end, GIZ conducts an economic development and employment promotion programme (2007-2013) in Albania. The programme's objectives are to increase the competitiveness of SMEs and improve the investment environment through supporting Albanian economic promotion institutions and the implementation of the national rural development strategy (2011-2013) as well as by promoting businesses chambers and associations. Results so far have been the establishment of an IT cluster, a national tourism association ATA, and economic promotion offices in Korça, Shkodra and Tirana or the elaboration of regional development plans. Furthermore, companies in the priority sectors IT, clothing, industry, tourism and agriculture have been supported in introducing modern processes.

### Contact

Website: [www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/europa-kaukasus-zentralasien/albanien/18172.htm](http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/europa-kaukasus-zentralasien/albanien/18172.htm)

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## Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

Acronym: IPA

Organisation type: Programme (IPA)

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is the key tool of the European Commission's pre-accession assistance strategy. This Instrument is replacing the former pre-accession instruments: PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD and CARDS. IPA will help transition countries meet the Accession Criteria (fulfil the political, economic and acquis-related criteria for membership, building up their administrative and judicial capacity) and prepare for the programming, management and implementation of EU Cohesion, Structural and Rural Development Funds after accession. IPA is designed with five components to provide for targeted and effective assistance for each country according to its needs and evolution. These five components are: transition assistance and institution building; cross-border cooperation; regional development; human resources development; and rural development.

Since 2007, Albania is receiving financial assistance under the first two components of IPA. In the area of economic development, the EU supports Albania to foster economic growth, improve the business environment, and increase the competitiveness of the private sector. To this end, the EU supported Albania to develop a SME policy by implementing the EU SME Project Albania under IPA 2007.

**The EU SME Project Albania 2009 – 2011: “Supporting SMEs to become more competitive in the EU market”**

Organisation title in local language: Projekti i BE “Mbështetje NVM-ve për t’u bërë më konkurruese në tregun e BE”

The main goal of this project is to improve the competitiveness of the Albanian private sector and strengthen the business environment for investment and employment in Albania. For this purpose, the capacity of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) and AIDA to develop, implement, and monitor Albanian SME policy in order to provide entrepreneurship and innovation programmes to SMEs. The project encompasses the following components:

Component	Progress as in April 2011
Establishment of Albanian Business Relay And Innovation Centre (BRIC)	The BRIC has been established as a specific Division within the Albanian Investment Development Agency (see Fig. 3, page 20 and description, page 35) and is currently in the process of starting its operational activity
Development of Albanian Business Innovation and Technology Strategy (BITS)	The BITS and its respective Action Plan (BITAP) have been developed and adopted (see Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, 2011)
Training Needs Analysis for Albanian SMEs (development of methodology, review of existing Business Service Providers, implementing training needs analysis, etc.)	Concluded and published in 2010 (see EU SME Project Albania 2009 – 2011, 2010:2)
National competitiveness programme for SMEs (review of existing Albanian SME competitiveness training materials, programmes; development of “competitiveness” training modules; provision of competitiveness training programmes; development of a National Competitiveness Programme monitoring and evaluation structure)	Currently ongoing, involving 5 Modules for SMEs and 7 Modules for Trainers and Consultants. (see EU SME Project Albania 2009 – 2011, 2010:1, “Participate!” and “News” sections for more information)
SME development programme (support and technical assistance to METE within the scope of the project, to improve the Albanian participation in current and future programmes, in developing new SME projects, etc.)	Currently ongoing

The project is implemented by International Development Ireland and SINTEF Norway in cooperation with METE and AIDA.

## Contact

### **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance**

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/potential-candidates/albania/financial-assistance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/potential-candidates/albania/financial-assistance/index_en.htm)

### **The EU SME Project Albania 2009 - 2011**

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## **Open Regional Fund for Foreign Trade Promotion in South-East Europe (ORF)**

Acronym: ORF

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The Open Regional Fund (ORF) is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and it is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project was established in January 2007 for a period of five years. The aim of the project is to strengthen competitiveness through multi-country cooperation among companies and institutions in the region and to market South East Europe as an economic area on the international stage. Eligible countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and "Kosovo (UN Res 1244)".

The ORF is currently financing eight projects in various sectors with a term of approximately two years each and the participation of at least several countries per project. The projects financed by the ORF are generally initiated by stakeholders

Dissemination level: Public

from Western Balkan countries such as national ministries, private sector associations, chambers of commerce and industry, sectoral clusters, or exporting businesses themselves. Focusing on sectors with export potentials, projects are implemented in the garment industry along with fashion design, the automotive supply and the IT sector, tourism, agricultural trade and the regional export consultancy market. To thrive on international markets, the relatively small national sectors regionalize their marketing as well as distribution structures in order to achieve synergy effects for the participating companies.

Other ORF projects are providing businesses and institutions with advisory services and training for them to comply with quality standards or EU regulations. In one example from the IT sector, an ORF project provides software companies from South-East Europe with training and advisory services to meet international software standards (ITMark, CMMI). These certificates are a key prerequisite for potential customers in the EU or the United States to view these companies as possible contractors.

### Contact

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## Turn Around Management (TAM) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programme in Albania

Acronym: TAM / BAS

Organisation type: Programme (Other)

The TurnAround Management (TAM) and Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are complementary technical assistance programmes that combine direct assistance at



the enterprise level to viable micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) across a broad range of industry sectors.

### **TAM Programme**

The TurnAround Management (TAM) Programme aims at building strong, competent enterprise management and restructuring through the transfer of international best practice in small and medium sized enterprises. These managerial and structural changes within SMEs should be achieved through training activities and the provision of international advisers in TAM projects lasting usually 18 months. Since its start in 2008 the TAM Programme Albania has completed 18 projects in a wide variety of sectors and industries.

### **BAS Programme**

The BAS Programme works directly with individual SMEs, providing specific and practical business advice. At the same time, BAS builds local/national consultancy capacity to serve enterprise needs. Typical BAS projects are short-term projects with a rapid payback, such as upgrading management/financial IT systems, market research, introducing quality systems and human resource management techniques, etc.. Launched in 2006, the BAS Programme for Albania has implemented more than 170 projects involving more than 80 consultancy companies.

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## **USAID Albania**

Acronym: USAID

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

Operating in Albania since 1992, assistance programme of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is aimed to support peace, stability and prosperity in the country and enhance economic growth, poverty reduction, democratic institutions and civil society. To this end, USAID programmes are focused on four areas: economic growth & trade, democracy & rule of law, health, and anti-trafficking. In the first priority area, the following projects supporting economic growth and innovation are currently implemented:

**Competitive Enterprise Development Programme (CED) 2009 – 2014**

The aim of this USAID project is to strengthen trade and investment capacity of non-agriculture enterprises, to increase enterprise productivity through investments in technological innovation, and to support workforce development. The project is focused on four key sectors: tourism, recycling, ICT, and textile industries.

**Development Credit Authority 2005 – 2019**

In cooperation with Raiffeisen Bank, USAID/Albania aims to facilitate access to finance especially for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) for business expansion and diversification.

**Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness Programme (AAC) 2007 – 2012**

The AAC program supports three main areas: (1) Strengthening producer capacity for commercial farming; (2) Strengthening capability for market development and (3) increasing access to and utilization of timely and reliable market information. The program provided technical assistance and training to producers in improved technologies, good farm management practices, and appropriate marketing strategy.

**Forecast Training Programme 2005 - 2011**

The Forecast program supports all program areas through specialized training. The activity trains approximately 400 individuals annually and provides small grants to reinforce the impact of ongoing activities in all sectors.

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**Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness (AAC) Program**

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**Competitive Enterprise Development (CED)-"Rritje Albania"**

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**Contact person:**

Joseph Williams, Mission Director USAID/Albania

**Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)**

Acronym: WBIF

Organisation type: Programme (Other)

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was established by the European Bank for Reconstruction (EBRD) together with the European Commission (EC), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of European Development Bank (CEB) in December 2009. The objective is to finance priority projects in the Western Balkans Countries. The programme operates in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The WBIF has two main objectives: firstly pooling of grants, loans and expertise in order to prepare financing for priority investment projects; secondly, strengthening coherence and synergies among donors in order to increase the positive impact and visibility of investments in the Western Balkan Countries. Projects are selected on the basis of regional and/or country needs and their consistency with EU accession priorities.

The primary focus on infrastructure sector (environmental, energy or transport infrastructures, education, healthcare and other social needs) will be extended to provide also support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

### Contact

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### Contact Person:

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## 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)

Acronym: FP7

Organisation type: Programme (EU)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) associating Albania to FP7 was signed on December 17, 2007 and the provisions of the above association instruments are applicable from January 1, 2008. Albania can participate in all calls for proposals and compete on an equal footing with the EU Member States for research cooperation and support actions funded by FP7. As such, this agreement is an important part of the process of applying to join the EU, allowing scientists, universities and companies to create links with their counterparts across Europe and build up their scientific expertise, including in scientific fields crucial to implementing the body of EU legislation.

In FP7 2007-2013, Albania participates in all four pillars (capacities, cooperation, people and ideas) as well as Euratom and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) initiatives.

### **Contact**

Website: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

National Contact Points for different areas to be found at the European Commission  
CORDIS Website: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=MSS\\_AL\\_FP7NCP\\_EN](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=MSS_AL_FP7NCP_EN)

### 3 Key Innovation Infrastructures

A national system of innovation can be understood as a “network of institutions in the public and private sectors whose activities and interactions initiate, import, modify and diffuse new technologies” (Freeman 1987: 1). These institutions ranging from technology/innovation centres, science and technology parks to clusters, business start-up centres and incubators constitute a country’s innovation infrastructure. In the following chapter, the particular elements of the Albanian innovation system are presented.

#### 3.1 Technology/Innovation Centres (TICs)

A Technology/Innovation Centre (TIC) is an institution established in order to facilitate technology transfer as well as to promote research uptake and innovation by linking researchers and universities with SMEs. TICs enable the industry to exploit new and emerging technologies by providing linkages between research and SMEs.

#### **Business Relay and Innovation Centre (BRIC) within the Albanian Agency for Business and Investment (AIDA)**

Acronym: BRIC

Organisation title in local language: Qendra e Ndërmjetësimit të Inovacionit të Biznesit

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

As Albania currently lacks a support body bringing enterprises fully into the innovation dynamics, a Business Relay and Innovation centre (BRIC) is being set up to fill the institutional gap in the Albanian innovation system and implement the programmes supporting actions of the Business Innovation and Technology (BITS) policy according to the Strategic Programme for the Development of Innovation and Technology of SMEs (2011-2016) (METE 2011: 5-7). Its purpose is to address the following tasks:

- Awareness raising and promotion;
- Provision of information;
- Technology transfer and diffusion;
- International technology and knowledge transfer;
- Entrepreneurship, quality and process improvement;
- Financial resources.

BRIC is designed as a department within AIDA and is newly created. AIDA is in the phase of staff recruitment and it is expected to start its proper operation at end of May 2011. The BRIC department is responsible for implementing the strategy of business innovation 2011-2015 and its action plan.

At the beginning, BRIC will consist of a small team of five people operating within AIDA. In this way, it can concentrate on its first programmes (innovation funding,

enhancing business innovation services of BSPs, awareness raising) without being burdened with administrative tasks. (METE 2011:7). It is envisaged to raise the number of employers in the following years.

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## Centres of Agricultural Technology Transfer (QTTB)

Acronym: QTTB

Organisation title in local language: Qendrat e Transferimit të Teknologjive Bujqësore

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

Following the decision of the Council of Ministers no. 515 (2006) on the restructuring of research institutes under Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, five centres of agricultural technology transfer have been established. The main objective of these centres is to support the direct transfer of agricultural technologies to farmers by testing, adapting and introducing new agricultural practices, methods and materials, research on problems raised by local farmers, training of farmers, students, etc., provision of technical expertise, demonstration of new technologies in agriculture and support the ministry of agriculture in policy-making.

In addition to the focus on the specific needs and priorities of their region, each centre concentrates on specific activities and agricultural crops as follows:

### 1. Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Fushë-Krujë:

Forage cultivation, legume (white beans), bovine, swine (pigs), poultry and integrated management of farm; services for soil and water; needs and other priorities of the region

### 2. Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Lushnjë:

Vegetables in greenhouses and open field; wheat; needs and other priorities of the region

### 3. Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Vlorë:

Nuclei fruit trees, olive trees, vineyards, citrus; needs and other priorities of the region

### 4. Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Korçë:

Small ruminants, Seedy fruit trees (apples), potatoes, barley; needs and other priorities of the region

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<sup>2</sup> under construction as in May 2011

## **5. Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Shkodër:**

Maize; needs and other priorities of the region

### **Contact**

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#### Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Lushnjë

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#### Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer, Shkodër

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## 3.2 Clusters

Another crucial element of national innovation systems are clusters that can be defined “as a group of firms, related economic actors, and institutions that are located near each other and have reached a sufficient scale to develop specialised expertise, services, resources, suppliers and skills” (EC, 2008: 9). In this way, interactions, the exchange of knowledge, and the presence of a skilled labour force are facilitated and enable clusters to be important drivers for competitiveness and innovation (EC, 2008: 21).

UNDP is considering providing support to strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (METE) in relation to cluster development and assessment of clustering potential in Albania (Ajazi / Stefani 2010). In its Strategic Programme for the Development of Innovation and Technology of SMEs, METE presented its Albanian Cluster Programme through which the creation and development of four clusters should be supported in its pilot phase. The establishment of two additional clusters should follow in 2014. It is planned to fund the Albanian Cluster Programme within the competitiveness component of the upcoming IPA 3 support (METE 2011).

### Albanian Software Cluster (ASC)

Acronym: ASC

Organisation title in local language: Cluster-i Shqiptar i Software-it

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

The Albanian Software Cluster is a non profit organization established on November 22nd, 2010 in Tirana.

ASC was created to answer the demand of national and international enterprises.

The cluster is composed of twelve members that operate in the field of Information Technology, Software, Information Consultancy Services, Business Applications Solutions, Training and Education etc.

ASC represents the interests of companies that are primarily focused on software development in the Information Technology sector in Albania.

The cluster aims to unite and organize the companies operating in the Information Technology and Software sector including academic and research institutions; encourage and support activities in the Information Technology and Software sector through a systematic development, in collaboration and mutual understanding between the companies; develop short and long term programs/strategies for further structuring and strengthening the sector of Information Technology and Software in particular.

The main objectives of ASC include:

- The promotion of competition and export in international markets of the Albanian software industry;



- Joint marketing and improved cooperation between member companies and / or non member companies and the promotion of the Albanian software industry through collaboration;
- Improvement of cooperation between member companies and university research institutions;
- The organization of technical and managerial trainings.
- Representation of the members' interests at local and central public institutions, administration and public entities.

### Contact

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## Leather Goods/Shoe Production Industry Cluster

Acronym: LGSPIC

Organisation title in local language: Cluster-i i Industrisë së Prodhimit të Këpucëve/Mallrave prej Lëkure

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

It was agreed by the ACIT, EDEM and USAID that implementation of the Leather Goods/Shoe Production Industry Cluster will be a combined effort of ACIT and EDEM. ACIT has accepted responsibility for managing the activity and will direct much of the assistance activities. EDEM supports ACIT's efforts by providing support and guidance to ACIT staff as they set about undertaking the different tasks.

In mid-September 2004, ACIT organized the initial meeting of the industry and presented the concepts and approach of a cluster-based approach to approximately 20 industry representatives. Recognizing that the industry faces many barriers to its development, attendees responded with considerable interest to the idea of working together in a collaborative manner.

A tri-lingual (Albanian, Italian and English) brochure was published highlighting the competitive advantages of Albania in this sector. Its purpose is to encourage foreign investment in the industry. The brochure illustrated success stories of profitable joint

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<sup>3</sup> Available, but still in testing stage as in May 2011

ventures currently operating in Albania and contained a complete directory of Albanian leather goods/footwear companies. The brochure was disseminated to interested stakeholders such as: Italian companies, footwear associations in the EU, chambers of commerce, trade attaches, and footwear trade fairs.

### **Contact**

Contact via ACIT (Albanian Centre for International Trade)

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### 3.3 Technology and Science Parks

According to a definition by the World Bank, a science park is aimed at business support and technology transfer and constituted by several “functional” and “physical” components. On one hand, a science park is characterized by the participation of the following stakeholders: 1) businesses (MNCs, domestic companies, start-ups); 2) knowledge providers (university research and education infrastructures, applied research labs, etc.); 3) industry support services (business incubators and enterprise development areas, usually managed by private operators); and 4) financial support services (venture capital, regional development agencies and banks). On the other hand, a science park offers a physical environment for its purpose through the provision of infrastructure and facilities (office buildings, meeting rooms, transportation, power, ICT connectivity, etc.). (World Bank 2010: 311). The terms technopolis, “technology park”, “science park”, “technology & science park” or “research park” are often used synonymously.

**In Albania, no technology parks exist at the times of preparing this report.**

### 3.4 Business Start-Up Centres/ Technology Incubators

Business start-up centres and technology incubators are facilities designed to support entrepreneurship and help start-up companies to survive and flourish through the use of shared resources, management expertise, counselling, training, the provision of services (administrative support, office equipment, marketing etc.) and networks for potential business partners, etc. (Rouach / Louzoun / Deneux 2010: 12). Technology incubators are primarily focused on technology-based firms.

There were two business incubators (BIs) operating in Tirana and Shkodra (METE 2007) but they have not been fully successful in their role. The Tirana Business Incubator was established in 1998 and the Business Incubator in Shkodra in 1999. They were set-up with World Bank assistance (Training Enterprise and Employment Fund) and they were under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The BIs received subsidies in their first three years of operation and then changed over to self-financing, but they haven't become self-sustainable. In the Strategic Programme for the Development of Innovation and Technology of SMEs (2011-2016), a new Business Incubator Programme is presented through which a pilot business incubator will be established in Tirana. Based on this experience, two additional BIs should follow. The programme will be funded within the competitiveness component of the upcoming IPA 3 support (METE 2011: 13).

The Business incubator in Tirana during the past 18 years opened 19 businesses and employed only 52 people, whereas the Business Incubator in Shkodra is operating mostly as a place for rental areas where one of the businesses in the garment field has employed more than 150 workers while operating for more than 6 years.

#### Albanian Association of Business Incubators

Acronym: SHKIB

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata Kombetare e Inkubatoreve te Biznesit

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

The association is newly established.

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## **Business Incubator in Shkoder**

Acronym: BISH

Organisation title in local language: Inkubatori i Biznesit Shkoder

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

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## **Business Incubator in Tirana (BIT)**

Acronym: BIT

Organisation title in local language: Inkubatori i Biznesit Tirane

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

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### 3.5 Other related Organisations

In addition to the above presented main innovation infrastructures, other organisations exist such as regional development agencies, banks and business support centres, etc. which provide special services which foster innovation and have positive impact on innovative entrepreneurship. The following chapter tries to give an overview of other innovation-related organisations.

For Albania, several research institutions with relevant innovation activities have been added.

#### Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASH)

Acronym: ASH

Organisation title in local language: Akademia e Shkencave e Shqipërisë

Organisation type: Research Institute

The Academy of Sciences of Albania, founded in 1972, is the most important scientific institution in the Republic of Albania. It includes the most distinguished scientists, academicians, who develop scientific activities in the institutes and research centres, and other scientific organizations at home and abroad. The Academy has 28 members, academicians, 11 members, 26 associate and academic members honor. The Academy has two sections: Section of Social Sciences and Albanological and Section of Natural Sciences and Tech. In its structure are also included, Unit of Research Project-Technological Development and Innovation, Department of External Affairs and Public, Scientific Publications Library.

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#### Albanian Agribusiness Council (KASH)

Acronym: KASH

Organisation title in local language: Këshilli i Agrobiznesit Shqiptar

Organisation type: Association/ NGO

The Albanian Agribusiness Council represents 21 agribusiness trade associations. KASH mission is advocacy and promotion of the business that operates in agriculture.

Advocacy is done through lobbying on legislative and executive organisms. This is realized through the representation of members of KASH in the Business Advisory Council, Work Committee, AKU, Fair Board, MADA Project, ProMali and other projects. Through this representative KASH proposes and observes to protect the interests of the membership.

KASH has Memorandums of Understanding with MBUMK with UBT and is preparing several collaborative projects with other institutions.

KASH encourages its member to take part in conferences, seminars, training both inside and outside of the state for advanced experience and expanding businesses. KASH implements promotion of agribusiness through fairs on national and local levels.

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## Albanian Association of Constructors (SHNSH)

Acronym: SHNSH

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata e Ndërtuesve Shqiptarë

Organisation type: Association/NGO

The association aims to protect and represent the interests and rights of construction companies, construction materials producing companies, installation companies in the field of construction, design companies, legal persons, and urban environmental protection.

It promotes the development of buildings, modern and innovative techniques and technologies of construction and production of construction materials.

### Contact

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<sup>4</sup> under construction as in May 2011

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**Albanian Association of Information Technology in Agriculture, Food and Environment (AITA)**

Acronym: AITA

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata Shqiptare e Teknologjisë së Informacionit në Bujqësi, Ushqim dhe Mjedis

Organisation type: Association/NGO

The mission of AITA is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience, development of knowledge in the ICT area in agriculture, food and environment in order to strengthen the competitiveness of these sectors in Albania and elsewhere and to promote awareness of ICT in agriculture, food and environment.

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**Albanian Business Information Centre (ALBIC)**

Acronym: ALBIC

Organisation title in local language: Qendra e Informacionit të Biznesit Shqiptar

Organisation type: Cluster/Incubator/Innovation Infrastructure

Online business support web-portal. The Albanian Business Information Centre is supported by the SOROS Foundation and contains business information including practical information in all the fields related to business: Fiscal system; Legislation; Financial system; Public procurement and Licensing; Online materials about business; Training and consulting, various publications, surveys and studies; online application forms and Discussion Forums. Their website is currently under construction (2011).

**Contact**

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Phone: +355 44 253 288

## **Albanian Centre for Competitiveness and International Trade (ACIT)**

Acronym: ACIT

Organisation title in local language: Qendra Shqiptare për Konkurrueshmërinë dhe Tregtinë Ndërkombëtare

Organisation type: Association/NGO

The Albanian Centre for Competitiveness and International Trade (ACIT) - a joint programme of the USAID and the Institute for Contemporary Studies (ICS) was established in 2002. The ACIT's mission is the improvement of the quality of trade policies in Albania, as an important instrument for the economic growth and development, as well as the increase in the benefits of the society and citizens from the opportunities created by the trade liberalization and integration.

To accomplish this mission, the ACIT has developed its programme based on five main pillars - it operates as a:

- Study and research centre on international trade and trade policies;
- Dialogue forum among various stakeholders and interest groups, aiming at the improvement of trade policy formulation and the informed public debate;
- Resource centre, which provides direct access to information processed on the international trade of Albania and other countries;
- Capacity building centre in international trade policies; and
- Promotion centre for the competitiveness of the Albanian economy and products.

The aim of ACIT work is the improvement of the performance of the Albanian economy, the increase of employment and welfare, and the promotion of exports and investments. Since its establishment, the ACIT has played an important role particularly as a centre of trade information and professional research in the area of trade policy. ACIT supports the decision-making and marketing processes by providing to the interested parties accurate information and knowledge on conditions, opportunities and risks involved in international trade issues, as well as through unbiased analysis on the trends and problems related to the Albania's international trade.

The Information Resource Centre was established in the frame of the ACIT project and supports participatory and informed trade policy decision by providing all stakeholders with accurate information and data about conditions, opportunities and risks that international trade entails. Being client-oriented, the set-up of facilities, types of information and services provided will be by consulting their clients' needs and preferences.

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**Albanian Centre for Economic Research (ACER)**

Acronym: ACER

Organisation title in local language: Qendra Shqiptare për Kërkime Ekonomike

Organisation type: Association/NGO

The Albanian Centre for Economic Research (ACER) was the first non-profit organisation to emerge in Albania after the political changes in 1991. Founded and incorporated by a group of university professors, economists and bankers, ACER was registered in the Tirana District Law Court of Tirana in June 1993. ACER has been active in research identification and execution, information publication and dissemination throughout the public opinion exchange, aiming to:

- strengthen parliamentary democracy and private entrepreneurship in Albania;
- encourage the wide-scale recognition of classical liberal values in Albanian society.

The objectives of ACER are to advance educational and scientific profile and understanding, in the field of the promotion of free enterprises, limited government and personal responsibility as pertaining to Albania; to publish, to conduct seminars, and to engage in such other and further means as may be necessary and proper to accomplish the foregoing objects and purposes. ACER encourages an open dialogue between scholars and policy makers and promotes public-private coalition building.

ACER's activity includes:

- Research and research management;
- Education and training;
- National policy development and legal and regulatory reform;
- Public outreach and advocacy; and
- Information exchange and dissemination.

Through many contacts in Albania and abroad, the Centre has strengthened its staff professional capabilities and has become known for its accurate data collection, analysis, surveys and expertise. In 1994 supported by the International Centre for Economic Growth (ICEG), ACER conducted a survey on Managerial Capacities of Albanian New Entrepreneurs. In 1995-1996 the Centre performed the first Comprehensive Survey of Small Business in Albania. The analysis of this survey focused on financial topics of small businesses and included the impact of the informal financial sector (money lending); staff professional abilities; the establishing of a supportive environment for small businesses as well as prior topics for the future.

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## Albanian Confederation of Industry (SHK)

Acronym: SHK

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata Konfindustria Shqiptare

Organisation type: Association/NGO

Established in 2005, the Albanian Confederation of Industry is a voluntary and independent non-profit organization gathering businesses with different profiles that are currently operating in Albania. It provides the following services to its members:

- The unification of all entrepreneurs operating in the production field of goods and services that generate profit under an independent organization from the other economic and public actors, having as a prime scope the assumption of the full responsibilities that belong to this group that directs the economic development of the country which relies on the efficient and maximal usage of the resources that can be natural, geographic and human.
- The constructive opponence directed to the governmental institutions that are deeply involved with the business performance.
- In offering technical assistance to the business enterprises in general and more specifically to the members of KISH in the conduction of their market analyses, in order for them to value their investment and to get the greatest outcome out of it, to value the new technologies, the informative schemes for holding and presenting the economical activity.
- Offering technical assistance in preventing economical and financial actions that can be damaged from the negative effects of the globalization schemes.
- The creation of reliable and protecting legal instruments that are specialized in acting in response to abusive actions directed by governmental institutions.
- The attempt to create and crystallize permanent contacts with the government and other similar organizations that might be foreign as well as with groups and powerful international companies to increase the contacts and the reliability of the foreign capital in regard to the domestic capital.
- The orientation of foreign investors and investment projects in Albania to create new partners in the country.
- The encouragement of the Albanian export and finding new markets for the members of the association.

- Giving specialized juridical defense for the problems manifested those Albanian businesses might have while they exercise their activity in the foreign markets.
- The creation of a qualifiedly and professional system and its integration in the similar nets of other similar and resembling European organizations to prepare and enhance the managerial skills of businessmen equipping them with up to date knowledge on the industrial policies presented by E. U and other states, the protection of country's production, modern marketing, the international law, et.,.
- The creation of the adequate environment to initiate a powerful lobbying of the country's business to protect the interests of the investment and market interests directed to great public investment, to privatizing the economy and in particular in privatizing the strategic sectors and the rational treatment of the fiscal and social policies of the government that effect the fiscal bar.
- The attempt to create the institutional framework in order to facilitate the visa regime for the businessmen, attended by the Albanian government.

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Gjergj Buxhuku, Chairman

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## Albanian Information Technology Association (AITA)

Acronym: AITA

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata Shqiptare e Teknologjise se Informacionit

Organisation type: Association/NGO

AITA Association was founded in January 2007 in Tirana and represents the interests of most of IT companies in Albania. This association has about 40 members who exercise their activities in the field of Information Technology in Hardware/Software, Information Consulting Services, Business Application Solutions, IT Training and Education etc.

Its objectives are:

- to serve as a stimulus so that the business of IT companies in Albania to be regulated by law.
- to serve as coordinator and catalyst for the cooperation of IT companies in the country
- to raise awareness of public administration and other necessary bodies for drafting and implementing an IT strategy and its regulatory policies
- to organize activities for business and public awareness
- to represent and work for protecting the interests of IT companies to fiscal, tax and customs authorities

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## American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)

Acronym: AmCham

Organisation title in local language: Dhoma Amerikane e Tregtisë

Organisation type: Association/NGO

As an organization dedicated to the development of the business relations between US and Albania, AmCham considers the establishment of high standards of conducting business and principals of good cooperate citizenship as one of its most significant goals. In this regard, AmCham takes an active and leading role in promoting business standards and principals, first, by adopting the code of business practices; second, by encouraging AmCham members to adopt the code of business practices.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Albania has invested its time and expertise to help train business circles on how to use the new electronic procurement system. AmCham's work involves working together with the Local Governance Program in Albania (LGPA) to train businesses in municipalities where the program has cooperation agreements for the use of electronic procurement system.

The focus of the projects is part of the services that AmCham already offers to its 270 members and the business community in general.

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## **Business Advisory Council (BAC)**

Acronym: BAC

Organisation title in local language: Këshilli Konsultativ i Biznesit

Organisation type: Other

Several attempts have been made by the Government to increase the participation of the SME stakeholders in a Government-business consultative process. The METE sees the Business Advisory Council (BAC), which was established in 2000, as its main source of regular dialogue on business-related legislation and procedures.

The BAC is chaired by the Minister of METE, who also acknowledges that this mechanism is in need of further reform (regular meetings, secretariat, balanced representation, clear agenda, etc.) in order to play an effective role. The general consensus is that consultations are taking place more often and at an earlier stage of legislation/policy development, thus allowing the voice of the business sector to be heard. For example, in May 2004 the Ministries of Finance and Economy established a Working Group to work on the 2005 fiscal package (OECD and EBRD, 2005).

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## **Business Albania**

Acronym: BA

Organisation title in local language: Biznes Albania/Biznesi Shqiptar / Zëri i Biznesit

të Shqiperisë

Organisation type: Association/NGO

This association has arisen from the need to restart correctly, to solve problems concerning private companies with the state. Strong associations of business are part of it, such as construction, fuel, exporters and manufacturers with half commissioning material, which represent not only businesses with high annual turnover and greatest number of employees, but those which have often had conflicts with government. In this business lobby are included also some of the foreign business chambers, such as American, German and Italian ones.

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## Chamber of Façon of Albania

Acronym: SHF

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata e Fasonistëve Shqiptarë

Organisation type: Association/NGO

The Chamber of Façon of Albania is dedicated to improve the sector's position in Albania and abroad. To this end, it aims to encourage improvements in laws and legislation for the façon sector and foster stable relations to European markets and support research collaborations with foreign and domestic partners.

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## Development Solutions Associates (DSA)

Acronym: DSA  
Organisation type: Agency/Fund

DSA is a business development agency providing consulting and research to businesses and donors implementing projects to foster economic growth in Albania. DSA's activities focus on economic research (marketing research, value chain analysis, feasibility studies, etc.) consulting, and business development services for SMEs (training in business planning, assistance with financial and cost accounting, assistance with loan application procedures; support and training in marketing and sales, etc.)

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## Directorate of Accreditation (DPA)

Acronym: DPA  
Organisation title in local language: Drejtoria e Akreditimit  
Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Albanian Accreditation Directorate (DA) is a public authority under the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, recognized by the Albanian Government as the single National Accreditation Body to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organizations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.

The DA has the task to provide advice to State Administration in matters concerning accreditation and other assessments and approvals of competence for carrying out conformity assessment procedures and maintaining, update and gives the information on the status of accreditation of the accredited bodies.

### Contact

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**General Directorate of Metrology (DPMK)**

Acronym: DPMK  
Organisation title in local language: Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Metrologjisë  
Organisation type: Research Institute

The General Directorate of Metrology is a legal public entity specialized for metrology, with its head office in Tirana and organized on national level in 4 Regional Centres subordinate to the minister responsible of economy.

Organization and functioning of the General Directorate of Metrology is regulated by decisions of the Council of Ministers. DPM is organized and operates based on the DCM no. 1576 date 17.10.2008 "On the organization and functioning of DPM" and the Prime Minister Order no 112 date 06.08.2008, "On the approval of the structure of DPM".

DPM implements the metrology policy in Albania in all the three categories:

- "Scientific metrology" dealing with the organization and development of national measurement standards and with their maintenance.
- "Industrial metrology" dealing with the comparison of measurement results.
- "Legal metrology" regulated by law and other legal provisions which aims to ensure accuracy and reliability of measurement results in areas where legally controlled measuring instruments are applied.

The mission of DPM is:

- To create, maintain and use the national measurement standards and reference materials;
- To protect citizens through the organization of the control of measuring instruments in the fields of official and trade transactions, health protection, environment protection and check of quantity of pre-packages products;
- To offer calibration services to producers and users of measuring instruments for being competitive in the internal and global market.

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**General Directory of Patents and Trade Marks (DPPM)**

Acronym: DPPM

Organisation title in local language: Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Patentave dhe Markave

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The Albanian Directorate of Patents and Trade Marks is a government institution under the Ministry of Economy Trade and Energy, which provides grant and protection for Patents for Inventions and Utility Models, Industrial Designs, Trademarks & service marks, Geographical indications, and Topography of Integrated Circuits. DPPM is member of EPO since May 2010. DPPM focuses its activities on:

- The administration of all procedures of granting and protecting industrial property rights;
- The provision of reliable examination and registration related to patents, trademarks, industrial design, and geographical indications;
- The preparation of laws and regulations related to the industrial property system;
- The Representation of Albania and fulfilling obligations in conjunction with bilateral agreement with homologue office and other organism and international organizations for issues of industrial property.

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## General Directorate of Standardization (DPS)

Acronym: DPS

Organisation title in local language: Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Standardizimit

Organisation type: Government/Ministry

The General Directorate of Standardization (DPS) is a public authority under the Minister of Economy Trade and Energy. It is the National Standards Body in Albania, established about 60 years ago. DPS represents the Republic of Albania in all European and international organizations for standardization and interests of all the country's economy in the drafting and adoption of European and international standards as Albanian standards. Drafting and adoption of standards consists of the needs that manufacturing and service enterprises have, regardless of their shape and size, businesses, government and consumers to provide them standards that satisfy and meet their needs for quality and greater competitive ability.

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## Geology Service of Albania (GSA)

Acronym: GSA

Organisation title in local language: Shërbimi Gjeologjik Shqiptar

Organisation type: Research Institute

The Geology Service of Albania is a public institution funded by the state budget which aims to collect and study data in the Republic of Albania in the field of geosciences.

Geology studies in Albania begun in the 19th century, by foreign geologists, mostly French, Austrian and Italian, who developed geology maps of Albania at different scales. The geology study of Albania in an organized manner began in 1922 with the establishment of the Office of Geology which has a documented activity until 1929.

Today the Geology Service of Albania aims to have a capable and modern structure, well adapted to the current needs. GSA is a member of EuroGeoSurveys, the Association of European Geological Services, since april 2007.

The Geological Map of Albania of scale: 1:200 000 has been published several times since its first publication in 1929 (first time that this type of map was produced for the Balkan region). Likewise, with scale 1:200 000 there are published Hydro-geological map of Albania, the Tectonic map of Albania, Metalogene Map of Albania.

Departments under GSA (in Tirana and other districts) perform studies of geology, water resources, minerals, carry out various tests and analyses in the laboratories, etc.

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## Institute of Biologic Agriculture (IBB)

Acronym: IBB

Organisation title in local language: Instituti i Bujqesise Biologjike

Organisation type: Research Institute

The IBB was established as NGO in 2008 but has a long experience in the field of bio agriculture products since 1996. The institute has its network in Vlora, Shkodra, and Korca.

The Institute of Biologic Agriculture offers these services:

1. results of research in farms;
2. consulting/extension service for integrated and bio agriculture operators;
3. trainings of agriculture and farmers specialists.

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## **Institute of Food and Veterinary Security/Protection (ISUV)**

Acronym: ISUV  
Organisation title in local language: Instituti i Sigurise Ushqimore dhe Veterinarise  
Organisation type: Research Institute

The Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (ISUV) is a public institution that depends on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (Ministry of Agriculture). It continues the work of the former Veterinary Research Institute and the former Institute of Food Research and is created based on their merge in 2006.

It is the only reference centre in the country that pursues research and control in food safety and quality as well as animal health protection by diagnosing and preventing animal diseases.

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## **Institute of Geosciences (IGEO)**

Acronym: IGEO  
Organisation title in local language: Instituti i Gjeoshkencave  
Organisation type: Research Institute

The Institute of GeoSciences is presently the only governmental body that focuses on scientific issues related to the management and usage of geoinformation in Albania. The institute started its activity on 01.01.2008, based on the Decision of Council of Ministers, number 561, date 22.08.2007.

As a results of the reorganization of the Academy of Science of Albania, it comprises some of Academy's` former Institutes, respectively Institute of Seismology together with research units of Albanian Geological Service such as Department of Administration of Territory and Mineral Resources, Department of Geoinformatics, Department of Applied Geophysics and Topographic Geodesy.

The Institute of GeoSciences is a national research unit that operates under the umbrella of the Polytechnic University of Tirana. From the organizational viewpoint it is designed in four main departments, each of them containing up to three research units:

1. Department of Georesources and Geoengineering
2. Department of Geophysics and Georisks
3. Department of Seismology and Seismological Engineering
4. Department of Geoinformation Technologies

The mission of Institute of GeoSciences is to improve scientific research in the field of geoinformation in Albania through:

1. carrying out scientific and applicative research
2. leading the in depth education process of students and young researchers
3. undertaking third party services in the fields of seismology, natural resources, georisks, geoengineering and geoinformation technology

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### Institute of Military Geography (IGJU)

Acronym: IGJU

Organisation title in local language: Instituti Gjeografik Ushtarak

Organisation type: Research Institute

IKMU functions as the national distributor of geoinformation as well as National Cartographic Agency, according to the law in 2002.

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## Institute of Public Health (ISHP)

Acronym: ISHP

Organisation title in local language: Insituti i Shendetit Publik

Organisation type: Research Institute

Started in 1935 as the National Laboratory of Anti-rabies Vaccine Production, in 1994 its name changed to Institute of Public Health. Its essential role is in scientific research of preventive medicine, as the main concept of public health:

- studies on hygiene
- studies on epidemiology (and immunology) of infective diseases (studies in microbiology (bacteriology, virology, parazitologji, mykologji) and applied immunology or biotechnology (biotechnology bacterial, viral biotechnology)
- training on the above subjects

It should be emphasized that while representing prophylactic medicine not only on research and training, but also as a centre of reference, expertise, and operative interventions (in each case of need or emergency)

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## Institute of Research on Medicine in the Military (IKMU)

Acronym: IKMU

Organisation title in local language: Instituti i Kërkimeve të Mjekësise Ushtarake

Organisation type: Research Institute

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## Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs)

Acronym: LEDA

Organisation title in local language: Agjenci te Zhvillimit Ekonomik Lokal

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The Local Economic Development Agencies are independent foundations, established with the support of the UNOPS-PASARP Programme and owned by local public and private member institutions in the region. Their aim is to contribute to the definition and implementation of the objectives for the local economic development of the region of Shkodra, Durres, Vlora. They focus their activity on the improvement and exploitation of local resources, and on the inclusion of disadvantaged population and depressed areas into the formal economic circuit. The core object of LEDAs is the identification, analysis and implementation of initiatives favouring the development of economic activities and the creation of employment opportunities, within a framework that combines poverty reduction and the promotion of an integrated and sustainable development of the territory.

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**National Chamber of Garment Producers (DKPV)**

Acronym: DKPV

Organisation title in local language: Dhoma Kombëtare e Prodhuesve të Veshjeve

Organisation type: Association/NGO

This association works in the field of garment making and is supported by the project of "Rritje Albania" with USAID and GIZ and is being consolidated as a cluster.

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**Networking of Regional Development Agencies (Net RDA)**

Acronym: Net RDA

Organisation title in local language: Networking i Agjensive Rajonale të Zhvillimit

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

The NetRDA's mission is to provide its professional assistance to accomplish short and long term projects related to economic, social and cultural development on local and broader level, and, based on the experience, to realise or support improvements of activities carried out from pre-selected target groups.

During the years NetRDA has accomplished successfully its mission due to the close and interactive collaboration with different development agencies, donors, local and central government institutions, civil-society institutions, business and education centres.

Net RDA provides the following services:

- Consultancy;
- Training and technical assistance;
- Studies;

- Research;
- Round tables;
- Forums;
- Projects;
- Advocacy etc.

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## Professional Businesswomen and Handcrafters Association

Acronym: PBWHA

Organisation title in local language: Shoqata e Grave Profesioniste Biznesmene dhe Zejtare (SHGPAZ)

Organisation type: Association/NGO

SHGPAZ was founded in 1992 de facto and registered on 16 May 1994 as NGO, non-governmental, independent association which operates in the whole territory of Albania, to assist women in business through information, training, lobbying for the improvement of policy-making in all levels, as well as to facilitate the creation of public opinion and have a status as group of interest.

It is a professional and business association, known nationally and internationally, managed by a group of women, who aim to support and encourage other women in their economic professional activity and thus contribute to the strengthening of economic and society status of women in Albania. SHGPAZ has been organizing trade forums, B2B, fairs, exhibitions, seminars and conferences, TV talk shows at home and abroad, etc. This association successfully networks with many regional and international organizations. SHGPAZ's strategy is to support the development of SMEs owned and run by women in the Republic of Albania by providing its technical services, offering business-oriented training, and also lobbying with different local and foreign organizations.

SHGPAZ has established a local network of 6 districts in which women are involved in business, handcrafters and managers. In order to be able to respond in time to the current issues and public matters, SHGPAZ established a flexible and functional management structure by developing strong teams of in-house experts which are indispensable in the dissemination of research results and policy recommendations.

The communication strategy utilizes strong relations with the media, and the website, e-mail distribution lists and SHGPAZ's publications.

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## Regional Development Agencies (RDA)

Acronym: RDA

Organisation title in local language: Agjenci Rajonale të Zhvillimit

Organisation type: Agency/Fund

Initially ten Regional Development Agencies were founded in 1992 with the mission of improving the business environment and encouraging economic development in the region. Their main areas of activity are supporting the regional development of SMEs, building democratic institutions and promoting good governance, and fostering civil society. RDA services encompass:

- **Consultancy:** Provision of technical assistance, advice, and expertise in legal and financial matters, export, tax payments, technical standards, customs formalities, business plan preparation and feasibility studies, loan applications, fund raising, international procurement, etc;
- **Training and technical assistance:** support to local administration and government decision makers; capacity building for strategy and policy making; assistance in design, implementation and monitoring of programmes & projects; training & technical assistance to local authorities in project management, assessment and reporting;
- **Business development support:** market research, assistance in business financing, SME and business association promotion, contribution to SME strategy development and policy making.
- Furthermore, RDAs act as a regional resource centres facilitating exchange of information and networking.

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## Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Acronym: UCCIAL  
Organisation title in local language: Bashkimi i Dhomave të Tregtisë dhe Industrisë  
Organisation type: Association/NGO

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## Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Tirana

Acronym: CCI - Tirana  
Organisation title in local language: Dhoma e Tregtisë dhe Industrisë, Tiranë  
Organisation type: Association/NGO

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## 5 List of Acronyms

AAC - Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness Programme  
ACER - Albanian Centre for Economic Research  
ACIT - Albanian Centre for International Trade  
AIC - Adriatic-Ionian Council  
AEDA - Albanian Economic Development Agency  
All - Adriatic-Ionian Initiative  
ARTI - Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation  
ATTC - Agricultural Technology Transfer Centre  
BAC - Business Advisory Council  
BAS - Business Advisory Service  
BEISEEC - Building Excellence & Innovation into South East Europe Clusters  
BI - Business Incubator  
BITS - Albanian Business Innovation and Technology Strategy  
BMZ - Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung /  
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
BRIC - Business Relay and Innovation Centre  
BSC - Business Start-Up Centre  
BSP - Business Service Provider  
CARDS - Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation  
CSPTD - Council of Scientific Policy and Technological Development  
CEI - Central European Initiative  
CEI KEP - Central European Initiative Know-how Exchange Programme  
CES - Centre of Excellence in Science  
CIP - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme  
DSA - Development Solution Associates  
DSCS - Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination  
EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
EC - European Commission  
EDEM - Enterprise Development & Export Market Services  
EFB - European Fund for the Balkans

EIB - European Investment Bank  
EIP - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme  
EU - European Union  
FDI - Foreign Direct Investment  
FP7 - 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development  
GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit  
ICEG - International Centre for Economic Growth  
ICS - Institute for Contemporary Studies  
ICT - Information and Communications Technologies  
IEE - Intelligent Energy Europe Programme  
ICT - Information & Communication Technologies  
ICT-PSP - Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme  
IS – Information Society  
IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance  
ISPA - Pre-Accession Structural Instrument  
IT - Information Technolgy  
JRC - Joint Research Centre  
LEDA - Local Economic Development Agency  
KEP - Know-how Exchange Programme (CEI)  
MBUMK - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection  
MNC - Multi-national companies  
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding  
METE - Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy  
MES - Ministry of Education and Science  
MITIK - Ministry for Innovation and Information & Communication Technology  
MNC - Multi-National Companies  
MSMEs - Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises  
NGO - Non-governmental Organisation  
PHARE - Poland and Hungary: Assistance for Restructuring their Economies  
(PHARE) programme  
OECD - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development  
ORF - Open Regional Fund  
R&D - Research & Development

RDA - Regional Development Agency

RTD - Research and Technological Development

SAPARD - Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development

SMEs - Small and Medium Size Enterprises

S&T - Science and Technology

TAM - TurnAround Management

TAM/BAS - Turn-around Management and Business Advisory Services

TIC - Technology/Innovation Centre

UNSCR - United Nations Security Council Resolution

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

WB - Western Balkans

WBIF - Western Balkans Investment Framework

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We made a huge effort to include the names of all contributing parties. If, for any reason, you are a contributor and you do not find your name in the list, please send us a short notification e-mail to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net). We aim to keep the updated version of the reports online on the homepage WBC-INCO.NET, where we can make necessary adjustments.

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