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The Assessment of Research Capacities in Social Sciences in Albania

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The report is also available under: www.rpp-westernbalkans.net

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the SDC or the University of Fribourg.

List of Abbreviations

ACES	Albanian Centres of Excellence in Science
ADHS	Albanian Demographic and Health Survey
ARA	Albanian Research Agency
ASA	Academy of Sciences Albania
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization
CHES	Council for Higher Education and Science
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
CSPTD	Council for Science, Policy and Technological Development
ERA	European Research Area
EU	European Union
EUREKA	European Network for Market-Oriented Industrial R&D
FP	Framework Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERD	Gross Expenditure on Research and Development
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
RI	Research Institutes
R&D	Research and Development
RTDI	Research, Technological Development and Innovation
SCO	Swiss Cooperation Office
SFSO	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UT	University of Tirana

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Executive Summary

The Gender Alliance for Development Centre in Tirana compiled this report for the University of Fribourg, as a part of the Regional Research Promotion Program in the Western Balkans (RRPP), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The report provides a review and critical analysis of the policies and decision making process related to research work, of the institutions conducting and supporting research in social sciences and it gives an overview of the status of the research at the national level.

Based on the assessment, recommendations are offered for overcoming the identified systematic deficiencies and improving the status of the research in social sciences. The first chapter provides a presentation of the set-up of the Albanian national system that supports research activity, including the policy making bodies in the field, the relevant policies, the financing options, as well as the existing opportunities for international cooperation in the field of research.

The second chapter offers a thorough analysis of the main research actors/institutions in Albania conducting research in social sciences and of their related areas of focus. The focus remains on these actors/institutions and their areas of expertise, research capacities, as well as on the problems encountered. The information used in this chapter is based on the data collected from questionnaires distributed to key stakeholders, interviews conducted with the institutions' representatives, as well as from a desk-review of existing documents.

The third chapter focuses on the quality and capacities for research in social sciences in Albania. In particular, it highlights the human capacities involved in the research in social sciences and also provides a general assessment of the current situation and of the identified issues that relate to the research in social sciences in the country.

Finally, in the fourth chapter, a set of recommendations are provided for each of the research actors, aiming to overcome the identified deficiencies in their operation/functioning and improving the status and quality of the research in social sciences in Albania.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this assessment, a wide range of institutions were contacted with the goal of acquiring data on their structure, functioning and potential problems they encounter in their research. These institutions were selected on the basis of their involvement in research activities, i.e. the ones identified to be the most actively involved in the research in social sciences. Primarily, this included the state-level policy makers, such as the Ministry of Education and Science and the primary research actors, both public and private. But also the thematic and geographic coverage criteria were used, in order to provide a well balanced sample. (For *more information on the sample, please refer to the Annexes.*)

Quantitative and qualitative research techniques - The analytical work towards this assessment paper consisted of an analysis of both primary and secondary data. This involved an overview of the available literature and the conducting of semi-structured interviews with leaders of research and academic institutions, and also interviews with Albanian researchers working in the scientific/academic field, as well as a survey of around 30 research institutions and 4 public and private universities across the country.

Desk Review - The research team reviewed the existing institutional and policy framework related to the research in social sciences, as well as the elements of the national system and the research-related policies. Furthermore, it studied available literature on “brain drain,” “brain exchange” and “brain gain” and searched the official websites of the institutions involved in the survey to identify additional information that could not be obtained through the interviews and questionnaires.

Questionnaires - Questionnaires were prepared and distributed by the research team to a sample of 30 key stakeholders in the research in social sciences, in order to obtain information related to their capacities, work profile and research funds. The questions referred mainly to the activities conducted since 2005. Communication was established with 22 of 30 contacted institutions.

Semi-structured interviews - 10 semi-structured interviews were conducted with leaders of research institutions and universities, NGO and think tank representatives, researchers, lecturers and state-level bodies. Where this was not possible, the questionnaire was emailed with a request to complete it and send it back to GADC. Additional data were collected by **reviewing relevant documents** (policy papers and legal framework) and also official documents from the stakeholders involved in the sample. The questions asked in these interviews related to the research in social sciences in Albania in general, the research capacities of the institutions and the identification of drawbacks and grounds for improvement.

Chapter 1: General Institutional and Policy Framework – An Overview of the Elements of the National System and Research Related Policies

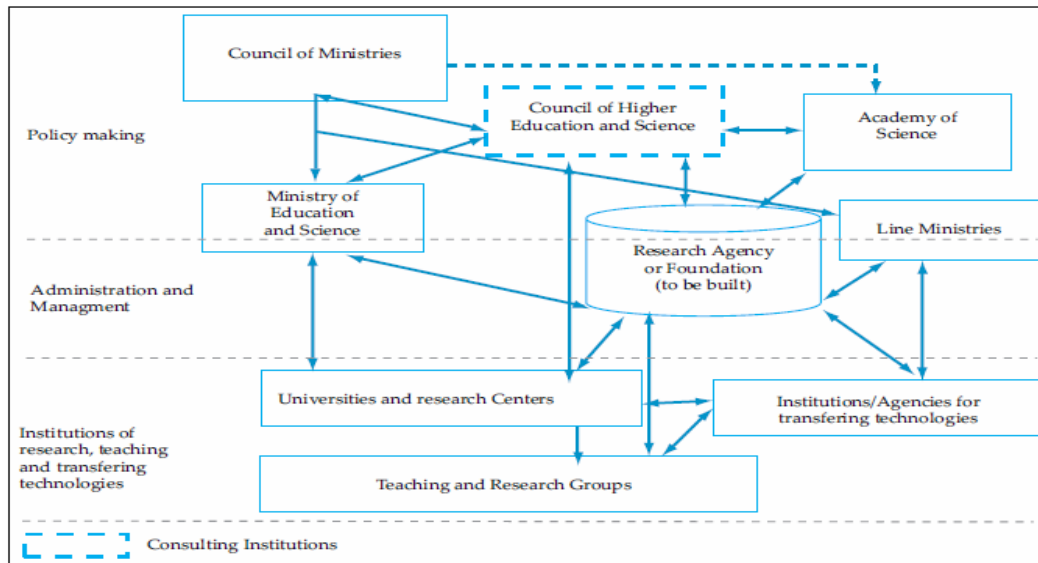
1.1. State-Level Bodies

During the past few years, Albania has undertaken serious reforms in the field of higher education, research, science and technology, aiming to achieve a quick economic development of the country and its integration in the European Union. The public scientific research system in Albania incorporates the Council of Ministries, the Council of Scientific Policy and Technological Development (CSPTD), the Council for Higher Education and Science (CHES), the Ministry of Education and Science, the line Ministries and the Academy of Sciences of Albania.

1.1.1 Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers approves the scientific policies of Albania. It submits to the parliament the draft laws on scientific activities in the country and passes decisions on the establishment, dissolution and merging of research institutions. The diagram below presents the scientific research infrastructure in Albania, as envisioned by the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015.¹Diagram 1

¹ www.dsd.gov.al/dsd/pub/sti_english_461_1.pdf



The Council of Ministers passes decisions on the distribution of the budget to the various national programmes. Furthermore, it takes decisions regarding the institutions to be part of the country's scientific research network and decides on the creation of the national scientific research centres and their statutes. The Council of Ministers approves, in principle, the bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of science and technology.

1.1.2 Council for Science Policy and Technological Development (CSPTD)

Since 1994, the Council for Science Policy and Technological Development has been the body that has drafted and proposed for approval to the Council of Ministers the Science and Technological Development Policy.² The Council for Science Policy and Technological Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, consists of 15 members from the scientific community and governmental institutions. However, according to the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015, this Council has never functioned effectively or been granted the resources (e.g. a staffed secretariat) to fulfil its mandate.

² *Enhancing Science Policy and Management in South Eastern Europe Science and Technology Statistics and Indicators Systems*, No 4, February 2007.

1.1.3 Council for Higher Education and Science (CHES)

The Council for Higher Education and Science (CHES) was created by a 2006 amendment to the 1999 law on Higher Education. CHES was set up as an advisory body to MoES and to the Council of Ministers. Its main role is to advise on strategies, policies and priorities (e.g. to assess the compatibility of the five-year strategic plan proposed by each university with this strategy). The HE Strategy proposed to establish a small high-level (and permanent) Research Strategy Group (RSG) under CHES, responsible for developing a research strategy. According to the aforementioned strategy, the extent to which CHES-RSG duplicates the role of CSPTD needs to be considered, though presently neither body is advising the government on STI priorities.³

1.1.4 Ministry of Education and Science

In Albania, research and development fall under the mandate of the Ministry of Education and Science. This ministry is the main governmental institution responsible for research and development. It is responsible for national programmes, including financing, and acts as the main consultant to the government for development policies.⁴

The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has two roles: it defines the S&T policy and has a role of coordinator as well. The MoES is responsible for administrating the national S&T programmes, which are funded through the Public Investment Programme. As coordinator, the MoES supports S&T programmes of other ministries, drafts national S&T policy documents and prepares the budget for R&D programmes.

Through its Department of Scientific Research, the Ministry drafts science and technology policies, as well as related national programmes that are in return presented to the CSPTD. In coordination with other ministries, MoES and the Academy of Sciences plan the state budget for scientific activities. The Department of Scientific Research manages and distributes funds to projects on competitive basis. It also manages funds that are generated through the technical and scientific cooperation with other countries and international

³ *National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015*, August 2009.

⁴ *Enhancing Science Policy and Management in South Eastern Europe Science and Technology Statistics and Indicators Systems*, No 4, February 2007.

organisations. It also manages a special reserve fund for important unscheduled activities and projects.

The Ministry analyses, proposes and decides on the appropriate measures towards the expansion of the country's participation in international cooperation related to science and technology. It also encourages the qualification of young scientists, especially in the economic and cultural sector. The Ministry reviews activities, prepares relevant reports and issues regulations and guidelines related to science and technology.⁵

1.1.5 Academy of Sciences

The scientific research network in Albania first started with the Institute of Sciences established in 1946. In 1957, this Institute was integrated into the newly established University of Tirana (UT). In 1972 the Academy of Sciences was created, and absorbed all of the scientific research centres of the UT and also some government centres. Within the Academy of Sciences (ASA) these centres were grouped into social, natural and technical scientific organizations.⁶ Until recently, the Academy was entrusted with conducting scientific research, petitioning the relevant government authorities with important issues related to the situation of R&D and, last but not least, working towards the integration of the Albanian science into the world science.⁷ The Academy has 28 academic members, 11 of which are associated scholars and also about 26 honorary members.

In 2006, the Academy of Sciences of Albania was re-organized following the model of many other European countries. It now operates through a selected community of scientists organised in sections and no longer administers the research institutes. As it will be described further below, the research institutes of the Academy were detached from it and integrated into the higher education system; some institutions are now affiliated to ministries, others to universities.⁸

⁵ For further information please see the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Albania: www.mash.gov.al.

⁶ Sulstarova, Eduard. Why Invest in Science in South Eastern Europe? *Proceedings of the International Conference and High Level Round Table*. 28-29 September 2006, Ljubjana, Slovenia. Ed: Nechifor, Iulia; Radosevic, Slavo. *Situation of Scientific Research System in Albania*.

⁷ Angelov, Georgi; Simenova, Kostadinka; Slaus, Ivo. *UNESCO Science Report 2005*. South- East Europe.

⁸ *National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015*. June 2009, p. 6.

The major change in the research system occurred through the amendment of the Law on the Academy of Sciences,⁹ resulting in the integration of the former institutes of the Academy of Sciences into the major public universities. The role of the Academy is by now limited to a representative and advisory function with regards to science and no longer does it carry out any research per se. Aside from the advisory function, the Academy continues to be involved in the management of the scientific publications, and hence bibliometrics on Albanian language journals, as well as the promotion of science through conferences or prize awarding. The integration of the former Academy of Sciences research institutes into the universities and the development of a research strategy within each institution will clearly take time. During the consultations for drafting this strategy, it was clear that the rectors, vice-rectors, deans and heads of departments in the three main universities are only now beginning to develop the foundations for the development of a strategic management of research. To be successful, this process will require technical support, ‘coaching’ and resources, if the academic research base is to be structured to become effective in terms of research and become financially sustainable through a mix of national public funding, international donors’ support (including charitable foundations supporting research) and, in the medium term, revenues generated from contract research and other services provided to enterprises.¹⁰

Since the very beginning, two groups of institutes were brought together inside the Academy of Sciences: social and natural-technical institutes. The Social Sciences Academy brought together almost all the institutes involved in social, historical and linguistic studies.

The **Social and Albanological Sciences section encompasses** 7 institutes: Institute of History, Institute of Linguistics and Literatures, Institute of Popular Culture, Institute of Archaeology, Institute of Economy, Centre of Art Studies and the Centre of Albanian Encyclopaedia, which is of an inter-disciplinary nature.

In the framework of the ASA reform, 14 scientific research institutes and centres are incorporated into the universities, thus, creating new inter-university centres, institutes,

⁹ Law No. 9655, dated 11. 12. 2006, *On Academy of Sciences*. Albania. *National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009–2015*. Ministry of Education and Science, June 2009.

¹⁰ *National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015*. June 2009.

faculties and departments, contributing to the growing capacities of the human resources and scientific research infrastructure of higher education. With the establishment of the new scientific research system in Albania, the ASA does not have any longer any scientific research institutions and centres under its supervision. However, its role has not weakened. At the national level, ASA has an important responsibility to contribute to the Strategy of Education and Scientific Research that covers the whole higher education system. Researchers in Albania work at the research institutes and centres of the Academy of Sciences, the research institutes and scientific structures of the ministries and universities, to the R&D units in the private sectors of the industry and to the NGO research institutes and research centres. According to the Academy of Sciences, MoES and the Agency of Accreditation of High Education, the personnel working in social sciences comprises 13% (288 persons) of the total number of the scientific disciplines personnel. In 2003, the social sciences personnel working in the social sciences higher education sector represented 17% of the total number of employees in the sector. Researchers holding PhD degrees in social sciences comprise 13% of the total number of PhD holders/graduates in R&D in the scientific disciplines. The number of the young researchers compared to the other scientific disciplines is lower, representing only 9.2% of the total number. The number of professors and assistant professors in the social sciences is 36 or 10% of the total number in all the scientific disciplines.¹¹

1.1.6 Other Ministries

Ministries organize and manage the scientific and technological activities within the institutions under their supervision. They establish and develop bilateral or multilateral relations with counterparts in other countries. Ministries that have under their supervision centres for development and transfer of technology include the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Customer Protection, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and the Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Telecommunication.¹² As seen in the above

¹¹ Agolli, Edmond. Specialist, Directorate of Scientific Research. Data from MoES. *National Research Landscape*. (egolli@mash.gov.al), 2008.

¹² Ibid. p. 7

diagram, the strategy indicates that in addition to the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Defence are also expected to play a role in Albania's new scientific research establishment.

1.2 National Policies on Research Activities

Over the last couple of years, the amendments to the Law No. 9832 on the Higher Education aimed to give special attention to the scientific research as well. The Department of Research and Technology has been identified in the law as a very important unit within the university. Each faculty has the right to coordinate its teaching process and its research. The master degree programmes established in each faculty offer two-level masters: first level master and second level master (according to the Bologna Chart). The second level master is considered a research program, given that one of its key components is research. Every PhD programme in Albanian universities is identified in the law as the third level of study. The PhD programme is fully considered academic research under 3-year supervision. Amendments to the laws on the Academy of Science, Scientific and Technological Research took place over two years and attempted to complete the legal framework and provide a greater impact to both higher education and scientific research. In 2007, the Albanian government implemented a PhD study programme, The Excellence Fund, which supported the best PhD candidates to complete PhD studies abroad partially or fully. The Excellence Fund does not have any restricting criteria regarding the field of studies for the PhD programme. As a result, MoES has generated no data specifying the field of focus field of the PhD studies supported by this program. A total number of 45 PhD students were supported by this fund during the academic year 2006-2007. The drafting and approving process of the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation assisted by UNESCO, created every opportunity for establishment of mechanisms to design all the necessary instruments that will set up the foundations for the functioning of the scientific research system in Albania.

1.2.1 Law on Science and Technological Development

The 1994 Law on Science and Technological Development established a Council for Science Policy and Technological Development (CSPTD) as the body that defines and proposes any Science and Technological Development Policy to be approved by the Council of Ministers, reviews it, and takes decisions on the National Programmes.

1.2.2 Law on Higher Education

The 2007 Law on Higher Education¹³ introduced greater flexibility and objectivity in the university funding, while the Strategy of Higher Education sets out a number of ambitious goals for improving the performance of the university system. The Institutes of Higher Education conduct applied scientific research, prepare reports and development projects, as well as perform other productive activities defined in the statute of the Institute of Higher Education and in accordance with the specific objectives of the institution.¹⁴ The research¹⁵ and development activity performed by the Institutes of Higher Education aims also to improve the quality of education, to equip the students with the methodological skill for research, provides continuous opportunities to supplement the program of study with advanced scientific and practical comprehension, improves the qualification of the academic staff of the Institutes of Higher Education, and it generates concrete application/implementations of development and research in these institutions. Research activities are carried out based on plans, programmes and projects, approved in compliance with the procedures defined by this Law or other bylaws.¹⁶

1.2.3 National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Research Programmes

The National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation adopted in July 2009, defines a number of strategic goals with specific activities. The implementation of the STI is achieved through governmental institutional funding (MoES) and programme financing in the framework of the bilateral programmes and international collaboration. The implementation

¹³ Law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

¹⁴ Article 69, law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

¹⁵ Article 70, law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

¹⁶ Article 71, Law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

of the STI strategy needs to ensure the co-ordination of activities beyond the research policy domain (horizontal links to other policy domains) and needs to make adjustments to the whole policy cycle. The strengths and weaknesses of the system should be part on the focus and the subject of the future political agenda.

The strategic goals:¹⁷

- ***Increase public spending on research to 0.6% of the GDP by 2015.*** A number of observers/experts consider this target as too modest. However, it would represent a significant increase compared to the current situation (0,02% of GDP), but it still cannot be evaluated how this budget would be divided among different fields of research.
- ***Increase the share of gross expenditure from foreign sources on R&D*** notably from the EU (FP7) and international donors to cover 40% of all research spending between the years 2010-2015.
- ***Create four or five Albanian Centres of Excellence in Science (ACES)*** including dedicated laboratory equipment or workspaces that could be used for new technology-based companies (pre-incubation, testing, certification, etc). One of the first activities of the National Agency of Research will be the designation of each of these centres to a specific field of research.
- ***Double the number of researchers***, through ‘Brain Gain’ incentives and training of new researchers (establishment of graduate schools, training of 500 PhDs). This will involve the establishment, in accordance with the Action Plan of the Strategy of Higher Education entitled, of up to three new ‘graduate schools’ (or doctoral programmes) in the different Albanian universities. These graduate schools should reflect the priority sectors identified by the government in consultation with the national STI council or should be linked to the selected centres of excellence, or both.
- ***Increase innovation activity in 100 companies*** (this figure may be revised once the results from the first business RTDI survey are published) through investment in

¹⁷ National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015.

R&D through own laboratories, or via consortia with the academic RIs or in partnership with foreign partners.

The Ministry of Education has defined a set of specific goals for the “Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation”, which will be implemented within a timeframe of 6 years. The Ministry of Education will endorse the establishment of different programmes and funds focused primarily on the improvement of the research infrastructure, the expansion of graduate and post graduate programmes and the creation of a sustainable linkage between academia and the private sector.

A major objective will be to achieve international standards in carrying out research projects in different public and university research institutes. The establishment of a specific fund, called the Research Infrastructure Fund, will help to improve the quality of the equipment and facilities available. Two programmes, the Research Eagles Grants Program and the Science Promotion and Education Program aim to increase the number of Master’s and Doctoral graduates in the science and engineering fields. This goal will be achieved through the financial support of both graduate/doctoral schools and individual researchers and projects.

The establishment of long-term cooperation between academia and the private sector is another significant goal of the STI. Two major components are: the creation and development of Albanian Centres of Excellence in Science (ACES) and the National Technology Program. The former will endorse the creation of some centres of excellence in order to bring together a substantial number of researchers. These centres will be critical for improving the credibility and visibility of Albanian research and for exchanging information and also for the inflow of funds from the main donors and counterparts. They should also help to bring together the academic research institutes and the private sector in order to develop a medium-term programme of applied research of mutual benefit.

1.3. Funding research

The Fund for Scientific Research and Development in Albania does not exceed 0.18 of the GDP, which marks the lowest level in Europe. MoES financed national projects in social

sciences in the framework of the social sciences programme (2007-2009), already mentioned above. Projects in social sciences cover a three-year period (2007-2010). There are 7 projects in place, with a total cost of 13.315.000 ALL, and over a 3 year period they have accounted for around 2% of the total expenditures for science and technology by MoES. According to the MoES programme (2007-2009), the national social sciences' projects cover the following areas:

- Linguistics;
- History;
- Albanian culture and tradition;
- Albanology;
- Social sciences.

History is focusing on the study of monography and the preparation of historical documents. Researchers are making efforts to shed light on parts of the Albanian history that seems to be still in the dark since the mid- wave until now.

In linguistics, projects aim to produce research on the social phenomenon of demographic movement after the 1990s as it relates to the use of the Albanian language in communities of heterogenic population.

The Albanian cultural and ethnographic tradition aims at presenting some of the richest traditional Albanian outfits as part of the Albanian identity over time and also to present the art used for producing these outfits/costumes.

Social sciences are focused on the research of the specificities of the competitiveness in the different fields, such as social activities, education system and dynamics of divorces. These projects analyse the factors that influence these social phenomena and their consequences on the Albanian society.

The publication of the Encyclopaedia aims to create a big data-base of Albanian researchers in this field and to serve as a source of information for encyclopaedic publications in the future.

The Research and Development (R&D) activities are financed directly by the state budget, national programmes through MoES, international programmes and projects and other sources, as outlined below:

- *Institutional financing*, awarded by the government to research institutions, the ASA and research institutions of the ministries, independent of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, which needs to be implemented in research centres of the public universities.
- *Programme financing* within the framework of the National Research and Development Programme (NRDP) through the Ministry of Education and Sciences (MoES). *Programme financing* within the framework of the bilateral programmes established with MoES;
- *Other financing*, besides the state budget include:
 - international collaboration;
 - collaboration with foreign or domestic organizations within Albania;
 - international programmes (UN, EU, etc.).
- Financing from other public or private sector activities¹⁸

Table 1: MoES expenditures on Education and Science (in %)

	2007	2008	2009
% of expenditures for the education system from the total budget	10.36	15.20	15.10
% of expenditures for research activities from the state budget in the field of education	2.30%	1.30%	0.62%
% of expenditures by MoES for national projects in social sciences from the total expenditures for science	2,6%	0,9%	1,81%

¹⁸ Sulstarova, E. Why Invest in Science in South-Eastern Europe? *Proceedings of the International Conference and High Level Round Table*. 28-29 September 2006, Ljubjana, , Slovenia. Ed: Nechifor, Iulia; Radosevic, Slavo. *Situation of Scientific Research System in Albania*.

Share of GDP for scientific research	0.02	0.04	0.02
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Source: Ministry of Finance - www.minfin.gov.al/

Targets are set to increase public spending on research to 0.6% of the GDP by 2015, to increase the share of gross expenditures from foreign sources (EU programmes, e.g. FP7, and international donors) on R&D to cover 40% of all research spending between the years 2010-2015, to create four to five Albanian Centres of Excellence in Science (ACES), to double the number of researchers through “Brain Gain” incentives and training of new researchers, and to increase the innovation activities of the companies.¹⁹

The budgetary framework for the implementation of the STI strategy makes considerations for a 6 year period. All future figures should be considered hypothetical working figures at this stage. There is an assumption that the activities in 2009 and the first half of 2010 will be essentially confined to the preparation of detailed programmes and the creation of the management capacity in the form of ARA (assuming this is the preferred option).

Table 2: Budgetary framework for the implementation of STI

Funding (Euro million)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	total
Baseline funding for HEI research institutes*	7.5	8.25	9	9.9	10.5	11.55	12.75	69.45
Research project funding (MoES)**	6.5		6.5		8		9	30
World Bank Research Infrastructure funding	3.3							3.3
Research Infrastructure Fund	0.15	4	4	4	5	5	5	27.15
Albanian Centre of Excellence	0.15	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	9.15

¹⁹ <http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/news/68284.html>

in Science (ACES)								
Research Eagles Grants	0.15	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.5
National Technology Programme(s)			0.15	2	2	2	2	8.15
Albanian Research Funding Agency	0.25	0.5	0.05	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3.25
Total funds	18	14.45	21.85	18.1	27.75	20.8	31	151.95

*According to the press release of 12 June 2008, the baseline funding from the education budget is/will be US\$6m in 2009

**Based on information from MoES concerning the current 132 projects being funded in the amount of \$5m over a 2–3 year period

Source: MoES, National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation

A basic assumption is that the Albanian Government will progressively increase the national public funding for both the existing baseline funding, provided under the budget for higher education, and the ‘small’ research projects managed currently by MoES, but which could be transferred to the proposed ARA upon its creation. If the target of 0.6% of the GDP is to be reached, this increase will have to be sustainable and progressive in order to contribute significantly to the development of the scientific research in Albania.

1.4. International cooperation on research activities

Albania’s international cooperation in research and development comes mainly in the form of bilateral, as well as EU and UN programmes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of signing new intergovernmental agreements on science and technology. However, it is the Ministry of Education and Science that is responsible for their implementation.

Albania has signed 7 Bilateral Agreements on Science and Technology (BSTCP), with Greece, Italy, Macedonia and Slovenia. Agreements are signed with Austria, Turkey and

Poland as well. In the near future, there are plans to expand the bilateral agreements to Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo and France. BSTPC projects consist on (i) *Joint Research Projects* (JRP) that fund individual young researchers; (ii) *Technical Assistance Projects* (TAP), aiming at providing assistance through equipment and visit exchange of specialists, exchange of scientific material, documentation, publications and various S&T information and demonstration of new technologies. All bilateral projects are focused on environmental, agro-food and biology research, etc. Since 2006, the Slovenian Centre for Social Sciences has been funding a project at Ismail Qemali University in Vlora which focuses on the impact of socio-cultural environment on the tourism development in the south of Albania.

In terms of multilateral cooperation, Albania has enjoyed a fruitful cooperation with the European Union's Tempus programme and CARDS programme and cooperation with the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In addition, Albania has closely cooperated with many United Nations (UN) agencies, such as UNESCO, UNIDO and UNDP.

The regional research and development projects have also played a key role in promoting regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe. Currently, Albania takes part in several regional organisations, such as the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Black-Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Other regional networks include also initiatives for the participation of the Western Balkans countries in the EU Framework Programmes for R&D (Cordis, FP7).²⁰ At the same time, MoES is a partner to the SEE-ERA.NET project (South-East European ERA-NET) - a networking project aiming to integrate the EU member states and the South Eastern European countries into the European Research Area by linking research activities within the existing national, bilateral and regional RTD programmes.²¹ The SEE-ERA.NET PLUS calls for Joint European Research projects focusing on thematic areas of agro-food, ICT of the Seventh Framework

²⁰ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

²¹ Agolli, Edmond. *Albania, National Research Landscape*. Ministry of Education and Science, Directorate of Scientific Research, International R&D Co-operations, 17 July 2008.

Programme (FP7), and preservation of indigenous species and traditional food products (in SEE/WBC), interdisciplinary field: land use impact on agriculture and biodiversity, energy efficiency and also Information and Communication Technologies's sub area Applications Research.

Chapter 2: Research in Social Sciences – Analysis of the Research Actors/Institutions

This chapter aims to provide a well-grounded analysis of the most relevant research institutions in Albania, be they public or private. The focus remains on their related areas of expertise, human capacities within the structure, as well as on the problems these institutions face with. The information used in this chapter is based on the data collected from questionnaires distributed to key stakeholders, interviews conducted with the institutions' representatives, as well as from a desk-review of existing documents. (Please refer also to Annex 1)

2.1. Academy of Sciences of Albania (see 1.1.5)

2.2. Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

INSTAT's mission is to provide transparent, neutral and timely statistics that help the user to conclude on the developments of the transformation processes within the country. INSTAT is a key source of statistical information providing decisions makers, research and education in Albania, as well as the international community with relevant, reliable and comparable statistical information. Within INSTAT, a structure that would be responsible for research in social sciences is lacking and the Department of Social Statistics is engaged only in the process of data-collection of social statistics through different national surveys, such as LFS, HSB, LSMS, ADHS, etc. Besides the qualification of the staff with regards to data-collection processes, undue stress is placed by INSTAT on the capacity building of its own

staff in the area of advanced social phenomena analysis. Still the human resources are insufficient and the social sciences analyses are conducted with the assistance of international experts supported by donors. As producer of the national official data, INSTAT should incorporate a strategy of statistical data dissemination to users, with a special focus on academic researches, in its role.

The Institute cooperates with various partners when it comes to research in the social sciences, such as UNICEF, UNFPA, SCO (Swiss Cooperation Office), SFSO (Swiss Federal Statistical Office), World Bank and UNDP. In addition, INSTAT works closely also with public institutions and public and private universities. Among the many partners and collaborators in the social research field could be mentioned the Institute of Social and Health Insurance, all the line ministries (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice), the University of Tirana, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Economics.

Projects that are currently under implementation and that relate directly or tangibly to the social research field are: DESSA 2007–2010; Development of Social Statistics in cooperation with SCO (Swiss Cooperation Office) and SFSO (Swiss Federal Statistical Office): advanced analysis of the LSMS project, funded by UNDP; Demographic and Health Survey, a project funded by USAID, SCO, UNICEF and UNFPA. Later, in the second half of 2010, it aims to build up capacities in advanced analysis in the field of demographic and health statistics. Under the LSMS project funded by UNDP, INSTAT is collaborating also with local researchers and civil society towards the preparation of several papers on poverty issues. During the year 2010, UNFPA will facilitate several trainings for ADHS data-users through the ADHS project. These trainings will be focused on data gathering within the public universities/research institutes on social sciences, civil society and journalists.

2.3. *Universities and Related Research Centres*

Albania currently has 11 public higher education institutions and 18 licensed private universities, and the trend moves towards rapid growth. The following is a more detailed list:

List of Private Licensed Universities:

- ✓ “New York” University,
- ✓ “Luarasi” University,
- ✓ “UFO” University
- ✓ “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë” University
- ✓ Academy of Film and Multimedia “Marubi”
- ✓ “Marin Barleti” University
- ✓ “Kristal” University
- ✓ “Justiniani i Parë” University
- ✓ “Sevasti dhe Parashqevi Qiriazi” University
- ✓ European University of Tirana
- ✓ “Justicia” University
- ✓ “Aldent” University
- ✓ “Medikadent” University
- ✓ “Wisdom” University
- ✓ “Polis” University
- ✓ “ Epoka” University
- ✓ "American University of Tirana

List of Public Universities:

- ✓ University of Tirana
- ✓ Polytechnic University, Tirana
- ✓ Agricultural University, Tirana
- ✓ “Luigj Gurakuqi” University ,Shkodra
- ✓ “Aleksander Xhuvani” University , Elbasan
- ✓ “Fan S. Noli University”, Korça
- ✓ “Ismail Qemali” University, Vlora
- ✓ “Eqrem Çabej” University, Gjirokastra
- ✓ Academy of Fine Arts
- ✓ Academy of Physic Culture and Sports , “Vojo Kushi” Tirana
- ✓ University "Aleksandër Moisiu", Durres

The public universities have been existing longer and are mostly financed by the state budget, in addition to the funds acquired through registration and other fees that they collect from students. Private universities are new, established only after the year 2000, and are self-financed by charging student fees established by the institution itself, or are financed by other donations.

Out of 21 entities selected to be part of the sample used for collecting data related to research in the social sciences, 4 are universities, of which two are public and two are private ones. (*Refer to Annexes for details*). However, this analysis is based also on information collected from interviews conducted with key stakeholders in the academia throughout Albania. The qualification level of the personnel working in the research field within universities is high. All four universities have in their staff a considerable average number of post-university graduates. Master degree holders reach the largest number, followed by either PhD or PhD-candidate members. Considering the qualified staff within universities, it can, thus, be concluded that the disadvantage more than in the academic staff qualifications stands in their real possibility to do research. What is generally observed, especially when comparing public and private higher education institutions, it is the fact that opportunities for research, both in terms of funding and in terms of infrastructure are more numerous within private universities than within the public ones.

Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) is one of Tirana University's Faculties that offers education and training to specialists in the social sciences and also offers research activity and publications related to philosophy, sociology, political sciences, psychology, pedagogy and social work. FSS is recognised as the first institution in the history of Albanian higher education to have prepared the first experts in Social Work, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences. The scientific activity in FSS is of an applicable nature and focuses on social studies, psychological studies and education issues, which are of interest to the Albanian society.

The Mission of FSS is:

- To train specialists and new researchers who are high education graduates in the fields of philosophy, sociology, physiology, teacher education and social work.
- To develop guidelines, research and other service activities in the framework of preparing and training qualified specialists.
- To undertake applied scientific and theoretical work and research and convey these findings to the Albanian environment.
- To lead the post-university scientific qualification.
- To act as a social factor in the democratization of the Albanian society.

The Faculty of Social Sciences is composed of the following Departments: Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, Department of Philosophy, Department of Sociology, Department of Political Sciences and Department of Social Work.

The Department of Social Work aims to train professional social workers, practitioners and academics, who practice social work with individuals, groups and community and offer expertise in scientific research and in the establishment of the social institutions at the local and national level.

Currently, the Department of Social Work offers programmes at all levels of university studies:

- First level university diploma in Social Work and Social Policy Administration,
- Second level university diploma in Social Work - Community Development, Social Work - Social Policy, Social Work – Clinical Practice, and second level diploma in Gender and Development,
- Master degree in Social Work and Social Policy Analysis and
- PhD level studies.

The Faculty of Social Sciences offers PhD programmes in the following fields:

1. PhD in Pedagogy;
2. PhD in Psychology;
3. PhD in Philosophy;
4. PhD in Sociology;
5. PhD in Social Work.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has a strong potential for doing research as well as involving young researchers in scientific projects. Even though most of the staff members of this faculty have high potential for research, the research conducted at the university level is limited. The Faculty publishes various publications, textbooks and a periodical journal.

Many professors of the Faculty of Social Sciences have contributed (and are still contributing) to the research conducted by the local and/or international organizations in Albania. This involvement has provided the university professors with the opportunity to undertake social research and conduct analysis using their academic background. Through this process they have identified the most relevant issues for the Albanian society, and recommended the best ways to address them. At the same time, the students of the Faculty of Social Sciences have been more exposed to the new developments of the social research in Albania, not only through the experience of their professors, but also through their own internships in different institutions working on the social field agencies and/or being involved in different research activities.

At every level of their study, the FSS students have to work on and submit diploma thesis in order to graduate. Thus, they have to conduct scientific work (depending also on their level of study). There is a high potential for these students to get involved in the social research at the local and national level. FSS has a good experience in promoting quality work by their students in social sciences.

European University of Tirana (private university)

The European University of Tirana²² was licensed by the Ministry of Education and Science and the decision of the Council of Ministers, dated 20.09.2006. It is composed of the following faculties: Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication and Faculty of Law. The Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication is divided further into two departments: Department of Political Sciences and International Relations and Department of Journalism and Communication. The Faculty of Law is also divided into two departments: Department of Civil and Public Law and Department of Penal Law. The University's program is integrated and interdisciplinary. The program is structured according to the Bologna system 3+2 years.

The role of the academic staff within the university is not limited to teaching, but it involves a considerable amount of the research work. Three scientific journals are published by the university: POLIS for the Faculty of Social Sciences, ECONOMICUS for the Faculty of Economics and JUS & JUSTICIA for the Faculty of Law. It has been observed that these journals serve as forums for the scientific work of the academic staff and other national and international scholars. Within UET, there are functional "scientific research groups" led by professors that hold at least the title of Doctor of Science. These groups conduct research work on various topics which relate to the fields of studies within UET. At the beginning of 2009, two Scientific Institutes were established, one related to Social and Political Sciences and the other to Contemporary History. Also within the Faculty of Law, a Research Centre has been established, called "Law-Norm-Tradition."

UET (UET press) publications are divided into two categories: the first category incorporates university publications, which bring into the Albanian language contemporary texts books that are currently used in the best western universities. For instance, UET has an agreement in place with Oxford University Press in England and Mc Graw Hill in Canada. Twenty books from these series have been published until now. The second category incorporates publications, research literature and monographs authored by Albanian scholars from UET or other institutions. So far 5 new titles have been published and 20 others are in the process of publication.

²² The information was based on an interview with the UET's professor, Enri Hide.

Marin Barleti University (MBU)

Upon the decision No. 2365, dated 12.04.2006, the Ministry of Education and Science approved the establishment of two new Faculties at MBU offering 6 courses of study: the Faculty of Economics and Business with its respective branches in Business Management and Finance-Accounting and the Faculty of Humanities (Human Sciences) with its respective branches in Law, Political Sciences, Sociology and Psychology. The Faculty of Humanities is composed of five departments: Department of Modern languages, Department of Law; Department of Political Sciences, Department of Psychology and Department of Sociology.

The Department of Sociology offers contemporary studies in the field of sociolinguistics for all the students who aim at a career in the public and private sector, as future qualified employees of the public administration and other governmental agencies, independent academic institutions, consulting agencies, research centres, international institutions or non-governmental organizations.

2.3.1 Identified Problems

Apart from the overall identified need for more intensive research activity, other additional problems identified by some of the surveyed university representatives were:

- ⊕ Lack of infrastructure, in terms of premises available to conduct research work, as well as indispensable technical equipment (computer labs, printers, photocopies, overhead projectors, etc.). This is the case with public universities.
- ⊕ Shortage in the number of full-time academic personnel, as a result of the refusal of the Ministry of Education to endorse additionally needed academic personnel (this is the case with public universities). Based on the existing legislation on Higher Education,²³ the total number of the academic staff in

²³ Articles 47 and (paragraph 4&5) Article 69, Law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

each higher education public institutions should be approved by the Minister of Science and Education, whereas, the respective remuneration is defined by a decision of the Council of Ministers. At this point, the officials of higher education institutions are allowed only to make decisions related to the personnel's structure and organization.

- ✦ Lack of funds for the development of scientific research activities.
- ✦ The social sciences university professors have been mainly engaged in establishing new branches, designing new programmes, curricula and classes in the field of social sciences, which is a relatively new course of study in Albania compared to other fields of study.
- ✦ Low salaries of the professors (at the public universities) and the fact that research was not considered part of their contribution to the university (only teaching was) has led many of them to conduct independent social research in cooperation with the local and/or international civil society organizations and not as a part of the university.
- ✦ Limited opportunities for further qualification of the academic staff, especially in advanced studies, for PhD programmes and experience exchange with similar universities abroad.

2.4. *Non-profit Organizations and Think-Tanks*

For the purpose of this assessment, a number of think-tanks, NGOs and policy research organizations were selected and inquired through questionnaires to offer their input to the assessment (*Refer to Annexes for details*). In order to have as broad-based representation as possible, three criteria were considered: thematic focus, geographic coverage and recognition of the organizations in the policy making circles. Besides the questionnaires, the assessment was also based on desk research, reviewing the websites of

recognized think-tanks in Albania, as well as conducting interviews with their respective representatives.

Even though think-tanks are organizations which do most of the research in the third sector in Albania, other NGOs that do not necessarily have an exclusive research profile were chosen for the assessment. The reason for this is because in Albania the NGOs' attempt to conduct research in their areas of expertise and already built up their profile. Thus, it is more and more a recurrent event that an NGO serves as both a “do-tank” and a think-tank on very specific topics. Such is the case with Amaro Drom - minority rights organization; CRCA - children's rights organization or REC Albania - dealing with environmental issues. However, there are also think-tanks that have already established themselves as expert organizations in certain fields and are regularly invited by both the government and the donors to jointly participate in specific projects, as it is the case of Co-PLAN, Institute for the Development of Habitat, IDM (Institute for Democracy and Mediation) with a relevant expertise in EU issues, Security Affairs and Good Governance, ISB (Institute of Contemporary Studies), Albanian Institute of Sociology, Gender Alliance for Development Center, Agenda, etc.

The Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania/Defence for Children International (CRCA/DCI Albania) is a major children's rights organization established in Tirana since 1997. CRCA works to promote respect of children's rights, to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, to develop children's rights in Albania and to increase child participation at the national and local level. CRCA works through lobby and advocacy, policy and legislation improvement, capacity building, information and research, and establishment of good models of child care and protection services. Research is another strong tool of CRCA/DCI Albania's work. Over the years, they have become one of the major research centres in the country concerned with children's rights. They are capable of supplying data, evidence and analysis on how children's rights are being addressed by institutions and society, on what children's concerns and expectations are, on how children's needs are reflected in governmental policies and its budget, and on what the outcomes of such policies are. CRCA intends to strengthen the scope and capacities of the research team, with more senior researchers from the University of Tirana and other universities, in order to make research an influencing tool for future policies and legislative change.

AGENDA Institute is a non-profit organization that aims at bringing to the market findings, research and analysis to enable a better understanding of the public policies. It produces and publishes analysis that sustainably help the creation of a good spirit of public debate on issues related to Good Governance, European Integration and European Neighbourhood Policy, and Economic and Social Development policies in the country. AGENDA is careful in balancing its activities between academic research and engagement in the public debates, in order to assist the improvement of policy-making at all levels. AGENDA aims to facilitate the formation of public opinion and certain groups of interest. AGENDA plays a crucial role in the development of democratic processes, providing recommendations on a series of issues related to public policies based on analysis and research. Being a think-tank type of organization, it is lead by the rational persuasion and transparency in the communication of its findings and recommendations. AGENDA has established collaboration with similar organizations in the region and Europe. Many of the current phenomena related to politics, law, EU integration, economy and society, cannot be

fully analyzed without placing them in the regional, European and sometimes transatlantic context, and without conducting a joint analysis and research.

AGENDA publishes its opinion in form of “policy briefs”, maintaining a certain position regarding issues related to its field of expertise. It attempts to promote novelties through its continuously published studies and observations on its own strategic objectives that have been made public.

Co-PLAN - Institute for the Development of Habitat was founded in 1995. Co-PLAN is a non-profit organization that contributes to sustainable development by enabling good urban and regional governance, tackling key environmental issues, developing civil society and promoting community participation. Co-PLAN works in the areas of urban, regional, municipal, and environmental management and institutional development. Co-PLAN has contributed to the Albanian social and economic development in low-income neighbourhoods, the empowerment of local governments through decentralization policies, the improvement of service delivery, the efficient use of resources and the participatory governance through workshops, training, seminars, conferences and publications. Co-PLAN plays a significant role as an intermediary body bringing together various Albanian institutions and it is an active player in the national and international networks focused on good urban governance practices. Co-PLAN works closely with the local and central government institutions and has influenced policy making at both levels. Co-PLAN has made important policy contributions in the area of urban development. It organizes national and international conferences and seminars and publishes a number of research papers and publications.

Apart from the participatory processes and bottom-up approaches to problem solving, Co-PLAN has dedicated substantial efforts to ongoing research activities as a key component for generating relevant know-how. Initially, Co-PLAN’s research initiatives aimed at assessing needs and designing planning instruments and projects informed by local context. At a second stage, complementary research activities were undertaken in order to generate more comprehensive knowledge of local urban settings and to inform important municipal decision making processes. In 2008, Co-PLAN signed a partnership with and became a part

of POLIS University, which specializes in architecture and urban planning and which originally grew out of the Co-PLAN organization. This mutually beneficial partnership provides Co-PLAN with an opportunity to strengthen its policy and academic research profile.

IDM (Institute for Democracy and Mediation) was founded in November 1999. It is an independent, non-governmental organization working to strengthen the civil society, to analyze and improve Albania's integration processes, to assist the reforming and consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy-making processes through expertise, innovative policy research, capacity building, analysis and assessment-based policy options.

IDM consists of three core departments/programme areas:

Research and Innovation Initiative (RII), which represents a cross-cutting scheme involving the Institute's policy analysts, programme managers and selected associates in permanent consultations and joint efforts with the goal of developing innovative proposals which will advance the IDM's performance and quality of services within the existing areas of expertise and expand the focus of work to respond to the forthcoming challenges. In addition to these tasks, RII provides guidance, support and expertise to the Institute's efforts to influence policy agenda/policy making processes through the preparation of various policy documents and the design of the framework of instruments, which are necessary for successful advocacy of policy options among decision makers, expert community, interest groups and the public at large.

Local Governance and Community Development - DM's vision under this programme area is to promote civic participation in the local decision making processes and increase the accountability of decision making actors at local level vis-à-vis the citizenry.

Centre for Security Studies (CSS) represents IDM's specialized research unit, whose activities are conducted by experienced researchers and scholars with the aim to promote excellence of research, studies, policy options and security sector reforming processes. The security sector governance and oversight, the challenges to EU & NATO integration, as well as opportunities of regional cooperation, constitute the core focus of the centre.

In almost a decade of experience (since 1999), IDM has continuously provided qualitative expertise, guidance and advice to key public, civic and private stakeholders in the region, based on comprehensive analysis and evidence-based data generated through research in a number of areas.

Albanian Institute of Sociology (AIS) is a non-governmental non-profit membership based organization. Some of the main AIS's objectives are as follows: a) to stimulate the development of the theoretical, critical, applied, empiric and policy sociology; the development of the public sociology and its special disciplines, such as political sociology, culture and art sociology, family sociology, urban or rural sociology; the development of craft and profession, education and socio-economics; b) to coordinate and stimulate the scientific activity of the researchers in this area, to stimulate the scientific and academic investigation and debate; c) To stimulate the susceptibility of the Albanian public opinion and other state and social institutions on different social phenomena and suggest solutions of public interest; d) to become a source of encouragement for the researchers in sociology, mostly for the young ones; e) to stimulate the establishment of the scientific values and contribution level and sponsor the scientific research in sociology; f) to establish a scientific research network in the field of sociology in Albania and among Albanian researchers, despite where they work or live, thus, aiming to include all researchers in sociology or the potential ones, without any distinction, i.e. personal convictions, political party affiliation, gender, religious or ethnic belonging. AIS's activity is focused specially on following elements: studying-researching-edition, communicating-debating including integration and learning-training-education.

AIS is focused on: a) scientific studies in sociology; b) scientific activities (symposiums, seminars, conferences, debating, round tables, etc.) on sociological topics; c) academic and public lectures on social issues concerning society; d) short-term and medium-term training courses to further professional and scientific education; e) scientific coordination of the public and non-public universities, organizations, associations and other Albanian or foreign institutions; f) membership in international scientific sociological

institutions; g) editing of books and magazines focusing on sociology or sociology-related sciences.

Since 2000, AIS has been publishing “Politics & Society” biannually. Recently, the name of this publication was changed to “Social Studies” and continues to be published at least twice per year.

European Movement in Albania (EMA) is a think tank devoted to improving the quality of the debate on the European Integration process. EMA was founded in February 2007 and registered in May 2007, in response to Albania’s increased efforts to speed-up the process of preparing for EU accession. EMA regards European Integration as largely beneficial, but recognizes that in many respects the process does not work well. EMA, therefore, aims to promote new ideas for improving the policy development process. EMA is a forum for exchanging views on political, economic and social challenges that Albania is facing. Therefore, EMA is devoted to encouraging and strengthening the present democratic experiences, by promoting democratic values in the policy making process, analysis and implementation of the public policies in the country. It attempts to make the policy making process more transparent and open and also responsive to the public interest, offering alternative suggestions based on research.

Considering the needs and challenges of the Albanian society in this transformation process, as well as EMA’s goals, its work is focused on: policy research, analysis, advice and advocacy; capacity building and training; public debates and policy forums; development of monitoring indicators on certain issues of significant importance for the public.

Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC) - The Gender Alliance for Development Center, GADC (previously known as the Women’s Center) was established in 1994. GADC aims at creating equal opportunities between the sexes through gender-sensitive information, studies, research, advocacy, lobbying and training courses from a gender perspective. As one of the few organizations in Albania working in the area of gender mainstreaming, and in particular in the preparation of manuals, analysis of strategies and a series of other civic programmes on how gender can be mainstreamed into various areas, GADC uses a variety of tools to reach its objective, namely raising-awareness campaigns,

advocacy and lobbying for the promotion of gender equality. Advocacy and lobbying aim to improve the gender balance in decision making and employment and also provoke reactions toward discrimination of women or violations of their rights, aiming at eliminating the patriarchal relations characteristic for the Albanian society. The organization's work and activities aim to bring about positive changes and empowerment of women. In the last years, GADC has focused its efforts on the gender analysis of the policies, programmes and strategies that are implemented in Albania. This work focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of policies from a gender-based perspective. Moreover, it encourages the compilation of policies and strategies that are gender-sensitive. Recommendations and guidelines to policy-makers are part of the work and that is accomplished through public debates, lobbying and advocacy. GADC has conducted several researches on women/gender issues in Albania.

ISB (Institute of Contemporary Studies) is an independent non-profit research and policy institute founded in 1995. ISB provides decision-makers with technical advice regarding policy alternatives and acts as an advocate for the implementation of the policies it recommends. Both high-level policy-makers and grass roots are targeted by ISB and its ideas, recommendations, consultancy and training services are in high demand in Albania. ISB is currently one of the most active of Albania's independent non-governmental organizations. Its success is attributed to the high quality of its technical advice, impartiality, civic responsibility and the outstanding ability to build strategic coalitions. ISB engages 15 full-time staff members and more than 120 associated senior and junior consultants and trainers. It has established cooperative partnerships with many local and national NGOs and with international technical partners and receives financial support from various donors for project financing and consulting services. ISB's activities are focused on two main areas: a) economic and social development policies; b) democratic institution building and good governance. These intensive activities are managed successfully through quality products, impartiality, public responsibility and strategic coalitions.

Albanian Institute of Public Opinion Studies (IPOS) is a national non-profit organization carrying out studies on social issues, trainings and social services. It was established on 27 November 1998. The goal of the institute is to create a public awareness

and responsiveness towards social issues in Albanian society, to study and establish social policies, and also encourage the interest of institutions/actors in the field. The objectives of the Institute are: 1) to study and to recommend social policies; 2) to raise awareness of other interested institutions in the social field; 3) to train the interested individuals and groups; 4) to offer other social services to individuals, groups and the community. The main areas on which IPOS focuses its work are: a) research, b) training and c) policies and analysis.

Albanian Centre for Economic Research (ACER) - Established in November 1992, the Albanian Centre for Economic Research is Albania's first independent non-governmental organization dedicated to the values of democracy and market economy. ACER has undertaken research, policy analysis and advocacy in support of the small and medium-size enterprises and non-governmental and private sector development during the democratic transition. ACER has been active in research identification and execution, information publication and dissemination throughout the public opinion exchange, aiming: a) to strengthen the parliamentary democracy and private entrepreneurship in Albania; b) to encourage the wide-scale recognition of classical liberal values by Albanian society. Initially, the Centre's profile was rather broadly defined and covered a range of projects in the area of economic research, East European studies and publishing books. This thematic diversity was important to maintain a broad spectrum of research orientations, in order to strengthen the overall institutional capacity of the Centre. The diversification of its interests was the first step in the process of a search for identity, which later turned out to provide longer-term benefits. By 1996 ACER had assumed a prominent position among the Albanian NGO community. Today ACER's work is focused mainly on economic growth, institutional and regulatory framework reform and Albania's complex informal economy.

Amaro Drom. The Union of Albanian Roma - Amaro Drom was founded in 1996 by a group of Roma intellectuals and it is a non-profit organisation. The Union works in the development, emancipation and education area, by supporting the Roma tradition and culture in Albania. The Union has 22 branches and 7 sub-branches, located all over the country, where the Roma community live. The mission of the Union is: a) the protection of the identity and rights of the Roma community in Albania; b) promotion of the training and education level of the Roma community; c) improvement of the social and economic

conditions; d) integration of the Roma community in the Albanian society. To accomplish its mission, Amaro Drom supports and conducts various activities, such as training, seminars, round tables, research and study and organizes conferences; organizes awareness and advertising campaigns and provides expertise, information dissemination, publications and consultancy in various fields concerned with Roma issues.

The Urban Research Institute (URI) is a non-profit policy research organization established as a legal entity in Tirana in May 1999. URI headquarter is based in Tirana and most of its work is carried out throughout Albania. The organization was established as a partnership of professionals and experts with like-minded ideas and ambitions. URI investigates the social and economic problems the nation is facing with and also analyses government policies and public and private programmes designed to alleviate them. Some of URI recent work includes: a) provision of trainings and guidance to various local governments throughout Albania in the area of community development, citizens engagement, strategic planning and participatory budgeting; b) facilitation of discussions and strategies in the areas of fiscal decentralization and delineation of responsibilities; c) development of indicators and performance measures for public service delivery and community infrastructure projects; d) rating of physical conditions of schools and development of standards for safe and healthy schools; e) setting-up of anti-corruption program for several municipalities, standardizing procedures, establishing Information Centres and start-up information channels between municipalities and their citizens.

The National Centre for Social Studies (NCSS) is a non-governmental organization, non profitable and non political, established in 1998, offering alternative and independent social policy analysis and recommendations. The centre engages in advanced analytical research and draws upon its continuously expanding portfolio of state-of-the-art research methods. NCSS is one of the leading local actors working on social policy and research in Albania. It cooperates closely with donors as well as leverages with government and civil society actors, to monitor and revise social protection policies and to place evidence-based information in the public domain for greater participation by a wider range of actors. The Centre's audience consists of academics, policy makers, public officials and business leaders. The NACSS has the following areas of expertise: a) research and

evaluation; b) reforming the public system; c) providing strategic consulting; d) transforming Neighbourhoods; e) providing training/teaching; f) providing social and other services.

Advanced Study Center (ASC) is an organization that has been established in December 2005. The main goal of the organization is to “raise public awareness on various socio-economic issues with the ultimate goal of the further development of the country”. This will be made possible through: a) undertaking various initiatives and research on socio-economic issues, such as gender issues, poverty, education, employment, internal migration and statistical information, issues that have become of crucial importance in the post 1990s Albania; b) producing different publications focused on the presentation and analysis of crucial socio-economic issues of the Albanian society, publications that also introduce other countries’ experiences (publications, periodicals and reports will also serve as discussion forums for specialists and other interested individuals); c) initiating and organizing debates, trainings and conferences on its own or in cooperation with other national and international organizations, in order to raise and analyze socio-economic issues of common interest that would be of high importance for the Albanian society, but also for the region and further; d) initiating, developing and strengthening the cooperation with other organizations in Albania and abroad.

General analysis of assessment regarding NGO sector in Albania

When asked about their primary activities, most of the enquired NGOs consider advocacy and trainings/technical assistance offered to various target groups as their most important activity. Other key activities prioritized by them are also research on policies, as well as academic research. Whereas, in terms of the focus of their research activities, they rank **development as the most frequent topic, followed by social policies or/and educational policies**. Also **politics and governance** take a significant place in the NGO research so far.

In terms of the impact of their research activities, most of the NGOs inquired through the questionnaires and interviews state that despite their dynamic activities in terms of both research product size and related quality, they still find their impact limited, especially when it comes to government decision making. The questionnaire used with NGOs for this

assessment reveals that of 22 interviewed NGOs only 2 of them state to have a high impact through their advocacy at the government decision making level. Whereas, most of the NGOs, 7 of 22 admit to have some medium level influence on the central government decision making, and few of them, 4 of 22 rank their impact as low or completely lacking.

However, the indicators of the questionnaire show that there is a change when NGOs' impact on the public opinion is concerned. In this case the impact they have is higher. Eight of 22 NGOs state to have a high impact on public opinion; 6 of them consider their impact of medium level, and only 1 of them states to have a very low if no impact on the public opinion.

As for the means and approaches used by the NGOs to advocate various policies and related research, most of them (12 of 22) rank media as the key communication tool. The second most used approach to advocating is the direct interaction with policy makers (government, parliament, etc.). Ten of 22 NGOs state that. It is impressive that only 9 of 22 enquired NGOs declare using their own policy reports or other publications as tools to conduct policy advocacy. This, as also mentioned above, is very indicating for the limited impact that research activities and products have on decision making.

2.4.1 Funding

Some consolidated NGOs and think tanks have regular donors that fund their activities or offer institutional support funds, which help them to build the capacity of their staff and expand their activities. However, still the main method of acquiring project funds is the application to a public announcement (call for proposals). Their work and activities are mainly depending on international donors.

Chapter 3: Research in Social Sciences - Analysis of the Research Activities in Social Sciences

This chapter will focus on the quality and capacities for research in social sciences in Albania. In particular, it highlights the human capacities involved in the research in social

sciences and also provides a general assessment of the current situation and the identified issues that relate to the research in social sciences in the country.

Research in social sciences in Albania is relatively new and mainly developed after the 1990s. This means that the transition period that the Albanian society has gone through has created the need for social research, but at the same time has impacted the quantity and quality of research as well. Albania, as a country that has gone through rapid changes over a 20 year period, can be considered as a “social laboratory”. There is an increasing trend among universities, as well as NGOs and research organizations, to involve as many post-university qualified staff as possible. In the case of the third sector, this consists mainly of the growing will of the NGO representatives to engage academics in their staff and related research activities. For instance, besides the full-time staff, most NGOs have also their pool of experts, mainly consisting of MA or PhD academics that can provide qualified expertise on specific issues. This is becoming a common practice especially in the NGO sector, which without the possibility to have a full-time staff of academics has chosen to outsource external experts. This as such, reflects also the emerging of trend of freelancers, who are young and highly qualified academics or professionals with expertise in specific issues. However, NGOs do have highly qualified members within their staff as well. From the survey developed with the NGOs, it results that all NGOs have on average at least one member of their full-time staff, who is either a PhD graduate or PhD candidate.²⁴ The same applies more or less also for the part-time staff. The number of the Master graduates is higher than the PhDs. The full-time and part-time NGOs' staff comprises an average of 2-3 members holding an MA degree. The same average number of staff applies also, when it comes to other professional qualifications. There is not much discrepancy in the distribution between those who have graduated from the Albanian universities and the ones who have graduated abroad. The average number of those who have graduated in Albania is 1 per NGO as compared to 2 per NGO in the case of those who have graduated abroad.

²⁴ This figure was calculated by dividing the total number of PhD-holder members with the number of the NGOs that were part of the survey, by so revealing an average number of the PhD members per NGO. However, there are NGOs that might not have a PhD member at all in their staff, as there are also others that might have more than one. The same calculation applies also to the other figures disclosing the MA members and other professional qualifications.

Contrary to the NGOs or research associations at large, which establish criteria for recruitment based on the will to have highly qualified members in their staff, higher education institutions, both public and private are bound by law to fulfill specific criteria in terms of their academic staff qualifications. Standards, criteria and procedures for opening, transforming or closing down higher education institutions are approved by the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Ministry of Education and Science. The evaluation of the study programmes and curricula is carried out by the Council of Accreditation of Higher Education.²⁵ In this framework, universities have a legal obligation to include in their academic staffs pre-established numbers of MA and PhD academics.

As far as the English language is concerned, there is a high number of people who speak and write English fluently, working both at universities and organizations carrying out research. If we are to analyze the questionnaire answered by the NGOs, around 10 people per NGO speak and write English. The figures are adequate if we take into account that especially among NGOs English is the language of the business.

Through the interviews conducted with a number of NGO representatives and university academics with the goal of analyzing research activities, stakeholders came up also with drawbacks in the area of research and identified basis for improvement. The following is an assessment of the main findings related to social research capacities, as described by Albanian policy research organizations that participated in this survey, as well as university academics and scholars:²⁶

²⁵ Article 42, Law No. 9741, dated 21. 5. 2007, *On Higher Education*.

²⁶ The information for this session was drawn from interviews conducted with stakeholders.

- ✦ Lack of or limited funds for scientific research
- ✦ Chaotic market of researchers in the field of social sciences
- ✦ Lack of cooperation with the government
- ✦ Lack of cooperation between NGOs and research associations
- ✦ Lack of a local agenda by NGOs, which prioritizes social research projects, due to the overdependence on funds by the other international organizations
- ✦ Need for improved human capacities that can do research in the social sciences
- ✦ Insufficient infrastructure (mainly in higher education institutions) to conduct research
- ✦ Fragmentation of social research projects
- ✦ Insufficient attention by the government, in terms of support and recognition, towards independent scientific research

3.1. *Other Research Programmes*

The Brain Gain programme has been set-up by the Albanian Government (60%) in cooperation with UNDP (40%) in April 2006 and will last until 2010. The Brain Gain Programme created 550 vacancies in higher education and scientific research institutions. To date, 82 assistant lecturers and lecturers holding MA or PhD degrees have qualified and have been hired, on the basis of open competition, at the public and private universities. The programme is assisting Diaspora's scientists who would like to return to Albania and it is a link between the institutions and individuals. The Brain Gain programme serves as a good tool for formulating policies that targets the education system and public administration. The programme will impact the sustainable employment structures, by offering training programmes to public administration and management and promoting incentives to universities at the public administration level. The objective of the Brain Gain is to create favourable conditions to prevent the brain drain phenomenon, to frame the policies that trigger engagement of the diaspora in the scientific programmes in Albania and to build

framing models of competition for positions in higher education. The programme is also promoting the educational reform applied in the universities. The main partners in the programme implementation are the Council of Minister, MoES, ONE UN, IOM, students' organisation and diaspora organisations.

All Albanian state universities participated in the **Tempus programme** from 1992 to 1999. Tempus played a vital role in bringing the academic community into the European network of higher education institutions, mainly by supporting, re-training and upgrading the skills of the academic staff (70%- 80% of the academic staff have re-trained abroad through Tempus). Tempus has also been crucial in supporting the reform process and in the development of the capacities of the universities to upgrade the institutional management. Since 2000, there have been study programmes covering the agricultural, environmental sciences, geology, engineering, natural sciences, nursing, tourism and cultural heritage areas. Lifelong learning courses have been developed for areas such as civil society, environmental policy, transport policy, public administration reform, public health, law and teacher training. Information management systems, institutional evaluation, continuous education and development of university strategic plans have also been supported through the Tempus programme.

Tempus has contributed to the harmonisation of higher education in terms of the development of a unified curriculum, with 70% of higher education institutions stating that over half of their curricula comply with the Bologna criteria due to Tempus's assistance. Curriculum development projects also support the development and introduction of credit and accumulation systems into the Albanian education institutions. Tempus has provided opportunities for improving soft skills and acquiring knowledge on new or various processes, and work is now also commencing on student' assessment methods. The programme has also been highly effective in developing human resources and in building capacities in public administration, civil society and NGOs. Moreover, it led to a greater cooperation, not just through Tempus, but more importantly, at the national level.

INTERREG, a European programme, which aims at encouraging regional cooperation in the Western Balkan countries, is another example of good interregional, cross-

border and transnational cooperation. These are examples of good practice in stimulating interregional cooperation, which should increase in the future with the increased EU cooperation. Using the potential of existing bilateral R&D co-operation links is very important for the success of the SEE-ERA.NET project. SEE-ERA.NET aims to improve these links among partners and countries, to strengthen the international and European focus of R&D in the Western Balkans, to improve the competitiveness of these countries in general and to support the continuous integration into the EU institutions.

FP7 - 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007 to 2013. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life. The money provided under this program will (for the most part) be spent on grants to research actors all over Europe and beyond, in order to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects. Grants are determined on the basis of calls for proposals and a peer review process, which are highly competitive. In order to complement national research programmes, activities funded by FP7 must have a “European-added value.” One key aspect of the European added value is the transnationality of many actions: research projects are carried out by consortia, which include participants from different European (and other) countries. But within FP7 there is also a new action for “individual teams” with no obligation for trans-national cooperation. In this case, the “European-added value” lies in raising the competition level between scientists in fundamental “frontier” research, from the national to the European level. As a general principle, FP7 is open to participation from any country in the world. Albania is part of the International Cooperation Partner Countries (e.g. Russia and other Eastern European and Central Asian states, developing countries, Mediterranean partner countries and Western Balkan countries). Participants from these countries are entitled to funding under the same conditions as the EU Member States. The only restriction for them is that consortia must first have the required minimum number of participants from the Member States or associated countries.

Chapter 4: Recommendations

Implementation of the national policy framework

The implementation of the National Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation 2009-2015 needs to establish a set of harmonized indicators for each activity based on the mid-term budget for each implementing institution. The research institution system has inherited many small and unnecessary units, in which research policy continues to demonstrate in many cases lack of adaptation to the new economic situation. The research centres at universities still haven't specified their function, funding schemes and how a researcher might contribute to them. They lack personnel and quality and quantity standards for evaluating the institutions and their scientific work.

The Academy of Sciences should function as an independent entity and serve as the National Research Centre. Academic freedom is one of the main challenges that the Academy of Sciences and all other research institutes should develop and strengthen further. The scientific community should create a network of research institutions and the administrative dependency from the different ministries should not be a limitation for receiving support from international programmes.

The Albanian government and international donors should support long-term social research projects which will research not only the existing social problems, but also the future development.

Establishment of a national centre for social research

This centre should become a model of the research in social sciences in Albania. It will work on defining standards and scientific criteria in undertaking social research. It will coordinate efforts in addressing different social issues, avoiding overlapping and/or creating a gap in the research area.

The establishment of a gender disaggregated database (electronically and hard copy) dedicated to research conducted individually and/or at the institutional level should serve as a starting point for identifying the areas and problem studies, the existing gaps, as well as for

supporting further research. Gender sensitive approach on social research would ensure deep and analytical approach in addressing social issues from women and men perspectives.

Institutional support for developing research in social sciences

Development of research in social sciences could be assisted through educational and infrastructural support to the universities, organizations and institutions that have the research capacities and expertise. Through this support, it would be possible for the social research to become an important factor that would help the policy-making process to be more effective and efficient. The funding of research projects and the capacity building of the young researchers through workshops and awards, would contribute significantly to the further development of the research in social sciences. The capacities of the social researchers will be increased by overcoming cultural and organizational barriers in their work.

Budgeting for social research activities at all universities and in particular at all social research centres, budgeting for scientific publications, as well as journals, magazines, books and the further development of research methodology curricula at all faculties (at all levels of university education) focusing on applied social sciences would create a greater opportunity for the development of the social sciences in Albania.

Encouragement of scientific research in social sciences through standards and quality will provide positive models for young scientists. At the same time, this is a key element in designing efficient and sustainable social policies.

Developing the capacities of the young researchers

The education system should create an environment that triggers curiosity for science in young people by reinforcing science education at all levels. Mechanisms should be established to attract young people to scientific careers, in order to develop their capacities through workshops and seminars, as well as through involving them in scientific projects and research. Providing continuous qualification for researchers should be based on their needs and qualifications and can be achieved through mentoring and coaching from more

experiences researchers. “The Excellence Fund,” as one of the main supportive events to PhD studies abroad, should continue its activity that can contribute significantly to increase the capacities of the social researchers.

Further inclusion of research projects in the study programmes at universities, accompanied by the practice of involving students as researchers, will enable generation of researchers in social sciences. Mentoring and coaching of new social researchers could be established and developed as a way to develop capacities of new researchers.

Researchers’ collaboration and communication can be established through enhanced links amongst social scientists and can also be supported through information exchange among the new scientists.

Establishing the Albanian Award of Excellence in social sciences

Establishment of an Excellence Award can contribute significantly to the encouragement and support of the social sciences research development in Albania. The best research conducted by an individual and/or institution should be awarded annually (or every two years). An encouraging award could be given to the best research conducted by a student.

Institutionalizing the link between social research and policy making

Currently, the Albanian society is facing numerous social problems, which need not only to be studied but also to be addressed properly. The undertaking of effective, accountable and professional social research would generate benefits for the whole society.

Mechanisms should be established for integrating social sciences in society and policy making at local and central level.

Social research should not focus not only on the daily social problems but it should also provide information and generate among policy makers and businesses alike.

Social researchers should play and advisory role in the policy making process, in order to ensure that social research is incorporated in policies, programmes and projects that address the issues raised by them.

Gender research, including the integration of the gender dimension in all areas of research should be part of the social research that could provide a more analytical perspective of society.

Regional and international collaboration

Social problems that Albanian society is facing are very similar with the issues are societies in the region and beyond are facing. In this context establishing regional and international networks in sharing experiences and learning from each others experience might be an efficient approach to research social issues. Joint programs and/or initiatives, joint research projects might help further development of social research in respective countries. Organizing conferences, study visits, training and qualifications with research institutions in more developed countries, would develop capacities of research in social studies in Albania.

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<http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/news/68284.html>

Annexes

Annex I.

Table 1. State-Level Bodies

Institution	Competences
Council of Ministers	<p>Approves the scientific policies of Albania.</p> <p>It presents to the parliament the draft laws on scientific activities in the country and takes decisions on the establishment, dissolution and merging of research institutions.</p>
Council for Science Policy and Technological Development	<p>Chaired by the Prime Minister, it includes 15 members from the scientific community and governmental institutions.</p>
Council for Higher Education and Science	<p>Set up as an advisory body to MoES and to the Council of Ministers, its main role is to advise on strategies, policies and priorities related to education and research.</p>
Ministry of Education and Science	<p>Research and development in Albania falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry is the main governmental institution responsible for research and development. It is responsible for national programmes including financing and acts as the main consultant to the Government for the development policies.</p>
Academy of Sciences	<p>It operates through a selected community of scientists organized in sections. Currently, the role of the Academy is limited to a representative and advisory function with regards to science and no longer does it carry out any research per se. Aside from the advisory functions, the Academy continues to be involved in the management of the scientific publications, and hence bibliometrics on Albanian language journals, as well as in the promotion of</p>

	science through conferences or prize awarding.
Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)	<p>INSTAT is a key source of statistical information providing decisions makers, research and education in Albania, as well as the international community with relevant, reliable and comparable statistical information. Within INSTAT, a structure that would be responsible for social sciences research is lacking and the Department of Social Statistics is engaged only in the process of data-collection of social statistics through different national surveys, such as LFS, HSB, LSMS, ADHS, etc.</p>

Table 2. Entities part of the sample chosen for analysis through questionnaire and semi-structured interviews: (the following are those entities that have replied and filled in the questionnaire as well as agreed to be part of the semi-structured interviews)

Non-profit Institutions	Address
Institute for Contemporary Studies (ISB)	Str. Vaso Pasha 7, Tirana, Albania Tel: + 355 4 247146 http://www.ics-al.org
Institute for Democracy and Mediation	Str. Shenasi Dishnica Nr. 37, P. O. BOX:8177, Tirana, Albania Tel-Fax (++ 355 4) 2400640 www.idmalbania.org
Centre for Development and Democratization of Institutions	Str. Myslam Shyri, Pall7, Shkalla 4, Tirana Albania
Institute of Urban Studies	Str. Rreshit Petrela, Sek 1, Ap D Tirana, Albania Tel: 00355 4 256840 Fax: 00355 4 245546

	http://www.uri.org.al
Albanian Institute of Sociology	Str. Abdyl Frashëri, Pall. 3/3 Tirana, Albania Tel & Fax: ++ 355 (4) 268819 http://www.instituti-sociologjise.org
Albanian Centre for Population and Development	Bulevardi “Gjergj Fishta” Kompleksi “Tirana 2000,” Kulla IV P.O. Box 1783 Tirana, Albania Tel: +355-04-224-269 Fax: +355-04-251-475 http://www.acpd-al.org
Centre for Parliamentary Studies	Str. Sami Frasheri, Pallatet e Aviacionit , Nr 3/15 Tirana, Albania Tel & Fax:: +355 42240214 http://www.ascdpd.org
Co-PLAN, Institute for the Development of Habitat	Str. Vaso Pasha , Nr 20, PO BOX 2995 Tirana, Albania, Tel:+355 42257808 Fax: +355 42257807 http://www.co-plan.org
Children’s Rights Centre Albania (CRCA)	Pall Shallvareve, PO BOX: 1738, Tirana, Albania Tel&Fax: +3554 2242264 http://www.crca.org.al
Amaro Drom	Str.Sulejman Pasha, P.2 / Sh.3, Tirana,Albania Tel: +355 4 2231391

	+355 4 2248925 Fax: +355 4 2248925 http://www.unioniamarodrom.org
Advanced Study Centre	
Gender Alliance for Development Centre	Street: "Abdyl Frasherri", P.10/1, Ap.3, Shk.1, Tirana, Albania Tel: +355 42 255 514 Fax: +355 42 255 515 http://www.gadc.org.al
National Centre for Social Studies	Rr. Sulejman Delvina, P. 8 Ap 3 Tirana, Albania Tel: ++355 42 261646 Fax: ++ 355 42 261646 http://ncss-al.org
REC Albania	Str. Ismail Qemali, Nr 27, Tirana, Albania Po Box: 127, Tel & Fax: +355 42232928 http://www.rec.org
European Movement of Albania	Rr. Brigada VIII, Godina 1/3, Ap. 8. Tirana 1001 – Albania Tel & Fax: +355 (4) 2 253 184 www.em-al.org
Institute of Public Opinion Studies (ISOP)	Str. "Muhamet Gjolllesha" Pall: 5/241 Tirana, Albania Tel. +355-4-259-398 Fax. +355-4-259-406 www.isop.org.al
Youth in Free Enterprise	Kukes



Universities	Address
Aleksandër Moisiu University, Durrës (Public)	L.1, Rruga e Currilave, Durrës, Albania Tel: +355 52 239162 Fax: +355 52 239163 http://www.uamd.edu.al
Faculty of Social Sciences , University of Tirana (Public)	Sheshi "Nënë Tereza" Tirana, Albania Tel: + 355 4 222840 Fax: + 355 4 2223981 PO BOX Nr 183 www.unitir.edu.al
Luigj Gurakuqi University, Shkodra (Public)	www.unishk.edu.al
European University of Tirana (Private)	Bulevardi "Gjergj Fishta", Tirana, Albania Tel & Fax +355 4 2421806 http://www.uet.edu.al
Marin Barleti University (Private)	Str "Sami Frashëri", Nr. 41, Tirana, Albania Tel.: +355 4 22 40 706 Fax: +355 4 22 50 911 http://www.umb.edu.al



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Annex II

Questionnaire used for

The Assessment of Social Sciences Research Capacities in Albania

1. Full name of your organization and year of establishment:

2. Type of organization:
 - a. Private and independent
 - b. Part of a university
 - c. Affiliated with any political party or government

3. Primary activities of your organization (*choose up to three and rank them by importance*):
 - a. Academic research
 - b. Policy research
 - c. Advocacy, including public information
 - d. Training or technical assistance
 - e. Other (*please specify*)

4. Primary focus of your activities (*choose up to five and rank them by importance*):
 - a. Economics
 - b. Politics or governance
 - c. International relations
 - d. Law
 - e. Social or education policy
 - f. Public health
 - g. Development
 - h. Other (*please specify*)

5. Staff profile

	Full-time	Part-time
PhD or PhD-candidate		
Master's degree or equivalent		
PhD or MA from foreign university		

Professional qualification		
Other (<i>please specify</i>)		
Total		

6. Number of staff who speak and write fluent English:

7. Approximate budget

	2007	2008	2009 (projected)
	€	€	€
Of which direct program cost	€	€	€
Of which earmarked for social sciences research	€	€	€

8. Funding sources

		2007	2008	2009 (projected)
Governments	Domestic	€	€	€
	International	€	€	€
Foundations	Domestic	€	€	€
	International	€	€	€
Multilateral organizations (UN, World Bank etc.)		€	€	€
Corporate		€	€	€

9. If you do conduct policy advocacy (*see question 3*), what are your most important tools? Please explain your choice and give examples, where possible.

- a. Direct interaction with policymakers (government, parliament etc.)
- b. Media appearances (*please specify broadcast or print*) or reports

- c. Own policy reports or other publications
 - d. Other (*please specify*)
10. What impact does your advocacy have, in your view? (*rate 1 for high impact, 2 for some impact and 3 for little or no impact*) Please give examples where possible.
- a. On government decision making
 - b. On views held by the public
11. What are the three most important difficulties you anticipate to face in the next one or two years?