



FACTS

'EU for Innovation' seeks to improve the innovative ecosystem and boost the creation of start-ups in Albania through:

- Capacity development for innovation among innovation ecosystem actors (Result Area 1);
- Intensified linkages within the Albanian innovation ecosystem and internationally (Result Area 2);
- Funding for innovative start-ups and innovation support organisations/ providers (Result Area 3).

DETAILS

'EU for Innovation' in Albania is funded by the European Union with additional support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Swedish Government).

Project start/ end date: 01.10.2018 - 30.09.2022

Implementation Agencies: GIZ GmbH and Swedish Embassy Tirana

Implementing Partners: Ministry of Finance & Economy/ Minister of State for Protection of Entrepreneurship

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the project is working with three main stakeholder groups:

START-UPS



- start-ups and growing start-up companies

INNOVATION SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



- innovation support organisations (ISOs) (incubators, accelerators, research institutes and universities)

POLICY MAKERS



- government stakeholders and agencies



* DEFINING START-UPS

- AGE - younger than five/ three years depending on the sector
- INNOVATION - in product, service or business model
- AIM TO SCALE - potential to grow number of employees and/or markets operated in

* DEFINING INNOVATION

Innovation is a new idea, creative thoughts, new imaginations in form of device or method.

Innovation is often also viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs or existing market needs.

Result Area 1



Capacity development for start-ups & innovation ecosystem actors

Result Area 2



Intensified linkages & networks within the Albanian ecosystem & internationally

Result Area 3



Funding for innovative start-ups & innovation support organisations

Implemented by



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Provide support to innovative start-ups and growing businesses to further scale up their business and growth.
- Strengthen innovation support organisations (ISOs) in their efforts to support (aspiring) entrepreneurs in developing their business ideas and to support already existing businesses to scale.
- Support government stakeholders and institutions in their initiatives in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship policy making.

LINKAGES & NETWORKS

- Strengthen 'triple helix' linkages – amongst government, Innovation Support Organisations (ISOs) and start-ups – on a national, regional and international level.
- Facilitate inter-linkages, resulting in regular exchange and cooperation, are crucial for successful generation and application of knowledge and technologies, leading to economic growth and competitiveness.

CHALLENGE FUND

- Provide access to finance for innovative companies between 0-3 years, individuals or teams with an innovative idea, as well as for organisations engaged in services for innovative start-ups and promotion of the Albanian innovation system.

SUPPORT INITIATIVES

From the beginning of the project implementation period, 'EU for Innovation' has developed and carried out a number of support initiatives. Below only a small selection of interventions, that have targeted all innovation ecosystem stakeholders in Albania:

- GROWpreneur & Flexible Start-up Support Tirana
- Flexible Start-up Support Regional Editions (Vlora, Shkodra & Durres)
- Diaspora Mentoring Programme
- Connect IT
- Matchmaking & Exposure Programme for Start-ups
- Tirana Inc. - Multi-University Incubator
- Masterclasses 2.0: The Entrepreneurial University & Entrepreneurship Education
- Supporting government entities on drafting of a Start-up Law
- Regional Ecosystem Development (ICT Hub Korca)



More information on our official website: www.euforinnovation.al