



MATTERS OF FACT

10 capacity building grants were awarded to and implemented by local stakeholders that participated in the KRCBC Programme capacity building trainings

1 small-scale infrastructure intervention, with CBC potential, is being implemented by local stakeholders that participated in the KRCBC Programme capacity building trainings

Fully-equipped, staffed and trained regional and local CBC-like structures established and operational during and beyond the timeframe of the KRCBC Programme

60 participants from local government, non-government organizations and eligible local stakeholders trained in CBC initiative project preparation and project cycle management

3 information and partnership days organised in the Kukes region with the participation of relevant Kosovo and Montenegrin agencies

2 socio-cultural events with cross border impact conducted in the Kukes region

Information materials on project preparation and project cycle management focusing on CBC initiatives have been produced and distributed to local and regional stakeholders

Timeframe; September 2009 to April 2011



Photo: Small capacity building grants support, amongst others, the development of local enterprises in the Kukes region.

The Programme

The Kukes Region Cross Border Cooperation (KRCBC) Programme has strengthened the capacities of stakeholders in the Kukes region and developed an institutional framework preparing them for active participation in existing (Albania – Montenegro) and future (Albania – Kosovo) bilateral Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes. This unilateral Programme selected relevant local and regional stakeholders and assisted them in developing an institutional framework based on existing successful, formal bilateral CBC structures. This provided the foundation for a fully-fledged CBC Albania-Kosovo CBC initiative. Public awareness and capacity building to manage CBC programmes by local authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs) and any other relevant local stakeholders is the primary goal of the KRCBC Programme. A Kukes Region Monitoring Committee (KRMC) mirroring a formal CBC Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and a Kukes Region Technical Secretariat (KRTS) following the same structure of a formal CBC Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) were created to oversee and implement the Programme.

These agencies served as the foundation for the development of a formal bilateral Kukes region CBC programme operational structure. A major component of this programme was the development of a number of CBC related small-scale infrastructure interventions in order that newly-developed CBC capacities were realistically tested.

A partnership consisting of representatives from the European Union Delegation to Albania, UNDP Albania, the Ministry of European Integration (MEI) representing the Albanian Government, and the Kukes Regional Council serve to oversee the implementation of the KRCBC Project. This Steering Committee will be supported by a five-member UNDP KRCBC Project Management Team.

The Programme focuses on a number of sectors where CBC opportunities exist; specifically tourism and agriculture. Due to the Kukes Region's strategic location adjacent to Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia, tourism sector cross border cooperation initiatives are being pursued in conjunction with the Kukes Region Tourism and Environment Promotion (KRTEP) Project.

Who is Benefiting?

Communities from the Kukes region, related local government bodies and civil society organizations have directly benefited from KRCBC Programme's capacity building activities. Indirectly, neighbouring regions are being encouraged to exchange experiences and lessons learned, drawing upon the benefits from the achievements of this current initiative and creating networks to take advantage of a future bilateral Albania – Kosovo CBC initiative. Ultimately, all regional residents will profit from the development of future large-scale CBC initiatives providing socio-economic benefits toward improving their quality of life.

Achievements

- Operational structure established; staffed, equipped and trained to manage and implement formal bilateral CBC programmes
- Increased public awareness and participation of civil society and communities at large in CBC activities and programmes
- CBC-related capacity building grants and small-scale infrastructure interventions implemented by local stakeholders providing them with the required experience to undertake large bilateral CBC initiatives

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One UN Programme in Albania

The Cross border Cooperation programme is part of the One UN programme in Albania. Albania was selected, along with seven other countries, to test a worldwide programme of UN reform. The One UN Programme in Albania was signed on 24 October 2007. Led by the Government of Albania and building on the strengths and mandates of fourteen UN participating agencies, the One UN Programme aims to maximize the UN's impact in five main areas: more transparent and accountable governance; greater inclusive participation in public policy and decision-making; increased and more equitable access to quality basic services; regional development to reduce disparities; and environmentally sustainable development. Seven joint programmes are currently under implementation.



Photo: Representatives from local government, non-governmental organization and local stakeholders have been trained in CBC project preparation and project cycle management.

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