

# ALBANIA

## Albania: Youth Migration: Reaping the Benefits and Mitigating the Risks (MDGF- 1897)

*Youth, Employment and Migration*



<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>The programme is generally on-track, showing Important advances in most of the outputs of the programme. Some difficulties were experienced in establishing one of the regional Employment funds of outcome 2</p>																									
<p><b>Estimated financial execution status as of the June 30, 2011 biannual report:</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>TOTAL</th> <th>Transferred</th> <th>Committed</th> <th>Disbursed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-2</td> <td>3.310.000,00 (100,00%)</td> <td>1.435.605,00 (43,37%)</td> <td>775.723,00 (23,44%)</td> <td>444.435,00 (13,43%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-1</td> <td>3.310.000,00 (100,00%)</td> <td>1.455.609,00 (43,98%)</td> <td>1.028.256,00 (31,07%)</td> <td>759.853,00 (22,96%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2</td> <td>3.310.000,00 (100,00%)</td> <td>2.706.195,00 (81,76%)</td> <td>1.666.424,00 (50,35%)</td> <td>1.247.433,00 (37,69%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-1</td> <td>3.310.000,00 (100,00%)</td> <td>2.726.261,00 (82,36%)</td> <td>2.208.121,00 (66,71%)</td> <td>1.822.346,00 (55,06%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	TOTAL	Transferred	Committed	Disbursed	2009-2	3.310.000,00 (100,00%)	1.435.605,00 (43,37%)	775.723,00 (23,44%)	444.435,00 (13,43%)	2010-1	3.310.000,00 (100,00%)	1.455.609,00 (43,98%)	1.028.256,00 (31,07%)	759.853,00 (22,96%)	2010-2	3.310.000,00 (100,00%)	2.706.195,00 (81,76%)	1.666.424,00 (50,35%)	1.247.433,00 (37,69%)	2011-1	3.310.000,00 (100,00%)	2.726.261,00 (82,36%)	2.208.121,00 (66,71%)	1.822.346,00 (55,06%)
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<p><b>Main Achievements:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The JP provided extensive technical and advisory support to the Government in the preparation of the National Action Plan for Youth Employment (NAP). It has been officially launched by MoLSAEO and represents the most important guidance tool for the implementation of youth employment policies and programmes. Already 11 ml USD have been pledged for its implementation (by Government and Partners) and the Ministry of Labour is negotiating additional funds (6.6. ml USD) to be allocated from future programmes.</li> <li>○ The capacities of MoLSAEO, INSTAT and other line ministries to analyze labour market information have been improved through the establishment of a working group on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), with a particular focus on the nexus between informal employment and youth migration. The YEM capacity building programme on labour market statistics allowed inserting in the LFS a set of variables (28) and indicators needed for monitoring the implementation of the NAP, in view of integrating measurable targets on youth employment and migration in the NSDI.</li> <li>○ Further to the policy advice that was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture in support of formalization of workers in agriculture, the same approach was used by other government's programmes (such as MADA) and by programmes implemented through donors' funding (SNV). These measures are expected to lead to a 2 % reduction of informal employment in agriculture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outcome 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regional coordination mechanisms were established in the regions of Kukes and Shkodra, contributing to the set up and delivery of innovative employment programmes and financing mechanisms targeting disadvantaged youth. Youth labour market programmes, aimed at reducing the risk of migration, are in place in the two pilot regions, including a mass information campaign and activation measures, facilitating the access of young people from the rural areas to employment services. In the regions of Shkodra and Kukes, a group of 37 enterprises have joined the work-training programmes and cooperation agreements were signed for the placement of 333 beneficiaries. Youth Employment Services (YES) centres were established, providing youth with information and counselling services on employment. Orientation and career development sessions were organised involving around 400 youth in secondary schools. During the reporting period re-activation measures were put in place for disadvantaged youth also in the Kukes Region.</li> <li>○ The Kukes Regional Employment Board has also adopted and is implementing the 2011 Territorial Employment Pact (TEP), targeting around 1000 young people, particularly informal workers and contributing family workers. The overall budget is around 300,000 USD partially coming from YEM and partially from the local communities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outcome 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The first phase an information campaign on regular migration and the risks of irregular migration was successfully carried out with the support of academic institutions, agencies and civil society. The first of a series of 4 out-of-country events was delivered in view of reaching out and mobilising the Albanian diaspora. The Regional Employment Boards also participated in the design and implementation of this initiative.</li> <li>○ With the scope of facilitating the return of Albanians studying abroad, an on line mapping has been created with more than 500 individuals/profiles registered. Contacts have been established with the Albanian Diaspora organisations in the main countries of destination.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																									

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?

## Observations

### Paris Declaration

#### **Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:**

National ownership and leadership both at central and local levels is very strong.

The Lead Government counterpart, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, has taken a very active role in supporting the implementation of YEM. This is reflected both at senior management level, through the co-chair of the PMC and at the level of technical working groups responsible for specific activities (such as the National Action Plan on Youth Employment). While the commitment and willingness are constantly reiterated, limited institutional capacities have at times proven to be an obstacle to the participation of government representatives and the continuous provision of inputs.

Regional governments are also at the centre of implementation of programme activities through their support to the multi-stakeholder regional employment boards. There is an increased ownership of the Regional Employment Boards of the two pilot regions, both in terms of the implementation of innovative youth employment programmes and the necessary financing mechanisms.

While it is not possible to get an exact figure, the majority of support through the JP should be reflected on the government budget. In addition, the JP has leveraged co-financing from government and other partners. For instance, the NAP build on the allocation of resource made by the government (9.7 ml USD on a total of 17.5 ml) in light of the work done under the JP

#### **Involvement of CSOs and citizens:**

Enterprises and private sector intermediary organizations in Albania are relatively new to partnering both with government and international agencies to achieve development objectives. Through CSR and public private partnership approaches they have been progressively sensitised to what their role could be in the context of MDG 1/Employment target to work jointly on some of the YEM activities. Moreover, YEM foresees activities that contribute to the longer-term capacities of the private sector to assist labour market institutions to become more efficient.

Youth organizations were involved in consultations, design of activities, and as reference groups. Their role has increased throughout the second and third year of implementation, as they also support outreach activities to young citizens of Albania.

#### **Alignment and Harmonization:**

Youth employment is now a high priority for the Government of Albania. The Ministry of Labour is implementing a National Action Plan for Youth Employment (NAP), linked to the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) and in line with the Sector Employment Strategy on Employment and Vocational Training (2007-2013).

YEM partners have experienced some challenges with regard to the efforts to integrate youth employment objectives and evidence-based policy-making. This is due to the difficulties in obtaining access to the existing LFS databases on labour market statistics. The Programme will continue to extend technical assistance to MoLSAEO and INSTAT to arrive to a constructive Memorandum of Understanding. A knowledge sharing event on Labour Market Statistics was also organized to facilitate dialogue among the partners (producers and users of labor market statistics)

#### **Innovative elements in mutual accountability:**

The Programme Management Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis and is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Lead Government partner, provides oversight and guidance to all agencies participating in the joint programme.

The activities of the Joint programme have been structured in order to complement each other and are closely interlinked to prevent the various components of the JP from running in parallel as separate sub-programmes. Moreover, a Joint Programme office hosting all participating agencies, located with the government partner was set up facilitating coordination and fostering a sense of belonging among staff and opportunities for cross fertilization and brainstorming.

### Delivering as One

#### **Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices:**

	<p><b>Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs:</b></p> <p>At the invitation of the Resident Coordinator the Joint Programme CTA / coordinators there have been meetings to share lessons learned and experiences to improve and strengthen the work of all the JPs in the country.</p> <p><b>Inter-agency coordination:</b></p> <p>The YEM Joint Programme is part of the One UN Programme in Albania and is structured under the Governance Pillar. Therefore, activities are part of the standard planning and reporting cycle foreseen by the One UN Programme along with those of all other JPs active in the country.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b> (concrete actions and strategic partnerships)</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Plan in place? Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforcing the capacity of national partners through the development of knowledge tools and transferring them to the Albanian implementing partners</li> <li>• Ownership of the YEM initiatives of the national and local stakeholders through inter-institutional working groups (NAP on Youth Employment and LMIA working group), matched with capacity development programmes for the participants;</li> <li>• Involvement of civil society, and in particular, the social partners and members of the academia, both in policy design and implementation of measures.</li> <li>• Support of policy tools and measures related to Albania's transition into EU pre-accession status.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovation and Scale-up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The JP is developing knowledge tools and approaches that will allow the replicability of the activities once the programme is over. In view of improving Albania's labour market statistics framework and pursuing evidence-based policy making, Ministerial Order Nr. 1784 (Sept. 2010) institutionalised the dialogue process between MoLSAEO and INSTAT by creating a working group on the Labour Force Survey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>External Factors and mitigation</b></p>	<p>Local elections on May 8, 2011. In some instances, partners at the local (but also at the national level) were very much involved in the activities related to the preparation (and campaign) for the local elections on May 8. This distracted them a little bit from the implementation needs of the programme. Moreover, the constitution of the local entities (such as the regional council) will take probably until mid-August, depriving YEM of some of the main reference partners at the local level.</p> <p>Resource mobilization for the resource gap in the YE-NAP. MoLSAEO did undertake some of steps toward resource mobilization for the YE-NAP objectives. Some interest was indicated by the Swiss Government, which intends on launching a 4-year programme on youth employability starting in 2012.</p>
<p><b>Communication and Advocacy</b></p>	<p><b>C&amp;A plan in place? Yes</b></p> <p>The Joint Programme follows the objectives, key elements and targets of the One UN Communication Strategy. The key objectives of the YEM Communication Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate internally with the YEM participating agencies (under the leadership of the RCO), to ensure that there is increased coordination of inputs and intermediary outputs and ensure their commitment to speak with one voice vis-à-vis other parties involved in the joint programme .</li> <li>• Encourage the leadership and ownership of the Government of Albania in the Joint Programme.</li> <li>• Forge a culture of information sharing and mutual learning among YEM participating agencies and create a common knowledge base for all YEM partners</li> <li>• To spread awareness of youth employment challenges and options for safe migration among the Albanian young people.</li> <li>• To increase awareness among media representatives about the Joint Programme and encourage reporting of innovative initiatives undertaken within the framework of the joint programme.</li> <li>• To brand the Joint Programme internally and externally.</li> <li>• To raise awareness and support among the donor community about the Joint Programme and share information about the innovative tools and methodologies applied throughout YEM implementation.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of Albania's steps towards innovative employment policies and programmes targeting young people and document good practices where they arise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>M&amp;E</b></p>	<p>M&amp;E framework is useful, with clear baselines and indicators, and is thoroughly updated with achievement of targets to date. Some qualitative aspects of capacity building/ training activities could be incorporated.</p>

<b>Missions from MDG-F Secretariat:</b>	<b>Date:</b> March 2009 <b>Date:</b> February 2010	<b>Members:</b> Sophie de Caen <b>Members:</b> Paula Pelaez
<b>Mid Term Evaluation:</b>	<b>Evaluator:</b> Dietmar Aigner <b>Period:</b> November-December 2010	