



The World Bank

Europe and Central Asia Region

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WORLD BANK SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM SUPPORTS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ALBANIA

TIRANA June 3, 2003 – Since three years the World Bank Office in Tirana has been allocating grants to civil society organizations in the context of the Decentralized Small Grants Program. The scope for the grants this year is empowerment of the marginalized and vulnerable groups engagements in order to have voice in development processes.

The External Advisory Board comprising representatives of Donor and international organizations focused on Civil Society and the Internal Grants Selection Committee, composed of World Bank Tirana Office staff carefully reviewed 83 project proposals and selected twelve for funding. The total amount of the SmGP for this year was \$45.000 and the amount for each project varied from USD 2,500 to USD 5.200. Geographical distribution of the projects covered the entire country from Shkodra, Puka, to Durresi, Tirana, Fieri and Gjirokastra.

The following NGOs and projects are the winners of the World Bank Small Grants Program in Albania for 2003:

- ❑ Empowering women in the rural areas of Puka district and making them more proactive in society, "*Grate intelektuale*", Puka
- ❑ Organizing a series of debates on the social problems of the third age with local government, civil society and elderly, *AMIV*, Gjirokastra
- ❑ Production of 24 episodes of a radio soap opera in the national public radio station on raising public awareness on women trafficking, "*Rruga me pisha*" foundation, Tirana
- ❑ Support for children and parents whose children run the risk of trafficking, "*Unioni rinor i te drejtave te njeriut*", Durres
- ❑ Leadership training for Roma women, *Youth Women Christian Association*, Tirana
Publication in Albanian of the "Right to tell" WBI publication, to be used for training of Albanian journalists in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, "*Albanian Institute of Media*"
Increasing involvement of the vulnerable groups in decision-making in Koder-Kamza, "*Integrim ne komunitet*", Tirana
- ❑ Fostering of Roma children's right and promoting coexistence in harmony with non-roma children, "*Dyert e se ardhmes*" Fier

- ❑ Sensitizing the decision-making institutions about the difficulties of the household business in poor areas (Shkodra, Lezha and Elbasan) in order to generate conducive conditions for their activity, *QKZH*, Tirana
- ❑ Production of two TV newsreels for "Tunel" serial aiming at increasing the capacity of marginalized groups to influence public opinion and to negotiate with the central and local government to address their problems, *ASET*, Tirana
- ❑ Eliminating child labor and involve the society in preventing this phenomena, "*European Children's Trust*", Shkodra
- ❑ Raising awareness of public opinion and Parliamentarians regarding bilateral and multilateral treaties and covenants on children rights, *International Social Services*, Albania office

The Small Grants Program was created to promote dialogue and dissemination of information on development, and to enhance partnerships with the civil society.

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