

## IC Regional Seminar: “IC Projects’ and Partners’ Influence on Institutions and Policies” Shkodra, Albania

### Concept

#### 1. Introduction

Intercooperation (IC) celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2007. This silver jubilee is an occasion to look back on field experiences and the changes that IC has inspired over the past 25 years in more than 20 countries. Three lead themes will be addressed throughout the year: natural resource governance, value chains and influence on institutions and policies. This last theme will be highlighted during a seminar gathering IC projects and partners from Eastern Europe. IC has a broad portfolio of programmes, projects and backstopping mandates in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Within their specific contexts and goals, all the projects have an influence on institutions and policy development, a strategy with great potential for improving the sustainability of development strategies and, more generally, the improving living conditions.

With the overall goal of gaining up-to-date knowledge and skills, and to foster the exchange of experiences and first lessons learnt in IC projects, IC will organize a **regional seminar on “IC Projects’ and Partners’ Influence on Institutions and Policies”** in Albania in June 2007.

A key resource person from the region has been invited to provide specific inputs during various sessions. Participants are expected to come from Albania, Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo, representing various experiences on the same topic, but in different contexts and programme and policy/institutional set-ups.

#### 2. Objectives of the seminar

- Gain up-to-date knowledge and skills and reach a common understanding on issues related to institutions and policy influence
- Share and exchange experiences among IC projects and partners in Eastern Europe on the topic
- Improve IC’s visibility in Eastern Europe

#### 3. Expected results

- Stronger common knowledge and skills on issues related to institutions and policy influence are gained;
- “Good practices” are identified and first lessons learnt are elaborated.

#### 4. Key questions

The detailed seminar content will be developed along the following key questions:

- What are the key challenges you encountered in the scope of your programme regarding influencing policy?
- What are the key elements of policy making you encountered at your partners' level?

- What are the ways, methods and strategies through which your civil society and/or government partners can participate in the policy making process and have an influence on policy development?
- What are the ways and means international cooperation (projects) can support local/national actors in gaining access to policy making processes and having their voices heard? What are the key elements of a policy making process you could contribute too?
- What “good practices” can we identify from the projects’ experiences in influencing policy making?
- What capacity-building needs did you identify amongst your partners for a more effective policy making process?
- What are the main challenges encountered in these experiences and what are some possible strategies to address them?
- What are major (frame) conditions to sustain effective policy making processes?

## 5. Programme design

The methodology will be a mixture of: (a) general methodological inputs, (b) presentations of project case studies focusing on key questions, (c) discussing and exchanging of inputs in working groups, (d) informal exchange of experiences and (e) a field/partner programme visit.

**Key speaker.** Previously a Minister of Economy, now a professor and still involved in many projects of policy formulation for the Albanian government, **M. Artan Hoxha** from the Institute of Contemporary Studies of Tirana will provide, as expert, inputs that will be illustrated by case studies from the projects.

The programme of this 3 days workshop will consist of the following sessions:

- Introduction to key topics by specialized presenters (1 regional expert, IC-staff)
- Presentations of case studies by the projects and plenary discussions for sharing of experiences, as response to key questions
- Group works to elaborate good practice and lessons learnt
- Field visit of a relevant project/programme, presentations of the results and lessons learnt during the visit

## 6. Proceedings of the seminar

Proceedings of the seminar will be summarized in a CD-Rom highlighting the main lessons learnt and specific recommendations, as well as providing the presentations and additional documents on the topic. All this information will also be available on a website.

## 7. Participants

- Staff members of IC projects in Eastern Europe: Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Ukraine, Macedonia
- IC partners in the region
- Regional expert as key resource person
- Staff from IC Head Office, including regional/thematic experts
- Staff from the SDC COOF in Albania