SHKODRA REGION
AND THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT

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Content:

Presentation Development Planning: Opportunities and Regional Development

Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region

AdriGov IPA Adriatic Cross Boarder Cooperation Programme
Shkodra Region is located in north of Albania, bordering the Republic of Montenegro, on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea.
General data

- Population: 341,049 inhabitants
  - Urban 43.4%
  - Rural 56.6%

- Surface: 3562 km²

- 33 local government units
  - (5 Municipalities, 28 Communes, 276 Villages)
Shkodra Region consists of three districts: Shkodra, Malesia e Madhe and Puka

As a regional administrative center of the Northern Albania, Shkodra, amongst others, is:

- Central public authorities and regional jurisdictions
- A University Center
- A Regional health service center
- Presence of the consulates of Italy, Austria
- The biggest financial regional center represented by a professional banking system
Shkodra Town, is the center of the Region:

- 35 km north from the Shengjini port
- 80 km north from Rinas Airport
- 110 km north from the port of Durres
- 90 km north from the capital, Tirana
General data

Shkodra city, founded 4th BC
Lake of Shkodra, the largest in the Balkans, 368 km
Three rivers
Mountains
General data

Shkodra is located next to the area network corridors and their connections for road transport to South Eastern Europe that includes:

- Albania
- Montenegro
- Croatia
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Serbia
- Greece
THE CONCEPT PLAN OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*We have already identified local development patterns reflected in:*

- Strategic Concept of Regional Development 2010 – 2016, Shkodra Region
- Strategic Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Shkodra Region (2012–2020)
- Most local government units have economic development strategy
The strategic documents are harmonized with national policies

5 main directions of economic development of Shkodra Region based on the Strategic Concept Regional Development 2010 – 2016

- Tourism and Environment
- Agribusiness
- Infrastructure and renewable energy
- Education and health care
- Flood Protection
Tourism – the economic sector where are combined:

- Natural Resources
- Geography
- The tradition of the region
- The interest of important stakeholders and partners
Types of natural tourism

- Mountain
  - Kelmendi area which show Vermosh, Razma, Boga
  - Puka area with mountains of Tërboni
  - Dukagjin area, the most important center is Thethi
SHKODRA, Old City
Coast tourism

Velipoja area, 28km from Shkodra town.
Tourism resources

Other types of tourism

✓ Historical tourism
  • Historical Museum
  • The photocollection "Marubi"
  • Shkoder Castle
  • Mesi Bridge
  • Castle of DRISHT

✓ Culinary tourism
  • Restaurants
  • Guesthouses in Shkoder and Malesi e Madhe.
Tourist activities

- Alpinism
- Hunting
- Lake tour
- Speleology
- Tracking
- Cycling tours
- Kayak
- Traditional taste
- Handicrafting products
In the case of the Northern region of Albania, promoting economic development requires certain forms of integration mainly with Montenegro and Kosovo.
Creating a 'Polycentric Urban Region' across the border with Montenegro, on urban economies of Shkodra, Lezha, Podgorica, Bar and Ulcinj's in a regional framework for economic growth and of the population.

Diamandi of Kosovo (Pec–Gjakova–Prizren–Pristina–Mitrovica, are economically integrated with Kukes – Tropoja – Shkoder.

The mountainous area of the Alps is structured as a bipolar magnet link providing the above two urban regions.
If this Polycentric Urban Region will be conducted systematically and skillfully, within 20 years it can compete in the international market investment areas (something which can never be realized separately from the cities involved in).
The polycentric urban system

This polycentric system, there may be some very favorable features:

- A population of 750,000 people, within the planning period (population, which is near the middle of this century is expected to grow to one million.)
- International Airport
- Ports international cruise lines, trade
- An urban transit potential shift that provides public transportation between major business centers.
- Two universities
- A tourist coast already consolidated, with great reputation in the international scale
- One of the most beautiful natural resources, and very good links with international corridors
The decentralization process in Albania has reached a crucial stage which is considered in its dimensions political, administrative and fiscal. Progress is noted in the transfer of powers to various public services and regulatory mechanisms in local governance.

Achievements made in fiscal decentralization increase the volume of constant unconditional transfers, increase the separation and selection for local government taxes, introduction of competitive grants for expanding local capital and recent law on local borrowing.

Have enabled more support and investment in public infrastructure Public services
The main business sectors in the region of Shkodra

- Agrofood sector
- The manufacturing sector of clothing and footwear
- Woodworking sector
- Construction Sector
- The tourism sector
- Handicraft sector
Youth employment and emigration from Shkoder Region.

Active programs of the Government, to promote employment and vocational training

"Program through job training for up to 6 months" Department of Employment where the employer pays half the minimum wage, and insurance against accidents at work for each employee from the rolls of the unemployed.

"Program for the professional practice of students graduated the last two years"

Public vocational training centers
The Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion (AIE) is an association established on the 30th of June 2006 in Pula (Croatia) for the promotion of trans-national and inter-regional cooperation between regions and local authorities of the Adriatic and Ionian basin countries. The Regional Council of Shkodra is one of the foundation members.

Today the association counts 26 members (Regional and Local governments from Italy, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania).

The total extension of the involved territories is about 200,000 square kilometers with an estimated population of around 20 Millions of inhabitants.
Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region

- The AIM goals can be synthesized into the protection of the cultural heritage, protection of the environment, sustainable economic development in the field of SMEs, tourism, fishery, transport and infrastructure. Furthermore the association supports the members, especially those in the European accession process, to create joint initiatives and to prepare the regional stakeholders to be qualified in the implementation of the cohesion policy and to deal with the European financial instruments.

- Regional Council of Shkodra has the vice Presidency of the Commission for tourism and culture as well member of the Executive Board.

- Another important aim is to support the European citizenship through actions that promotes the involvement of citizens by developing their sense of European identity and appreciating multilingualism and multiculturalism as common European heritage.
TOWARDS THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC IONIAN MACROREGION

• The European Commission, in co-operation with 4 EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) and 4 non EU Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) is presenting – by the end of 2014 – the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region “EUSAIR”.

• The Macro-regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian area aims at bringing new impetus for co-operation and investment to the benefit of the involved areas.

• The Macro-Regional Strategy, then, shall be developed around areas of mutual interest, with high relevance for the involved territories: in turn, and through a massive stakeholders’ consultation, the main objectives and related initiatives should emerge as shared aspirations and solutions to common Adriatic Ionian challenges.

• So far, and following some preliminary consultation meetings, the forthcoming Macro-Regional Strategy is intended to be built around four thematic “Pillars”: “Driving innovative maritime and marine growth”, “Connecting the region”, “Preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment”, and “Increasing regional attractiveness”. Research, innovation and small and SMEs development” and “Capacity building” will be cross-cutting issues.
AdriGov IPA Adriatic Cross Boarder Cooperation Programme

The IPA Adriatic CBC Programme is co-financed by the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

• Co-financed by IPA Adriatic CBC Programme

• Project length : 30 Months

• Provide a significant contribution to cross board cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian, promoting the adoption of an innovative and participated Governance Operational Plan

• Implement knowledge transfer actions and training programmes on European Integration and EU enlargement process, improving the knowledge and skills of regional and local.
The overall objective of “AdriGov” is to define and implement an Adriatic Governance operational plan able to foster institutional cooperation and promote a shared model of governance in the area by identifying and disseminating best practices and encouraging joint initiatives.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Contribute to the accession process into the European Union membership of Adriatic partner countries by: reinforcing their relations with the European institutions and relevant actors; promoting EU legislation and acquis communautaire transposition; enhance the multi-level governance and the regional dimension of EU policies.

2. To contribute to define the new cross border cooperation in post IPA planning

3. Set up a pilot action on multilevel governance

4. To improve the local authorities planning capacity, through training courses and experience exchanges in order to acquire specific skills concerning European project cycle management, structural funds management, fund raising and networking activities
“ADRIGOV” Project, leaded by Molise Region and funded by the CBC IPA Adriatic Programmed 2007/13-starting from the Adriatic-Ionian Euro-Region, is aimed to contribute to the finalization of the EUSAIR.

Within the framework of “ADRIGOV” and the abovementioned consultation process, Region of Shkoder, partner of the project, is organizing a dedicated workshop “Towards the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region: Policies and tools for increasing regional infrastructures and transport” (24th October) where starting the thematic confrontation among the main stakeholders/networks operating in the area, in order to obtain their contribution to the drafting process of the Operational Plan of the Macro-Regional Strategy. The participation of the main institutional referents (EU Commission, National Contact and Focal Points) is foreseen, too, to inform about the procedural path leading to the Adriatic Ionian Macro Region set up.

More tailored on the “ADRIGOV” project objectives and on the Adriatic-Ionian Euro-Region Committee for Transport and Infrastructure the workshop taking place on the 25th of October, where a dedicated panel on regional strategies and a confrontation on the Adriatic best practices in the field of Transport and Infrastructure and represent the main focus
Results to be achieved

- To establish and to develop mutual relations between inhabitants and institutions of this territory as precondition for the improvement of knowledge, understanding and collaboration;

- To create the conditions for the economic development respecting the environment;

- To determine common interests of development, preparation, definition and harmonization of a common development strategy;

- To achieve the cultural exchange programmes

- To ensure the conditions for an effective exchange of experiences and implementation of EU programmes.
Thank you!

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