RisiAlbania
Partner for Growth

NEWSLETTER

16th edition, January - March 2018

Promoting economic development and job creation among youth in Albania

In a special Ceremony held at the Center for Openness and Dialogue, Deputy Prime Minister Senida Mesi and the Head of Cooperation with Eastern Europe at the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ruth Huber, signed the agreement on Phase II of "Risi Albania" project on Friday 23, 2018. "Risi Albania" will renew its focus on making labour markets lucrative for young women and men through three different strategies; first enabling private companies and businesses to grow and to create jobs for youth, second by increasing job information and job mediation for young people, meaning linking youth to the job market and third by improving knowledge and market oriented skills in order that youth have the right skills to be employed", -said during her remarks Ambassador Huber. Deputy Prime Minister Mesi stressed that RisiAlbania project has in its focus youth employment in sectors like innovation, agriculture, rural development and tourism and it responds well to the Albanian government's priority – employment. "As a result we believe that this project will help the Albanian government reach its objective", she said.

RISI ALBANIA
PHASE II (2017-2021)

TARGETS

1,600
NEW JOBS

3,000
JOB MATCHES

+

600
JOB PLACEMENTS

RisiAlbania Partner for Growth

Supported by: Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Implemented by: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation ALBANIA

PARTNERSALBANIA FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Developing new tourism products in southern Albania

Tour operators, local government representatives, academia and tourism experts gathered on March 15 to discuss about developing and implementing new touristic products and tour packages related to eco-tourism, adventure, cultural, historical and culinary experiences, in the Qarku of Gjirokastra and the South Region of Albania.

Over the course of the event, Risi launched a new call for proposals to develop value-added tourism ideas aiming at addressing issues related to seasonality and promoting job creation. In line with Government of Albania priorities, the call encourages tour operators to prioritise product development in villages that belong to the "100 Villages" Strategy. Participants agreed on the need to diversify the touristic offer and required a better collaboration among local and national tourism actors. "We need to work together to diversify the touristic offer and increase the number of tourists" said Kristina Fidhi from Karavan Horse Riding.

Tour operators have a pivotal role to play in conceptualizing product ideas and bringing together multiple players to develop and improve tourism experiences which will bring economic development and job creation in Albania.

Boosting local economy through medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation

Through a call for proposals launched in March, Risi Albania is looking to scale up the success of its intervention in the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) sector, which is based mainly on improved post-harvest practices.

After the successful intervention in Korça with Çibuku Ltd - a private company that serves as a consolidator of MAPs in the region and which has established a collection point for MAPs - the project supported 15 women of Shelcan village in Elbasan. Co-financing drying racks for MAPs, the intervention helped to increase product quality and to meet the market demands for higher standards.

"By improving the drying process, we managed to increase our profit margins by 10 - 30 % during the first harvests"- said Margarita, one of the women supported; a former emigrant who decided to return home and expand her medicinal herbs cultivation business.

We expect that scaling up these initiatives will bring benefits to the MAPs industry.

Influencing youth career path through new media products – an inspiring model for EYE Project in Kosovo

RisiAlbania is a youth employment project that focuses on achieving systemic changes in the Albanian labour market in order to improve access to employment and income opportunities for young women and men.

Project duration:
Phase I: November 2013 – October 2017
Phase II: November 2017 – October 2021

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During his two-day exchange visit in Albania, Dren Selimi, project intervention manager at Enhancing Youth Employment- EYE Project in Kosovo, learned about the media programs, partners and some of the beneficiaries that RisiAlbania has supported in disseminating information in the labour market and providing career guidance.

"An audience we have not targeted until now, but I believe that after this visit and having seen the impact on young radio audience in Albania, we better understand and can better address the issue in Kosovo" - says Dren after visiting CLUB FM RADIO 100.4 MHz studios and learned about its successful and high impact programme "Working Hour".

In return, RisiAlbania has a great interest in the Social Dialogue that EYE is advocating in Kosovo, covering topics like minimum wage, social insurance, inclusion of youth in decision-making, which will open new doors for future exchange among our projects.
Read full interview HERE

UPCOMING EVENTS

27 April 2018

National Competition Award "Festat Lokale"

On the 27th of April an award ceremony will be held to announce the winners of the "Festat Lokale" competition.

The call invites Municipalities to submit applications for the organisation of events that will showcase regional specialties, attract tourists and generate jobs.

Risi supports this joint initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

Information session: **6-7 April**

27
APRIL

April 2018

Tourism roundtable in Gjirokastra

At the request of several tourism stakeholders and in collaboration with the Municipality, Risi will organise a roundtable with public and private sector tourist stakeholders.

The outcome of the roundtable will be an "information generation and dissemination" needs assessment, where roles and responsibilities will be assigned to each priority identified.

2018
APRIL

May 2018

Training of Trainers with Albanian ICT Association, AITA

Risi Albanai will provide support to AITA on how to do networking and organise B2B sessions with a view to strengthening its role as a business promotion and coordination organisation.

2018
MAY