



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: ALBANIA



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Project details

Title:	Support to the Parliament of Albania
Status:	Operational
Duration:	3 years (2004-2007)
Budget:	US\$ 200,000
Donor partner:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background

Since the beginning of democratic change in Albania, the parliament has not benefited from any structured programme of assistance intended to enhance its capacity to perform its constitutional role in an effective and efficient manner. Albanian parliamentarians have faced difficulties in fulfilling their legislative, oversight and representational functions. The parliamentary staff have not been adequately equipped in terms of facilities to provide efficient support. The working methods of the parliament, including the organization and functioning of its secretariat, need to be revisited. The parliament needs to be in tune with the public to ensure that its decisions were commensurate with the interests of the full spectrum of the Albanian people.

The IPU/UNDP project is intended to complement to donor-led initiatives. It focuses broadly on the same areas, but provides a more substantive and broader scope and perspective to assistance to the parliament.

Objective

The objective of the project is to strengthen the parliament's capacity to perform its constitutional (legislative, representative and oversight) functions in a more effective manner, thereby contributing to the establishment of the rule of law and good governance. It falls in line with the objectives of the UNDP Democratic Governance Framework for Albania, which aims among other things to promote an efficient and accountable public sector that serves all Albanian citizens and thus creates an enabling environment for sustainable human development.

Specific objectives include:

- strengthening the capacity of the parliament, focusing on ways of improving the expertise and skills of its members and parliamentary staff;
- promoting the use of new information and communication technologies to foster greater interaction between the parliament and the electorate; and
- developing the library and documentation facilities of the parliament, including the archives, and providing greater publicity for the proceedings of the parliament.

Target beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries are the deputies and staff of the People's Assembly. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the people of Albania, as the elected representatives will be better able to serve the interests of the people.



People's Assembly of Albania

Outcomes

The project is intended to result in the following:

- The capacity of the parliament to perform its legislative functions will be improved;
- The deputies will better understand their role and responsibilities and parliamentary operations;
- The staff's capacity will be improved through training programmes comprising in-country seminars and attachments abroad;
- The management of the library's resources will be improved;
- The image of the parliament in society will improve, and there will be a better relationship between the public and the parliament.

Experts providing advice to the project include:

- Mr. Steven Oostlander, Head of the Parliamentary Research Bureau, Parliament of the Netherlands;
- Mrs. Jacqy Sharpe, Clerk of the Overseas Office, Parliament of the United Kingdom;
- Mr. Mihail Baciu, Member of the Parliament of Romania;
- Dr. László Juhász, Parliament of Hungary;

Parliaments providing assistance to the project:

- Parliament of Belgium;
- Parliament of Hungary.