

# Sustainable Economic and Regional Development, Employment Promotion, Vocational Education and Training in Albania (ProSEED)

Make it in Albania

## Promoting sustainable economic development and employment opportunities in Albania!

With an overall unemployment rate of around 15% and a youth unemployment rate of 30%, Albanians and especially youth, between 19 and 34, find themselves facing either limited or no employment opportunities. Many graduates of the Albanian system lack the necessary practical skills to find adequate employment. Frequently, their theoretical skills do not match the quantitative and qualitative needs of the private sector.

Overall private sector activity is relatively weak in Albania, categorized mainly by MSMEs, few foreign investments and considerable regional disparities. In light of this challenging situation many Albanians have emigrated during recent years.

## What is ProSEED all about?

The programme “Sustainable Economic and Regional Development, Employment Promotion, Vocational Education and Training in Albania” (ProSEED) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The programme adopts a comprehensive approach to improve the employment situation of the workforce and the self-employed, particularly of skilled youth in the Albanian labour market. Moreover, it encourages social participation of marginalised youth. In cooperation with DIMAK, the German Center for Migration, Vocational Education and Career, ProSEED also supports the integration of returning migrants.

L. to r.: Students of the mechanics branch at MFC Kamza gaining practical skills



Project name	Sustainable Economic and Regional Development, Employment Promotion, Vocational Education and Training in Albania (ProSEED)
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Project region	Albania
Lead executing agency	Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance and Economy.
Duration	2017 - 2020

## The benefits

ProSEED creates economic perspectives for young people between 19-34 years and their families. Jointly with its partners, the programme contributes to sustainable employment and regional economic development. This programme entails four different components under one umbrella, which aim to ensure a better matching between the labor market supply and demand.

## Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Quality and market-oriented VET providers are important when preparing a skilled workforce that has to be able to meet the industries' demands. This is also an essential aspect of the National

Effective support to public institutions is crucial for attracting investments with a relevant employment impact.



Employment and Skills Strategy (2014–2020) to which the programme contributes actively.

Best practices elaborated at the Multifunctional Centre of Kamza, a model built with GIZ's support, will be replicated in at least five public Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) and a number of private training providers. Working in close cooperation with the National Employment Service as well as the National Agency of Vocational Education Training and Qualifications, youth, employed and unemployed individuals seeking employment, are being targeted.

### Support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Economic growth and positive employment effects cannot be generated without a competitive private sector. MSMEs make up the overwhelming majority of Albanian companies. Working closely with MSME clusters, through the NGO NUCLEUS Albania and other business development service providers, strengthen MSME capacities and encourage innovation for higher-quality products and greater abilities to compete in the market. Thus, expanding their portfolio MSMEs become generators of new job opportunities and economic growth.

Through entrepreneurship trainings and start-up support, conducted within the framework of the IDEA competition, young entrepreneurs can build their entrepreneurial skills in order to start a business, but also to receive and compete for financial grants.

### Social participation of marginalised youth and minorities

The aim of this component is to support at least 20 civil society organisations, to implement small-scale projects that strengthen



L. to r.: Reviving local Albanian craft work through strengthening creative small businesses and entrepreneurs.

social cohesion and social participation of marginalised youth and minorities in Albania.

Through activities that foster interactions between different groups of youth, that help them to develop life skills or that enable youth to engage in cultural and sport activities, the supported projects aim at increasing the target group's social capital and future employability.

### Regional development, economic growth and employment

The programme supports the improvement of the investment climate, focusing on projects with regional impact. It works to enhance the implementing capacities of public institutions, enabling them to effectively support public and private investment projects with a relevant employment impact. The programme provides its partner institutions with relevant policy and advisory services, expertise and assistance for the subsequent processes of preparation, negotiation and implementation.

### The results

ProSEED aims for the following results:

2000 women and men will find employment through supported qualification measures.

In order to achieve this:

7000 persons will participate in formal and non-formal qualification measures,

1000 MSMEs will receive business development services and 1000 young persons will be strengthened in their entrepreneurial capacities through trainings. On top of that investment projects will also create jobs.



Joint cooperation between MSMEs, leads to stronger small businesses.

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