



Project Title

Twinning of Dibra Municipality with Merano Commune, Bolzano, Italy

Project Type

Quick start projects

Project Location

Functional Area of Dibër

Total Pre-Estimated Budget

15,000 Euro

Project Background and Analysis

Local government twinning is an instrument promoting the development of functional areas or of a local government territory because it provides knowledge and exchange of the best and successful experiences that have produced tangible results in each individual unit or area. LGU representatives in the area of Dibra have realized a number of exchange and experience sharing activities from different European units but a real institutionalized and operational twinning process has been missing (there is a twinning agreement between Peshkopi Municipality and a commune in Denmark but only in letter, without a concrete activity).

Twinning, as an instrument promoting development not only from the perspective of the governmental officials but also in a broad socio-economic and governmental context, is absent in the area of Dibër. Dibra area has a very beautiful mountainous varied landscape, with the valley of Drin i Zi River and mountain ranges of Lurë-Selishtë and Deshat-Korab on both sides, comparatively similar to the territory of Merano Commune in Italy, which is one of the richest areas in Europe. Further, both the areas of Merano and Dibra are distinguished for the production of apples and fruit being champions at the European level. Many Dibra residents have immigrated and live in this commune with their families, thus being a key component to encourage the procedure and process of consolidated cooperation and twinning with Merano commune. This twinning process would urge Dibra area reproduce many development models of that commune in the area of Dibra.

Specific Objectives of the Project

General Objective: To upgrade good governance in the area of Dibër, promoting the cooperation with EU countries.

Specific objective: To work in order to ensure by 2016 twinning between Dibra Municipality and Merano commune in Italy as a broad process of cooperation between the stakeholders of both units, such as the local government administration, civil society and especially the private sector, in particular the farmers and tourism businesses.

PROJECT 13



functional area programme
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Expected Results and Project Indicators

Expected result 1: Active and constructive dialogue between the representatives of two LGUs (Merano commune and Dibër Municipality) based on safe negotiation and institutional channels.

Expected result 2: Signed and effective twinning agreement, with well-accepted principles and objectives, defined activity schedules and responsible institution tasked for the implementation of this agreement.

Project Activities

Supporting a position and negotiation with Merano Commune;
Contacts with the associations of immigrants. Delivery of their support;
Contacts with the associations of Merano farmers;
Contacts with the institutional representatives of Merano Commune;
Meeting with diplomatic authorities of the Albanian state in Italy;
Organized meeting of a group of Dibra stakeholders in Merano;
Organized meeting of a group from Merano in Dibër;
Formulation of the draft and items of the twinning agreement in compliance with the professional and legal standards;
Signing of the agreement.

Project Maturity

Based on the law on operation of local government, concluding the agreement with local and foreign bodies in the form of twinning is a legal function of the LGU. There are some positive experiences in Albania regarding these agreements and a consolidated practice of Peshkopi municipality with a commune in Denmark, but it has not been very active for the implementation of joint activities. Geographical similarities, agricultural orientation to pomology, especially for apple trees and large community of Dibra living and working in Merano, make this agreement effective.

Financial Resources and Implementation Partners

The future Dibra Municipality is the key stakeholder, which has the authority and responsibility for implementation of this agreement. Close associates will be the Association of Merano Dibra citizens and Albanian Consular Offices in Italy, as well as the representative of the Italian Embassy in Albania.

Project Cost

Total project costs are estimated at a rough amount of 15,000 Euro to be covered by the Municipality funds.