

Program For Development of the Kukes Functional Area

April 2015

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Euro Partners Development



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Project of the Functional Area of Kukes Program, was developed from EuroPartners Development team with a wide participation of local stakeholders since August 2014 and ended in April 2015.

In order to establish partnerships and ensure support and open dialogue at local level, initial formal commitments were received from the Municipality of Kukes, 2 Communes, 2 regional directorates and 3 organisations. Such cooperation was enlarged with the full and continuous support from the Regional Council of Kukes as well.

In addition, the whole process of preparation of the Functional Area Program involved a wider participation of Kukes FA representatives and hence, the cooperation was enlarged with other relevant local stakeholders that were organized in the format of a:

Forum of Local Stakeholders.

The Forum enjoyed Consultative status being composed of high level representatives from municipality, regional council of Kukes, prefecture, communes, deconcentrated directorates, chamber of commerce, civil society organisations, businesses and respective specialists who provided valuable input to the program.

The Forum has been summoned in three rounds in Kukes as follows with the participation below:

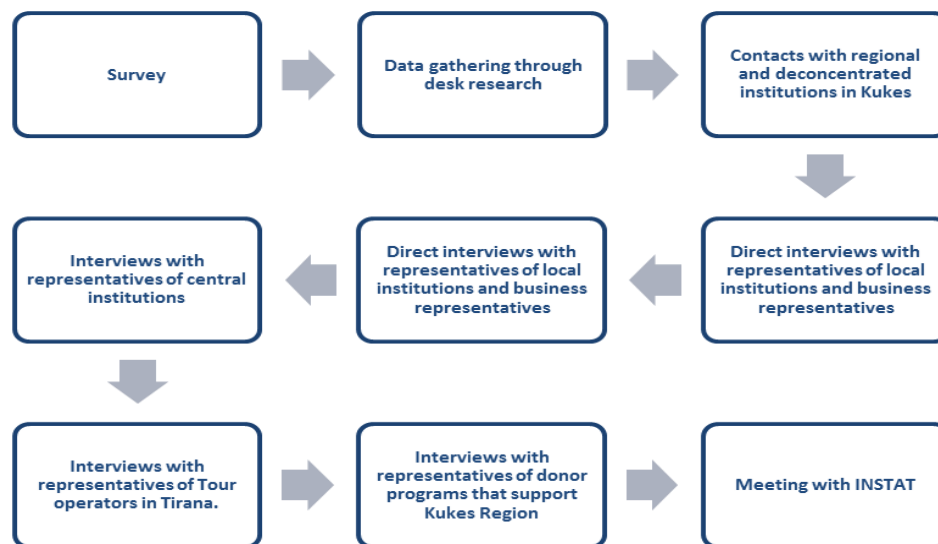
Meeting	Date	Participants
1st Forum	4 September 2014	20 participants
During the 1st Forum was made the first presentation of the programm, its development and steps that would be undertaken, concept of the Functional Areas, the role of the Forum in the whole process, the first indications on the expectations from the local stakeholders, inputs related to their needs. The Forum served as the first sign of commitment from the stakeholders to become part of the process and provide their contribution and also to better understand the process.		
2nd Forum	25 November 2014	37 participants
During the 2nd Forum was introduced the Draft Programme Document of the Functional Area Kukes. The meeting was conceived as an important platform to introduce and widely discuss with local stakeholders of the Functional Area Kukes the analysis regarding the economic and social situation of the area's development, to discuss important issues concerning economic development, challenges faced and opportunities for further development. All the participants fully supported the three priorities for the economic development of the area presented in the document - agriculture, tourism and mining.		
3rd Forum	5 March 2015	35 participants
During the 3rd Forum were presented the Services of the Functional Area of Kukes and Potential Projects. The Forum served to present and discuss actively with the local representatives on the strategic orientations		

to improve service delivery and potential projects of the Functional Area. Issues of infrastructure, public services and future interventions in the direction of their development were among the topics raised during the meeting.

Following the organization of each of the Forums, all respective presentations were widely distributed to the stakeholders via email, with the aim to obtain from them a more concrete input based on the joint discussions and/or supporting material, but also to communicate it to other interested stakeholders.

Regarding the development of the economic and social analysis of the functional area the EPD team has worked in several directions, alternating several research methods and analysis as in the following figure:

Figure 1: Approach to the preparatory work and research for drafting of analyses



The Survey: In order to strengthen information sources during the preparation of the Draft Analysis, the EuroPartners Development team conducted a survey through a questionnaire which served as an important instrument for measuring public opinion on the situation of the area. It was distributed to all Local Government Units (Municipality and the 14 Communes), Regional Council of Kukes, FA community, Civil Society and Business Communities (50 distributed questionnaires) with the below details:

- a. Questionnaires distributed to all Municipalities of the Functional Area (14), Municipality (1), Region (1), Decentralized Agencies (Agriculture, Education, Employment, NFA, ALUIZNI, Health)
- b. Questionnaires distributed to service providers (UKT-Water sector)
- c. Targeted questionnaires were distributed to civil society and business (50)
 - i. Civil society (20)

ii. Businesses (30)

Desk research – Analysis of the data :

Besides the basic data analysis for FA of Kukes, reference was also made to national strategies as the strategy of tourism, rural development and agriculture, mining, energy, in order to assess whether the general typology of the various problems presented in the documents of the strategies was widely relevant also with the problematic of the functional area, or whether they were a characteristic only of this area.

Field missions: There are organized 4 field missions in order to receive direct information from local stakeholders in Kukes FA and also institutions at central level. During 5-6 November was also conducted a field mission in Kukes with individual meetings with representatives from the Regional Council of Kukes, Directorate of Drafting and Coordination of Policies, Directorate of the Civil Registry Directorate, INSTAT Office Kukes, Directorate of Education, Employment Office, Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Farming including relevant other programs implemented in the framework of other donors, business community, civil society organisations. The mission followed with meeting with representatives from INSTAT Office in Tirana as well and other related Ministries (Tourism, Agriculture, Mining) and programs in order to see the line of action at national, regional and local level and identify potential programs for Kukes FA.

During the period of *10-14 November* was also organised a field mission in Kukes to prepare the mapping of local services in the FA of Kukes. A crucial element of this process was the work research and cooperation with the de-concentrated units and LGUs in order to map out the services with the best level of inventory of services for each of the local government units, building out the service maps for functional area.

3 other field missions were organised *during January and February 2015* in Kukes to conclude with the preparation of the mapping of local services.

In addition, the GIS tool was used for mapping purposes. 19 Maps were developed based on the data collected and used in supporting information in the analyses of both functional area program and mapping of services.

2. Territory of the Functional Area of Kukes

2.1 Geographical position , Borders, LGUs' Composition

The functional area of Kukes (FAK) with the city of Kukes as its centre it is located in the region of Kukës, as one of the three functional areas of the region, along with Has and Tropoja and covers an area of 932 km².

It lies in the north-eastern part of Albania and its bordered by Kosovo (Prizren) in the east and northeast, by the FA of Has in the north, by Puka and Mirdita in the west and by Dibra in the south. In comparison with other areas of the country, the FA of Kukes territory occupies a quite small area, about 3.2% of the total territory of the country. Whereas in number of population it occupies 56% of the population of the Region of Kukes¹.

As shown in the following map, the relief of this area is mostly mountainous. In this area lie the mountains of Gjallica and Koritnik, which are part of the mountain range of Korab and also Drin valley which stands for very harsh landscape and bottlenecks, in which were built in large hydropower dams. The extension of a part of the Korab range in this area emphasizes its characteristic as a mountainous area, where settlements reach up to about 1400 m altitude.

In this area lies a part of Fierza, which is the biggest artificial lake in Albania. Morina gorge, through which passes the road to Prizren, makes this area a connection knot with Kosovo.

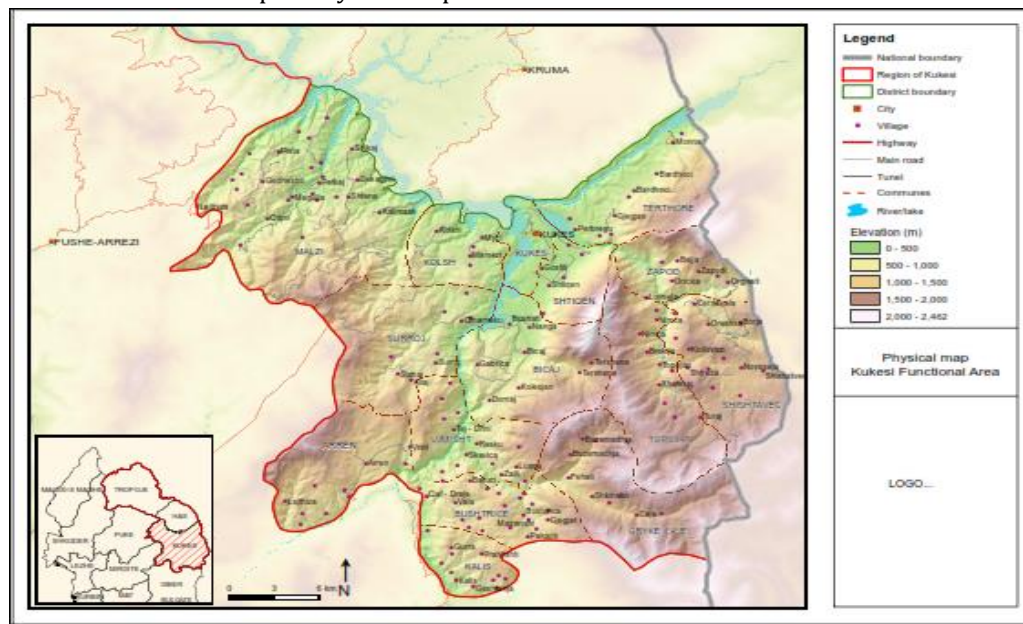
Map 1: Division of the Kukes Region in Functional Areas



Source: Dldp Study on the Functional Areas

¹ Region, 2014, www.kqk.gov.al, Census 2011, INSTAT

Map 2: Physical Map of the Functional Area of Kukes



The FA of Kukes includes in its administration 15 Local Government Units (LGUs), from a total of 27 that has the Kukes Region (1 municipality and 14 communes), positioning this area in the first place for the number of LGUs in compared with the 2 other functional areas in the Kukes Region, although in relation to the surface this area accounts for about 39.5% of the territory that covers the region of Kukes, in relation to the population it occupies more than 56% of the total population remaining the center of interactions and institutions at the regional level.

Map 3: Administrative Division of the Functional Area of Kukes



Based on the new classification of urban and rural areas, implemented after the 2011 Census, the FA of Kukes is noted for its rural character. It includes one urban center and 14 rural areas².

The municipality of Kukes is the main center of the FA, and the more important in terms of economic, administrative, and social aspects. Other economic centers include Bicaj, Shtiqen, Shishtavec and Shëmri (Malzi). Despite these economic centers, Kukes is the place where the main commercial activity is implemented.

2.2 Infrastructure

In this area passes the Durres - Morine highway which is part of the national road axis linking Albania and Kosovo. The main routes which connect the center of the area, the town of Kukes with the other areas are: Durres-Kukes axis (1.5 hours), Kukes-Bishop axis (1.5-2 hours), Kukes-Has axis (30-40 min), Kukes-Shishtavec axis (30 min) and Krumë-Curri axis (1 hour and 45 min).

In this area is located the most important border-crossing point linking Albania with Kosovo, Morin/Kukes and 4 (four) other border-crossing points (Shishtavec/Kukes, Orgjose/Kukes, Borje/Kukes for pedestrians and Qafa Prush/Kukes for cargo and vehicles).

Although the establishment of the Durres-Kukes-Morine highway has created an immense easiness of access to the FA from within the country and also by creating connection bridges with other countries, the internal infrastructure between the communes and the municipality still needs work because of the difficult terrain and adverse climatic conditions.

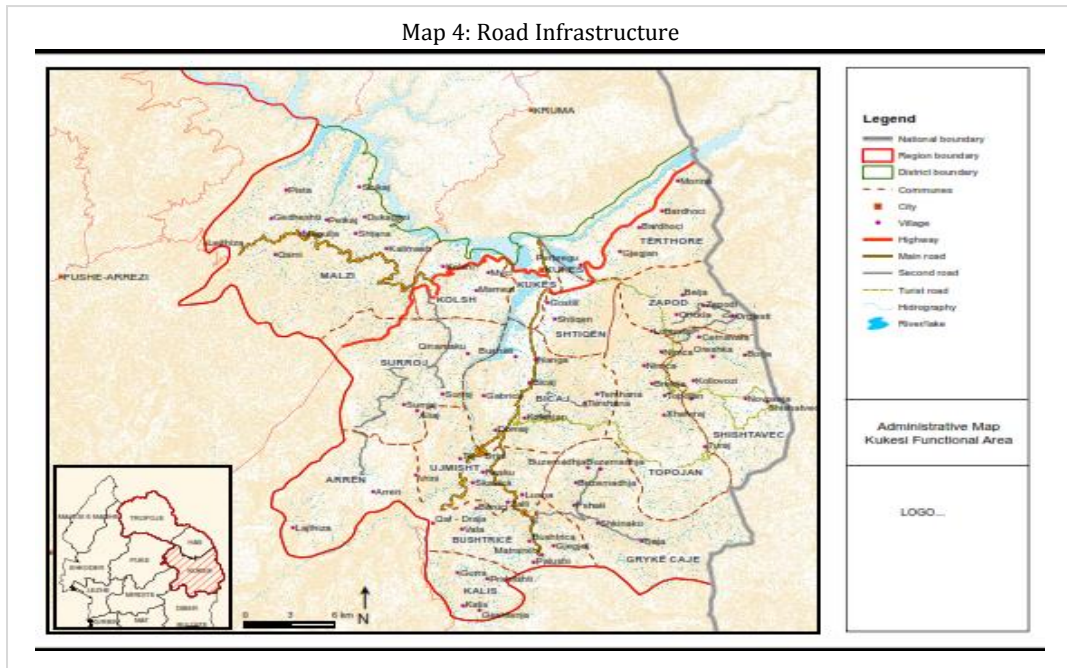
The city of Kukes serves as a connection point between Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia. Also Kukes airport built in 2004 is a benefit perspective for this area being the second great airport in Albania.

In terms of road infrastructure, the FA of Kukes has 122.5 km of regional road axes and 181 km of national roads, accounting for respectively 67% of all regional road network Kukes and 55% of the national road network that lies in this region. Although investments have been numerous, the quality of road infrastructure still leaves much to be desired. Currently, approximately 119 rural roads in this area are still unpaved. Going from the communes to Kukes as an administrative center takes around 47 min. Regarding the communes that need 150 min (Arren, Ujmisht, Bushtrice, gorges hack, Kalis), with the expansion of the territory could be created opportunities for communal services, in which the residents of these communes can receive necessary services in their place of residence. The enlargement of LGUs would provide a greater investment in terms of infrastructure, always taking into account the characteristics of the area's relief³.

² See: "A new Urban- Rural Classification of the Albanian Population. Geographical Typology of the EU, Based on the Network Data Cells " INSAT May 2014 , pg 21-22

³ See PNUD "Functional Areas Report" 2014

Map 4: Road Infrastructure



In the city of Kukes, the use of public transport by citizens to move between different areas is minimal (0.6%). The highest level of public transport use results in Shtiqën by 2.9%. The rest of the transport services is provided by the private sector through van service and taxi service. Currently, the fragmented infrastructure between municipalities and communes makes the access to this transport low. The whole area has a lack of passenger stations, which makes the movement of vehicles and passenger ban station to be placed arbitrarily without a definite plan of intercity public transportation points.

2.3 Climate and the Environment

The climate is typically continental. The summer is hot with little precipitation and the winters are cold with lots of snow and frost. The main catchment basin of the region is the one of the Drin river (White Drin and Black Drin), whom in this part form the Lake of Fierza which is used mainly for electricity.

The FA of Kukes offers a rich biodiversity and climate including a nature with high mountains, hills, plains, rivers and lakes making it an area very rich with water sources. A special thing is the collection of all spills, streams and rivers that flow into the River Drin, and end with the merger of Drin with Buna. The lake of Fierza remains the center of all streams and the water environment is very suitable for the development of fisheries. Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation is a special focus of the FAK for putting its rich resources towards their use. Significant damages to the environment concern forests (deforestation and lack of care), water pollution due to waste disposal (not the proper management of waste in general and their deposit) to the lake of Fierza, setting standards for agriculture and livestock, etc.

The expansion and improvement of green spaces is another element which must be taken into consideration to create a healthy and aesthetic environment. This requires in the first place to specifically determine in the field the green areas, and specify the instruments for their protection and development in the future. The existence of multiple sources of water should be used by

authorities and residents of the area as a potential for the creation and enhancement of green areas.

The Natural resources of the Kukes FA are determined by its mountains⁴, caves, canyons, rivers, lakes, plentiful water resources, forests and pastures, flora and fauna. In total, in this region there are 41 protected areas, some of which are mentioned below.

2.4 History, Culture, Tradition and Main Attractions.

The FA of Kukes has an extensive history and culture, local traditions, variety of agricultural products, culinary, which are potentially valuable for the development of tourism in the country (eco-tourism, mountain tourism, etc.). There is a wide range of cultural and artistic activities taking place in this area, primarily at center in Kukes as events, festivals, literary competitions, fairs, exhibitions, festivals and festive days (such as the Chestnut Holiday, Potato Holiday, Craft Day, Generosity Day, Municipal Holidays, Fishing Day, Honey Holidays, Pilgrimage Pashtrik, Regional Education Day, National Colony of Painters "ArtKukës"), conferences, hospitality day, art week, Shistavec ski championship, fishing and sailing, mountaineering, camping, including cross border events with Kosovo which enrich the artistic and sporting life of the area. The FA is rich in cultural, religious, historical monuments and folcloric traditions, which have become part of the national cultural heritage: The house of Hasan Rexhepi, Castle of Leka (Mal Zi), Gradishta of Bardhoc (Tërthore) the house of Asllan Fetahu, the house of Rustem Shahin, "Hisar" in Domaj, Bushat Castle, Old School of Bica family (Bicaj) and The Villa Castle (Bushtrice). 4 of these monuments are state-owned and 5 are privately owned.

The FA has a historical museum, new stadium, the spot of hand games, 2 libraries, concert halls, one orchestra in Kukes, 1 cultural center, football and volleyball fields, religious buildings: 1 church and 1 mosque in Kukes, and several small churches and mosques in the surrounding villages. Attractions such as mountains, rivers, lakes, monuments, caves, valleys, etc. (mentioned in detail in the section on the Environment) increase the potential of Kukes in turning into a tourist frequented area.

This area has sufficient assets to attract tourists, particularly exceptional natural resources in the tops of the mountains, alpine meadows, deep valleys and spectacular lakes and rivers. The attractions that attract more tourists are, the Lake of Fierza, Shistavec, Gjallica canyons, etc.

Table 1. Monuments of Culture

Nr	Emër i Monumentit	Fshati
1	Banesa e Asllan Fetahut	Bicaj,
2	Banesa e Rustem Shahinit	Osmanaj
3	Hisari në Domaj	Domaj
4	Kështjella e Bushatit	Bushat
5	Shkolla e Vjetër e Bicajt	Bicaj
6	Banesa e Hasan Rexhepit	Shtan
7	Kalaja e Lekës	Vau-Spas
8	Kalaja e Vilës	Vile
9	Gradishta e Bardhocit	Bardhoc

⁴ The natural resources of Kukes FA are enumerated from the mountains (Korab-Koritnik, Gjallica, Sharri Mountains, The Accursed Mountains), caves of (Jezina, Mamëz, Akulli, Pëllumbave, Dajcit, Skënderbeu, Përbregut, Sasatit, etc), canyons (Bicaj, Arni, Vana, Shoshan, Shtrenjti), rivers (Kalimash, Srriqes, Goskes, Black Drini and White Drini, the united Drini, Luma, Bushtrica, Tërshena), lakes (Fierza, Novosejt), springs (Red fountain, White fountain, Kinzës, Tanzot, Gurra e Bostanjerës, Kolosjanit).

On the other hand, regarding the services, the lack of social, cultural, and sportive access of communes to the center of Kukes, is a lack conditioned by the fact that most social, cultural, sports and health centers are concentrated only on the urban center of Kukes. For example. Communes of Arrë, Kalis, Surroj, Ujmisht, Grykë Cajë, etc.

2.5 Demographic Tendencies

2.5.1 Population, Movement Trends, Migration

The population in the Functional Area of Kukes hits (according to Census 2011) 47.985 inhabitants. The population of the Kukes FA constitutes 56% of the total population of the Region of Kukes (with 85.292 residents), or more than half the population of the two other functional areas, the one of Tropoja (24%) and Has (20%). At the country level, the population of the Kukes Region represents less than 4% of the country's population. The average population per LGU's units results in 3.159 residents/LGU, or 60% lower than the national average that is 8016 residents/LGU. This level for Kukes FA result much smaller. The smaller units are Arrën and Kalis in Kukes (less than 1300 inhabitants together).

Table 2: Population and density in the FA

Local Government Units	Population	Density Residents/km ²
Kukës Municipality	16,719	1013
Kolsh Commune	1,250	27
Shtiqen Commune	3,438	96
Malzi Commune	3,072	19
Terthore Commune	2,959	42
Zapod Commune	2,217	63
Surroj Commune	1,099	13
Bicaj Commune	5,631	71
Topojan Commune	1,753	24
Shishtavec Commune	3,835	65
Arren Commune	462	8
Ujmisht Commune	1,797	33
Grykë Cajë Commune	1,440	16
Bushtricë Commune	1,486	37
Kalis Commune	827	29
TOTAL ZF Kukës	47,985	51

Source: UNDP Report on Functional Areas, 2013

Kukes, as an urban center has a relatively high population density (1,013 residents/km²). It is noted that this figure is quite low in communes, below 28 residents/ km² on average, but there are also communes where the density reaches the minimum number figures as the commune of Arren (8 residents/km²). The surrounding LGUs have an average population density, while the rest of the LGUs, which are far from the center, are sparsely populated and with very weak interactions, being distanced from the center of the functional area. The average density of the FA is 51 residents/ km².

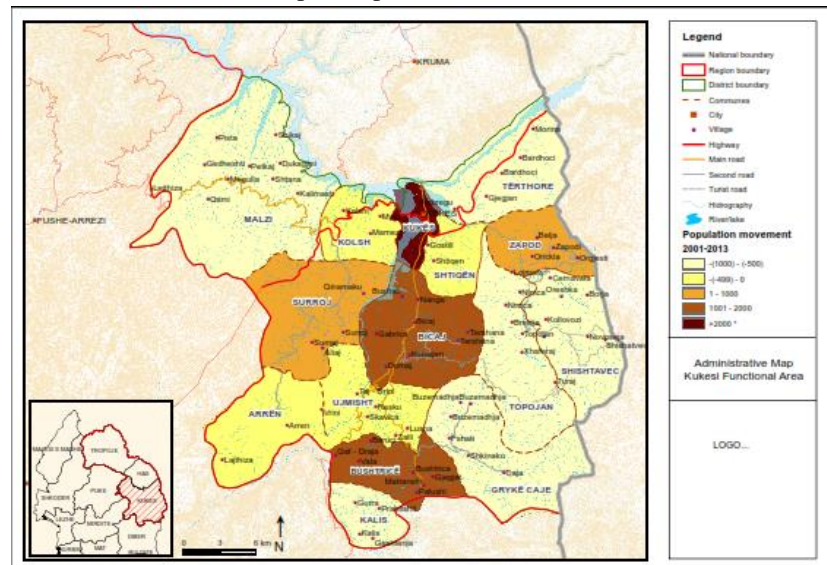
Recent analyzes reveal two important trends in terms of population: (i) general depopulation (ii) and depopulation followed by inter-regional migration from rural to urban centers. In the recent years the municipal population grew by 3.8%, while in municipalities it has fallen by 2.5%. As shown in the map below, the communes that have experienced the largest decline are; Kalis (42.8%), Kolsh 30.6%, and Topojan (12.8%)⁵. Lower density figures were observed in the communes of Arrën (8 inhabitants/ km²) of Maw-Cajë (10 inhabitants/ km²)⁶. The map shows population movements, where strong brown color indicates which resulted in large movements and concentration of population.

⁵ On the map these areas are marked with light beige color. Kukes Regional Development Strategy, 2012-2016

⁶ At a regional level in the 2001-2011 comparison, there was a decrease of 23% among the highest figures due to immigration. (See Albania: Population and its dynamics, the New Demographic Horizons)? - INSTAT, May 2014)

The main factors contributing to these demographic developments are related to the economic transition: the closure of many state-owned enterprises and the unemployment that followed it; transport infrastructure and extremely poor communication; the generally difficult terrain; unfavorable climatic and agricultural conditions, etc. Migration from rural to urban areas within the region is also associated with poor working conditions in agriculture, low productivity of this sector and limited access to services in rural areas.

Map 5: Population Movement



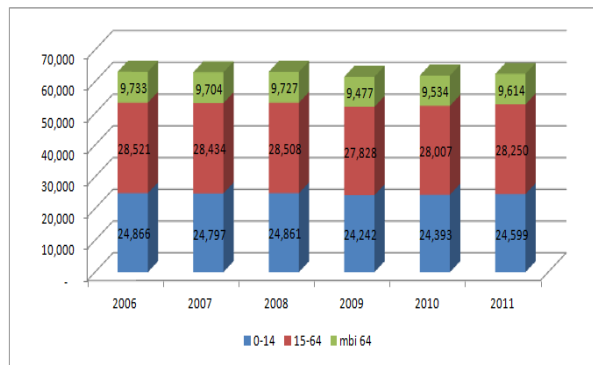
2.5.2 Population Structure

The functional area of Kukes is represented by a relatively young population being one characteristic that also distinguishes it nationwide⁷. Trends in the three age groups were more or less stable since 2006. If we look population structure, we note that 49% of it constitutes ages able to work and the rest includes a 14% which constitutes children (young age) and a 37% which constitutes the age group of 65 years and above (see Figure 1 below). Based on this age structure of the population in this area, the coverage situation is critical when compared to the national average. The coefficient of the degree of coverage for young people in total is 76%, and it is higher than the average coefficient for all Kukes region (43.2%). Likewise, the degree of coverage for the elderly appears high when compared with the average at the Kukes Region (12.4%)⁸, or at national level (see Table 3 below). This implies a considerable burden of the people depending on the households and the economy of the area in general. This degree of dependence is the result of the high birth rate which continues to be the highest in the republic. The natural growth of the population of functional area in the past seven years is presented with an average of 120 inhabitants per year.

⁷ See INSTAT "Albania – Projections of Population 2011-2031" May 2014

⁸ Accordig to the Census data 2011: See Albania: Population and its Dynamics – New Demographic Horizons? – INSTAT, May 2014

Chart 1: Population structure by age



Source: Region of Kukes Data, 2014

Table 3: Coverage Degree⁹

Dependency Ratio	Total	Urban	Rural
For the young	76%	84%	72%
For the elderly	30%	32%	29%
General Proportion	1.06	1.16	1.01

As seen from the data, future prospects regarding the first population dynamics also from the perspective of the labor market seems positive, with the growing trend of skilled workforce for future work. This trend in turn poses the challenge of appropriate policies for the labor market with the aim of hiring new contingents of the labor market in this area.

Kukes is always regarded as one of the poorest regions of the country. The calculated GDP is 1.753 Euro per capita, while the GDP of the country is 2469 Euros. In 2010, the number of households receiving social assistance¹⁰ was 1027 families for 10,000 inhabitants and since 2006 this indicator has decreased only by 2.5%¹¹.

Generally, the largest number of households receiving social assistance live in rural areas (communes). It is noted that families living in urban areas are subject to full coverage of economic aid, while those living in rural areas are subject to a partial type of assistance. The latter deal mainly with partial economic assistance, because they are considered to be self-employed in agriculture, although they face different financial difficulties. However, these values may be underestimated if we take into account the effect of depopulation. 18 out of 27 communes in the regional level have a decreasing number of households receiving social assistance for 10,000 people. The largest decreases are observed in the communes of Kukes FA such as Surroj (-51%), Zapod (-19%), Shishtavec and Kolsh (-18%). While only Bushtrece from the FA of Kukes has the largest increases in this indicator, the others belong to the communes of the other FA-s in the region of Kukes. Another indication of the social situation in the region is seen by the spendings on consumption. More than half of these expenditures go for food consumption and non-alcoholic drinks. Kukes is one of the five regions with high indicators for this type of expenditure.

⁹ The coverage ratio represents respectively the ratio of the population aged 0-14 and 65 and older versus population aged 15-64.

¹⁰ According to the Law No.9355, dated 10.3.2005 for social assistance and services; "Economic assistance" is the support in cash and in kind for the individuals with a special status and families in need

¹¹ Regional Development Strategy, Kukes

3. KEY FEATURES OF THE FUNCTIONAL AREA

Based on the concept of the organization of functional areas in Kukes, three FA are clearly identified, Kukes, Has and Tropoje. The borders of these areas correspond to the borders of the constituent districts of the Region¹².

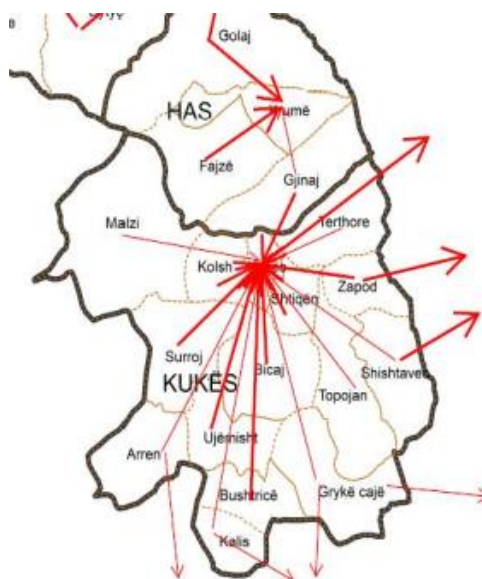
The FA can be considered as *the main administrative center* of the Region, as in it are situated the main and decentralized institutions and central government structures at the local level, such as the Sub-prefecture, Court, Prosecutor, or Regional Departments of Education, Health, Agriculture etc. This results in an institutional interaction of the offices at a regional level, represented in the town of Kukes, Bajram Curri and Kruma, an interaction related to the responsibilities and functions of each of these offices have at district and regional level have in their legal responsibilities.

The city of Kukes, as administrative center is the gravity center of the whole area. There are located all necessary social, administrative and economic services. The FA of Kukes consists in *the focused model of the functional area* in which there is only one important center, which is the city or the administrative center of the district. As such, it provides services and is the incarnation of interactions for the entire area by increasing the ability of local income generation for the local community.

The Center of Kukes as a functional area, stands for *interaction in terms of employment, consumption and access to services*. Characteristic in this FA is a concentration of economic interaction from communes toward the center Kukes, a trend which is also encountered in other FA-s of the Kukes Region: Bajram Curri and Kruma.

The municipality of Kukes is the main center of the FA, and the more important in terms of economic, administrative, and social aspects. Other economic centers include Bicaj, Shtiqen, Shishtavec and Shëmri (Malzi). *Despite these economic centers, Kukes is the place where the main commercial activity is developed*. This is due to the economic structure of the area, where the city of Kukes is seen as the only important market, in which the main trade interactions are realized.

Map 6: Interactions in employment

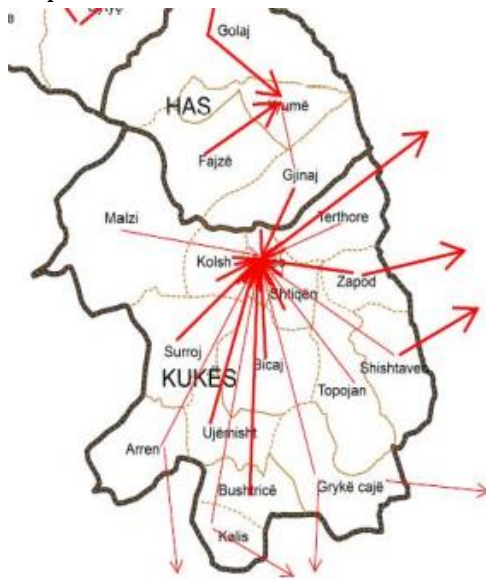


¹² dldp Study on the Functional Areas

In terms of *cross-border interaction Kukes is also the major center of trade interaction with Kosovo* because of its proximity to the Kosovo market, especially with the two main cities of the Southern

Economic Region of Kosovo, Prizren and Djakovica. The direct access to the national road network as a result of the construction of the Durres – Kukes highway, has allowed Kukes to be also closer to other markets within the country, by increasing the accessibility of the FA in both domestic and regional market.

Map 7 : Markets Interactions



Source: Study on the Functional Areas, dldp

Kukes, as an urban center has a relatively high population density, the surrounding LGUs have an average population density, while the rest of the LGUs, which are far from the center, are sparsely populated and with very weak interactions, being distanced from the functional area.

Two important trends are observed in this district: general depopulation followed by inter-regional migration from rural to urban centers. In the recent years the population of the municipalities grew by 3.8%, while in communes it has fallen by 2.5%. The communes that have experienced the

largest decline are; Kalis (42.8%), 30.6% Kolsh, Fierzë (13.5%) and Topojan (12.8%). The municipality of Kukes results as the LGU with the population density above the regional average, ie 2.569 inhabitants/km². Figures of lower density were observed in the communes of Arrën (10 inhabitants/km²) and Grykë-Çaje (20 inhabitants/km²). Kukes Municipality has a relatively young population. Trends in the three age groups were more or less stable since 2006.

The main factors contributing to these demographic developments are related to economic transition: the closure of many state-owned enterprises and the unemployment that followed; transport infrastructure and extremely poor communication; generally difficult terrain; unfavorable climate and agricultural conditions; as well as unsustainable use of forests.

Factors contributing to the current situation are:

1. Economic transition and decline of labor supply;
2. Migration from rural to urban areas within the county as a result of poor working conditions in agriculture, low productivity of this sector and limited access to services in rural areas

3.1 Characteristics of the Functional Area

3.1.1 General data on the economy of the FAK

The history of economic development of the Kukes region shows a gradual development of services since the years of 1945 with a focus on agriculture and livestock. Kukes was a popular region and with a tradition in raising and breeding of sheep. The quality of meat and wool of lumjane sheeps were popular throughout the Balkans. Until the 90s, the residents of the Functional Area of Kukes were engaged in activities such as mining, trade sector, light food industry, handcrafts, construction, etc. The transport of goods and passengers was made possible through the artificial lake of Fierza. A considerable part of the population of the city and villages in the area worked in the extraction and processing of chrome in Kalimash, in the extraction of copper mine in Gjegjan, etc. After the 90s, almost all these state activities were closed, resulting in rising unemployment and poverty for residents. Kukes was also a known lake transportation hub, the only one of this

Table 5: GDP per capita

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
National Level	366,665	390,754	425,554	447,754	460,436
North Area	287,448	311,075	351,706	360,353	371,667
Region of Kukes	246,346	271,812	305,599	329,255	319,935
Versus National Average %	67.2%	69.6%	71.8%	73.5%	69.5%
Versus North Area Average %	85.7%	87.4%	86.9%	91.4%	86.1%

Source: INSTAT

poorest areas in the entire country. This is evident in the analysis of the data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The contribution of this region to domestic production continues to be the lowest in recent years at a country level, only 2.2%. Likewise, the level of GDP per capita is the lowest, being at a level about 30% lower than the national average and 12% lower than the average of the northern area.

The low level of economic development of the area is because the revenues in this area are generated primarily from low productivity sectors. The economy of the area is based on agriculture (see Table 6) which accounts on average 33% of all gross added value for the region, while the contribution of the industry is only on an average of about 11%, and as distinguished from the table the contribution of this sector has been declining in recent years.

The economy of the functional area is dominated by individual or family business and it is mainly based on small trade. This is explained also by the structure of enterprises which occupy 81% of small businesses that employ up to 4 people, which are mostly family businesses (see Chart 2).

Table 4: Contribution of the Regions in the GDP (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Dibër	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%	2.9%	3.2%
Durrës	9.5%	9.6%	10.2%	10.0%	9.9%
Kukës	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%
Lezhë	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	3.4%
Shkodër	5.6%	5.7%	6.0%	5.7%	5.4%
Elbasan	7.3%	7.4%	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%
Tiranë	40.5%	40.5%	38.8%	38.3%	38.2%
Berat	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%	4.1%
Fier	10.2%	9.8%	10.6%	11.1%	12.4%
Gjirokastrë	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%	2.2%
Korçë	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.5%	5.5%
Vlorë	6.5%	6.5%	6.0%	6.3%	5.8%

Source: INSTAT

kind in Albania.

Despite being a region rich in many natural resources and multiple opportunities, the FA of Kukes, as all the Kukes region is one of the

Table 6: Prefecture of Kukës: Gross Added Value by sector (in %)

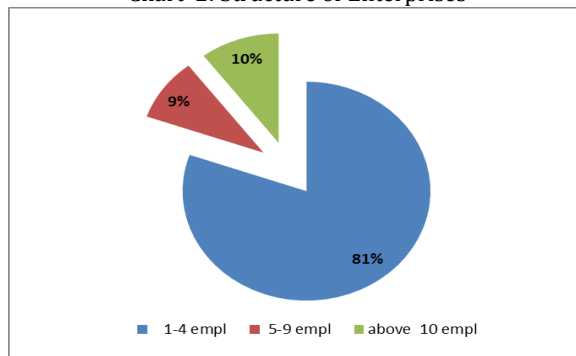
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bujqësia, gjuetia dhe pyjet; Peshkimi	29.4	28.9	31.5	40.2	36.9
Industria	13.1	14.5	13.9	6.6	7.9
Ndërtim	20.9	19.5	17.5	16.2	15.4
Tregëti, Hotele, Restorante, Transport dhe Komunikacioni	13.7	13.2	13.0	11.4	11.1
Ndërmjetësimi Financiare, pasuri të pa-tund, qera etj	6.0	5.6	5.9	7.5	8.6
Shërbime të tjera	16.9	18.4	18.2	18.1	20.2

Source: INSTAT

Large business enterprises are concentrated (Chart 3 below), mainly in the services sector (48%) and trade (34%) while the construction sector (16%) and manufacturing (13%) energy, mining occupy a smaller percentage, which shows once again that the economy of the area is based on sectors that generate less revenue. The presence of foreign-owned enterprises is almost negligible only 2 enterprise or 1.1% of large business enterprises, while those with joint ventures (3) account for only 1.6% of total enterprises in this category.

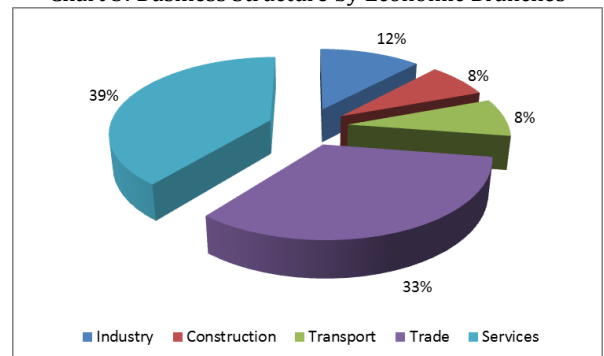
Today, the main employment sectors are the trade and services sector, the transport sector and the rest that are fewer, are the manufacturing sector and the construction sector, which is mainly based on public contractions.

Chart 2: Structure of Enterprises



Source: Kukes Region

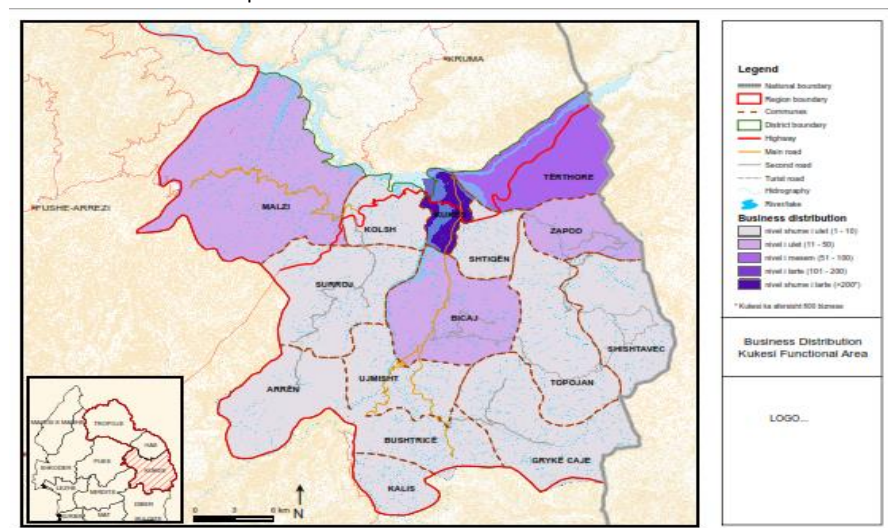
Chart 3: Business Structure by Economic Branches



Source: Kukes Region

As shown by the map 5 below most businesses are concentrated in the Municipality of Kukes (79%¹³), while the communes are presented with a reduced number of businesses in their total. After Kukes with a very small number follow Tërthore (17 units), Shtiqen (16 units) and Malzi (15 units).

Map 8: Concentration of Businesses inside the FA



Source: INSTAT

¹³ 503 businesses compared to 637 businesses in total (Source: Instat)

While communes such as Grykë Çajë and the commune of Ujmisht have respectively 1 and 2 businesses in total. The presence of such a low number of businesses indicates the low economic level of these communes.

These data makes also the distribution of businesses per 1,000 inhabitants, to be very disproportionate. The municipality of Kukes as the center of the FA has about 46 businesses per 1,000 inhabitants, while the communes of Ujmisht and Grykë Çajë have on their territory only one business per 1000 inhabitants, and these are mostly family businesses. The number of businesses is still very low and their situation is bad. Most of them have financial problems with taxes, not having enough resources for further investment.

The economic structure of the functional area is reflected also in the structure of export - import. As seen from the table below, the majority of imported products in the past five years consisted in "vegetable products" (29.8%) followed by "base metals and their derivats" (15.8%), and "mineral products "(15.5%). The specific weight of the two latest products has been relatively high in 2013, respectively 36% and 44.8%.

Table 6: Export-import according to the customs entry points to the area of Kukes in 000 ALL

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export
Living animals, products of animal origin	62	-	79	3	21	-	16	4	8	9
Vegetal Products	742	97	1,357	217	1,161	360	1,486	408	1,639	486
Fats	2	-	0	0	2	-	1	1	-	1
Prepared foods, alcoholic beverages, tobacco	208	8	313	33	376	17	512	16	494	22
Mineral Products	555	236	19	1,148	195	2,392	157	4,051	21	3,589
Chemical industry products	87	35	11	87	23	135	6	215	2	232
Plastics, rubber and articles thereof	66	9	156	11	478	18	352	56	144	56
Leather and articles thereof	0	8	0	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood and wood products	10	12	13	8	18	12	12	2	3	2
Paper and paper products	4	13	6	28	1	31	1	27	-	18
Textiles and textile products	8	1	12	1	3	2	3	2	1	4
Footwear	1	0	0	1	0	-	-	0	0	-
Products made of stone, plaster, ceramic, glass	60	1	51	15	45	281	21	464	25	385
Pearls, precious stones, precious metals, etc.	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Base metals and articles thereof	274	52	485	67	350	97	219	229	351	2,883
Mechanical and electrical equipment and machinery	85	711	112	214	406	100	1,470	912	207	129
Means of transport	169	82	138	101	624	192	435	433	413	10
Optical, photographic, musical instruments etc.	16	2	3	9	1	4	0	54	11	13
Different produced articles	20	10	29	82	24	84	3	71	2	164
	2,368	1,276	2,785	2,027	3,731	3,726	4,693	6,948	3,319	8,002

Source: INSTAT

The export is dominated by "mineral products" (48%) and 'machinery and electrical and mechanical equipment "(16%). The export of mineral products has been increasing since 2008 with very high rates in recent years (by 4.9 times: 2009 in 15.2 times: 2013) while in 2012 it had the highest level. A major role has played the export of minerals in Kosovo for further processing (see the section for mining below).

As regards to public investments, their distribution is uneven. Higher investments are carried out by the Municipality of Kukes with the value of 51,000 thousand ALL, followed by the communes of Malzi, Kalis and Ujmisht. While other communes appear to have zero or almost zero investments. The situation appears different if we see investments per capita, where it is noted that the commune of Kalis and Arrën scatter respectively 19,000 and 15,000 ALL/residents, followed by the commune of Ujmisht with 8000 ALL/resident. While the Municipality of Kukes

which has the highest level of investment in absolute is ranked together with the commune Grykë Çajë, the sixth local unit in terms of investment per capita with 3,000 ALL per capita.

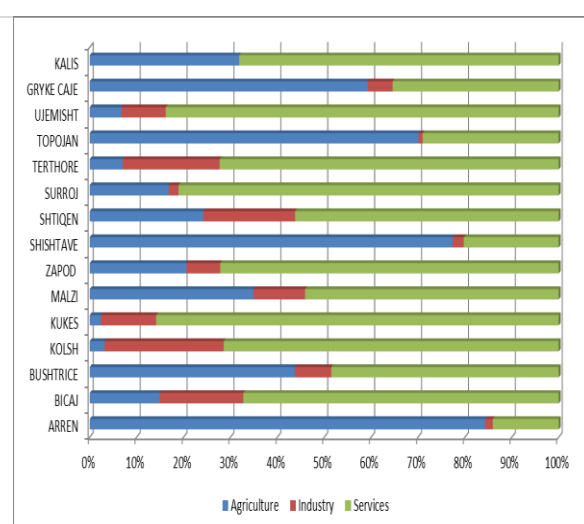
This is due to the different possibilities of local governments to carry out investments with their income, but also because of the scheme of financing of capital expenditures made through the competitive grants scheme which generally has created an inequality in their distribution. The focus of the investments has been mainly on local infrastructure, while investments in local economic development are almost absent. Failure of investment by local governments in the field of local economic development has brought a negative effect on business development, by not giving them the right support and by not creating the suitable conditions for their development.

Although currently the economy of the area is rather underdeveloped, opportunities, geographical positioning in a favorable point on the border with Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, quick access to nearby border markets of Kosovo (Prizren, Gjakova, Dragas), or Montenegro (Berane, etc.) makes it the center of cooperation, institutions and exchanges. The development of the Durres-Morine highway has increased the importance of this region, including direct connection with Kosovo and other markets of neighboring countries.

3.1.2 The labour market and its structure

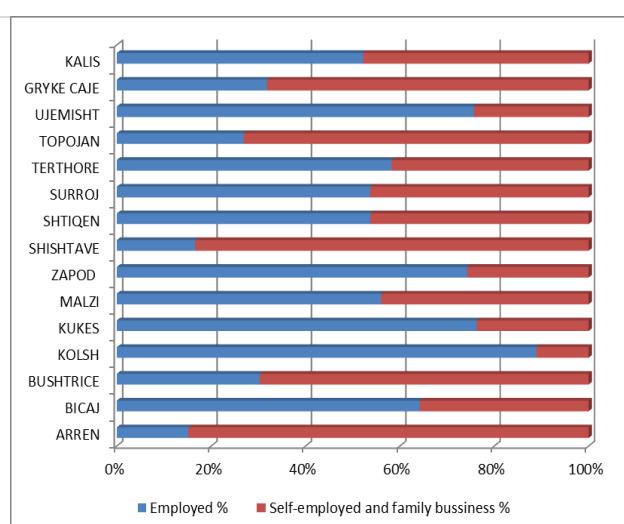
As a result of the closure of the mines, plant and many economic enterprises that had a large number of workers after the 90s, unemployment is very high compared to other regions of Albania. Much of the population is employed in the services sector (57.3%) while about 33% in the agricultural sector and only 9.5% in industry. While at the local unit level, this structure changes which is connected with the location of the mines in the area. Employment in agriculture is dominant in the communes of Arren, Shishtavec and Topojan.

Chart 6: Employment by Sectors of the economy



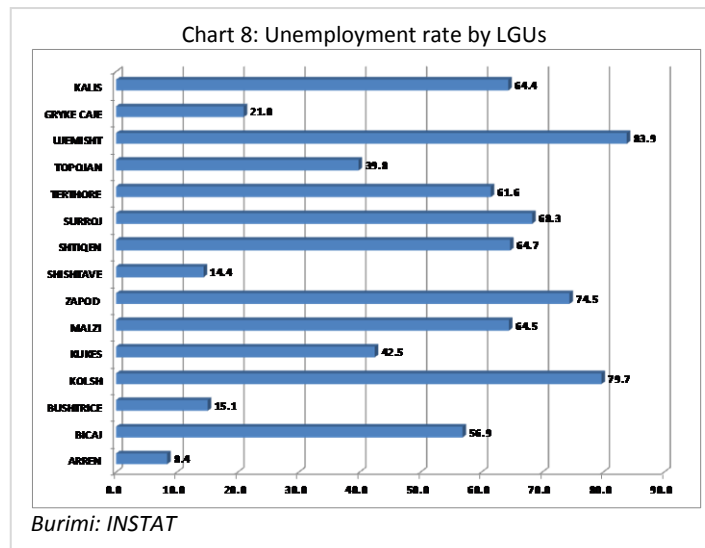
Source: INSTAT

Chart 7: Employment status



There is a straight link between employment sectors and employment status. 51.6% of those working are employed, while in average 48.4% are self-employed or work in family businesses,

while employment status is different from unit to unit, as shown in Chart 7 above. Employment occupies a larger weight specifically in the Municipality of Kukes, communes of Kolsh, Ujëmisht and Zapod. While self-employment or employment in the family business is more common in the communes of Arren, Shishtavec and Bushtrice. Most of the employees (61%) work part time, which relates also to the rural nature of the area and the agricultural activity, and only 33.2% work full time.



Most of the employees have the primary and secondary general school education (48%), 35.4% have a secondary vocational education and only 14.8% have a higher education. A significant part of communes' residents are employed in the city of Kukes, but also in other communes near their settlements.

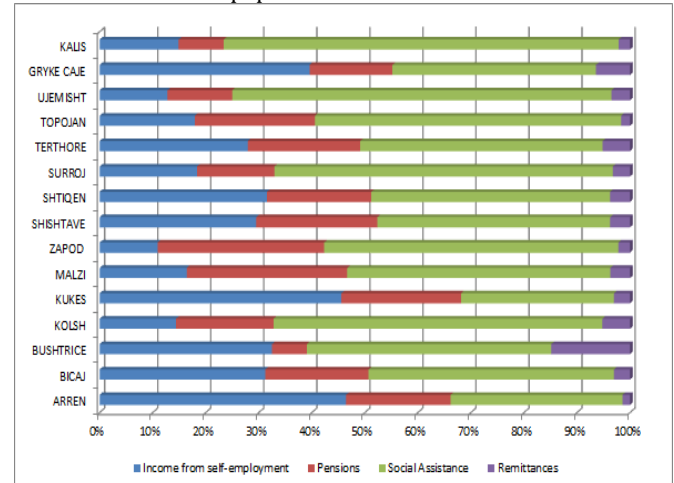
The unemployment rate is high. The 2011 Census data revealed an unemployment rate at about 50% of the forces capable of working. The highest level of unemployment was

recorded among young people 65.9%, followed by unemployment among women in the amount of 51.5%, while among men it reaches 50.1%.

The municipality of Kukes has a high unemployment rate. Over 35% of the workforce is unemployed. The average monthly income is quite low because many families live with economic aid. Most families live with public sector salaries which have an average of 19,000 ALL. Given that subsistence level is on a par the same as the average income for a family, it is understood that most of the families live below the poverty line and the level of income is insufficient to afford a normal life.

One of the features associated to the poverty level is the level of treatment of the population receiving welfare. In the FA scale 43.3% of the population receives economic aid, and as can be seen from Figure 9, the communes where this level is hypersensitive are Kolsh (69.8%), Ujmisht (66.4%) and Tërthorë (64.3%).

Chart 9: The rate of population treated with social assistance



Source: Region of Kukes

So based on the above analysis, what is noted that it will spur the economic development of the FA of Kukes is related to the development of agriculture, tourism and mining which in total will

lead to increased employment and quality of services delivery in order to approximate with European standards.

Agriculture remains one of the most important economic sectors, which provides about 33% of all gross value added for the region and mostly for the functional area, ensuring the highest level of employment. It should be considered that most of the population lives in rural areas and their revenues are generated primarily from agricultural activities and yet potentials in this sector are not used properly. In general, the rural economy is fragmented and small agricultural enterprises have difficulties to access major national or regional markets. In this context, improving access to markets and strengthening the quality of delivery of products will create opportunities for the increase of competitiveness in the agricultural sector not only within the country but also abroad. It is worth mentioning here the traditions of trade cooperation and exchange of products with Kosovo, Montenegro as an important step in this regard.

Tourism (including cultural and historical tourism, rural, natural, lake tourism and agro-tourism) is also a potential for the economic development of the FA, which is widely reflected at the institutional level - as in the regional strategy and development plan of the Municipality. The natural beauties of the FA as well as cultural and historical traditions of the area provide ample opportunities to be promoted. This area has sufficient assets to attract tourists, particularly exceptional natural resources in the tops of the mountains, alpine meadows, deep valleys and spectacular lakes and rivers.

Mines as the third important sector identified also provides a potential that should be used to obtain growth of employment and trade within this sector. This third sector remains challenging as regards the development of potential projects, but is worth analyzing - as will be seen in subsequent chapters - because it still remains untapped according to the capacities it offers. Investments in this sector depend mainly on national policies - concession agreements and private investments, but a more detailed plan of the policies in this sector with those at the local level needs to be elaborated.

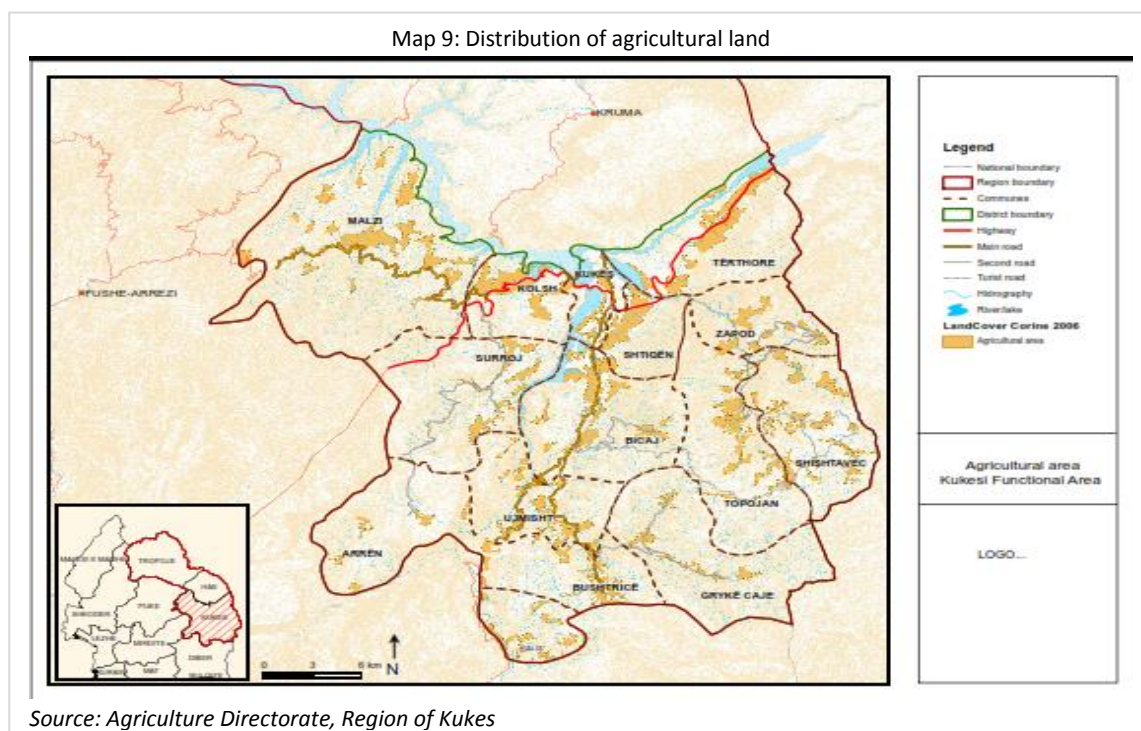
4. IN DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONAL AREA'S ECONOMY

4.1 Analysis of key sectors of the economy

4.1.1 Agriculture Sector

4.1.1.1 Agricultural Activity

As mentioned above, Agriculture remains the sector that provides the greatest level of income and the main sector of employment in the FA of Kukes. This area is known for the development of agriculture and livestock, especially thanks to a very favorable climate for its development. Climate and the geographic terrain are key factors that ensure the development of agriculture. Agriculture occupies a very important place in the development of the internal market, where operate a large number of merchants with domestic production.



The mountaneous terrain of the area affects also the land structure, where forests cover about 62% of the area's territory, while agricultural land occupies only 16% (11374.2 ha) of the area' territory, a small percentage compared to the national average (24%)¹⁴ of agricultural land. In communes such as Shishtavec about 43.8% of all territory consists of forests, forest lands and wastelands. In Tërthorë forests and pastures occupy a considerable area, they have a considerable weight and represents industrial importance because they can be used not only in the interests of the communes, but also of the whole region and beyond. Topojan is distinguished by its natural asseta. Forests constitute the main natural wealth. The tree species are, ha, pine, birch, hornbeam, rraboll etc.¹⁵

¹⁴ INSTAT Agriculture Statistics 2012

¹⁵ Shishtavec, Tërthorë, Topojan Development Plan, 2012

Shishtavec (17%) and Bicaj (9%) have the greatest surface of agricultural land in the FA, while Arren (2%) and Surroj (3%) are the communes where the agricultural land surface is too small. Dictated by this land structure, part of the usable land for agriculture in a great extent consists of pastures 56% (16.991 ha), while arable land accounts for only 34% (9,963ha). While areas planted with vines and orchard occupy a very small percentage (3% and 4%).

Among the crops most overwhelmingly planted area is dominated by forages (Table 7) followed by grain. While in terms of productivity, potato and vegetables account for the largest share of agricultural products in this area.

Potatoes mainly are one of the most cultivated products in the area where residents provide part of the income (including rye). In the Shishtavec area residents have a long tradition in its cultivation, as the climatic and soil conditions are quite favorable. In this area are planted relatively large surfaces and potato yields are satisfactory, although residents of the commune have encountered many difficulties in marketing of the products due to overproduction and lower import taxes for this product. Poor infrastructure and the introduction of this crop from other neighboring countries has

Table 7: The trend of planting and production of field crops

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Planted area Ha					
Beans	120	174	175	178	178
Fodder	5,889	6,211	5,976	5,878	5,989
Wheat	1,850	1,176	1,201	1,545	1,390
Corn	2,792	3,280	2,980	2,921	3,076
Potatoes	525	556	696	564	595
Vegetables	617	635	669	647	666
Tagjira	389	172	216	276	289
Rye	396	430	442	505	428
Production in tonnes					
Beans	640	732	481	250	278
Wheat	8,107	5,721	4,779	6,334	5,416
Corn	12,944	18,287	14,720	13,773	15,177
Potatoes	12,331	12,235	15,134	11,038	13,500
Vegetables	10,948	12,408	13,019	13,202	13,781
Rye	947	960	1,062	1,352	1,062

Source: Kukes Region Council

made it less competitive in the local market, as this culture goes out in the market with higher costs than those imported, although it remains one of Albania's bio products. Likewise in Topojan, it is noted that in this commune potato yields are satisfactory, although residents of the community have encountered many difficulties in the marketing of the crop. Even Bicaj has a very high yield of potatoes. However, again poor infrastructure, as well as the introduction of this crop from other neighboring countries has made it less competitive in the local market, as this culture costs higher than the imported one. However, the potato of Kukes is quite favored for its quality and together with chestnuts constitute two of the most typical products of the area which supply not only the local market but are also traded on the national market or in Kosovo, and finally chestnuts have reached also European countries. FAK occupies the sixth place in the republic for potato production.¹⁶

Production of field crops in comparison with other districts of Kukes (Has, Tropoje) is at higher levels, almost double the production of potatoes, vegetables, cereals, rye, etc. There are areas for example where the landscape is quite favorable for the cultivation of the nut plants. Like in the commune of Tërthorë where the calcareous soil enables the growth of corn, beans and wheat. Likewise in Bicaj, the main crops are wheat and corn which in total go over 250 ha, 20 ha of vegetables, while the rest, about 100 ha planted with fodder (mainly alfalfa). The average production varies around 30 quintals/ha wheat and 40 quintals/ha corn (in the lands that are watered).

¹⁶ Comparison with the 36 districts of the state

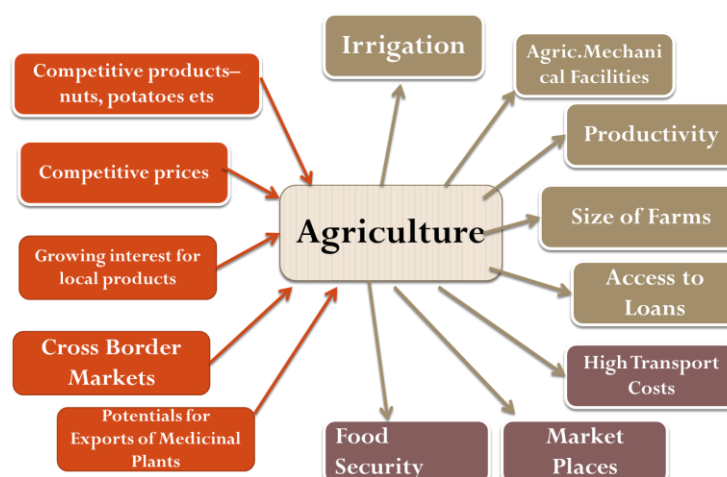
Regarding the state of Arboriculture, the situation shows a positive trend. In 2013 were recorded 857 thousand roots of fruit trees, 88 thousand and 344 thousand roots of vineyards. Their number and production has been increasing year after year where vineyards had the biggest growth with 8% a year, fruit trees 6%, and grapes with 3% per year. As a result of the increasing number of vineyards production has increased with average annual rates of 12%. Arboriculture is also the branch that brings the largest source of income for farmers, about 55%¹⁷.

As seen from the map below, fruit trees grow almost in the entire territory of the FAK, but areas where their concentration is greater are Bicaj (20%), Shtiqen (16%) and Ujmisht (14%). Malzi, stands out for the growth of chestnut. Ujmsht (19%) and Shtiqen (18%) are the communes where also the largest amount of nuts are produced, followed by Bicaj (15%). Bicaj and Kukes stand out as areas where viticulture is developed.

In the FAK two firms exercise their activity for the production of mainly alcoholic beverages, which use as a basic staple products of the area such as plums, grapes, blackberries, etc. These two firms are located in Kukes and serve also as points of collection and processing of fruits grown in the FAK.

A schematic summary of the Advantages and Problems facing the agriculture sector is given in the figure below.

Figure 2: Advantages and Problems of the Agriculture Sector¹⁸



Like throughout the country, the agricultural development and economic performance of the agricultural sector in the Kukes FA are influenced by several factors where the most important are:

- **The small size of farms:** largely dominated by small and fragmented farms the overall productivity .¹⁹ If we compare at the national level, the size of farms in 2012 was 4.8²⁰ ha and there were rather small changes comparing from 2000 until 2012, with an increase of about 0.20 ha. In terms of farmer organization, they are organized by field of production such as Potato Group (Shishtavec), Arboriculture Group (Malzi), Tomatoes and Arboriculture Group,

¹⁷ See: INSAT "Agriculture Statistics 2012"

¹⁸ Red boxes represent the advantages, the light brown ones represent direct problems and those in purple color preclusive elements in the quality and efficiency of agricultural production.

¹⁹ See Cross-Cutting Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development 2014-2020 (pp 8488 - Official Gazette 169/2014)

²⁰ Look: INSAT "Agriculture Statistics 2012".

Corps plant Groups (Bicaj), Viticulture Group (Municipality of Kukes), Vineyard-Vegetable Group (Tërthorë), Potato Group (Topojan)²¹.

- **The low level of mechanization and agricultural technology:** as shown by the tables 9 below, agricultural mechanics remain limited in number as well as in diversity. Because of the terrain in mountainous areas the soil is worked with animals or with arms²². For example, in the commune of Shishtavec the agricultural land is worked with primitive tools like the plow and arms. On the other hand, there are difficult terrains such as in the Topojan area where the very steep terrain does not allow the possibility of employing the mechanism.

Table 8: Irrigaion capacity					Table 9: Agricultural mechanics			
Reservoir	Year of construction	Irrigation capacity in Ha	Land under water Ha	Capacity m3	Type	2011	2012	2013
BARDHOC 1	1967	7	7	25,000	Wheeled tractor	81	95	96
BARDHOC 2	1967	5	5	16,000	Chained tractor	5	5	6
FUSHE DUKAGJIN	1980	86		300,000	Minitractor	100	111	114
SHISHTAVEC - NO	1985	230	552	610,000	Planting machine	84	91	104
POBREG	1975	37	40	130,000	Harvester	13	16	19
VOREN BUSHTRIC	1970	50	50	156,000	Autokombanj	10	10	14
SHTANE	1982	32	94	112,000	Freza	42	52	56
Total		447	748	1,349,000				

Source: Kukes Regional Council

- **Irrigation capacity:** although this area is known for its large hydro capacity, irrigation is a problem for the development of agricultural production. Table 8 below confirms the lack of investment in this regard. Since 1982 in this area there was no investment in terms of increasing the reservoirs. This fact is confirmed also in the development plans of several communes²³. Data show that only 7% of agricultural land can be irrigated from the current reservoirs. For example, in the commune of Shishtavec although water capacities are present in the area, the irrigation system does not work and therefore the reconstruction and construction of irrigation canals emerges as a priority. Shishtavec and Borje irrigation channels are fully damaged although they have been operating during the communist system.
- **Ownership and land registration:** the application of tax on the land has increased the reluctance of farmers to complete the documentation of land ownership. Receiving economic aid has also been one of the factors of not completing the documentation of ownership.
- **Using selected seeds** that increase the productivity of agricultural products has been limited, due to financial capacity.
- **The high cost of transport spendings:** Kukes occupied the fourth place in the country regarding the % of the cost of transport (12%)²⁴ of agricultural products.
- This brings to attention the necessity for setting up **collection points** in some centers of the functional area, ensuring optimal storage conditions. This would reduce the cost of products, maintain quality and will impact on reducing the prices of sales. Currently there is only one point of collection of agricultural products (refrigerating room for preservation of fruits and

²¹ http://www.agro.al/fileadmin/user_upload/diragr/Materiale_per_sherbimin_keshillimor/.pdf

²² Look: INSAT "Agriculture Statistics 2012".

²³ See Development Plan of Bicaj Commune, (pg 44) Development Plan of Terthore Commune

²⁴ INSTAT "Agriculture Statistics 2012"

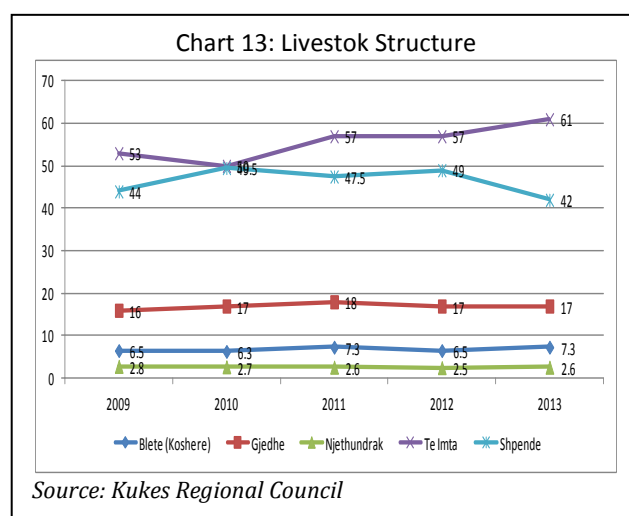
vegetables) which is located in the fruit and vegetable market near the Municipality of Kukes with 30-40m³ capacity. The establishment of other collection points of agricultural products in other areas of the FAK should be made taking into account the concentration of agricultural production in different areas, but also the geographical distribution to ensure a balanced physical access of farmers from collection points.

- Challenges in agriculture and farming are also related to **food safety and the provision of appropriate standards for the consumer**. This area is being assisted by various projects IPARD, GIZ, which will result in improving the situation in this regard.

4.1.1.2 Livestok Activity

Farming is one of the main sources of income for some of the communes that are part of the FA. The Kukes FA is rich in fat and thin livestock as well as birds and bees. The major part is composed of ruminans (76% of total animals), within which sheep occupy the highest percentage (59%)

Beekeeping is a sector which has experienced the largest increase recently (Chart 13), with an average annual growth of 4% in the past five years, or a total of 800 hives. If food safety is guaranteed and brand elements are preserved as being a local product and "bio", this activity can be a good opportunity for income generation.

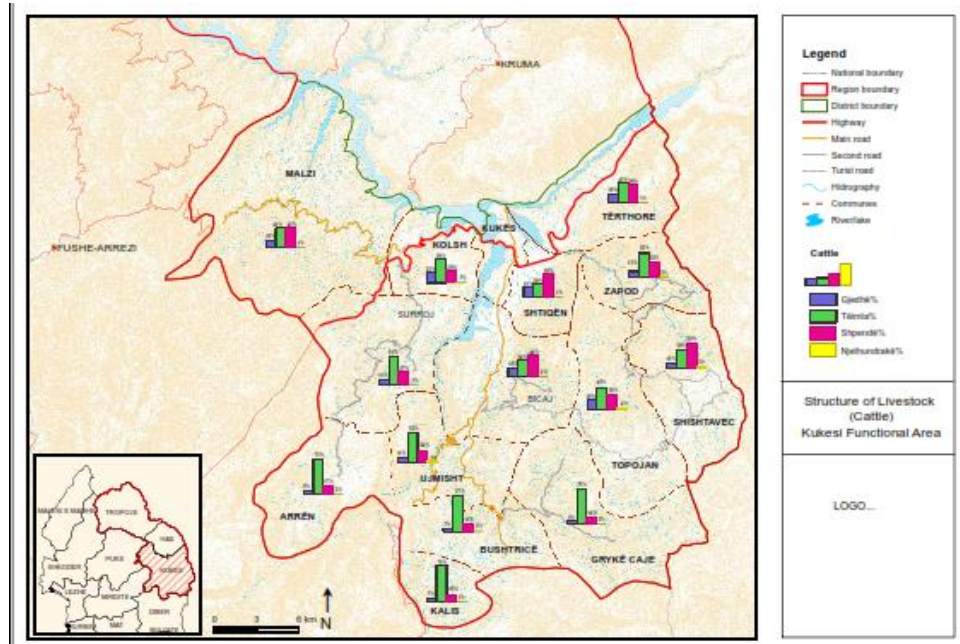


Livestock is spread throughout the area, with greater dominance of small animals (sheep, goats). But the greater concentration of it is in the areas of Shishtavec and Bicaj, where the number of small ruminants and cattle is higer , for all kinds of them, followed by Grykë Cajë and Bushtrice for the number of small ruminants and Topjan for the ungulats.

For example, livestock in the commune of Shishtavec is an important part of the economy of the area as it provides a significant portion of income. The farmer provides this income from the meat, while other product derivatives are used primarily for family consumption and are not traded in the market.

In this area residents mainly breed cattle, wool and ruminants. The cattle is bred in small numbers at a commune level. Residents breed it in small numbers only to family needs.

Map 10: Livestock Development by LGUs



Cattle in this area breeds easily with natural grazing during spring, summer and autumn, while in winter with stockyard/mews regime. Families gather winter reserves for breeding. Sheep are used primarily for meat production, mainly for the local market in Kukes, while milk and wool for family use, with very small part marketed or not at all. The most widespread sheep race in the area is the type of "Rudë" sheep.

In Topojan, livestock is the most important branch of agriculture, as it covers most of the revenue. With a typology similar to that of Shishtavec (cattle, goats, "Rudë" sheep), poor road infrastructure the market unreachable for the sale of milk and its derivatives.

In the area of Tërthorë for example in terms of livestock breeding it has its own specifics for each village. The ruminants range from 20 to 50 heads or 30 heads per capita in average.

It is worth noting the Bicaj area where farming is the only sector that has known only an increase these past 20 years (twice increase in the number of cattles and a tripled number of ruminants).

The following data show the amount of agricultural products produced in 2012, and the share of production of the Kukes area compared to the whole region, or in total nationwide²⁵.

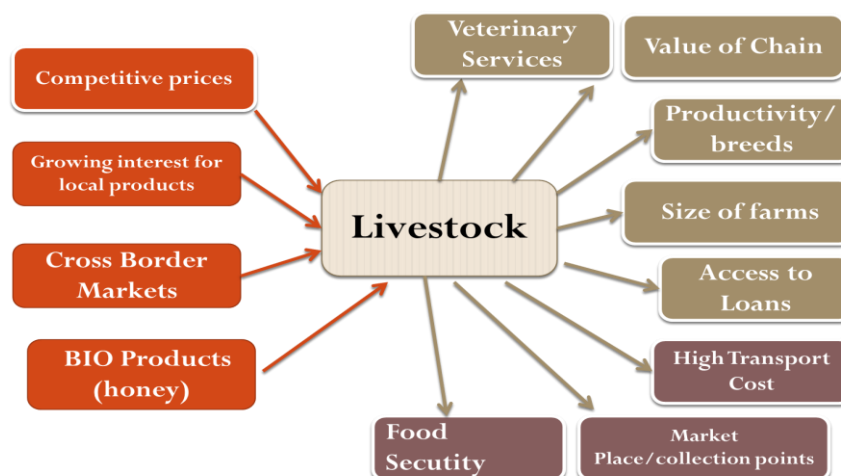
Table 8 : Production of livestock products in 2012

	Total/tonnes	Cattle	Ruminants	Birds	Eggs	Wool	Honey
Kukes	3,723	2,247	1,409	67	4,781	75	45
Total of region	7,620	5,155	2,130	185	13,971	132	129
Total Country	149,977	69,035	47,654	16,245	886,930	3,296	3,296
In specific weight							
Kukes/Region	49%	44%	66%	36%	34.20%	56.80%	34.90%
Kukes/Country	2%	3%	3%	0%	0.5%	2.3%	1.4%

²⁵ idem

Schematic summary of the advantages and problems facing the farming sector in the following figure.

Figure 3: Advantages and Problems of the Livestock Sector²⁶



Being a vital sector for the economy of the area agriculture faces several challenges that must be addressed as soon as possible. These challenges can be summarized below:

- **Efficiency of production** as given in the table below, the levels of livestock production yields are lower than the county average for the main products (besides cow's milk), and extremely low compared with the national average²⁷.

Table 9: Average Productivity of main products in 2012

	Cow Milk kg/piece	Sheep Milk kg/piece	Goat Milk kg/piece	Eggs / piece	Wool kg/piece	Honey kg/hive
FA Kukes	1901	50	90	109	2	7
Kukes	1734	62	106	119	2	8
Albania	2684	60	114	181	2	13
FA Yield versus:						
Region's average	10%	-19%	-15%	-8%	0%	-13%
Country's average	-29%	-17%	-21%	-40%	0%	-46%

- **Veterinary services:** veterinary services at the best are offered in the center of the area in Kukes and in some communes, while for other communes, mainly remote ones, access to these services is more difficult.
- **Gaps in the collection and processing of animal products.** Animal products produced by small farms belonging to the family economies. Organizing the collection of milk and dairy products is the weakest point of the value chain of these products. From the interviews and analysis conducted so far, the collection, processing and marketing of the products are some of the problems of the farmers in this area.
- **Provision of advisory services to farmers.**

²⁶ The red boxes represent the advantages, the grey ones represent the direct problematic and the purple colored represent the obstructive elements in the quality and efficiency of agricultural production

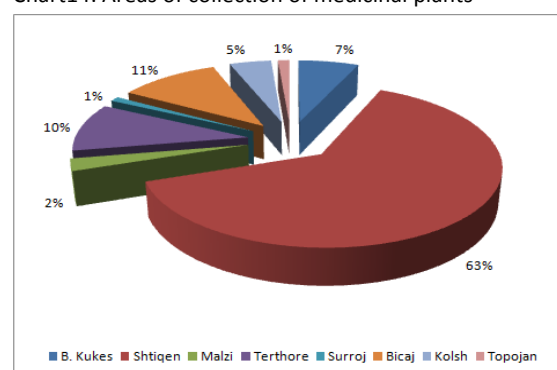
²⁷ In the bovine race structure prevails the domestic race "Gjersej" which results in low productivity, and meanwhile no steps have been taken to improve the race. Whereas tek te imtat prevails the sheep race "Rudë" which is an inexhaustible genetic source, but not fully utilized.

- **Food security:** the establishment of collection points with appropriate conditions of conservation and preservation, organization of sales in controlled markets from a phytosanitary standpoint are among the numerous problems faced by farmers in the area.
- **Lack of proper chain collector and processor:** In the FAK are found only four milk processing centers, 2 in the commune of Surroj (Cinamak Village and Fush Village), 1 in the commune of Shishtavac (Village Novosej and 1 in the commune of Gryk-Caje. While in areas such as Bicaj, Shtiçen although at a FA level they have a significant level of livestock produce, there are no centers for milk collection and processing.

4.1.1.3 Aromatic and Medicinal Plants and (AMP)

The Kukes area has enormous potential in terms of medicinal plants, as it is quite rich in these resources. A typical medicinal plants of the area is Sage, which is cultivated by over 10,000 families in Kukes. For more than a year, however, this product does not find sufficient market to bring benefits to its growers. Like Sage, there are about 124 medicinal plants that grow in the area, for which however there is a lack in the technical management and land studies should be done to promote their cultivation and increase the benefits²⁸.

Chart14: Areas of collection of medicinal plants



Source: Kukes Regional Council

The medicinal plants that grow in this area are Blueberries (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*), Thyme (*Saturea mantana*), Black Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Red Juniper (*Juniperus Sabina*), Primrose (*Primula grandiflora*), Cashew (*Cermodell*), Poppy (*Papaver rhoas*), Wild Rose (*Rosa Canina*), Sage (*Salvia officinalis*), Iris (*Iris germanica*), Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), Chamomile (*Matricaria Chamomile*), Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), Blackberry (*Robus fruticosus*), Birch.

Some former co-operatives such as Arren, Shemri (Malzi), Surroj have had plants for distillation of the leaves of pine and resin, for the production of essences. Currently the plants are collected mostly by residents of the villages in the territories to which they are located and then collected by local merchants or others that are not licensed. Local farmers do not cultivate these plants but simply collect them in nature²⁹.

Also in places like Shishtavec where the environment of the area is quite diversified, grow in a natural way medicinal plant such as Shkem, Qershiza. Some residents during the summer season are engaged in the collection of *cherry*, which is sold in the local market. This serves to increase their family income. The number of residents engaged in the collection of wild cherry collection is small.³⁰

²⁸ Based on discussions during the Consultative Meeting with the Forum of the Functional Area of Kukes, 25 November 2014.

²⁹ Regional Strategy, Kukes, 2012

³⁰ Development Plan Shishtavec commune, 2012

Tërthora also has potential for the growth of medicinal plants which serve the pharmaceutical industry such as blueberries, sage, sanz, savory, violet flowers, elder flowers, grain elder, wild apples, etc. Their collection is done spontaneously and there is still no special setup for their collection.³¹

Bicaj commune is known for example for the cultivation of blueberry specifically, Basan flowers, sage, shkemi.³²

In Topojan commune are grown in the naturally form medicinal plants as, Exchanges, Qershiza. Some residents in the summer seasons are engaged in collection of wild cherries, which is then soled in the local market.³³

Although medicinal plants constitute a very important sector for the provision of income for many families, in the FAK exist only 2 collection points of Medical Plants, one at the New Park and the other in the Industrial Zone. Both collection points are located in the Municipality of Kukes. The concentration of collection points only in the municipality of Kukes, makes the cost of transporting them from different collection points to collection points to be higher.

Despite the difficulties in the marketing of medicinal plants, there is a potential for these products to be competitive not only in the local market but also at the regional and cross-border one.

4.1.2 Fishing

Fishing is a very important potential for the economic development of the Functional Area. Fierza Lake, constitutes a great opportunity for the cultivation of fishing with about 5000 ha of water (ie over 70%). Fishing in the Lake of Fierza constitutes a significant event for the whole area. The waters are typical for natural breeding of fish populations which, in the area take a really significant development. Since the formation, the structure fishery was alienated with lake fish species, coupled with the departure of running water species that formerly inhabited the river Drin, as trout, eel and found suitable environment for breeding and feeding different kind of fish species. Today in Fierza grow about 13 species of fish including small shellfish of freshwaters. It is noteworthy that Otters are mentioned among the important biological aquatic mammals that live in the waters of Fierza, a type of mammal included in the Red List of Albanian Fauna, also globally threatened.

From the lake it was taken up to 5 thousand tons of fish a year, but production has declined in recent decades due to no more breeding, but also due to uncontrolled fishing, often by means of extermination and also because of lake pollution. At the same time conditions for the preservation of fish and its growth are missing. However, the biggest existing problem is that the lake is highly polluted by urban waste where most of the pollution comes from the White Drin and the Black Drin rivers, which adversely affect water quality, fauna, surrounding environment, as well as the use of the terrain for sunbathing and water activities.

Meanwhile, as is expressed in the Regional Strategy of Kukes and that of the Municipality of Kukes, this unused natural potential, has seen a growing demand from residents to visit and interest from local government to become a tourist destination.

³¹ Development Plan Tërthorë commune, 2012

³² Development Plan Bicaj commune, 2012

³³ Plani i Zhvillimit Komuna Topojan, 2012

Also, ongoing efforts are being made to raise awareness among the population about the value of fishing and protection of the lake through such things as the Fishing Day which is celebrated on June 13th.

For this reason taking measures to improve the current conditions of the lake and increase fishing, through the cleaning of Fierza and its surrounding area, arranging the lake shore and adapting it into a tourist attraction, as well as the artificial restocking of Fierza Lake and Watershed of Kukes have been and remain important priorities for the development of this sector in a sustainable manner and for making it a potential for local economy development and tourism.

The figure below presents a SWOT analysis for the Agriculture sector.



4.2 Tourism Sector

Tourism is one of the major potentials of the Functional Area of Kukes. The beautiful nature, landscapes, traditional folklore, cultural and historical sites, natural parks and forests, lakes, rivers, protected areas, are already known, but not much used. In the 2012 Kukes Regional Strategy, but also in the Kukes Municipality Development Plan 2011-2015, tourism stands as one of the main priorities. The analysis of the tourism potential is developed based on the structure of tourism products in Albania³⁴.

Turizmi Kulturor & Historik	Turizmi Rural	Turizmi Natyror	Turizmi Liqenor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muzeu • Aktivitetet Kulturore të Zonës • Festalet Folklorike • Kulinaria e Zonës • Traditat e Zonës • Monumentet e Trashëgimisë Kulturore • Historia e Zonës 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fshatrat dhe zonat rurale me natyrë të pasur alpine • Stili i vacante i jetës rurale të zonës • Festat e vecanta në fshatra apo zona të caktuara • Agro Turizmi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Hard Adventures" , si ngjytja në majat malore • Sporti malor i skive dhe garat me ski • Eco- turizmi • Kampingjet malore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plazhi liqenor • Sportet liqenore (gara me varka, kanoe, gara noti); • Lundrime me tragjet turistike përgjatë liqenit

Based on the above division, the situation of tourism in the FA Kukes is as follows:

4.2.1 Cultural Tourism

Today's Kukes crafts products, are in the course of the centuries old traditions dating from the Illyrian time. The tradition of pottery has been an ancient tradition³⁵. Stone and wood carving, iron work were once widely used for decoration of houses, starting from the medieval period onwards. Kukes handicrafted rugs have been as famous, as the handicraft products of Korca and Kruja. The preparation of traditional folk costumes of women and men has also had an important place. They have conserved their originality and are a clear expression of the identity of Kukës. Folk costumes, especially women's costumes, are distinguished for their beauty, elegance, rich coloration and diversity and are unique in their kind. The tradition of producing such crafted items today is fading because the number of people dealing with these metiers and skills are decreasing greatly.

There is a wide range of cultural and artistic events taking place in this area, primarily at its center in Kukes as festivals, literary competitions, fairs, exhibitions. Special holidays as the Chestnut Holiday, Potato Holiday, Craft Day, Generosity Day, Communal Holidays, Fishing Day, Honey Holiday, Pashtriku Pilgrimage, Regional Education Day, National Colony of Painters "ArtKukës" are activities that serve to gather community of the area, but also to attract tourists.

³⁴ The structure presented in the draft Strategy of Tourism in Albania

³⁵ Several decades ago, in graves discovered during archaeological research in the village of Kolsh were found pottery objects, decorated with artistic designs and produced by locals.

Although Kukes has a history of its own, or even close to the support given to the Kosovo population during the war in Kosovo, little has been done so far to identify historical, or artistic values of this period through objects that can be turned into a tourist attraction.

This area has several monuments of cultural heritage but their maintenance and use of their potentials to promote cultural and historical tourism is still not achieved at the required levels.

4.2.1.1 Rural Tourism

The functional area of Kukes has significant potentials for the development of rural tourism, in particular mountain tourism. Sasati, at a height of over 1700 meters above sea level, is a very attractive place during summer because it is full of visitors staying until winter comes. The Shkalla e Keqe Kanion (Gjallica) is one of the most magnificent ones with a depth of 2,000 m, unexplored up to this date. The white spring ³⁶ in the Mount of Gjallica is a tourist attraction that is becoming increasingly recognized not only by locals, but also by tourists and hunters from other areas of the country. Tourist spots near the Morning Stone(Gurit të Mëngjesit) in Shishtavec is visited by local visitors as well as visitors from other areas, or Kosovo.

Natural monuments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pisha e Gjergjanit - Gryka e Çajës - Cirkullakullnajor i Zepes - Kroji i Bardhe - Kanioni i Bicajt - Kanioni i Vanave - Lisat e Kalisit - Karsti i Arnit - Keneta e Kukësit - Kroji i Kuq, Gjallice - Guri i Mëngjesit, Shishtavec - Guri i Shqipës (Borje) - Burimi i Kolosianit - Dushkajat e Novoseit - Meshtekna e Shishtavecit (liqeni i Kallabakut) - Rrobulli i Lakut të Topojanit.

Another tourist attraction is the forest of Beech wood, where almost every day you find visitors coming from different areas, even foreigners, mainly from Kosovo. The same happens with the Novosejit Stan, "Red Spring", "White Spring" that have began to be visited not only during the summer, but also in winter. In the Shishtavec Mountains³⁷ area there is a high rock in the middle of the green and a healthy grown grass. Residents call it the Morning Stone because there rises the sun. Near the artificial lake of Kallabak, lies the small tourist village of Novosej, rich in green valleys and forests.

The development of mountain tourism has made significant steps leading to an increasing number of tourist houses in rural areas. Also the construction of the highway, and the airport of Kukes have created efficient opportunities for developing quality mountain tourism, for which demand is growing from the visitors from Albania as well as from Kosovo areas, like Prizren and Dragas. The agreements between the Region, the Municipality and communes are helping in the development of this kind of tourism.

³⁶ It is only 30 Km from the city of Kukes.

³⁷ The commune of Shishtavec was declared a protected area of the fourth category, and there is no more illegal hunting, the area has birds and wildlife ranging from sea rabbits to wild goats and deers, as well as predatory animals from wild cats, lynx to wolf .

4.2.2 Natural – Winter Tourism

Shishtavec area is known as one of the areas where, although modestly, winter tourism is developed. The exercise of the sport of skiing is already realized from more than 7 decades³⁸. In the past, as a result of the massivization the sport of skiing, Shishtavec and Voskopoja shared year after year the organization of ski championships. This practice was interrupted with the arrival of the transition. Shishtavec today has its own ski team federated by the Albanian Ski Federation and same does also the village of Mborje. The village of Novosej is known for wrestling and the village of Borje for hiking. While other tourist spots like Spring of Rama, Spring of Church and Spring Tatzot are visited only by the winter mountaineering passionates.

If we talk about cross-border tourism or other relationships in this area , Shishtavec again has obvious advantages, because of the position, human, economic and cultural potentials. Tourism is the first priority for the development of the commune of Shishtavec, which owns virgin and unused natural resources.

In the commune of Tërthorë as well, even though infrastructure has made it impossible to visit the highlands, it remains an untapped resource for Alpine tourism for the coming years. This is clearly stated in the Commune Development Plan and calls for incentives so it can be developed.

In Bicaj for example, all the part of the highlands (starting from Laku i Dardhës up to the Red Spring) is a wonderful place for visitors and tourists who are interested in the fresh mountain climate. A few years ago in this area many domestic and foreign visitors used to spend their summer holidays.

Tourism development is associated with the development of agricultural and farming products repairing, improving residents' houses, adjusting/setting suitable sites for the visitors' free time, as well as the improvement of local products, etc.

Given the very rich nature of the area, the development of tourism can be perennial being used throughout all the seasons.

4.2.2.1 Lake Tourism

Kukes area lays in the southeast part of the artificial lake of Fierza. The existence of the lake on this zone constitutes a huge potential for the tourism development, because it has specific places which could be exploited as beaches during summer which can be used by the home citizens for bathing and sun-bathing, also it can be frequented even from the citizens of the border area with Kosova, which lack these places. Even the development of the aquaculture is a potential to be considered because Kuksi Lake is known for the fish that is grown there, which nowadays is preferred by tourists that visit the city. Sports like canoe races could be a good opportunity to develop given the large surface of the lake and its connection with the branches of Drin. On the other hand, taking measures for cleaning and keeping clean the lake and the creation of appropriate infrastructure for lake sports or along lake beaches points should be to the attention

³⁸ This sport has been exercised since 1953, despite the easy infrastructure such as ski outfit, skiing and all other tools have never been to the level of professional exercising.

of local authorities. Schematic overview of the advantages and problems facing the tourism sector are shown in the following figure:

Figure 4: Advantages and problems in the Tourism Sector³⁹

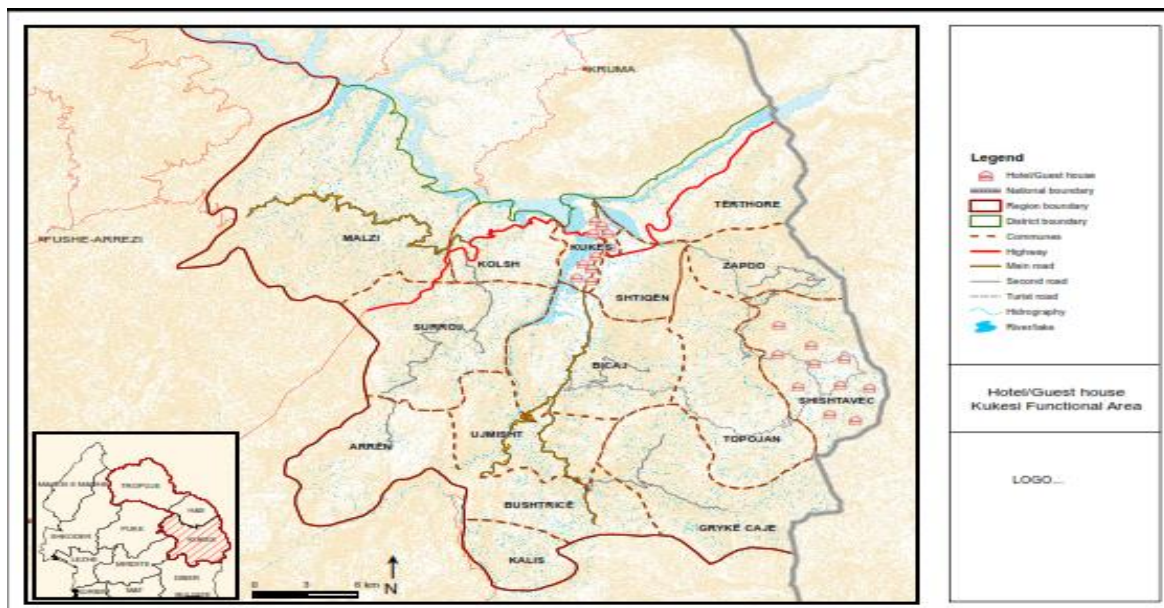


Although the existing potentials are great tourism development in this area faces some challenges, which are presented as below:

- **Accommodation capacity:** In the town of Kukes are operating 10 guest houses that are built in the area of Shishtavec. Along with the rising tendency of the number of guest houses, many of the tourists rarely spend nights in homes of local residents or even in tents in summer. While the number of visitors increases, the expansion of hotel service remains necessary to the remote areas. There is a tendency of building hostels by citizens moved away towards the capital, who are rehabilitating their homes turning into guesthouses.
- **Service quality** - Despite recent improvements still remains a problem that requires attention and capacity building of the managerial skills as well as services;
- **The poor infrastructure:** problems with road infrastructure, electricity supply, sewerages, water supply, directly affect the quality of service and the facilitation of tourist activity,
- **Poor road signs;**
- **Lack of intensive promotion** through increased marketing and information, using different tour operators.

Map 11: The concentration of hotels and guesthouses

39. The red boxes introduce advantages, with gray color direct problems and with purple the obstructive elements in the quality and efficiency of agricultural production



- **Problem of properties and illegal constructions** brings a negative impact on the security of business development in this field and the problems of urban development in function of tourism.
- **Lack of a coordinated approach and integrated touristic offer:** although touristic products in the area at the present time remain limited, to increase as much as possible the possibility of using existing capacity is needed to develop packages that integrate alternated tours along with other areas like Valbona, or with places in border countries like Sharri, Brezovica in Kosovo, in order to increase the possibility of attracting as many local and foreign tourists, offering at the same time an alternate program. Developing guesthouses network will help in the coordination of efforts to provide as much opportunities to accommodation requests in a single period.

At a time when demand and tourism industry itself is developing not only as a result of demand from abroad but also the internal market demands, tourism development should go parallel and accompanied by the development of agricultural products, livestock, improving residents houses, and capacity building of new accommodations, arranging and setting up suitable places for free time visitors, as well as improving local products etc.

Promotion, the improvement of education and cultural level to residents of the area for tourism development, the hospitality of tourists, living standards and concepts for the local development of their area, the increase of professional skills and knowledge of residents on the market economy and adapting to its requirements are challenges to be considered for the development of this sector in the future.

From this analysis emerges that the Functional Area (FA) has multiple sources for the development of tourism in its various branches, but, on the other hand, there are observed a number of weaknesses which should be solved as soon as possible, and this can only be achieved when studied tourism policy are designed on the basis of the current situation in the area, and referring to an integrated approach.

The figure below presents the SWOT analysis of the tourism sector.



4.2.3 Mines

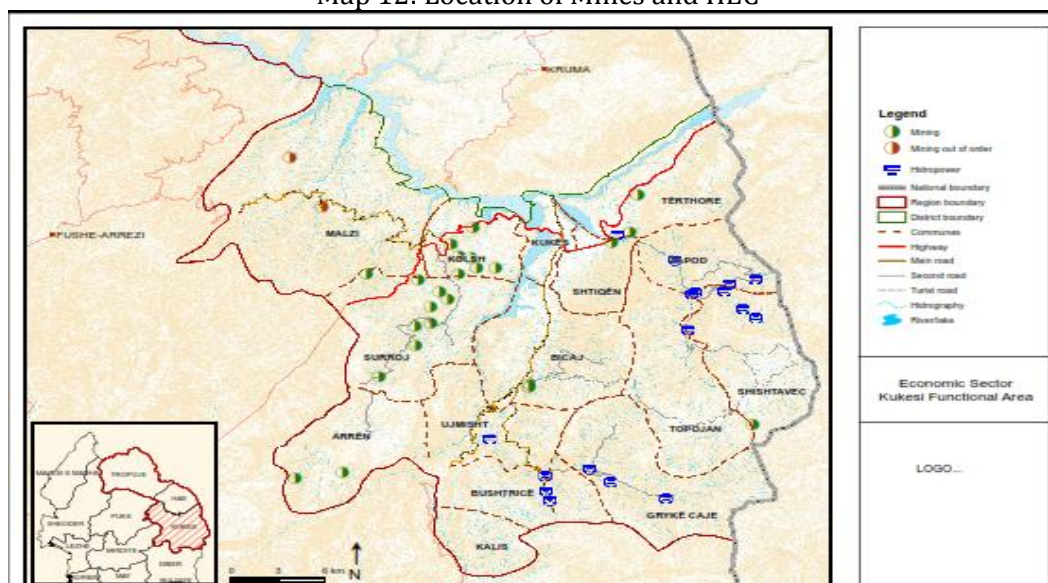
Kukes FA stands for many mineral resources. The main reserves of chrome are located in ultra basic rocks of Kalimash Zone. The main mines of chrome extraction are in Kalimash areas 1 and 2, but also the surrounding areas. Surroi zone also has chrome resources but their extraction is done through carriers.

Copper mineral is extracted in the area of Gjegjan and Ngdhesht. In the Shënmri area, in Lerpoj is located the copper mine, unused until now.

Iron-Nickel and Nickel-Silicate: The main concentration, in Kolsh, Surroj and Arren. These mines

are now in their greater potential (maximum reserves), which are calculated at the rate of 74 million tonnes of mineral reserves.

Map 12: Location of Mines and HEC



Bauxite and aluminium lie in Qafë-Bëne, and radioactive minerals (yet unspecified reserves) are in Nimce, while the quartz in Shishtavec and Kallabak.

In the Functional Area (FA) of Kukes operate their activity 25 mining subjects⁴⁰. The number of employees in this sector has about 1,000 employees, and they all are workers who live Kukes and communes where the mines are located. The largest number of employees is employed by the company I.M.I. All mines are privatized. The contribution of this sector in the economic development of the area is related only to the employment of the active labor force and contribution to the budget of LGU in which are placed by providing 6% of the value of production which is called mining renta.

The main part of the Chrome mineral is processed in a factory raised in Has FA, while it is expected to build a factory of chrome processing in Kukes FA.

Iron-nickel mineral is exported to Kosovo, in the melting factory of Iron-Nickel in Drenas, while if it will be invested in capacity building in melting factories of iron-nickel directly in Kukes, this would increase employment opportunity for the employees from the area, and would help in improving the economy and local incomes.

In this area as given in the map above there are a large number of HEC. In the municipality of Bicaj is the massive usage of white sand which supplies the entire area of Kukes and Has. This asset is an important source for the population of the area, but it should be used with criterion, and must be invested in studied method in terms of its utilization and its processing.

Based on the Kukes Regional Strategy, 2012, actions that can be undertaken in relation to this sector will be focused on common initiatives of different actors. These include the promotion and planned use based on research of minerals through the application of modern methods and

⁴⁰ Source: Prefecture of Kukes

technologies, methods and technologies that consider environmental aspects and consequences. Examples of interventions in this sector can be:

- Studies, research and inventory of available mineral deposits economically stable
- Promotional campaigns and promotion of existing mineral reserves and fostering the investments to attract mineral companies in the region
- Cleaning of places that present environmental danger
- Presentation of professional education training programs linked with the industry.

The figure below presents the SWOT analysis for the mining sector.



Conclusions

The analyses of the above economic sectors shows off some features that are common to the three main sectors analyzed which are:

- 1. An area richer in mineral resources, rich agricultural productivity of livestock and specific natural resources;*
- 2. Competitive advantages of prices of various products produced in the area;*
- 3. Great possibility and potentials for using the "BIO" element in many sectors such as agriculture and tourism;*
- 4. Increasing interest from domestic and regional market for the use of mineral resources, the diversity of agricultural and livestock products;*

But the big potentials of this area has as a result of its groundwater assets, surface and cultural heritage are not used as a result of the impact of a variety of factors that affect in parallel and in all sectors respectively. Among these, factors with the most significant negative impact are:

- 1. The road infrastructure is still not developed in some areas;*
- 2. Not developed human resources capacity, also due to the lack of a system of multi-disciplinary professional training;*
- 3. Lack of professional counselling spread in all sectors and specific services for farmers, accommodation and hospitable structures;*
- 5. Lack of supportive financial systems;*

Some of these problems can be addressed through support and application of specific programmes from central structures (agricultural services, veterinary), financial market or micro-credit, VET system. While a good part of them is related to the development of local infrastructure, like the roads, public transport, markets and points of gathering of the agricultural and livestock products, can be realized by new units of local government that will be created in order to create the physical conditions to support local economies and businesses.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE FUNCTIONAL AREA OF KUKËS

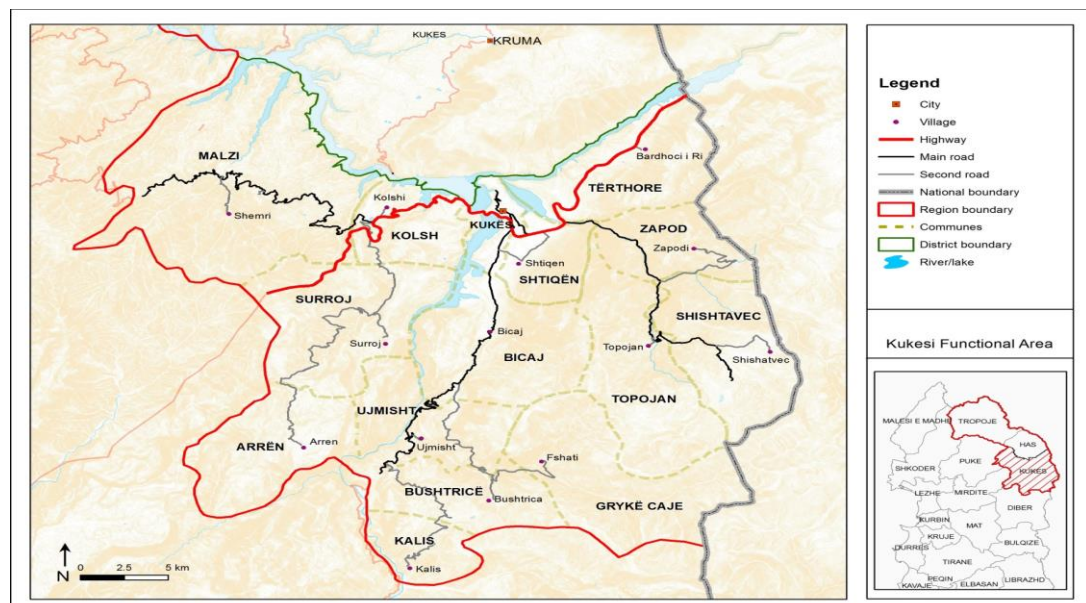
5.1 Infrastructure

In this area passes one of the major infrastructure works: the Durres - Morine highway which is part of the national road axis linking Albania and Kosovo. The main axes linking the centre of this area, the town of Kukes with other areas are: Durres-Kukes axis (1.5 hours), Kukes-Peshkopi axis (1.5-2 hours), Kukes, Has axis (30-40 min), Kukes-Shishtavec axis (30 min).

In this area lays the most important crossing border linking Albania with Kosovo, Morinë/Kukes and 4 (four) other border points (Shishtavec/Kukes, Orgjosë/Kukes, Borje/Kukes for pedestrians and Qafe Prush/Kukes for goods and means).

In the town of Kukes, there is the Kukes airport built in 2004, but due to concession conditions of the Rinas Airport it is not operational, but it constitutes a potential for the area.

Map 13: Road network in the Functional Area



According to data from the respective offices of services in the communes, controlled by the regional road department we have:

LGU	Km in total	Urban Roads	Rural Roads	Asphalted Roads	Non-Asphalted Roads
Bashkia Kukes	25	8.5		6.7	
Shtiqen	18.9	0		13.1	
Malzi	108	0			108
Terthore	29.9	0			
Zapod	28.8	0			10
Surroj	94.5	0		13.9	13.9
Bicaj	39	0	30	13.6	18

Shishtavec	36.6	0	17		
Arren	19	0	12		
Gryke Cajë	21	0	7		
Bushtrice	4.5	0			
Kolsh	9.9	0	4.6	2	
Kalis	70.1	0		12	
Topojan	50.5	0		1.5	
Ujmisht	23	0		2	

Source: LGU and the Kukes Regional Directorate of Roads

There are 122.5 km regional roads and 181 km of national roads. The quality of road infrastructure is below the required standards where very few of the local roads are asphalted and the rest is unasphalted. As seen from the graphic below part of asphalted roads in good condition is small.

Given that investments in these communes are forehanded the categorization of quality of asphalted roads is difficult for the commune employees. The most remote areas in terms of travel are: Arren, Ujmisht, Bushtrice, Gryke Cajë, Kalis where travel time from centres of these communes

in Kukes is about 2.5 - 3 hours. While the average of the rest of the communes with Kukes is about 45-60 minutes. Inventory of roads for Kukes Functional Area divided by communes is:

Chart 10: The condition of road infrastructure

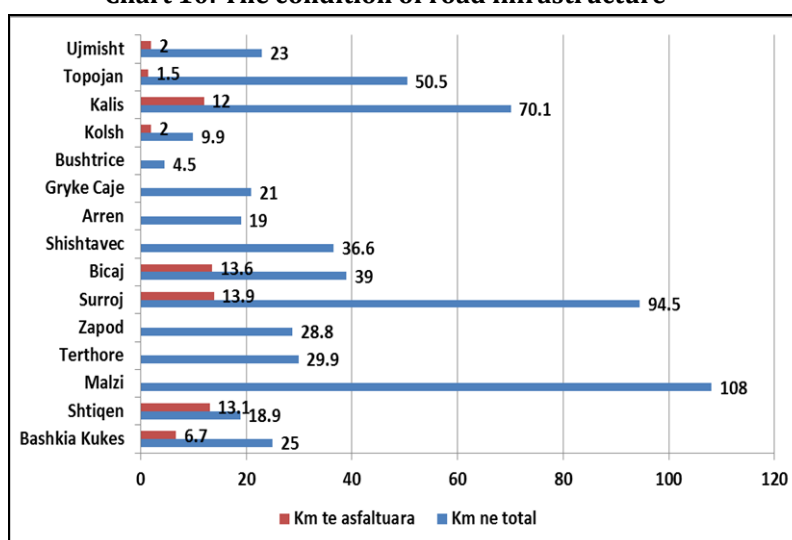


Table 10: Road inventory of Functional Area of Kukes

No	Commune	Denomination	Length (km)		No	Commune	Denomination	Length (km)	
			Regional	Communal				Regional	Communal
1	Malzi	Shemri - Petkaj	3		28	Ujmisht	Domaj - Lapaj	12	
2	Malzi	Shemri - Miniere		2	29	Ujmisht	Ujmisht - Tejdriene		6
3	Malzi	Vrish - Piste	9		30	Bushtrece	Lapaj - Bushtrece	6	
4	Malzi	Rn05 - Vaspas		9	31	Kalis	Bushtrece - Kalis	12	
5	Malzi	Kryemadh - Ura Vezirit		7	32	Kalis	Kalis - Geshtenje		3
6	Malzi	Qafshatan - Laku i Pyllit		13	33	Gryke caje	Fshat - Caje	7	14
7	Malzi	RN05 - Shikaj	8.4		34	Gryke caje	Fshati - Buzemadhe		7
8	Malzi	Shemri - Simon		3	35	Bicaj	Kolesjan - Rn16	9	26
9	Malzi	Shemri - Qam		8	36	Bicaj	Nange - Bushat		1.8
10	Malzi	Rn 05- Zhubaj		4	37	Bicaj	Bicaj - Bushat		3.5
11	Malzi	Kalimash- Miniere		3	38	Bicaj	Rn31 - Gabrrice		4.5
12	Kolsh	Kolsh - Karburant		5	39	Bicaj	L. Dardhe - Tershene		2.1
13	Kolsh	Kryqezim- Mamez	7		40	Topojan	Rn26 - Topojan	2	
14	Surroj	F.dugagjin - Qafe Komi	28		41	Topojan	Breki - Topojan		6
15	Surroj	Mulliri i Surroit - Komune	3		42	Shishtavec	Mulliri Novosej - Turaj		8
16	Surroj	Rn - Aliaj		4	43	Shishtavec	Rn26 - Borje/Orgjost		7.5
17	Surroj	Rn05- Qinamak		2.5	44	Shishtavec	Cernaleve - Pike kalimi		7
18	Surroj	Mamez Qinamak - Surroj	11		45	Shishtavec	Rn26 - Miniera e Kallabakut		8
19	Surroj	Surroj - A.Vata		3	46	Zapod	Rn26 - Zapod	7	
20	Surroj	K.Leke - Bregu Drinit		7	47	Zapod	Zapod - Orgjost		4
21	Arren	Qafe Komi - Arren	10		48	Zapod	Rn26 - Bele		6
22	Arren	Arren - Arreza		4	49	Zapod	Orcikel - Kosharisht		2
23	Arren	Arren - Barra		7	50	Zapod	Ura e Kaloshit - Orgjost		4
24	Arren	Arni - Vrini		8	51	Shtiqen	Met.Shtiqen - Uzine	5	
25	Arren	Arni - Verrini		3	52	Shtiqen	Rn05 - Lume		1
26	Terthore	Perbreg - Gjegjgn		3	53	Shtiqen	Rn31 - Krenze		2
27	Ujmisht	Rn31 - Malqene	2		54	Shtiqen	Gostil - Shtiqen	1.7	

Source: ADF

Travel distances from the centre of FA of Kukes to the centre of the communes of the FA as well the blockage time intervals during the winter, are presented in the table below.

Table 11: Travel distances from the centre of Kukes FA

N0	Urban Centre	Centre Commune	Distance (Km)	Time interval of blockage during winter
1	K U K E S	Malzi (shemri)	35	Periodical
2		Kolsh	11.5	0
3		Surroj	24	2 Weeks
4		Arren	51	12 Weeks
5		Terthore	13.5	0
6		Ujmisht	24	Periodical
7		Bushtrece	31	Periodical
8		Kalis	46	4 Weeks
9		Gryke-Çaje (Fshat)	36.5	Periodical
10		Bicaj	11	0
11		Topojan	20.5	Periodical
12		Shishtavec	31	1 Week
13		Zapod	21	Periodical
14		Shtiqen	6	0

From the table above we can see that municipalities can be grouped according to the distance from the centre of Kukes in nearby communes where 6-12 km, which are Shtiqen, Kolsh and Bicaj, remoted communes 13-25 km where are included communes of Zapod, Topojani, Ujmishti and Surroj. Communes very remote, over 25 km including Malzi, Arren, Bushtrice, Kalis, Gryke-Caje and Shishtavec.

Kukes municipality has an inventory of 25 km roads in total, 8.5 km are main roads and 16.5 km secondary roads. From the overall inventory of the Municipality roads, 18 km are asphalted and 7 km with rubble.

Maintenance of road infrastructure in all units of the Kukes Functional Area is done with commune' employees, so this could therefore be considered a public enterprise. Communes have 2 employees each to deal with routine maintenance of roads, whilst for the Municipality of Kukes staff that deals

Maintenance of roads in the Kukes Municipality is 2.2 million ALL per year including employee salaries.

Maintenance consists of cleaning the snow, but also filling the holes. Kukes being the urban centre the maintenance of the road includes the maintenance of pavements and sewerage manholes network.

In the communes the maintenance is almost minimal and the bulk of maintenance services consist in clearing the roads from snow. This service in many cases is done in cooperation with the county and prefecture when there are emergency situations.

Communes that provide maintenance for commune roads that administer offer maintenance completely negligible for standards. Maintenance is minimal for road levelling and filling the holes that are created due to rainfall. Filling of the road holes is done in a way that these roads are minimally passable by the means of transport of passengers or goods.

Communes of Kolsh, Arren, Bushtricë, Ujmisht spend an average of 600 000 ALL per year for the maintenance of the communal roads. Shistavec commune spends 800 000 ALL per year for this service.

Malzi commune being a commune with the largest inventory of the communal roads, such 108 km, performs the road service maintenance by a subcontractor spending an average of 205 million ALL per year.

A service with a private company for road maintenance offers also by Topojan commune who in the last four years has spent 20,300,000 ALL for investments and maintenance of roads where the main weight is certainly investment. Financing funds are ADF.

In remote communes as Grykë-Caje, the maintenance service is inexistent. Maintenance is done by individuals or private companies voluntarily and consists of cleaning the snow and minimum roads levelling after snow melt.

Terthore commune has as problematic the combination of roads in the villages with the main road - Highway Kukes-Morine. Interruption of these secondary roads with the highway is out of standards and poses a risk to residents.

In the Kukes Functional Area there are roads that are in the inventory of the Kukes Region being regional roads, and in the inventory of the national roads where they are or have the main part in the territory of the Kukes FA (Table 12 as below):

Table 12: The inventory of the National and Regional Roads

Denomination	Length Km	Category
Mamez - Surroj	11	Regional Road
Mulliri i Surroit- Q,K Surroj	2.9	Regional Road
Kryqezim -Mamez	4.6	Regional Road
Ura Koloshit- Orgjost-Zapod	10	Regional Road
Kryqezimi-Topojan	1.5	Regional Road
Kryqezimi Meteor - Shtiqen	2.5	Regional Road
Kolosjan-Laku i Tejes	18	Regional Road
Kryqezim Qender-Komuna Ujmisht	2	Regional Road
Bushtrice - Kalis	12	Regional Road
Lapaj-Fshat	7	Regional Road
Surroj - Arren	22	Regional Road
Aeroport-Domaj	12	Regional Road
Ura e Koloshit -Shishtavec	17	Regional Road
Bashkia Kukes - Qafe.Shllak	47.6	National Road
Morin-Tuneli Kalimash	42	National Road
Bashkia Kukes-Draj Reç	26	National Road
Domaj -Bushtrice	19	National Road
Kukes -Shishtavec	15	National Road
Kukes-Krume	31.4	National Road

Source: Kukes Region

In the last four years the investments in the road infrastructure have been very limited and scarce. These investments have been in the regional roads that are located within the Functional Area.

Nr.	Name of Road	Length	Investment Fund	Funded
1.	Airport – Domaj	10.2 km	301,788,720 Lekë	European Investment Bank
2.	Kukës – Shishtavec (loti I)	2.6 km	252,267,000 Lekë	General Directorate of Roads
3.	Kukës – Shishtavec (loti II)	6 km	1,186,572,960 Lekë	Islamic Bank for Development
4.	Domaj – Lapaj	11.5 km	261,032,230 Lekë	World Bank
5.	Lapaj – Bushtricë	7.2 km	242,488,190 Lekë	Council of Europe Bank

Source: Kukes Regional Council

Municipality of Kukes in the last four years has had an investment in the three city roads in a total of 900 m and the investment by the state budget with a value of 23 million ALL.

5.2 Transport

According to the data collected by the LGU-s, the Kukes Functional Area is an area with strong concentric features where generally the interactions are between the current communes and the Kukes as a centre of the FA and very few between the communes with each-other.

In the Kukes FA the passenger transport is done not in a proper way. Movement of citizens is performed mainly from the communes in Kukes and this because Kukes is the Regional Centre and where are concentrated the main state institutions. The main lines of the passengers transport with the country's main centres such as Tirana and Durres is done from Kukes.

The main means of transport are minibuses and taxis, as public transport is limited, almost inexistent. These are for movements within the area i.e. between communes or between communes and the Municipality of Kukes.

From Kukes to Tirana and Durres transportation is somewhat regulated. There are two licensed companies that provide inter-city bus service. Passenger transport service functions according to this chart:

Line	Timetable
Kukës - Tiranë	7, 9, 13, 16, 18
Tiranë - Kukës	7, 9, 13, 16, 18
Kukës - Durrës	8, 11, 16
Durrës - Kukës	8, 11, 16

Source: the Service Unit, Kukes Municipality

The transport of passengers is performed with means as 8 + 1 and taxi vehicles, but they do not have regular schedules because they move depending on the needs and between bus schedules. Kukes Municipality has awarded 35 licenses for tools 8 + 1 and only one license for vehicle 4 + 1.

Urban transport is non-existent in the communes and in the Kukes Municipality, this due to fact that these are units with small surface.

There are no dedicated lines for the transportation service of the citizens from the communes to Kukes as the centre. Transport from Kukes in nearby communes is frequent almost every hour, also because in these communes as Shtiqen, Bicaj, that are near, but also Ujmisht and Bushtreca that are slightly farther pass roads that connect larger centres like Kukes - Peshkopi.

Kolsh commune due to the vicinity that has with Kukes is considered more as a Kukes neighbourhood than a separate commune and almost all services including those of trade are performed in the Kukes' town. While transport from other communes and in return is done by private means. Transport is done by vans that are about 6 who move not in regular schedules, but according the needs. However, because the needs are, then transport is almost regular every 30 minutes.

Malzi commune having a large area and consequently many commune roads, has issued 5 licenses for passenger transport for means 8+1. The schedules of departure from the centre of the commune to Kukes are regular. Departure from the centre of the commune to Kukes become in the schedules 6, 7 and 8 while returning from Kukes to the centre of the commune in schedules 13, 14 and 15. There are also two means that provide transportation service between the villages of the commune.

Shishtavec commune conducts passenger transport services by means moving from villages to Kukes. Every village has a line of its own from the village centre to Kukes in the morning and the same line return at lunch time. There is a transport line from the centre of the commune in villages and vice versa. Transport is done by private persons.

Transportation in the remote communes and deep areas is rare and performed by the commune towards Kukes in the morning and the return in midday from Kukes in the communes. With this frequency move the residents of communes Arren and Grykë-Cajë. Grykë-Cajë has occasionally even additional mean, but in all cases there isn't a defined schedule.

The commune Surroj has 3-4 vans that offer the transport service where priority is the schedule 7 the departure from the commune and 13 is the return from Kukes.

In most of the communes, transportation within the commune does not exist. This forces the residents to travel for hours to get from one village to another, or from a village in the centre of the commune to take the mean and to travel to Kukes.

According to the data from the Kukes Regional, these are the lines that were given licenses by the relevant authorities, to whom is reserved the station stops in Kukes.

Table 13: Transport lines

Name of line	Name of subject	Number of timetable of the service line	Departure station
Kukes -Krumë -Kukes	Skender Tobli	1	At "Shote Galica"
Kukes -Peshkopi- Kukes	Agim Halilaj	2	Stacioni i Bicajve
Kukes-Puke-Kukes	-	2	At "Shote Galica"
Kukes-Shkoder-Kukes	Vllezerit -Kopani	2	Former hotel parku
KuKes -Durrës-Kukes	Fat- 5	2	Former hotel parku
Kukes -Tirane-Kukes	Laci- Kompani	2	Former hotel parku
Kukes - Lezhe -Kukes	-	-	Former hotel parku

Source: Kukës Region

Recommendation on the Infrastructure and Transport

- **Inventory:** Although there are some data for road inventory in the Kukes FA, still remains as a priority the immediate inventory and categorization of roads taking into account the restructuring of local government units. Restructuring the LGU-s will make necessary not only the categorization of roads according to their importance and flow, but also by ownership and management. This step should be taken once the new administration starts the mandate.
- **Development of the road strategy:** Also new administration of LGU-s should develop a strategy for the development of FA, considering investments in the street. According to data from the LGU-s and the overall analysis, considering that not all roads have the same intensity of transportation.
- **Human Security:** it should prioritize the most problematic roads by human security and to intervene in their insurance. Asphalt paving of all roads will certainly be the best solution, but it is known that it is costly, especially for new units that will be formed, for this is important a detailed study of the effect of the road system in the economic and social cohesion of the Functional Zone, but on the other hand, a study for the rehabilitation and improvement of road safety is problematic for people security.

- **Approximated costs:** Also it should be taken into consideration, the calculation of costs for road maintenance studied and designed by the ADF, which is not currently taking place and cannot be included in any of the constituent units of FA. This will help to maximize the efficiency of funding, enabling a plan for road maintenance and not just funding when the situation becomes alarming.
- **Connecting nodes:** Priority should be given by the new LGU-s to the study of combined secondary roads with the main ones and especially the highway Milot - Morine. In different places the entrances and exits are not according to the standards which compose a danger to the lives of citizens.
- **Mobility of residents:** Conduct a detailed study related to the residents mobility, but also their needs for transport. Given that city of Kukes is the centre of the FA' life, to study the possibility of adding circulating assets to and from Kukes. Study the formalization of public transport lines and to monitor the issuance of licenses for a regular transport and without problems for residents.
- **Urban Lines:** To see the possibility of establishing an urban transportation line for Kukes city, but also with the neighbouring municipalities Bicaj, Shtiqen and Kolsh. This could be a rapid project, because the transport to these communes is quite common and there is more interaction between these communes. To stimulate the private sector (through various regulations and different facilities that may be adopted by the municipality council) to add movement hours even in the evening in the suburban areas. A study and planning for urban mobility should be carried out to facilitate the movement of people between the existing communes and between villages.
- **Mapping of the stop points:** To carry out a study into the planning of point tools that transport stops giving to the residents the opportunity to operate with regular stations and thus the improvement of timetables and transport in general.

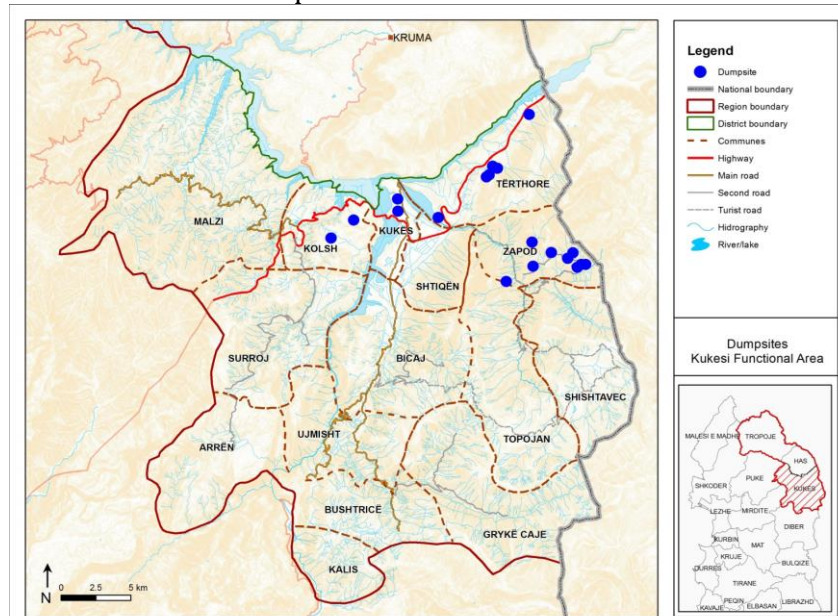
5.3 The Cleaning and Waste Management Service

In Kukes FA the waste management service is very limited and leaves much to be desired. Communes generally do not have this service and it is limited mainly to garbage collection according to a graph which is regular but not according to the needs. All contacted communes complain about lack of financial capacity to provide the service and lack of awareness among the population. Communes suffer lack of tools and collection sites in neighbourhoods or villages of the commune. In the communes where the service is provided incomplete (Shishtavec, Terthore) the garbage collection is done by commune employees and with small tools, but not technological tools.

Shishtavec commune spends a modest amount for the entire cleaning service 200 000 ALL/year. Communes have collection sites for waste. These collection sites are just approved by the boards of respective units, but really have no standards or may not be considered genuine sites.

Shishtavec commune keeps trying to have a better service of waste treatment because it is the commune that has paid a lot of attention to the development of mountain tourism. The commune has a collection site in Madenë and has set a fee of 100 ALL for families where the collection rate is a maximum of 20%. However the service is not provided to all residents and service coverage rate is 5%. Supervision of the service which corresponds with the commune announcements to make waste disposal is carried out through the villages reeves.

Map 12: Waste Collection Sites



In other communes the service does not exist. Given that in generally the communes consume organic products, residents in most cases treat the waste itself by grounding them. The waste management remains problematic in communes due to the lack of proper plans for composting. This also applies to communes that offer this service because residents do not always send the waste to certain places. Problematic continue to remain the awareness of the commune residents about plastic waste and wrappings. Often if they are not buried (which in itself presents its own problems) they jare thrown into rivers or streams or in open spaces.

The single unit more coordinated in this regard is the Municipality of Kukes. It has a collection site serving for waste collected by the municipality.

The site collection of the Kukes city, is located at a distance of about 12 km from City Municipality and is located in Myc-Mamëz, part of the Kolsh commune. According to the municipality the site collection in Mamëz has an surface of 9000m2 and a capacity of 45,000 tonnes. The durability of the collection site is thought to be 15 years but always depending on the efficiency of utilization, waste processing and investment that can be made in it.

Regarding the Kukes Municipality, the cleaning service of the city is performed by cleaning sector thus public enterprise that operates within the Department of Public Services of the Kukes Municipality. The cleaning service fee for families from 2010 onwards is 1200 ALL per family per year, while for businesses and institutions is divided as follows:.

Average tariff in lek	2012
Families	1200
Small business	10000
Big business	60000
Institutions	60000

Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality

The service is offered to 4200 families in the new neighbourhood, the municipality has introduced a system for waste collection in the house, as they are new kind of villas, 338 businesses and 30 institutions.

According to the data from the Service Department, waste production is 4800 tons urban waste per year and 2600 tons of solid waste per year:

Years	2012	2013
Urban waste	4700 ton	4800 ton
Solid waste	2500 ton	2600 ton

Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality

Solid waste produced by people through different works carried are transported and deposited in the pit of waste materials in the exit of the city in front of the public cemetery. This hole is maintained by private company "Marsi", contracted by the Municipality. Hospital waste are handled by a company contracted by the Kukes Regional Hospital specialized for processing these wastes. Collection of urban waste is performed by the municipality every day for businesses and families, while inert waste once a week.

Problematic for the Kukes Municipality, but even wider remains Fierza Lake. The lake is considered either by the municipality but also from the County as a apotential asset for the tourism development. But at the same time it is also a potential waste, especially plastic ones, due to dumping of waste in this lake and in the rivers that supply it. This is a problem that is also due to the pollution from neighboring municipalities and the one of Kosovo. This situation is very problematic for the municipality and the County.

The structure of the cleaning enterprise of Kukes Municipality consists of a total of 14 employees of which 2 work in administration, 10 in loading and unloading and 1 in transport.

The cleaning service by the cleaning enterprise of the Municipality consists in the wiping of roads and sidewalks which are wiped and cleaned every day. (Information provided by the Municipality is every day but the logical reasoning is that in rainy days or snow, this service is not available). The quantity of roads and sidewalks cleared is 70 000 m2 for the entire territory of the municipality. During the three summer months 35,000 m2 road are wet with a frequency 2 times a day.

Waste collection service has an infrastructure of 180 containers 1.2 m3, which were installed in 2005 and onwards 100 of which are in good condition, while 80 others in poor condition. Transport from the containers ito the collection sites is done with three trucks where 2 of which are the type of technological Iveco 3.5 ton (year of manufacture 1996) each and a tip Mercedes Benz (production year 1992) with a 7-ton boiler.

Type	Capacity	Unit	Quantity	Status
Containter	1.2 m3	Piece	180	100 mirë/ 80 depreciated
Truck	3.5 ton technological	Piece	2	Depreciated (production 1996)

Truck	7 ton	Piece	1	Depreciated (production 1992)
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Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality

These three vehicles are used for the collection and transportation of waste in the urban waste pit in Mamëz. The city is divided into three areas where each tool has the brigade workers available. The tools work in parallel on a fixed schedule for taking urban waste.

In the collector site the work is done with a Caterpillar tractor type, which works for the processing of waste in the respective pit in Mamëz. Moves urban waste using all spaces of the pit periodically twice a week.

There is no recycling or composing waste plan, although as elsewhere in Albania different people draw from the containers the plastic materials and metal, to send to an economic entity that deal with their treatment.

According to the data from the Services Department at Kukes Municipality the cost for cleaning service for 2012 were 14 500 thousand ALL or about 15% of the total operating budget of the Municipality. This cost is covered at 70% of the unconditional grant and 30% of the tariffs.

Table 14: Budget in 000/lek	2012
Budget allocated for the cleaning and waste management services	14500
Annual total operative budget of the municipality	97400
From unconditional transfers	70 %
From taxes and tariffs	30 %

Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality

However, the percentage of payment of fees is satisfactory, but the service cost recovery fee is not satisfactory.

Table 15: Data on balance of payments

Number of subjects	2012		Collected percentage
	Invoiced (lek)	Paid (lek)	
Families	4000	3550	88.75%
Small business	2600	2750	105.77%
Big business	3500	4100	117.14%
Institutions	3500	1557	44.49%

Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality

In the context of a study done by SELEA where Kukes municipality has been participating, in the data about the cleaning service costing for a year in the Municipality of Kukes, there are as follows:

Table 16: Cost estimation for cleaning service

	Structure	Unit	Payment/Quantity	Value/month
1	Responsible	1	35000	35000
2	Workers	20	30000	600000
3	Driver	4	30000	120000
4	Tractor driver	1	21000	21000

	Amount			755000
	Other expenses			
5	Oil/means of transport	liter	1860	334800
6	Oil/tractor		500	90000
7	Maintenance means			100000
8	Tractor maintenance			10000
9	Miscellaneous			50000
	Amount			584800
	Total amount			1339800
	Amount for 1 year			16077600

Source: Service Department – Kukes Municipality (as per questionnaire for SELEA)

Recommendation for waste management sector

- **Immediate plan:** New LGUs should quickly adopt a plan for waste management in existing communes. This will result on the basis of a study on waste management and awareness of the population to such a thing. Given the current situation in communes where management is done according to the will of the population, it is worth noting that this step is very important and must be immediate.
- **Management:** From the managerial view it is recommended that the management of waste pass to the private companies by setting standards themselves LGU. Such management has resulted more effective in the experience of LGUs of the large communities in Albania.
- **Infrastructure:** by the infrastructure aspect must be highlighted some things. There is no exact figure of waste production by communes as a whole. But taking into account the composition of the population and the economic situation, it can be said that the construction of the intermediate stations will have a high cost and there would be no economic sense. It is recommended that the accumulation of waste in existing communes to be done initially at certain points in the communes.
- **Investments:** Initially could be start with concrete solid collection points, to pass later in containers. Considering the extent and number of villages can start with a minimum of 200 waste collection points in villages. It is recommended that picking up of residues be carried on technological tools. For this it is important investment of at least 4 additional trucks that will perform this service. Trucks will make waste receiving routes according to a graphic scheduled before, once a week according to these groups: Shtiqen Bicaj, Ujmisht, Bushtrice, Grykë-Cajë and Kalis 1 truck. Topojan, Zapod and Shishtavec 1 truck. Surroj, Arren and Kolsh 1 truck. Malzi remains a separate path with a truck due to the specific location. Depending on the possibilities it can be considered a study on the use of two trucks to carry the collection according to the above groups, but with frequency above 2 times a week.
- **Awareness:** although some communes practice waste landfill, from one side this is positive, since most of them are organic waste, but on the other hand pose a problem for the environment. In this context it is important awareness of residents to continue such practice but making a separation of waste in biodegradable and non-biodegradable. By doing composting of biodegradable and deposition in certain places of others. Awareness work is

also recommended about the need for payment of the fee by the residents of communes that are not familiar with these fees.

- **Charging:** it is recommended a comprehensive study on the cleaning service cost in all its elements and differentiating the service fee for the urban and rural area depending on service delivery. It should be taken into consideration paying capacity of residents.

5.4 Water supply and sewerage system

In the functional area of Kukes there is a water supply enterprise for Kukes. Kukes functional area there Kukes water utilities. The enterprise has the legal form ShA and it serves the Kukes' town and two surrounding communes, Shtiqen and Bicaj respectively. Analysis of the situation and the data are available for 2013. The average data for the service are that it serves to a population of 40,000 with an average time of 9 hours per day and a water quality within the norms.

The enterprise has a staff of 70 employees divided into 12 administrative staff and 58 operating employees.

The population of the area where the water supply and sewerage enterprise operates is 40,000 and the enterprise serves to 100% of inhabitants with water service. Service is provided for 25,000 people living in the city and 15,000 people living in villages. According to data for Kukes UK ShA, 39,600 inhabitants take the service at home, while 400 others in public taps. While service sewerage system its offered 100% only to city residents, this service is not provided at all to the residents of the communes.

Table 17: Number of the population

Population living in the area of the jurisdiction – in the City	25,000
Population living in the area of the jurisdiction – in Village	15,000
Population living in the area of the jurisdiction - Total	40,000
Population factually supplied with water from the company /adm unit.- in City	25,000
Population factually supplied with water from the company /adm unit – in Village	15,000
Population factually supplied with water from the company /adm unit.- Total	40,000
Population supplied through connections within the residence	39,600
Population supplied with public taps	400
Total population connected in the sewerage system	25,000
Population connected in the sewerage system –in Village	0
Population connected in the sewerage system –in City	25,000

Source: DPUK

Water production is in free fall, which facilitates operating costs of the enterprise. The total length of the water system is 115.6 km, divided into 25.1 km pipelines leading network and 90.5 secondary network or distributor. Primary and secondary system of pipelines consists of different materials according to the table below.

Table 18

Total length of steel pipeline (km)	21
Total length of cast-iron pipeline (km)	88
Total length of plastic polyethylene pipeline (km)	2.3
Total length pipeline made of other materials (km)	4.3
Length of main network lines (km)	25.1
Length of distribution network lines (km)	90.5

Total length of water network (km)	115.6
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Source: DPUK

Indicators of water distribution and billing for 2013 are as follows, where as it is seen there is a difference of almost 200 thousand m³ or 17.5% of unbilled, which is caused due to damage of pipeline network and rifts which are at a very high level - 2,681 rifts in total.

Table 19

Net volume in the system of distribution of the service area (000 m ³)	965
Total volume of water invoiced to the clients - Total (000m ³)	796.3

Source: DPUK

The enterprise serves to the customers in the municipality (city) and the in the Communes (village) and relations with customers are with or without meters. While even the billing of water is done according to this system. UK customers are divided into family clients, private and institutions. Division of customers connected to the system by type (with or without meters) and by location (city or town) is as follows:

Table 20

No of water connections – with gauge - Total	1,934
No of water connections – without gauge - Total	3,039
Total no of water connections (with and without gauge) - Total	4,973
Total no of water connections – City	3,434
Total no of water connections - Village	1,539

Source: DPUK

Water fee per m³ is 25 ALL for families, 80 ALL for private and 60 ALL for institutions.

Water quality is relatively good and within standards:

Table 21

No of testing for Residue Chlorine	975.00
No of negative samples for Residue Chlorine	975.00
No of testing for Coliform	1,205.00
No of negative samples for Coliform	975.00
Security norm (Residue Chlorine)	100%
Security form (Coliform)	80.9%
Quantity of chlorine consumed in each month (kg)	111.67

Source: DPUK

The problem of coverage of the FA with the water-sewerage services has been one of the contestable issues in the Forum meeting held on 5 March 2015. Members of the Forum during the validation process of the data collected had some objections about service coverage of water supply and sewerage and KUZ. The main objections consist of water and sanitation coverage of the area under the administration of the SHA enterprise. While from the above data and the presentation is clear that sanitations are 0% of the population in Shtiqen and Bicaj communes. While the main objective of discussion is the coverage with water supply.

By verifying the documentation of the water-sewerage supply sha.a, but also the enterprise's own data from the direct contacts, both compared with 2011 census data have the following data:

Table 22

LGU	No of families Total	Water network within the residence	Water network out of the residence but in the building	Water network out of the building	Other type of system	No type of system	Percentage within the residence on the total
Kukës	3511	3458	21	26	2	4	98.5%
Bicaj	1037	587	167	250	15	18	56.6%
Shtiqen	584	450	36	89	9	0	77%

Source: Instat Census 2011 and its own calculation

The following comparison is made for the demonstration effect of data from two sources also related to the fact that the data were taken at different periods.

LGU	Water network within the residence– Census	Water network within the residence – sh.a.
Kukës	3458	3434
Bicaj	587	859
Shtiqen	450	680

According to data above Census present for the city of Kukes a very high percentage of water supplies in apartments which was part of the discussions in the forum. Forum discussions show water supply in Kukes about 60-70% of the population, which is not supported either by the official data of the enterprise or by the census 2011. However, according to information from the General Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation has had at least one investment in Kukes, carried after the census period of 2011, in the water supply of Kukes and 14 surrounding villages, which justifies the above changes.

However, it is clear that in the area there are problematic issues dealing with informal areas and the ownership rights over the sewerage and water pipelines.

This matter should be taken into consideration and be one of the issues that should be considered a priority by the new administration in order to have a clear map of services including the entire area, including informal areas.

The situation with sewerage service is different, because as stated above, this service is offered only to the city at 100%. The total length of the system is 32 km and it's all concrete material. The total number of connections to the system is 3,434. The total volume of water billed for KUZ is 459.9 thousand m³.

The total operation cost of the UK is 51,154,700 ALL. Only 30,897,100 ALL is reached to be invoiced, thus approximately 60.4% of the service is invoiced. From this the water supply has main part of the billing (26,498,000 ALL).

The average collection rate is 55.3%.

While in other communes is the water service is communal (Shishtavec, Terthore, Kolsh, Malzi, Topojan, Ujmisht, Grykë-Cajë, Arren, Surroj) there is no information for the communes Zapod, Bushtrice and Kalis. Water supply of residents in some villages is done through public taps which makes it very difficult situation of residents in the communes.

In Shishtavec commune there are 1,460 households out of which 1,370 have access to commune water services. Of these 1,350 families are directly related to water supply system. The primary water system is 18km long and is good quality as completed in 2014. There is a length of 2 km of poor quality that is due to the material used (cast-iron) and the time of investment (1975).

Secondary network length is 55 km. Service is provided through 7 reservoirs where one is the main with a capacity of 300m³ and others are 2 100m³ capacity both in capacity 30m³ and two with a 20m³ capacity. The latter are distributed in villages to provide a better quality. The main source of water supply is in Kallabak with a capacity 15 l / s and other smaller sources in Pashtrec, Prrena, Cernaleve and Morave.

The management structure is a structure established near the commune – water supply unit which consists of 5 persons.

Water production index is 120% and from this 90% reaches to be sailed. 70% of billed water reaches to be collected (invoiced). The price of water is 40 ALL / m³ to 15m³, over this rate is 400 ALL / m³.

By the main expenditures of the water supply Enterprise, 80% it is reached to be covered by receipts (cashing) and the rest from the grant of the commune. Water service quality is good and reaches up to 20 hours a day supply.

In Shishtavec commune operates the sewerage system where the service is offered 70% to the population. Costs for this service are covered by commune grants.

While commune Terthore from 310 families, 305 have access to municipal water services.

Kolsh commune provides the service to all residents of the commune through three small water supplies. Management is a big concern to the commune as there isn't a proper enterprise for water management in the commune. Residents pay a fee to maintain the system through private persons. Also there are problems with payment of energy bills.

Malzi Commune provides service to 80% of the population through 6 water supplies with an average 6 hours per day supply. All the water in this commune is free flowing and therefore has no electricity costs. The largest deposits the one of Shëmri have a water capacity of 200m³.

Only two villages and thus two water supply bills for water metering with a fee 15 ALL / m³ with an average of 70% payment of fees. The other part is not billed. Water supply is managed by the commune.

Arren commune served by three water utilities that serve 75% of the population throughout the day. The distribution network consists of 12 km of primary pipes and 5.5 km secondary pipes. Water is managed by the commune, but since it is free flowing and no electricity costs, management is minimal. No fee is charged for water.

Grykë-Cajë commune is served by two water supplies that serve to 45% of the population. Water is managed by the commune, but since it is free flowing and no electricity costs, management is minimal. No fee is charged for water.

Surroj commune is served by three water supplies that are free flowing. Water supply is about 6 hours a day and 60% of the population is supplied. Besides network that supplies homes, water supplies 84 households or public tap. Water is managed by the commune, but since it is free flowing and no electricity costs, management is minimal. No fee is charged for water.

Ujmisht commune serves to the residents with 2 water supplies covering about 60% of the population. Water is managed by the municipality, but since it is free flowing and no electricity costs, management is minimal. No fee is charged for water.

Topojan commune serves to the residents with 2 water supplies covering about 45% of the population or 4 villages. There is a major network of 10 km and is in good condition. Water is managed by the commune, but since it is free flowing and no electricity costs, management is minimal. No fee is charged for water.

According to the informations from LGU-s and the Council Administration the sources from which water is taken for Kukes Water Supply sh.a, but also other sources have no risk of contamination, even though FA is a potential area with mines. Resources are limestone sources.

This matter should be taken into consideration and be one of the issues that should be considered with priority by the new administration in order to have a clear map of services including the entire area, including informal areas.

Recommendations for the water supply-sewerage service

- **Re-organization:** According to some indicators and line ministry statements is thought that the production and treatment of water to be a function of the central government. If such a thing happens then is up to the state enterprise to do the planning and service improvement.
- **Management:** If this does not happen then it would be very important an opportunity of including commune water supply in the existing sh.a Kukes. This will enable a better management of all water supply and consequently a better service and efficient to the inhabitants.
- **Sanitary control:** due to the management structures of water management in communes, control and tests of distributed water is not performed, although the quality of the water in the commune is good and there were no reported cases of illness due to water. However we recommend making a graphic for water control and testing. Also we recommend the creation of necessary system for clorification and disinfecting of water according to the standards.
- **Billing:** Another problem is the collection of bills in the communes due to the economic situation of communes, mentality and upbringing payment service. A study should be performed to find the most efficient way to collect the bills seeing the possibilities of cooperation with other institutions that function as tax agents (OSHEE for example).
- **Investment:** In those villages where there is no water supply investments are recommended. As results from the analysis almost all communes except Kolsh have free flowing water supply. We recommend a feasibility study on the possibilities of water service coverage to residents of communes according to the overall objectives of the national strategy aimed at covering 85% of the population by 2017.
- **Sanitation:** it is recommended a study on the difficulties and obstacles to providing broad wastewater sanitation to achieve the goal set at the national water strategy with 45% in 2017.
- **Informal areas** – it is recommended a more accurate assessment of all applications to the offices of ALUIZNI and to verify if they are included in the lists of sh.a of the families and

residents who receive services. This applies mainly to the current Municipality of Kukes, but is recommended to become a more detailed study of the needs, of coverage and to be accompanied by a medium-long term plan of investment.

- **Property rights:** it is recommended an evaluation and study of the sewerage and water pipes property if they are registered as LGU-s assets or not. This is a process that must be undertaken in order to have even an inventory of the assets of the LGU-s.

6 Structural organization of the new Municipality in accordance with the concept of the Functional Area of Kukes

Based on the existing local organigramme of Kukes, but also based on socio-economic and public services analysis of the functional area it is recommended that the FA staff should be expanded and arranged as follows:

Given that the FA has a significantly larger number of residents than the current municipality, changes in the Unit structure are necessary. Although current 8652 law leaves the election and appointment of the vice-Mayor at the discretion of the Mayor, the usual practice has been that municipalities have one or two vice-Mayor. Given the analysis made, it is recommended for the FA to have two vice-mayors. Since the FA corresponds 100% with new Municipality of Kukes under the law, it enables the recommendations to be made by observing all applicable legal provisions, especially for administrative units (former communes).

As the recommendation for two vice-presidents, we recommend for the Directorates to be separated from the supervision aspect as follows:

Vice Mayor 1- Human Resources Directorate, Directorate of Social, Cultural and Education Services, Directorate of Revenue, Directorate of Development and One Stop Shop, Directorate of International Relations and Coordination of AUs and Internal Services Directorate.

Vice Mayor 2 – Director of Public Service Directorate, Finance Directorate, Legal Directorate, Procurement and Asset Management, Planning and Territory Management Directorate.

According to the recommendations made in the study regarding public services, the cleaning and waste management services need to shift to services rendered by private economic operators. Considering this fact, we then recommend that a supervisor should be predicted in the municipal structure. In this case the office of public services will be reduced significantly, but this will be based on economic justifications. The same concept we also recommend other services such as green landscaping and lighting, although it remains to be decided by the municipal council to what level these last two services will be extended.

Because Kukes is a border municipality and in recent years has had considerable assistance from donors, but also through cross-border projects, we recommend the creation of two offices with broader competences: a). Directorate of Development and One Stop Shop and b). Directorate of Foreign Relations and Administrative Units.

Being that there will be 14 Administrative Units that will depend on the Municipality of Kukes we recommend that it is important to have a directorate to deal with the problems of these units. Administrative Units dependence remains at the discretion of the President, as also the amendments to the Law 8652 itself, namely Law 30/2015, predict that Units Administrators are appointed by the mayor, but still the managing work and procedures that they will execute and implement it is recommended to be made through a separate directorate through the sector of Administrative Units coordination.

According to the analysis conducted for the services, also the road maintenance service is recommended to be made through private economic operators. In this case it is recommended that the projects and plans are drawn up by investment and infrastructure specialists and then to be provided by private operators through procurement procedures.

Regarding the structure of the Administrative Unit in former communes, considering the ministry studies for the Administrative - Territorial Reform, it is clear that there is no need for back-office staff, but more staff to provide basic services to citizens. For this it is recommended the position of an one stop shop office specialist. The number of these specialists depends on the population under the jurisdiction of the AUs and especially the need that a designated unit has for a particular service. According to studies by international organizations, the number of services to be offered in the Administrative Units will increase, as will also offer services not previously offered.

It is recommended to have a tax inspector, as under the Decentralisation Strategy the possibility of increasing public finances comes also through the use and collection of certain taxes are not levied until now, including fees for certain services that up until now have not been offered in the communes.

We recommend also a public services specialist, which in close cooperation with the Public Services Directorate, will ensure that public services in the area are offered and reports on potential problems that may arise in the provision of services.

Given that the administrative units will also offer services in the country and that these can be online services, we recommend to create in the new FA unit a separate sector for information technology management, whether for internal, or even for online presence . This sector will also serve to facilitate the e-governance tht may become part of mandatory services in the future.

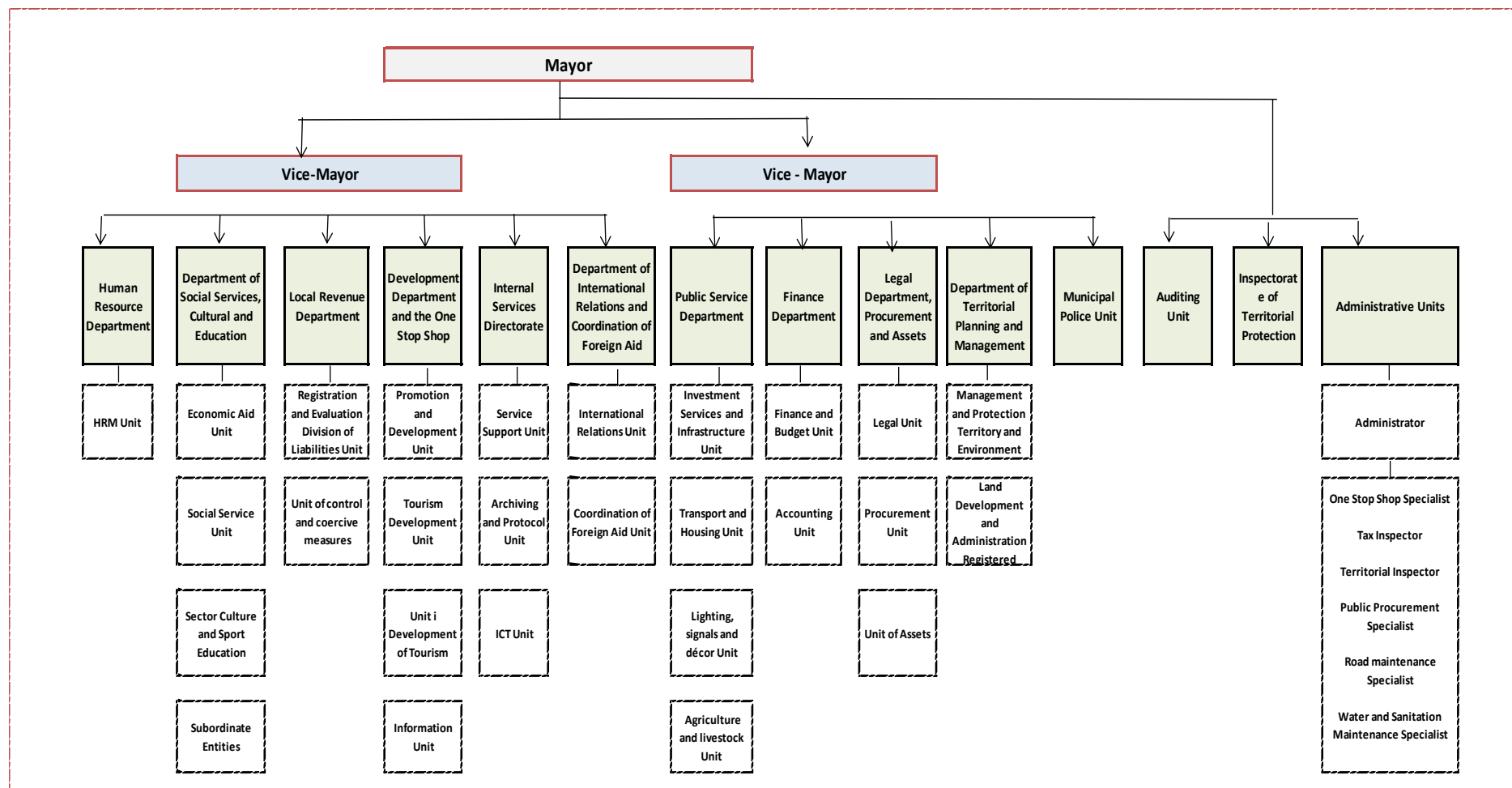
According to Law 30/2015, administrative units are responsible for the management of parks and green areas as well as playgrounds, sports fields, libraries etc. For this reason we recommend also a field inspector that deals with identifying and reporting on field problems for competences under the law.

While the legal issues regarding aqueducts are being resolved according to the recommendations made, we recommend to have a aqueduct maintenance worker, which will ensure the maintenance of the aqueducts in the AUs (especially emergency breakdowns so to not have the service interrupted for a long time), but also other water supply services such as clorification, sending and receiving samples for analysis.

Although road maintenance service is recommended to be offered through private economic operators, it is recommended that the AUs should have some maintenance employees for routine road maintenance, filling potholes and various roads cleanings, especially in rural areas and within villages.

Below is presented schematically the recommendation for the organisational structure of the (FA) Municipality of Kukes giving also the idea of subordinates.

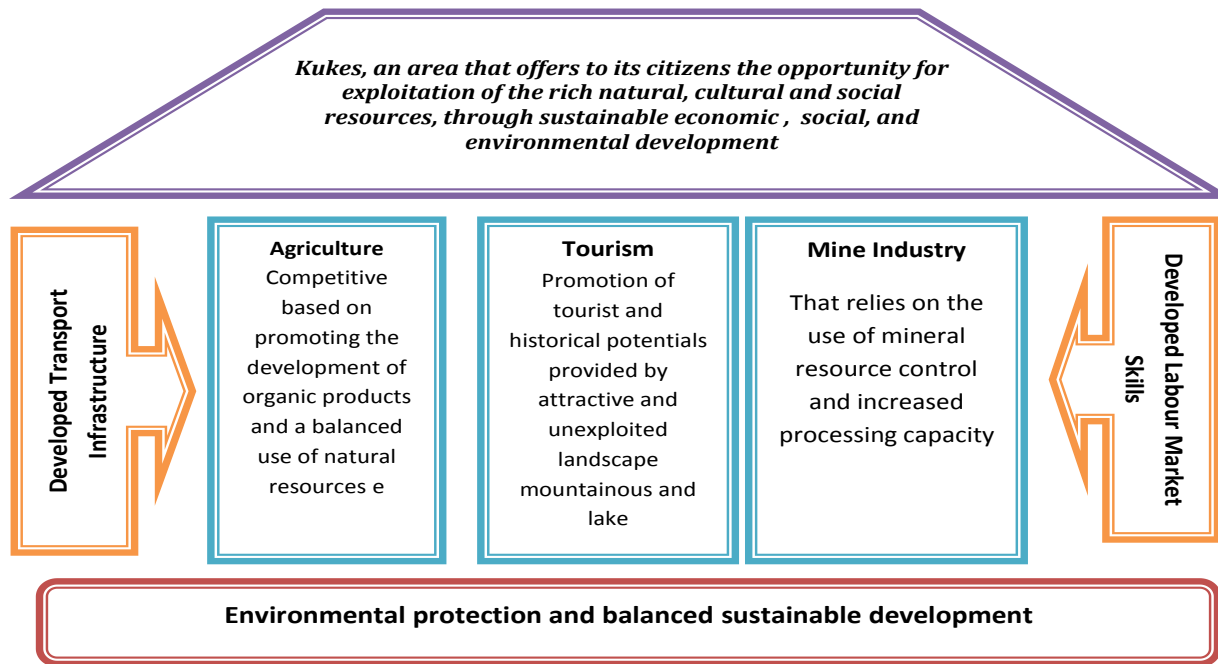
Figure 5 Proposed Organisational Scheme for the Municipality of FAK



7 VISION OF DEVELOPMENT

The Program for the Development of the Functional Area is guided by a shared vision of further change and development *which focuses on the improvement of welfare, local residents life and sustainable development.*

Long-term Vision



This vision is based on three main pillars of economic development: **Agriculture Development**, **Tourism Development** and further strengthening of the **Mining Industry**. All these three sectors could be developed and strengthened further through the development of **Infrastructure**, **Labour Market Capacities** and human capital. The entire development will take into account and will be implemented ensuring environmental protection and its further contribution to a harmonized and balanced development.

The vision can be accomplished through the following strategic objectives and implementation of a harmonized development plan, which will be implemented by the application of numerous financial instruments and the optimal and more efficient use of financial and human resources.

The main strategic objectives of the Functional Area Programme

S01 – Increased production capacity of the functional area’s economy, in particular in areas with great potential for generating income and employment for the population: Agriculture and Tourism

S02 –Development of transport infrastructure within functional area to provide ease in mobility of people and goods, and greater access to the FA.

S03 –Further improvement of the natural environment, while maintaining its originality as an alpine mountain area and its further development to enhance the attractiveness of the environment for the development of mountain and lake tourism.

S04 - Institutional Restructuring of the New Unit, based on the principles and requirements of the new administrative reform, adopting an optimal and functional institutional structure, enabling proper administration of social services and FA activities.

S05 – Capacity and human capital development in order to ensure appropriate conditions for the development of the labor market, social inclusion, and improvement of the general population’s welfare.

The realization of the strategic objectives above, will materialize from the implementation of the FAK Programme Development Plan which will be operationalized through the development of various programs and investment projects.

8 Project – proposals

The realization of the vision and strategic objectives will be accomplished through an initial plan of action to be developed in cooperation with the new municipal administration.

This action plan will also represent the **New Agenda for Further Change and Development** of the Functional Area in short-term = medium-term aspects.

The program document identifies several projects which are grouped into four main groups:

- Infrastructure Development and Urban Development
- Environmental Protection and Development
- Tourism and Local Economy Development
- Social support to the vulnerable groups
- Provision of services and improved access to municipal services and information

8.1 Projects in the field of Infrastructure and Urban Development

1. Project Title	Development of Programme for Road Infrastructure Development and Urban Transport
Project Type	<i>Infrastructure</i>
Project Location	<i>Functional Area Kukës</i>
Pre-estimated total budget	<i>67,000 Euro (first phase)</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

Kukës Functional Area has 122.5 km regional roads, 181 km national roads, but the precise inventory and categorization of rural roads are lacking. The road infrastructure is of poor quality, very few of the local roads are asphalted and the rest is unpaved. The most remote areas from the travel point of view are: Arren, Ujmisht, Bushtricë, Grykë Cajë, Kalis. Travel time from the centers of these communes to Kukës is about 2-3 hours, whereas the average travel time for the rest of the communes to Kukës is about 45-60 minutes.

FA of Kukës is an area with strong concentric features, where in general, interactions happen among current communes and Kukës, being the center of the FA, and very little interaction happens among the communes themselves. Citizens travel is mainly done from communes to Kukës, because of the fact that the Kukës is the centre of the Region, and it is there, where the main public institutions are concentrated. The main means of transport are minibuses and taxis, as the urban transport is very limited, almost inexistent. This is valid for the travel within the area, i.e. among communes or between communes and Kukës Municipality. The urban transport is inexistent in communes and Kukës Municipality; this happens because they are units with small areas. There are no dedicated lines for citizens transport service from the communes to Kukës as their center. Transport in remote communes is rarer and it is done in the morning from the commune to Kukës and the return is at lunch time from Kukës to the communes.

2. Main objective of the project

Development of an integrated system of transport infrastructure, with the aim of facilitating the citizens' movement from the Functional Area Centre to the suburbs and vice versa.

3. Specific Objectives of the project

SO1: To improve road infrastructure and transport infrastructure

SO 2: To clearly identify road categories in the Functional Area

SO 3: To improve urban transport service through disciplining and development of a well studied movement system

4. Expected results and project indicators

- R.1 Developed inventory of FA roads;
- R.2 Developed road infrastructure based on a clear intervention strategy;
- R.3 Improved road safety;
- R.4 Improved mobility of citizens movement in 15 LGU's;
- R.5 Infrastructure development based on a (cost) efficient economic system.

The beneficiaries of this programme are all the LGU's and the FA population.

The project is thought to last for a three year period, as it is conceived in the form of a programme, which could be done in two phases. The first phase will be focused on carrying on the study and the intervention strategy and the second phase will be focused on carrying out interventions in road and transport infrastructure.

The first phase cost was calculated as below, whereas the cost of the second phase can be calculated only after the first phase studies have been finalized.

5. Project Activities

First Phase:

1. Immediate inventory and categorization of roads considering the reconstruction in Local Government Units.
2. Compilation of road strategy on road infrastructure development of the FA.
3. Cost Calculation:
It should be also taken into consideration the cost calculation on road maintenance, studied and developed by ADF, which is currently not included and cannot be included in any of the units of the FA. This would help the maximization of the funding efficiency, by enabling a plan for road maintenance and not simply adding funds only when the situation becomes alarming.
4. Study on intersections of secondary roads with main ones and especially with the motorway Milot-Morinë. In different parts, the entrances and exits are not according to required standards, which pose danger to citizens' life.
5. Detailed study on inhabitants' mobility, on their transport needs and mapping of stations for the transport means that transport the inhabitants.

Second Phase

6. Establishment of the urban transport line for the city of Kukës, but also for the closer communes, Bicaj, Shtiqën dhe Kolsh.
7. Interventions on improvement and building of road infrastructure.
8. Establishment of Stations in the Urban and Sub-urban Areas.

6. Project Maturation

The project is in the concept phase. Studies of this nature are completely lacking in this area.

7. Funding sources and implementation partners

Project funders:

- To be identified

The project shall be implemented by:

- Kukës Municipality
- The Council of Kukës Region

8. Project Costs (in Euro)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Immediate inventory and categorization of roads	10,000
2	Development of road strategy on road infrastructure development of FA	25,000
3	Cost calculation on road maintenance	2,000
4	Study on intersection of secondary roads	10,000
5	More detailed study related to inhabitants' mobility, but also on their transport needs	20,000
TOTAL		67,000

2. Project Title	Building the touristic road Topojan-Kroi i Kuq-Tërshenë-Bicaj
Project Type	<i>Touristic Infrastructure</i>
Project Location	<i>Topojan dhe Bicaj Communes</i>
Total pre-estimated budget	<i>200,000 Euro</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

Tourism is a main priority of the Regional Development Strategy of Kukës Region and Gjallica area is the second priority area for tourism development after Shishtavec. Almost all the region's touristic areas have been covered through implementation of different projects. Among these, there is Bjeshket e Gjallices, which does not have access into developed infrastructure to enable its exploration.

During summer time, this area is visited a lot by the inhabitants of the communes around, who exploit the rich wealth of herbs and curative plants. In these unused areas, the number of adventure tourists has significantly increased, as well. Taking into account that the area of Bicaj and Topojan have the same values regarding the touristic attractions, the need to build a road for shortening the distances, has arisen, connecting better these two areas and enabling the use of this rich area in a much shorter time than the existing one.

2. Specific Project Objective (s)

S01: To shorten the distance and to facilitate greater outreach to touristic places

S02: To enhance interaction and communal cooperation

S03: To increase number of local and foreign tourists and enhance investments in these areas

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R.1 Developed touristic infrastructure in Gjallica area
- R.2 Shortened distance and lower transport cost for the areas around
- R.3 Rational use of natural wealth
- R.4 Increased number of local and foreign tourists

4. Project Activities

1. Compilation of the technical project on road building
2. Building of road (art work, road signs, touristic signs, etc.)
3. Local capacities building for tourism promotion

The project is thought to be implemented for a two year period.

5. Project Maturity

An area study is lacking and it is necessary to carry out such a study on the interventions study, including setting the touristic landmarks and the necessary signs.

6. Funding sources and implementation partners

The project funders:

- There are no defined sources, yet

The project will be implemented by:

- Agency of Regional Development of Kukës
- Council of Kukës Region
- Kukës Municipality

7. Project Costs (in Euro)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Technical Project for the road	10,000
2	Road building (art works, road signs, touristic signs, etc.)	175,000
3	Training of two communes staff on promotion of touristic values	5,000
4	Promotion of natural values of the area by means of leaflets, guides, documentaries, activities etc.	10,000
TOTAL		200,000

3. Project Title	Programme for Development of Management System for Urban Waste
Project Type	<i>Environmental Infrastructure</i>
Project Location	<i>Kukës Functional Area</i>
Total pre-estimated budget	<i>67,000 Euro (first phase)</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

In Kukës FA, waste management service is very limited and a lot needs to be done. The communes in general do not provide this service. They are limited mainly to waste collection according to a graphic, which is not regular, but it's based on needs. Lack of financial capacities to provide the service and lack of awareness of inhabitants go together with the lack of means of transport and collection waste points in the neighborhoods or commune villages. In the communes, where this service is partially provided (Shishtavec, Tërthore), the waste collection is done by commune employees and with small means of transport, but not with technological means. The commune of Shishtavec spends a modest sum for all the cleaning service (about 200,000 Lekë/year). The communes have dumpsites. These dumpsites are simply approved by the councils of the respective units, but in reality they do not have the required standards, or they cannot be considered as appropriate dumpsites.

The commune inhabitants' awareness still remains a problem, related to plastic waste and packing waste. They are not very often buried (an action which poses a lot of problems), they are dumped in rivers, streams or open places.

2. Main objective of the project

Improvement of environment and population health through improvement of management and processing of urban waste

3. Specific Objectives of the project

S01: To improve the urban waste management scheme

S02: To promote a sustainable and economically affordable system of service tariffs

S03: To improve the collection infrastructure and urban waste management

4. Expected results and project indicators

R.1 Developed urban waste collection and management;

R.2 An economically sustainable tariff system;

R.3 Developed infrastructure for urban waste collection and management

The beneficiaries of this programme are all the LGU's and all the population of the FA.

The project is thought to last for more than a three year period, as it was conceived in the form of a programme, which can be done in two phases. The first phase will be focused on carrying out studies and intervention strategy and the second phase on development of collection and management system of urban waste.

The first phase cost is calculated as below, whereas the second phase cost can be calculated only after the studies to be carried out in the first phase, will be finalized.

5. Project activities

First phase

Study development on waste management and population awareness, including:

- study on cleaning service cost for all its elements and
- differentiation of this service tariff for the urban area from the rural one depending on the service provision

Second phase

- Implementation of collection and management plan of urban waste;
- Investments in collection infrastructure and urban waste infrastructure.

6. Project maturity

There exists a preliminary study developed by SELEA, which has done a waste management analysis in the region of Kukës.

7. Funding Sources and Implementation partners

Project funders:

- To be identified

The project will be implemented by:

- Kukës Municipality
- Council of Kukës Region

8. Project costs for the first phase (in Euro)

<i>No</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Study on urban waste management and tariffs	30,000
2	Study on urban waste tariffs	15,000
TOTAL		45,000

8.2 Project Proposals in the Field of Environmental Protection

4. Project title	Cleaning of Fierza lake and the area around it
Project type	Environmental/Touristic
Project Location	Kukës Functional Area
Total pre-estimated budget	150,000 Euro

1. Background and problem analysis

Fierza lake is 72 km long and it has an area of 8,169 acres. Fierza lake was created with the overflowing of rivers White Drin, Black Drin, etc. Fierza Lake is rich in habitats and 13 fish species, suitable for tourist trips, fishing, etc. With DCM. No. 88, dated 01.03.1993, Fierza coast was declared a priority area for tourism development.

The biggest problem that exists is that the lake is very much polluted with urban waste. The biggest part of waste comes from the flow of the White Drin and the Black Drin rivers. They adversely affect fauna and water quality, the surrounding environment and use of the area for medical tourism and aquatic activities.

Years ago, small grants funded by different donors were used for cleaning the lake. However, this did not bring the solution of the problem, as Fierza Lake has a large area and cleaning by contemporary means is very costly.

Currently, there is a growing demand to visit this natural potential untapped by residents, there is also an added interest by the local government to transform it into a tourist destination.

Tourism and environment are the main priorities in the Regional Development Strategy for Kukës Region for 2012-2016.

2. Specific Objectives of the project

S01: To develop the action plan for cleaning and maintenance of Fierza Lake.

S02: To improve current conditions of Fierza Lake, to develop and protect the fauna, by setting suitable parameters for the development of a tourist attraction.

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R1: Clean water and clean lake shore
- R2: The community has the possibility to enjoy a clean shore free of urban waste
- R3: Setting optimal conditions for a developed fauna, as well for tourism development
- R4: Healthy fish
- R5: More frequent visits at the lake
- R6: Clean environment

4. Project Activities

1. Evaluation of current situation
2. Recruitment and setting up a working group
3. Training and capacity building of the working group
4. Cleaning of the lake and the area around it
5. Preparation of leaflets and launching of the awareness campaign in the media
6. Closer cooperation with the neighboring border countries from where the rivers flow

The project is thought to be implemented for a 2-year period.

The beneficiaries of this project are the area inhabitants, a considerable number of fishers, vacationers, stakeholders dealing with aquatic activities.

5. Project maturity

N/A

6. Funding sources and implementation partners

Project funders:

- DLDP

The project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës
- Council of Kukës Region
- Kukës Municipality

7. Project costs (in Euro)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Evaluation of current situation	10,000
2	Recruitment and setting up a working group	20,000
3	Training and capacity building of the working group	10,000
4	Cleaning of the lake and the area around it	105,000
5	Preparation of leaflets and launching of the awareness campaign in the media	5,000
TOTAL		150,000

5. Project Title	Systematization of Lake coast and adaptation into a touristic point
Project Type	Environmental/Touristic
Project Location	Kukës Functional Area
Total pre-estimated budget	150,000 Euro

1. Background and project analysis

Fierza Lake is the biggest artificial lake in the country. It was created in 1978, on Drin river for Fierza HEC development. It serves as a joint node among Kukës, Has and Tropojë. This lake, besides exploitation of the energy industry, has also got a touristic function. It surrounds the town of Kukës from three sides, creating the impression of a peninsula. Being proclaimed Regional Natural Park, it is important that the lake be used in the most efficient way, so that it can have dual benefit. Systemizing the coast is a first step that serves well to the good management. This is as such, because in summer, the coast is used by local residents for medical tourism and fishing. Also, along the coast, there are also family businesses that offer a pleasant rest and traditional organic food.

There is currently an increasing request to visit this natural potential unused by the inhabitants, as well as an added interest by the local government to transform it into a tourist destination.

2. Specific objectives of the project

S01: To transform the Lake coast into a clean, beautiful and peaceful location, and over all to transform it into a touristic destination.

S02: To return the Lake coast to the service of the community, impacting the increase in number of small businesses that operate in the area of sailing, fishing, small services, etc.

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R1:** The area at the Lake coast has become nicer and more attractive to tourism
- R2:** Greater opportunities for local small businesses to exercise their activities
- R3:** Increase in number of visitors and tourists
- R4:** Increase in revenues with 15 %

4. Project activities

1. Setting the coast line for touristic destination and study of allowable interventions
2. Provision with necessary objects and tools
3. Filling in the coast with beach sand
4. Purchase of small touristic boats
5. Signing of cooperation agreement among partners
6. Design and publication of 2000 leaflets
7. Publication in visual media

The project is thought to be implemented in a 2 year period.

5. Project Maturity

There are no previous studies in this direction. Initially, there is a need for a meeting with stakeholders and inhabitants living close to the Fierza lake, to inform them and have their opinions. Later, a study should be carried out, which should be in the framework of management plan of Fierza Lake, as a Regional Natural Park. This study should define the intervention types, such as: businesses, exploitation areas for medical tourism, protected areas etc.

6. Funding sources and implementation partners

There no identified sources yet.

The project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës.
- Council of Kukës Region
- Kukës Municipality

7. Project Costs

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Setting the coast line for touristic destination and study of allowable interventions	20,000
2	Provision with necessary objects and tools	70,000
3	Filling the coast line with beach sand	40,000
4	Purchase of small touristic boats	16,000
5	Signing of cooperation agreement among partners	0
6	Design and Publication of 2000 leaflets	2,000
7	Publication in visual media	2,000
<i>TOTAL</i>		150,000 Euro

6. Project Title	Forestation of Gryka e Vanave
Project type	Environmental/ Tourist
Project location	Area of Kukës (Shishtavec)
Pre-estimated total budget	150,000 EUR

1. Background and problem analysis

Kukës Region has a population of 117,000 inhabitants, of whom 61.4 % live in rural areas. The road segment Kukës-Shishtavec, 41 km long, links 19 villages of three communes. The entire segment was a one-way road, damaged and impassable by the small vehicles. The construction of the new road will liberate the inhabitants from the several-month confinement due to the heavy snowfalls, but also the land slides. 14 thousand inhabitants of the communes of Zapod, Shishtavec and Topojan can now reach the city of Kukës in a short period of time. When the construction of road is over, the work for its lateral greenness will start, as the road is currently bare along its entire length. **It is foreseen that once the construction of the road is over, there will be a greater number of cars moving in this axis, because of the fact that the Shishtavec area itself is very rich in natural beauties and one of the areas whose top priority is tourism development. Thus, the forestation of this part of the road would make Gryka e Vanave and the surrounding area look very attractive.**

At the same time, Tourism and Environment are among the priorities of the Regional Development Strategy 2012-2016. Therefore there arises the need to improve the region's natural environment, as a key aspect of its identity and attractiveness, avoiding in this way the environmental negative effects caused by human activities.

2. Project's main objective

To contribute to the protection of the environment and ecosystem in the Functional Area, as well as to contribute to the protection of the life of the inhabitants from landslides resulting from erosion effects.

3. Project's specific objectives

The specific objectives are as follows:

- OS1:** To contribute to the improvement of forest crown along the first 10 km of Kukës – Shishtavec road
- OS2:** To contribute to the awareness raising of area inhabitants of the importance of forestation and forest protection

4. Expected results and project indicators

The results expected from this project are:

- R1:** the first 10 km of the road will be forested
- R2:** at least 15,000 planted saplings
- R3:** 15 trained inhabitants (5 inhabitants per commune)
- R4:** 300 produced leaflets

R5: 150 produced brochures

5. Project activities

1. Setting-up a working group with forestry experts
2. Definition of training topics
3. Appointment of training participants
4. Organization of trainings
5. Development of leaflets, brochures
6. Designation of the area to be forested
7. Designation of the type of trees to be planted
8. Preparation of the land for planting
9. Purchase of saplings
10. Planting saplings

The project is thought to be implemented for a period of 2 years.

6. Project's maturity

Such a project has never been implemented in this area before. A proposal has been defined as well as the conducting of a preliminary study on the intervention area, for the purpose of foresting this area and to preserve the status of a natural monument.

7. Funding resources and implementation partners

No funds have been provided yet for the Project.

Project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës
- Regional Council of Kukës
- Municipality of Kukës

8. Project costs (in EUR)

No.	Activities	Budget per activity
1	Setting-up a commission with forestry experts	300
2	Designation of intervention areas	1,500
3	Definition of training topics	300
4	Appointment of training participants	300
5	Organization of training courses	1,800
6	Development of leaflets, brochures	5,000
7	Designation of the area to be forested, definition of type of trees to be planted	1,600
8	Preparation of land to be planted	50,000
9	Purchase of saplings	70,000
10	Planting saplings	20,700
TOTAL		151,500

7. Project title	Identification and Rehabilitation of Sterile Waste and carriers generated from mining activity
Project type	Environmental
Project location	Bicaj
Pre-estimated total budget	200,000 Euro

1. Background and problem analysis

The situation created since before the 1990 from the mining activities in Gjegjan and the exploitation of carbonate sands in Bicaj Commune is serious. After the change of the system, a very negative situation with substantial environmental impacts was created in these two mineral sources. This situation was also created as a result of the creation of sterile slag brands of the Copper Smelting Plant in Rexhepaj (Shtiqën commune), which impacts the pollution of Fierza Lake waters.

Another huge concern is the exploitation of mineral-bearing areas after 1997 and onwards by unlicensed persons. The exploitation of carriers is carried out by private entities and persons, without having the appropriate qualification in the majority of cases and without implementing projects and programmes that accompany the licenses/ permits.

Frequently the carriers are only holes or diggings with irregular contours, with no steps, without complying with the exploitation system envisaged in projects, and what is more worrisome, without taking any measures for the regeneration of the environment.

2. Purpose of Project

Promotion of the effective exploitation of carbonate carrier in order to support the development of the construction industry in the region and ensure the environment protection.

3. Project's specific objectives

OS1: To disclose information on the current situation created due to the exploitation of minerals in Region of Kukës

OS2: To draft a technical report for addressing the issue

OS3: To restore the areas damaged from the mining activity into pollution-free areas in the surrounding environment.

4. Expected results and project indicators

R1: The inhabitants of the intervention areas will live in better and safer environmental conditions

R2: Central and Local Governments will have the necessary information for rehabilitating interventions

R3: There will be an awareness raising of businesses operating in mining industry as regards the environmental protection

5. Project activities

1. Field expeditions and observations to become acquainted with damaged areas.
2. Analysis of field taken evidence.

3. Meeting with stakeholders.
4. Rehabilitation of more priority damaged areas.
5. Campaign to raise the awareness of licensed companies about the environmental protection in compliance with the legislation in force.

The Project is thought to be implemented within a 2-year period.

6. Project's maturity

N/A

7. Funding resources and implementation partners

Project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës.
- Regional Council of Kukës
- Municipality of Kukës

8. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Field expeditions and observations to become acquainted with the damaged areas.	30,000
2	Analysis of field taken evidence.	10,000
3	Meeting with stakeholders.	10,000
4	Rehabilitation of more priority damaged areas.	140,000
5	Campaign to raise the awareness of licensed companies about the environmental protection in compliance with the legislation in force.	10,000
TOTAL		200,000

8.3 Project Proposals in the Field of Tourism and Local Economy Development

8. Project title	<i>Electronic mapping of Kukës in order to promote tourism.</i>
Project type	<i>Sustainable environmental, social and economic development.</i>
Project location	<i>Kukës Functional Area</i>
Pre-estimated total budget	<i>200,000 Euro</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

Nowadays, websites provide new ways to make the information available to the users. This generates new ways and tools that can be used to provide information for the tourists and promote tourist destinations. The major objective of this Project is to develop a Web application for the development of tourism in the region of Kukës. This web application uses dynamic maps and content features generated by the users, which are focused on the provision of useful information for the tourists and promotion of Nature and Adventure Tourism in the region of Kukës. ICT (information and communications technology) developments have transformed tourism in various and numerous ways in areas such as consumer demand or website management. Various data on destinations can play a considerable role in the holiday choice of tourists, using the Internet as the privileged tool to accomplish this task.

E-Tourism represents the combined research of ITC with tourism. This fact is rapidly transforming the tourism sector, calling for a continuous adoption and integration of recent ICT developments in tourism sector.

Regional Council of Kukës has collected a certain amount of data that enable information on decision-making concerning strategic planning and investment strategies. As a result of past successes and failures, the need to use advanced GIS software with the support of technological infrastructures, was identified. Also, there is a clear need to train and improve local capacities in data collection, for the purpose of achieving the objectives of this action. In addition, the harmonization of such data collection and technological infrastructures, facilitating maximally information exchange, is deemed indispensable.

Alongside the intervention in technological infrastructure, attention should be paid to the improvement of local capacities, including business community, NGOs and local government units. It is those communities that provide the Regional Council, Municipality and other institutions with data and information. Once collected, the data should be maintained, analyzed and afterwards distributed to the public to be used according to the specific needs.

2. Project's main objective

Promotion of tourism, natural resources and cultural assets in the Region of Kukës, using IT systems.

3. Project's specific objectives

OS1: To establish the system of data collection, management and usage, focusing on the development of a digital map on the Internet for purposes of tourism.

OS2: To promote and advertise regional transboundary tourism potentials by setting up a website, using geospatial data.

OS3: To facilitate search of information and easily guide local and foreign tourists toward the major tourist areas/ attractions and natural and historic national assets/ riches.

4. Expected results and project indicators

R1: Established, equipped and trained structures to manage and program geospatial data and maps.

R2: Developed Digital Map

R3: Established and operational Web-GIS

R4: Continuous awareness raising about regional assets by distributing structured and professional information on tourism, geospace and socio-cultural issues.

5. Project activities

1. Start of Project, Recruitment and Training of the technical staff
 2. Identification of data to be collected
 3. Physical collection of information
 4. Designing Web-GIS
 5. Processing of vectorial data
 6. Data and map designing
 7. Hosting service of geospatial data and domain
 8. Data uploading
 9. Designing mobile and web application
 10. Preparation for the final report and conclusion of action
 11. Workshop with tour operators on the promotion of GIS maps
- Project is thought to be implemented within a 2-year period.

6. Project's maturity

The target action aims at laying the foundations on which all the projects, both private and public will be based, in terms of collection, organization, analysis and distribution of accurate information about the region. This is a very important and necessary first step to achieve a sustainable long-term success in the region. An organized and centralized data base is the indispensable foundation on the basis of which the region can plan and grow effectively.

7. Funding resources and implementation partners

Project funders:

No funds have been provided by the donors yet.

Project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës.
- Regional Council of Kukës
- Municipality of Kukës

8. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Start of Project	<i>1,000</i>
2	Recruitment and training of the technical staff	<i>36,000</i>
3	Identification of data to be collected	<i>2,000</i>
4	Physical collection of information	<i>20,000</i>
5	Designing web-GIS	<i>20,000</i>
6	Processing of vectorial data	<i>11,000</i>
7	Data and map designing	<i>10,000</i>
8	Hosting service of geospatial data and domain	<i>10,000</i>
9	Data uploading	<i>10,000</i>
10	Designing mobile and web application	<i>20,000</i>
11	Translation of web portal	<i>5,000</i>
12	Preparation for the final report and conclusion of action	<i>5,000</i>
13	Workshop with tour operators on promotion of GIS maps	<i>10,000</i>
14	Promotion of project (leaflets, tourist map, guide, conferences, seminars, TV)	<i>40,000</i>
TOTAL		200,000 Euro

9. Project title	Establishment of the Tourist Water Line in Fierza Lake
Project type	Infrastructural / Tourist
Project location	Fierza Lake
Pre-estimated total budget	220,000 Euro

1. Background and problem analysis

Tourism is the main priority of the Regional Development Strategy of Region of Kukës and Fierza Lake is one of the priority areas in terms of tourism development.

The artificial lake of Fierza, with a longitudinal axis of 70 km, area of 7 thousand ha, depth up to 128 m and a water volume of 2.7 billion m³, is the biggest in Albania. The lake was built in 1978 on River Drin for the Hydropower Plant of Fierza and to regulate the water supply of two other Hydropower Plants of Drini cascade: those of Koman and Vau i Dejës. It also serves as a link between Kukës, Tropojë and Has. It is the habitat of 13 different fish species, many species of mollusks, crabs and amphibians. The voyage by ferry or yacht in its waters is magic; the views that suddenly appear on its shores are impressive and unforgettable. Some of the tourism businesses on the most beautiful shores offer nice relaxation, delicious traditional food and balnear tourism in the fresh waters of the lake.

This project, based on the area's offer, aims not only the development of the area as a tourist attraction, but also a considerable economic growth for the inhabitants of the surrounding area. By making a ship available, the water transportation will be facilitated, both for the local inhabitants and the domestic and foreign visitors too.

Two existing ferries operate currently in the Lake (with a capacity of 30 people), but they are not very efficient. They operate only for transportation purposes and when are booked in advanced. Therefore there is a need for tour ferries that would offer guided tours from Fierza Lake to Koman Lake. These ferries should meet the basic conditions of accommodation and food.

2. Purpose of Project

This project aims at shortening the distances for the areas located beyond the shores, stirring the interest of domestic and foreign investors for various investments in these areas, enabling thus the tourism, economic and social development.

3. Project's Specific Objectives

- OS1:** To turn Fierza Lake into an exploitable tourist attraction
- OS2:** To establish tourist itineraries
- OS3:** To make operational 4 holiday spots alongside Fierza Lake
- OS4:** To increase the number of people visiting Kukës

4. Expected results and project indicators

- R1:** Increased number of employed people
- R2:** Development of water transportation
- R3:** Rational use of natural assets

- R4: Support provided to start small businesses in the areas alongside Fierza Lake
 R5: Increased number of visitors
 R5: Promotion of the area

5. Project activities

1. Study of the area conducted by field experts and tour agencies in order to designate the itineraries.
2. Designation of 4 most appropriate areas for tourism development.
3. Establishing contacts with the respective local government unit.
4. Organization of round tables to decide on buildings/ objects to be constructed in each holiday spot.
5. Different training sessions on tourism services.
6. Purchase of a cruising ship with a capacity of 50 people and parking spaces for bicycles and motorcycles.
7. Promotion of tourism areas alongside Fierza Lake on the website, leaflets, guides, etc.

Project is thought to be implemented within a 2-year period.

6. Project's maturity

N/A

7. Funding resources and implementation partners

Project funders:

No funds have been provided by the donors yet.

Project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës.
- Regional Council of Kukës
- Municipality of Kukës

8. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Study of the area conducted by field experts and tour agencies in order to designate the itineraries	<i>15,000</i>
2	Designation of 4 most appropriate areas for tourism development	<i>15,000</i>
3	Establishing contacts with the respective local government unit	<i>5,000</i>
4	Organization of round tables to decide on buildings/ objects to be constructed in each holiday spot	<i>5,000</i>
5	Different training sessions on tourism services	<i>20,000</i>
6	Purchase of a cruising ship with a capacity of 50 people and parking spaces for bicycles and motorcycles	<i>140,000</i>
7	Promotion of tourism areas alongside Fierza Lake on the website, leaflets, guides, etc.	<i>20,000</i>
TOTAL		220,000

10. Project title	<i>Artificial Fish Stocking of Fierza Lake and catchments/ watersheds of Kukës Functional Area</i>
Project type	Environmental / Development of the Local Economy
Project location	Kukës
Pre-estimated total budget	200,000 Euro

1. Background and problem analysis

European experiences have shown that all the rural areas that have utilized water areas in aquaculture have had an obvious economic boom. But, recently, in the Functional Area of Kukës, a substantial impoverishment of fish in water environments has been noticed, which have been the primary source of well-being and income from employment. This has been due to the unchecked fishing, but also because of the lack of fish spawn/sapling supply in the Lake. The unchecked fishing and the used tools have caused the reduction of types of fish in Fierza Lake. Before the 1990s there was the Fishing Enterprise, based in Shkodra and with a subsidiary in Kukës that protected and cultivated the fish spawn/ saplings. This enterprise does not exist anymore, being thus another factor that has impacted the reduction of fish supply. To utilize better the waters of Fierza Lake and those of other watersheds, there is a need to conduct a study to return the small reserves, mainly the existing reservoirs, or to set up new ones.

2. Project' specific objectives

- OS1:** To increase fish production in Fierza Lake and in all the other watersheds/catchments of the region.
- OS2:** To raise the economic level of the entire community of inhabitants around the Lake watershed.
- OS2:** To rebuild and make operational the Artificial Center of Larvae and Fish Spawn Cultivation.

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R1:** Rehabilitation of fishing economy in Fierza Lake
- R2:** Increase in income of families who live on fishing
- R3:** Legalization of personal and industrial fishing
- R4:** Improvement of the environmental aspect by enriching the fauna in Fierza Lake.

4. Project activities

- 1. Meetings and workshops with stakeholders
- 2. Study, design and rehabilitation of reservoirs/tanks of aquaculture industrial production center
- 3. Awareness raising and cooperation meetings on prevention of spawn damage

Project is thought to be implemented within a 2-year period.

5. Project's maturity

The only project is the one being implemented by the fishermen association and it is related to the training of young people in fish cultivation and breeding.

6. Funding resources and implementation partners

Project funders:

No funds have been provided by the donors yet.

Project will be implemented by:

- Regional Development Agency of Kukës.
- Regional Council of Kukës
- Municipality of Kukës

7. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Study, design and rehabilitation of reservoirs/tanks of aquaculture industrial production center	180,000
2	Awareness raising and cooperation meetings on prevention of spawn damage	20,000
TOTAL		200,000

11. Project title	<i>Improvement of Greenness in City of Kukës</i>
Project type	<i>Infrastructure improvement</i>
Project location	<i>Kukës</i>
Pre-estimated total budget	<i>50,000 euro</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

Kukës City has a considerable lack of green environments and adjusted and green areas. Upon the initiative of the Institution of the Prefect of Kukës the project to rehabilitate the main square of the city, “Scanderbeg”, was developed, a project which envisages the rehabilitation and making operational of one of the major squares of the city. Although, interventions are needed in the areas between the city’s quarters to enhance the area of green spaces.

Public Service Directorate at the Municipality of Kukës, in compliance with the work program for enhancing green areas and decorative trees in the city, is currently planting decorative trees, namely linden-trees in the streets of “Lagje e Re”. A total of 95 linden-trees will be planted until the end of the program. In order to expand the green areas and improve the air quality and the city scenery, the increase in green areas in other quarters are also needed.

2. Project’s specific objectives

OS1: To expand the city green areas.

OS2: To create cleaner and more relaxing spaces.

3. Expected results and project indicators

R1: Increased greenness in “Scanderbeg” square.

R2: Increased number of green areas inside city’s quarters.

4. Project activities

8. Setting-up the working group to identify all the areas where it can be intervened

9. Development of projects for making the selected areas green

10. Purchase and planting of trees

11. Rehabilitation of green areas in the selected zones

5. Project’s maturity

There is a project idea for the project.

6. Funding resources and implementation partners

Project’s funders:

No funds have been provided for the Project by the donors yet.

Project will be implemented by:

- Municipality of Kukës.

7. Project costs (in EUR) *The cost of the project is approximately 50,000 EUR*

12. Project title	<i>Setting –up the citizen information office and one-stop shop</i>
Project type	<i>Public Services</i>
Project location	<i>Municipality of Kukës</i>
Pre-estimated total budget	<i>73,000 Euro</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

During the last decade, the reforms undertaken by the central government (for the registration of business, licensing and permitting, granting authorizations, etc., to establish a friendly, non-bureaucratic environment for the business and the citizens as well, have affected and involved the local government powers. There has been a lot of progress as regards of use of information technology and other innovative solutions (e.g. one-stop shops) in providing public services and internal management. But the use of information technology and new solutions in local government is quite limited. Up until now, the Municipality of Kukës has not been able to set up a structure which aims at improving the services provided to the citizens.

Therefore it is indispensable to set up a one-stop shop in the new Municipality of Kukës to provide services to the citizens, in order to avoid the loss of time and enhance the service quality. This purpose would be accomplished by selecting and training specialized staff that would properly answer to requests and problems put forward by the citizens.

2. Project's specific objective

To set up the necessary infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating the provision of services to citizens in order to shorten the waiting time and to enhance the service quality.

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R1:** Establishment of modern premises to provide services to citizens
- R3:** Improved management of work processes and procedures for providing the citizens with services
- R4:** Installation of an integrated information and communication system with the public

The one-stop shop will serve all the citizens of the Functional Area

The Municipality of Kukës, which with the advent of the new territorial reform will be the central structure of the Functional Area, will benefit from this intervention.

4. Project activities

1. Development of the detailed project for the rehabilitation works and construction of premises
2. Works for the physical rehabilitation of existing premises
3. Furnishing with computers and office supplies

4. Installation of software for integrated communication
5. Different training sessions for the municipality staff and one-stop shop
6. Production of informative materials: leaflets; guides, etc.

5. Project's maturity

There is a project idea developed by the Municipality of Kukës.

6. Funding resources and implementation partners

The Projects will be implemented by Municipality of Kukës.

7. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Development of the project of physical intervention	3,000
2	Works for the physical rehabilitation of existing premises	30,000
3	Furnishing with computers and office supplies	10,000
4	Installation of software for integrated communication	5,000
5	Different training sessions for the municipality staff and one-stop shop	20,000
6	Production of informative materials: leaflets; guides, etc.	5,000
TOTAL		73,000

8.4 Projects in the Social Field

13. Project title	<i>Setting up a Social Center for integration of women and children with different abilities in the rural area</i>
Project type	<i>Social Services</i>
Project location	<i>Shishtavec, Ujmisht and Grykë Cajë</i>
Pre-estimated total budget	<i>85,000 Euro</i>

1. Background and problem analysis

Big demographic movements, but especially the emigration of the males of households to other countries, have had a negative impact on the economic condition of the region's population and women in the north-eastern area in particular. This was also due to the scarce opportunities of employment in the private or public sector. The situation becomes even more difficult for women and girls because of the patriarchal mentality dominating in this area.

The women in these areas are not integrated and have no opportunities to acquire knowledge or qualifications. At the same time, people with different abilities are forced to stay at home all day long and have no opportunity to integrate with other children.

First rate testimonies by local stakeholders in Kukës indicate that young women from urban areas, mainly unemployed and part of the social benefits scheme are currently the most active category of artisanal crafters, an activity in which many families are involved.

There are numerous factors that hinder the development of economic opportunities for women and girls and their employment. Multiple family obligations, raising children, lack of appropriate professional qualifications, limited opportunity to approach the property and thus the impossibility to get loans to start a private business, are some of the hindrances women face. However, attempts are being made to change this situation. The latest evaluations identify the tradition of craftsmanship and that of agro-business, among others, as potentials for increasing employment rate, social inclusion and promotion of local development.

Also, in proportion with the population, there is a considerable number of people with different abilities.

2. Project's specific objective

To support the social inclusion of women and children with different abilities in rural areas.

3. Expected results and project indicators

- R1:** A center which offers opportunities for the emancipation of women in the society and integration of children with other abilities
- R2:** A training room for the craftsmanship/handicraft, a room for gastronomy, a room for English language classes, a recreational room for children with different abilities
- R3:** Technical assistance to social issues, computer training, gastronomy training, craftsmanship/handicraft training and English language classes.

R4: Trained women in the major development areas.

R5: Improved services for tourist hospitality.

4. Project activities

1. Setting-up multi-functional centers:
 - opening an Internet room for women and children with different abilities/ disabilities;
 - opening a room for handicrafts;
 - opening a room for training in gastronomy;
 - opening a room with special equipment for children with different abilities
2. Training courses in:
 - gastronomy;
 - computer/ Internet use;
 - improvement of hospitality services;
 - artisanal craftsmanship;
 - foreign languages;
 - computer /Internet use.

5. Project's maturity

N/A

6. Funding resources and implementation partners

The Projects will be implemented by Municipality of Kukës.

7. Project costs (in EUR)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget per activity</i>
1	Setting –up three multi-functional centers;	60,000
2	Computer equipment for the centers	10,000
3	Training courses in gastronomy; computer/ Internet use; service improvement; artisanal craftsmanship; foreign language; computer/ Internet use	15,000
TOTAL		85,000