



Smart Specialisation Process in Albania

25.01.2021 – Dr. Florensa Haxhi –
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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, ALBANIA

Unit for Development Programs and Cooperation

Mission and Activities

*The **Unit of Development Programs and Cooperation** guides and prepares national development programs, in accordance with the priorities and objectives of the Government. It leads and ensures effective inter-institutional cooperation with all program directorates in all line ministries, institutions and relevant actors. in specific it:*

- Coordinates the drafting of national and international strategic development programs, with the objective of economic and social development of the country, in accordance with the priorities and objectives of the Government,*
- Ensures efficient inter-institutional cooperation, as well as coordination at central technical level of institutions at regional level in cooperation with the Prime Minister Cabinet,*
- Contributes and participates in inter-institutional working groups within the EU integration process, in order to align policies, programs, initiatives and commitments of the Government and the Prime Minister Office at national, regional and international level,*

Unit for Development Programs and Cooperation

Mission and Activities

- Provides central level coordination of institutions for the preparation and implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), playing leading role of working group and technical secretariat, and providing support, cooperation and coordination with the European Commission and other bodies in function of finalizing S3,
- *Establishes institutional support mechanisms, such as working groups or inter-ministerial committees,*
- *Provides implementation, support and coordination with line ministries, other institutions and departments within the Prime Ministry in relation to various initiatives and monitors their ongoing implementation by coordinating the institutions involved,*
- *Proposes and drafts programs, initiatives, laws and bylaws related to issues addressed by the department and the unit itself,*
- *Proposes projects of national importance and IPA, etc. in accordance with the field of activity of the unit, etc*

Experience related to Blue Growth

The Unit for Development Programs and Cooperation leads the Blue Economy (Growth) National Programme that aims to:

- Transform the general Albanian coastline, including territories, regions and related industries, into an engine of regional economic development
 - Enable an integrated program of the maritime sector, which will contain interventions and concrete measures phased in time according to a preliminary guide
 - Invest in major infrastructure projects, which will prepare the necessary conditions to encourage the activation of private capital and investments for economic growth
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- ❖ Some **priority investments** regarding Blue Economy Development: Marine Spatial Planning; Blue Economy Investment Plan; Blue Economy Innovation Center including R&D in line with the European Green Deal.
 - ❖ Some **concept ideas** for different projects regarding Blue Growth, including: Project for Integrated Urban and Touristic Development; Feasibility Study for the Consolidation of port cities, centers of regional development poles in different cities in Albania, Projects for Development of the touristic potential valleys, etc.

Innovation Program

The Unit of Development Programs and Coordination, Department of Development and Good Governance, has also a leading coordination role in the innovation policies in Albania: it will lead the Innovation and Start-ups Program that is going to be finalised soon.

- Innovation and Start-ups Programme in Albania aims to:
 - Promote the Innovation and Start-up ecosystem
 - Promote entrepreneurial culture and innovation through capacity building
 - Strengthen cooperation between ecosystem actors
- A list of Projects is currently being prepared regarding Innovation and Start-ups program

Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) in Albania

Objectives of the overall process and cluster efforts

- ❑ *Development of a Smart Specialization Strategy for Albania.*
- ❑ *Identification of strategic areas for intervention based both on the analysis of the strengths and potential of the economy and on an Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) with wide stakeholder involvement.*
- ❑ *Support effective and efficient measures that provide incentives to Research & Innovation investments.*

Completed activities

2017

- *Formal request by Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

2018

- *Analysis of context – country specific conditions;*
- *Discussion with public administration;*
- *Awareness events (workshops);*
- *Establishment of national/regional S3 team/s;*
- *Decision on the national/regional dimension of S3;*
- *Decision of place of S3 in the strategic framework;*
- *Creation of the local expert team;*
- *Participation in S3 trainings, organized by EC+JRC;*
- *Agreement with JRC;*
- *Overview of existing policies and priorities relevant for S3;*
- *Provision of statistical data*

2019-2020

- *Mapping of economic, innovative and scientific potential*

Prime Minister Office has a key coordination role in the S3 process in Albania.

-A Prime Minister Order is being finalised widening the scope of the previous group of institutions/stakeholders/experts involved in the process, considering that Albania will soon enter in the S3 EDP phase

-Preliminary priorities identified during S3 process:

- ***ICT***
- ***Tourism (including blue growth) and agroturism***
- ***Energy (especially renewable energies – water, solar)***

Roadmap phases:

-Albania is in the end of the mapping phase

-Qualitative phase of S3 foreseen to be finalised in 3 months

-EDP phase to be finalised within 2021

-S3 foreseen to be adopted within 2022

Thanks for your attention

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In collaboration with