



**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

Regional smart & creative growth



THE CENTER OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXCELLENCE

Overall Objective

The Center of Regional Development and Excellence aims to increase capacities and the understanding of regional development at local level in order to create interactions between various actors and sectors and improve smart and creative development of the RDA3 region.

Project Description

Regions are an important component of European policy and financial assistance. As a result of the recent administrative territorial reform and in light of the preparation for EU funding in regional development programmes, local actors are expected to increase their capacity to generate mature projects in order to benefit from national and European IPA support. Government and European Commission reports acknowledge the incomplete policy framework and capacity constraints for regional development management. Thus we need to set-up a center of competence, knowledge, and resources as well as provide expertise, networking and service in order to augment regional excellences and achieve sustainable regional development.

1st Component: Advisory Council on Regional Development. Advisory Council composed of working groups of senior experts on policy studies and strategies for regional development. Establishment of a consortium of experts on regional development issues from prestigious institutions to provide in-depth analysis on local strategic and cross-sectorial issues, problem solving and best

practices from European Regions, as well as offering consultancy to local policy and decision-makers.

2nd Component: The Jean Monnet Public Mobile Academy on Regional Development. Prepare and deliver vocational trainings and professional programs on regional development issues and EU projects throughout RDA3 territory. Organize tailor-made workshops on EU project writing, management and implementation. Based on the lifelong learning and vocational training concept it will offer certified courses and short-term training by a pool of well-known international and national experts. The curricula are designed to meet the specific needs of the RDA3 region and to combine practical know-how and scientific excellence.

3rd Component: Forum on Smart and Creative Regional Development. The international Forum will identify and bring stakeholders from different European regions in order to discuss and partnership on joint smart and creative initiatives for regional development. The regional forum will serve as a continuous meeting point for networking and lobbying of national and international stakeholders to advocate development of the RDA3 region. Additional public informative events and outreach activities related to regional development will be organized.

4th Component: Virtual Platform on Regional Development. The Virtual Portal on regional development (e-RD3.al) aims to provide a unique and interactive platform for information, learning, discussion and exchange ideas on the challenges and opportunities of regional development. The e-RD3.al





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will be a virtual forum for all stakeholders on issues of regional development and governance; it will raise awareness and promote innovative initiatives on smart and creative regional development.

5th Component: The Architecture: Reconstruction and re-conceptualization of a minimalist-style building into a contemporary multifunctional center in the city, without barriers and with public open-spaces where the co-working concept will bring a pleasant environment to all using it. The set up of 3 conference halls with unique design adapted to the different thematic activities. The establishment of the 1st technological hall in the region with multimedia devices capable of organizing video conferences, building a green space-terrace for recreation and creativity. The building of a unit for catering services of the meetings and conferences. A reconstructed and contemporary designed facade in order to revitalize the building and add value to the most important axes of the Korca city, the boulevard "Republic"

Project Implementation Modality

The multifunction reconstructed and re-conceptualized center of regional development and excellence operates through expertise, teaching modules, and community outreach activities. It will set up a focal point for competence, knowledge, and resources on development issues.

Partners and Network:

- *Regional Development Agency 3 (Korce, Elbasan, Berat)*

- *Universities and Academic Centers*
- *Think Tanks*
- *Experts on Regional Development*

Preliminary Impacts:

- *Set-up a core working groups of well known experts on cross-cutting issues of regional development*
- *A strategic document and action plan on cross-sector regional development based on in-dept analysis of the region and best practices in Europe*
- *Set-up and deliver professional modules and programs*
- *Guide and tailor-made workshops on EU funding and projects*
- *Awareness raising campaigns and outreach activities*
- *Public events and networking with representatives from public institutions, academia, civil society and interest groups, at European level*

Required Inputs:

- *Supporting infrastructure for the Center establishment and its main activities*
- *Financial resources and management staff*
- *Experts in the field of regional development*



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