



## Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Support Program

### Final Narrative Report

#### Project ID

<b>P2P Project number</b>	#10
<b>Project Title:</b>	EVALbania 2: ASPE - SQEP partnership to strengthen evaluation capacity of Albanian Municipalities
<b>Project Managed by:</b>	Fation Luli and Marie Gervais
<b>Focus of the Project:</b> (check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional capacity
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabling environment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual members' evaluation capacities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity to promote equity-focused and gender-sensitive evaluation

VOPEs involved:	Name and acronym of VOPE	Country/Region
#1	Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE)	Albania, Balkans-Europe
#2	Société québécoise d'évaluation de programme (SQEP)	Québec, Canada, North America

<b>Project start date</b>	July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2013
<b>Project end date</b>	June 30 2014

#### Contact person(s) for this project

VOPE	Contact Person Names	Email addresses
ASPE	Fation Luli	fation.luli@evalbania.org
SQEP	Marie Gervais	marie.gervais@fmed.ulaval.ca

**1. What was the purpose of the project? What did the project plan to achieve and how? (Brief description of the project, max 100 words).**

The purpose of the second joint project developed by ASPE and SQEP was to support growth in the demand for and provision of services in public policy and program (PPP) evaluation on the part of Albanian municipalities creating the conditions for extending the experience to other Albanian municipalities. The main components were focused on the diagnosis of the evaluation function in targeted municipalities identifying the needs for training and municipalities support by planning, achieving and using data collection; on the development of a training adapted to the Albanian municipal context by the development, validation and delivery training; on the development of advocacy to strengthen the evaluation in targeted municipalities creating, sharing and discussing on the advocacy document; support of the municipalities in the implementation of the evaluation process by selecting and discussing over one of the PPP; on the identification of the conditions to extend the experience to other Albanian Municipalities doing the evaluation of the project in its various components.

**2. Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? Yes, fully / partially / unfortunately, no.**

Yes, fully.

**2. a. Please comment on degree of achievement:**

The degree of the project achievements is presented in the following table.

	Objectives	Planned Activities of EVAIbania 2	Degree of achievement	
			Planned /Carried out	Beyond expectations
1	Diagnostic of the evaluation function in targeted municipalities (Elbasan, Durres, Shkoder)	Questionnaire development (pre test, validation, translation)	✓	
		Data collection (planning, readjustment of the inclusion criteria for participants)	✓	
		Draft sent to the mayors of the municipalities - for final agreement	✓	
		Data collection and analysis	✓	
2	Identification of the needs for training and municipalities support	Feedback to the municipalities	✓	
3	Development of advocacy to strengthen the evaluation in targeted municipalities	Development of the Advocacy draft	✓	Advocacy team group (12 members) created  Advocacy discussion put in the agenda of the next city council meetings (Shkoder, Durres, Elbasan), June-July 2014
		Request of policies/programs/projects (PPP) examples evaluated in the past by the municipalities	✓	
		Meetings of key players of Shkoder, Durres, Elbasan (Deputy Mayors, Head and General Secretary of City Council, Head of Planning Development, ...)	✓	Meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Tirana city  Engagement for an agreement between the Tirana city and ASPE (short term)  Discussion underway on a joint project between Shkoder, Elbasan, Durres and Tirana municipalities for strengthening of their capacities in evaluation  Creation of the post - EvAlbania 2 team project composed of 2 members of each municipalities: Shkoder, Elbasan, Durres, Tirana  Discussions on the opening of an Evaluation Department (Elbasan municipality)

4	Development of a training adapted to the Albanian municipal context	Training development and validation	✓	
5	Delivering training in the target municipalities	Identification of the public policy to be evaluated	✓	
		Training delivery in 3 municipalities (50 persons, Skroder, Elbasan, Durres)	✓	
		Development of the evaluation process associated with the public policy selected	Discussion	
		Coverage by local and national media (Elbasan, Shkoder)	✓	
6	Supporting municipalities in the implementation of a public policy evaluation process	Follow-up activities with the evaluators of the municipalities	Underway	
7	Identify the conditions to extend the experience to other Albanian municipalities (and countries in the region)	Evaluation of the project in its various components	✓	Discussions with Tirana and Koplík municipalities Discussion on engaging Kosovo in the process of strengthening evaluation capacity Promotion of EvalYear 2015 to Albanian state institutions during the week of EVA Albania 2

Other discussions are planned with the World Bank, the Swiss Cooperation and UNDP in Tirana on the beginning of July to get support for the next steps of the project.

### 3. Was the project implemented as planned? If there were changes in the planned activities, why they were necessary?

The expected project end date was March 31, 2014. With the permission of EvalPartners, the project deadline was postponed to June 30, 2014. The timetable has been discussed with the stakeholders and revised to ensure the level of participation of municipalities and the overall accomplishment of the objectives. Three explanatory factors are mentioned:

- Since submitting EVA Albania 2 to EvalPartners, the three municipalities mentioned different pressures in their local agenda making impossible the reservation of a common week at the beginning of 2014 for training and other planned activities. After discussions with their representatives, June 2014 was identified as the best period.
- Parliamentary elections in Albania were held in June 2013. Due to the change of ruling party (a change in political party of the right to the left), the impact was greatly felt in large Albanian municipalities, including those targeted in the project. This change altered the agenda of municipalities in terms of availability and makes necessary the consideration of new political actors. Hence their interest to postpone the activities planned with ASEP.
- For the ASPE, it becomes an opportunity to develop strategic relationships with new actors in the country and benefit of the favourable environment. Moreover the agreement on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 signed between the Albanian government and the European Community by which the Albania is a candidate country to be part of European Union Community becomes a good incentive of developing evaluation.

The budget was used as intended and the volunteer work of various stakeholders led to the completion of the objectives of the project.

**4. What are the main lessons learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?**

- A great experience of partnership between 2 VOPEs in 2 consecutive projects!
- Necessary involvement of the political actors in the process and consideration of their agenda and interests;
- Importance of regular communication with the champions in the municipalities;
- Importance of the involvement of actors of institutions in the development of the advocacy strategy;
- Realist expectations for next steps considering the municipalities' capacity to operationalize their engagement in the development of evaluation (organizational and individual capacities, favourable environment).

**5. Are there plans to continue or expand collaboration started under the project? If so, please describe.**

Discussions are underway between ASPE and SQEP on collaboration for the next steps of EVALbania.

Fation Luli ASPE / Marie Gervais SQEP

June 28 2014

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***Please save with P2P# in file name, then send via email attachment to [IOCE@earthlink.net](mailto:IOCE@earthlink.net)***

*Once approved by EvalPartners, the report will be posted on the IOCE website.*