

DEVINPRO Circular 01/08

09 December 2008

Dear DEVINPRO Albania Consortium members:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this first monthly circular, and to inform you that the DEVINPRO project is moving ahead as planned.

Co-financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Raiffeisen Bank Albania and Kosovo, the initiative structures have been established over the preceding month. In that time the NEXUS Migration Development Initiative and the Centre for Economic and Social Studies have conducted consultations with all consortium partners, government representatives and selected universities in Vlora, Korca, Gjirokastra, Shkodra and Tirana.

Thanks to strong interest on the part of the financial community in both Albania and Kosovo DEVINPRO has expanded to now include the participation of nine leading financial institutions, representing substantial market shares within both countries.

The current list of consortium members in Albania includes:

- Raiffeisen Bank Albania,
- Credins Bank,
- Tirana Bank, and
- Opportunity Albania.

While in Kosovo participating institutions include:

- Raiffeisen Bank Kosovo,
- NLB Prishtina,
- ProCredit Bank,
- TEB Kosovo, and the
- International Centre for Community and Enterprise Development (ICCED).

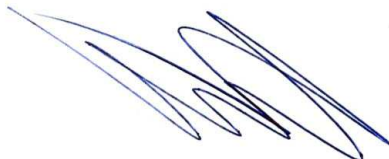
With the participation of consortium members market research questionnaires for both Migrant and Household Surveys have been developed. Beta testing of these questionnaires has been completed and we, together with our implementing partners, are moving towards full-fledged survey works in line with the methodology adopted.

On 12 December, NEXUS and CESS will carry out a one-day training workshop in Durres with a total of 25 enumerators and five field supervisors. In the following days, at least 1,400 interviews will be conducted with Albanian migrants at 5 entry points to Albania - including Tirana airport. In addition, NEXUS and CESS will carry out 1,000 interviews with migrants' households in Albania. Over the coming weeks a total of 50 trained enumerators, supervisors and data-entry professionals will be involved in this major research effort in both countries.

In line with our agreed-upon work plan, this research and survey phase - in both Albania and Kosovo - is expected to be completed by the first week of January, 2009. We will then return to each of our consortium partners to review and analyze the data during the balance of January. The draft market report, marking the end of Phase I of the project, will then be presented at a workshop before the middle of February.

In closing we wish you all a very pleasant holiday season, and look forward to working closely with you in 2009.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolaas de Zwager
Director and CEO
NEXUS-MDI