

Report for institutional visits in Tirana

During the training in Tirana, 3 institutional visits were realized. The group of professors from Italy, Portugal, Spain, University of Shkodra, University of Elbasan and University of Tirana visited 2 associate partners of the project, Mary Ward Loreto, ShKEJ and Municipality of Tirana, also. Representatives of the organizations presented their work in offering services to specific groups such as women, children, unemployed young men in rural areas, etc. Publications on their work were possible to be handed to professors, who appreciated the work of these organizations and the wide territory covered by the services.

The group had a meeting at the Municipality of Tirana, which was hosted by Mrs. Migena Spaho, Director of Social Services. She made a presentation of the beneficiaries of the services given by Municipality of Tirana, challenges faced during the reform of social services and gaps to be filled by public and/or nonpublic services. The discussion was quite an exchange of knowledge and opinions on social services in different countries and contexts, actual challenges in social services systems, especially in relation to children and families. In Mary World Loreto and Shkej, both executive directs and program managers introduced the organization, their main activities, beneficiaries and stakeholders. The discussion with went through brainstorming on specifics of the activities resources, challenges and paths how to collaborate and mutual collaborations.

Mary Ward Loreto

Mary Ward Loreto Foundation (MWL) is a non-profit organization providing development programmes for vulnerable communities in Albania. This organization has as its inspiration the charism of Mary Ward. The focus of all of the work of Mary Ward Loreto is related to the work against human trafficking. The organization forms partnerships and networks, working with 10 main groups; women in rural and informal regions of Albania, direct action with victims of trafficking, groups from all over Albania raising awareness with those who are vulnerable to being trafficked, Roma children, vulnerable youth, men in poverty, European Network Against Trafficking, pastoral support in prisons and the education project. The staff is mostly young, remarkably enthusiastic and constantly learning in order to complete the complex and demanding tasks of each and every activity in the highest possible standards.

Municipality of Tirana

The municipality of Tirana, has a total population of 800,986. Tirana is the capital and largest city of Albania and as well the heart of Albania's cultural, economic and governmental activity. Tirana is one of largest cities in the Balkan Peninsula ranking 7th with a population of 800,000 inhabitants. It is the

biggest Metropolitan area in Albania. Being Albania's primate city, Tirana is the leading political, social and cultural center of Albania.

SHKEJ Organization

SHKEJ is an Albanian non-profit association founded on February 18th 2003 from a group of youth, inspired to be near the people in need, operates as an Albanian Non Profit Association in the field of promoting the Human Rights and the Social Integration of Human Beings in the spirit of the International Conventions and National Legislation. SHKEJ takes action towards societies and vulnerable groups promoting rights, facilitating social integration, and taking part in developing their future. It offers different services, building capacities by making educative activities and advocacy in community basis.