

Project Brief



BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
AND SOLUTIONS FOR SDGs

Objective

The Business Partnerships & Solutions for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a United Nations Joint Project (UNJP) with the objective to increase the number of Albanian companies that implement sustainable business practices, creating a positive impact on environment and society while contributing to inclusive economic growth in Albania.

Budget USD 4 million

Donor Embassy of Sweden

Duration Jan 2024 - Dec 2027

Beneficiaries

Albanian companies
and business community

Partners

Central and local government, sectoral associations, academia, Swedish and international businesses

Implementing Agencies



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Context

Albania's private sector has driven the country's development, raising it to middle-income status over the past 25 years. However, Albanian companies generally lack awareness of the SDGs and their environmental and social impacts. Adopting the SDGs gives an opportunity for Albanian businesses to build resilience and gain a strategic advantage, especially considering current challenges like the energy crisis, inflation, resource shortages, and workforce gaps.

Regulations updates on exports, recycling, and traceability can further support sustainable growth. The project's pilot phase has focused on the agro-processing and textile sectors, creating a network to expand its impact across Albania in its second phase.

Following the success of its pilot phase (2022-2023), the project will expand its work through:



Technical Capacity

Companies will be equipped with technical capacities to implement sustainable practices and contribute to local value chains.



Enabling Ecosystem

Companies are aware of the importance of sustainability, are connected to the national and international business community and advocate for enabling policies with policymakers.

Target Groups



Albanian companies across various sectors and sizes, including owners and workforce, are the primary beneficiary.



Youth-led and women-led businesses as well as businesses led or employing individuals from disadvantaged groups (e.g., Roma, Egyptian communities, persons with disabilities) are specifically targeted.



Local and central institutions are actively engaged and act as partners to assist in outreach and inclusion.



Sectoral associations, chambers of commerce, international companies, universities, and financial institutions represent key stakeholders.



Policymakers benefit from policy dialogues and ad-hoc briefs to support sustainable practices in Albanian businesses.

Impact

The Business Partnerships and Solutions for SDGs (Business4SDGs) project has the objective to facilitate the transition of Albanian companies to sustainable practices. Through its action, it will contribute to concretizing the private sector positive impact on the environment and society and its contribution to inclusive economic growth for the Country.

Key Priorities for 2025

- 1- Completion of SCORE and RECP assessments of 30 enterprises under the ILO-UNIDO "Innovative solutions for efficient and sustainable TCLF enterprises" (ISES) programme.
- 2- Organization of workshops to validate 2 Reports mapping TCLF sector issues and opportunities as well as survey of TCLF sector companies' needs.
- 3- Launch of the ILO Code of practice: Safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear adapted for Albania.
- 4- Roll out first training and launch UNIDO's RECP assessments of agro-processing businesses as well as RECP support mechanism.
- 5- Roll-out of UNDP's "Growing with Your Business" methodology in strategic municipalities.
- 6- Organisation of Business #2030 Conference and 3rd edition of the SDG Business Pioneers Award.
- 7- Creation of an online B2B Matchmaking platform for companies' internationalisation.
- 8- Market intelligence survey on CEO's consumers views on sustainability to raise awareness of policy makers.
- 9- Launch of "SDG Demo Farms" designed based on evidence generated through FAO's Sustainable Food Value Chain (SFVC) assessment of prioritized value chains.
- 10- Implementation of a training program targeting extension providers, farmers and agri-SMEs focusing on sustainable practices, SDG-aligned investments, financial literacy and business management and delivered through the Farmer Field School (FFS) modality
- 11- Facilitation of farmers and agri-SMEs to access credit from commercial financial service providers (FSPs) to finance investment in business model upgrades coupled with targeted supply-side technical assistance
- 12- Ongoing communication campaigns and demonstration activities to raise awareness on sustainability for businesses and consumers.
- 13- Creation of collaborations and activities connecting target SMEs to the wider ecosystem to strengthen their market linkages.

Outcome 1: Technical Capacity

- **Output 1:** Capacity of local companies in energy and resource efficiency is enhanced.
- **Output 2:** Local companies are supported to improve business management, to establish circular practices aligned with EU standards and improve relations with buyers and suppliers.
- **Output 3:** Companies in target sectors have access to training to enhance productivity and social aspects of business management.
- **Output 4:** Selected farms are supported to upgrade agricultural practices and establish climate-smart agriculture guidelines.

Outcome 2: Enabling ecosystem

- **Output 5:** International trade for sustainable companies in Albania is facilitated through connection to business and financing opportunities at a national and international level, with a focus on Sweden.
- **Output 6:** National and local policymakers' knowledge of SDGs and sustainable practices linked to the private sector is enhanced.
- **Output 7:** SDGs and sustainability practices are promoted among business community and consumers through communication campaigns and dedicated events.