Project 6: Improvement of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in Albania

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2007/19353
1.2 Title: Improvement of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in Albania
1.3 Sector: 03.27
1.4 Location: Regions of Shkoder, Lezhe, Durres and Kavaja

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority (EC)
1.6 Implementing Agency: Delegation of the European Commission in Albania
1.7 Beneficiary: General Directorate of Water Supply and Sewerage. This directorate is responsible for the management of three specific budgeted funds as follows:
   • Annual Investments from the state budget
   • Annual operating and maintenance subsidies in the sector
   • Local costs on Foreign Investment

Population will benefit directly in terms of safer water supply and disposal of sewerage. Business will also benefit from the increasing number of visitors and improved quality of water infrastructure.

1.8 Overall cost:
The overall cost of the project is 25.5 million Euro

1.9 EU contribution:
The EU contribution will be 24 million Euro

1.10 Final date for contracting: 3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.
1.11 Final date for execution of contracts: 2 years following the end date for contracting
1.12 Final date for disbursements: Disbursements will continue for up to one year after the end date for the execution of contracts

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:
The overall objective is to improve the health and environmental conditions in the coastal regions through the construction of an adequate and sustainable water supply and sewerage infrastructure while encouraging economic growth through improved services.
2.2 **Project purpose:**
The overall project purposes are as following:
Upgrade the disposal of wastewater through the rehabilitation and/or construction of sewerage and wastewater treatment systems in cities and towns of Shkodra, Velipoja, Shengjin and Golem-Durres beach area.

2.3 **Link with AP / NPAA / EP / SAA**
In line with the provisions of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (namely Articles 70, 86 and 108), Albania intends to undertake the relevant actions to improve health and environmental conditions in the northern coastal area through upgrading of water and sewerage physical infrastructure and providing technical assistance for the sustained management of such utilities. Such investments will become a first step toward compliance with the relevant EU Directives on drinking water and bathing water.

In the European Partnership Document, approved in January 2006, is foreseen an action to further develop and implement the National Water and Sanitation Strategy and the Rural Strategy for Water Supply and Sewerage and develop and start implementing a strategy for progressive alignment to the acquis in the area of water supply and sanitation.

In addition, in the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement are foreseen midterms activities that shall provide a full rehabilitation of the water supplies and sewerage network, and at the same time further extend these services into poor areas.

2.4 **Link with MIPD**
This project is proposed under the area of European Standards, according to the 2.2.3.3. section of the IPA/MIPD for the period 2007 – 2009 titled “Programmes to be implemented”, where support in the implementation of existing strategies as regards water and sanitation systems is foreseen.

2.5 **Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)**
The need to implement the identified projects is based on the requirements and plans defined in the following country’s major documents:
- National Strategy for Social and Economic Development (NSSED), which will be replaced by the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), currently being drafted by the Government of Albania,
- National Environmental Strategy,
- National Water Strategy for Albania,
- Albania Water Supply and Wastewater Sector Strategy,
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for the Republic of Albania,
- National Social Inclusion Strategy (which includes a policy response and targets for water and sanitation).

Over the last several years, the national government has established water sector policies that are aimed at improving the reliability and sustainability of water supply and sewerage services. These include the following specific policies:
- Decentralisation of Authority for Public Services to Local Government
• Decision on the Transformation of Water/Sewerage Enterprises into Commercial Companies
• Liberalisation of Tariff Setting to Encourage Financial Sustainability on Commercial Terms
• Enabling Legislation for Private Sector Participation

2. 6 Link with national / sectorial investment plans (where applicable)

The selected projects adhere to the priorities of the Public Investment Programme and part of the Investment Plan funded by Government Annual Budget of 2007.

Further reference to the priority needs in the water supply and sewerage systems should be made to the recommendations of the Regional Development Plan of Shkoder-Lezhe region (funded by CARDS 2001 programme) in conjunction with the Regional and Local Environmental Plans (funded by CARDS 2002 programme).

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

3.1.1 Background

In 2005, the population living in the cities and towns of Shkoder, Velipoje and Shengjin counted about 129,000. Apart of a projected annual growth of 2.1% that will bring the population to about 177,000 by 2020, the areas of Velipoja and Shengjin have during the summer to bear 3-4 times their residential population due to tourism.

Similar situation is observed at the Golem-Durres beach area that during the summer reaches a total population of about 200,000 people.

3.1.2 Identified problems:

Due to the complete lack of wastewater collecting and treatment systems in Velipoje, Shengjin, Golemi and Durres beach area, and/or obsolete and inadequate systems as in Shkodra, most of the sewerage is discharged directly to the surface waters (river, sea or lagoons). In addition, due to the lack of secondary and tertiary network, there are deficiencies in the water supply and part of the population makes use of water from wells that are not always safe. Main problems caused in the concerned areas are:

✓ Health problems due to pollution of drinking water and bathing water from discharges of wastewater (storm-water overflows containing suspended solids, nitrate and nitrites, leakage from sewerage systems or septic pits containing high microbial charge of bacteria and heavy metals and industrial wastewater discharges),
✓ Environmental problems related to habitat contamination and eutrophication of environmentally sensitive areas and
✓ Economic losses due to decreased returns from investments on tourism or employment.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalyst effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)
Likely contamination of drinking water from percolation of the storm water and leaking of wastewater will be eliminated,

Occurrence of diseases due to contaminated water will be reduced,

Environmental pollution of groundwater and surface waters from direct discharge of wastewater will be reduced,

Improving of environmental conditions should trigger the development of tourism and services.

This IPA-funded project does not displace other sources of funding. On the contrary, section 3.6 on "Linked activities" shows the catalytic effects with other ongoing or planned projects in Albania.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

3.3.1 Expected results:

- Reduced health risks for the population due to supply of not contaminated water
- Improved wastewater disposal and management of utilities,
- Reduced contamination of groundwater and surface waters by wastewater,
- Improved quality of bathing water,
- Encouraged economic growth in the concerned areas due to cleaner environment and reduced health risks,
- Reduced public health expenses, due to lower occurrences of infective and skin diseases.

3.3.2 Indicators

3.3.2.1 Physical

- Sewerage coverage (%): served by the sewerage system as compared to total population living within an administrative or physical boundary in accordance with the disposal standards
- Treated Wastewater coverage (%): the percentage of the total volume of wastewater generated in the area treated by the wastewater treatment plant

3.3.2.2 Environmental

- Drinking water quality
- Bathing water quality

3.3.2.3 Health

- Occurrence of diseases linked to microbiological contamination of drinking water
- Occurrence of skin and other infective diseases linked with the bathing water.

3.3.2.4 Economic
The General Directorate of Water and Wastewater of Albania has a water sector monitoring and benchmarking program. The above indicators will be monitored in accordance with the recommended national practices and EU legislation.

3.4 Activities:
1. Rehabilitation and construction of the existing sewerage systems, city of Shkodër
2. Construction of new Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment Plant, town of Velipoje
3. Construction of new Sewerage System, town of Shengjin,
4. Construction of new Sewerage System in the Golem-Durres beach area
5. Supervision of the works

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

The necessary design and tender documents have to be prepared by the Ministry of Public Works, Telecommunications and Transport in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions before the end of 2007. The designs of sewage collecting systems should consider the demographic growth scenarios in the concerned areas and allocate, where necessary the sites for the construction of wastewater treatment plants to be financed in a second phase.

The Government of Albania is going to launch a service tender for the preparation of the designs and tender dossier including the feasibility study. It is expected that such documents (with exception of Shkodra that is already prepared by KfW) will be ready by spring 2008. The approximate costs for design, feasibility and environmental impact assessment, covered by the Government of Albania, are about € 1.5 M.

Any possible landownership or compensation claims should be clarified before the starting of the preparation of the tender documents.

The costs of land expropriation, also covered by the Government of Albania, will be known only during the preparation of the feasibility study and preliminary steps of design process.

The Government of Albania will ensure that any related works funded either by the government or other donors will not impede, cause delays or stop the implementation of planned works as foreseen by the proper schedule (see the annex).
The Government will facilitate and ensure that the commitment from municipalities, communes and private businesses in the concerned areas that the tertiary system of water and sewerage systems will be covered at their expenses in the case costs are higher than funds available by the programme.

The Government of Albania will ensure long-term sustainability of the actions by supporting the concerned local governments and utility enterprises with technical assistance and advise regarding the technical and financial management of water and sewage services.

3.6 Linked activities (including catalytic effects of IPA funding)
The linked activities to this project include several ongoing or planned projects, as follows:

1. Water and Wastewater Project in Shkodra funded by KFW
   *IPA 2007 will be complementary to the above interventions as it will improve the overall functionality of the sewerage system in the city.*

2. Rehabilitation of water supply systems in Shkodra funded by Austrian cooperation

   *There is no sewerage system in the Velipoja area. Considering the number of population during summer period and growing potentials of the area, the IPA 2007 project is the only funding source to provide immediate solution to health and environmental problems.*

4. Municipal water and wastewater project funded by World Bank for Durresi and Lezha – Shengjini
   *IPA 2007 will establish connection of sewerage system of Shengjin town with the main system of Lezha.*

5. Construction of Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Lezha and Durrresi funded by GEF and EIB

6. Kavaja Water Supply – Lake Manskuria funded by KfW

7. Kavaja Wastewater Treatment Plant funded by KfW
   *Both Golemi and Durrresi beach have shown high levels of microbiological contamination of bathing water (4-7 times EU standards). The IPA 2007 project is seen as a faster solution to the water contamination problem. The sewerage system of Golemi beach that will be constructed through IPA funding will be connected with the Kavaja wastewater plant which is currently working at half capacity. In addition, the sewerage system for Durrres beach will be connected with wastewater treatment facilities funded by other donors.*

3.7 Lessons learned
The development and environmental problems faced in coastal areas are result of two main processes:

1. Lack of new urban plans to reflect the market economy demand for housing and tourism in these areas.
2. Lack of enforcement by the governments of older urban plans to prevent the quick and chaotic construction for residential or recreational purposes. The authorities will be expected to enforce the Albanian laws in order to avoid illegal construction causing pollution.

So far, the government has not been able to meet in time the pace of construction with public investments in water and sewerage infrastructure and thus, increased costs for construction of water works are expected.

On the other side, there has been a complete lack of public awareness regarding the negative impact of building activities on the environmental quality of coastal areas with respect to air, water and health.

4. **Indicative Budget (amounts in €)**

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>SOURCES OF FUNDING</th>
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<td>EU CONTRIBUTION (mln Euro)</td>
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<td>TOTAL*</td>
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</table>

* The Government of Albania will cover the costs for design, feasibility and environmental impact assessment for approximately € 1.5 M. The costs of land expropriation, also covered by the Government of Albania, will be known only during the preparation of the feasibility study and preliminary steps of design process.

5. **Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Start of Tendering</th>
<th>Start of Signature of contract</th>
<th>Project Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract 1</td>
<td>3rd Quarter 2008</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2009</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2011</td>
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<td>Contract 2</td>
<td>3rd Quarter 2008</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2009</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2012</td>
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<td>Contract 3</td>
<td>3rd Quarter 2008</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2009</td>
<td>2nd Quarter 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract 4</td>
<td>3rd Quarter 2008</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2009</td>
<td>2nd Quarter 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract 5</td>
<td>3rd Quarter 2008</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2009</td>
<td>2nd Quarter 2012</td>
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6. **Cross cutting issues (where applicable)**

6.1 **Equal Opportunity.**

✓ The main beneficiary is the whole residential population including women and minorities and particularly the children, local businesses, visitors and tourists which have access to safe water and proper disposal of sewerage,

✓ The improving of wastewater discharge will no more affect the living conditions and economic activity of population living downstream the source of pollution.
6.2 Environment:

- Environmentally sensitive areas located downstream the waterways will have less pressure from demographic and economic development due to reduced pollution from point sources,
- The cost of water supply will be reduced due to cleaner water provided by surface or underground sources.
- Natural habitats in specific protected areas will be conserved to possible degradation events caused by increased content of nutrients and pollutants.

The environmental impact will be assessed in conformity with the Albanian legislation and due approval from the responsible Ministry will be given before the launching of works tender (see annex 4 for more details).

In addition, the extraction of construction material is produced in licensed quarries. Considering the number of vehicles in Albania (100/1000 people as compared to 650 for Europe) and that some areas such as Golem-Durres beach, Velipoja or Shengjin are populated mostly during summer holidays, the disruption to traffic or people is not of a major concern.
ANNEXES

1. Log frame in Standard Format

2. Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme

3. Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

3.1 Reference list of relevant laws and regulations:

The legal framework for water resource management consists of the following:

- Law No. 8934 dated 05.09.2002 "On Environmental Protection";
- Law No. 9115 dated 24.07.2003 "On Environmental Training for Polluted Waters";
- Law No. 8093 dated 21.03.1996 "On Water Reserves";
- Law No. 890, dated 06.06.2002 "On the Protection of Coastal Areas from Pollution and Damage";
- Law No. 8875 dated 04.04.2002 "On Albanian Coast Guards";

The following subordinate legal acts have been approved for its implementation:

- DCM No. 177 dated 31.03.2005 "On the Allowed Norms for Liquid Emissions and the Criteria for Water Environment Zoning";
- DCM No. 103 dated 31.03.2002 "On Environmental Monitoring in the Republic of Albania";
- DCM No. 240 dated 10.04.1998 "On the Establishment of the NWS Secretariat";
- DCM No. 63 dated 26.01.2001 "On the Procedures for the Request, Consideration and Supply of Water Reserve Usage Authorisations, Permits and Concessions";
- DCM No. 313 dated 21.05.2004 "On the Approval of Water Usage Tariffs";
- DCM No. 362 dated 11.06.2004 "On Staff Bonuses for NWS and the Technical Consultative Councils;

National Water Council Decisions:

- NWCD No. 1 dated 23.09.1994 "On the Permit Approval Procedures for Confectionary Water Usage";
- NWCD No. 2. dated 23.09.1994 "On the Permit Approval for the Partial Usage of the ‘Cold Tepelena Water’ Source";
- NWCD No. 1 dated 20.02.1997 "On the Approval of the Kalivac Dam Construction, above the Vjosa River";
3.2 Reference to AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

In the context of implementing the Stabilization and Association Agreement, especially as stated in Article 108 “the Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation in combating environmental degradation with the view of promoting environmental stability”, Albania aims to take the relevant actions to improve the surface and ground waters and living and sanitary environment in the in Shkodra region and the costal tourist areas.

In the European Partnership Document, approved in January 2006, is a foreseen action to further develop and implement the National Water and Sanitation Strategy and the Rural Strategy for Water Supply and Sewerage and develop and start implementing a strategy for progressive alignment to the acquis in the area of water supply and sanitation.

In addition, in the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement are foreseen midterms activities that shall provide a full rehabilitation of the water supplies and sewerage network, and at the same time further extend these services into poor areas.

3.3 Reference to MIPD

This project is proposed under the area of European Standards, according to the 2.2.3.3. section of the IPA/MIPD for the period 2007 – 2009 titled “Programmes to be implemented”, where support in the implementation of existing strategies as regards water and sanitation systems is foreseen.

3.4 Reference to National Development Plan:

The need to implement the identified projects is based on the requirements and plans defined in the following country’s major documents:

- National Strategy for Social and Economic Development, (NSSED), which will be replaced by the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), currently being drafted by the Government of Albania
- National Environmental Strategy,
- National Water Strategy for Albania,
- Albania Water Supply and Wastewater Sector Strategy,
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for the Republic of Albania,
- National Social Inclusion Strategy (which includes a policy response and targets for water and sanitation).
Over the last several years, the national government has established water sector policies that are aimed at improving the reliability and sustainability of water supply and sewerage services. These include the following specific policies:

- Decentralization of Authority for Public Services to Local Government
- Decision on the Transformation of Water/Sewerage Enterprises into Commercial Companies
- Liberalization of Tariff Setting to Encourage Financial Sustainability on Commercial Terms
- Enabling Legislation for Private Sector Participation

3.5 Reference to national / sectorial investment plans

The selected projects adhere to the priorities of the Public Investment Programme and part of the Investment Plan funded by Government Annual Budget of 2007.

Further reference to the priority needs in the water supply and sewerage systems should be made to the recommendations of the Regional Development Plan of Shkoder-Lezhe region (funded by CARDS 2001 programme) in conjunction with the Regional and Local Environmental Plans (funded by CARDS 2002 programme)

4- Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:

For **TA contracts**: account of tasks expected from the contractor

N/A

For **twinning covenants**: account of tasks expected from the team leader, resident twinning advisor and short term experts

N/A

For **grants schemes**: account of components of the schemes

N/A

For **investment contracts**: reference list of feasibility study as well as technical specifications and cost price schedule + section to be filled in on investment criteria (**)

N/A

For **works contracts**: reference list of feasibility study for the constructing works part of the contract as well as a section on investment criteria (**); account of services to be carried out for the service part of the contract

The four works contract for the construction of the water supply or sewerage systems will be anticipated by consultancy activities during 2007 managed and financed by the 2007 state budget that will cover the preparation of the feasibility studies, design and tender dossier, and environmental impact assessment. In addition, the government will cover land acquisition costs as indicated in the drawing or design documents.
The list of Feasibility Studies to be prepared is as following:

1. Feasibility Study for the new Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment Plant, town of Velipoje,
2. Feasibility Study for the Sewerage System, town of Shengjin,
3. Feasibility Study for the new Sewerage System in the Golem-Durres beach area

The Feasibility Study for Shkodra Sewerage Rehabilitation project is already prepared and financed by KfW.

The Government of Albania is going to launch a service tender for the preparation of the designs and tender dossier including the feasibility study. It is expected that such documents (with exception of Shkodra that is already prepared by KfW) will be ready by spring 2008.

The service part of the proposed contracts dealing with works supervision will be decided upon the signing of the works contract.

(*) non standard aspects (in case of derogation to PRAG) also to be specified

(**) section on investment criteria (applicable to all infrastructure contracts and constructing works):

- Rate of return
  N/A

- Co financing

The project of construction of the water supply and sewerage systems will be fully covered by EU funds. However, the Government of Albania will cover the costs for design, feasibility and environmental impact assessment\(^1\) for approximately € 1.5 M. The costs of land expropriation, also covered by the Government of Albania, will be known only during the preparation of the feasibility study and preliminary steps of the design process.

- compliance with state aids provisions

\(^1\) There is currently cooperation between the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SEPA, and the Albanian Ministry of Environment to strengthen and improve the capacity of the Ministry, as well as related institutions, to monitor environmental impact assessments. Improved coordination efforts by both the Ministry and the European Commission should be sought where applicable.
N/A

- Ownership of assets (current and after project completion)

Albanian Government, General Directorate of Water and Sewage, Public Services Directorates in the related regions
# ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

**LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Improvement of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in Albania</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracting period expires</td>
<td>Disbursement period expires following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursement period expires</td>
<td>Disbursements will continue for up to one year after the end date for the execution of contracts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total budget</td>
<td>25.5 million Euro</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPA budget</td>
<td>24 million Euro</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall objective</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The improving of health and environmental conditions in the coastal regions through the building of the adequate and sustainable water and sewerage infrastructure and encouraging of economic growth through improved services.</td>
<td>• Living conditions index in the concerned areas, Revenues from businesses Number of tourists Health status related to water safety</td>
<td>• Reports from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration on the status of environment, • Reports from Ministry of health on the status of health • Statistical information from INSTAT</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project purpose</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade the supply of water and disposal of wastewater through the rehabilitation and/or construction of water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment systems in Shkodër, Velipoja, Shengjin and Golem-Durres beach area.</td>
<td>• In-site verification of the completion and functioning of works Number of complaints from population</td>
<td>• Reports from the supervisor • Reports from the General Directorate of Water and Wastewater of Albania / Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, • Monitoring data from the General Directorate of Water and Wastewater of Albania / Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, • Monitoring data and reports from the Ministry of Health • Statistical and survey data from INSTAT</td>
<td>Government allocates the necessary funding and other resources required for the start of the project and completion of the project Conditionalities are met</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reduced health risks for the population due to the supply of not contaminated water, • Improved wastewater disposal and management of utilities, • Reduced contamination of groundwater and surface waters by wastewater, • Improved quality of bathing water, • Encouraged economic growth in the concerned areas due to cleaner environment and reduced health risks. • Reduced public health expenses</td>
<td>• Sewerage coverage in % Treated wastewater coverage in % Percentage of reported cases of diseases caused by microbiological contamination of drinking water Percentage of samples resulting me contaminated water from sewage, Drinking water quality Bathing water quality, Occurrence of skin and other diseases from bathing waters, Revenues generated by businesses Number of visitors in tourist areas Level of reduction of public health expenses</td>
<td>• Monitoring data from the General Directorate of Water and Wastewater of Albania / Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, • Monitoring data and reports from the Ministry of Health • Statistical and survey data from INSTAT</td>
<td>• The quality of the design meets the required effluent parameters as indicated in the respective legislation, • Population environmental awareness and participation is increased</td>
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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Rehabilitation and construction of the exiting sewerage systems, city of Shkodër • Construction of new Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment Plant, town of Velipoja, • Construction of new Sewerage System, town of Shengjin, • Construction of New Sewerage System in the Golem-Durres beach area • Supervision of works</td>
<td>• Four works contracts • One supply contract for the supervision of works</td>
<td>• 1 million Euro • 6.8 million Euro • 3.4 million Euro • 12.1 million Euro • 0.7 million Euro</td>
<td>• Implementation of works is carried out according to the schedule and technical standards, • Any administrative or other barriers to implementation have been removed before the starting of the project</td>
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### ANNEX II: amounts (in M€) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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