INSPIRE Strategies to End Violence Against Children
Country Factsheet

ALBANIA
INTRODUCTION

This factsheet is largely based on the inputs and observations of 20 organisations and institution working in child protection in Albania. The survey was shared through the child protection national coalition – BKTF: 8 of the respondents are coalition members, yet none of them state that they are part of a national level INSPIRE working group.

This does not mean, however, that they do not conduct activities that deal with key aspects that INSPIRE aims to tackle, in some cases actually applying solutions that are perfectly in line with the INSPIRE approach. Indeed, a number of organisations working in Albania that took part to the survey conduct activities that directly relate to one or more of the INSPIRE strategies.

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS

The section below point at cross-cutting aspects that are relevant for all INSPIRE strategies. Examples of activities relevant to the different strategies will be outlined separately in the following section.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NGO SECTOR AND STATE AUTHORITIES

This section aimed to give an overview on the relations the NGO sector has with Albania regarding state funding and public support for INSPIRE related activities. Ten organizations replied they have never received public funds (cash incomes). Only three organizations indicated they have received some form of assistance from the Albanian state consisting mostly “in kind” contributions (such as the use of low cost or without cost facilities, public space for the implementation of services, mainly those related to training and capacity building of social actors).
All the organizations that completed the survey indicated they are not part of an INSPIRE working group at the national level.

**PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION**

All the respondent organizations provide services that address sexual violence and child exploitation. They provide a wide variety of activities and services focusing mainly on prevention services, including awareness-raising, training, or daily activities at the Multifunctional Center.

The second type of activities carried out by the responding organizations is related to lobbying and advocacy for improving the legal framework, social policies and the aspects of victim’s rehabilitation and protection.

The third type of activity relates to the provision of direct assistance, on the case, in the framework of shelter, housing, rehabilitation.

**Examples of practices**

Community Center “Little Angels”¹ and the Initiative for Social Change- ARSIS² implement daily activities for children and youth in multifunctional centers. They advise youth for employment, they treat children victims of trafficking and they also conduct awareness-raising campaigns.

The legislation in Albania has improved considerably during the last nine years. The Child Rights Center of Albania /ECPAT Albania³ has been one of the agencies to lead the efforts to have all the laws and bylaws in place to protect children, prevent violence, setup a new child protection system and work to build new services for treatment and prevention of violence against children and youth.

Different & Equal (D&E) implement “Youth led projects” led by youth who have experienced some form of sexual violence.

Partner per Femijet⁴ Community Center “Little Angels”⁵ focus on parent and care give support and educational life skills.

**INSPIRE STRATEGIES**

**STRATEGY 1: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENTS OF LAWS**

The organizations that participated to the INSPIRE mapping survey in Albania mainly conduct activities that relate to

- aspects of legitimacy based on the violence exercised by parents and teachers.
- aspects related to the law on abuse of other care givers

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¹ [www.shkej.org](http://www.shkej.org)
² [www.nisma-isc.al](http://www.nisma-isc.al)
³ [www.crca.al](http://www.crca.al)
⁴ [www.partnerperfemijet.org](http://www.partnerperfemijet.org)
⁵ [www.shkej.org](http://www.shkej.org)
The types of general activities highlighted are:

- Activities promoting the use of non-physical forms of discipline;
- Activities on improving the level of knowledge of parents, youth and professionals on the harm the physical abuse and other behaviors have on children;
- Advocacy actions to support Early Childhood Development (ECD) importance;
- Case management process in collaboration with public institutions that are responsible for child protection and their welfare

**Strategy 2: Norms and Values (Gender, Social, Community)**

Most organizations that responded to our survey conduct community mobilization activities in the framework of this INSPIRE Strategy.

Examples of activities

- The initiative “Protect Children from Violence”, implemented by Child Rights Centre of Albania (CRCA)/ECPAT Albania 6 deals with norms and values in relation to protection of children and youth form violence, in cooperation with NGOs that also work for LGBTI adolescents.
- The Roma Project 7 implemented by Child Rights Centre of Albania (CRCA)/ECPAT deals more specifically with Roma children integration in school and issues during their school attendance, such as discrimination, violence, etc.
- Different & Equal provide trainings to the local professionals and use awareness-raising techniques for topics of human rights and human trafficking
- Partner per Femijet 8 conduct activities to raise public awareness of human trafficking in Albania through community-based educational activities
- Down Syndrome Albania Foundation focus on awareness campaign for parents

**Strategy 3: Safe Environments**

The majority of the organizations indicated they mainly work on the “Interrupting the spread of violence” component from INSPIRE Strategy 3.

Some of these activities are:

- Awareness raising and training with professionals delivered in groups in community settings;
- Parenting training and support programmers for parents;

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6 [www.crrca.al](http://www.crrca.al)
7 [www.crrca.al](http://www.crrca.al)
8 [www.partnerperfemijet.org](http://www.partnerperfemijet.org)
“School based approach to prevent and protect children from violence in order to have a positive vision toward school”, which offers school based services to children who live in areas where a high number of vulnerable families live in extreme poverty, overlapping social and emotional traumas. Daily based school intervention by integrative classes contributes on the wellbeing of children by taking them away from the street and bringing them closer to education.

**Strategy 4: Parent and Care Giver Support**

Most respondents indicated they offer trainings and parenting support programs within the parenting and guardianship strategy. The activities are combined with family visits and community services.

Some of the activities conducted under this section are:

- Activities which have a focus on community development, early childhood educations, support of children, youth and their families in difficulty
- The prevention or reintegration of families returned from migrations;
- Activities to increase families’ capacity and skills through positive discipline trainings and parenting clubs
- Activities to support youth to build perspectives and a proper future, to build the capacities and skills for adult life and to help them advocate for themselves and bring changes in the social and economic conditions of their own community

**Strategy 5: Income and Economic Strengthening**

“Group saving and loans combined with gender equality training” and “Microfinance combined with gender norm trainings are the main components indicated by the five organisations that responded to this section of the survey.

Some of the activities conducted under this section are

- Some of organizations, such as CRCA/ECPAT, DEV-AID and Initiative for Social Change-ARSIS are supporting Roma mothers (especially single mothers) to get professional vocational trainings
- Roma mothers are supported with mini-grants to start up their business, link them with other successful mothers so they can learn from each other and coach them to strengthen their business
- Information sessions and career counseling for youth about employment opportunities in Albania

9 Community Center “Little Angels” [www.shkej.org](http://www.shkej.org)
**Strategy 6: Response and Support Services**

Most of the respondent organizations to the survey indicated they focus mainly within the "Counseling and therapeutic approaches" and "Foster care interventions involving social welfare services" components.

Four organizations provide activities under the "Treatment Programs for juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system" component.

Some of the activities mentioned are:

- Provide direct assistance and reintegration program for victims of sexual violence such as Different & Equal organisation
- Training and counseling for families in need. Counseling provided for individuals or in groups for various community members to help them address social issues the community members face
- Providing direct assistance for children and women, referral in cases of continues need of counseling and medical support.

**Strategy 7: Education and Life Skills**

Almost all of the responding organizations develop activities that are related to the INSPIRE Strategy 7.

- 12 organisations focus on the "Life and social skills training" component
- 11 organisations focus on the "Increase enrollment in pre-school, primary and secondary schools" component
- 9 organisations focus on "Improve children's knowledge about sexual abuse and how to protect themselves against it" component
- 8 organisations focus on "Establish a safe and enabling school environment" component
- 4 organisations focus on "Adolescent intimate partner violence prevention programs"

Some of the activities mentioned are:

- Provide technical assistance in Early Childhood Development (ECD) techniques
- Develop educational programmers for children
- Provide educational materials and library for children according to their age
- Public awareness campaigns to sensitize parents to important aspects of child development
- Programs to protect children from sexual violence. This includes also provisions of free legal services.
- Support youth to register in professional courses
LINKS AND REFERENCES

The table below includes a full list of the organizations that replied to the survey and made reference to activities that relate to INSPIRE, as well as links to their homepage, and selected links to specific initiatives when relevant.

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<th>Name of organizations</th>
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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This factsheet is produced by ChildPact and BKTF Coalition in Albania in the frame of two regional projects funded by Oak Foundation and INSPIRE Fund. The two projects include complementing initiatives to map the activities that are currently being conducted in line with the INSPIRE framework in the extended Black Sea Region with the objective of better understanding the current efforts and improving synergies between existing actors working on the implementation of INSPIRE strategies.

The data was collected between April and July 2019. The Mapping Survey is available at this link.

We would like to thank all the organisations who have participated to this important mapping exercise during the last months.

Material redacted by Arjel Trajani