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**LOCAL GOVERNANCE
PROGRAM IN ALBANIA**

SUCCESS STORY

**Bulgarian “Good Practices”
serve as a model to be
implemented in the
Municipality of Shkoder.**



On the left Mr. Qemal Alla, Deputy mayor of Librazhd and on the right Mr. Ridvan Troshani, Deputy Mayor of Shkoder discussing during a training session in the Municipality of Stara Zagora.



Arjan Barbullushi Deputy Mayor of Lezha and Deputy Mayor of Stara Zagora during the ceremony of exchanging emblems between the two municipalities..

In June 2008, USAID's Local Governance Program in Albania (LGPA) supported a Study Tour program in Bulgaria with the participation of key officials from the ten target municipalities. The participants were mainly deputy mayors as well as representatives from the tax and finance departments and specialists for the local economic development of these cities.

The participants formed a homogenous group in terms of education, background and professional interests. The combination of site visits, professional meetings and a few seminars was of high interest to the participants. They all showed a positive attitude and interest regarding the discussed topics and were actively involved in the training activities. At the beginning they asked questions to get informed mainly, while towards the end they became more precise and purposeful in order to better understand practices that could be adapted and implemented in the conditions of their home country.

At the end of this training Mr Ridvan Troshani, Deputy Mayor of Shkodra came up with three very important conclusions : 1) Sharing the lessons learned with the municipality staff; 2) Updating local economic growth plan; and 3) Reflecting ideas to be implemented as a result of the study tour.

The action was taken. Extremely impressed by what he learned in this study tour, he organized a debriefing meeting with the key municipality staff since its work is directly related with economic growth of Shkodra City.

He talked out clearly his impression on the study tour as well as what was in common with the Bulgarian experience in order to put that into practice in the city of Shkoder. In between other things, he mentioned the experience of Stara Zagora Municipality. He explained what he learned for one of the industrial zones, taking shape on a municipally owned land, where the factory of Oscar Ruegg is located. He described the actual condition of this industrial zone such as: plans for development, first investment projects in place; how Regional Economic Development Agency worked, working conditions. All these advantages , convinced the Swiss company to stay in Stara Zagora and build the first factory outside of Switzerland.

“I was truly impressed what I heard by the positive experience in Stara Zagora, said Ridvan Sokoli, Director of Economic Development Office in the Municipality of Shkoder. Now that the municipality of Shkoder has obtained the proper assets to manage the industrial zone, it would be good to use the positive experience of Stara Zagora as a model to achieve success in our municipality. I am confident that the Stara Zagora model will help in the development of such an important zone for the economic development aspect in the city of Shkoder- said Mr. Sokoli”