**Project Application Form**

1. **General Information**

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| --- | --- |
| **Title of the Project:**  | **Give me a voice!** |
| **Lots** | * ***LOT1***
* ***LOT2***

***X LOT3*** |
| **Name of the applicant** | **“Intelektualet e rinj, Shprese”/“Young Intellectuals, Hope”** |
| **Target project area:** | **Shkodra district** (*including administrative units  Ana e Malit, Bërdicë, Dajç, Guri i Zi, Postribë, Pult, Rrethinat, Shalë, Shosh and Velipojë*) |
| **Thematic focus:** | **Improve access to justice through legal aid for vulnerable groups.** |
| **Beneficiaries:** | **20 CSOs active in Shkodra district and vulnerable groups (focusing on children and youth, women in economic difficulties from remote areas and roma&egyptians people), 20 Students/Postgraduates of Law (aged 21-27).**  |
| **Full address of the applicant(s)*** **Postal Address**
* **Telephone**
* **Fax**
* **E-mail**
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 | **L:Qemal Stafa, Rr: Daut Borici, 874, Shkoder, Albania****+35522248811****+35522248811****irsh\_centre@yahoo.com**[**www.irsh.al**](http://www.irsh.al) |
| **Contact Person:*** **Position**
* **Email**
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 | **Saimir Beqiraga****President of IRSH/Legal representative****irsh\_director@yahoo.com****+355692255776** |
| **Total budget** | **49820 Euro** |
| **Application date:** | **16 May 2017** |

1. **Project Description:**

The aim of the project is to strength civic engagement to improve the access to justice for citizen’s especially marginalised groups and CSOs in Shkodra district (paying a special attention to administrative units which are part of the municipality). This project will apply new forms of achieving justice by paying more attention to the real problems faced by people who experience legal events.

Citizens quite often are not aware how to address their problems and solve their conflicts and disputes using democratic channels. The justice system in Albania as noted in several reports of the European commission is affected by the corruption, long duration of processes by lacking citizens to give justice and give solutions of their problems. In that regard it necessary that citizens to be more active, to better know the laws and procedures and enforce rules of law to be implemented. Better access to justice for citizens will result with less conflicts and strength of democracy in the country.

Lack of access to justice affects citizens in general but in particular marginalised and vulnerable groups because they do not have necessary means to follow all procedures required by law. So in order to facilitate this situation this project intends to increase access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised groups. A special focused will be paid on youth, women and roma people. To fulfil the overall aim of this project a ***Legal Clinic*** is provided to be established in Shkodra municipality. The Legal Clinic will be an important “*station point*” for the target group of the project to get necessary support for access to justice or to increase civic engagement for improving access to justice.

The project is focused **on three** main actions which are:

1. ***Improving public awareness on law matters****.*
2. *This project intends to reinforce access to information* about accessing justice (focusing on procedures by providing simplified templates*). Publications, legal advices and* ***direct intervention*** *through legal representation in the court for marginalised and vulnerable groups will be provided. Target group will be marginalised and vulnerable groups (focusing on youth, women and Roma/Egyptians groups)*

The necessary information in simplified templates will be prepared and provided for all interested parties. Consulting about procedures and free legal services for citizens in need which intends to address their complaints through courts or public authorities will be provided through assistance of the students/postgraduates of law under specialized monitoring of law professors and advocates.

1. ***Direct intervention through legal representation in the court*** will be provided for marginalised and vulnerable groups. The legal clinic will provide all necessary support to follow their cases in the Shkodra court or to public authorities providing the free legal assistance and advice on private and public law.
2. A report regarding the activity held at the legal clinic will be published at the last month of the project.
3. ***Increasing civic engagement to improve access to justice through education for access to justice.***
4. ***Capacity Building Trainings and practical workshops*** will be provided to strength CSOs capacities to become important promoters on improving access to justice by addressing their concerns through alternative forms of conflict resolution or judiciary system. CSOs will be trained how to promote access to justice by reinforcing rules of law through implementation in proper way and due time of procedures. They will get all necessary information how to work with their groups of interest to assist them accessing justice.
5. A group of 20 Students/postgraduates of law or post-graduated will be selected to be part of this project assisting the services provided. They will be divided in four groups focusing mainly in:
6. ***Administrative Law,*** (following cases related with public administration mainly at local level)
7. ***Civil Law,*** (focusing mainly in cases where conflicts are more common like propriety issues)
8. ***Familly law***, (following cases of divorces, minor rights, women rights)
9. ***Criminal law*** (focusing mainly on minors right, women right, cases of violence against children or women etc)

Each of this group will be followed by law professional instructor on every special case they will be assigned. Students/postgraduates will work in group by providing in written their opinion.

In order to provide with some basic advocacy skills and ethics students will be provided 4 workshops. Then for 15 months legal experts will provide instruction and assistance to the pool of students depending on the cases they are offering their legal assistance.

1. The pool of students and postgraduates will be in charge to monitor the transparency and accountability of the administrative Court of Shkodra. Through monitoring missions, direct contacts and official request for information they will check the level of transparency and if the right of information is guaranteed to citizens according to the standards of law nr ***119/2014****, “****For the right of information****”.* Based on the data received it will be prepared a report of the transparency in the Administrative court of Shkodra

***3) Promotion of alternative forms for conflict resolution***

The project will promote alternative forms of conflict resolution by promoting mediation as a form recognised by Albanian law but still not implemented at a satisfied level. This form will be promoted through:

1. Direct intervention to the parties involved in disputes or as a tool for conflict resolution to be used by CSOs. In the Legal Clinic it will be established a space which will be dedicated ***to alternative forms of conflict resolution***. The first suggestion/advice for the parties involved in disputes will be offered Mediation. Disputes solved through mediation offers a lot of benefits and through this project for the first time it’s aimed to suggest and promote as alternative method among concrete disputes. Licensed mediator from Ministry of Justice will assist directly or by advising parties in conflict to find a stable agreement.
2. Monitoring missions will be organised by the pool of students/postgraduates in the Court of Shkodra to check if judges are respecting the conditions set by article 158/b of Code of Civil Procedures of Law to orient parties to solve their disputes through reconciliation. As well official datas will be requested and gathered through official sources of information. Based on the gathered data’s a report will be published by presenting main findings and recommendations for future improvements.

The total budget for the implementation of this project required for financial support is **49820 Euro**. This project will be implemented in the Shkodra district focusing in the administrative units including administrative units Ana e Malit, Bërdicë, Dajç, Guri i Zi, Postribë, Pult, Rrethinat, Shalë, Shosh and Velipojë addressing all issues under the jurisdiction of the District Court of Shkoder.

1. **Project Justification/Relevance**

There is a perception by the public that the judiciary system is affected by corruption, lack of transparent procedures, long duration of processes etc which reflects lack of public confidence and negative perception[[1]](#footnote-2). There is another perception that education level is not enough to enable citizens to fight for their right and fulfil their obligations in the implementation of the rules of law.

Research data shows that courts are influenced from monetary interests, business relations, personal relations of judges and as well political influences. These researches shows that Albanian believes that judiciary system do not help on the fight against corruption[[2]](#footnote-3). At the other side access to justice and problems related to the judiciary system in Albania remain always a key issue which affects citizens.

Access to the justice is important to protect people’s rights and promote their social inclusion while barriers to access reinforce poverty and social exclusion. Marginalised and vulnerable groups always are the primary “victims” which are excluded from an effective access to justice. Actually there are a high number of young people, women and roma people which have difficulties to access the justices this is related to economic difficulties, geographical position, lacking knowledge’s of law and procedures etc. The progress report of European Commission has identified that one of the main problems are high fees in civil processes which has influenced access to justice[[3]](#footnote-4)

Quite often citizens are lacking all necessary information and legal advice is missing which affects the proper exercise of their rights. In some other cases the procedures in the courts are taking too long or the information provided from them is not enough to provide full access of citizens in justice. At the other side the actors of civil society which works with different groups neglect or do not have necessary knowledge’s to exercise an effective access to justice as important tool for finding justice and solve their problems. Participation is based on the three fundamental rights:

*1) Right of information,*

*2) Right for participation in the decision making processes,*

*3) Access to justice.*

In Albania and especially in Shkodra district civil society sector is performing their activities mainly based on the improvement of the right for information and the right for participation in decision-making processes. Due to lack of capacities or for above mentioned reason access to justice is not used as an important channel for assisting groups of interest they are working for. At the other side in the area do not exists a local or part of any national plan to encourage citizen’s initiatives for promoting access to justice. There is a Faculty of Law and students/postgraduates of this faculty most of them either after graduation are unemployed or work something else which is not related with their studies.

On 21 July 2016 Albanian Parliament voted the reform of the judiciary system and its successful implementation is very much depended on the citizen’s mobilisation and their civic engagement for active participation to demand their right through access to justice. So this project will be an important tool for civic engagement to improve access to justice by providing a model how citizens can be transformed into important actors for a successful implementation of the reform to the judiciary system. Enabling citizen’s engagement demanding their rights and transforming them in key actors to law reinforcement through access to justice or alternative forms of making justice remain a key issue which will be in the focus of this project and fits perfectly with the objectives and priorities of this call for proposal.

1. **Description of the target group**

The target group of this project will be:

1. ***Marginalised and vulnerable groups focused on youth, women and roma&egyptian people***

There are a high number of citizens in Shkodra city which are unemployed and by low incomes. By the statistics of the Regional Labour office in Shkodra, the district has the highest unemployment rate in Albania with about 24,2% where 31% are young people and 34% are unemployed young women’s. The tendency of this group is to face social problems, conflicts in family, delinquency etc by being always a potential risqué on the law reinforcement

There are about 2443 Roma and Egyptians which resides in Shkodra[[4]](#footnote-5)Datas show that only 43% of roma people finished the elementary school, 58% of roma women are unemployed and 46% of Roma people declare that they have been discriminated[[5]](#footnote-6). So roma and Egyptian people as well represent a group which live on very poor standards of life facing a lot of social problems, excluded or neglected from public authorities to respect their rights. So these groups represent the main target group of the project which will be in consideration for legal assistance and representation in the court toward protection of their right by improving their access to justice. We expect about 100 people from this community will be assisted in the frame of this project.

1. ***CSO active in Shkodra district***

Civil society organisations active in Shkodra needs to be more familiar with the procedures to enforce rules of law by contributing on the improvement of the access to justice. Due to the datas gathered from Shkodra court, very CSOs has been able to present a case in the court. This is why the target of this project are about 20 active non-profit organisations which work in different issues like *human rights, women and children rights, children, environment, media, artistic and cultural activities* etc. CSO are important actor which can contribute to improve the access to justice. The aim of the project is to enable CSOs to become important promoters on improving access to justice by addressing their concerns through judiciary system or alternative forms of conflict resolution.

1. ***Law students/postgraduates from Faculty of Law at University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”***

According to the University data there are about 800 students at the law faculty in Shkodra University following their Bachelor and Master studies. After their graduation only a small percentage of them about 7% are able to find job in their profile as lawyers and most of them get involved in other jobs or are unemployed. The practical work as part of the curricula in most of the cases is not developed effectively. Considering this big potential the project intends to open an window for these student to get directly involved on providing legal assistance and follow processes in the court for the target group of the project. In the frame of this project we intend to select a group of 20 students or graduated ones which will be involved in the legal clinic as voluntary staff. Students are required to complete, prior to their third year, Evidence, Civil and Penal Procedure, and the Intensive Trial Practice Workshop. Constitutional Law is also recommended.

1. **Goal and specific objective**

***The overall objective of the project is to increase the access to justice for citizen’s especially marginalised groups and CSOs in Shkodra municipality.***

To achieve its aim the project will fulfil these specific objectives:

1. ***To improve public awareness on law matters by increasing access to justice for vulnerable groups in Shkodra district***

*So through establishment of the Legal Clinic in Shkodra district the project will create for the first time an important station for improvement of access to justice. Marginalised and vulnerable groups will find place where to get free legal advices and provide for them services to access justice. The promotional work done in the frame of this project through distribution of information will improve public awareness on law matters. Marginalised groups will become better oriented to use justice as a tool for protecting their rights. By creating this model of access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised groups we expect that other citizens groups of interest will play a more active role on protection of their rights by accessing justice.*

1. ***To increase civic engagement by strengthening capacities of civil society actors in Shkodra district to implement actions related to access to justice for vulnerable groups.***

*Access to justice cannot be improved if there will be not increased the civic engagement. CSOs are the best actors which can play an important role on moving forward this process and become more active to improve access to justice and better protect the rights of the groups they represent. We expect that through strengthening of capacities of CSOs working in Shkodra district they will be enabled to present more cases to the court and enforce public authorities to implement law in the proper way and in due time.*

1. ***To promote education for access to justice through law students involvement***

*In general especially in North area Albanian are used to find solution of their problems by using self justice avoiding democratic channels and entitled structures by law. So education for access to justice has to start from the new generation and properly with young people which have study law. They are the best actors which can assist citizens to access justice. Through this project we expect that students of law will improve with practical skills their knowledge’s and citizens will be able to find solution of their problems.*

1. ***To promote alternative dispute resolution through mediation process.***

Mediation is an alternative form for solution of disputes which through this project will be promoted for the first time in the Shkodra district. Benefits of mediation are not promoted and known by citizens who spend a lot of time, energy and money through long processes in courts. As far as one of the most important components of the project is offering free legal assistance to vulnerable and marginalised groups we found quite reasonable to promote as well mediation as more efficient method for finding a stable agreement among parties in a conflict. Another reason is that conflict in most of the cases is more present to vulnerable and marginalised groups so mediation its a good tool for helping them solving their conflicts. We expect that many people who will access the legal clinic will accept to solve their conflict through mediation which we expect to be a big achievement.

1. **Expected results**

Through implementation of this project we expect to have these results:

**Result 1**- ***There will be a raised awareness of Shkodra citizens on law matters by creating more confidence on the judiciary system and achieving a better access to justice***. Citizens will get more detailed information and at understandable format regarding the procedures and opportunities they have to access justice. ***In the frame of this project at least 1000 citizens will get free legal advices and consulting and about 150 cases will be assisted through legal representation in the court or public authorities.***

**Result 2**- Strengthening of civil society actors in Shkodra district to enable implement actions related to access to justice for vulnerable groups.***We expect at least 20 CSOs individually or as part of coalitions in the issues they are doing advocacy work will start implementation of actions related to access to justice.***By enabling CSOs on implementing actions related to access to justice we expect to have an increased number of vulnerable groups and citizens benefiting from improvement of access to justice. At the other side at the end of the project we expect to have Courts more transparent and accountable to citizens which will be able to get more information.

**Result 3**- ***We expect 20 young people/student/postgraduates of law to be enabled to use instrument of law for improving access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable groups***. In the frame of this project they will be able to create their profile and communicate in independent way identifying citizen’s needs and providing law advices through direct contacts and representation to public bodies. They will be able to perform monitoring missions.

**Result 4** – We expect that vulnerable groups and citizens will become more aware about mediation as alternative form for conflict resolution and achieving a sustainable justice. At the other side Court will address more effectively parts in conflicts to be addressed through mediation and reconciliation. About 50 cases of disputes will be solved through mediation process.

1. **Detailed description of the project activities**

To achieve the above mentioned results will be developed following activities:

***Result 1:***

***Activity 1: Establishment of the Legal Clinic and its activities will be the main event of the project. The Legal clinic will be structured by the Head of the Legal Clinic, a pool of four professional lawyers and a pool of 20 students/postgraduates or postgraduates. The Legal Clinic will be the main station of the project where citizens will get information and get assisted on their specific cases.***

**Activity 2**: Publication of promotional material regarding services offered in the legal clinic will be an important activity to provide information for all direct and indirect beneficiaries.

**Activity 3**: Launching a TV spot about the project and Legal clinic services will be used to raise the awareness of citizens and marginalised groups to access project activities and increase their access to justice.

***Activity 4: Providing free legal services on law matter focusing on marginalised and vulnerable groups will be provided as following:***

1. *Free legal consulting for marginalised groups on law matters mainly focused on administrative law, civil law, family law, criminal law.*
2. *Direct legal representation in the court for marginalised and vulnerable groups.*
3. *Promotion of alternative methods for conflict resolution focusing on mediation.*
4. *Publishing a report regarding the activity of the Legal clinic focusing on special cases and problems arises, main Shkodra court activities, (number of cases, duration of cases, citizens complaints etc)*

***Result 2:***

***Activity 1****: Workshops, trainings (12) for NGO leaders to strength the capacity of civil society actors in Shkodra district to enable implement actions related to access to justice for vulnerable groups. The topics of these activities will be focused to:*

* *Promote effective interdisciplinary collaboration between social workers and lawyers as well as highlight the importance of involving well trained social workers in the legal environment.*
* *To equip CSO leaders on substantive law and procedures for addressing concerns through courts.*
* *Through case studies workshops CSO leaders will develop a number of core advocacy competencies, such as: counselling clients, spotting issues, conducting factual investigations, performing practical legal research, advocating through written and oral communications, planning cases, managing time, and addressing ethical issues and dilemmas.*
* *To enable CSO leaders how to develop strategic and tactical approaches that effective advocates use.*

***Activity 2:*** *Monitoring the transparency and accountability of the Administrative Court of Shkodra through monitoring missions performed by the pool of students and postgraduates and through requests for information.*

***Activity 3:*** *Publishing a report about transparency and accountability at the Administrative Court of Shkodra by presenting main finding, conclusions and recommendations.*

***Result 3:***

***Activity 1:*** *The organisation of 4 workshops followed* ***by*** *Instruction and assistance for 15 months by the pool of legal experts at legal clinic to consult with the pool of students/postgraduates cases for further legal procedures and preparation of complain to public authorities and to the court.**These activities will enable students/postgraduates to provide legal services to vulnerable and marginalised groups in Shkodra court. They litigate civil rights cases at each level of the court system from trial through appeals.*

***-*** *Students/postgraduates also represent children and adults in related juvenile or family law defence matters.*

***-*** *Students/postgraduates take primary responsibility for all aspects of the litigation, including client counselling, fact investigation, case strategy, witness interviews, legal research, pleadings and legal memoranda, discovery, depositions, motion practice, evidentiary hearings, trials, and appeals. A significant amount of legal writing is expected.*

*- Through Legal Clinic Education program teaches students to apply and critically examine legal theory in the context of representation of people in need. It teaches students to analyze how and why individual cases of abuse occur and to connect them to systemic problems, often leading to “public impact” litigation and other strategies for policy reform.*

*- Through legal clinic students will be instructed in legal ethics and advocacy skills.*

***Results 4:***

***Activity 1****: Promotional materials like leaflets, brochures will be used to promote mediation as alternative form of conflict resolution and achieving sustainable justice.*

***Activity 2:*** *Direct assistance to concrete cases through mediation will be offered for marginalised groups who have cases of different conflicts.*

***Activity 3:*** *Monitoring missions to the court by the pool of students to identify the cases which are solved through reconciliation and implementation of the article* 158/b of Code of Civil Procedures of Law.

***Activity 4:*** *Publication of the monitoring report presenting main findings and recommendations for implementation of article* 158/b of Code of Civil Procedures of Law and cases which are solved through reconciliation.

1. **Methodology (medium and large-size grants proposed actions only):**

The methodology used in this project will be based on direct contacts with people who are lacking justice, direct intervention through legal representation in court or public bodies, monitoring reports, use of promotional materials and education for justice used to increase civic engagement and promote young people as promoters for improving access to justice. As important tool for fulfilling its aim and objectives this project has placed in the centre of it the establishment of the legal clinic which will be used for consulting and assisting marginalised and vulnerable groups to access justice in one side educate young people and enable CSO how to become important actors to improve access to justice.

***1) Free services on law matter focusing on marginalised and vulnerable groups will be provided following this methodology.*** Legal assistance will be provided on *administrative law, civil law, family law and penal law*. According to each one of these subjects of law four groups of 4-5 students each will be created leaded by an expert of each one of those subjects. The core group of students/postgraduates will promote the issues they are able to proceed and will follow meetings with interested groups either in the environments of the clinic either direct with the people.

These groups of students/postgraduates will be instructed in legal ethics and advocacy skills by an experienced lawyer who will assist the representation of the cases to the court.

***2) Civic engagement*** to enable civil society actors in Shkodra district to implement actions related to access to justice for vulnerable groups will be realised following informal learning methodology by providing practical trainings offering to participants case studies and interactive workshops. Four professors of law which will be contracted to assist students offering their assistance at legal clinic will be involved and lead these trainings and workshops. CSO leaders will be assisted in their concrete cases by encouraging them to present their cases into the court. All participants on this event have to provide a report regarding cases they have followed successful and unsuccessful ones. This will be used as important indicator for evaluation.

***3)******To implement the education program*** students/postgraduates will be instructed on advocacy skills but as well they will be assisted by four professors of law in their cases providing to them assistance and knowledge’s to better address the issues. Students work in teams on cases or projects, and meet with the instructor on at minimum a weekly basis. Students also take primary responsibility for the Clinic’s policy and public education work. Students/postgraduates who will participate in this project will perform monitoring missions to the court and prepare reports in cooperation with pool of experts.

***4) To promote alternative methods, Mediation.*** During the contacts with people that will come to present their cases student will suggest and offer to people mediation as tool for solution of their conflicts. If they accept to address their case through mediation a licenced mediator from Ministry of Justice will start the mediation process until successful achievement of agreement. At the other side students will take the court calendar and they will monitor the start of the processes to see if the judges are orienting parts to be reconciled or find agreement through mediation process. They will take notes about cases which will run through mediation and about the cases which will follow the process in the court. A detailed report will be prepared for all cases students have monitored and this report will be published on the website of the organisation.

1. **Visibility Plan(Large-size and medium grants proposed actions only)**:

The activities intended in this project are in close contact with the target group of the project. Through implementation of these activities a broader audience will be reached and more citizens will raise their interest for better access to justice. CSOs will show their interest to be more involved on providing help and assistance to the marginalized groups.

The Legal Clinic which will be established in the centre of the Shkodra city will be an important station point to disseminate information and provide assistance to direct beneficiaries and provide a clear visibility as well to indirect beneficiaries.

The promotional materials like posters, leaflets, monitoring reports, publications will ensure a better visibility to the intended direct beneficiaries group of the project and as well inform all possible stakeholders.

The project activities will be promoted on social and audiovisual media by raising the awareness of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

1. **Activity plan:**

The project duration is provided to be 18 month. The activity plan is provided to be developed as described below:

1. Establishment of the infrastructure of the legal clinic (*within the first two months from the starting date of the project*)
2. Recruitment process of the pool of students/postgraduates which will be involved in this project (*within the first two months*)
3. Publication of promotional material regarding services offered in that legal clinic (*within first two months*)
4. Launching a TV spot about the project and Legal clinic services (*Starting in the third month and broadcasting for 6 months*)
5. Instruction workshops for students/postgraduates regarding the role they shall play in the frame of this project (within the first half of the third month project start, total 4 times/every week during third and fourth month)
6. Free legal assistance provided by legal clinic for marginalised and vulnerable groups (starting from in the third month for 15 month)
7. Professional instruction on advocacy skills to students who are providing assistance to vulnerable groups by professional body of professors (starting on the third month for 15 month)
8. Monitoring the transparency of Administrative Court (6 month starting from the fourth month project starts)
9. Monitoring the implementation of reconciliation of the parties in dispute (6 month starting from the fourth month project starts)
10. Trainings/workshops for CSOs (starting in the fifth month project starts, total 12)
11. Publication of legal clinic activities report on the website of the organisation www.irsh.al (month 9)
12. Publication of report about Transparency and Accountability of Administrative Court of Shkodra on the website of the organisation www.irsh.al (month 12)
13. Publication of Report about implementation of article 158/b of Code of Civil Procedures of Law and cases which are solved through reconciliation in the court on the website of the organisation www.irsh.al (month 15)
14. Public event: Presentation of the final report in a public event (last month of the project).

**Activity Plan**

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|  | **M1** | **M2** | **M3** | **M4** | **M5** | **M6** | **M7** | **M8** | **M9** | **M10** | **M11** | **M12** | **M13** | **M14** | **M15** | **M16** | **M17** | **M18** |
| **Establishment of legal Clinic** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Students recruitment** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Publication of materials** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Launching TV SPOT** |  |  | **X** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Workshop Instruction for students** |  |  | **X** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Launch the legal Clinic and services** |  |  | **X** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Professional instruction on advocacy skills** |  |  | **X** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| **Monitoring transparency of the Administrative Court** |  |  |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Monitoring of implementation of reconciliation in the court** |  |  |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Training workshops for CSOs** |  |  |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |
| **Publication/Reports on the website of the organisation www.irsh.al about the Legal Clinic activity** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Publication of Report about Transparency in the court** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Publication of report about implementation of reconciliation in the court** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **x** |  |  |  |
| **Public event: presentation of the activities at legal clinic** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **x** |

1. **Project Logical Framework(Large and Medium Grants only)**

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| **Logical Framework for the Project:****“Strengthening civic engagement to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups in Shkodra district”** |
|  | **Intervention logic** | **Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement** | **Sources and means of verifications** | **Assumptions** |
| **Overall objectives** | *O1. Improving public awareness on law matters.**O2.* *Increasing civic engagement through education for access to justice.**O4.* *Promotion of alternative forms for conflict resolution* | *1) Number of Citizens demands for their rights respecting law procedures**2) Number of* CSOs providing to the groups they represent assistance to improve access to justice*3) Number of Students/postgraduates of law getting more practical skills and enabled to provide legal advices.**4) Number of Citizens choosing mediation as tool for solving their conflicts* | 1) Courts and public authorities records/registry who receives demands from citizens2) Evaluation forms filled from people which are accessing justice through CSOs assistance.3) Reports regarding the assistance offered filled by students/postgraduates participating in the project.4. Copy of agreements signed from parties in disputes/Number of disputes solved through mediation.  | 1) A longer duration of assistance maybe requested2) CSO may have not necessary funds for providing full access to justice.3) Students would require longer assistance to enable them becomes independent.4) State policies shall support mediation and create all facilities.  |
| **Specific objective** | *SO1. Better access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable groups.**SO2.Strengthening Capacities of CSO in Shkoder to enable them access to justice**SO3.Educate through practical opportunities law students how to promote access to justice**SO4.Promoting Mediation as tool for conflict resolution* | Indicator 1) Number of marginalised and vulnerable groups accessing justice will be increased. SO1Indicator 2) Number of CSOs will increase demanding the rights of the groups they present. SO2Indicator 3) Law students/ postgraduates (20) will learn practical skills providing legal advice for marginalised and vulnerable groups. SO3Indicator 4) Number of cases that will be solved through mediation SO4 | 1) Number of cases registered in the Legal Clinic register.2) Number of people CSOs have assisted and number of cases they have presented in the Court or public authorities of Shkodra.3) Data’s of law students involved in the project and number of people assisted from them will be an indicator measuring this achievement.4) Copy of mediation agreement among parties in conflict | 1) Marginalised and vulnerable groups needs more confidence for access2.Duration of processes and corruption often makes to lost trust on the courts3.Law student may lose motivation or they may quite working.4. Mediation as profession requires facilities and support from state which results that not many people exercise mediation as profession. |
| **Expected results** | *R1) There will be a raised awareness of Shkodra citizens on law matters by creating more confidence on the judiciary system and achieving a better access to justice.**R2) Strengthening of civil society actors in Shkodra district to enable implement actions related to access to justice for vulnerable groups*R3)Students/postgraduates of law will be able to provide legal assistance.R4) vulnerable groups and citizens will become more aware about mediation as alternative form for conflict resolution | *Indicator 1) At least 1000 citizens will get free legal advices and consulting.(R1)**Indicator 2)* About 150 cases will be assisted through legal representation in the court or public authorities.(R1)Indicator 1) At least 20 CSOs individually or as part of coalitions in the issues they are doing advocacy work will start implementation of actions related to access to justice. (R2)Indicator 1 Students/ postgraduates (20) will be able to offer legal services as part of the Legal Clinic project R3Indicator 1: About 50 cases of disputes will be solved through mediation process. | 1) Register services performed at Legal clinic and reports of service providers/studentsRegistry of Court or public authorities regarding the requests made in the frame of the project. (indicator 1, R1)2) Signed declarations for assistance from assisted citizens (indicator 1, R1)3) Number of decision given from Court or Public Authorities (indicator 2 R1) 4) Number of cases CSOs have assisted and number of CSOs which have performed actions toward access to justice (indicator 1, R2)5) Number of vulnerable groups which have been assisted from CSOS (indicator 1, R2)6) Number of vulnerable groups and citizens assisted by students (indicator 1, R3)7) Number of agreements achieved to solve disputes through mediation (indicator 1, R4) | 1)Implementation of the reform to justice may cause delays in procedures in the courts2) Delays on announcing court decisions and other burocracy procedures. |
| **Activities** | ***Result 1:*** ***Activity 1:*** *Establishment of the Legal Clinic* **Activity 2**: Publication of promotional material regarding services offered in the legal clinic  **Activity 3**: Launching a TV spot about the project and Legal clinic services  ***Activity 4:*** *Providing free legal services on law matter focusing on marginalised and vulnerable groups* ***Activity 5:*** *Report about activities at legal clinic****Result 2:*** ***Activity 1****: Workshops, trainings (12) for NGO leaders to strength the capacity of civil society actors focused to:** *Promote effective interdisciplinary collaboration between social workers and lawyers as well as highlight the importance of involving well trained social workers in the legal environment.*
* *To equip CSO leaders on substantive law and procedures for addressing concerns through courts.*
* *Through case studies workshops CSO leaders will develop a number of core advocacy competencies, such as: counselling clients, spotting issues, conducting factual investigations, performing practical legal research, advocating through written and oral communications, planning cases, managing time, and addressing ethical issues and dilemmas.*
* *To enable CSO leaders how to develop strategic and tactical approaches that effective advocates use.*

 ***Activity 2:*** *Monitoring the Transparency and Accountability of the Administrative Court of Shkodra.* ***Activity 3:*** *Publishing report about Transparency and Accountability of the Administrative Court of Shkoder****Result 3:*** ***Activity 1:*** *Instruction workshops (4) conducted by law experts**in legal ethics and advocacy skills followed by assistance and instruction for 15 months which enable students/postgraduates to provide legal services to vulnerable and marginalised groups in Shkodra court.* ***Results 4:******Activity 1****: Promotional materials like leaflets, brochures will be used to promote mediation as alternative form of conflict resolution and achieving sustainable justice.****Activity 2:*** *Direct assistance to concrete cases through mediation will be offered for marginalised groups who have cases of different conflicts.****Activity 3:*** *Monitoring missions to the court by the pool of students to identify cases solved through reconciliation and implementation of article 158/b of Code of Civil Procedures of Law****Activity 4:*** *Publication of the monitoring report with recommendations promoting mediation and reconciliation* |

1. **Project sustainability (large-size and medium grants proposed actions only)**
2. **Impact of the action**

This project we expect to have a positive impact which will result with a better access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised group in Shkodra district. For the first time the legal clinic will provide a model which supports marginalised and vulnerable groups providing a direct support for Roma&Egyptians in the Shkodra district. We expect a growing interest from marginalised and vulnerable groups which will build confidence through legal clinic services and to the judiciary system. We expect at least 1000 citizens from vulnerable and marginalised groups will benefit from direct services provided from legal clinic and we expect about 150 complaints will be directed toward public authorities and judiciary system. CSOs will strength their capacities and provide assistance for groups they represent to demand for their right through access to justice. About 20 CSO will strength their capacities and be able to undertake action for better access to justice for marginalised groups they assist. About 20 students and postgraduates will be able to assist vulnerable groups on addressing their issues toward judiciary system or use of alternative forms of conflict resolution. Citizens will become aware on law matter and will be more present to request for services provided in the frame of the legal clinic. The administrative Court of Shkodra will be more transparent and will provide more information regarding law procedures in due time according to the standards of law which guarantee the right of the information. The Court of Shkodra will become more aware to use effectively the orientation of parties toward reconciliation and mediation as an alternative form which provide more sustainable justice. This project intends to provide a new model for accessing justice which as direct beneficiaries has marginalised groups roma and Egyptians in Shkodra but it will influence that other CSOs and groups of citizens will apply same to guarantee a better access to justice.

1. **Risqué analyse**

Project has its small percentage of risqué from factors which are not depended on project organisers. Some of the assumption is:

1. Policy reforms and implementation of the reform on the judiciary system may create delays on procedures.
2. The political conflicts and progress to reform on justice would influence as well citizens have difficulties on building confidence on public authorities and judiciary system.
3. As far as the project intends to promote mediation its important that such form to be support by all judiciary system which quite often is noted that it do not give the necessary importance.
4. Apathy and lack of trust to judiciary system are factors which do not allow citizens to effectively access justice.
5. **Follow-up**

The successful realisation of the project will create a “snow ball” effect where we expect:

1. Increasing number of citizens asking for legal assistance through services provided at legal clinic.
2. Increasing civic engagement of CSO active in Shkodra district either by own resources or through support of stakeholders and donors to apply similar models for their groups of interest
3. Beside vulnerable and marginalised groups other groups of citizens will demand for support to access justice.
4. We expect that private sector to show interest and to support the follow-up of the project
5. Other groups of law students will request to be part of the legal clinic so we will check opportunities to create an agreement with “Luigj Gurakuqi” University that part of the curricula work students do to the legal clinic and to be recognised as practical work.

In order create the sustainability of the project we intends to create contacts and promote results of the project among all possible stakeholders and possible fund-givers. One of our main priorities will remain to create links and communication with the private sector which has the mayor problems accessing justice and facing with long procedures for implementation of law. As well we will keep close contacts with public institutions like Universities, schools, CSOs providing them with the results of the project. Our aim will be to extend the legal services for other citizens groups and as well increasing the number of law students at the Legal Clinic. An important actor which we will keep close contacts will be local Media which will facilitate communication and provide access to promote the project results.

1. **Budget**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget application form** | **Duration of the project 18 month**  |
| **Costs** | **Unit** | **Nr of units** | **Unit value (EUR)** | **Total cost (EUR)** |
| **1.Human Resources** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 Project Coordinator/Head of Legal clinic | month | 18 | 400 | 7200 |
| **Subtotal Human Resources** |  |  |  | **7200** |
| **2.Legal Services Assistance/Activities** |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1 Law Experts/Instructor/Trainer | month | 15 | 450 | 6750 |
| 2.2 Students fee (20) | Month20 students x 20 euro/month = 400 euro/month | 15 | 400 | 6000 |
| 2.3 Court Administration fee/stamp taxes | case | 150 | 20 | 3000 |
| 2.4. Notaries acts | case | 150 | 60 | 9000 |
| **Subtotal Human Resources** | **24750** |
| **3.Travel** |  |  |  |  |
| 3.1. Local Transport | month | 18 | 50 | 900 |
| **Subtotal Travel expenses** |  |  |  | **900** |
| **4.Equipments and supplies** |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 Pc/Laptops | piece | 4 | 500 | 2000 |
| 4.2 Printer/Photocopy machine | piece | 1 | 300 | 300 |
| 4.3. Rent of overhead projector | Per month | 12 | 15 | 180 |
| 4.4 Furniture | Piece | 9 | 200 | 1800 |
| 4.5.Chairs | Piece | 25 | 30 | 750 |
| 4.6.Publicity table | Piece | 2 | 100 | 200 |
| 4.7.Table flip chart | piece | 2 | 30 | 60 |
| **Subtotal Equipments and supplies** | **5290** |
| **5.Local office/Legal Clinic** |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 Office rent | Per month | 18 | 250 | 4500 |
| 5.2 Internet fee | Per month | 18 | 15 | 270 |
| 5.3 Electricity fee | Per month | 18 | 50 | 900 |
| 5.4 Phone expenses | Per month | 18 | 40 | 720 |
| 5.5 Consumables - office supplies | Per month | 18 | 80 | 1440 |
| 5.6 Post mail fee | Per month | 15 | 10 | 150 |
| **Subtotal Legal Clinic expenses** | **7980** |
| **6.Publication/other costs** |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 Activity Reports | Copies | 200 | 5 | 1000 |
| 6.2 Promotional materials Leaflets, stickers | piece | 800 | 0.5 | 400 |
| 6.3.Room Renting for Final Public Report presentation | event | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| 6.4.Cattering for Final Public Report presentation | person | 50 | 7 | 350 |
| 6.5.Fee for webdesigner and grafic design reports | piece | 5 | 20 | 100 |
| 6.6 Tv spot (4 min) | Spot TV  | 1 | 750 | 750 |
| 6.7 TV fee broadcasting | month | 10 | 100 | 1000 |
| **Subtotal Publications** | **3700** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  **TOTAL (1+6) 7200+24750+900+5290+7980+3700** |  |  |  | **49820** |

1. **Information about the applicant**

Young Intellectuals, Hope association is funded since 1994 by a group of students of professors of University “Luigj Gurakuqi” Shkoder. The highest governing body of the organisation is the Assembly of the members which elects the President and General Secretary. The assembly as well elects board members of the organisation which are in charge to monitor implementation of the strategic plan of the organisation. The President nominates the Executive Director who is in charge to implement the program of the organisation. The General Secretary is in charge to monitor that all decisions and activities of the organisation fits with the rules of the statue. (see attached organisation card)

Director of the organisation appoint the financial officer who is responsible to guarantee all financial management to fall according to the financial system of the organisation and Albanian laws.(see attached financial rules at IRSH)

IRSH works closely with the European Commission Programes and especially its has developed several projects through grants awarded by European commission as mentioned below (see attached IRSH activity or visit [www.irsh.al](http://www.irsh.al)) :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme or initiative** | **Reference number**  | **Beneficiary Organisation** | **Title of the Project** |
| Youth in Action/PBA  | 163680-3,1-AL-2010 | IRSH | Active youth future Europe |
| Youth in Action/PBA  | 168490-3,1-AL-2010 | IRSH | Give Your Hand Raise Your Hand |
| Youth in Action/PBA | 521677-3.1-AL-2 011 | IRSH | Be Active Be European |
| Youth in Action/PBA  | 526452-3.1-AL-2012 | IRSH | Volunteer to promote the Mobility of Unemployed Youth |
| Youth in Action/TC  | 532877-3.1-AL-2 012 | IRSH | Volunteer without prejudices Europe without Borders |
| Youth in Action/YE  | 547058-3.1-AL--2 013 | IRSH | Building Europe Together |
| Youth in Action/TC | 549359-3.1-AL-2013 | IRSH | Reflect....Build European Future! |

During years 2012-2016 by the support of the Olaf Palme Centre IRSH has implemented a program for the support of the youth voice into governance aiming to make them more active citizens and bring their problems toward local government agenda. Through this project monitoring of the local government has been possible by using all necessary pressure to implement rules of law.

During 2016, by the support of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society was implemented a project to promote the right of information by organising trainings for local government officials and representatives of CSOs.

During 2016-2017, by the support of USAID in cooperation with Helsinki Committe was implemented a project for monitoring the court in Shkodra, Lezha and Kukes by involving 20 students of Law who participated in monitoring missions.

During 2017, by the support of United Nation Democracy Fund we started to implement a two year project which aim to encourage youth participation into governance by increasing the level of transparency and accountability.

During 2017, by the support of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society we started the implementation of a project which intends to increase transparency and accountability at the Administrative Court of Shkodra.

 ***The project staffs foreseen to be involved are (see attached their CVs):***

1. Head of the Legal Clinic, Dr.Blendi Dibra, PhD in Public law, licensed as advocate, licensed as mediator. (please see attached CV), Executive Director of IRSH
2. Professional lawyer on private law/Instructor of the groups of students, Prof.Asoc.Florian Bjanku, Profesor of private law at Faculty of Law, “Luigj Gurakuqi” University, licensed as advocate. (please see attached CV)
3. Professional lawyer on administrative law/Instructor of groups of students, Prof.Dr.Migena Leskoviku, Professor of Administrative Law at UET. (please see attached CV)
4. Professional lawyer on family law/Instructor of groups of students, Prof.Asoc.Hermion Braho, Professor of law at UET. (please see attached CV)
5. Professional Lawyer on criminal law/Instructor of groups of students,

Dr.Mirgen Prence, Professor of Criminal Law at UET, licensed as advocate. (please see attached CV)

1. Professional Lawyer on family law/Instructor of groups of students, MA.Edita Shoshi, licensed as advocate. (please see attached CV), General Secretary of IRSH
1. Special Parliamentary Commission on the Reform of Judiciary system in Albania.2015. “*Analyze of justice system in Albania*”, Albanian Parliament, see page 10 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Institute for Development Research and Alternatives.2009. “*Corruption in Albania, Perception and Experience*” see page. 22-24. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Progress report for the years 2013 and 2014 https://eudelegationalbania.ëordpress.com/albania-and-eu/ 7 http://www.mie.gov.al/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. See: UNDP article at official webpage: http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/04/26/shkodra-part-of-the-eu-funded-programme-economic-and-social-empowerment-for-roma-and-egyptians-a-booster-for-social-inclusion-.html [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Simon.P,& Galanxhi E, & Dhono.O.2015.“Roma and Egyptians in Albania: Social-demografic and economic profile based on 2001 census” Program of United Nations for Social Inclusion in Albania:Tirane see: page 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)