The "New Perspectives" project, funded by the UK Government aims to improve key socio-economic conditions that often drive people to migrate illegally to the UK from the North of Albania - currently implemented in Kukes County and to be extended to Dibra (Peshkopi).

THE PROJECT PURSUES FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES, NAMELY TO:

- Increase communities’ resilience to pressures to migrate illegally to the UK;
- Improve social-economic conditions and opportunities, especially for youth;
- Enhance relations between communities, private sector & local government for local economic development;
- Build capability of municipalities to plan and deliver services for citizens more effectively.

The project has recently finalized its inception phase and gathered improved understanding of the dynamics of the local labour market, the entrepreneurial ecosystem, opportunities for economic and entrepreneurship development and opportunities for improving governance of strategic communications and local economic development in the Municipalities where the Project operates.

THE PROJECT WILL:

- Increase the employability of people who currently lack skills or access to (self) employment.
- Provides training that is tailored to the labour market and micro-entrepreneurship that allows people to economically prosper in Kukes.
- Work with local businesses to provide opportunities for (self) employment, or training people in innovative sectors that allow remote working (e.g. the IT sector).
- Connect businesses to micro-finance institutions, amplify opportunities for investment into the region and improves the enabling business environment.
- The project adopts an inclusive approach to understanding and addressing key issues that influence the decisions of people and families to migrate illegally, and enhance their resilience to external pressures and empowers them to seize local economic and entrepreneurial opportunities. The project also addresses the corresponding social norms, communicates positively about opportunities, facilitates (young) people making informed life choices and promotes gender equality.
- The project maps the business and employment opportunities in the area, among others (agro) tourism, medicinal plants, improved agro-processing or ICT-based services. It aims to cultivate local entrepreneurship, strengthen local businesses and improving their market systems. It also facilitates attracting Albanian and foreign investment that is socially responsible and sustainable.
- The project collaborates with local and national government, to listen to citizens’ and business communities’ voices and be more accountable. It assists local authorities to elaborate plans and create a more enabling environment for local economic development that can harness the full potential of the citizens.

SCOPE FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DIBRA

The project will extend all activities as planned for Kukes County also to Diber Municipality. We have planned a short 3-months inception phase in Diber, to mainly conduct the necessary baseline studies during June-July-August 2023 and introduce the project and develop relationships with key stakeholders in the Municipality and other local institutions.

The project is carried out by Swisscontact, in partnership with TAG international; and runs between September 2022 to 31 March 2026.