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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Partner country

Albania

## Contracting authority

Municipality of Mirdita

## Country Background

Tourism is an important economic activity that has the potential to contribute significantly to the development of local communities. Adventure tourism, in particular, can be an effective way to promote local development, as it can attract visitors to areas with natural beauty and cultural heritage. Adventure tourism according to the Adventure Travel Trade Association is a tourist activity that includes physical activity, a cultural exchange, or activities in nature. This Action will explore the relationship between adventure tourism and local development, with a focus on nature, culture expression, local culinary, and accommodation in the cross-border area between Kosovo and Albania. The region has faced similar challenges, having come through difficult pasts and challenging transitions.

The Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2021-2027 aims to leverage the common features of the programme area to foster collaboration and develop cross-border initiatives. Both Kosovo and Albania are classified as lower-middle income economies, with similar economic structures focused on agriculture, tourism, services, and retail markets. However, unemployment rates are a significant issue, especially in Kosovo where it stands at 25.7% compared to 11.5% in Albania. The tourism sector is underdeveloped in both regions, with Kosovo's GDP deriving only 3.6% from tourism and Albania's share at 7.7%, mainly from beach destinations. There is a need to increase understanding and perception of tourism as a driver of local economic development.

The Action focuses on the Municipality of Junik in Kosovo and Mirdita in Albania to develop necessary infrastructure, attract investments, and promote the region as a unique and attractive tourist destination. The project aims to create job opportunities for the local community, stimulate economic growth, and utilize cultural and natural resources as a means for young people to enter the labor market and receive training in tourism, cultural interpretation, and business development.

## Current Situation in the sector

The project aligns with the priority of encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage. It aims to valorize tourism, cultural heritage, and natural resources as a means to promote economic development in the cross-border area. By developing the necessary infrastructure, attracting investment, and promoting the region as a unique tourist destination, the action contributes to improving the quality of tourism services and products, making them more competitive.

The project addresses the specific objectives of preserving and promoting cultural, historical, and natural heritage. The region of Junik in Kosovo and Mirdita in Albania have rich cultural and natural assets that are currently underutilized. The action seeks to showcase and preserve these assets by creating new adventure tourism products, such as trails, and developing sustainable management practices for attractions. It aims to increase awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage of the region, promoting cross-cultural exchange and appreciation.

Both Kosovo and Albania face high unemployment rates, particularly in rural areas. The action aims to address this challenge by creating job opportunities for the local communities through the development of the tourism sector. By providing training in tourism, culture interpretation, and business development, it empowers young people to enter the labor market and contribute to the economic growth of the region.

The project addresses the particular needs and constraints of the target countries and regions. Both Kosovo and Albania are classified as lower-middle-income economies, and the tourism sector plays a relatively small role in their GDP. By promoting sustainable tourism and creating new tourism products, the action aims to diversify the economy and reduce dependency on traditional sectors. Additionally, the lack of experience, capacity, and understanding of tourism as a contributor to local economic development poses a constraint that the action seeks to address through training and capacity-building initiatives.

Cross-border project in Junik and Mirdita promotes sustainable economic development, job creation, and poverty reduction through tourism, aligning with the priority of encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage. It addresses the specific objectives of improving the quality of tourism services, preserving cultural and natural heritage, and creating new tourism products. The action also considers the particular needs and constraints of the target countries and regions, including high unemployment rates and limited understanding of tourism as a driver of local economic development. By fostering collaboration, leveraging complementary resources, and avoiding duplication, the action contributes to the overall development efforts in the region.

# OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

## Overall objective

Rent of a vehicle for the tenure of the project

## Specific objective(s)

The area of the implementation of the project is vast and with difficult terrain. For this reason, the municipality aims to rent a vehicle 4x4 for the tenure of the project in order to reach the areas of interest. The tenure of the project is of 23 months during which it will support all the activities related to this project.

## Expected outputs to be achieved by the contractor

The expected outputs of this contract are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nr | Product | quantity | specifications | Delivery date |
| 1 | Vehicle | 1 | Vehicle type and specifications:  The vehicle must be a SUV off road;  Left Hand Drive model (LHD);  Minimum of 5 seats (including the driver seat) with adequate luggage space to store large size suitcases when all seats are occupied;  Flexible seat configuration. It must be possible to take out the rear seats to enlarge the luggage storage space;  Minimum 140 mm ground clearance;  Length of the vehicle: minimum 4300 mm;  Height of the vehicle: minimum 1600 mm;  Minimum 4 doors;  Color of the vehicle: all;  Minimum 16'' alloy wheels with high quality type tires (summer and  winter);  Fuel deposit (inclusive reserve) – minimum 50 litters.  Engine and transmission  Diesel/petrol/hybrid powered engine with the following specifications:  Engine capacity minimum 2500cc;  Environmentally friendly (based on average CO2 emissiong/km) – to be indicated in Technical Form;  Engine power minimum 90 Kw.  4WD option;  Manual/Automatic transmission.  Safety and security  ABS;  Traction Control System;  Air bags;  Head supports for all seats (front and rear);  All seats must be fitted with seat‐belts;  Remote central locking system;  The vehicle must be in accordance with the national civil/roadtransport regulations applied in Europe;  Interior comfort specifications  Automatic air‐conditioning;  Power assisted steering wheel with tilt and collapsible steeringcolumn;  Cruise control;  Navigation system (maps for all European countries);  Power side mirrors;  Electric powered for all windows;  Sun protective tinted windows;  Audio system with Bluetooth and hand free option including front and rear music speakers plus antenna; | 5 days after the signing of the contract |

# Assumptions and Risks

External stakeholders, economic conditions, environmental factors, technological advances or disruptions, socio-political factors, legal and regulatory changes, and external market forces can impact the linkage between project activities and outputs.

# LOGISTICS AND TIMING

## Location

Republic of Albania, Municipality of Mirditë, City of Rreshen

## Start date & period of implementation of tasks

The intended start date is <06.08.2024 > and the period of implementation of the contract will be < 22 > months from this date. Please see Articles 19.1 and 19.2 of the special conditions for the actual start date and period of implementation.

# REQUIREMENTS

* The company has to demonstrate that it has the required capacity of vehicle to support the Municipality during all the tenure of the contract.
* The extract on the subject's history issued by the National Registration Centre (Ekstrakti historik ne QKB)
* The contractor (winning applicant) will be requested to provide a Vehicle 4X4 adapt for difficult terrain