

# *ART ILS LEDA*

**Bulletin of the Local Economic  
Development Agencies network supported  
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## **NEWSLETTER**

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## **1) NETWORK - 1.1) Positive statistics - 1.2) Colombian delegation visits ASP Rome - 1.3) ILS LEDA Monitoring of Albanian agencies in Durrës and Vlorë**

*Dear Friends of the ILS-LEDA network,*

*We have reached the 8<sup>th</sup> issue of this ART-ILS LEDA project newsletter, as well as the second year of our publications and of our Internet site.*

*We are considering the possibility of renewal for our [www.ilsleda.org](http://www.ilsleda.org) site, especially considering the new presentations we wish to offer to our international local development operators. In particular, we feel the need to increase the speed with which we provide answers and the enlargement of the community of long-distance service users. This can be achieved through the adoption of new technologies. However, it will also involve an organizational effort and an investment which will allow us to count on new expert contributors. The roster of technicians who collaborate with ILS LEDA continues to grow even in the presence of the difficulties which are now faced by international cooperation throughout the world, due to the increasing demand for local economic development, in line with the political role of local communities.*

*It is hoped that national and community policies become aware of this demand soon and make available new resources in light of these new necessities stemming from openness.*

- 1.1) Access by our faithful readers is stable, reaching 10 000 page views per month, with a maximum of hits which is checked on days when we advertise an event. The number of page views is increasing, although the number of users is stable (1100 approximately), a good signal that there is an interest to go more in depth into certain topics.*
- 1.2) On May 24<sup>th</sup> 2006 we were visited in Italy by Carlos Mayorga Prieto, adviser in industrial development from the Province of Boyacá, Colombia, located approximately 150 km from Bogotá, the site for an up and coming LEDA. Mayorga stopped in Rome after having completed his European tour to get to know the experience of the Italian development agencies, particularly the ASP (Province Development Agency) from Grottaferrata, which has already received several representatives from local Colombian institutions. The visit was accomplished thanks to support from Maurizio Del Bufalo and Adriana Arrieta from ART ILS LEDA. Mayorga first visited the headquarters of ASP, contacting Fabrizio De Castris, Manager of ASP, Maurizio Apicella Technical Director of ASP, Adriano Perica and Marina Fatelli, President and Manager of the Colline Romane (Roman Hills) society which administers a 'patto territoriale' (local agreement). Mayorga was presented with several important experiences managed in the territory within the Roman province and the social and economic results achieved by ASP in the past years. For tourism interests and accommodation, a particular emphasis was given to the recovery of old mansions which were abandoned for many years and which belonged to noble Roman families. Some of these mansions can now be visited, can be lived in, and are available for events and expositions. During the afternoon, Mayorga was accompanied to the Valmontone Outlet and the construction site for the future "Parco dei giochi d'acqua" (Watergame Park) which will be visited by international tourists and will be a pleasant entertainment center for tourism from the capital city.*

*An activity from Colline Romane Turismo spa to promote the Valmontone district was presented to Mayorga, explaining the integrated focus for planning and the impact the outlet will have on the local economies of the area which will find an opportunity to market their local products and an attractive reference to the quality of the ancient villages.*

1.3) April 19-25 Giancarlo Canzanelli and Maurizio visited the Vlorë and Durrës LEDAs (Albania) to offer support to the Programma Paese (Country Program), foreseeing the imminent opening of the GOLD Program and the possible refinancing of the LEDAs. While in the case of Scuderi the net outcome revealed outstanding results, these two LEDAs have declared a growth crisis and a need for intervention for a re-launch. The results of the Guarantee Fund were not satisfactory and the analysis revealed the presence of important growth opportunities linked mainly to rural development and the development of tourism potential. Vlorë in particular, with its hinterland of spectacular beauty and variety of agricultural products, presents extraordinary productive and tourism potential which could unite in a natural district in “Lumi i Vlore”, the so-called ecological Valley of the Shushica river. This is confirmed in Durrës where a district with great value for tourism has been identified in the area of Ishmi, worthy of consideration for tourism at the international level.



President of the Vlorë Province (Albania) greets G. Canzanelli

The analysis of these LEDAs has continued with the encounter between the main Board members, mainly institutional (municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, Prefectures, etc). The visitors were able to obtain from these meetings the feeling of the valuable setting up of the LEDAs in the territory and the conscience that the territory has of its functions.

In agreement between the GOLD Program Albania manager, Luigi Cafiero, who in conjunction with assistant Renata Uruci accompanied the delegation ART ILS LEDA, a decision was made to invest most of the energy in the Albanian territory and organize new partnerships taking advantage of European funds and in the interest which Albania arises in Italy.

The two LEDA directors, Hasan Halko from Vlorë and Tashim Besho from Durrës, were given a questionnaire to determine more precisely the state of the two LEDAs and to identify the incentives for a re-launch plan. An encounter in Tirana with CREDINS Bank staff completed an investigatory study which revealed several critical points in credit concession which in the long term could weaken the sustainability of the two LEDAs.

The governors of the Durrës and Vlorë provinces were conscious of the need to participate in Local marketing campaigns, an idea that was appreciated and accepted. All the main local partners

identified in tourism and agricultural resources the main exit from the current economic crisis in the territory.

An interview with Theodhori Shia, President of the Vlorë Province, by Hasan Halko, Director of AULEDA -the Vlorë LEDA- has been included in section 6 of this newsletter. Chapter 4, "Work in Progress" includes a synthesis for a project proposal in "Lumi i Vlores", the ecological valley of the Shushica river.

## **2) STRATEGIES – 2.1) POI Molise – Albania project presented to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs - 2.2) A strategic ART document for new multilateralism - 2.3) Italian decentralized cooperation: CIPE Regional funds**

2.1) Molise, the last Italian region to receive funding for Law 84/2001 on Balkan Reconstruction, chose to aim its Integrated Operational Plan towards Albania, specifically the area of Scutari where an important and active LEDA is actually operating, TEULEDA. The project, developed with the assistance of ART ILS LEDA and TEULEDA, has identified some priorities within the TEULEDA's local development plans, which are easily related to the excellent experiences of the GAL (Local Action Group) "Molise towards 2000". The project passed the exam by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and is now being evaluated by the Balkan Technical Unit (UTOB) which will make the final decision very soon. The agreement is for 18 months and the total value of the project is 300 000 euros approximately. Two thirds of the total will be used within the Albanian territory in pilot projects to be determined in conjunction between the cooperating parties, most likely the agroindustrial and tourism sectors.

2.2) The ART initiative presented a document written by the international working group, with contributions from ART ILS LEDA, to the Italian central and local institutions. The proposal is titled "Per la cooperazione che verrà" (For cooperation that will come) and it opens the idea of new UN multilateralism, where the role of local institutions and territories finds the right appreciation. The document has been promoted in the network by the ART partners and has found great consensus within the Italian political world and local administrations. A national discussion forum which will be summoned in the next few months has been proposed. The document will be available in the [www.ilsleda.org](http://www.ilsleda.org) website.

2.3) The Italian Minister of the Economy has postponed the approval of CIPE funds destined towards the Regions for decentralized cooperation in the Balkans and Mediterranean areas. This will mean postponing the due date for the presentation of project proposals until November 2006. In the meantime, the Italian Regions have approved two special agreements (Accordi di Programma Quadro - APQ in its Italian initials) with the corresponding ministers, (Foreign Relations, Productive Activities), one by geographic area (Balkans and Maghreb), each with 5 objectives in mind (health, welfare, hard and soft infrastructure, environment, sustainable development, socioeconomics, dialogue and culture). Specifically, in the APQ Balkans and in the area of economic development, ART ILS LEDA made a proposal supporting the activities carried out in the target areas of Novi Sad, Kragujevac (Serbia) and Scutari (Albania), where three important LEDAs are present. The regions have created a working commission which is analyzing the proposal. The global available budget is 2.8 million euros, the Puglia region is in charge of coordinating the working group.

**3) MEETINGS – 3.1) Parklife 2006: Serbia, Libya and Albania hosts of the Parco della Majella - 3.2) Bari, June 9<sup>th</sup>: Cooperation in the Balkan Region and new European programming - 3.3) Oujda (Morocco) May 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: International Forum on “Local Management and Sustainable Development”**

3.1) As we informed in the last newsletter, the second edition of Parklife took place in Rome and thanks to the participation of Parco della Majella, ART ILS LEDA was able to have a representative from Albania, Serbia and Libya, experts in environmental problems with important positions in their countries. Dragan Povrenovic, State Sub-secretary for the Environment in Serbia, Zamir Dedej, responsible for nature protection strategies in the Ministry of the Environment from Albania, and Abdulfatah Boargob, from the EGA Environmental Agency in Libya, presented the reality of their countries and proposed partnerships in several local governance sectors, the protection of nature and valuation of natural resources for tourism and other sustainable activities. Gianfranco Giuliane and Nicola Cimini, President and Director of the Parco della Majella, respectively, presented a study on the macroeconomic value of parks, explaining how a State will benefit from investing money in nature in order to obtain a higher economic benefit. Maurizio Del Bufalo, from the ART initiative, introduced the value of environmental partnerships between European and non-European countries, attempting to demonstrate how the growth of new natural environments can allow the export of best-practices and allow the study of strategies which at the moment are not being carried out in Italy due to a high ‘anthropomorphization’ of protected areas. During the lecture, the Italian Minister of the Environment participated, presenting the directives for environmental policies of the government, welcoming the guests and highlighting the value of this type of exchanges in the Mediterranean area. In the days after the convention, the three guests enjoyed a warm stay and visited the area of the Parco della Majella to get to know which management techniques are adapted to Italian Parks.

3.2) The meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Bari (Puglia region, Italy), provided ART ILS LEDA with the opportunity to present the capabilities and opportunities of its ART initiative in the Puglia Region with which ART has kept contact for a while, Puglia. For the occasion, Dr. Luigi Cafiero -coordinator of the PASART Program in Albania-presented to the regional consultant from International Cooperation, Professor Silvia Godelli, a letter of intent which the Albanian Ministry of Health sent to Cafiero and which states the compliments for innovative activities carried out by the United Nations in the area of mental health in Albania, as well as the intent of extending to the area of Shkoder the experimentation which Puglia has allowed in psychiatric hospitals at Vlorë. During the meeting, Bari’s Chamber of Commerce, the province and the University were able to know in great detail the ART methodology and the results obtained from 1999 to the present in Albania, as well as the knowledge that in the Mediterranean the presence of ART is ready to support policies of international development in the region. The meeting ended when the University expressed the interest to join to the Universitas network and with Bari’s Province intention to facilitate in the other 5 Puglia provinces the ART activity in the field of decentralized cooperation.

3.3) The International Meeting on “Local management and sustainable development” was held May 11-12 in Oujda, Morocco. The meeting, organized by the Superior University Technology School of Mohammed I University in Oujda, brought about a scientific and practical discussion between national, French, Algerian, Spanish and Italian experts, academics, United Nations agencies, national

*institutions, as well as the national and regional governments, which debated and exchanged opinions and experiences. During the initial session, ART ILS LEDA was invited to present the experiences with the ART programs and the main lessons learned, especially in relation to the ART GOLD initiatives in Morocco. There was great interest from the participants. The partnership actions promoted by ART ILS LEDA are to follow.*

#### **4) WORK IN PROGRESS - 4.1) DPS (Development Policies Department) – Italian Ministry of the Economy in charge of Country Project – 4.2) Project: Master’s in Euro-Mediterranean Development in “Federico II” University, Naples - 4.3) A park for southern Albania: Lumi i Vlores - 4.4) ART ILS LEDA mission leaving for Morocco in July 2006**

*4.1) The Development Policies Department in the Italian Ministry of the Economy, after several activities held in Serbia in conjunction with the City to City program and ART ILS LEDA, have designed a local development project directed towards the Province of Voivodina which also supports other projects in the Campania and Basilicata regions of Italy in support of the Serbian government. The project consists of a framework within which Local agreements in the Adriatic region and some other regions which already work in the country, albeit in a dispersed manner (Campania, Basilicata, Friuli, Puglia) will be able to concentrate their work in the Voivodina region where the City to City program and LEDAs of Novi Sad and Kragujevac operate more successfully. ART ILS LEDA and City to City have been invited to carry out coordination functions in the project’s board, to unite the actions of the Italian Ministry of the Economy and the work of the United Nations within the region, in a beneficial way. Contacts have been made to evaluate the possibility of incorporation.*

*4.2) A first draft has been handed to the University of Naples to develop a Master’s degree in International Local Development and Mediterranean Cooperation in the headquarters of the Federico II University, with support from ART and CIRCLE. The project is now under analysis by the academic entities. The program will most likely last 5 months and will have three main action areas: human development, Local development, governance. Once the theoretical aspects are concluded in class time, internships in several Mediterranean countries where ART Programs have been carried out will follow.*

*4.3) Regarding the mission carried out in Albania by ART ILS LEDA at the end of April and mentioned in the first chapter, an important opportunity of great natural value and with potential in the tourism and productive areas, has been identified in the Shushica River Valley south of Vlorë. The “Ecological Valley” which is in the hands of PASARP, has revealed great opportunities for local development and important chances for creating a national and international tourism circuit which would be of interest to the regions. The meeting with AULEDA and then with the president of the Vlorë province, confirmed the interest of local authorities and social parties to promote the area for development purposes. ART ILS LEDA had the opportunity to visit the food industries in the zone and the extraordinary beauty of intact flora and fauna<sup>1</sup>. Behind the coast of Vlorë, the Ecological Valley presents great potential for an alternative tourism project, with assets such as rivers, mountains and attractive rural scenery. The presence of small villages and the sheer size of the valley indicate without a doubt the possibility of including the Vlorë community in an attempt from the National Park of the Shushica River, through which experimenting a partnership with Italian territories that have already lived this experience.*

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<sup>1</sup> Cover page photograph: watermelons from the Shushica River (Vlorë, Albania).

Contacts with the Calabria region have in made and thanks to the presence of Albanian communities and the two parks in the Cosenza province, the Calabria region could be an ideal partner for the territorial similarities and the ancient traditions in common. Contacts are on the way.



Panoramic view of the Ecological Valley of the Shushica River (Albania)

4.4) Starting July, a mission from ART ILS LEDA will be visiting Morocco with the purposes of sharing with national partners the ART GOLD program approach related to regional economic development, and launching the first field activities in the eastern region. Giancarlo Canzanelli from ART ILS LEDA will be present.

**5) CALENDAR – 5.1) Montevideo (Uruguay), June 12-14 2006: The challenge of local development - 5.2) Oujda (Marocco), July 4-5 2006: Renforcement des Capacités des Femmes dans la Gouvernance et le Développement Local**

5.1) The GOLD Program Uruguay finally opened its doors to international partnerships with the participation of Spain, Italy and its regions. The opening event was held in Montevideo, June 12-14. Luciano Gonnella from ART INTERNATIONAL SERVICES was in charge of coordinating potential partner participation in the event, in conjunction with Enrique Gallicchio, coordinator of GOLD Uruguay and his staff. Numerous Italian regions were present; the presence of Spanish partners was noteworthy. The results will be presented in our next newsletter.

5.2) The Oujda encounter set for next July, will have the participation of several international caliber speakers and several European regions. The importance of the relationship between local development and women within a territory is under the coordination of ART ILS LEDA, which is interested in analyzing the topic more deeply. ART ILS LEDA is also available for creating several specialized resources in this sector which, particularly in Mediterranean countries and the Balkans, acquires strategic importance and which will receive more resources in the near future.

**6) NETWORK OPINIONS - 6.1) Five questions to the Director of LEDA Vélez (Colombia) - 6.2) Interview with the President of the Vlorë Province (Albania) - 6.3) Reflections of the ART ILS LEDA university network on Local economic development policies**

*In this issue, we experimented with our microphone to Colombia and then Albania, a country to which we have dedicated a lot of space in the preceding sections. This time, our interviewees are the director of the young LEDA Vélez and the President of the Vlorë province. We will continue with our exploration, hoping that it will please our LEDA friends, who in the upcoming months will be able to participate in our distance chat and point out our needs, problems and opportunities.*

### *6.1) Interview with the Director from Vélez*

*1. Within the socioeconomic context of the Vélez region and its area of influence, which do you believe could be the role of development Agencies and their value for local development?*

*We would not dare to establish in absolute and permanent terms a priority scale for the role of the Agency because it can vary depending on Local circumstances. However, we can say that within the current context, their role is focused mainly towards strengthening of Local capabilities in terms of their contribution to regional socioeconomic development. Local development is structured from the base and, in that sense, the Agency promotes the creation of capabilities around local actors, each of them links in prioritized value-added chains, in our case: guayaba-bocadillo -guava snacks- (the region possess 82% of guava production at the national level), caña panelera (the region produces 40% of the national total) and tourism. As a critical mass is achieved with local actors, the ability to strengthen the endogenous potential of the territory is increased.*

*Another one of the main roles of the Agency is focused towards the creation of solutions for local needs, in an articulate manner with the private, public and social sectors. With respect to the LEDA, it should create the appropriate background, which generates enough confidence among the actors in such a way that their work is aimed at a collective search for structured solutions and managed with support from the Agency.*

*2. Do you believe that LEDA VÉLEZ can work at the local level in harmony with the Colombian government to reach common objectives and that it will soon be able to obtain real autonomous capacities for local and international partnerships?*

*Precisely, LEDA VÉLEZ has been working on articulating programs with the National Government and is jointly searching with other national agencies and with the support of the UNDP ART-GOLD program the regionalization of strategic programs of the Central Government in the economic, social and public services areas. Regarding this last item, the Agency has been working with the mayors from 19 municipalities associated to the Agency and Santander's Province Governor, in the creation of a Competitiveness Public Service round table, which is focused towards the identification and management of regional impact proposals in the area of Basic Sanitation. It is here that strategic projects such as the solid waste plant, the refrigerator and the regional aqueduct system will be analyzed, articulating with local efforts and optimizing and adding resources which will facilitate obtaining external and internal funding.*

*At this moment the LEDA VÉLEZ has the ability to develop autonomous partnerships and with support from the local government, every time there is a critical mass in constant growth, the commitment of local support entities and political will of the provincial and municipal administrations.*

3. *In which institutional, social, cultural and economic sectors in particular do you believe the LEDA VÉLEZ can establish advantageous relationships with its partners?*

*Institutional: Technological and productive development.*

*Economic: linked to the guava snacks, (panela pills, panela in powder, panelín, honey, etc), organic products (mainly aromatics, guava and coffee products) and dairy products.*

*Social: Transfer of experiences in local-social impact programs, strengthening of the social sector.*

*Cultural: Around folklore, regional identity and history.*

4. *During the last years, which has been the main support given by the United Nations Human Development Program in Colombia?*

*Contact began with the Human Development Program recently and it is hoped that we will be able to work together with the provincial administration for the projection of Santander and the region within the framework of the Programa de Lucha Contra la Pobreza (Fight Against Poverty Program) and the achievement of the Millennium goals. We hope to have the consultancy of the Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Humano (National Human Development Program).*

5. *What services has ILS LEDA provided and/or do you wish it would provide in the future?*

*We would be interested in support from the ILS LEDA for the following activities:*

- *Articulation with support entities and international technological transfer*
- *Identification and articulation with international partners*
- *Local marketing management*
- *Promotion of the Agencies own activities*

## *6.2) Interview with the governor of Vlorë, Theodhori Shia*

*1) Mr. President, we have visited the city and province of Vlorë and we could perceive the great potential this territory has, which could be used to serve social and economic development. In this regard, which would be the most important role AULEDA could play and on which sectors, do you believe, should AULEDA place the most emphasis?*

*First of all, I would like to express the pleasure I feel from receiving you here and from having the opportunity to share the possibility of promoting sustainable economic development in our region. I thank you for supporting AULEDA and for the support ART ILS LEDA will provide in the future to face the challenges of our growth.*

*At the moment AULEDA is a reality with which local actors are very familiar, as an important element in the promotion of innovative economic and social development ideas.*

*AULEDA's initiatives have been, and will continue to be, focused in two directions:*

- The promotion of partnerships between local actors, with the aim of adopting a shared vision and common objectives for development within the territory;*
- The promotion of sustainable development models in priority sectors such as tourism- particularly rural tourism- and agriculture, both established priorities within the Vlorë Region's Development Strategy.*

*I am sure that AULEDA, with support from local and national institutions and foreign partners, can and must place the most emphasis on the tourism and organic agricultural sectors, with the aim of promoting the area as a tourist destination compatible with ecology and environment.*

*2) Would you recommend to other Presidents such as yourself in other Albanian provinces the establishment of a LEDA? Why?*

*It is well-known that the topic of local economic development is widely discussed, deserves special attention, and requires a necessary contribution from all local actors. The main role in the promotion of sustainable development has been assigned to the Regions, also because the law gives them the responsibility of development within their own territory. In order to carry out regional economic and social development policies, institutions need an instrument capable of, above all, promoting alliances between diverse actors and develop coordination actions to serve the territory. Such an instrument, thanks to the public-private mixed structure and to the extension of its competencies to create stable relations with local and international organizations and institutions, which promote partnerships and sustainable development, could and should be a local economic development agency.*

*I would not hesitate to recommend to other Albanian provincial Presidents the establishment of a LEDA. I would also add within my recommendations the experience of the Vlorë Region in terms of using AULEDA to promote local development. Important activities, such as partnerships with the Marche and Puglia regions (Italy), the promotion of partnerships between actors in the "Lumi i Vlores" Ecological Valley, the promotion of tourism systems within the rural space and of several events such as the "Narta Carnaval", as well as the Regional Rural Products Fair and the creation of a Regional Committee for Tourism development, have been possible thanks to the initiative and contribution of AULEDA.*

*3) The presence of foreign partners in the territory of the Vlorë province is still not significant. In your perspective, what sort of contributions could be given for local development and to which particular sectors?*

*It is true that the presence of foreign partners within our territory is still not what we would have wished. However, we must highlight the contributions from UNDP and OXFAM for the creation of a Development Strategy for the Vlorë Region, from the World Bank for the Vlorë Region's Coastal Zone Management, from the UNOPS/PASARP for its contributions to the various municipalities and in particular the support of AULEDA and the Marche Region for the promotion of tourism systems within the rural space and waste management, publication of a tourist guide, etc.*

*Know how transfer, the implementation of pilot projects, the promotion of the territory with the aim of attracting foreign investment, technical assistance, training of local administrators, certification of niche products and marketing in European markets are the contributions which foreign partners could give to develop the area.*

*Tourism, agriculture and the social sector continue to be our main priorities for development in the Vlorë Region.*

*4) Do you consider local marketing to be useful? Would you be willing to promote the image of your community by visiting other European territories in the company of ART ILS LEDA?*

*Day by day we grow more convinced that the concept of local marketing is the best choice, also within regional problem management, the only route towards a sustainable exploitation of local resources and high competitiveness.*

*I consider the wide array of local marketing activities to promote the image of my community by visiting other European territories to be extremely useful, because the Vlorë Region is a territory with important natural resources, with a rich cultural and historical heritage and of ancient traditions also within productive activities. The valuation of such resources and their exploitation -as an advantage- of the low level of development are the most important objectives adopted by us on purpose, due to the positive socioeconomic consequences they could generate.*

*In the past, with AULEDA, we also had the ambitious desire of preparing a promotional campaign of our territory and we were looking for partners. I appreciate your proposal and assure you that there is no better partner than ART ILS LEDA to accompany us during the development of this activity.*

*5) The Ecological Valley (Lumi i Vlores) is a place of extraordinary beauty and wealth of natural resources, which should be defended and valued. Do you believe that a National Park "Lumi i Vlores" would be a good investment or simply a link to development in the area?*

*I like your appreciation of the beauty and natural resources in the area. The remains of two ancient cities, rich and well-known agricultural and herding culture and traditions are testimony to the history of a rich land and the presence of a hard-working population since times long gone. In each epoch, and also in our times, the hallmarks of this valley are its niche products. The defense and valuation of these resources and values will clearly lead to sustainable development in the area.*

*I join you in your enthusiasm for a "Lumi i Vlores" Natural Park and I am sure that it would be a great investment for the development of this valley. The actual execution of this idea, with help from partners such as ART ILS LEDA, will bring not only very positive consequences for the socioeconomic situation of the valley itself, but will also offer a model of sustainable development which can be copied somewhere else, with the aim of defending the environment, in other rural spaces similar to Albania which are in danger of becoming uninhabited due to the effects of a massive exodus to the city and coast.*

6) *A study by the UNDP found that remittances from Albanese migrants are considerable but not very utilized in the development of their country. Which are the contacts that the Vlorë Region has with its migrants in Italy and Europe? Do you believe that the United Nations program, in conjunction with AULEDA, could help direct these funds towards a development project in the region?*

*It is true that remittances are not widely used for the development of our land. The contacts the Vlorë Region has with its fellow countrymen outside Albania are maintained through diplomatic representations of Albania in other countries.*

*I believe the ART GOLD program of the United Nations will help direct these funds towards local development. A well-organized technical assistance strengthened by AULEDA's competencies will be a great support for the program.*

*The promotion of this program would be a good investment in the future of our region from an economic and social point of view, given the chance of comeback of the migrants to their own land.*

*Thank you!*

*Finally, we present some information on a research project we conducted and which is related to the LEDAs.*

*6.3) An analysis of the most important questions relating to local economic development, as they have emerged from national and local partners of the ART GOLD programs, with the participation of network academics from Universities connected with ART ILS LEDA.*

*The questions asked to the professors were the following:*

- 1) In this era of globalization and free movement of capital, goods and people, where resources can be transferred in a matter of seconds from one corner of the World to the other, does it still make sense to talk about local development? Why?*
- 2) Which are the three main components of a winning local development strategy?*
- 3) Is it possible to combine competitive growth, equality and environmental compatibility in local economic development processes? Are there examples of good practices?*
- 4) Is it possible to promote local economic development in very poor areas with the main objective of reducing poverty? Isn't Foreign Direct Investment on a large scale more effective, such as an auto-assembly line or electronics?*
- 5) Which could be the role of Local Economic Development Agencies in these processes?*



A view of the Vlorë University

### **An analysis of results from the LEDAs**

*An analysis of the main results from the LEDAs in the ILS LEDA network during the last five years was carried out.*

*The analysis was done through a questionnaire sent to all the LEDAs and it relates to:*

- ✦ *Employment and productive development (jobs and enterprises created or supported, credit management, productive organization)*
- ✦ *Social Impact (social projects, inclusion, social effects)*
- ✦ *Local, national and international impacts (public-private alliances, relations with local and national authorities, international partnerships)*

### **New ART ILS LEDA methodology for the analysis of local resources**

*After a long experimentation period in Colombia, Sri Lanka and Morocco, ART ILS LEDA introduces a new methodology for the analysis of local resources called **RESCO (Resources for Economic Sustainable Competitiveness and Obstacles)**. This new addition comes from the need to apply more adequate methodologies for local assessment (such as the SWOT), geared towards the need for more equitable and sustainable development, in the pursuit of the United Nations Millennium Goals and human development.*

*As a matter of fact, this methodology introduces –within the diagnostic criteria– the economic, social and environmental sustainability of development (which is, in general, still absent) and analyzes the causes more than the elements which are obstacles to development (why is there a lack of water instead of the statement ‘lack of water’). All of this in hopes of providing the ART GOLD cooperation programs with more useful guidelines for a local development strategy.*