



ALBANIAN  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

### 3-rd Green Business Excellence High Level Event Tirana, Albania on 17 December 2025

The Green Business Excellence High Level Event“ took place on the 17th of December, in Tirana, Albania, which brought together project partners, institutional representatives, and external stakeholders. The event was dedicated to green transition policies, circular economy models, renewable energy solutions, and municipal-level decarbonization, with a strong focus on evidence-based planning and scalable practices. The sessions linked national strategies, local implementation tools, and innovative business as well as civil society initiatives, reinforcing the GREENSMES objective of supporting green innovation and sustainability across the Adriatic–Ionian region.

Mr Fatjon Nanaj, Head of the Regional Development Department at **Albanian Development Fund (ADF)** presented a comprehensive overview of how **environmental sustainability and climate resilience** are embedded across Albania’s **Operational Programme 2024–2030**. He highlighted ADF-s **Green Portfolio**, which integrates low-carbon and climate-resilient investments across multiple sectors, including:

- energy efficiency and renewable energy installations in public buildings,
- urban regeneration and building rehabilitation to improve thermal performance and reduce emissions,
- sustainable transport and regional road infrastructure projects incorporating mitigation and adaptation measures,
- climate-resilient rural and mountain infrastructure enhancing accessibility under changing climate conditions.

The presentation also emphasized ADF’s role in **strengthening local government capacity**, particularly through municipal-level investments and reconstruction programs

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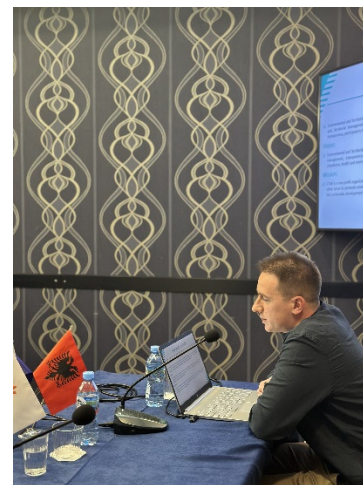


that integrate climate risk standards. A forward-looking element was ADF's progress toward **Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation**, positioning the institution to directly access international climate finance and scale green investments nationally



The following session was greeted by the Ministry of Environment, on **Albanian government strategies** framed green innovation and circular economy as **core pillars of sustainable economic development and EU alignment**. Circular economy principles were presented not only as environmental tools, but as **mechanisms for productivity enhancement, SME competitiveness, and resource efficiency**, requiring coordinated action between ministries, municipalities, development agencies, and the private sector.

The **Environmental and Territorial Management Institute (ETMI)** presented an in-depth analysis of **Baseline Emission Inventories (BEI)** and mitigation scenarios in the municipalities of **Kavaja, Divjaka, and Roskovec**. The study was aligned with the **National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2021–2030)** and Albania's commitments under the **UNFCCC and NDC framework**.



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A flagship example of practical circular economy implementation was presented through **Albania's first Circular Economy Park**, developed as a response to severe waste pollution and lack of recycling infrastructure, particularly along the **Ishmi River**. The initiative demonstrated a **five-pillar model**:

- Eco-Education Center built with sustainable and reused materials,
- Repair Station to extend product lifecycles,
- Second-Hand Shop promoting reuse,
- Recycling Center for material preparation,
- Glass Recycling Innovation line producing high-value secondary materials.

The project illustrated how circular economy infrastructures can simultaneously address **environmental challenges, community education, SME opportunities, and job creation**, serving as a replicable model at regional level.

As a conclusion we can say that the event successfully demonstrated how **green transition objectives can be translated into actionable policies, data-driven planning, and tangible infrastructures**. By combining national strategies, empirical municipal studies, private sector insights, and innovative circular economy models, the event reinforced the GREENSMES vision of a **competitive, low-carbon, and resilient Adriatic-Ionian region**. The Albanian experience presented during the day offers valuable lessons and replicable practices for transnational cooperation under the Interreg IPA ADRION framework.

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