

Albania Program Summary

Albania’s program is focused on reforming the country’s public procurement process and strengthening the Tirana Tax Department to promote fiscal transparency and accountability. It is also supporting the establishment of a National Registration Center to help combat corruption in business registration.

Program Highlights

- ★ On October 17, 2008, MCC’s Acting Vice President of Policy and International Relations, Sherri Kraham, attended a ceremony in Tirana commemorating the successful conclusion of Albania’s first threshold program and the signing of Albania’s Stage II MCC threshold program. Albania’s first threshold program concluded on November 15, 2008 with many accomplishments and successes.
- ★ The use of Albania’s MCC threshold program funded e-procurement system (EPS) has surged and has produced 73 successful awards worth around \$29 million. Whereas paper bidding involved, on average, 2.5 bidders, e-procurement averages 6 bidders, making the process more competitive and saving Albania roughly 15% compared to budgeted amounts. The use of EPS system was expanded to 25 ministries and contract authorities during the previous quarter.
- ★ The National Registration Center, also established with MCC threshold program assistance, has processed almost 93,000 applications for business start-up, including 19,334 new registrations since the inception of the center in September 2007.
- ★ Nearly 6,800 tax declarations were e-filed this quarter — more than a 100 percent increase over last quarter—and 178,769 tax forms were downloaded from the General Directorate of Taxation website, helping to reduce opportunities for corruption in tax collection.

Threshold Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 2

Threshold Information

Total Amount.....\$13.85 million

Duration.....2 years

Agreement Signed.....April 3, 2006

Country Information

Population.....3,129,678*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$2,580