

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ALBANIA

Note by the Administrator

Programme period

1982-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986

\$10.25 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise.

1. The illustrative IPF for Albania for the third programming cycle, 1982-1986, has been established at \$10,250,000. Eighty per cent, or \$8,200,000 has been taken into consideration for programming.
2. This is the first major country programme for Albania. It was preceded by a country programme for the first programming cycle, 1972-1976, for which an IPF of \$1,000,000 was established. For the second cycle, 1977-1981, an IPF of \$4,250,000 was established. In view of the fact that very small amounts were expended during the first and second cycles, a balance of approximately \$4,300,000 has been carried over into the present cycle.
3. The programme reflects the high priority the Government has placed on the application of modern science and technology to industry (approximately 50 per cent of IPF resources) and the modernization of university education in scientific disciplines (18 per cent of IPF resources). The third major sector reflected in the programme is telecommunications, for which 22 per cent of the resources is earmarked.

¹/₁ The note by the Administrator concerning the previous country programme for Albania was issued under the document symbol DP/GC/ALB/R.1/RECOMMENDATION.

II. Content of the country programme

4. The programme is brought to the particular attention of the Council through this Note because of special characteristics, in terms of size and substance of major proposals. The Government has chosen to limit the number of projects and to call for major UNDP contributions to almost all of them. The programme is a result of close consultations with UNDP headquarters, the Programme's office in Geneva and the executing agencies.

5. A significant portion of activity is foreseen in the application of computer systems, with the largest single contribution (\$3,350,000) to be made to the computer centre of the Academy of Sciences. This is the central and sole computing centre in Albania for data processing. Agreement has been reached with the Government that before proceeding with implementation of this project, further inter-agency investigations will be made in order to more fully appraise Government proposals and determine what system, or which systems, will best serve the national needs. Also to be determined is the exact nature of the UNDP contribution in terms of equipment; i.e., whether replacing one existing centralized computer or providing smaller individual computers for specific purposes would be the more appropriate approach. Whatever the system or systems finally agreed upon, it is the intention to provide related training and maintenance programmes as well as advice on and acquisition of some software.

6. The Nuclear Physics Institute, also part of the Academy of Sciences, has for several years been closely associated with the International Atomic Energy Agency in training programmes and exchanges of information under the aegis of scientific forums. A high level of research has already been achieved and, in order to continue and go into more advanced work, the Government has requested a low-power reactor and a related training programme for the production of short-life radio isotopes.

7. The purpose of this addition to the resources already available in the country is to facilitate and permit the extension of research in fields of practical application in agriculture, agro-industries, geology and hydrology, and to provide more sensitive tools for general organic and inorganic analysis and metallurgical measurements.

8. UNDP assistance in telecommunications will provide equipment for the transmission/reception of Hertzian waves along three axes, covering three of the 26 telecommunication districts in Albania. The entire infrastructure is to be provided by the Government. The equipment will serve as a pilot operation which, when brought to commercial standard, will serve as the prototype for the completion of the network nation-wide, to be linked with the southeast European network. The completion of the network will be undertaken entirely by the Government.

9. On the whole, the equipment component of the programme as presently planned is expected to be around 60 per cent of the total. Equipment other than that specifically cited for the projects mentioned above is for training, applied research and electronics, partly in universities and partly in industry.

10. Apart from the training inherent in each of these large-scale projects, approximately seven per cent (\$1,000,000) is set aside for fellowships and other small-scale projects in fields other than those specifically cited in the programme.