



# FUNCTIONAL AREA PROGRAMME TROPOJË

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## 1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA

### 1.1. Territory of the Tropoja Functional Area

Tropoja Functional Area (TFA) corresponds with the District of Tropoja that is part of the Kukesi Region also including Kukës and Has. TFA is currently organized in 8 Local Government Units (LGUs) including the Municipality of Bajram Curri and Communes of Bujan, Bytyç, Fierzë, Lekbibaj, Llugajt, Margegajt, and Tropojë (see Map 1). These LGUs include 54 villages.

Map 1: District of Tropoja



Tropoje is located in Northeastern Albania and borders MONTenegro (North), District of Has (South), Shkodra and Puka Districts of Shkodra Region (West) and Kosovo (East). Most of Tropoja is part of Eastern Albanian Alps. Kufiri me Malin e Zi The border with Kosovo and Monete-negro is respectively 81 and 31 km long.

District of Tropoja has 1043 km square. Bajram Currit is round 262 km away from the capital of Albania (Tirana).

The name is linked to the village of Tropojë that used to be the administrative center of the district (1925-1952). Since 1952, Bajram Curri is the administrative center. The city has been established in the territory of the village of Kolgecaj, by the pastures of Bishevës and Ponari. The city is named after the Hero of People Bajram Curri (1862-1925), distinguished Albanian fighter for freedom and independence before and after Albania's independence.

Tropoja is a mountainous area—most of the territory is high mountains. Jezerca (2693 m) is the second highest mountain in Albania. The average altitude is 1105 m. It is among the highest in Albania.

The climate is mountainous in the Alps area and continental mediterranean in the other parts of the district. The average temperature in Bajram Curri is 11.5°C/0.2°C during the winter and 21°C

during the summer. The average precipitation is 1735 mm per year. During the winter, it snows, especially in mountains. There are highs where the snow is eternal. Cold winds blow from the North (Black North from Northeast through Morina Pass and White North from the North through the Valley of Gashi River. Warm and humid winds blow from the South through the Valbona Valley.

## **1.2. History, culture, tradition and main attractions**

Tropoja, or as otherwise known, the Gjakova Highs, has been populated since the early iron era. During the Illyrians, the area has been populated by the tribe of Dardans. Ros has been the mostly known city center on the border between Labeats and Dardans. It dates since 400 b.c. During the Ottoman Empire, Tropoja has been part of Kosovo Vilajet. Before the Second World War, Tropoja together with Kukes and Has has been part of the Prefecture of Kosova that used to be one of 10 administrative units of Albania. Until 1990s (1959-1991), Tropoja used to be one of 26 districts of Albania. Currently, it is part of Kukesi Region.

The state borders that were established in 1913 left Kosovo outside the Albanian state and cut Tropoja out of its historical/traditional market place—Gjakova. Tropoja/Gjakova Highs has always closely linked to the city of Gjakovës that, prior to 1913, used to be one of most important artisan and trade centers of the Kosovo vilajet. The generally hostile state border between Albania and former Serbia - Croatia - Slovenia Kingdom and the difficult communication with the rest of the country due to high mountains and poor infrastructure were the reasons for the isolation of Tropoja for decades thus resulting in a more difficult social and economic situation for its inhabitants.

After the liberation of Kosovo in 1999, Tropoja re-established the traditional links and interaction with Gjakova and the rest of Kosovo. At present, Tropoja inhabitants have the access in Kosovo's market, schools, hospitals. Tropoja is round 262 km away from Tirana, the capital city of Albania, and 120 km from Pristina, the capital city of Kosovo. The easiest road to Tirana is through Kosovo—Bajram Curri-Gjakovë-Prizeren-Kukës-Tiranë. Construction of the Nation's Road (Albania) and "Ibrahim Rugova" highway (Kosovo) has facilitated the travel to Tirana and Pristina.

Tropoja is known of its natural beauty and resources. Alps in Tropoja include high rocky mountains and rich alpine pastures that are very attractive. There are significant contracts between high pics, passes, and deep valleys that are inhabited alongside the small rivers. Two very picturesque villages include Valbona (where the Valbona River starts) and Upper Curraj in the Nikaj-Mertur region.

The Valbona Valley is among main attractions in Tropoja and Albania. It is national natural park and the most visited mountainous area in Albania after Theth. It is visited by foreign and Albanian tourists. Climbing toward the waterfall and Valbona River is among most popular excursions. The Valbona Valley is named after the Valbona River that is round 50 km long from the Valbona Pass to Drini Valley, near the Fierza Hydropower Station dam. Average water in Dra-

gobi and Gri are respectively 12.2 m<sup>3</sup>/second and 33.3 m<sup>3</sup>/second. The river has a cold and clear water, the cleanest in Albania, and waterfalls—especially the Rrogami Waterfall that is a natural beauty—thus creating picturesque canyons. The Valbona River is rich in “Stany Trout.” Alongside the Valbona River, there are several hotels and guest houses for tourists that are newly built or adopted from existing buildings. The Valbona Natural Park is 23 km away from the city of Bajram Curri.

The hotels and guest houses in the Valbona River offer traditional cuisine based on sheep and goat, dairy products, etc.

Other important attractions include Shoshan canyon (3 km away from Bajram Curri) and valleys of Curraj, Gashi and Tropoja rivers. Tropoja has mountain ridges that are among the most beautiful in Albania and the region.

Tropoja has a rich folklore and ethnography. Folk costumes are beautiful and diverse in colors and motives, especially women's. Most common elements of the costumes are white trousers (tirqi) with black garnish and white hat for men and a wide dress (pështjellaku), usually red, and coat (xhubleta) in Nikaj-Mërtur. Tropoja folk dances are characterised of dynamism. They are both epic and lyric.

The Historical Museum is located in the center of Bajram Curri. It has an architecture similar to traditional buildings of the Gjakova Highs (kullat). The statue of Bajram Curri is next to the Museum.

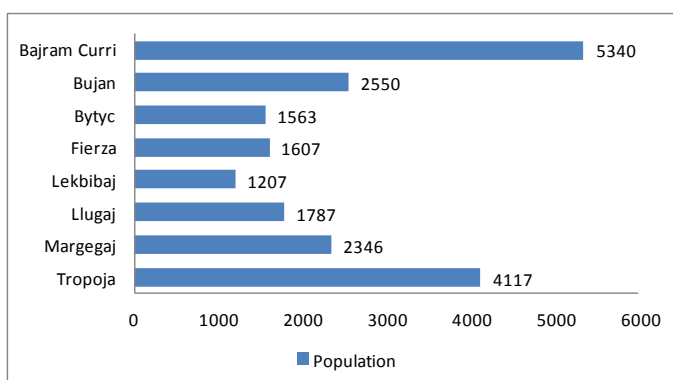
The Gjakova Highs has a distinguished contribution in the fights of Albanian people for freedom and independence.

### **1.3. Demography**

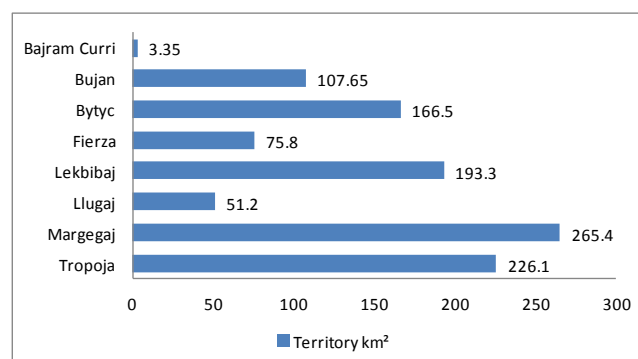
Tropoja has a population of 20,491 inhabitants (according to 2011 Census). There is a significant difference between Census data and registered population (28,216 in 2014). 75% of people live in rural areas. The average density of population is 20 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

Though the territory of communes is relatively large, their population is small. The average population/LGU is 2,536 inhabitants. This figure is very small compared with the national average (8,016 inhabitants) or Kukesi region's average (3,159 inhabitants). More than 25% of population lives in the Municipality of Bajram Curri that has a relatively high density compared to communes--1749 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The density of population in LGUs surrounding the Municipality of Bajram Curri is higher (33 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>) than in peripheral ones (below 28 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>). Smaller LGUs regarding population are communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyç with respectively 1,207 and 1,563 inhabitants. Graphs 1, 2 & 3 and Map 2 provide data about the density of population according to LGUs. The relatively large territory, the mountains, small density of population have resulted in problems regarding the provision of public services.

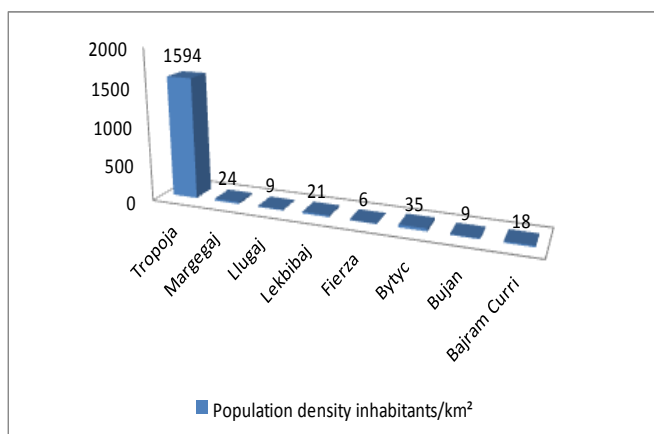
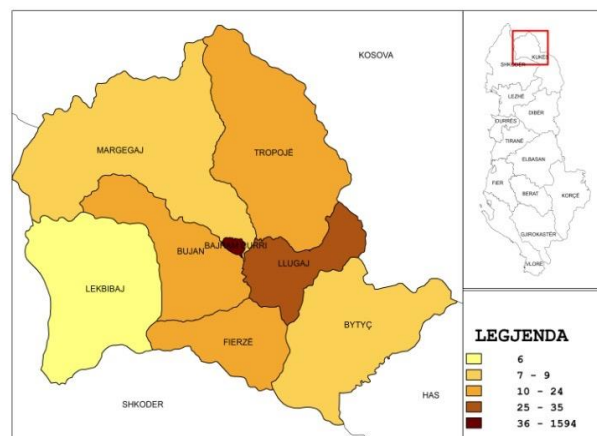
Graph 1: Population according to LGUs



Graphs 2: Territory of LGUs



Graph 3: Density of population according to LGUs

Map 2: Density of population according to LGUs  
Indicative Map of the Population Density

Source: 2011 Census

The population of Tropoja is relatively young. According to 2011 Census, round 25% of population is between 0-14 years old and round 63% is between 14-65 years old. The structure of population according to age groups and gender is presented in Table 1 and Graph 4. Structure of population according to age groups is presented in Graph 5.

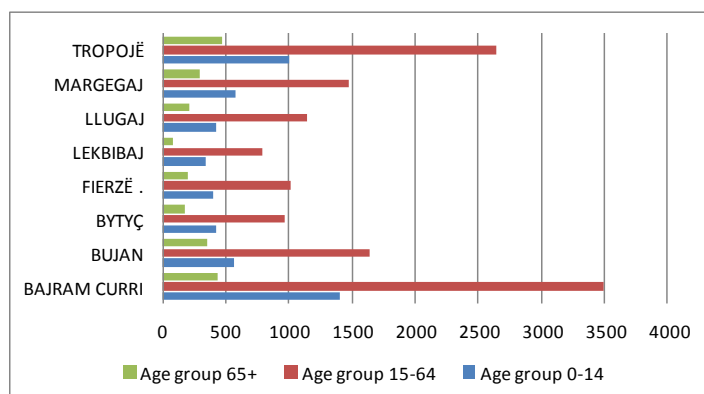


Table 1: Population living in the area according to gender, age group, and LGU

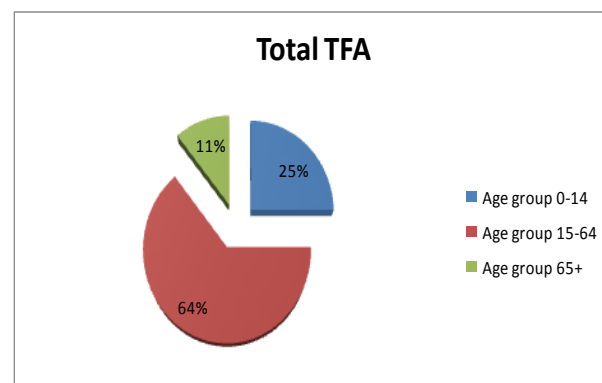
| Municipality/commune   | Gender and age group |             |              |             |              |             |             |             |              |             |             |             |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                        | total                |             |              |             | male         |             |             |             | female       |             |             |             |
|                        | Gjithsej             | 0-14        | 15-64        | 65+         | Gjithsej     | 0-14        | 15-64       | 65+         | Gjithsej     | 0-14        | 15-64       | 65+         |
| BAJRAM CURRI           | 5340                 | 1406        | 3497         | 437         | 2717         | 774         | 1751        | 192         | 2623         | 632         | 1746        | 245         |
| BUJAN                  | 2550                 | 565         | 1636         | 349         | 1277         | 302         | 803         | 172         | 1273         | 263         | 833         | 177         |
| BYTYÇ                  | 1563                 | 419         | 968          | 176         | 786          | 216         | 480         | 90          | 777          | 203         | 488         | 86          |
| FIERZË                 | 1607                 | 395         | 1015         | 197         | 803          | 224         | 477         | 102         | 804          | 171         | 538         | 95          |
| LEKBIBAJ               | 1207                 | 338         | 786          | 83          | 622          | 188         | 395         | 39          | 585          | 150         | 391         | 44          |
| LLUGAJ                 | 1787                 | 424         | 1147         | 216         | 893          | 231         | 555         | 107         | 894          | 193         | 592         | 109         |
| MARGEGAJ               | 2346                 | 577         | 1470         | 299         | 1174         | 307         | 722         | 145         | 1172         | 270         | 748         | 154         |
| TROPOJË                | 4117                 | 1006        | 2643         | 468         | 2145         | 564         | 1368        | 213         | 1972         | 442         | 1275        | 255         |
| <b>Total - TROPOJE</b> | <b>20517</b>         | <b>5130</b> | <b>13162</b> | <b>2225</b> | <b>10417</b> | <b>2806</b> | <b>5183</b> | <b>1060</b> | <b>10100</b> | <b>2324</b> | <b>6611</b> | <b>1165</b> |

Source: 2011 Census

Graph 4: Population according to LGUs and age groups



Graph 5: Population according to age groups



Source: 2011 Census

Regarding education, the whole territory of the district is covered by kinder garden and 9-year and high schools. However, because of the large territory and low population density in the communes, there is a large number of kinder gardens and 9-year schools for a small number of children and pupils. For example, in the city of Bajram Curri there are 4 kinder gardens for 296 children (or 78 children/kinder garden) and 3 9-year schools for 1,066 pupils (or 355 pupils/school). Meanwhile, in the commune of Lekbibaj there is one kinder garden for 15 children and 8 schools for 202 pupils (or 15 pupils/school). The Bajram Curri high school also serves the surrounding villages/communes such as Bujan and Margegaj and those with small population such as Lekbibaj. Other communes have high schools that are small—have a small number of students and teachers (5 teachers for 50—70 students in average). Table 2 presents the situation in the education sector of TFA.

Table 2: Education in Tropojë

| NJQV          | Kinder garden |          | 9-year school |        |          | high school |        |          |
|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|
|               | #             | children | #             | pupils | teachers | #           | pupils | teachers |
| Bajram Curri  | 4             | 296      | 3             | 1066   | 72       | 1           | 624    | 35       |
| Bujan         | 5             | 75       | 6             | 192    | 25       |             |        |          |
| Bytyç         | 3             | 35       | 10            | 260    | 28       | 2           | 101    | 10       |
| Fierze        | 1             | 15       | 5             | 297    | 30       | 1           | 86     | 6        |
| Lekbibaj      | 1             | 15       | 8             | 202    | 42       |             |        |          |
| Llugaj        | 2             | 32       | 3             | 255    | 25       | 1           | 70     | 5        |
| Margegaj      | 3             | 51       | 4             | 259    | 29       |             |        |          |
| Tropojë       | 6             | 95       | 12            | 589    | 165      | 1           | 124    | 10       |
| Total TROPOJE | 25            | 614      | 51            | 3120   | 416      | 6           | 1005   | 66       |

Source: Education Office, Tropojë, 2014

Though the whole area is covered by ambulances (almost every relatively large village has an ambulance) and health centers (each commune has one), the number of doctors and nurses is limited. The hospital of Bajram Curri has 100 beds and main pavilions such as pathology, pediatry, surgery, and obstetric - gynaecology. However, specialized interventions are done either in Kukesi hospital or Tirana hospitals. Table 3 summarises data regarding the health sector in TFA.

Table 3: Health sector in TFA

| Health institution    | # institutions | # beds    | Medical doctors | Nurses     |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| <i>Hospital</i>       | <b>1</b>       |           | <b>13</b>       | <b>133</b> |
| Pathology             | √              | <b>26</b> |                 |            |
| Pediatry              | √              | <b>30</b> |                 |            |
| Surgery               | √              | <b>20</b> |                 |            |
| Obstetry-Gynaecology  | √              | <b>25</b> |                 |            |
| <i>Health centers</i> | <b>8</b>       |           |                 |            |
| <i>Ambulances</i>     | <b>33</b>      |           |                 |            |

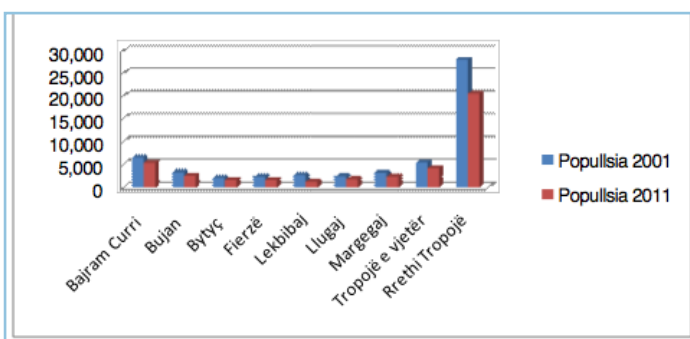
Source: Kukesi Regional Council (2012)

Social and demographic data are poor. According to the Report of Functional Areas (UNDP, 2014), there is only one cultural center, one social center, and one sport center in Bajram Curri for the whole FAT.

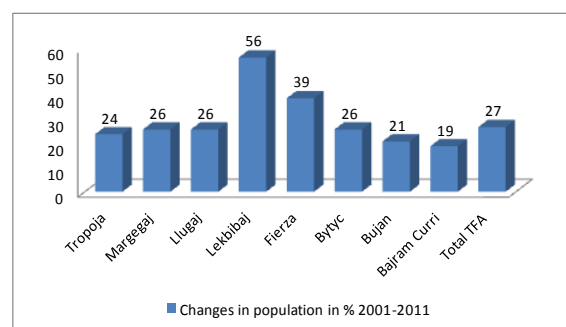
Though the area is rich in natural resources, limited investments and lack of perspective have forced many people to migrate toward Tirana and Durrës or foreign countries. Migration, as part of demographic development of the regions and the indicator of social changes is among nega-

tive factors that has affected the development of TFA. One reason is because educated and skilled people have left.. Graphs 6 and 7 show the movement of population from Tropoja to other places during the last decade and the percentage according to LGUs. The commune of Lekbibaj has the highest intensity of migration. Reasons include natural conditions and limitations in provision of public services for inhabitants of this remote and mountainous commune.

Graph 6: Changes in the number of population



Graph 7: Changes in population in % 2001-11



Source: INSTAT, Typology of Communes and Municipalities 2014

#### 1.4. Main features of TFA

From the point of view of the typology of functional areas, TFA can be considered functional area according to the concentric model. TFA overlaps the district of Tropoja. The Municipality of Bajram Curri is at the center of the functional area. It is the main market place, the most important administrative center, and the place where most of services are offered. The interaction intensity is higher between the center (Bajram Curri) and LGUs closer to it. The density of population in the administrative center (Bashkia Bajram Curri) is much higher than in the communes. The density of population decreases with the distance from the center.

From the economic point of view, Tropoja is mainly an agriculture and livestock area. Recently, mountain tourism has been significantly developed. Mines are another sector with a great development potential in the future.

Agriculture focuses on corn and wheat as well as vegetables, viniculture, and arboriculture. Regarding arboriculture, Tropoja is known of plums (black Tropoja plum), apples (gjylalle apple) and chestnuts. Chestnuts is among the most important products relating to the income they can generate. Medical plants, especially blueberry (boronica), are also important for the local economy.

Livestock focuses on sheep (the "bardhoke" breed is known of high production of wool, milk, and meat), goats, cows, horses, chicken, and pigs. Rich pastures play an important role in the

quantity and quality of livestock products. Gashi, Krasniqe and Bytyç are rich in alpine pastures. Bee keeping is also developed. Tropoja is known of Zogaj honey (Bytyç) and chestnut honey (Krasniqe). However, the agricultural and livestock production mainly meets the needs of individual households in rural areas and the city of Bajram Curri. A part of this production targets hotels and guest houses in the Valbona Valley and Bajram Curri. Only a small part of the production reaches the national and/or Kosovo markets.

Mountain tourism is a main sector. It is mainly developed in the Valbona Valley where there are round 24 hotels and guest houses. Tourists come from Albania but also abroad, especially Central European countries. They visit the Valbona Valley that is one of miracles of the Albanian nature and hike in the mountains, often going from Valbona to Theth. Hotels and guest houses serve traditional dishes cooked with local agricultural and livestock products. In this context, agriculture and tourism sectors are closely linked and support each-other's development.

There is a great potential for the development of the mountain tourism in other areas of Tropoja, too, as well as further development in Valbona Valley. Improving the services for tourists, both in quantity and quality, is a precondition for the development of tourism so it can become an essential source of income for the local population.

Mines are another important potential sector. Industry sector is underdeveloped in Tropoja. Chromium mines in Rragam-Kam-Kepenek-Zogaj area and quart mines in Kërnajë are important for the local economy. The Bytyç area has important reserves of chromium, but its production is limited. This sector can be important for the local economy. The development of the mining industry would not negatively affect the development of tourism because they are focused on different regions of the functional area.

The Fierza Hydropower Plant (1978) is constructed only 17 km from the city of Bajram Curri, where Valbona River joins the Drini River (lake of Fierza). It is one of the most important energy sector plants. Because of its construction, the Fierza Lake has been created. It has a volume of 2.5 milliard m<sup>3</sup> and a water collection area of 11.829 km<sup>2</sup>.

Though Tropoja has extensive natural resources, it is among the poorest areas in the country. Unemployment is high and most significant income for local families comes from emigration and economic assistance.

TFA is mainly an agricultural area with a great potential for the development of mountain tourism and mining industry.

## 2. ECONOMY OF THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA

### 2.1 General data regarding economic development in the TFA

The level of economic development in the TFA is low. Kukesi Region (Kukës, Tropojë, Has) has the lowest level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country—2.1%. Graph 8 presents the GDP according to regions. Tropoja is among the most underdeveloped areas in Albania. Table 4 and Graph 9 present the tendency of value added for the 2009-2012 period according to sectors of economy (tourism, agriculture, mining industry, trade and services) in Kukesi Region.

Graph 8: Weight to GDP according to statistical regions, 2012

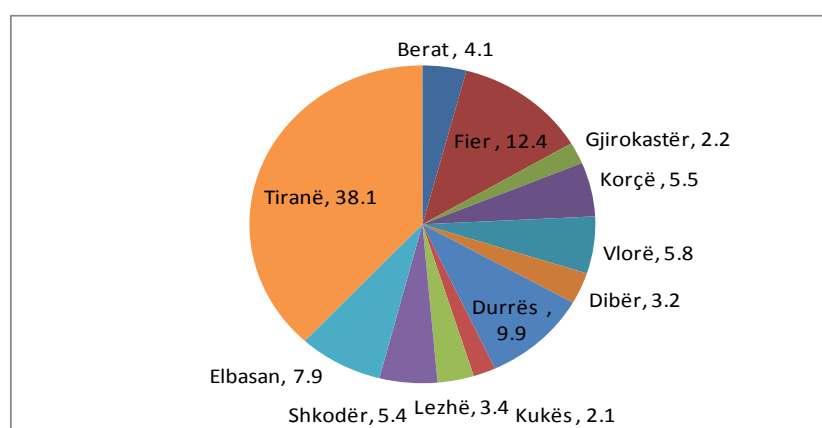
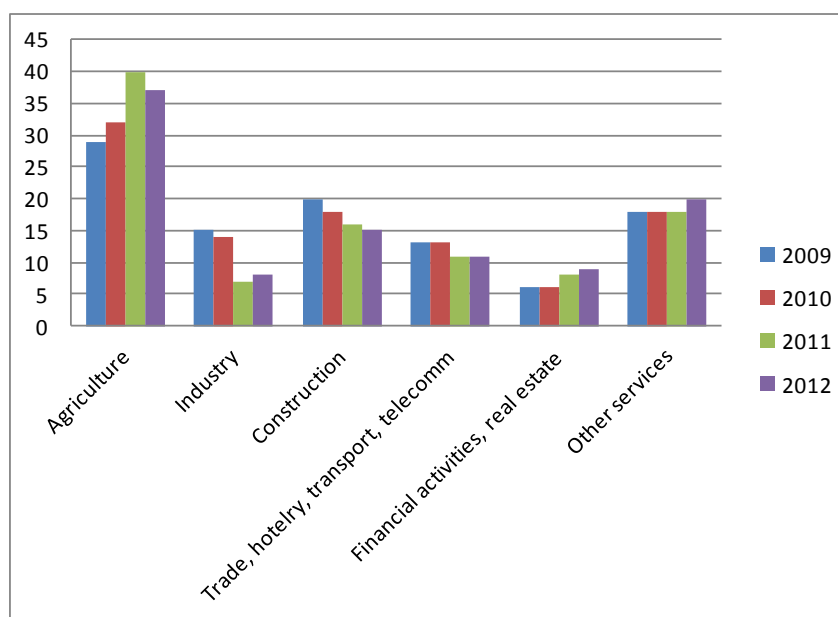


Table 4: Specific weight of added value according to sectors

| Kukesi region                                   | added value according to sectors in % |       |       |       |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|   | 2009                                  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  |
| Agriculture                                     | 28.9                                  | 31.48 | 40.17 | 36.92 |
| Industry  | 14.45                                 | 13.92 | 6.57  | 7.93  |
| Construction                                    | 19.49                                 | 17.46 | 16.24 | 15.36 |
| Trading, hotelry, transport, telecommunications | 13.15                                 | 13.01 | 11.44 | 11.08 |
| Financial activities, real estate, rental       | 5.63                                  | 5.89  | 7.49  | 8.56  |
| Other services                                  | 18.37                                 | 18.24 | 18.1  | 20.15 |

Graph 9: Added value for the 2009-2012 period according to sectors of economy



Source: INSTAT-Regional Accounts, Albania, 2012

As presented in Table 4 and Graph 9, agriculture is one of main sectors regarding added value. In 2012, the added value for the agriculture sector is 36,92 %, followed by construction 15,36% and trade, hostelry, transport, telecommunication 11,8%. During 2009-2012, there is a relatively sustainable tendency of increase of the value added weight in the sectors of agriculture, trade, hostelry, transport and tele communication and decrease regarding industry and construction. Low production rate in the case of mines and low demand in the case of construction explain this tendency.

At FA level, the largest number of active businesses is at the Municipality of Bajram Curri. During 2007-2014, a considerable number of new businesses have registered in Bajram Curri, Tropojë (village) and Llugaj. There is a low number of active businesses in Margegaj, where the mountain tourism is concentrated (Valbona Valley). This is explained with the high level of informality in the sector of mountain tourism. Tables 5 and 6 present number of businesses according to LGUs and sectors. Graph 10 presents businesses according to sectors. Table 6 shows that the largest number of active businesses belong to trade, car repair, and domestic products trade (247 or 52 % of total number of registered businesses), hostelry and restaurants (91 or 19 %) and less in agriculture (5). During 2011-2014, the number of registered businesses has decreased by 50, including 22 from the trade sector, car repair, and domestic products trade and 8 from the hostelry and restaurants.

Table 5: Number of active businesses according to LGUs

| LGU           | # active businesses 2014 | # registered businesses 2007-2014 |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bajram Curri  | 420                      | 187                               |
| Margegaj      | 11                       | 11                                |
| Tropojë fshat | 39                       | 29                                |
| Fierzë        | 7                        | 10                                |
| Bytyç         | 12                       | 12                                |
| Bujan         | 8                        | 9                                 |
| Lekbibaj      | 4                        | 3                                 |
| Lugaj         | 2                        | 13                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>503</b>               | <b>274</b>                        |

Source: National Registration Center (NRC)

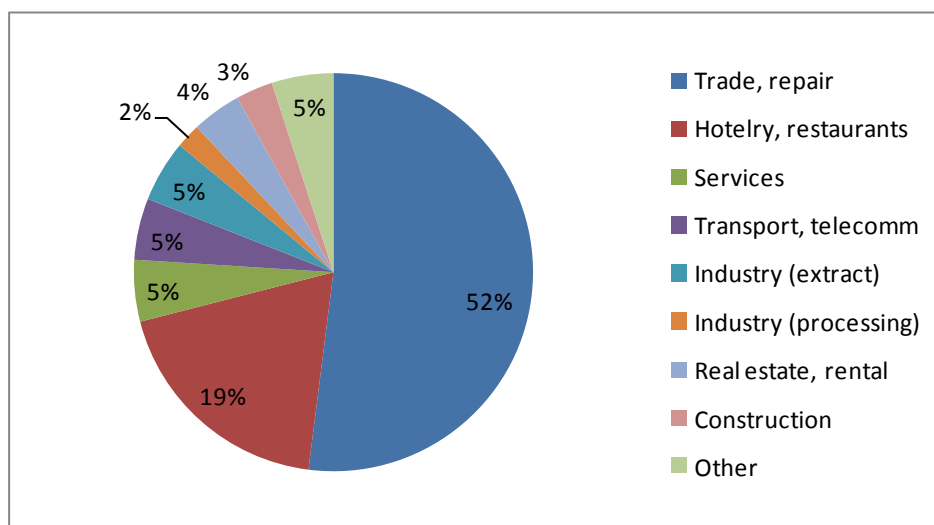
Table 6: Number of active businesses according to sectors

| Type of business                                       | Active businesses 2014 | Registered business 2007-2014 | Un-registered businesses 2011-2014 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Public administration                                  | 5                      | 1                             |                                    |
| Financial Activities                                   | 2                      | 3                             | 1                                  |
| Education  | 3                      | 3                             | 1                                  |
| Agriculture, hunting, silviculture                     | 5                      | 7                             |                                    |
| Hotelry, restaurants                                   | 91                     | 49                            | 8                                  |
| Industry (extracting)                                  | 21                     | 17                            |                                    |
| Industry (processing)                                  | 11                     | 11                            |                                    |
| Construction   | 12                     | 19                            |                                    |
| Real estate, rental, services to enterprises           | 20                     | 16                            | 2                                  |
| Production and distribution of electricity, gas, water | 3                      | 2                             |                                    |
| Health and social activities                           | 6                      | 5                             | 2                                  |
| Collective, social, personal services                  | 24                     | 13                            | 3                                  |
| Transports and communications                          | 21                     | 6                             | 1                                  |
| Trade, repair (autos, home appliances)                 | 247                    | 122                           | 22                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>471</b>             | <b>274</b>                    | <b>40</b>                          |

Source: NRC

In the TFA, business enterprises are generally small. Only 30 of them (or round 60% of the total number of business enterprises) have registered as big business. They focus on mining (7) and construction (3). There are no data about big businesses in tourism and hostelry. Biggest employers are located in Bajram Curri. In Bujan and Bytyç there are enterprises with 10-20 employee. Regarding new businesses, 48 have started in 2014 focusing on trade and services (bars and restaurants). Most of enterprises have less than 7 employees and most of them are family business. Only few enterprises (8) have from 20-100 employees.

Graph 10: Business according to sectors



Source: NRC

Tropoja has not been target of the domestic and foreign investments. However, last years there is an increased interest by both domestic and foreign investors. Regarding domestic investments, they have mainly been carried out by Ministry of Finances (Committee of Regions' Development Fund/Department of the Public Investments Management), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure, Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration, and Albanian Development Fund. Foreign investors include, Swiss Development Cooperation, Austrian Development Cooperation, UNDP, Islamic Bank, Development Bank of Council of Europe, European Union, etc. Investments have focused on road infrastructure, water and sewage, education, health, social sector, etc. Table 7 presents a list of Investments in Tropoja during last 5 years.



Table 7: Investments in Tropoja during last 5 years

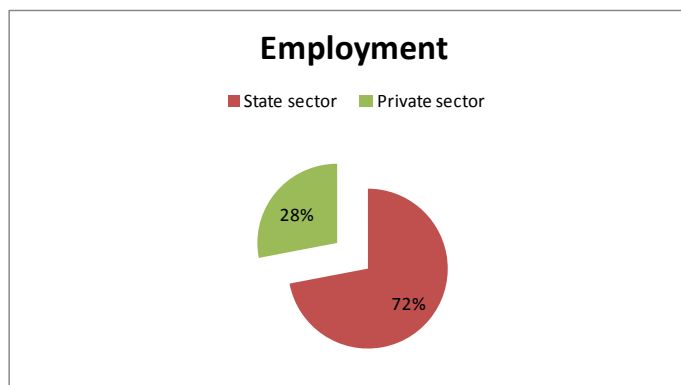
| Project  | Year | Invested by                               | Type of project         |
|--|------|---|-------------------------|
| Road reconstruction Kocanaj                                    | 2009 | Investment Bank of CoE (CEB),             | Road infrastructure     |
| Sewage Dushaj Zone B   | 2009 | Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure | Water sewage            |
| Road reconstruction Dushaj - Tpla, phase 1                     | 2009 | ADF                                       | Road infrastructure     |
| Increasing awareness of children with special needs            | 2009 | SDC                                       | Social                  |
| Construction of school, Shumice                                | 2009 | Ministry of Education                     | Education               |
| Road reconstruction B. Curri - Kolmakaj                        | 2009 | Ministry of Interior                      | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction - Gri                                      | 2009 | Ministry of Interior                      | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction Q. Komune - Kolmakaj                       | 2009 | Ministry of Interior                      | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction Q. Komune - Shkolla                        | 2009 | Ministry of Interior                      | Road infrastructure     |
| Construction of touristic center, Valbone                      | 2010 | Investment Bank of CoE (CEB), Alb gov     | Tourism & culture       |
| Construction of school, Tpla                                   | 2010 | Ministry of Education                     | Education               |
| Empowering self-support groups of parents & families           | 2010 | ADC                                       | Social                  |
| Reconstruction of offices, comunne Margegaj                    | 2010 | Ministry of Interior                      | Infrastructure          |
| Road reconstruction Sheshi I Trageteve - Lekbibaj              | 2011 | Islamic Bank                              | Road infrastructure     |
| Construction of water supply system, Paqe, Flumi, Shoshan,     | 2011 | KFW -RWS                                  | Water sewage            |
| Road reconstruction Ura Dushaj - Sheshi i Trageteve            | 2011 | Islamic Bank                              | Road infrastructure     |
| Construction of water supply system Markaj                     | 2011 | KFW -RWS                                  | Water sewage            |
| Construction of water supply system Prush                      | 2011 | KFW -RWS                                  | Water sewage            |
| Road lights Dushaj   | 2011 | UNDP ,                                    | Infrastructure          |
| Road reconstruction Dushaj - Tpla, phase 2                     | 2011 | ADF                                       | Road infrastructure     |
| Chestnut afforestation Dushaj                                  | 2011 | Ministry of Innovation and PA             | Forestry infrastructure |
| Construction of high school Fierze                             | 2011 | Ministry of Education                     | Education               |
| Ambulance Zone B   | 2011 | Ministry of Health                        | Shendetesi              |
| Supporting isolated families                                   | 2011 | Ministria Federale për Bashkëpunim        | Social                  |
| Services for children and families in Bajram Curri and Tropojë | 2011 | EU  | Social                  |
| Bridge construction Mejdani                                    | 2011 | Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction Tropoje - Shumic                           | 2011 | Ministry of Interior                      | Road infrastructure     |
| Reconstruction of 9-year school , Kernaje                      | 2011 | Ministry of Education                     | Education               |
| Reconstruction of high school                                  | 2011 | Ministry of Education                     | Education               |
| Bridge construction Beli Dragobi                               | 2011 | Commune of Margegaj                       | Road infrastructure     |
| Construction of mountain track Valbone                         | 2011 | UNDP                                      | Infrastructure          |
| Construction of ambulance A1, Lekurtaj                         | 2012 | Ministry of Health                        | Health                  |
| Road reconstruction Commune center - Bilate - Rosuje           | 2012 | Ministry of Finances, RDF                 | Road infrastructure     |
| Commune offices, Bujan   | 2012 | Ministry of Finances, RDF                 | Adm Infrastructure      |
| Road reconstruction Sopot Kernaje                              | 2012 | IDB- ISTISNA'A                            | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction Tropoje - Bucaj                            | 2012 | Islamic Bank                              | Road infrastructure     |
| Hazle nut afforestation Breg-Lume                              | 2012 | Ministry of Innovation and PA             | Forestry infrastructure |
| Water supply system, Kokez - Dushaj                            | 2012 | Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure | Water sewage            |
| Road reconstruction Kodra Xanit - Ball Fushe                   | 2012 | ADF                                       | Road infrastructure     |
| Road reconstruction Smajlaj                                    | 2012 | Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure | Road infrastructure     |

Source: Kukes Regional Council

## 2.2 Labor market and employment/unemployment

Most of employed people in Tropoja belong to the public sector and main economic sectors such as trade and services, construction, and mines. The public sector is the biggest employer with 72 % of employees showing also the low level of economic development in Tropoja that, therefore, has not generated jobs for local population. Graph 11 presents the ratio between employed people in the public and private sectors.

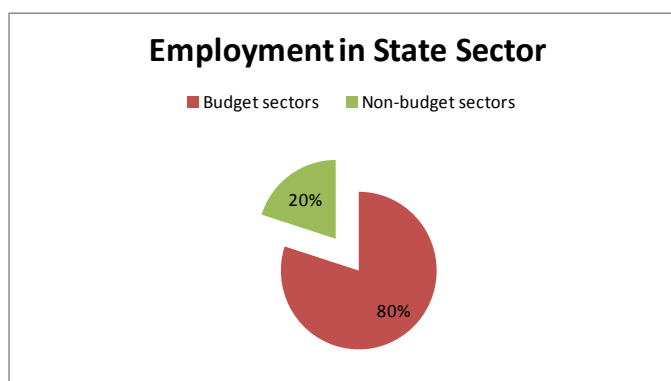
Graph 11: Employed people ratio



Source: Statistics Office Tropojë

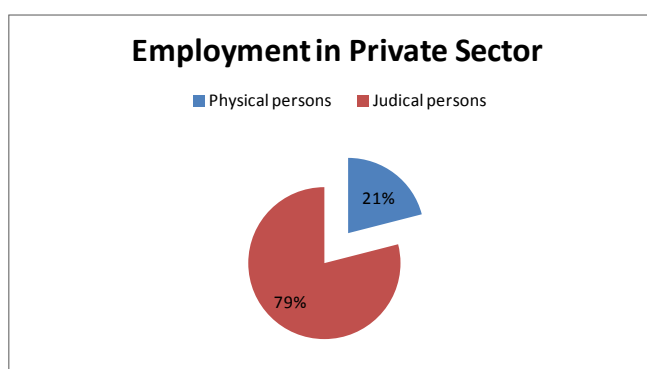
Regarding the public sector, most of employees belong to budget sector (80%). Regarding the private sector, most of employees belong to judicial entities (79%) that mainly are local companies.

Graph 12: Employment in the budget and non-budget sectors



There are no data at Local Tax or Labor Offices regarding joint or foreign enterprises. Biggest employers are concentrated in Bajram Curri, Bujan, Bytyç and Tropoja having 10-20 employees.

Graph 13: Employment in the judicial and physical entities



Businesses focus on physical security, construction, and mining. Graphs 11, 12 and 13 present employment ratio between public and private sectors and among sectors.

Table 8 summarises the employment data according to public and private sectors.

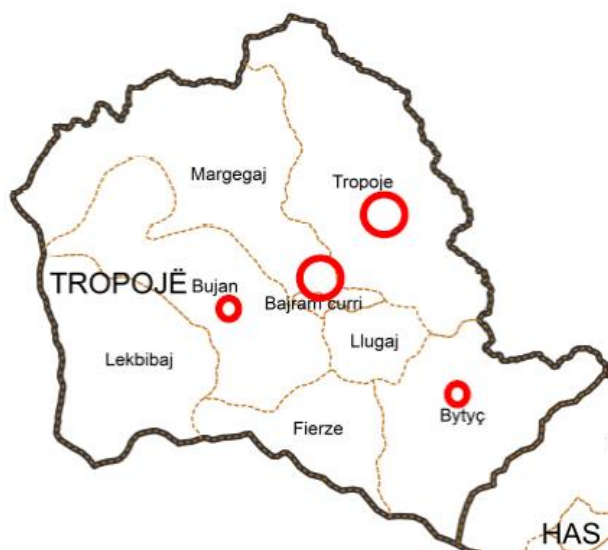
Table 8: Employees according to public and private sectors (2014)

| No.   | Sector                    | Tax office |      | Employment office |      | Collective employment contracts |     |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1     | State sector              | 34         | 1374 | 34                | 1164 | 4                               | 816 |
| 1.1   | (State) budget sector     | 22         | 1104 | 22                | 1083 | 3                               | 673 |
| 1.2   | (state) non-budget sector | 12         | 270  | 12                | 81   | 1                               | 143 |
| 2     | Private sector            | 140        | 527  | 40                | 333  | 1                               | 108 |
| 2.1   | Physical persons          | 94         | 112  | 15                | 36   |                                 |     |
| 2.2   | Judicial persons          | 46         | 415  | 15                | 297  | 3                               | 121 |
| 2.2.1 | Local firms               | 46         | 276  | 10                | 297  | 1                               | 108 |
| 2.2.2 | Joint enterprises         |            |      |                   |      |                                 |     |
| 2.2.3 | Gforeign firms            |            |      |                   |      |                                 |     |
|       | Total 1+2                 | 174        | 1650 | 44                | 1481 |                                 | 924 |

Source: Statistics Office Tropojë

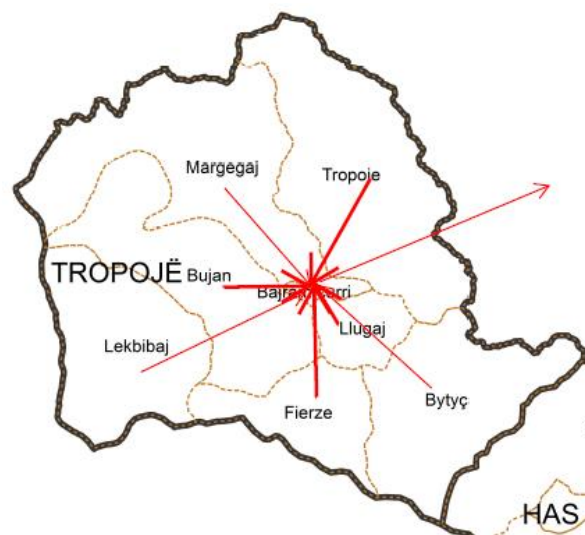
Regarding movement of people to work, inhabitants of Bujan, Fierzë, Llugajt, and Tropojë have a more intensive interaction with Bajram Curri. Inhabitants of Bajram Curri and communes surrounding it have a limited interaction with Gjakova regarding employment. Maps 3 and 4 show the location of biggest employers in Tropoja and the movement to work and its intensity.

Map 3: Location of biggest employers



Big circle—big employers  
Small circle—Mid-size employers

Map 4: Movement to work

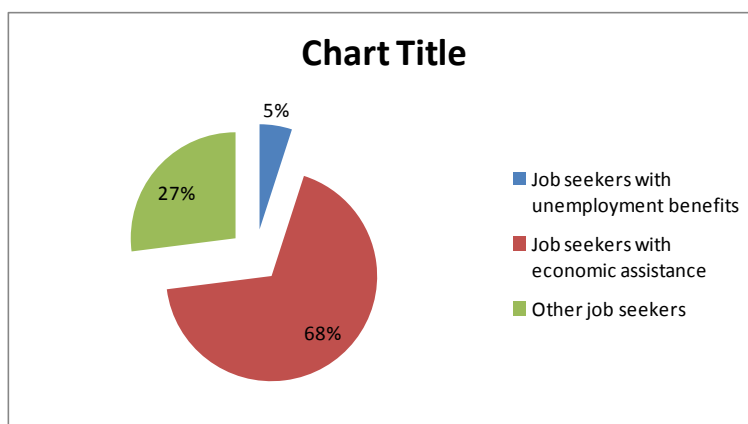


Thick arrow—intensive interaction  
Thin arrow—small interaction

Source: Tax Office; Individual and focus interviews

In Tropoja, the number of the unemployed is relatively high. In total, round 2500 unemployed seek for jobs in different sectors of the economy and public sector (including farmers that are self-employed in agriculture). Job-seekers that receive economic assistance make up to 68%. Also young people (20-29 years old) constitute a significant percentage of the job seekers--722 or 30% of job seekers in total. (see Graph 14)

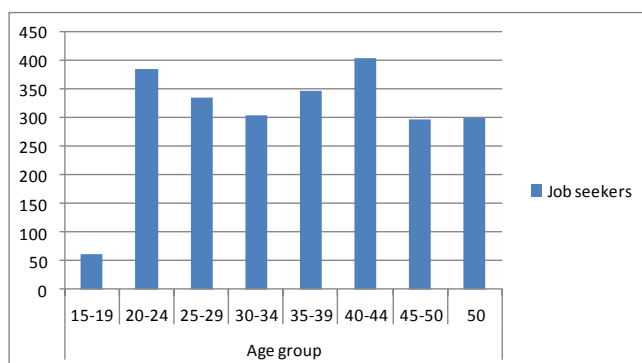
Graph 14: Job seekers in Tropojë



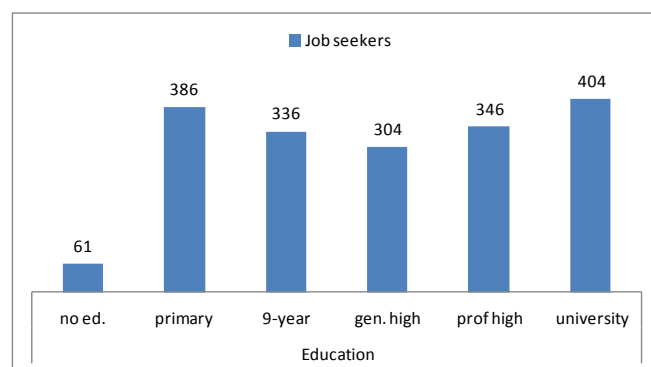
Source: Statistics Office Tropojë

Regarding education, most of job seekers have completed the 9-year and high schools. Among job seekers, there is a considerable number of people that have completed professional schools. Graphs 15 and 16 and Table 9 provide data regarding unemployed job seekers according to age groups and education. Based on interviews and focus groups, it results that job seekers target more the public sector rather than the private sector.

Graph 15: Unemployed job seekers according to age groups



Graph 16: Unemployed job seekers according to education



Source: Statistics Office Tropojë

Table 9: Data on unemployed job seekers (12/2014)

|   | Job seekers                         | age groups        |         |         |              |           |            |        |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------|
|   |                                     | 15-19             | 20-24   | 25-29   | 30-34        | 35-39     | 40-44      | 45-50  |
| 1 | Unemployed job seekers (PuPa)       | 61                | 386     | 336     | 304          | 346       | 404        | 298    |
| 2 | PuPa with unemployment payment      | 1                 | 11      | 15      | 13           | 16        | 10         | 38     |
| 3 | PuPa benefiting from the ec scheme  | 28                | 272     | 238     | 216          | 258       | 290        | 149    |
| 4 | PuPa other                          | 32                | 103     | 83      | 75           | 72        | 104        | 111    |
| 1 | Job seekers                         | education         |         |         |              |           |            | Mbi 50 |
|   |                                     | less than primary | primary | 9- year | general high | prof high | university |        |
| 1 | Unemployed job seekers (PuPa) total | 0                 | 63      | 925     | 1143         | 213       | 91         |        |
| 2 | PuPa with unemployment payment      | 0                 | 1       | 4       | 64           | 30        | 35         |        |
| 3 | PuPa benefiting from the ec scheme  | 0                 | 61      | 693     | 724          | 160       | 9          |        |
| 4 | PuPa other                          | 0                 | 1       | 228     | 355          | 23        | 47         |        |

Source: Statistics Office Tropojë

### 2.3 Economic interaction in the functional area

The Municipality of Bajram Curri and 7 communes of Tropoja district establish a single functional area as a territorial space with a dense and frequent interaction between inhabitants and institutions for work, market, and service purposes. Main administrative institutions that offer employment to inhabitants are stationed at the center of the Tropoja district that also serves as the center of TFA.

Regarding the intensity of the movement toward markets, it is high between inhabitants of the Bujan, Fierzë, Llugaj, Bytyç, and Tropojë communes and Bajram Curri. Communes of Margegaj (remote villages) and Lekbibaj have low economic interaction with Bajram Currin. Because of the distance and poor conditions of the roads, interaction of these two communes with Bajram Curri is low, especially during the winter. Between these communes, there is a low interaction, too. All LGUs have intensive interaction with Gjakova (Kosovo). Traditional links with Gjakova have been re-activated after the rehabilitation of the road. Bajram Curri is less than 30 minutes away from Gjakova and LLugaj and Tropojë (village) even less. Gjakova is extensively used as a market place and employment.

Based on the above, there is clear the tendency of a concentrated model of the functional area where there is one main center that is the city or the administrative center of the district is clear. It is because of the economic structure of the area. The city is seen as the important market place where also main services are provided. Though the most remote district in the Northeastern Albania with a mountain and partitioned landscape, the district of Tropoja has territorial continuity.

Where do people buy? Bajram Curri is at the same time the main market for the area. Inhabitants from the communes sell in Bajram Curri their agricultural and livestock products and buy the consumption goods. After the Kosovo independence, Tropoja's inhabitants use to go to Gjakova

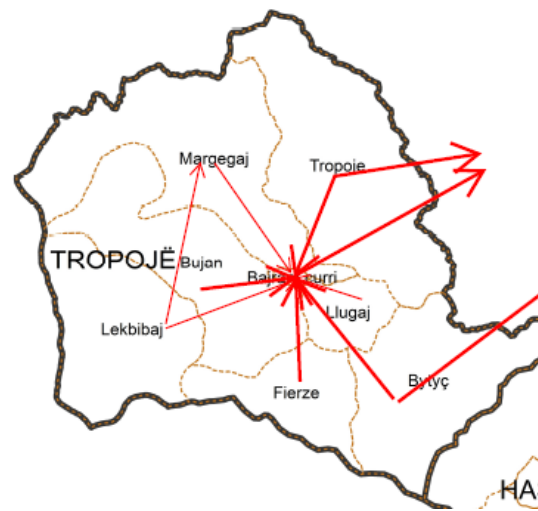
as the market place. Rehabilitation of the road that connects Bajram Curri and Gjakova (37 km) has facilitated such interaction. Inhabitants of Bujan, Fierza, Llugajt, Bytyç and Tropoja have a more intense interaction with the city of Bajram Currit. Commune of Margegaj and remote villages of the above-mentioned communes have a less intense interaction with the city. Inhabitants of Bajram Currit, Llugajt, Margegajt, Tropoja and Bytyç have a more intense interaction with Gjakova. Maps 5 and 6 present the interaction regarding markets.

Map 5: Where do people buy?



Big circle—main market  
Small circle—small, local market

Map 6: Interaction regarding markets



Thick arrow—intensive interaction  
Thin arrow—limited interaction

Source: Tax Office; Individual and focus interviews

## 2. DEEPER ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA

Priority sectors of the TFA include mountain and rural tourism and agriculture and processing of agriculture products. The last one is very much connected with the development of the tourism sector. Tropoja has natural, climate, and geographical for the development of mountain/rural tourism. Development of the agriculture and livestock is an opportunity to meet the needs of potential tourists. Another potential sector is the mining.

### 3.1. Agriculture and livestock

#### 3.1.1. Agriculture

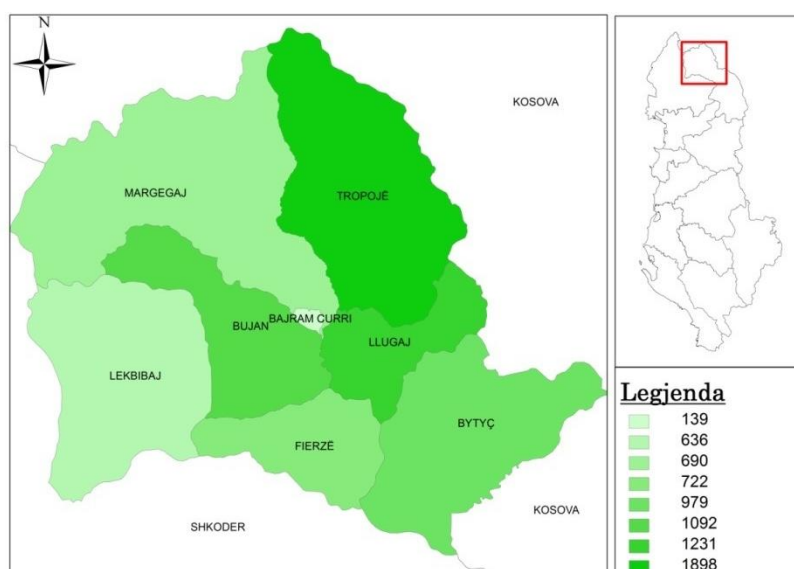
##### Agricultural land

Agriculture is one of most important economic sectors of the area. At district level, there are round 4800 agriculture and livestock farms. The average size of the farm is 1-2.2 ha cultivated land. At district level, the average agriculture land is 0.9 ha/family and/or 0.25 ha/person. A part of families have 0.3-1.4 ha. Agricultural land includes brown land (77%), dun land (22%) and mountainous/pastural (0.6%). Table 10 and Map 7 present the cultivated agricultural land.

Table 10: Cultivated agricultural land according to cultures

| Structure of agricultural land   | Size, ha (2014) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cultivated                       | 7387            |
| Cereals                          | 3870            |
| Arboriculture (without chestnut) | 480             |
| Regula arboriculture             | 160             |
| Vineyards                        | 15.6            |
| Un-used land                     | 3021.33         |

Map 7: Cultivated agricultural land according to LGUs



Source: Agriculture Office  
Tropojë

The cultivated agricultural land is mostly used for cereals (round 50%). Compared to 2014, it has decreased but the productivity (per ha) has increased. Table 11 presents data about cultures and their productivity in 2000 and 2014.

Table 11: Size and productivity according to cultures in 2000 and 2014

| Agriculture culture        | 2000 |              | 2014 |              | 2014/2000 (%) |              |
|----------------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|                            | ha   | productivity | ha   | productivity | ha            | productivity |
| Wheat                      | 254  | 25.1         | 80   | 40           | 31.50%        | 159.36%      |
| Corn                       | 1406 | 41           | 700  | 60           | 49.79%        | 146.34%      |
| Vegetables                 | 188  | 198          | 165  | 232          | 87.77%        | 117.17%      |
| Potatoes                   | 90   | 243          | 45   | 230          | 50.00%        | 94.65%       |
| Beans (direct)             | 18   | 8.3          | 10   | 15           | 55.56%        | 180.72%      |
| Industrial (tobacco, sage) | 4    |              | 4.15 |              | 103.75%       |              |
| First fodder               | 2085 | 159          | 2866 | 135.3        | 137.46%       | 85.09%       |
| Cereals (ha)               | 4045 |              | 3870 |              | 95.67%        |              |

Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

According to data from The Land Registration Office of Tropoja District, round 57% of land is divided, but the legal documents have been issued for a smaller percentage, mainly because the law and bylaws have not been properly implemented by the local government structures and other legal obstacles linked to land documents.

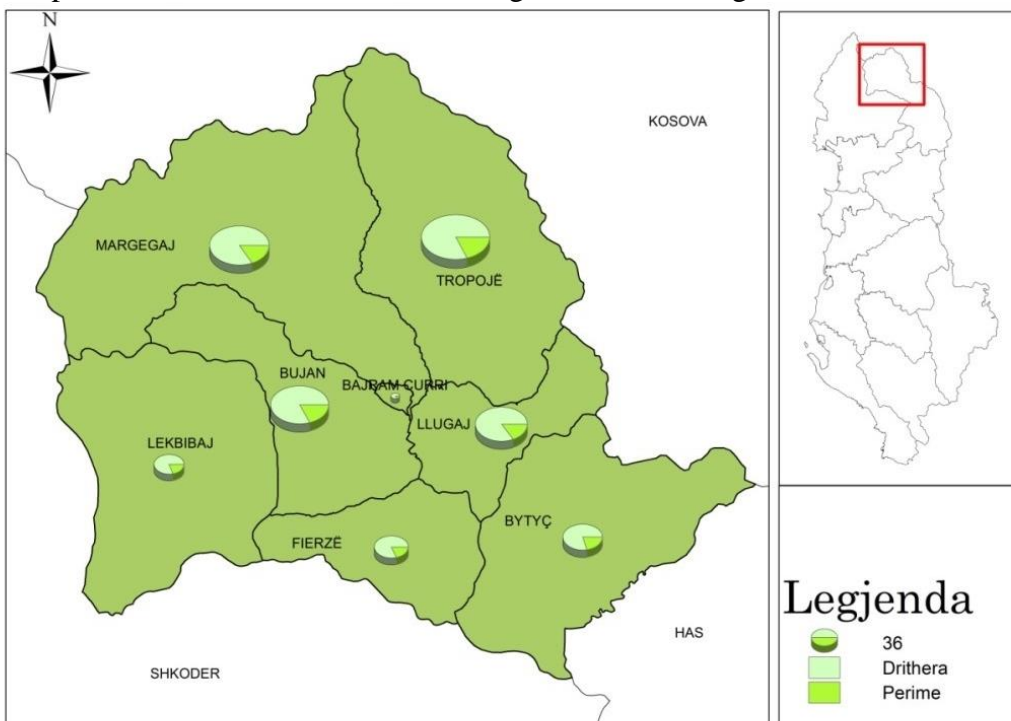
### Cereals and vegetables

Regarding the land planted with cereals and vegetables, the highest specific weight (round 75%) is for cereals. Map 8 presents land planted with cereals and vegetables according to LGU. However, in 2014 compared with 2000, there is a significant decrease in land cultivated with cereals, respectively 68% and 50% for wheat and corn, and increase in their productivity, respectively round 60% and 46%. It is the same story regarding land and productivity planted with vegetables, potatoes and beans.

In general, there is a decrease of 4% of the agriculture land cultivated with cereals and an increase of 37% of the land cultivated with first fodder. Table 11 and Graphs 17 and 18 present data relating to agriculture land and productivity according to cultures in 2000 and 2014.



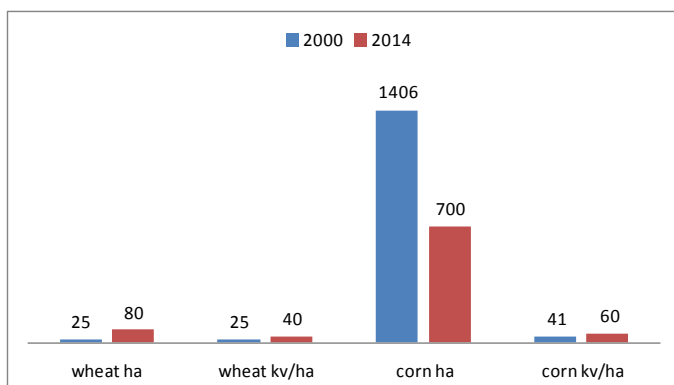
Map 8: Land cultivated with cereals/vegetables according to LGUs



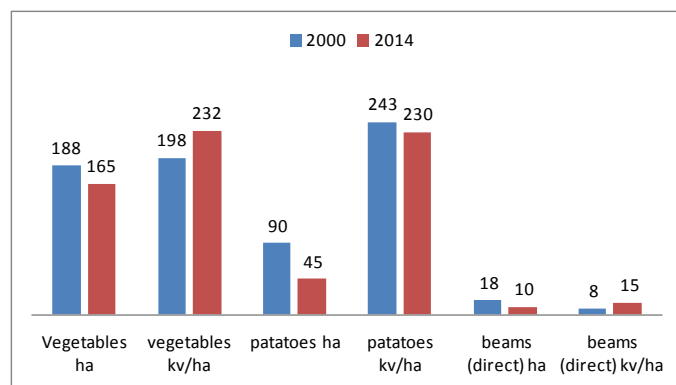
Legend: Light green-cereals; dark green-vegetables

Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Graph 17: Cereals and their productivity



Graph 18: Vegetables and their productivity



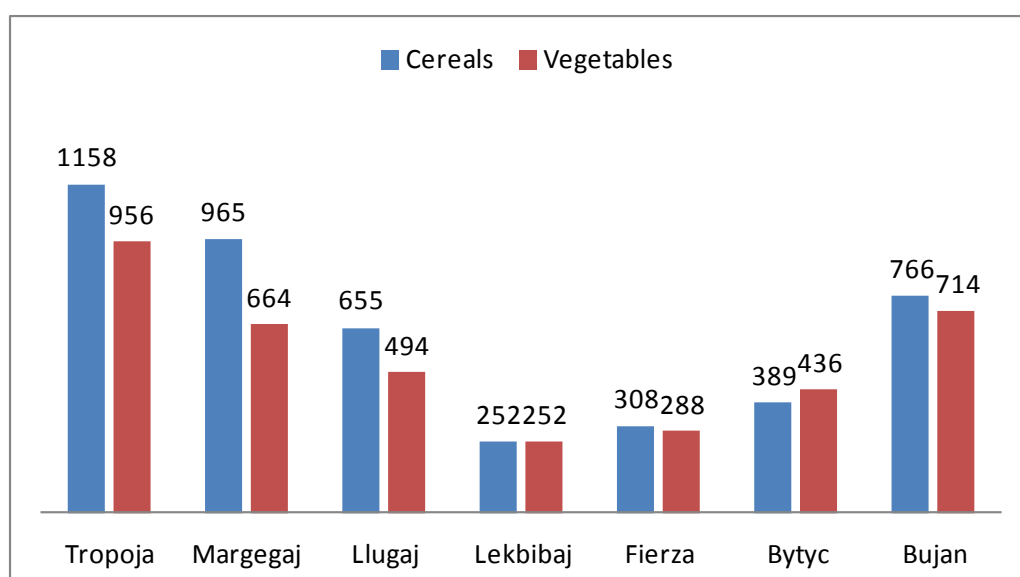
Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

The cultivated land for all agricultures except fodder has decreased for different reasons including the migration of people from rural areas to the city and other districts, the capital, and

abroad, lack of mechanisation, inability to cope with high tariffs that increase the production cost, and significant decrease of the irrigated land at district level. Decrease in the cultivation of one-year agricultures is compensated with the increase of the multi-year polifite pastures that is also linked to the need to ensure food for the livestock.

Regarding the cereals and vegetables production, the Communes of Tropojë, Margegaj, Bujan and Llugaj that have geographical approximaty and more intensive interaction with Bajram Curri as the district center are the main producers. At the same time, they have interaction with the Valbona Valley where hotels and guest houses for tourists are concentrated. Thus, they have a potential market for their agriculture products. Graph 19 presents cereals and vegetables production according to LGUs.

Graph 19: Cereals and vegetables production



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

In general, the agricultural production is used to meet the needs of individual farmer families and Bajram Curri. A part of this production is used to meet the needs of tourism in the Valbona Valley. However, these needs are mainly met by the farmers of Margegaj commune. The production level is relatively low compared to the increasing needs of the tourism development in the future.

The cereals processing industry is not developed. Most of farmers use mills in Kosovo where they pay for the service with a part of production.

Agricultural machines

Regarding the agriculture mechanics, the inventory is very poor. At district level, there are only 150 agricultural machines (Table 12). This is mainly explained with the inability of the farmers to buy agricultural machines because of the small size of farms and lack of cooperation between small farmers. In the context of the inventory of agricultural machines, tractors on wheels are mainly used also because of the hilly terrain and the size of the agriculture parcels.

Table 12: Situation about agricultural machines, 2014

| Type of machine    | District | LGU   |       |       |          |        |          |         |               |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|----------|---------|---------------|
|                    |          | Bujan | Bytyç | Fierz | Lekbibaj | Llugaj | Margegaj | Tropoje | Bajaram Curri |
| Tractors on wheels | 55       | 10    | 7     | 4     | 0        | 13     | 6        | 14      | 1             |
| Mini-tractors      | 25       | 2     | 5     | 2     | 0        | 6      | 4        | 5       | 1             |
| Planter            | 35       | 8     | 4     | 4     | 0        | 6      | 6        | 7       | 0             |
| Motoharvester      | 21       | 3     | 4     | 3     | 0        | 5      | 2        | 4       | 0             |
| Autocombine        | 3        | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0        | 2      | 0        | 0       | 0             |
| Tractors on chains | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0        | 0       | 0             |
| Freza              | 15       | 2     | 0     | 2     | 0        | 3      | 2        | 5       | 1             |

Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

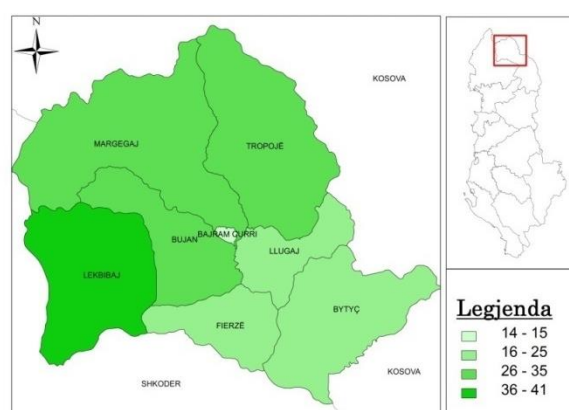
Irrigation

Regarding irrigation, the current system does not meet the needs of farmers. In 2014, only 27 % of the planted agricultural land and/or 42 % of the potential agricultural land has been irrigated. The potential agricultural land that should be irrigated is no less than 70 % of the total agricultural land. Table 13 and Map 9 present the irrigated agricultural land according to LGUs. The percentage is relatively low except the commune of Lekbibaj that is explained with the small size of agricultural land combined with the high percentage of water sources.

Table 13: Irrigated land in LGUs

| LGU           | Land total | Irrigated land ha | Factual irrigated land ha |
|---------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Bajram Curri  | 138.5      | 20                | 14.44%                    |
| Bujan         | 1091.6     | 320               | 29.31%                    |
| Bytyç         | 979        | 225               | 22.98%                    |
| Fierzë        | 722.5      | 135               | 18.69%                    |
| Lekbibaj      | 636        | 260               | 40.88%                    |
| Llugaj        | 1231       | 310               | 25.18%                    |
| Margegaj      | 690.4      | 230               | 33.31%                    |
| Tropojë (com) | 1898       | 520               | 27.40%                    |
| Total         | 7387       | 2020              | 27.35%                    |

Map 9: Irrigated land according to LGUs

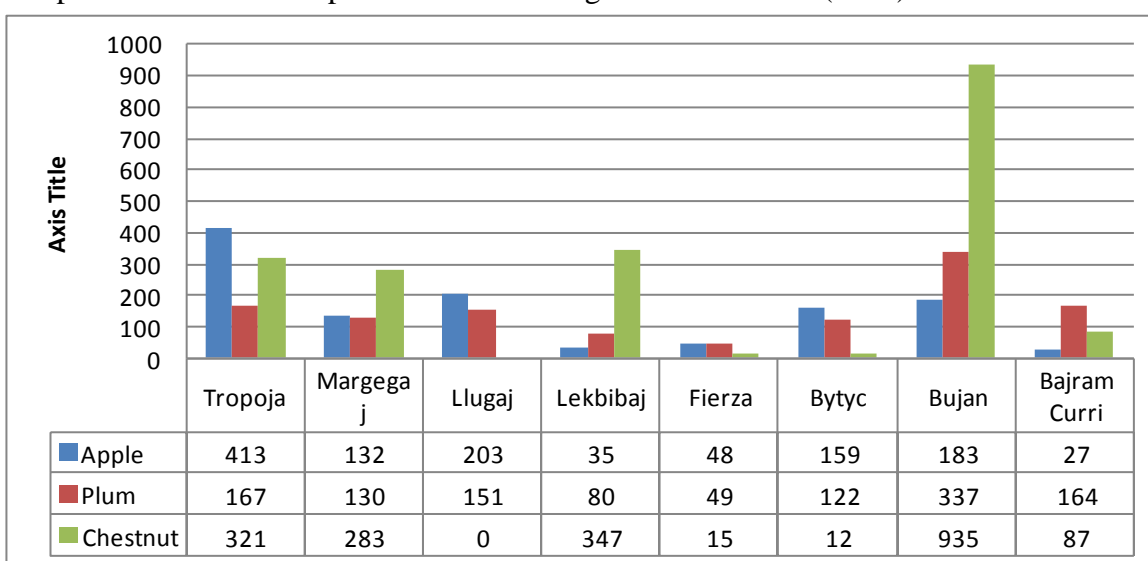


Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

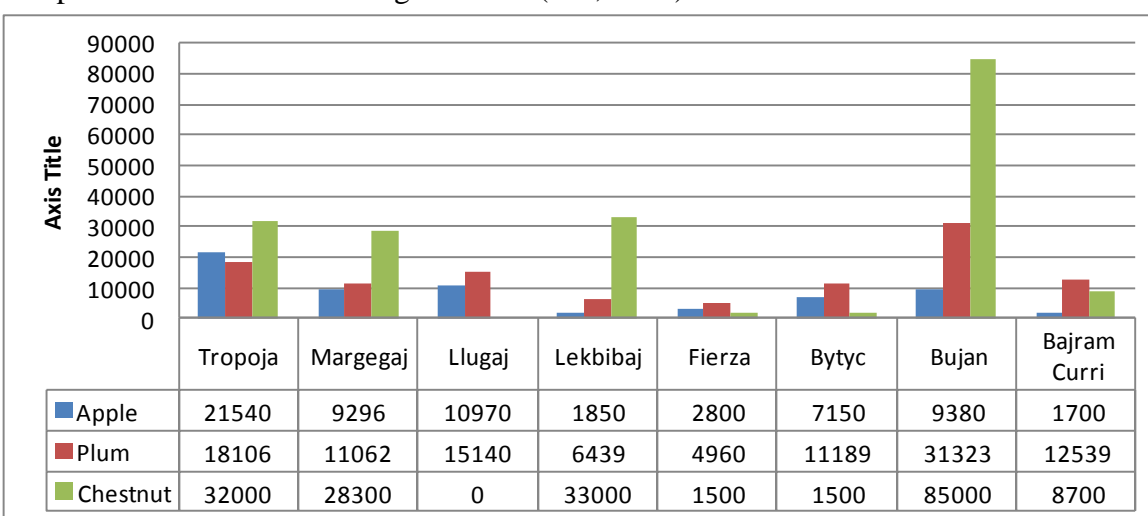
## Arboriculture

Tropoja is well-known of apples (gjyle variety), plums (Tropoja plum), and chestnuts. Communes of Tropojë, Llugaj and Bujan are known for the apples' production. Communes of Bujan, Tropojë, Llugaj and municipality of Bajram Curri are known of plums' production. Chestnut massives are present almost everywhere in the area, mainly in non-productive lands. Communes of Bujan, Lekbibaj, Tropojë and Margegaj are known for the chestnuts' production. TFA has the biggest chestnut massive in Albania and the Balkans. It is 2000 ha and has more than 190,000 trees. Graphs 20 and 21 provide data about the production and number of trees regarding apple, plum, and chestnut according to LGUs

Graph 20: Arboriculture production according to LGUs in tons (2014)



Graph 21: Fruit trees according to LGUs (trees, 2014)



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Chestnut collection and sale is one of main sources of local economy income. According to data from individual and focus group interviews, only during 2014, more than 3 million EUR have been generated from the chestnut sale. However, the chestnut is mainly sold as unprocessed fruit. Very few quantities are processed. It is mainly exported abroad, especially in Germany, Austria and Turkey. Tropoja has no capacity regarding chestnut processing. At present, there is only one small plant that makes the standardisation and packing of the chestnut fruits. Because of lack of finances, this plant cannot improve the technology in order to carry out the industrial agro-alimentary processing of the chestnut fruits.

Regarding the processing of other fruits, the Tropoja district used to have some plants to dry plums and conservation of fruits. They are not functional anymore.

During 1990s, parcels of plums have been damaged mainly because lack of services and property issues. Last years, there is a tendency of increase of the arboriculture. In 2011 and 2012, the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration has funded a project for the chestnut afforestation in Dushaj and hazelnut afforestation in Breg-Lum.

#### Seeds and sapling sale

Seeds and sapling sale is based on local market. Sales people have tried to bring to the local market guaranteed products. For some farmers, the prices are not affordable. Lack of financial institutions that can provide soft credits for farmers has negatively affected the development of agricultural products.

#### Transportation of agricultural products

Mainly because of the remoteness and difficult terrain, for a significant part of farmers from remote villages, the transportation of the agricultural products toward the center of the functional area is costly.

#### Medical Plants

Tropoja forests and pastures are rich in medical plants. There are more than 186 kinds of medical plants. The most important medical plant is blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). Others include black junipers, wild apple, wild rose, linen flowers, camomile, oregano, primrose, girth, elder flower and fruit, sage, nettle, savory, hollyhock, etc.

Blueberry is omnipresent in alpine pastures round 1800-2000 m altitude. Round 70 tons are collected every year. Its price (dried fruit) is 1,500-2,000 ALL/kg<sup>1</sup>. Among other medical plants that are collected and marketed are black junipers (round 40 tons/year), wild rose (round 20

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

tons/year) and wild apple (round 30 tons/year)<sup>2</sup>. In 2014, a surface of 4.15 ha has been planted with sage. It is expected that this surface will increase. It is one of the subventions by the Ministry of Agriculture.

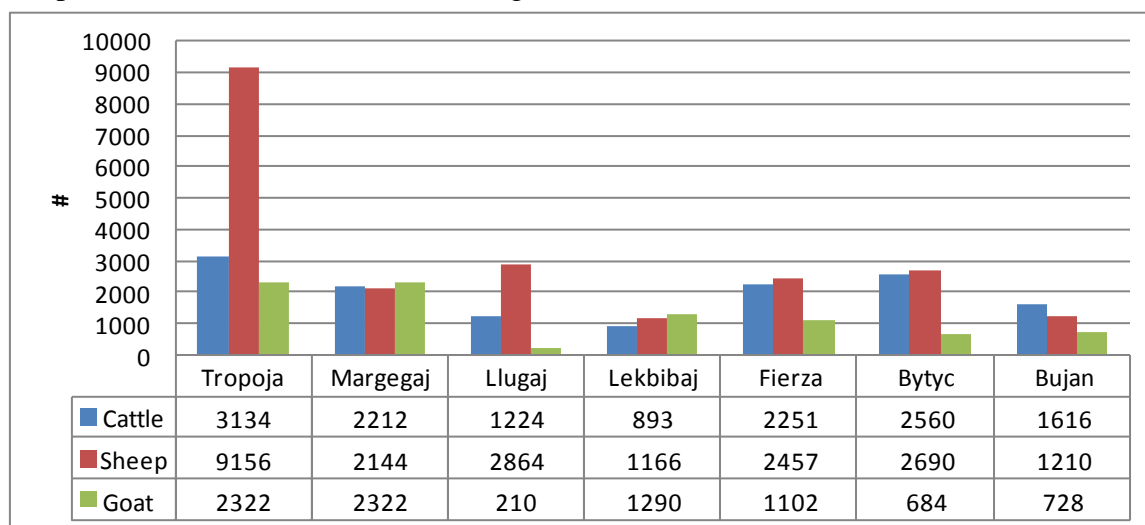
The medical plants are collected by inhabitants of the villages where these plants naturally grow. They are then sold to local and other merchants which often are un-licensed.

Tropoja has no capacity for the processing of medical plants. They are mainly sold at low prices as row fruit (For example, in 2014 the blueberry has been sold as row fruit to merchants, especially from Kosovo, at 1 EUR/kg when the price of the dried fruit is ten times more. The reason is that Tropoja has no capacity to dry the fruits.) However, medical plants are an important source of income for many families in Tropoja. It can be an important sector in the future if the quantity and processing improve.

### 3.1.2. Livestock

Due to its abundant and natural pastures, Tropoja has a diverse and quality livestock. The livestock products are mainly used for family consumption. Part of them are sold in the local market. Cattle, sheep, and goat are the most important. Graph 22 presents the livestock structure in 2014 (number of livestock).

Graph 22: Livestock structure according to LGUs, 2014



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

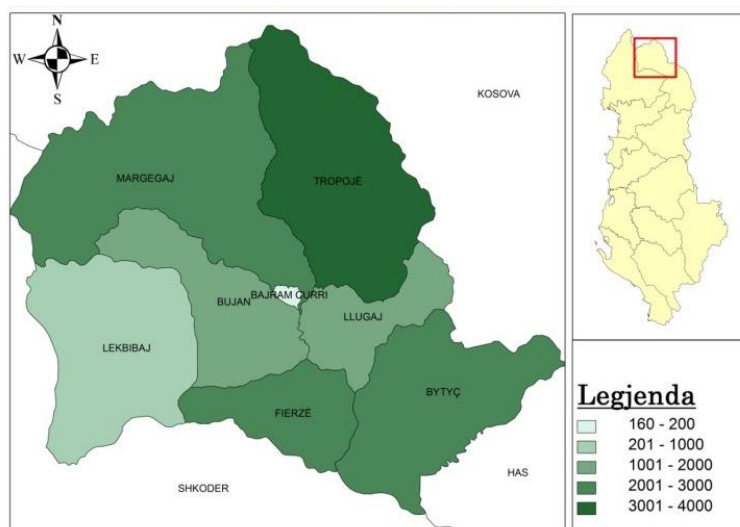
<sup>2</sup> Source: Agriculture Directorate Kukes

Maps 10, 11, and 12 present distribution of cattle, sheep, and goat according to LGUs.

The commune of Tropojë has the biggest number of cattle (round 22% of total number). The average number of cattle is around 2.2 per farm. The commune of Bytyç has round 18% of the cattle and a higher average (5 per farm). The communes of Margegaj and Fierze have 16% each and their average for agricultural farm is respectively 3.3 and 5.

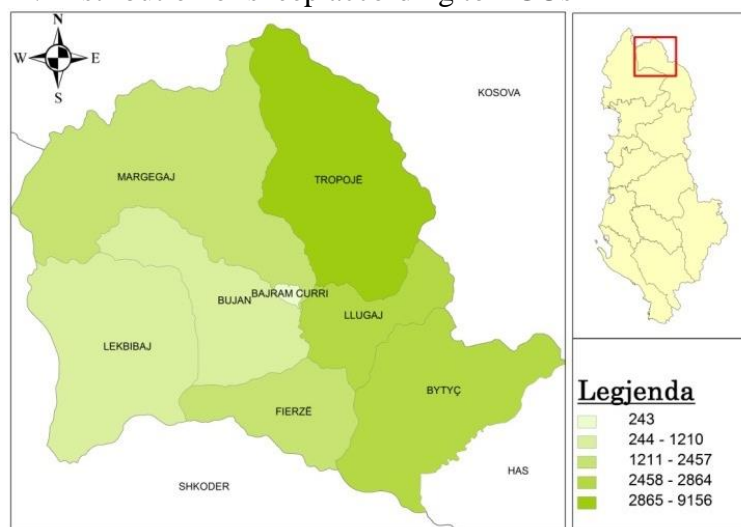
These data show for the capacity of communes of Tropoje and Margegaj regarding cattle.

Harta 10: Shpërndara e gjedhit sipas NJQV



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Map 11: Distribution of sheep according to LGUs



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

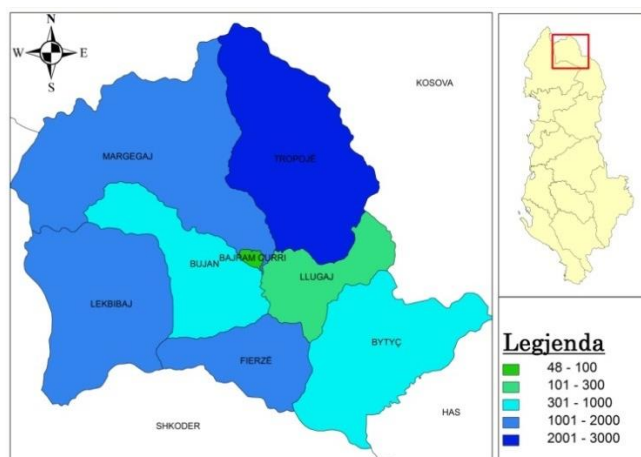
At district level, the number of sheep is relatively high.

The commune of Tropoje has more than 42% of the total number. Abundant natural pastures favour the sheep grow.

The communes of Bytyç, Margegaj, Fierze and Llugaj have a considerable number of sheep, too (each round 10% of the total number of sheep at area level).

Also, there is a tendency that the size of farms that grow sheep is increasing. Also regarding goats, commune of Tropoja has the largest number of them (round 30% of the total number of the area). It should also emphasized the high percentage of goat in the commune of Lekbibaj (17%) especially taking into consideration the small number of population in this LGU. Lekbibaj is favoured by the terrain.

Map 12: Distribution of goats according to LGUs



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

At district level, the number of sheep is three times more than the number of goats. However, based on information from the Agriculture Office in Tropoja, there is an interest by the farmers to increase the number of goats that is supported by good natural pastures appropriate for goats that can support more than three times more goats than the present number.

Maps 13 and 14 present distribution according to communes regarding production of milk and meat. Maps show that production of meat and milk is mainly based on cattle. This is explained by the relatively high number of cattle per farm (2-5). They are used to meet the needs of farm families with meat, milk, and dairy products. Also maps show that the largest producers of milk and meat are the communes of Tropojë, Margegaj and Fierzë.

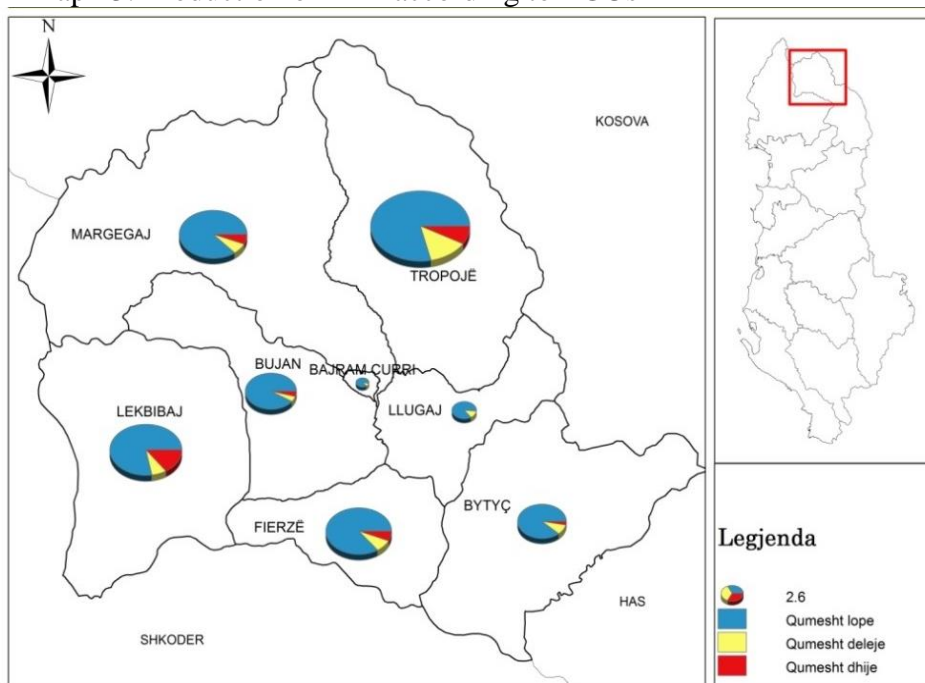
Graph 23 presents data about the production of milk according to LGUs. Graph 24 presents data about the number and production of meat in tons. The graphs show that the commune of Tropojë are the largest producer of milk and meat, it respectively produces 26 % and 30 % of the production at district level.

Regarding the milk production, main producers are the communes of Margegaj, Bytyç and Bujan with respectively 17 %, 14 % and 12 % of the district's production.

Regarding the meat production, other main producers include the communes of Margegaj, Bytyç and Fierzë with respectively 17 %, 14 % and 12 %. Taking into consideration the size of the commune of Lekbibaj, it is distinguished for the relatively high percentage of the goat meat and milk production.

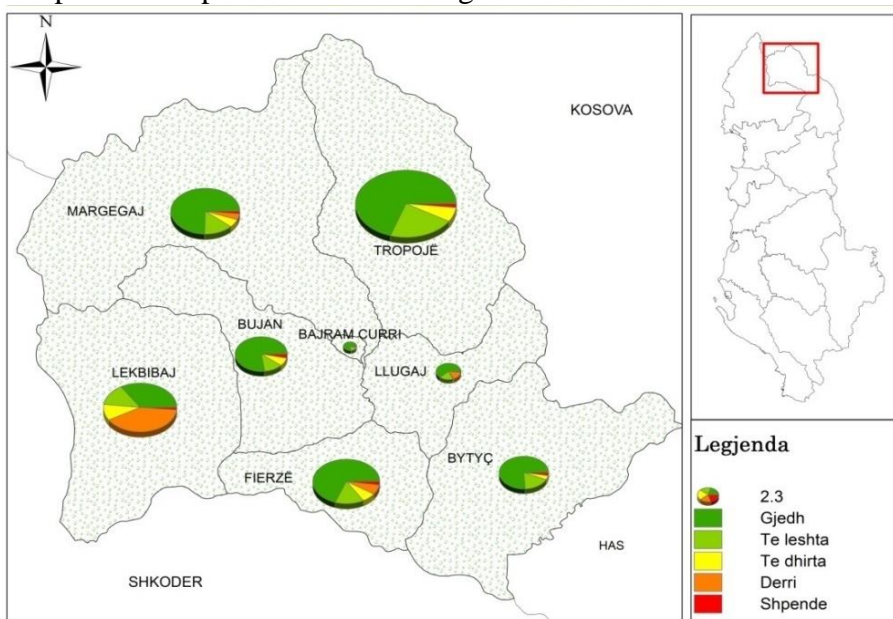


Map 13: Production of milk according to LGUs



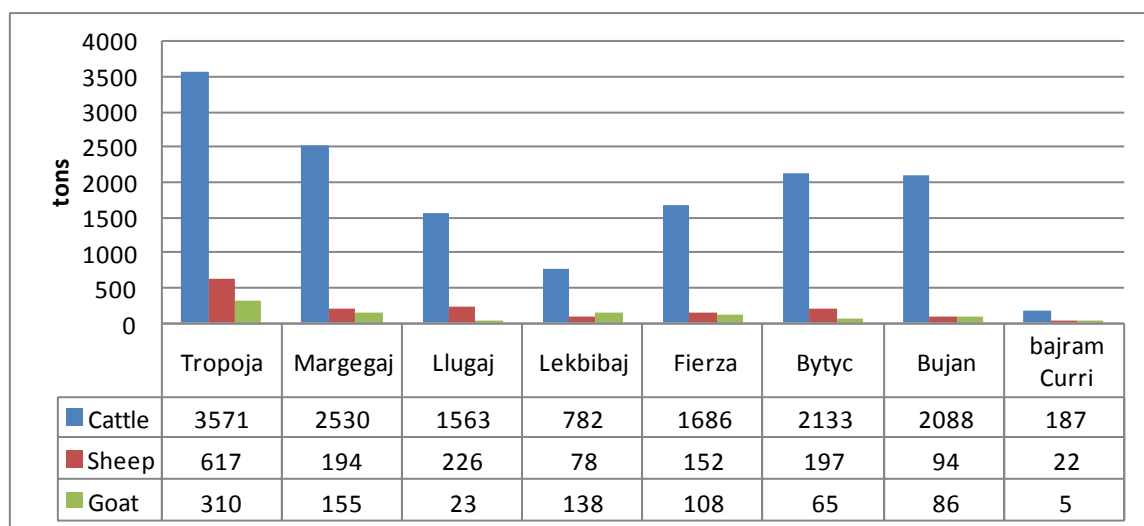
Legend: Blue-cattle milk; Yellow-sheep milk; Red-goat milt

Map 14: Meat production according to LGUs

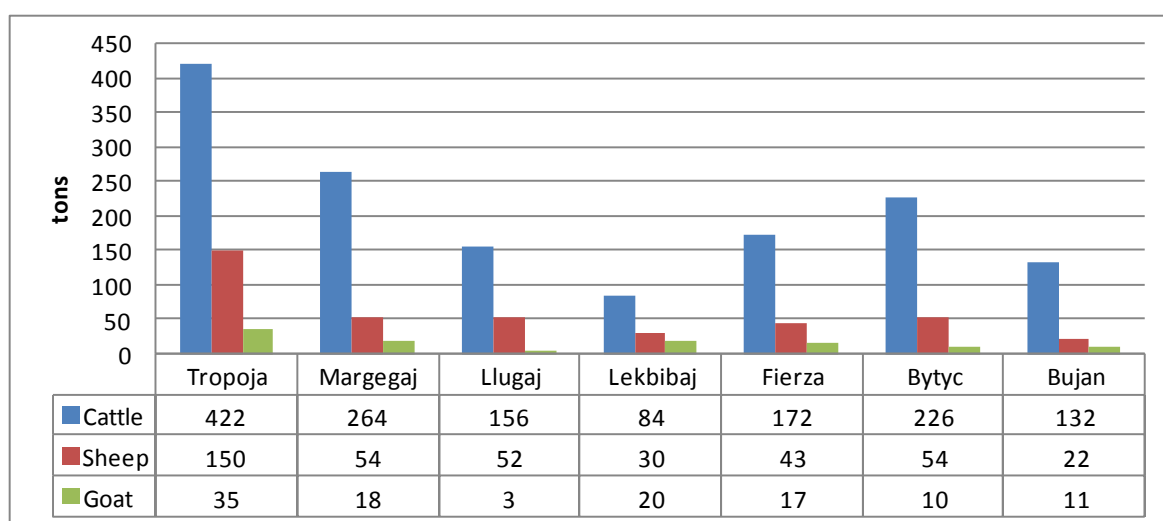


Legend: Dark green-cattle; Light green-sheep; Yellow-goat; Brown-pig; Red-poultry  
Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Graph 23: Milk production according to type and LGUs



Graph 24: Meat production according to type and LGUs



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Processing of milk and meat products is almost inexistent. There is no one dairy center in the functional area. Milk and meat are either sold in a direct and primitive way or are processed minimally at household conditions, mainly to meet the needs of family consumption and less for the market.

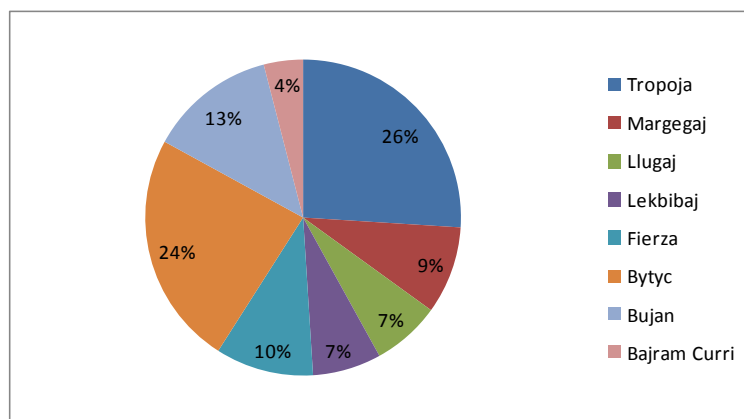
There is a great demand by the hotels, especially from the touristic areas such as Valbona Valley, for the sheep and goat meat.

Also, Tropoja is known of bee keep- Graph 25: Bee hives according to LGUs

ing. Zogaj (Bytyç) honey and chestnut honey (Krasniqe) are known in Albania.

The communes of Tropojë and Bytyç have the greatest number of bee hive (26 and 24 % of the total number at district level) and honey production (27 % each of the total production at district level).

Graphs 25 and 26 and Table 14 show the number of bee hive and honey production in % according to LGUs.

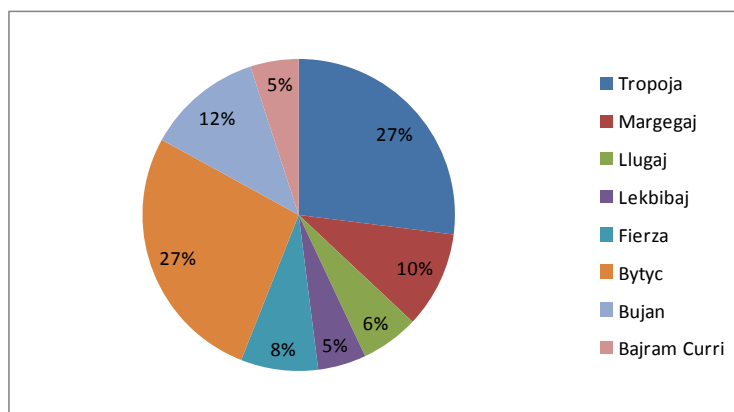


Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Table 14: Bee keeping in LGUs

| LGU          | hive | kg/hive | ton  |
|--------------|------|---------|------|
| Bujan        | 878  | 8.6     | 7.6  |
| Bytyç        | 1658 | 10      | 16.7 |
| Fierze       | 640  | 7.5     | 4.8  |
| Lekbibaj     | 493  | 6       | 2.9  |
| Llugaj       | 483  | 8.1     | 3.9  |
| Margegaj     | 616  | 9.4     | 5.8  |
| Tropoje      | 1741 | 9.5     | 16.5 |
| Bajram Curri | 283  | 9.9     | 2.8  |
| TFA          | 6792 | 8.6     | 61   |

Graph 26: Honey production in LGUs



Source: Agriculture Office Tropojë

Honey is of high quality, but its productivity is relatively low, round 9 kg/hive.

The government has shown interest and has provided subventions for the development of bee keeping. Since the honey is of good quality, especially chestnut honey, the demand for it is high and it is quickly sold at local and national markets. But the quantity that is produced is limited and small compared to market demand.

Other livestock products include wool and eggs, but their production is limited and especially aimed at meeting farmers' family consumption needs.

### 3.1.3. Conclusions and recommendations regarding development of agriculture

- The Tropoja area has un-exploited potentials relating to agricultural land that has not been cultivated. Also, the productivity in the agricultural and livestock sectors is relatively low. The pro-

duction potential in the TFA is at least twice the present production. In the future, attention should be paid to the increase of the arable area and productivity. The increase of productivity should not affect the quality of products.

- Taking into consideration the importance of the mountain tourism, it is necessary that the structure of the agriculture land is oriented to meet the needs of tourism. It would also generate higher income for farmers' families and would ensure the supply for the tourism sector with natural and quality agricultural and livestock products. In this context, the specific weight of the land cultivated with vegetables and livestock food might increase. Attention should focus on measures to orient farmers.
- In general, agricultural and livestock products are used to meet the needs of individual farmers' families. A part of them is used to meet the needs of Bajram Curri inhabitants and the needs of touristic operators in the Valbona Valley. Bajram Curri does not have any systemized and organized market for the agricultural and live stock products. They are sold in primitive ways on the streets. A small part is marketed outside the area (Albania or Kosovo). It is important to support farmers to produce for the market. Also, the efforts for the collection, processing, and marketing of agricultural and livestock products should be supported. Constructing a market place where Tropoja's farmers can sell their agricultural and livestock products in decent conditions is important for the development of agriculture in the area and increase of farmers' income. Developing the Tropoja brand would be an important step that would directly affect introduction of safety and quality standards and increase of income from the sale of products.
- Collection and marketing of chestnut is one of main sources of local income. The formal acknowledgement of the ownership on chestnut forests would positively affect their management and increase of production. It is important to conduct prevention services in order to fight diseases in chestnut forests.
- Medical plants are another important source of income for a significant number of families in Tropoja. It can be an important sector in the future if the quantity and processing level are increased.
- Tropoja has a limited inventory of the agricultural machines. It can be explained with the financial capacity of farmers and small size of agricultural farm combined with the lack of cooperation between farmers. Also, the current irrigation system is outdated, badly maintained, and does not meet the needs of farmers. It has resulted in uncultivated land and has had a negative impact on productivity. Farmers' support (through soft credits for example) to increase the use of agricultural machines would affect the increase of production and farmers' income. Improvements in the irrigation system are necessary in order to increase the size of cultivated land and the productivity. Also, it is important to encourage the cooperation among farmers.
- The interest of the farmers to increase the number of the goats should be supported because Tropoja has natural pastures that are appropriate and can support more than three times more goats. There is a great demand for goat products by the tourism sector.

- Tropoja is known of beekeeping. However, the productivity is low. Introducing contemporary methods would ensure higher productivity. Effective use of state subventions is very important for the development of the beekeeping sector.
- Tropoja has optimal conditions for the development of agriculture and livestock. But it is facing the lack of human resources mainly because of migration of young people from the rural areas toward the urban areas and abroad. Also, in Tropoja the human resources regarding agriculture and livestock are limited and unqualified. Development of human resources is important. The cultural and professional level of experts and farmers should increase.
- It is important to encourage the organisation of farmers in associations.
- Effective application of financial support schemes for farmers is important for the increase of agricultural production.

### 3.2. Tourism

Natural beauty and resources make Tropoja an important destination of mountain tourism.

The Valbona Valley is one of main touristic attractions in Tropoja, but also in Albania. It is also a National Natural Park. It is the most visited area in Albania after Theth.

But, Tropoja has many other touristic attractions that have not been developed. A considerable part of the Albanian Alps extends in Tropoja including high rocky mountains that are very attractive because of the contrasts: High mountains and deep valleys where small picturesque rivers make their way.

In addition to Valbona Valley, other potential mountain tourism destinations include Shoshan canyon (3 km from Bajram Curri) and valleys of Curraj, Gashi and Tropoja rivers. Table 15 presents a list of Natural Monuments in Tropoja.

Table 15: Natural monuments

| Monument                         | Location                 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rrasa e Pesmarrës                | Margegaj                 |
| Cave of Haxhi                    | Maja e Thatë/Margegaj    |
| Rock of Force                    | Curraj i Epërm           |
| Source of Qirecit                | Lekbibaj                 |
| Stone of Curraj                  | Curraj e Poshtëm         |
| Lakes of Doberdol                | Çerem                    |
| Lakes of Sylbicës                | Gashi highland           |
| Depozits of Shoshajt             | Shoshan                  |
| Depozits of Shëmtirë             | Rragam                   |
| Breshishta of Rragam             | Rragam                   |
| Neted willow                     | Margegaj                 |
| Source of Quku i Dunishtës       | Valbonë                  |
| Source of Shoshan                | Shoshan                  |
| Source of Valbonë                | Valbonë                  |
| Cave of Ice                      | Valbonë                  |
| Valley of Kukajt                 | Rragam                   |
| Valley of Motinës                | Dragobi                  |
| Cabyon of Shoshan                | Shoshan                  |
| Linen of Markaj                  | Markaj                   |
| Oak forest of Qafë-Luzhë         | Bytyç                    |
| Lake of Ponars                   | Pik of Hekurave/Margegaj |
| Birch of Lugu i Zi               | Lugu i Zi                |
| Beech grove Gurra e Hasan Gashit | Mërtur mountain          |
| Rrobull on the Lake of Ponars    | Margegaj                 |
| Nut tree of Dragobi              | Dragobi                  |
| Cave of Dragobi                  | Dragobi                  |
| Beech of Vranicës                | Vranica mountain         |
| Valley of Gashi River            | Gashi River.             |
| Valley of Valbonë                | Valbonë                  |

#### 3.2.1 Touristic attractions

Valbona Valley is among main touristic attractions in Tropoja as well as in Albania. Valbona Natural Park is 23 km from Bajram Curri and has an area of 8000 ha. It is the most visited mountain area in Albania after Theth. It is visited by foreign as well as Albanian tourists. Climbing toward the waterfall and alongside the Valbona River is among the most popular excursions.

The Valbona Valley is named after the Valbona River. It is round 50 km long and stems from the Valbona Pass and stream at Drini Valley, near Fierza Hydropower Plant. The average water flow is respectively 12.2 m<sup>3</sup>/second and 33.3 m<sup>3</sup>/second. The river has cold and clear water, the cleanest in Albania, waterfalls—especially the Rragami Waterfall that is a natural miracle—and has created picturesque canyons. The Valbona River is rich in “plover trout”.

### 3.2.2 Accommodating capacity and service quality

Table 16 presents the accommodating capacity in Tropojë. The Valbona Valley (commune of Margegaj) and the city of Bajram Curri have most of the accommodating capacity. Compared to hotels, the guest houses have a small capacity regarding the number of rooms but they have a relatively large number of beds.

Table 16: Accommodating capacity in Tropojë

| LGU          | # hotels | # guest houses | # rooms | # beds |
|--------------|----------|----------------|---------|--------|
| Bajram Curri | 4        | 0              | 65      | 146    |
| Margegaj     | 4        |                | 60      | 152    |
|              |          | 20             | 76      | 280    |
| Total        | 8        | 20             | 201     | 578    |

Source: Kukes Regional Council

This is explained with the typology of the touristic destination and the aim to accommodate as many visitors as possible. In general, tourists that visit Valbona come in groups and look for simple and traditional places to stay and eat. In addition to hotels and guest houses, in the Valbona Valley there are two campings that accommodate 45 tourists/day. They meet the needs of visitors that prefer to accommodate in their tents.

Last years, a considerable number of foreign and Albanian tourists that are attracted to natural beauty such as valleys, lakes, pastures, mountains, flora, and fauna have visited Tropoja. Natural resources make Tropoja suitable for hiking, alpinism, as well as fishing. In the Valbona Natural Park, there are caves interesting to visit such as the Dragobi Cave. Passing from Valbona to Theth increases tourists' attraction to Tropoja. According to data from hotels and guest houses, during 2014 only the Margegaj commune reports for more than 57,000 tourists.

Valbona is visited especially during the summer season—May-September. During the summer, round 700 tourists visit the Valley every day. Their duration of stay is relatively short, 1-7 days. Tourists have also started to visit Valbona during the rest of the year. Tourists come mainly from Western and Central Europe and North America. A considerable number of visitors, especially one-day ones, come from Kosovo.

Though during last years the touristic infrastructure in the Valbona Valley has been significantly developed, the tendency of increasing number of tourists that want to visit the area has emphasized the need for further improvement regarding accommodating capacity as well as the food, touristic guides, touristic signs, etc. Also, it has been identified the need to improve the service in order to meet visitors' needs in a quality manner according to tourism standards. Also, it is necessary to improve the supply of hotels, guest houses, and restaurants with quality agricultural and livestock products. The increasing number of tourists has emphasized the inability to ensure the supply with local agricultural and livestock products. Lack of standards relating to processing, storage, and packaging has influenced the trust of visitors toward local products.

In general, hotels, guest houses and other tourist service entities are family businesses. They are not very open to professional training in tourism. Such an attitude has had a negative impact regarding their management capacity and the ability to provide services according to standards for tourists. The

sustainable tourism development in the area requires for a combination of the traditional hospitality with development of management capacity.

The primitive and sporadic management of waste in the Valbona Valley and the whole Tropoja area has negatively affected the quality of environment. Beautiful nature, clean air and water notwithstanding, still the presence of urban waste affects the quality of environment.

Tourists that visit Tropoja usually travel by road through Tiranë-Kukës-Morinë-Gjakovë-Qafë Morinë-Bajram Curri/Margegaj or Prishtinë-Gjakovë-Bajram Curri/Margegaj. Cross border point of Qafë Morinë (Kosovë-Shqipëri) is extensively used as an entry point. A category of tourists travel through the traditional road that connects Tirana with Bajram Curri wanting to visit the Drini Valley and other destination alongside the road. A part of tourists passes from Valbona to Theth. In general, tourists use the private transportation being individual or organized through agencies.

A number of local guides lead the foreign and local tourists in their walk from Valbona to Theth.

Hotels and guest houses in the Valbona Valley cook and serve traditional dishes based on sheep and goat meat, milk, and cheese, pie, trout, etc.

### *3.2.3 Development of tourism in the area*

Tourism is under-developed. However, it has a development potential through developing a specific touristic product. Based on rich natural and cultural resources, there are important opportunities for the development of tourism in the area. The area can be developed based on clean and vergine nature, cultural heritage, and traditional hospitality by projecting the image of environmental protection, promotion of local culture, exploration of adventure, traditional hospitality and cuisine, and natural products. Visitors can be categorized as follows.

- Most of visitors are Albanian from other districts and Kosovo;
- The average stay is 2-3 days;
- Foreign visitors are mainly from Western and Eastern Europe. Their duration of stay is several days. They are interested on mountain tourism.
- Though natural and cultural resources are strength of the area, still they do not constitute a sufficient motif for the attraction of more foreign visitors.

Visitors stay in the hotels and guest houses of Valbona Valley and Bajram Currit. They are small in size and private businesses. Their level ranges 2-3 stars. The room price is 2000-3000 ALL/night.

Since natural, cultural, and gastronomic attractions are important for the attraction of small touristic markets, it is necessary to conduct proper marketing and to develop a suitable touristic product.

The Valbona Valley, and Tropoja in general, as touristic destination includes 5 main components:

- Attractions: destination elements that offer attraction and motivation for visitors;
- Services: accommodation and food;
- Transportation: to the destination and within it;
- Other services: shops, health services, touristic information, etc;



- Public infrastructure: touristic roads, touristic signs, etc.

Area's attractions can be categorized:

- Natural attractions;
- Cultural attractions;
- Man-made attractions.

Assessment results are presented below (5=excellent, 1=very poor):

| Attraction           | Assessment            |   | Comments  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Natural attractions  | Natural beauty        | 5 | Main attraction, attractive, unique             |
|                      | Mountains and hills   | 5 | Pleasant view, limited accommodation            |
|                      | Fauna and flora       | 5 | Potential for specific interest tourism         |
| Cultural attractions | Archeology            | 2 | Un-used potential                               |
|                      | History               | 3 | Un-used potential                               |
|                      | Muzic                 | 3 | Un-used potential                               |
|                      | Hand made products    | 2 | Un-used potential                               |
| Man made attractions | Urban areas           | 2 | Need for further development                    |
|                      | Entertainment/leisure | 2 | Not sufficient for the foreign and local market |
|                      | Agro-tourism          | 3 | Limited and under-developed                     |

### Segments of the touristic market and challenges

The actual touristic market in the area is mainly domestic market—an increasing number of visitors from Albania and Kosova—and foreign market—an increasing number of visitors with specific interests such as nature lovers and alpinists that are increasingly interested to explore the area. These segments have an increasing tendency. Increasing number of visitors has resulted in an increased number of accommodating units—hotels and guest houses. Based on the tendency of longer stay, the competition between hotels and guest houses has increased thus resulting in improved accommodation and cuisine. Main market segments are presented in the table below:

| Market segmentation                   | Current situation | Potential  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Vocation in mountain/nature (average) | Average           | Increasing |
| Traditional activities (short)        | Limited           | Increasing |
| Specific interest activities          | Limited           | Increasing |

There is a good perspective for mountain vocations and specific interest tourism, including exploration of nature, cultural heritage, and specific traditional events.

#### Analysis of touristic values and problems

The analysis of touristic values and problems is summarised in the Table 17 according to: Touristic Product (touristic attraction); Touristic Services (and traditional hospitality); Touristic Infrastructure; Touristic Promotion; and Local Government.

Table 17: Analysis of touristic values and problems in TFA

|  | VALUES   | PROBLEMS   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>1. TOURISTIC PRODUCT</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources</li> <li>Natural monuments</li> <li>Landscape</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate secondary road infrastructure</li> <li>Insufficient funds by the local government</li> <li>Insufficient experience regarding tourism development</li> <li>Insufficient lobbying to institutions/organizations</li> <li>Improper management of urban waste</li> <li>Lacking the management of touristic values including maintenance, guidelines, etc.</li> <li>Promotion and protection of resources is not at the desired level</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>2. TOURISTIC SERVICES &amp; HOSPITALITY</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tradition regarding guests;</li> <li>Traditional celebrations;</li> <li>Culinary tradition (traditional dishes);</li> <li>Using natural products in the cuisine</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardization of service at hotels;</li> <li>Limited human resources;</li> <li>Touristic infrastructure does not support touristic potential;</li> <li>Touristic tracks do not have the proper infrastructure, lack of touristic signs;</li> <li>Incomplete touristic information about services;</li> <li>Limited financial resources;</li> <li>Weak promotion of natural alimentary products;</li> <li>Leaving the tradition about the cuisine and handicraft.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3. TOURISTIC INFRASTRUCTURE</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional houses that can be transformed into guest houses for tourists;</li> <li>City's museum;</li> <li>Tourist Information Office in Margegaj;</li> <li>Functional touristic operators (first packages);</li> <li>Books, documents published about the history and tradition of the area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak culture of doing business through tourism services;</li> <li>The museum is not systemised, unstructured and incomplete;</li> <li>Tourist guides are amateurs;</li> </ul>   |
| <b>4. TOURISM PROMOTION</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourist Information Office in Margegaj;</li> <li>Leaflets;</li> <li>Touristic maps (<i>website</i>);</li> <li>Tourism fairs;</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited touristic information;</li> <li>Weak collaboration between LGUs regarding tourism development.</li> </ul>   |

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention by the local and central government;</li> <li>• Local willingness for cooperation and partnerships;</li> <li>• Funding availability (there are cooperation agreements that can be exploited);</li> <li>• Cross-border twinning.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdated development plans;</li> <li>• Limited funds allocated for tourism development;</li> <li>• Unclear and non applicable policies that hinder development of local tourism;</li> <li>• Limited structures and human resources;</li> <li>• Limited trust between local and central government.</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------|---|--|

### Environmental analysis regarding tourism development

Table 18 presents the analysis of environment—internal and external—regarding tourism development in TFA.

Table 18: Environmental analysis for tourism development in TFA

|                             | <b>STRENGTHS</b>  | <b>WEAKNESSES</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural resources (mountains, hills, water, forests, pastures, etc.)</li> <li>• Favourable climate</li> <li>• Rich history</li> <li>• Cultural tradition</li> <li>• Ethnography (traditional costumes)</li> <li>• Natural products (fruits, vegetables, etc.)</li> <li>• Hospitality</li> <li>• Traditional dishes</li> <li>• Increasing interest to live in the area</li> <li>• Touristic operators (hotels, touristic agencies, etc.)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low quality of public services (health, environment, public order)</li> <li>• Tourist services (insufficient culture of tourist service, limited human capacity for tourist services, traditional cuisine and traditional celebrations fading away, etc.)</li> <li>• Local government still not oriented to consider local resources for tourism development; Limited cooperation between local actors for the area's development.</li> <li>• Promotion (limited assessment of natural, historical, cultural, culinary values and human resources).</li> <li>• Remoteness of villages from Bajram Curri.</li> </ul> |
|                             | <b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>  | <b>THREATS</b>   |
| <b>EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying at state institutions for public services</li> <li>• Region's strategy emphasizing tourism as main component</li> <li>• Some LGUs focus on tourism</li> <li>• Cross-border projects as an opportunity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited implementation of national, regional, and local strategies</li> <li>• Limited funds for tourism development</li> <li>• Partial decentralisation of functions at local level</li> </ul>  |

### Promotion

Recently, promotion of Tropojë, especially Valbona Valley, as touristic destination has been significantly improved. Small accommodating capacity of most of guest houses does not motivate the owners to promote their business. In general, the promotion is done by touristic agencies that organize tourist groups.

#### *3.2.4 Conclusions and recommendations*

- Natural beauty and resources make Tropoja an important destination of mountain tourism. Valbona Valley is one of main touristic attractions in Tropoja and Albania. However, Tropoja has several other touristic attractions that have not been developed such as Ceremi, Curraj Epërm, Lake of Ponars, Pastures Mountain Range, etc. They should have the attention of local and central decision-makers. It is important that the road and touristic infrastructure to these destinations is developed and they are promoted.
- Passing from the Valbona Valley to Theth increases the tourists' attraction to this area. Promotion of touristic packages that combine these two destinations would directly affect the development of tourism in the area.
- Valbona is usually visited during the summer. However, tourists have started to visit the area during the rest of the year. It is necessary to adopt the measures to gradually transform Valbona (and Tropoja) into a year-around touristic destination.
- Valbona has foreign and Albanian visitors. Last years, the percentage of Albanian visitors—from Albania and Kosovo—has increased. It is necessary to pay more attention to this category of tourists that might constitute an important source of income from tourism.
- Recently, the touristic infrastructure in the Valbona Valley has been developing. However, the tendency of increasing number of visitors emphasizes the need for its further development in order to meet the tourists' needs. Infrastructure development should focus on accommodating capacity, cuisine, tourist guides, touristic signs, etc.
- Management of hotels, guest houses, and restaurants that host tourists should combine traditional hospitality with effective management standards. These businesses are mainly family-run and, therefore, not very open to professional training on tourism management. It is necessary to develop the management capacity, customer relations, in order that service for tourists improves on continuous basis.
- A number of local guides guide the foreign and Albanian tourists hiking from Valbona to Theth. Increasing the number of guides and their training is important for the development of mountain tourism.
- Also, it is important to improve the supply of hotels, guest houses, and restaurants with quality agricultural and livestock products. Local businesses have made significant efforts to preserve the traditional service relating to visitors' accommodation and food. However, the increased

number of tourists underlined the limited possibility to have sufficient local quality agricultural and livestock products. Lack of standards in processing, storage, and packaging has affected the visitors' trust toward these products.

- Recently, the promotion of Tropoja, especially the Valbona Valley, as touristic destination has been significantly improved. In general, the promotion is done by the touristic agencies that organise tourist groups. Touristic operators should also better promote their business.
- In Tropoja, the type of tourism that is mainly developed is the mountain tourism—hiking, alpinism, etc. It is necessary that other types of tourism such as cultural, curative, and river tourism are also developed. The touristic product for visitors interested in the mountain and adventure tourism should be developed. Implementation of specific concepts relating to touristic experience (“things to see and to do”), motives to visit the region (that should be attractive especially for external markets), promotion of the cultural and natural heritage, and provision accommodation acceptable by the market is essential for the success.
- The challenge for the area is linked with the way to ensure continuity about a series of attractions to attract tourists of the future from the main targeted markets. The area has strong reasons why it should be visited. These reasons should be communicated to foreign and Albanian tourists. The message that the region offers a series of obvious attractions should be transmitted. Thus the government institutions and local businesses can improve their competitive position in the conditions of a potential market that is increasing but also is being more selective.
- The area poorly presents its natural and cultural heritage. Meantime, the market highly appreciates this element as an important motif to visit the area. In the context of developing new attractions, we can emphasise: “Strong attractions”, mountain tourism and tourists' stay in guest houses in villages; “soft attractions” that use existing resources that do not need any significant investment including historical monuments, thematic, cultural and traditional events, fairs, traditional cuisine served in traditional way, etc. The area should continue organize traditional cultural events by also making necessary investments in infrastructure and management. In addition, village events should be encouraged because they clearly promote the area's culture and traditions that enrich the image of the destination and are interesting to visitors. The calendar of events should: offer cultural, sportive, and social themes that enrich the destination's image; ensure the uniqueness of the area and its national importance; be attractive for potential sponsors; generate more overnight stay of Albanian and foreign visitors.
- Measures to take advantage of the interest to invest in the area as well as the interest of emigrants to return to their city and/or villages.
- The tendency to preserve the tradition in construction and design is an advantage of the mountain tourism in the TFA and should be encouraged.
- Traditional dishes that are fading away should be encouraged and passed to young generations also combined with the best from other cuisines.

- In Tropoja, there is only one Tourist Information Office in Margegaj. It is important to establish other tourist information offices in other location and improve the touristic information. Also, the development of the touristic signs is important.
- Crediting with favourable conditions the tourism sector is important for its sustainable development.
- The primitive and sporadic management of the waste in the Valbona Valley, Bajram Curri, and Tropoja area in general is negatively affecting the quality of the environment. Measures to protect the quality of environment should be taken.
- Tourism is mainly developed based on the individual initiative. It is necessary that this development is oriented. In this context, it is important to develop the TFA's Strategy of the Tourism Development.

### 3.3 Economic interactions of the functional area

Based on the economic analysis of the TFA, the economic interaction between agriculture and mountain/rural tourism is obvious. Main aspects include:

- The development of mountain/rural tourism in the TFA can directly affect the increase of the demand for quality, natural agricultural and livestock products. The demand will be an important incentive for the development of the agriculture sector.
- The development of the agriculture and livestock sector would increase its supply for other sectors of the economy and, therefore, will create conditions for the further development of tourism in TFA.
- An inter-linked development of the agriculture and tourism sectors will directly affect the the increase of employment in the TFA and income of local families. It will affect the development of the other sectors and increase of general well-being in the TFA.

#### *General recommendations*

- The mountain/rural tourism and agriculture are the priority sectors in the TFA and their inter-linked development can be the key for area's sustainable economic development and increase of local income.
- The level of the agricultural production is relatively low compared to increasing needs of the future tourism development. Measures to increase the agricultural production and improve its quality to meet the market needs should be taken.
- The production and processing of agricultural and livestock products is an important development opportunity. Tropoja has quality products. However, it is important to increase their processing so that instead of marketing raw products that are sold with low prices, more quality processed products that are marketed with higher prices are sold and higher income is generated.
- The local government should undertake measures to encourage the development of agriculture and tourism sectors according to specifics and competitive advantages of different areas complementing each-other. (For example, the agriculture and livestock in the commune of Tropoja and mountain tourism in the commune of Margegaj).
- The local government should develop the integrated strategy/strategic plan for the sustainable development of the TFA.
- The protection of environment is increasingly becoming an issue, especially taking into consideration the increase of number of visitors.
- The increasing attention of central government and development agencies and donors toward the mountain areas should be effectively exploited.

- The cross-border and regional cooperation are an important opportunity for financing different projects of local economic development.



#### 4. PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA

Main services that Local Government Units provide for citizens include water supply, waste management, and public transportation.

##### 4.1 Drinking water supply and sewage

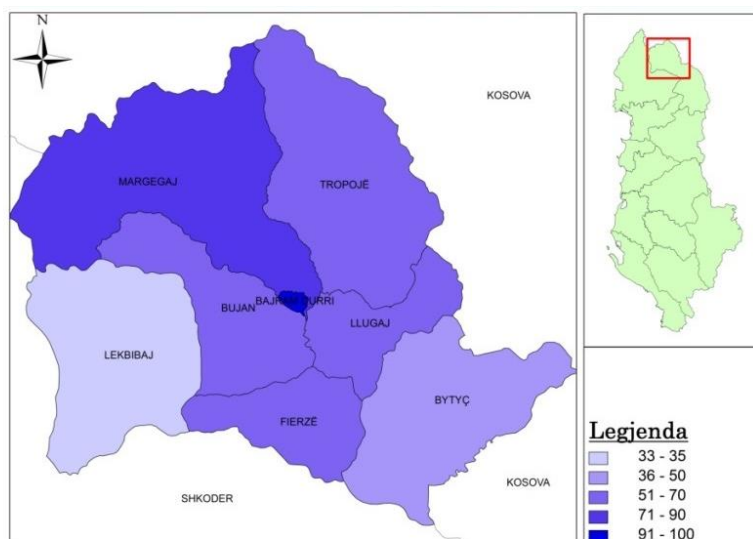
###### 4.1.1 General data about the service coverage

Tropoja has water resources that are sufficient to meet the inhabitants' needs for drinking water.

However, drinking water supply at home is not satisfactory. Only in the city of Bajram Curri, the municipality supplies with drinking water 91% of inhabitants' apartments and/or houses.

The commune of Margegaj has a relatively high percentage of the drinking water supply at home (72 %). Lekbibaj has the lowest percentage (33 %).

Map 15: Percentage of drinking water supply at home according to LGUs



Source: 2011 Census

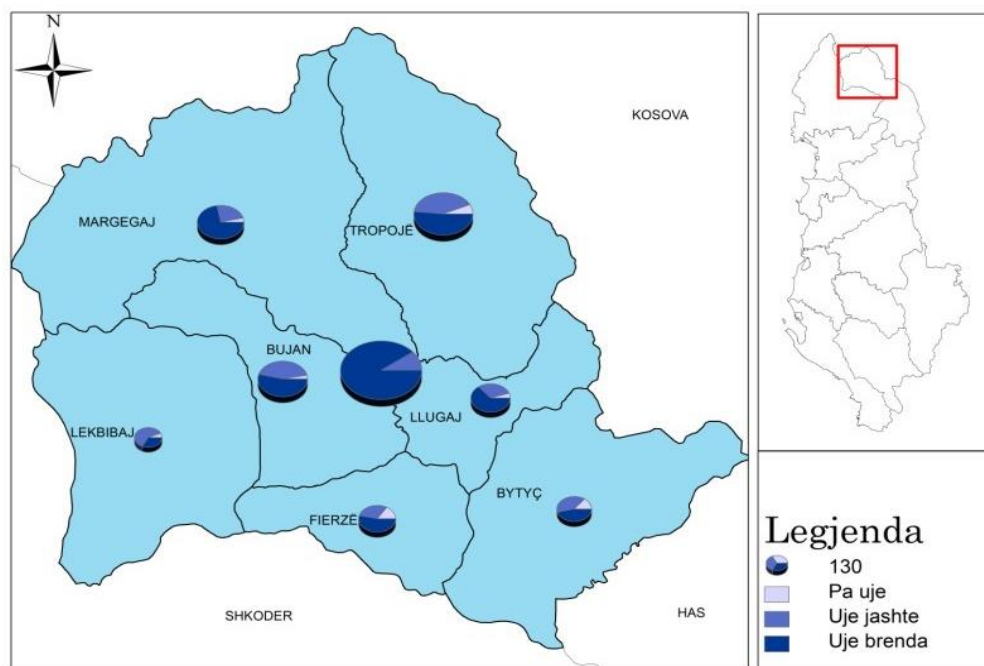
Map 15 shows the LGUs' service coverage. The service quality is unsatisfactory. Even in the city, hours of drinking water supply are limited. The water supply system is not functional in all neighbourhoods.

In the TFA, the water supply service is realized through a combination of joint stock and communal water supply.

- The joint stock Water Supply and Sewage Enterprise meets the needs of round 70 % of the Tropoja inhabitants including Bajram Curri and the surrounding villages (Margegaj, Shoshan, Kocane, Fushë Lume, Cernice and Sopot) and its is being expanded to Dojan and Bujan. City's inhabitants have drinking water 3 times per day or 4 hours/day. Villages' inhabitants has drinking water 3 times per day (or 3 hours/day). The duration of the water supply has been reduced and, therefore, the quality of service has decreased.
- Other areas that are not linked to Water Supply and Sewage Enterprise are supplied through individual communal water supply. In remote villages, wells and natural sources are used to ensure water supply.

Map 16 shows how the water supply is realized in different LGUs. Table 19 provides data regarding the water supply according to LGUs.

Map 15: How water supply is realized in different LGUs



Legend: Light blue-no water; Blue-Water outside the household;  
Dark blue-Water inside the household

Source: 2011 Census

Regarding the sewage, they exist only in Bajram Curri and partly in communes of Margegaj and Fierzë. In the Margegaj village, the main sewage collector is constructed. There are no sewage in other villages. In other communes, there are no sewage systems. The main city's collector for rain water has not been completed yet. Projects about sewage has been limited. Some projects include the sewage systems in Dushaj and Bajram Curri financed by the Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure.

Tabela 19: Furnizimi me ujë sipas NJQV

| LGU           | Water Supply System |                            |   |                            |                      |                        |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|               | Total               | Water inside the household | Water outside the household but inside the building | Water outside the building | Other type of supply | No water supply system |
| Bajram Curri  | 1369                | 1239                       | 106   | 8                          | 12                   | 4                      |
| Bujan         | 577                 | 308                        | 117   | 122                        | 15                   | 15                     |
| Bytyc         | 309                 | 144                        | 12  | 47                         | 65                   | 41                     |
| Fierze        | 345                 | 183                        | 11  | 37                         | 63                   | 51                     |
| Lekbibaj      | 206                 | 69                         | 13  | 111                        | 1                    | 12                     |
| Llugaj        | 386                 | 243                        | 31  | 72                         | 23                   | 17                     |
| Margegaj      | 515                 | 370                        | 37  | 77                         | 14                   | 17                     |
| Tropoje (com) | 781                 | 401                        | 95  | 126                        | 112                  | 47                     |

Source: Census 2011

#### 4.1.2 Main problems relating to the service

- The service does not cover the whole territory of TFA. More than 30 % of inhabitants does not benefit from this service. Especially problematic is the service in the communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyc and the remote villages of other communes. The sewage service is offered to only 70% of inhabitants.
- The quality of service is poor. Consumers do not have continuous water supply (city's inhabitants have a four-hour supply three times a day; villages' inhabitants have a one-hour water supply three times a day; the length of water supply has worsened over time), the water pressure is not sufficient, there are delays in fixing the defects, etc.
- The performance regarding the water administration and management is weak because of lack of drinking water and sewage management plans, low level of payments' collection (especially because of lack of water meters and a modern and trusted billing system), high cost of the service (especially because of the low efficiency, high depreciation, high administrative expenses, and citizens' debts), lack of investments, etc.

#### 4.1.3 Water supply and sewage infrastructure

Tropoja has sufficient water resources to meet the needs of its population. The quality of water resources is very good. Waters from surface sources are used for water supply purposes. There is no specific treatment because the water quality is according to hygiene, sanitary, physical, and chemical standards regarding drinking water. Quku i Dunishës is the main water source for the water supply system administered by the Water and Sewage Enterprise. It is 21.5 km from the city of Bajram Curri. The water supply is based on self-flowing system.

In general, the water supply is based on self-flowing system. In Fierza, it is based on mechanical lifting that is problematic relating to the cost (since the electricity is used for the mechanical lifting).

The water supply system is administered by the Water and Sewage Enterprise. It uses 4 water depot of 400 m<sup>3</sup> water.

Investments in water supply system have not been sufficient to ensure quality water supply for citizens. Main recent investments include Water Supply Systems for villages: Paqe, Flumi, Shoshan, Margegaj, and Kocanaj (2011); Markaj (2011); Prush (2011) funded by KfW. During 2006-2012, the Ministry of Transports and Infrastructure has financed the construction and/or reconstruction of several water supply systems in Dushaj, Tropoje, and Valbonë. The Albanian Development Fund has funded the internal water system in Cërnicië.

#### *4.1.4 Management structures*

Water supply and sewage system are a functional responsibility of Local Government Units. All LGUs carry out this function through the water-sewage operators at their services office (in the case of communes) and the Water and Sewage Enterprise in the case of the municipality of Bajram Curri. The Water and Sewage Enterprise is administered by a Supervisory Board composed of the representatives of Municipality of Bajram Curri and other communes of Tropoja (except Lekbibajt)--Bujan, Margegaj, Llugaj, Tropojë, Bytyç and Firzë. Fierze is part of the enterprise but does not use the water system for its needs.

The Water and Sewage Enterprise has a personnel composed of technical staff, billing staff, and management staff. The company assets include the main water pipe of 21.5 km long, offices, machineries, and equipment.

The water tariffs are respectively 19, 60 and 80 ALL/m<sup>3</sup> for family, budgetary, and private consumers. Regarding the family consumers, there is a monthly tariff of 160 ALL/person (based on the civil registry). The reason is that water meters are either missing or not functional. Only 23% of the water tariff is collected. The costs are not covered.

#### *4.1.5 Summary of main findings*

- Tropoja has sufficient water resources to meet citizens' needs. However, the households' water supply is not satisfactory.
- A significant part of population (more than 30%) does not benefit from the water supply service. The worse situation is in the communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyç and remote villages of other communes.
- The water supply for consumers is not continuous and the length of water supply has been decreasing.
- The performance relating to drinking water supply administration and management is weak because of lack of management plans for water and sewage, low level of water tariffs collection, high service cost, and lack of investments.
- The level of tariffs collection is low, only around 35%, mainly because the water meters either do not exist or are not functional.
- Only a small part of costs (35-40%) are covered by the incomes.

- In general the water supply system is based on self-flowing system. In Fierza, it is done through mechanical lifting. In this case there are problems with the cost of electricity that is used to lift the water.
- The sewage system is offered only in the municipality of Bajram Curri and partly in the commune of Margegaj and Fierzë.

#### *4.1.6 Recommendations regarding integration/organization of the service in the new local government unit*

- Improvement of the water supply service should be a priority of the LGU. It should aim at: Increasing the service coverage and service hours for citizens; Providing the service for the uncovered villages; Developing human resources regarding water supply management (experts, hydro-engineers, etc.).
- Since the water meters either do not exist or are not functional and the tariffs are collected only round 35%, the cost of service is not covered by the income. Water meters should be installed and the water tariff should be re-instated as well as a plan for its collection.
- The sewage system should have the attention of LGU because the directly affect the citizens' quality of life and protection of environment.
- The LGU should develop a feasibility study about the water supply system in the whole functional area and a water and sewage management plan.

## 4.2 Waste management

### 4.2.1 Current situation regarding the service provision

#### Service coverage

The waste management is one of main functions of the local government units. It is provided by the municipality of Bajram Curri. Meanwhile the communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë provide this service in a sporadic and limited manner. In the communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyc, this service is almost inexistent.

The municipality of Bajram Curri provides the service by itself. The five above-mentioned communes--Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë—provide only cleaning services by itself and/or in cooperation with the municipality of Bajram Curri. There is an informal agreement between the municipality of Bajram Curri and five communes regarding waste management that allows them to use the municipality's depositing site. Service coverage according to LGUs is different. Number of inhabitants, families, and number that benefit from the service are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Number of inhabitants, families, and number that benefit from the service, 2011-2013

| LGU      | 2011                       |                 |                                    |     | 2012                      |                 |                                    |     | 2013                      |                 |                                    |     |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----|
|          | # inhab-<br>hab-<br>itants | # fami-<br>lies | # families<br>receiving<br>service |     | # inhab<br>hab-<br>itants | # fami-<br>lies | # families<br>receiving<br>service |     | # inhab<br>hab-<br>itants | # fami-<br>lies | # families<br>receiving<br>service |     |
|          |                            |                 | #                                  | %   |                           |                 | #                                  | %   |                           |                 | #                                  | %   |
| B. Curri | 8357                       | 2510            | 2510                               | 100 | 8300                      | 2500            | 2500                               | 100 | 8219                      | 2485            | 2485                               | 100 |
| Bujan    | 3407                       | 900             | 390                                | 43  | 3300                      | 880             | 360                                | 41  | 3209                      | 852             | 325                                | 38  |
| Fierzë   | 2500                       | 570             | 299                                | 52  | 2530                      | 597             | 289                                | 48  | 2610                      | 646             | 300                                | 46  |
| Margegaj | 3149                       | 998             | 627                                | 62  | 3153                      | 1005            | 634                                | 63  | 3089                      | 993             | 635                                | 64  |
| Tropojë  | 5584                       | 1925            | -                                  | -   | 5362                      | 1828            | -                                  | -   | 5150                      | 1658            | 650                                | 40  |

Source: LGU data

The above data show that during 2011-2013, the waste management service is provided for 100% of Bajram Curri municipality's inhabitants and families. In four other communes, the coverage ranges from 38%-64%. The commune of Margegaj has the largest coverage compared to the other three communes. In the commune of Margegaj is reported an increasing coverage during these years. This is explained with the increased requests linked to development of tourism in the Valbona Valley. In the communes of Bujan and Fierzë, the percentage has decreased during this period. The population of LGUs and number of families have decreased in all LGUs except the commune of Fierzë. It might

affect the relative decrease of the generated waste quantity. The cleaning service according to coverage and frequency is presented in Table 21.

Table 21: The cleaning service according to coverage and frequency in LGUs

| LGU             | Coverage | Frequency every two weeks | Frequency according to waste type |                 |                   |                  |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                 |          |                           | Urban waste                       | Inert waste     | Hospitality waste | Industrial Waste |
| <b>B. Curri</b> | 70-90%   | <b>14</b>                 | Every day                         | 3 times/2 weeks | 3 times/2 weeks   | 3 times/2 weeks  |
| <b>Bujan</b>    | 30-50%   | <b>3</b>                  | Unregular                         | Unregular       | Unregular         | Unregular        |
| <b>Fierzë</b>   | 0-30%    | <b>3</b>                  | Every day                         | -               | -                 | -                |
| <b>Margegaj</b> | 70-90%   | <b>3</b>                  | twice per week                    | -               | -                 | -                |
| <b>Tropojë</b>  | 30-50%   | <b>1</b>                  | once in two weeks                 | -               | -                 | -                |

Source: LGU data

Bajram Curri and Margegaj cover 70-90% of their territory with the cleaning service. The commune of Fierze covers a much smaller territory (less than 30%) round the LGU center.

#### Waste type and quantity

The types of generated waste include urban, inert, hospitality, and industrial waste. In the municipality of Bajram Curri, 54% of waste are organic, 16.1% are paper, 1.3% are metal, 16.8% are plastics, 6.8% are glass, etc. The municipality of Bajram Curri that has the biggest concentration of population, business, and public institutions provides the service of collection and transportation of all types of waste to the depositing site. The communes report only urban waste.

The cleaning service regarding the urban waste is frequent. It is conducted daily by the municipality of Bajram Curi and the commune of Fierze. It is conducted twice per week in the commune of Margegaj and once per week in the commune of Tropojë.

Regarding the other types of waste (inert, hospital, industrial), Bajram Curri conduct cleaning three times every two weeks. The transportation is carried out with ordinary trucks. The municipality has two technological trucks that are not used due to technical reasons. Table 22 presents the waste quantity according to LGUs.

Table 22: The waste quantity according to LGUs

| LGU      | 2011        |             |                   | 2012        |             |                   | 2013        |             |                   |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
|          | Urban waste | Inert waste | hospitality waste | Urban waste | Inert waste | hospitality waste | Urban waste | Inert waste | hospitality waste |
| B.Curri  | 2400        | 1200        | 0.3               | 2700        | 1400        | 0.3               | 2700        | 1400        | 0.3               |
| Bujan    | 280         | 900         | -                 | 270         | 1300        | -                 | 260         | 1900        | -                 |
| Fierzë   | 3.5         | -           | -                 | 3.7         | -           | -                 | 4           | -           | -                 |
| Margegaj | -           | -           | -                 | -           | -           | -                 | -           | -           | -                 |
| Tropojë  | 12          | 48          | -                 | 10          | 18          | -                 | 9           | 35          | -                 |

Source: Kukesi Regional Council (for Bajram Curri); LGU data (for communes)

### Waste collection and transportation

The waste management service is provided by the LGUs themselves. During 2009-2012, the Municipality of Bajram Curri had contracted a private company to carry out the waste management.

In general, the waste management infrastructure is better in the municipality of Bajram Curri. The surrounding communes have limited infrastructure. The municipality of Bajram Curri has 180 containers of 1.1 m<sup>3</sup> (placed in 2012) and 10 open location of beton (constructed in 2005), 2 5 ton trucks, one 1 ton truck, one excavator, one auto cistern, and one snow cleaning truck. All machines are of 2013. The municipality has 26 employees working in the waste management including collection/transportation (9 persons), cleaning(13 persons), depositing (2 persons) and administration (2 persons).

Regarding the other LGUs, the commune of Margegaj has (placed in 2010) 25 containers of 1.1 m<sup>3</sup> and one small truck. The commune of Tropojë has 3 containers 1.1 m<sup>3</sup> (placed in 2009). In the communes, the containers are placed only in LGU centers. Other villages drop waste in the rivers thus polluting the environment and water.

In the municipality of Bajram Curri, the collection of waste is made by man labor. The transportation is conducted by ordinary trucks (two technological trucks are not functional for technical reasons). Also, the communes that use municipality's depositing site make the collection by man labor and the transportation by ordinary trucks.

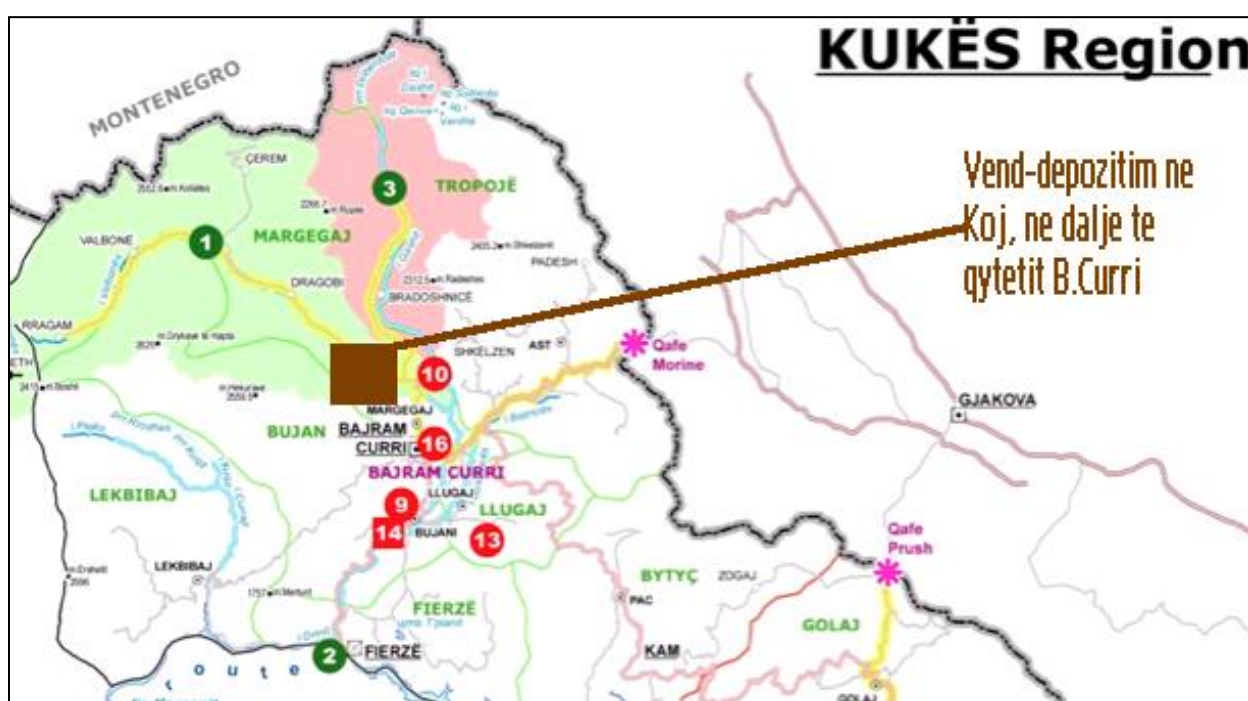
Street cleaning is done in a mechanic way (using brooms). In the municipality of Bajram Curri, round 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> is cleaned (26,000 m<sup>2</sup> of this are paved roads).



### The depositing site

The municipality of Bajram Curri has a depositing site in Kojë that is authorized for depositing urban and inert waste. It consists of a natural pit of 7500 m<sup>2</sup> and capacity of 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> that is located 3.5 km from the city of Bajram Curri. The depositing site is administered by the municipality. The communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Llugaj and Fierzë are allowed to transport and deposit their waste there based on an informal agreement with the municipality of Bajram Curri. Map 17 presents the location of the depositing site in Kojë. Other communes do not transport their waste to this location because it is costly due to distance and road conditions. The commune of Tropoje has an authorized location to deposit waste of 150 m<sup>2</sup>. The commune of Fierze uses an illegal depositing site for its urban waste.

Map 17: Location of Kojë landfill



Source: SELEA Project

There is no land field for the TFA. It has been an attempt to have one together with Has, but it has been unsuccessful until now.

### Waste processing

There is neither recycling nor differentiated collection of waste. The dangerous waste (hospital waste) are not treated. The municipality of Bajram Curri composts round 853 tons of household inert waste or round 35% of the waste it generates. In villages, individual composting is frequent, but there are no data about it.

### Service cost and financing

The municipality of Bajram Curri has an annual budget of round 8 million ALL for the waste management service. In 2013, the budget was round 13% of the overall municipality budget (7,997,722 compared to 58,032,000 ALL). In absolute terms, there is a tendency of increase regarding the budget compared to the budget that was contracted to the private company (compared to 5,120,000 ALL that was in before 2013).

In the communes, the data about the budget for waste management and their percentage to the total LGU budget are either incomplete or missing. In 2013, in the commune of Fierzë the percentage of the cleaning budget compared to the LGU budget was round 6% (750,000 ALL compared to 11,700,000 ALL). In the commune of Margegaj, in 2013 the waste budget was 2% (500,000 ALL compared to 23,000,000 ALL).

The municipality of Bajram Curri applies service tariffs for citizens, businesses, and public institutions approved by the Municipality Council in accordance with the current legislation. Table 23 presents the tariffs applied by the municipality of Bajram Curri during last three years

Table 23: Cleaning tariffs at the municipality of Bajram Curri

| Bajram Curri   | Cleaning tariffs during 2011-13 |        |        |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                | 2011                            | 2012   | 2013   |
| Families       | 700                             | 700    | 700    |
| Small business | 10,000                          | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Big business   | 20,000                          | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Institutions   | 25,000                          | 30,000 | 30,000 |

Source: Municipality of Bajram Curri

While the tariff for the families has remained unchanged, the tariffs for small and big businesses and institutions have increased in 2012 respectively with 50 %, 25 % and 20 % . Income generated by the collection of tariffs is low to cover the service cost. Thus at the municipality of Bajram Curri, income consists only 38% of the costs. Reasons relate to small cleaning tariffs (700 ALL/family per year, 1500 ALL/small business, 2500 ALL/big business and 3000 ALL/institution in 2013) and low level of their collection (19% for families, 53% for small businesses, and 68% for big businesses). Tables 22 and 23 present income generated by tariffs and the ratio between the operational costs and income generated by tariffs.

As it has been mentioned above, in 2013 the waste management has been transferred from the private company that used to do it for several years to the municipality. In 2014, the operational costs relating to waste management has increased by 60%. Meantime, the income generated by tariffs in the municipality of Bajram Curri has remained the same.

Tabela 24: Income generated by tariffs in BC

| Type           | 2011               |                  | 2012               |                  | 2013               |                  |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                | Billed<br>(000ALL) | Paid<br>(000ALL) | Billed<br>(000ALL) | Paid<br>(000ALL) | Billed<br>(000ALL) | Paid<br>(000ALL) |
| Families       | 260                | 191              | 280                | 321              | 290                | 340              |
| Small business | 1878               | 1853             | 1900               | 1850             | 2100               | 1834             |
| Big business   | 500                | 440              | 560                | 460              | 620                | 510              |
| Institutions   | 465                | 465              | 585                | 585              | 585                | 585              |

Source: Municipality of Bajram Curri data

Table 25: Report between the operational costs and income generated by tariffs in BC

| Year | Operational costs | Income from tariffs | Income from tariffs in % |
|------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2009 | 5 ,120            | 2, 929              | 57                       |
| 2010 | 5 ,120            | 2, 817              | 55                       |
| 2011 | 5 ,120            | 2, 949              | 58                       |
| 2012 | 5 ,120            | 3, 216              | 63                       |
| 2013 | 8 ,544            | 3, 269              | 38                       |

Source: Municipality of Bajram Curri data

There are no sanction for non-payment. The tariffs applied by the communes is very low. For example, in 2013 in the commune of Fierze, the tariffs are 500, 10,000 and 5,000 ALL per year for families, small business, and institutions. The commune of Bujan has applied tariffs of 200, 800, and 400 ALL per year. Not only the tariffs are very low, but also the tax base is very law, mainly because of the informality in economy. They have almost no income from the tariffs.

#### 4.2.2 Main problems in the TFA regarding waste management

- The waste management service is provided in the municipality of Bajram Curri. Communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë provide the service in a limited and sporadic manner. The communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyc, almost do not provide this service.
- The service is not provided in the proper extent. It is provided for the Bajram Curri citizens. In the above-mentioned four communes, the service covers 38%-64% of the citizens. In some communes such as Bujan and Fierzë, the percentage of population that have benefited from the service has decreased.

- Recent efforts withstanding, the increased demand for the service by the development of mountain tourism, especially in the commune of Margegaj, has not received the proper answer. In the commune of Margegaj, there is no system of solid waste collection. The waste is dealt with in the traditional way. Often, plastic and other waste are all around the place. There are no efforts to increase citizens' awareness of environmental protection.
- Though there were investments to improve the waste management infrastructure, it still remains poor. In the municipality of Bajram Curri, collection of waste is made via man labor and the transportation with ordinary trucks because the technological trucks are not functional. Other LGUs have a weak infrastructure: small number of containers and lack of technological trucks. In communes, containers are placed only in the commune centers. Other villages do not have containers. They drop the waste wherever they could thus polluting the environment and water.
- Cleaning of streets is conducted with brooms.
- There is no land field in the TFA. The communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Llugaj and Fierzë transport their waste to the depositing pit of the municipality but have no formal agreement with it defining the rights and obligations.
- Other communes do not transport their waste in the depositing pit because of the high cost of transportation due to distance and road conditions. There are illegal depositing pits, too, that negatively affect the quality of environment.
- In the TFA, there are neither recycling nor differentiated collection of the waste.
- The dangerous waste (hospitality waste) are not treated.
- The quantity of solid household waste that is composted is limited. There are no data about the quantity of the solid waste that is composted in villages.
- The income generated from the collection of cleaning tariffs is low to cover the service costs. Thus, in the municipality of Bajram Curri it makes up to 38% of costs. Reasons relate to low level of tariffs and their collection. There are no sanctions for not paying. The communes have almost no income from the tariffs. The tariffs applied by the communes are very low to a limited number of entities and their collection is very limited.
- There are no waste management plan, policies, and internal regulations for the management of waste. The citizens' satisfaction with the service has never been measured.

#### *4.2.3 Steps for the service integration at the TFA level*

##### The potential cooperation scheme

Based on the waste management situation and an approximate calculation of waste management cost, a potential scheme of waste management consists of two approaches:

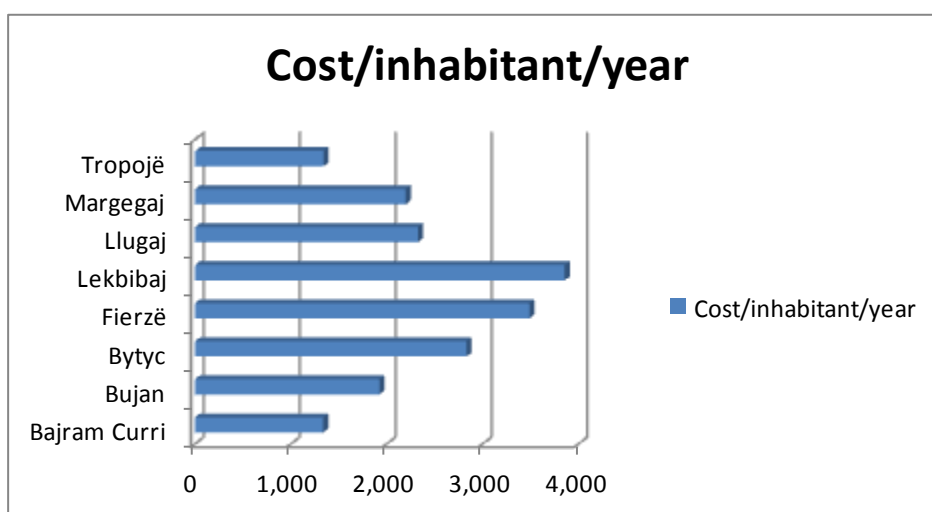
The municipality of Bajram Curri and bigger villages of the surrounding communes have a joint management of the waste consisting on: Regarding the municipality of Bajram Curri, daily collection and transportation to the Kojë depositing pit; Regarding the communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë and Llugaj, collection twice per week and transportation to the Kojë depositing pit; Regarding the communes of Fierzë, Bytyc and Lekbibaj, weekly collection and transportation to the Kojë depositing pit. Such a scheme is based on the annual service cost per inhabitant according to LGUs. Thus, the illegal depositing places that pollute the environment and undermine tourism development will be eliminated. Approximate cost for the service is presented in Table 26.

Table 26: Approximate cost for the waste management service according to LGUs

| LGU          | Trucks (5 t) | Containers (1.1 m) | Employees | Operational cost (maintenance, collection, transport, personnel, depreciation) ALL/y | Capital Investment (truck containers) | Cost/inhabitant/ye |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bajram Curri | 2            | 95                 | 3         | 4,648,901  | 9,286,894                             | 1,338              |
| Bujan        | 1            | 55                 | 3         | 3,899,448  | 5,518,778                             | 1,924              |
| Bytyc        | 1            | 36                 | 3         | 3,741,640  | 4,846,253                             | 2,833              |
| Fierzë       | 1            | 27                 | 3         | 3,453,168  | 4,530,786                             | 3,490              |
| Lekbibaj     | 1            | 27                 | 3         | 3,875,299  | 4,545,345                             | 3,857              |
| Llugaj       | 1            | 41                 | 3         | 3,536,534  | 5,036,944                             | 2,326              |
| Margegaj     | 1            | 49                 | 3         | 3,918,786  | 5,286,883                             | 2,198              |
| Tropojë      | 1            | 90                 | 3         | 4,420,031  | 6,724,002                             | 1,342              |

In this calculation, the cost of depositing the waste is not included. In the case of the municipality of Bajram Curri, the capital investment would be lower taking into consideration the existing infrastructure (containers and trucks, though not compatible). The technological truck and workers can for all LGUs based on schedule. Graph 25 presents costs/inhabitant/year according to LGUs.

Graph 25: Cost/inhabitant/year according to LGUs



From the graph, it is clear that the total annual cost per inhabitant is very high in the case of communes of Lekbibaj, Fierze and Bytyc. Reasons relate to distance and small number of inhabitants. Ta-

king into consideration the above, the frequency of transportation of waste in these communes should be rare (at the best case once per week) in order to decrease the service cost.

Individual management of the waste at remote villages (that at the same time have low density of population) by composting the waste according to standards. Ensuring the waste management even for the villages that have not been considered before.

#### The schemes to cover the costs

Covering the cost can be achieved through:

- Increasing the cleaning tariffs for inhabitants, businesses, and institutions. The current tariffs, especially the tariff imposed for families, is very low and does not cover the costs.
- Increasing the number of entities that are included in the tariff scheme. Based on the above analysis, collection of tariffs from citizens is at low levels. Regarding the businesses, their number is small, especially because of the informality. Increasing the number of businesses that pay the cleaning tariff is important also because they are the biggest polluters.
- Efficient use of the grant.

#### Interest on the joint scheme

Taking into consideration that the waste management service is provided by the municipality of Bajram Curri and at a smaller scale by the communes, the interest for the joint scheme would be more developmental than economic. Implementing a joint scheme would be very important for the environmental protection and tourism development. Many LGUs of the TFA have not considered this service a priority. From the economic perspective, because of the limited budgets, LGUs have not properly carried out the waste management. The possibility of a synergic scheme would enable the provision of this public service.

#### How is the service provided

Though there are consideration regarding the quality of the service, the example of the municipality of Bajram Curri shows that the service cost has increased when the service is provided by the municipality compared with its provision by a sub-contracted company. In this context, it seems that contracting out the service to private specialised companies is more efficient. Of course, it should be complemented by clear standards for the service provision, also reflected in the contract, that enable LGU's rigorous monitoring of the waste management service.

#### *4.2.4 Main findings relating to waste management*

- The urban waste management service is actually provided only by the municipality of Bajram Curri. Communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë provide it in a sporadic and limited way. The waste management service is provided at 100% for the Bajram Curri inhabitants. In the four other communes, the service is offered to 38%-64% of inhabitants. The commune of Margegaj has the largest coverage. There, the service coverage has increased gradually during 2011-2013 determined by the demand of the mountain tourism development

in the Valbona Valley. The communes of Lekbibaj and Bytyc do not really provide the waste management service.

- Recently, there are efforts to improve the waste management. However, the demand coming from tourism development, especially in the commune of Margegaj, has not found the proper answer.
- There is an informal cooperation between the municipality of Bajram Curri and surrounding communes--Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë--for the waste management consisting on the use by these LGUs of the depositing pit of Bajram Curri in Kojë.
- The municipality of Bajram Curri provides the service of collecting and transportation of all types of waste—urban, solid, hospital, and industrial—at the depositing pit. The communes report only collection and transportation of urban waste. The cleaning service is organized on daily basis at the municipality of Bajram Curri and weekly basis at communes. The transportation is realized with ordinary trucks.
- LGUs carry out the waste management service.
- Though there are investments in the waste management infrastructure, it still remains problematic. In the municipality of Bajram Curri, the collection of waste is realized through man labor and their transportation with ordinary trucks (because the technological trucks are not functional). Other LGUs of the TFA have a poor infrastructure: small number of containers and lack of technological trucks; there are containers only at commune centers and other villages drop waste wherever they can thus polluting the environment and waters.
- Street cleaning is realized with brooms.
- The municipality of Bajram Curri has an authorised depositing pit in Kojë, a natural pit of 1.5 ha round 3.5 km from Bajram Curri. The depositing pit is also used by the communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Llugaj and Fierzë. With necessary interventions, the depositing pit can meet the needs for waste management according to accepted standards. The other communes use illegal depositing pits.
- There is no land field in the TFA.
- There is neither recycling nor differentiated collection of the waste. Dangerous (hospital) waste is not treated. The municipality of Bajram Curri composts round 35% of the household solid waste. In the villages, composting is done individually. There are no data about that.
- The income generated by the collection of the cleaning tariffs are very low to cover the service cost. In the municipality of Bajram Curri, the income make up to 38% of the cost. Reasons include low tariffs (700 ALL/family/year, 1500 ALL/small business, 2500 ALL/big business and 3000 ALL/institution in 2013) and low level of collection of tariffs (19% of families, 53% of small business, and 68% of big business). The communes generate almost nothing from the tariffs because it is very low and the number of entities is small because of the informality.
- There is no plan of waste management for the LGUs and TFA. There are no policies and regulations for the waste management.
- Measurement of the citizen's satisfactions with the service provision has never been conducted.

#### 4.2.5 Recommendations regarding waste management

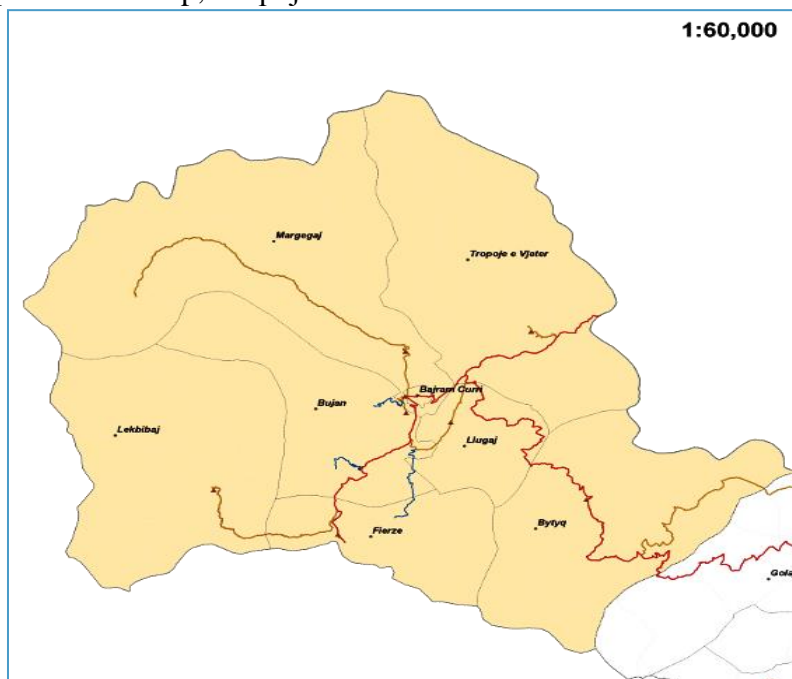
- Local government should make the waste management their priority. The effective waste management is important for citizens' quality of life and development of tourism. LGU should develop an Integrated Waste Management Plan for the whole TFA.
- The standards regarding the waste management should be ensured.
- LGU should consider the possibility of the differentiated collection of the waste.
- The necessary infrastructure for the waste management should be established (containers, effective and efficient collection of waste, establishing smaller trash cans within neighbourhoods, technological trucks, revision of the tariffs and their collection in order to cover the costs, also including the villages, waste recycling, etc.). Local government should lobby for the issue of depositing pit according to accepted standards.
- Community awareness to contribute in environmental protection should be a priority.
- Based on the current situation of waste management as well as the cost calculation, a scheme of waste management consists of two approaches: (1) The municipality of Bajram Curri and bigger villages of the surrounding communes have a joint management of the waste consisting on: Regarding the municipality of Bajram Curri, daily collection and transportation to the Koje depositing pit; Regarding the communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë and Llugaj, collection twice per week and transportation to the Koje depositing pit; Regarding the communes of Fierzë, Bytyc and Lekbibaj, weekly collection and transportation to the Koje depositing pit. Such a scheme is based on the annual service cost/ inhabitant according to LGUs. Thus, the illegal depositing places that pollute the environment and undermine tourism development will be eliminated. (2) Individual management of the waste at remote villages (that at the same time have low density of population) by composting the waste according to standards.
- Covering the cost can be achieved through: Increasing the cleaning tariffs for inhabitants, businesses, and institutions because the current tariffs, especially the one for families, are very low and does not cover the costs; Increasing the number of entities that are included in the tariff scheme. Based on the above analysis, collection of tariffs from citizens is at low levels. Regarding the businesses, their number is small, especially because of the informality. Increasing the number of businesses that pay the cleaning tariff is important also because they are the biggest polluters.
- The contracting out of the waste management service to private specialised companies is more efficient. Of course, it should be complemented by clear standards for the service provision, also reflected in the contract, that enable LGU's rigorous monitoring of the waste management service.



### 4.3. Roads and public transportation

In general, the road infrastructure in the TFA is good. The city of Bajram Curri is connected with automobile roads with centers of the communes and many of area's villages such as Markaj, Gegëhysen, Lekbibaj, Shipshan, Pac, Zogaj, Valbone, Berishë, Kepenek. Bajram Curri is also connected to Krumë (Has). Map 18 and Tables 27 and 28 present a summary of the road inventory in TFA according to road types.

Map 18: Road map, Tropojë



**Legend:** Red-National roads; Brown-Roads administered by the Region  
Blue-Road that are taken out.

Source: Kukesi Regional Council

Table 27: Road inventory (national and regional roads)

| Road                          | km         | Type of road |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Kam – Qafë Prushi             | 19         | regional     |
| Sopot - Llugaj - Ura Bujan    | 8          | regional     |
| Dushaj - Lekbibaj             | 15         | regional     |
| Bajram Curri - Bujan          | 6          | regional     |
| Tropojë Fshat - National Road | 4          | regional     |
| Bajram Curri - Fierze         | 17         | national     |
| Bajram Curri - Valbone        | 27         | national     |
| Ura Bujanit - Qafe Morinë     | 20         | national     |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>116</b> |              |

Source: Kukesi Regional Council

Table 28: Road inventory (communal roads)

| LGU    | Road                                      | Km   | Total km |
|--------|---|------|----------|
| Bujan  | Qender Komune - Mani i kuq Selimaj        | 9.5  |          |
|        | Asfalt Sh12 - Breg Geghy seni             | 4    |          |
|        | Ura e tankeve - Kodra e Tplanit           | 3.5  |          |
|        | Rudesh - Rosuje                           | 2    |          |
|        | Qender Komune - Markaj                    | 7    |          |
|        | Markaj - Qafe kolçi                       | 10.4 |          |
|        | Blini Markaj - Qyteze Ilire Rosuje        | 3    |          |
|        | Shkolla Markaj - Lagje Milushaj           | 0.9  |          |
|        | Shpia Shpend Zeqirit - Varreza Sheqerukaj | 1    |          |
|        | Blini Markaj - Koder Markaj               | 1.2  |          |
|        | Shpia Isa Males - Shpia e Shkelzen Secit  | 0.8  |          |
|        | Kodra e Dellinjes - Lagje Gjure           | 1    |          |
|        | Imenaj - Berçan                           | 1.1  |          |
|        | Ulica Bunarit - Mulliri I Hasan Kamberit  | 0.5  |          |
|        | Lekurtaj shkolla - Lagje Ismailgecaj      | 0.8  |          |
|        | Ura e tankeve - Molle e kuqe              | 1.1  |          |
|        | Ura e Bujanit - Lagje Vatoc               | 1.9  |          |
|        | Sh12 Sekullai - Vidriç                    | 1.6  |          |
|        | Shpia Mic Sokolit - Mulosmanaj            | 1.1  |          |
|        | Shkolla Bujan - Lagje BASHAJ              | 1    |          |
|        | Sh12 Asfalt - Lagje Ranxa                 | 0.5  |          |
|        | Sh12 Asfalt - Lagje Rakiq                 | 2    |          |
|        | Shkolla e Grise - Lagje Shpati            | 1.4  |          |
|        | Shkolla e Grise - Lagje Vine              | 1.8  |          |
|        | Ura e Grise - Molle e kuqe                | 0.9  |          |
|        | Lekurtaj shkolla - Lagje Shulla           | 2    |          |
|        | Lekurtaj shkolla - Lagje Nikocaj          | 1.8  |          |
|        | Lekurtaj Proi I madh - Lagje Kulla        | 0.8  |          |
|        | Xhamia Selimaj - Lagje Lemenice           | 3.3  |          |
|        | Mani I Kuq Selimaj - Lagje Kallbaj        | 1    |          |
|        | Prroi I Halilajve - Lagje Gjonaj          | 2.6  |          |
|        | Sh12 Asfalt - Lagje Halilaj               | 1.2  | 72.7     |
| Bytyc  | RN23 - Leniqi                             | 1.2  |          |
|        | RN23 - Zherke                             | 3    |          |
|        | RN23 Pac - Berishe                        | 16   | 20.2     |
| Fierze | Q.Fierze - Lagjja Pepkolej,Raje           | 4    |          |
|        | Q.Fierze - Dushaj I Eper                  | 3    |          |
|        | Dushaj - Arvej-Xan                        | 3    |          |
|        | Kodra e Xanit - Dege                      | 14   |          |
|        | Ura Dizdare - Shk.9-Vjeçare Tpla          | 6.2  |          |
|        | Shk.9-Vjeçare Tpla - Ballfushe            | 2.2  |          |
|        | Moken - Çuke                              | 3    |          |
|        | Dushaj - Varreza Publike                  | 1    |          |
|        | Ura e Valbones - Ish Nyja e Betonit       | 1    |          |
|        | Dege - Rushte                             | 3    | 40.4     |

| NJQV     | Emertimi                       | Gjat_Km | Gjithsej km |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Lekbibaj | Qender Komune - Lugu Ndermajse | 15      |             |
|          | Koder-Markaj - Liqeni          | 0.6     |             |
|          | Ura-Tetaj - Hec Lekbibaj       | 2.5     |             |
|          | Hec Lekbibaj - Qafe Kollçit    | 14      |             |
|          | Bushat - Gjonpepaj             | 4       |             |
|          | Mserr - Salce                  | 8       |             |
|          | Kodra Zades - Vark             | 2.6     |             |
|          | Seishta - Betoshe              | 4.5     |             |
|          | Ulur - Tetaj                   | 2.3     |             |
|          | Kthesa Jahos - Shengjergj      | 2.4     |             |
|          | Hec Lekbibaj - Curraj          | 3       |             |
|          | Puseta - Shofra                | 1       | 59.9        |
| Llugaj   | Bukov - Luzhe                  | 5       |             |
|          | Llugaj - Luzhe                 | 3       |             |
|          | Llugaj - Cernice               | 3       |             |
|          | Cernice - Qender               | 1.5     |             |
|          | Bukov - Tyrbja                 | 1.2     |             |
|          | Gjuric - Cernice               | 1       |             |
|          | Llugaj - Sopot                 | 4       | 18.7        |
| Margegaj | B.Curri - Rragam               | 45      |             |
|          | Dragobi - Q.Strugi             | 55      |             |
|          | Valbone - Kukaj                | 4.5     |             |
|          | Qender - Pulanaj-Gelaj         | 7       |             |
|          | B.Curri - Elezaj               | 3       |             |
|          | Cernice - Byberaj              | 3.5     |             |
|          | Rruga Valbones - Gral-Rudesh   | 8       |             |
|          | Rruga Valbones - Motine        | 2.8     |             |
|          | Ura Valbones - Ish Posta       | 1       |             |
|          | Qender - Hetaj-Gjongecaj       | 4       | 133.8       |
| Tropojë  | Tropoje - Buçaj                | 5.1     |             |
|          | Buçaj - Kuçane                 | 2.2     |             |
|          | Buçaj - Papaj                  | 1.6     |             |
|          | Papaj - Padesh                 | 7       |             |
|          | Boshnjak - Tafaj-Gegaj         | 7.8     |             |
|          | Gegaj - QafMorine              | 7       |             |
|          | Tafaj - Trezhnjeve             | 2       |             |
|          | Kojel - Kuçane                 | 4       |             |
|          | Tropoje - Myhejan              | 4       |             |
|          | Myhejan - Kovac                | 1.8     |             |
|          | Kovac - Gosturan               | 2.1     |             |
|          | Sopot - Begaj                  | 3.1     |             |
|          | Begaj - Fshat                  | 1.6     |             |
|          | Begaj - Babine                 | 1.9     |             |
|          | Sopot - Kermaj                 | 6.9     |             |
|          | Kermaj - Shkelzen              | 3.8     |             |
|          | Ish rep ushatrak - Kuarc       | 1.9     |             |
|          | Brenda Fshati - Kermaj         | 2.1     |             |
|          | Kermaj - Kovac                 | 2.5     |             |
|          | Kamen - Kasaj                  | 1.6     |             |
|          | QafMorine - Koldet             | 3       |             |
|          | Fshati - Mejdani               | 2.5     | 75.5        |
|          |                                |         | 421.2       |

#### 4.3.1 Access to the TFA

The TFA is connected to the national road system through national roads Bajram Curri – Qafë Morinë, Bajram Curri - Fierzë and Bajram Curri - Krumë.

- National road Bajram Curri – Qafë Morinë (national road 22) connects Tropoja with the “Ibrahim Rugova” highway (Kosovo) and “Nation’s Road” (Albania). The distance to Tirana through this itinerary is 258 km. The travel through this road is easier and qualitative. However, going through two cross border points—Qafë Morinë (Tropoje) and Morinë (Kukes) increases the travel time. In the case of transportation of goods, there are difficulties relating to custom controls.
- National road Bajram Curri – Fierzë (national road 22) is part of the national road Bajram Curri – Tiranë. Until the independence of Kosovo, the national road Bajram Curri-Tiranë through Fierzë has been the main road that used to link Tropoja with Tirana, “Nënë Tereza” airport, and port of Durrës. Initially, this road used to go through Mountain Pass, Pukës and Vaut i Dejës where it intersects the national road Shkodër-Tiranë or Rubiku, Fushë-Arrëz, Rubik and Milot where it intersects the national road Shkodër-Tiranë and is respectively 275 and 260 km. Until the roads intersect with the national road Shkoder-Tirane, the roads go through mountains and the average speed is round 40 km/hour. The transportation cost is high for people but especially goods and difficult during the winter when it snows. After the construction of the Fierza Hydropower Plant, an alternative way to Tirana combined the road and the lake through the itinerary Fierze-Koman-Vau Dejës where it intersects with the national road Shkodër-Tiranë. Because of the high transportation cost, at present this road is hardly used. However, it is very panoramic and can be effective if linked to development of tourism.
- National road Bajram Curri – Krumë (national road 23) connects Tropojë with Has, Kukes, and from there with Tirana. The road is round 75 km and paved (last year, the segment Kukes-Krume has been reconstructed). An alternative for Bytyci inhabitants to connect with Kukesi and Kosovo is through Qafë Prushi cross border point. It goes through mountains and the average speed is (30-40 km/hour) and difficult in winter when it snows.

#### 4.3.2 Transportation within TFA

As emphasised in the section about the typology of TFA, the TFA follows the concentric model: The municipality of Bajram Curri that is the main market and administrative center as well as the place where most of services are offered is at the center of the area; Communes coverge in Bajram Curri; The intensity of interaction is higher between Bajram Curri and surrounding villages that are at the same time the biggest. Table 29 presents connection of villages with the national road.

Table 29: Access to national roads

| LGU       | Road          |             | Length (km) |          |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
|           | Starts        | Ends        | Regional    | Communal |
| LEKBIBAJ  | FIERZE        | LEKBIBAJ    | 29          |          |
| LEKBIBAJ  | FIERZE        | SALCA       |             | 5.5      |
| FIERZE    | RN22/FIERZA   | DEGA        | 5           | 12       |
| FIERZE    | RN22          | DUSHAJ      |             | 2        |
| BUJAN     | BUJAN         | SELIMAJ     | 4.5         |          |
| BUJAN     | B.CURRI       | MARKAJ      | 4           |          |
| BUJAN     | B.CURRI       | BRECAN      | 3           |          |
| BUJAN     | RN22BUJAN     | BLLATE      | 4           |          |
| BUJAN     | RN22          | GRI         | 4           |          |
| BUJAN     | BUJAN         | Q.KOLCI     | 4           | 24       |
| LLUGAJ    | RN22/U.BUJAN  | JAH SALIH   | 6           |          |
| LLUGAJ    | RN22 LLUGAJ   | TPLANI      | 13          |          |
| LLUGAJ    | RN22          | LUZHE       | 4           |          |
| MARGEGAJ  | B.CURRI       | RrAGAM      | 29          | 3        |
| MARGEGAJ  | RN22          | SHOSHANI    |             | 1.5      |
| MARGEGAJ  | RN22          | CEREMI      |             | 12       |
| TROPOJE   | RN12/SOPOT    | KERNAJE     | 12          |          |
| TROPOJE   | RN22          | MYHEJANI    |             | 3.3      |
| TROPOJE   | RN22          | BEGAJ       |             | 2        |
| TROPOJE   | RN22/BABINA   | SHUMICE     |             | 2        |
| TROPOJE   | RN22          | VICIDOLI    |             | 2        |
| TROPOJE   | RN22          | BUCAJ       | 10          |          |
| TROPOJE   | RN22/U.KAMENE | LUGU I ZI   |             | 4        |
| TROPOJE   | QAF MEJDAN    | TROPOJE     |             | 3        |
| BYTYC     | RN23/KAMI     | QAFE PRUSHI | 20          |          |
| BYTYC     | RN23          | LENIQI      |             | 1.2      |
| BYTYC     | RN23          | ZHERKE      |             | 3        |
| BYTYC     | RN23 PAC      | BERISHE     | 13          | 3        |
| Length km |               |             | 164.5       | 83.5     |

- Access to national roads. Centers of communes are connected with the national road Bajram Curri – Qafë Morinë.
- Access to regional roads. Most of villages have access to regional roads and from there to national roads.
- Access to local communal roads. In general, the villages within the territory of LGUs and neighbourhoods within villages are connected. These roads are partly paved.

The situation of regional roads is generally good. They are asphalted. The situation of communal roads is somewhat good. Most of them are paved with gravel but passable. Difficult to pass are the roads that connect villages Tplan, Degë and Bredashnicë. Travel presents difficulties especially in

winter regarding roads that connect mountain villages that are distant from the center of the functional area.

#### *4.3.3 Investment on road system*

In many LGUs, there were investments to asphalt the roads, especially with funding from the Albanian Development Fund, Ministry of Interior (where the LGUs have participated), and foreign donors. In the TFA, there are about 538 km of road including 164 km asphalted roads. Maintenance remains a problem because LGUs that are responsible for this service have limited budgets for this purpose.

#### *4.3.4 Public Transportation*

In the TFA, the public transportation is used for the movements within the area and outside. The main national lines include: Tiranë, Durrës, Gjakovë, Krumë and Kukës. There is licensed public transportation from Bajram Curri to Tirana as well as centers of communes (Fierzë, Tropojë, Llugaj, and Bujan) and Gjakovë. Also, there is licensed public transportation from Bajram Curri to centers of the communes and some main villages.

The national road Bajram Curri-Qafë Morinë, that through Kosovo goes to Kukës, generally connects Tropoja with Tirana as well as Prishtina and other cities of Kosovo.

In general, the public transportation to Tirana is realized by minivans of 17-20 seats through the itinerary Bajram Curri - Qafë Morinë – Gjakovë – Morinë – Kukës - Tiranë. There are round 30 return trips per day. Minivans leave in between 06.00-14.00. There are also minivans that go to Durres.

The public transportation to centers of communes includes 6-8 return trips per day. Regarding the commune of Lekbibaj, it includes three round trips. Also, there are minivan lines to main villages of the functional area. The public transportation from the centers of communes to Bajram Curri is usually realized with 8-seat minisvans.

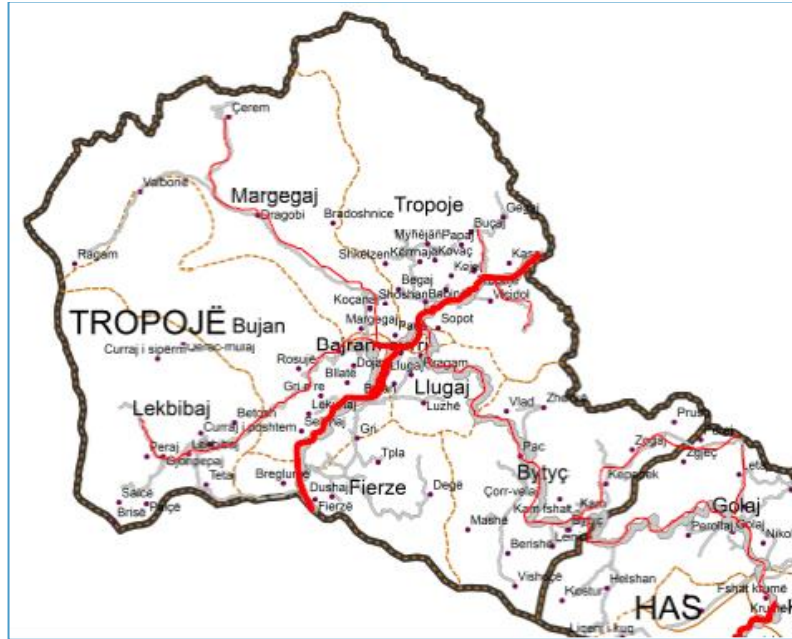
At present, Bajram Curri is connected to Gjakova through an asphalted 37 km-long road that goes from Bajram Curri–Tropojë–Vjetër–Qafë Morinë–Gjakovë. 5-6 minisvans travel daily from Bajram Curri to Gjakova and vice versa. Round 15 vans make daily transportation of goods.

Until the Kosovo independence, before the highway “Ibrahim Rugova” and “Nation’s Road” have been constructed, the national road to Tirana used to go through Fierza. Initially it used to go through Mountain Pass (260 km). After the construction of the Fierza Hydropower Plant, the road to Tirana could combine road and water transportation through the Fierza Lake. Because of the high cost, this road is hardly used. Transportation is mainly realized through Gjakova and Kukes.

Public transportation to go to work is mainly used by Fierza inhabitants (25%). At the center of the TFA, Bajram Curri, it is 6.9 %. The fragmented infrastructure between the municipality and communes results in low transportation. Map 9 presents the intensity of the use of roads for public transportation.

Use of cars for transportation purposes has increased by 37% compared to 2006. According to the 2011 Census, there are 36 cars/1000 inhabitants. In 2013, the number of private cars has been increased by 306 compared to 256 in 2012.

Map 19: Intensity of road use for public transportation



**Legend:** Thick red-intense traffic; Thin red-small traffic

Source: Individual and focus interviews

The good conditions of roads has shortened the travel from villages to Bajram Curri. The centers of communes are round 30 minutes from Bajram Curri. However, there are villgaes that are far away. Their inhabitants need a long time to come to the center of the TFA. For example, inhabitants of Lëkbibaj need more than 65 minutes to come to Bajram Curri.

There are difficulties for the road transportation, especially during the winter, due to the mountainous terrain.

The road infrastructure has improved. However, the overall road network is not satisfactory.

#### 4.3.5 Road and transportation management

The national roads (64 km) and regional roads (52 km) are part of the inventory of the Regional Road Enterprise (KUkesi Regional Council) that is responsible for any investments, maintenance, cleaning from the snow, etc. A private company has been contracted to maintain the roads.

The continuous road maintenance ensures that roads are open and passable. The periodical road maintenance consists of recovering, repairs, cleaning, etc.

The maintenance of communal roads are the responsibility of LGUs that also have a certain budget for maintenance and emergencies (especially during the winter). These items are under the investment section of the LGUs' budget. The average cost of road maintenance is 20,000 ALL/km.

#### *4.3.6 Main findings relating to roads and public transportation*

- The TFA has a relatively difficult access to the national road network. The access through the traditional roads that go through Fierza is difficult because of the terrain (Mountain Pass), cost (the road through Fierza Lake), and accessibility during the winter. The road that goes through Gjakova presents difficulties for the goods' transportation because of customs control. The road through Kruma is mountainous and difficult during the winter.
- The central part of TFA (Bajram Curri and surrounding villages) communicate through a road network that is asphalted and in relatively good condition. This network serves the purposes of economic development including production and marketing of agricultural and livestock products and development of the mountain tourism.
- The communal roads are not satisfactory, especially those that connect Tplan, Degë and Bredashnicë. The roads that connect the center with potential touristic areas such as Ceremi, Curraj Epërm, Liqeni i Ponarëve, Vargmali i Bjeshkëve in general are unsatisfactory (and even do not exist).
- The technical and financial capacity regarding maintenance of and investment on communal roads is low. LGUs cannot carry them out with their budgets.
- The public transportation in the TFA is done by minivans. The system is regulated and licensed by the LGUs (especially the municipality of Bajram Currit). The conditions of public transportation are acceptable.

#### *4.3.7 Recommendations regarding roads and public transportation*

- Advocacy and lobbying for the facilitation of free movement, especially of goods, between Albania and Kosovo would positively affect the transport and, therefore, economic development of the TFA.
- The road infrastructure that connects the remote villages with the center of TFA should improve in order to facilitate their access to the market, economic development, increased income and encourage their inhabitants to stay in their farms.
- The road infrastructure to potential touristic areas such as Ceremi, Curraj Epërm, Liqeni i Ponarëve, Vargmali i Bjeshkëve should be improved in order to support the development of the mountain tourism.
- Standards relating to public transportation should be respected.

### **General recommendations**

Data source includes the Kukesi Regional Council and LGUs. In general, data collected from different sources do not match. However, the trends are the same. The data for public services either are incomplete or absent. The LGU should ensure the generation and consolidation of data.



## 5. ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN THE TFA

### 5.1 Main services offered by the LGUs and their distribution

Based on the Law 8652 “For the organization and functioning of local government in Albania”, LGUs carry out the functions relating to: 1) Public infrastructure and services; 2) Social, cultural, and sport services; 3) Local economic development; and 4) Civil protection and safety.

In the fields of public infrastructure and services, LGUs are responsible for: a) drinking water supply; b) sewage system; c) construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the local roads, sidewalks, and public squares; ç) public lightening; d) public transportation; dh) cemeteries and funeral services; e) decor; ë) parks, green area management; f) waste collection, transport and processing; g) urban planning, land management, and housing according to the legal requirements. Table 30 presents how these functions are carried out by the LGUs of the TFA.

Table 30: Functions carried out by LGUs of TFA

|                            | Bajram Curri | Bujan | Bytyc | Fierze | Lekbibaj | Llugaj | Margegaj | Tropojë |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Drinking water             | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |
| Sewage                     | x            |       |       | x      |          |        | x        |         |
| Roads & squares            | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |
| Road lightening            | x            |       |       |        | x        |        |          |         |
| Public transportation      | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Cemeteries                 | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |
| Decor                      | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Parks and green areas      | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Waste management           | x            | x     |       | x      |          | x      | x        | x       |
| Urban planning and housing | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |

Only the municipality of Bajram Curri carries out all public services. Other LGUs do not provide a large part of these services.

The situation is problematic regarding the public services relating to construction, maintenance, and improvement of city streets, squares, parks and green areas, and lightening in the municipality of Bajram Curri. Thus, the spaces within the neighborhoods are un-systemized, without recreation and en-

tainment facilities for children and senior citizens, and without the proper lightening. The schools either do not have fences or their fences are damaged, representing safety problems for pupils/students. School yards are not systemized and do not provide sport and entertainment facilities for children or children. Some school buildings have damaged roofs present problems for pupils/students especially during the winter and bad weather. In the communes, the situation regarding these services is more problematic. Commune centers are not systemized and do not offer any appropriate environment for citizens and opportunities for quality service delivery to them.

Social, cultural and sport services include: a) Protection and development of the local cultural and historical heritage, organization of activities, and administration of respective institutions; b) organization of sport activities, entertainment and administration of respective institutions; c) social services and administration of kinder gardens, elderly care centers, etc. Only the municipality of Bajram Curri has the institutions and staff to offer these services. The municipality of Bajram Curri administers the museum “Bajram Curri” and Sport Club “Valbona” and the sport facilities (football and hand games).

Local economic development services include: a) preparation of local economic development programs; b) establishing and functioning of public market place and marketing network; c) development of the small business and development of encouraging activities such as fairs and advertising at public places; d) organization of services that support local economic development such as necessary information, structure, and infrastructure; e) veterinary services; f) protection and development of local forests, pastures, natural resources. Table 31 presents how LGUs of TFA carry out these functions.

Table 31: Economic development functions by the TFA LGUs

|                          | Bajram Curri | Bujan | Bytyc | Fierze | Lekbibaj | Llugaj | Margegaj | Tropojë |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Plans and programs       | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |
| Public market place      | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Fairs, advertising, etc. | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Support services         | x            |       |       |        |          |        |          |         |
| Veterinary services      | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |
| Forests and pastures     | x            | x     | x     | x      | x        | x      | x        | x       |

From the table, development of plans and programs is carried out by all LGUs. However, often development of plans and programs is mentioned but not properly realised. These plans are often part of strategic development plans. The veterinary, forests, and pasture services has been transferred to LGUs. They have the staff to carry these services, too. Other services such as public market places,

fairs, advertising, economic development support services are carried out only by the municipality of Bajram Curri.

Functions relating to public order and civil emergencies include: a) public order to avoid administrative misconduct and implementation of LGU's acts; b) civil protection. This services is offered by the municipal/communal police that is a structure established at LGUs. The Municipality of Bajram Curri has the structure with 4 staff. In other LGUs, in general this service is absent.

Relating to the information/communication service, it is not effective neither in the municipality of Bajram Curri nor in the communes. Citizens face delays when it comes to receive timely and proper information and solve their problems. The service that is provided by the local government offices is not qualitative and according to accepted standards.

The communes of the TFA have the same service delivery schemes. The communes have structures for service provisions (Services Office) with the personnel that provide different services. The municipality of Bajram Curri has larger staff and a specific organization in sections that are responsible for services. The Services Office is responsible for public infrastructure and services. Specific staff are responsible for cleaning, green areas, and decor.

### Main findings and recommendations

#### Main findings:

- In the rural areas, many LGUs do not provide more than 70% of services included in the Law for local government. The situation is problematic regarding the public services relating to construction, maintenance, and improvement of city streets, squares, parks and green areas, lightening, and school facilities. Commune centers are not systemized. The communes almost do not offer the social, cultural, and sport services. Also, services relating to local economic development are not offered by the communes. The information and communication service is not effective.

#### Recommendations:

- LGU should conduct studies to revitalise the urban center (Bajram Curri), especially in the context of the perspective of the TFA. The situation regarding the public services relating to construction, maintenance, and improvement of city streets, squares, parks and green areas, lightening, and school facilities in the city and rural areas should improve.
- Local government should develop studies and projects to revitalise other centers of the TFA with historical and cultural traditions such as Bujan, Tropojë, etc. preserving the characteristics of the area.
- Local government should encourage projects and programs that contribute to social, cultural, and economic development of communities.
- The new municipality of Bajram Curri should establish a one stop shop to better serve citizens. The municipality should develop the capacity of staff working in the OS through training, technical assistance, and exchange of experience.

## 5.2 Organization of LGU and personnel structure

LGUs present the structure at the Municipal/Communal Council. Local administration is organized based on offices or sections where each office/section carries out several functions. In the table below, it is presented the number of staff and its organization.

Table 32: Number of staff in Tropoja LGUs

| LGU type     | Name         | # employees |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Municipality | Bajram Curri | 67          |
| Commune      | Tropoje      | 19          |
| Commune      | Bytyc        | 13          |
| Commune      | Lekbibaj     | 16          |
| Commune      | Fierze       | 16          |
| Commune      | Margegaj     | 15          |
| Commune      | Bujan        | 12          |
| Commune      | Llugaj       | 12          |
|              |              | <b>170</b>  |

Table 33: Tropoja LGUs' organization

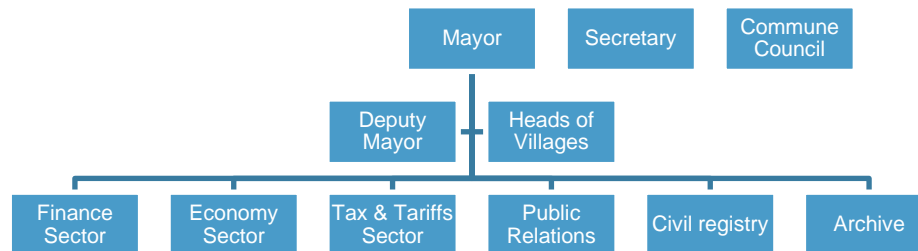
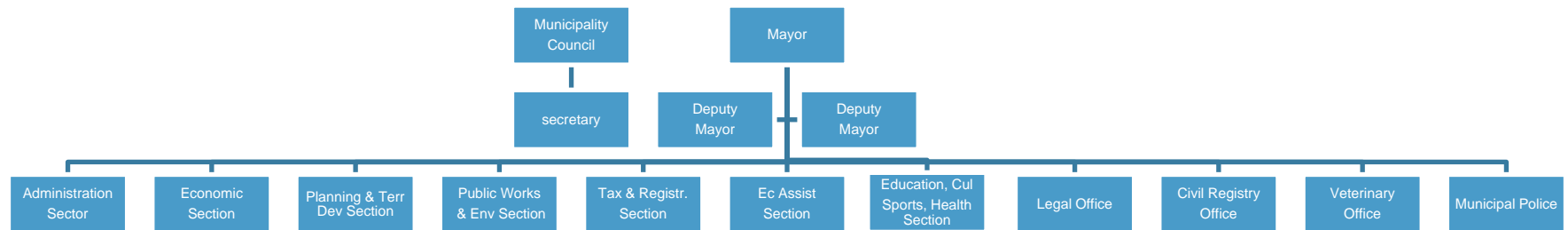
|                                   | Bajram Curri | Bujan | Tropojë | Llugal | Margegaj | Fierzë | Lekbibaj | Bytyc |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Mayor's cabinet                   | 2            | 2     | 2       | 2      | 2        | 2      | 2        | 2     |
| Humanresources                    | 1            | 1     | 1       | 1      | 1        |        |          |       |
| Culture, education, communication | 1            | 1     | 1       | 1      | 1        | 1      |          |       |
| Finance and bydget                | 3            | 2     | 2       | 2      | 2        | 2      | 2        | 1     |
| Programming, development          | 2            |       |         |        |          |        |          |       |
| Urban issues                      | 2            |       |         |        |          |        |          |       |
| Services and environment          | 2            | 2     | 3       | 2      | 2        | 3      | 3        | 2     |
| Construction inspector            | 1            |       |         |        |          |        |          |       |
| Asset administration              | 1            |       |         |        |          |        |          |       |
| Local income                      | 2            |       | 2       | 1      |          |        |          |       |
| Health/agriculture/ food control  | 2            | 1     | 2       | 1      | 1        | 1      | 1        | 1     |
| Economic assistance               | 3            | 2     | 3       | 2      | 2        | 2      | 2        | 2     |
| Internal audit                    | 1            |       |         |        |          |        |          |       |

|  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Loca police                              | 3         |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Support and assisting sectors            | 4         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 2         |
| Communal services, cleaning, green areas | 26        |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Kinder garden and dorms                  | 6         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Sport                                    | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Culture                                  | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Civil registry                           | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| QKR                                      | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>67</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>13</b> |

There are round 170 staff in 8 LGUs. Sections of the Bajram Curri municipality are taken as an example because it has been organized in more sections and offers more public services. It employs round 70 people or 40% of local government administration in the TFA. Tropoja LGUs have been open to discuss and support the development of human resources.

The organizational chart of the municipality of Bajram Curri and the typical organizational chart of the communes are presented below (some communes have slight changes: for example Margegaj has the office of tourism).

LGU offices are located in commune centers. In general, the working conditions are optimal



Above: Organizational Chart of  
Bajram Curri municipality  
On the left: Typical organizational  
chart of the TFA communes

### 5.3 LGU budget

The LGU budget comes from own income, transfer from the Ministry of Finances, and investment fund that is ensured from donors, programs, and central government. The budget of the municipality of Bajram Curri for last three years is presented below.

Table 34: Budget of BC Municipality during last three years (2011-2013)

| Year | Grant      | Income     | Total      |
|------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2011 | 33,830,000 | 12,481,000 | 46,311,000 |
| 2012 | 35,490,000 | 22,542,000 | 58,032,000 |
| 2013 | 32,990,000 | 28,300,000 | 61,290,000 |

The budget has increased every year, mainly due to increase of own income.

### 5.4 Local development strategies

Some LGUs have developed local development plans. The municipality of Bajram Curri has developed the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2012-2015). Communes of Margegaj, Tropojë, and Bujan have developed mid-term Development Strategies (2009-2015). Development of plans has been facilitated by different specialised organizations such as Partners for Children (Bajram Curri) and Center for Integrated Development (Margegaj and Tropojë).

## **B. FUNCTIONAL AREA PROGRAMME**

### **VISION OF THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA**

#### **6.1. Vision of the TFA (external)**





Tropoja, host of Albanian and foreign visitors, lovers of mountain tourism.

Tropoja, a major touristic attraction in Albania and the region, developed in full harmony with its enormous and very appealing natural resources, rivers, pastures, unique flora and fauna, based on own agricultural and livestock and rich historical and cultural heritage.

Tropoja, a place where people have a quality work and life.

#### **6.2. Vision of the TFA (internal)**

Tropoja Functional Area:

-  offers quality services and ensures sustainable social and economic development and qualitative life for its citizens;
-  creates an environment that supports economic empowerment of its citizens and social cohesion of the local community;
-  ensures transparent and civic engagement of people who actively participate in decision-making about country's development;
-  brings back the desire of the young generation to live in their own country and contribute for its economic and social development.



## MAIN PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA

### 7.1. Economic development

#### Draft Project

##### 1. General information

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Construction of the market of agricultural and livestock products in Bajram Curri town</i> |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/Quick Start Projects</i>              |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri, all LGUs of the Functional Unit will be beneficiaries</i>                    |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>7,200,000 ALL</i>  |

##### 2. Project background and analysis

One of the main findings of the study on Functional Area of Tropojë is that farmers are not market-oriented and in general, agricultural and livestock production is used to meet the individual needs of farmers' families. A small quantity of agricultural and livestock products is marketed in Bajram Curri or in support of tourism in Valbona Valley. The orientation and support for farmers to be introduced in the market, or for the collection, processing and marketing of agricultural and livestock products has been inadequate.

Bajram Curri has no suitable location as per the standards for the marketing of agricultural and livestock products from the farmers of surrounding villages. Meat, milk and other agricultural and livestock products are sold directly and primitively in the street. Only a small portion is processed under house conditions, mainly to meet family needs and less on the market. There are a number of suitable places for building market agricultural and livestock products. One of these places can be Kopje, in the outskirts of the town and with easy access for residents of the surrounding villages.

##### 3. Specific project objectives

Trading of agricultural and livestock products as per the relevant standards.

##### 4. Expected results and project indicators

1. Market supply with agricultural and livestock products is increased and improved.
2. Income from the farmers' households and introduction to the market with their agricultural and livestock products are increased.
3. The environment in Bajram Curri town is generally improved.

About 200 farmers of the functional area of Tropojë will benefit from this project, having the opportunity to trade their products in improved conditions and increase their income. Although the market will be located in Bajram Curri, all the residents and businesses in the functional area will be beneficiaries. About 8,000 residents of Bajram Curri town and about 6000 inhabitants of the villages of surrounding municipalities (Fierzë, Bujan, Llugaj, Fier, Margegaj, Bytyç and Lekbibaj) will benefit from the opportunity to purchase agricultural and livestock products in improved conditions.

#### **4. Project activities**

1. Preparation of the technical project.
2. Feasibility study and establishment of the fee for market users.
3. Arrangement of the area of 3000 square meters (excavation, accommodation, sanitation and pavement).
4. Establishment of trading tables to accommodate 200 farmers.

Duration for the project implementation is about 6 months.

#### **6. Project maturity**

The project is in its phase of inception. There is not any technical project or feasibility study in place.

The cost is approximately estimated, based on similar experiences at other LGUs.

#### **7. Financing resources and implementation partners**

Funding resources can be public funds (from local governments units or central government) and potential donors.

These works will be carried out through contracting of construction companies, winners of the public tender organized by the Municipality.

#### **8. Project cost**

The total approximate cost of the project 7,200,000 ALL, including:

1. Preparation of the technical project (700,000 ALL).
2. Feasibility study and setting of the tariff for market users (including 1).
3. Arrangement of the area of 3000 meters square (excavation, accommodation, sanitation, paving, water etc) (4,500,000 ALL)
4. Installation of a trading desk to accommodate 200 farmers (2,000,000 ALL).

### **Draft Project**

#### **1. General information**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Operation of the irrigation canal in Babinë village, Tropojë Commune</i>       |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/ Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Babinë and Sopot villages, Tropojë Commune</i>                                 |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>6,500,000 ALL</i>  |

#### **2. Project background and analysis**

The existing irrigation system in agriculture fails to cover farmers' needs for the irrigation of agriculture land. In 2014, there was irrigated only 27% of the planted land surface or 42% of the potential surface (compared to a standard of 70% of the land fund total to be irrigated). The Commune of Tropojë has the largest agriculture land surface in the area of Tropojë, roughly 1900 hectares out of 7300 hectares of the entire Tropojë Functional Area. Out of this surface, only 500 hectares (or 27% of the surface area) has been irrigated. This has also affected the production output and left the land barren or unproductive. Babina and Sopot have the largest surface in the commune of Tropojë and the area of Tropojë in general. The operation of the 5 km long irrigation canal Begaj-Babinë would highly affect the increase of agriculture production in Babinë and Sopot and in the Commune of Tropojë and Tropojë Functional Area in general.

#### **3. Project Specific Objective**

Increase of agriculture production in the Commune of Tropojë through enhanced irrigation capacity for agriculture land in Babinë and Sopot.

#### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. Irrigated agriculture surface in Bobinë and Tropojë commune has been sharply increased .
2. Revenues of farmers in Bobinë and commune of Tropojë have increased.
3. Supply with agriculture and livestock products for Tropojë Functional Area has been improved.

A number of about 200 farmers' families with some 1000 inhabitants will benefit from this project. The farmers of Babinë and Sopot of Tropojë commune will directly benefit from this project. 20% of the population of Tropojë commune area covering 20% of the territory of functional area lives therein. Indirect beneficiaries will be the inhabitants of Bajram Curri town, as well as businesses concentrated in services and tourism in other communes, especially the one of Margegaj.

## **5. Project Activities**

1. Preparation of technical project for the construction of irrigation canal Begaj-Babinë, 5 km long.
2. Tender of works on the construction of irrigation canal Begaj-Babinë.
3. Implementation of works to put into effect the irrigation canal (excavations, cleaning, concrete casting, building of manholes etc)

Community awareness meetings with famers and association of water users, in order to use water for irrigation effectively and efficiently.

## **6. Project maturity**

The project is in the phase of inception. There is no feasibility study or detailed study / technical design for this project. The cost is an approximate pre-assessment. The canal exists but it is damaged and non-functional.

## **7. Financing Sources and Implementation Partners**

The funding sources can be through public funds (of local or central government such as Ministry of Agriculture) or foreign donors supporting agriculture development in Albania.

## **8. Project Cost**

The total project cost is 6,500,000 ALL, including:

1. Preparation of technical project on building of irrigation canal Begaj-Babinë, 5 km long (500,000 ALL)
2. Tender of works on the construction of irrigation canal Begaj-Babinë (cost-free).
3. Implementation of works to put into effect the irrigation canal (excavations, cleaning, concrete casting, building of manholes etc) (6,000,000 ALL).

Community awareness meetings with famers and association of water users in order to use water for irrigation effectively and efficiently. (Cost-free)

**Draft Project****1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Operation of the irrigation canal from the basin of Letaj- Mjekërbardh (Zogaj), Bytyç Commune</i> |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/Quick Start Projects</i>                     |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Zogaj village, Prush, Bytyç commune</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>8,000,000 ALL</i>   |

**2. Project background and analysis**

The existing system of irrigation in agriculture does not meet the farmers' needs for irrigation of agricultural lands. In 2014, only 27% of the planted area or 42% of the surface potential (compared to a standard of 70% of the total land to be irrigated) was planted. Bytyçi commune has about 15% of agricultural land in Tropoje area: 980 hectares out of 7300 hectares of the whole area. Only 225 hectares or 22% from the surface area is irrigated. This has also affected the production output and left the land barren or unproductive. Zogaj and Prush are some of the villages with the largest area of agricultural land in Bytyç commune. The operation of the irrigation canal from the reservoir of Letaj in Mjekërbardh (Zogaj Village neighborhood) would affect the growth of agricultural production in this village and Bytyç commune in general.

**3. Specific project objective**

Increase of agriculture production in Bytyç Commune of Tropojë through enhanced irrigation capacity for agriculture land in Zogaj and Prush.

**4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. The irrigated agriculture surface in Zogaj and Prush, and Bytyç commune has been sharply increased.
2. Income of farmers in Zogaj and commune of Bytyç have increased.
3. Supply with agriculture and livestock products for Tropojë Functional Area has been improved.

A number of about 120 farmers' families with some 650 inhabitants will benefit from this project. The farmers of Bytyç commune will directly benefit from this project. 12% of the area population covering about 20% of the territory of functional area lives in Bytyç commune.

**5. Project activities**

1. Preparation of technical project for the construction of 7 km long irrigation canal Letaj-Mjekërbardh.

2. Tender of works on the construction of irrigation canal of Letaj (reservoir)-Mjekërbardh.
3. Implementation of works to put into effect the irrigation canal (excavations, cleaning, concrete casting, building of manholes etc)
4. Community awareness meetings with famers and association of water users, in order to use water for irrigation effectively and efficiently.

The project will be implemented within a period of six months.

## **6. Project maturity**

The project is in the phase of inception. There is no feasibility study or detailed study / technical design for this project. The cost is an approximate pre-assessment. The irrigation canal exists, but it is non-functional and needs intervention (construction, alignment, improvement).

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

The funding sources can be through public funds (of local or central government such as Ministry of Agriculture) or foreign donors supporting agriculture development in Albania.

## **8. Project cost**

The total project cost is 8,000,000 ALL, including:

1. Preparation of the technical design for the construction of 7 km long irrigation canal of Letaj (reservoir)-Mjekërbardh (800,000 ALL).
2. Tendering of works for the construction of Letaj irrigation canal (reservoir)-Mjekërbardh.
3. Implementation of works to put into effect the irrigation canal (excavations, cleaning, concrete casting, building of manholes etc) (7,200,000 ALL)
4. Community awareness meetings with farmers, association of water users in order to use water for irrigation effectively and efficiently.

**Draft Project****1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Setting up the seasonal fruit processing center</i>                           |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri, all LGUs of the Functional Area will be beneficiaries</i>       |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>10,000,000 ALL</i>  |

**2. Project background and analysis**

One of the main findings of the study on Functional Area of Tropojë is that farmers are not market-oriented and the agricultural and livestock production is generally used to meet the individual needs of farmers' families. A small quantity of agricultural and livestock products is marketed in Bajram Curri or in support of tourism in Valbona Valley. Orientation and support for farmers to be introduced in the market, or for the collection, processing and marketing of agricultural and livestock products has been inadequate. Only a small portion is processed under house conditions, mainly to meet family needs and less on the market. One of the study recommendations is to support efforts for the collection, processing and marketing of agricultural and livestock products. This would directly impact the delivery of safety and quality standards and increase of revenues from the sales of products.

**3. Project specific objective**

Income increase from local products through their processing and valuation.

**4. Expected results and project indicators**

1. Market supply, especially tour operators, with local agricultural and processed livestock products, has been increased and improved.
2. Local revenues have been increased as a result of valuation from the processing of fruits and agricultural products and the forest in general.

Farmers of the functional area of Tropojë would benefit from this project, as they would find a ready market for trading their products and increase their revenues. Although the center will be located in the town of Bajram Curri, all the functional area farmers and businesses will be beneficiaries.

**5. Project activities**

1. Feasibility study.
2. Technical project preparation.

3. Provision of necessary permits from the local and/or central government.
4. Center construction.
5. Center promotion to local producers.

The duration for project implementation is about 12 months.

## **6. Project maturity**

The project is in the phase of inception. There is no technical project in place or a feasibility study.

The cost is approximated based on similar projects

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

Funding sources may be generated from the central government funds (under projects supporting agriculture and agro-processing development) and crediting from banks. The municipality will support the project to potential funders and supply the entrepreneur with the required permits .

## **8. Project cost**

The total approximate project cost is 10,000,000 ALL.



**Draft Project****1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Building tourist paths/routes in the region of Tropoja</i>                    |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bujan, Tropojë, Lekbibaj Communes</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | 3,700,000 ALL  |

**2. Project background and analysis**

Analysis of the economic development of Tropojë functional area has identified a great tourism potential of the area and the beauty and natural resources making Tropoja an important destination of mountain tourism. At the same time, it stressed that Valbona Valley is one of the main attractions of Tropoje, but also all over Albania and in the region. Further, it noted that Tropojë has many other unused tourist attractions, which should be in the focus of local and central decision-makers such as Ceremi, Curraj i Epërm, Ponar Lake, Bjeshke Mountain Range etc. It is important for these destinations to promote and develop the infrastructure (roads, tourism, etc) in these destinations. The project proposes the construction of tourist paths/routes from Bujan to Maja e Hekurave and Curraj e Eperme, from Lekbibaj to Curraj e Epërm and from Tropoja to Cerem. Currently, tourist paths/routes have inadequate tourist infrastructure (signposts, information boards, visitor safety interventions etc.).

**3. Project specific objectives**

1. Improvement of tourist infrastructure in the area of Tropoja.
2. Increase of tourist attractions to be visited in the area of Tropoja.
3. Increase of the number of visitors and days of their stay in Tropoja.

**4. Expected results and project indicators**

1. Tourist paths/routes with improved and promoted infrastructure for potential tourists.
2. The number of tourists who visit areas of Bujan, Tropojë and Lekbibaj is increased.
3. The number of tourists' days of stay when they visit Tropojë is increased.
4. Development of mountain tourism in Bujan, Tropojë and Lekbibaj and consequently income of local families in these municipalities is increased.

Population of the municipalities of Bujan, Tropojë and Lekbibaj, representing approximately 45% of the functional area surface of Tropojë and its population will be direct beneficiaries. The residents and businesses of the municipality of Bajram Curri will be indirect beneficiaries.

## 5. Project maturity

This project is in its phase of inception. There is no project or intervention regarding the establishment of tourist infrastructure in these areas (toward “Curraj i Epërm”, “Qeremi” and “Maja e Hekurave”).

## 6. Project activities

### 1. Design of tourist paths:

- Bujan-Markaj-Cervena-Cukal-Maja e Hekurave
- Bujan-Markaj-Velesht-Qafa e Kolshit-Qereq-Mulaj-Curraj i Epërm
- Lekbibaj-Vrana-Qafa e Mrrisë-Curraj i Epërm
- Lekbibaj-Shëngjergj-Btoshë-Qereq-Mulaj-Curraj i Epërm
- Lekbibaj-Curraj i Poshtëm-Curraj i Epërm (Lekbibaj river shore)
- Tropojë-Sulbicë-Dobërdol-Valbonë-Cerem

### 2. Implementation of works for tourist paths/routes

- Placement of orientation signs / boards (100 signboards)
- Design of tourist maps for each path/route (6 tourist paths/routes)
- Placement of information boards with corresponding maps at the beginning of each path/route (6 tourist paths/routes).
- Building of observation/contemplation areas (3 locations - at Maja e Hekurave, Cukal, Curraj i Epërm)
- Construction of small bridges and protective fences in hazardous areas for tourists (10 interventions).

### 3. Community awareness for preservation and improvement of tourism infrastructure and promotion of mountain tourism.

The duration for the project implementation is 8 months.

## 7. Project maturity

This project is in its phase of inception. There is no project or intervention regarding the establishment of tourist infrastructure in these areas (toward “Curraj i Epërm”, “Qeremi” and “Maja e Hekurave”).

## 8. Financing sources and implementation partners

Potential funders of the project may be different projects implemented by local and foreign organizations (such as cross-border ones with Kosovo and Montenegro) or the local government unit.

## **9. Project cost**

Total cost of the project is 3,500,000 ALL, including:

1. Design of tourist paths/routes (6 tourist paths/routes 300,000 ALL)
2. Implementation of works for tourist paths/routes.
  - Placement of orientation signs/billboards (100 signboards, 800,000 ALL)
  - Design of tourist maps for each path/route and their printing (6 tourist paths/routes, 360,000 ALL)
  - Placement of information boards with corresponding maps at the beginning of each path/route (6 tourist paths/routes, 540,000 ALL).
  - Building of observation/contemplation areas (3 locations, 900,000 ALL)
  - Construction of small bridges and protective fences in hazardous areas for tourists (10 interventions, 600,000 ALL).
3. Community awareness for the preservation and improvement of tourist infrastructure and promotion of mountain tourism (preparation and printing of leaflets, 200,000 ALL).

**Draft Project****1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Rehabilitation of the center of Bytyç Commune, Tropojë</i>                    |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bytyç Commune</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>70,000 Euro</i>   |

**2. Project background and analysis**

Bytyç Commune has a population of some 2200 inhabitants, according to the Registry Office. The center of this commune is in Pac village, which has a population of 400 inhabitants. Nearby this center there are a number of state, private and religious institutions, including the local authority administration, health center, nine-year elementary school, village mosque and small private businesses. As such, the center of Bytyç commune is visited by inhabitants of the village and other villages that request mainly public services, as well as pupils of the nine year school. The commune center offers inappropriate environment for inhabitants of Pac village and other villages. The surface of 1500 m<sup>2</sup>, considered as communal center, has no green spaces, sidewalks for pedestrians as well as lighting of the square. At the same time, the square is traversed by a trench used for irrigation of land, which is amortized. There is a long lack of investments in this regard. This environment is inappropriate for the circulation of community, becoming tougher in winter time. Children attending school walk across the muddy and often risky roads, due to the lack of sidewalks and lighting. The need to improve this center is evident. The project is in accordance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area as to improvement of community social cohesion.

**3. Project specific objectives**

1. Improving the movement for Pac village residents, Bytyç commune center through territory planning, pavements and lighting.
2. Increase of community awareness about the investment maintenance.

**4. Expected results and project indicators**

The proposed project will have an impact on

1. Pedestrian pavements, residents from Pac and other villages.
2. Appropriate lighting across the pavements of the commune center.
3. Reconstructed irrigation canal;
4. Appropriate and cultured environment for the residents of Pac village and other villages benefiting public services at Bytyç Commune .
5. Satisfied residents about the environments created.

Number of beneficiary population: 400 residents from Bytyç commune (25% of the population of Bytyç commune, about 1800 residents from other villages within the territory of Bytyç commune.

## **5. Project activities**

The project activities to meet the above objectives include:

1. Alignment of the commune center square;
2. Pavement construction;
3. Lighting installation;
4. Community awareness.

The project will be implemented for a 4-month period.

## **6. Project maturity**

Proposed project is in the phase of inception. There are no projects at the commune about the commune center arrangement and alignment due to lack of funds. This is a vital need and priority for that commune.

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

Arrangement and proper management of public facilities is a direct function of the local government unit. As such, it will be implemented by that unit.

The project will be funded by Tropojë Municipality, community, local and foreign donors.

## **8. Project cost**

The total project cost is 70,000 Euro.

## **Draft Project**

### **1. General Information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | Quick and efficient information of tourists visiting Tropoja.                    |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <b><u>Economic Development</u></b> / <i>Public Services/ Quick Start Project</i> |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri, other beneficial units are all local units in Tropoja.</i>      |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | 4,020,000 ALL  |

### **2. Project Background and Analysis.**

In the framework of economic development analysis and situation of public services in functional area Tropojë, one of the main findings is that despite improvement of Tropojë as tourist destination, yet remains much to be done to enable maximum profit from tourist attractions of the area. Firstly, promotion is mainly linked with the Valley of Valbonë. In Tropojë there is a single tourist information office located in Margegaj (Valley of Valbonë). Secondly, very little has been done on promotion of other tourist attractions by other Local Units, including also the Municipality of Bajram Curri. In general, promotion is done by tourist agencies that organize tourist groups. An identified flaw in the chain of attractions is that the area poorly presents its natural and cultural heritage towards a marketing that highly appraises this component as very important to visit the area. The tourism is not oriented but mainly developed on individual initiative and thought.

Some of the main recommendations related to tourism development are: (1) the area has strong reasons to be visited, which must be strengthened and promoted. These reasons must be communicated clearly both to foreign and native tourists. We must effectively convey the message that the region offers a series of visible attractions. (2) In the development of new attractions we mention “strong” attractions (such as mountainous tourism and accommodation of tourists in guesthouses in villages) and “soft” attractions (which use existing resources, that despite in need of few investments, do not require much capital. In this context, it involves historic objects, thematic, cultural and traditional events, fairs of typical area products and traditional cuisine for visitors served in a traditional fashion). (3) To consider the opportunity of setting up tourist offices also in other areas and improve tourist information. (4) It is necessary that tourist development becomes oriented. In this regard, it is important the formulation of Tourism Development Strategy for the entire functional area of Tropojë.

### **3. Project Specific Objectives**

1. Information of tourists through establishment of an information touristic office;
2. Promotion of area resources and attractions and the community awareness for their maintenance and protection;
3. Better living conditions of the community through development of mountain tourism;
4. Increase of capacities of the staff members for project management .

#### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. The tourist information service is established and is made operational;
2. Area attractions and resources are identified and made public;
3. Better living conditions of the community members;
4. Increased technical staff capacities for project management.

This project will be beneficial to guest families and tourist operators in all functional area of Tropoja. Although the office will be set up in the town of Bajram Curri, all inhabitants and businesses of the functional area will benefit from the project. Around 8000 inhabitants of the town of Bajram Curri will indirectly benefit from the project.

#### **5. Project Activities**

For the implementation of this project, a touristic information office is proposed to be established in the Municipality of Bajram Curri (which will support with information all the area) and the formulation of a strategic plan for tourism development in the functional area of Tropoja. The main activities are as follows:

1. Developing the Strategic Plan for the Development of Tourism for the Functional Area of Tropoja and publish/print this plan in 500 copies.
2. Increasing of staff capacities related to management of tourism projects.
3. Setting up the touristic information office (furniture and equipment)
4. Designing and producing touristic maps for each of the Local Units of Tropoja Functional Area and their publishing/printing (8 local units)
5. Establishing/posting information billboards on touristic attractions in specific points of local area and Tropoja in all local units (8 local units).
6. Designing and printing of leaflets/flyers with touristic information (10,000 copies).

#### **6. Project Maturity**

The project is in the phase of inception. There is no technical project already developed. Costs are approximate and estimated based upon the previous similar experiences of other local government units.

#### **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

Fund for the project may be generated from public financial funds (Municipality of Bajram Curri or local government) and potential donors, as well as from national or international non-profit organizations focused on tourism development.

If that Municipality is the sponsoring stakeholder of the project, the works will be carried out through a contract and public tendering procedures with the winning company/ies organized by the Municipality.

## **8. Project Cost**

Total cost of the project is approximately 4,020,000 ALL, including:

1. Development of the Strategic Plan for the Development of Tourism of the Functional Area of Tropoja and publishing/printing 500 copies (2,000,000 ALL).
2. Increase of staff capacities for the management of touristic projects (included in 1).
3. Establishment of the touristic information office (furniture and equipment) (600,000 ALL)
4. Design and produce touristic maps for each of the Local Units of the Functional Area of Tropoja and printing related copies (8 local units; 480,000 ALL)
5. Establishment/posting information billboards on touristic attractions in specific points of local area and Tropoja in all local units (8 local units; 640,000 ALL).
6. Designing and printing of leaflets/flyers with touristic information (10,000 copies; 300,000 ALL).



## 7.2. Public services

### Draft-Project

#### 1. General Information

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | <i>Reconstruction of green area “28 Gushti”, Bajram Curri</i>            |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b>Public Services</b>/ Quick Start Project</i> |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri Municipality</i>   |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | <i>40,000 Euro</i>   |

#### 2. Project Background and Analysis.

Bajram Curri town, according to the civil status register, has a population of 8250 inhabitants divided into three quarters, “28 Gushti”, “Dardania” and “Partizani” respectively. “28 Gushti” quarter has some 1300 inhabitants, 240 families and is located in the city center, where there are the main state institutions such as the City Hall, the Sub-prefecture, Social Insurance Institute, Employment Office and the District Council Administration. Despite being small, this quarter lacks minimum conditions of public spaces among flats. In a surface of 600 m<sup>2</sup>, inhabitants fail to have an environment according to accepted standards for a cultured community life. There are absent green spaces, by-ways among flats, sidewalks and lighting. Inhabitants of this quarter and especially children and elderly have inappropriate places for relaxation and entertainment. Children lack playgrounds and spaces to spend free time without being endangered. There have previously been no investments in this quarter. The project is a need of the community and as such, it is in accordance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area as to improvement of community social cohesion.

#### 3. Project Specific Objectives

Specific Objectives of the project includes:

1. Improving the living conditions of the community through enlargement of recreational spaces in “28 Gushti” neighbourhood of Bajram Curri town.
2. Raising the community awareness about the maintenance of public environment spaces.

#### 4. Expected Results and Project Indicators

Expected results of the project are as follows:

1. Enlargement of green areas in the public environment of “28 Gushti” neighbourhood;
2. Suitable environment and facilities for walking, recreation activities, and proper lighting system for citizens of “28 Gushti” neighbourhood;
3. Extension of recreation spaces in the interest of citizens of “28 Gushti” neighbourhood;
4. Awareness of the area community about maintenance of the project investment .

Number of beneficial population: about 1300 inhabitants of Bajram Curri town (or about 20% of the population of Bajram Curri); inhabitants of other local units regarding various public services provided.

## **5. Project Activities**

Main activities related to the project are as follows:

1. Arrangement of land area in an open space of 400 m<sup>2</sup>;
2. Construction of sidewalks in spaces along the buildings of “28 Gushti” neighbourhood;
3. Reconstruction of lighting system of “28 Gushti” neighbourhood;
4. Construction of playground areas for children and establishment of benches;
5. Creation of open green areas;
6. Community awareness about the maintenance of the project investment.

The deadline for the project implementation is 3 months.

## **6. Project Maturity**

The proposal is still in the phase of inception.

## **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

The project-proposal is linked with the direct functions of Bajram Curri Municipality. The main stakeholders for funding the project include the municipality, community of citizens, businesses, domestic and foreign donors.

## **8. Project Cost**

Total cost of the project is about 40,000 Euro.

## **Draft-Project**

### **1. General Information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | <i>Increasing the capacity of water depository of water supply system of Bajram Curri town</i>   |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Project</i>  |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Quku i Dunishës, Beneficial Local Government Units of the Functional Area: Bajram Curri Municipality, communes of Bujan, Llugaj, Margegaj, Tropoja.</i> |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | <i>80,000,000 ALL</i>  |

### **2. Project Background and Analysis.**

The Water-Supply and Sewage Enterprise JSC supplies with water roughly 70% of the population of Tropojë, including the town of Bajram Curri, as well as villages and communes in the vicinity of the Water-Supply System such as Margegaj, Shoshan, Kocanë, Fushë Lume, Cërnice and Sopot and is spreading also in Dojan and Bujan. Tropoja has sufficient water resources to meet the needs of population for water. Nevertheless, the water supply of houses does not fall into a satisfactory level. The service quality is poor. Even in the city, there are limited hours of water supply. The town inhabitants are supplied with water three times a day with 4 hours a day each, whereas inhabitants of villages are supplied three times a day with 1 hour each time. The duration of water supply is limited, ensuring the decline of service quality to citizens. During summer time, the amount of water supplied to the city and villages is reduced. One reason is the insufficient amount of water at source.

### **3. Project Specific Objectives**

Improving the water supply with running water for the citizens of Tropoja functional area.

### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. A better water supply network of running water, improved both in quantity and quality.
2. Increased capacity of the water supply depository of Gjadër village, by construction of a water source at qualitative standards.
3. Enhanced life quality for the inhabitants of the functional area.

### **5. Project Activities**

1. Identification of a suitable location in Valbona river for the water supply depository;
2. Design of the technical project;
3. Application of tendering procedures of project works;
4. Pipelines installation and their connection with main pipeline – 2 km;

5. Completion of works of water depository and pipelines.

The deadline for the project implementation is about 12 months.

## **6. Project Maturity**

This project is carried out in the wake of the previous project of the water supply system of Bajram Curri town. Changes in the water flow have posed the need for increase of water flow for the system from other water sources. Valbona is estimated as the best decision for this purpose. There is a preliminary project. The cost is approximate and based on this previous project.

## **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

Potential funds: Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Bajram Curri Municipality, and other potential interested donors in Tropoja area.

## **8. Project Cost**

Total cost of the project is about 80,000,000 ALL, including:

1. Identification of the most appropriate location in Valbona for generation of water;
2. Preparation of the technical project: 3,000,000 ALL;
3. Works tendering procedures;
4. Pipeline installation and their connection with the main pipeline —2 km: 55,000,000 ALL.
5. Completion of works and water supply depository: 22,000,000 ALL.

## **Draft-Project**

### **1. General Information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | Full operational capacity of Bajram Curri water supply system.                       |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Project</i>      |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | Bajram Curri, Margegaj, Shoshan, Kocanë, Fushë Lumë, Cernicë, Sopot, Dojan and Bujan |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | 20,000,000 ALL   |

### **2. Project Background and Analysis.**

Water supply service is one of the main public services. The analysis of Tropojë Functional Area has identified the water supply service as a main concern and important recommendations are included:

- Improvement of water supply management must be priority of the local authority;
- It is necessary to install metering device and determine the water pay-rate and the plan for its collection;
- The implementation of a feasibility study on the water supply and sewage system for the entire territory of Tropojë and development of a plan on water management and sewage network.

The water supply service quality of consumers is poor. Consumers fail to be periodically supplied (inhabitants of the city are supplied three times a day with 4 hours a day each, whereas inhabitants of villages are supplied three times a day with 1 hour each time) and the duration of water supply is reduced instead of being increased. The performance for the administration and management of running water is poor, due to the lack of plans on management of running water and sewage service, low intake revenue rate and high service cost (mainly due to low efficiency, high amortization, high administrative expenditures, debts owed to the water supply enterprises by the customers).

The low intake revenue rate is related to the lack of metering device and a credible and modern system of invoicing and cashing, as well as low pay-rates. For family consumers, it has been set a service pay-rate for every subscriber amounting to 160 ALL/monthly per person (according to the family status certificate). The reason is that water meters fail to function and/or to exist. This pay-rate is collected at about 35% and covers costs in roughly 35-40%. It is necessary to install meters and determine the water pay-rate and the plan for its collection. Likewise, it is necessary to enhance community awareness on the use of water and payment of pay-rates.

### **3. Specific Project Objectives**

Improvement of water supply service for the inhabitants of functional area through a more effective management of the water supply system.

### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. Running water supply infrastructure for the inhabitants of Bajram Curri and surrounded villages is operational.
2. Income generated from service taxes are increased contributing positively to the cost coverage.
3. Local governance has a feasibility study on the management of running water supply.
4. Community is aware about the water supply public service and the need for an effective use of running water.

Beneficiaries to this project are around 13,000 inhabitants of Bajram Curri Municipality and communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë and Llugaj. The beneficiary population from this project is some 30% of the functional area (where some 45 % of the population is concentrated).

### **5. Project Activities**

1. Repair of infrastructure elements (manholes, etc) according to the required technical standards, in order to make possible installation of water-meter devices.
2. Installation of about 2000 qualitative water-meter devices for water consumption of families, businesses and institutions.
3. Feasibility study, approval of fiscal package and review of the regulation of service operations.
4. Activities of community awareness for an effective use of running water and necessity of payment of reviewed tariffs (public meetings during the implementation of the projects, design and distribution of promotional leaflets/flyers for the community).

### **6. Project Maturity**

The project is in the initial phase of inception. An important investment is previously made for the water supply system of Bajram Curri, which is being finalized. The result of data gathered from the study show that water-meter devices are either not installed or inexistent. On the other side, no more money is available for the investment mentioned above and installation of water-meter devices.

### **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

Potential funds for the implementation of this project can be provided by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Bajram Curri Municipality and other potential donors. The project will be implemented by the Water Supply Enterprise (installation of water-meters) in cooperation

with specialised companies (feasibility study and review of service management regulation) and civil society organizations (related to community awareness).

## **8. Project cost**

Total cost of the project is around 20,000,000 ALL, including the following activities:

1. Repair of infrastructure elements (manholes etc) according to the required technical standards, in order to make possible the installation of water-meter devices. (4,800,000 ALL)
2. Installation of some 2000 qualitative water-meter devices of water consumption by families, businesses and institutions. (14,000,000 ALL)
3. Feasibility study, approval of fiscal package and review of the regulation of service operations. (1,000,000 ALL)

Activities of community awareness for an effective use of running water and necessity of payment of reviewed tariffs (public meetings during the project implementation, design and distribution of promotional leaflets/flyers for the community) (200,

## **Draft-Project**

### **1. General Information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | <i>Improvement of water supply for the inhabitants of Llugaj, Luzhë and Rrogami.</i> |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Project</i>      |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Llugaj, Luzhë and Rrogami villages.</i>   |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | <i>100,000,000 ALL</i>   |

### **2. Project Background and Analysis.**

Running water supply service is one of the key public services. Water supply is identified to be one of the main problems in the Functional Area of Tropoja and the following important recommendations are given by a real analysis of this issue: improvement of the management of water supply should be a key priority of the local government; extension of the water supply service in other areas not previously covered by this service. The Water Supply and Sewage Enterprise sh.a provides water supply for about 70% of the population of Tropoja, including the town of Bajram Curri, and the villages of communes close to the water supply depository, such as Margegaj, Shoshan, Kocanë, Fushë Lumë, Cërnice and Sopot, being further extended to Dojan and Bujan. The villages of Llugaj Commune (Llugal, Luzhë, Rrogam) have access to the water supply system of the town but they are not included in the water supply scheme.

### **3. Project Specific Objectives**

Improvement of the water supply system in villages of Llugaj, Luzhë, Rrogam, and in the functional area of Tropoja in general.

### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. Water supply infrastructure is improved.
2. Water supply for the inhabitants of villages Llugal, Luzhë and Rrogam is significantly improved;
3. Life quality of the inhabitants of Llugaj, Luzhë, Rrogam villages is increased because of their access to running water.

The inhabitants of the Local Unit, namely of Llugaj, and more specifically the inhabitants of Llugaj, Luzhë, Rrogam villages (around 2000 inhabitants or about 70% of the population of Llugaj Commune and 8% of the total population of functional area). Llugaj Commune has about 10% of the territory of functional area.



## **5. Project Activities**

1. Design of technical project;
2. Application of tendering procedures of works;
3. Pipeline installation works and their connection with main pipeline;
4. Establishment of water-meter devices;
5. Community awareness for an effective use of water and payment of water supply bills.

Time schedule for the completion of project works is some 12 months.

## **6. Project Maturity**

This intervention project would be part of a larger project for the extension of water supply service all over the territory of functional area where it is feasible. The Water Supply and Sewage Enterprise sh.a provides water supply for about 70 % of the population of Tropoja, including the town of Bajram Curri, as well as the villages of communes in the vicinity of the water supply depository, such as Margegaj, Shoshan, Kocanë, Fushë Lumë, Cernicë and Sopot being further extended to Dojan and Bujan. Larger villages of Llugaj Commune (Llugaj, Luzhë and Rrogam) should also benefit from this service.

## **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

Potential funds for this project are the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Municipality of Bajram Curri and foreign potential donors. The project will be implemented by the Water Supply Enterprise (establishment of water-meter devices) in cooperation with specialized companies (pipeline installation operations), based on public tendering procedures and other civil society organizations (related to community awareness).

## **8. Project Cost**

Total cost of the project is about 100,000,000 ALL, including:

1. Design of technical project (3,000,000 ALL);
2. Tendering procedures of works;
3. Pipeline installation operations and connection with the main pipeline (93,000,000 ALL);
4. Installation of water-meter devices (4,000,000 ALL);
5. Community awareness about an effective use water and payment of water supply bills.

**Draft-Project****1. General Information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | <i>Effective Waste Management in the Functional Area of Tropojë</i>                        |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Project</i>            |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Municipality of Bajram Curri, communes of Bujan, Fierzë, Llugaj, Margegaj, Tropojë.</i> |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | <i>23,000,000 ALL</i>  |

**2. Project Background and Analysis.**

The urban waste management in Tropojë functional area has been identified as a key issue in the study conducted on economic development and public services situation. The urban waste management service is effectively accomplished only in Bajram Curri Municipality. The communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë offer it either periodically or in a very limited period. The waste management service is offered to the extent of 100% for the population and families of Bajram Curri Municipality, whereas in other 4 communes mentioned above, this percentage varies from 38%-64%.

There is cooperation at informal level among Bajram Curri Municipality and its five surrounding communes: Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë, in the waste management consisting of the use of waste disposal sites by these communes of Bajram Curri Municipality. The authorized disposal site for urban and aggregates is in Kojë. It is a natural depression with a surface of 1.5 hectares and it is located 3.5 km far from Bajram Curri town. The cleaning service is enabled on daily basis in the Municipality of Bajram Curri and on weekly basis in communes. In Bajram Curri Municipality, the waste collection is manually performed and their transport is made possible through simple vehicles, given that technologic trucks are out of use for technical reasons.

The communes of Bujan, Margegaj, Tropojë, Llugaj and Fierzë have a poor infrastructure: a small number of containers and lack of technologic trucks. In communes, there are containers only in commune centers. Other villages in general lack containers and dispose their waste in streams, therefore polluting environment and waters.

The revenues generated from the collection of the cleaning pay-rate are low as to cover the service cost. In Bajram Curri Municipality, the revenues constitute roughly 38% of the cost. The reasons are related to the low cleaning pay-rate (700 ALL/per family annually, 1500 ALL/per business, 2500 ALL/per large business and 3000 ALL/per institution in 2013) and the low payment rate (19% for families, 53% for small businesses and 68% for large-scale businesses). The communes have almost no revenues from the waste management. Despite recent efforts, the increase of applications on waste management from mountainous tourism development, especially in Margegaj commune, has failed to provide the right answer. There is no waste management

plan either for individual units of local authority or the functional area. There are no waste management policies and internal regulations.

### **3. Project Specific Objectives**

1. Effective and efficient management of urban waste through a new cleaning scheme.
2. Awareness of the area community for the maintenance of a cleaner environment.
3. Increase of local staff capacities for the waste management and project implementation.

### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. Functional area of Tropoja has an integrated waste management plan for the entire functional area;
2. An effective and efficient scheme for waste management is established and made operational;
3. Collection infrastructure of urban waste is improved.
4. Community is aware of the use of waste bins in various points, and payment of cleaning tariff/tax.

Number of population benefiting from this project is 25,000 inhabitants of 6 local government units (more than 90% of the population and 75% of the territory of Tropoja Functional Area), including the Municipality of Bajram Curri and communes of Fierzë, Llugaj, Bujan, Margegaj and Tropoja.

### **5. Project Activities**

1. Design the waste management plan for all the functional area of Tropoja;
2. Increase the municipality capacities for a more effective waste management;
3. Establish an institutional structure and prepare the regulation for an effective waste management;
4. Formulate technical specifications, develop specific criteria and standards;
5. Invest for the improvement of waste collection infrastructure (purchase of 2 specific technologic trucks for waste transportation, purchase of 300 containers for collection of urban waste, Kojë waste site surrounding fence arrangement, purchase of a compactor machinery for the waste site);
6. Activities related to the community awareness.

The project will be implemented in 12 months.

### **6. Project Maturity**

The project is in the initial phase of inception. Some years ago, in the framework of this service delivery, Municipality of Bajram Curri purchased containers and two technologic trucks for waste transportation. Containers are insufficient and the technologic trucks are not operational (for technical defaults).

## 7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners

Potential funds for the implementation of this project are from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Municipality of Bajram Curri and other potential foreign donors. The project will be implemented by Bajram Curri Municipality, in cooperation with specialized companies (waste management plan and regulation of service management, surrounding fence, waste site arrangement, installations of waste bins) and civil society organizations (related to the community awareness).

## 8. Project cost

Total cost of the project is about 23,000,000 ALL.

1. Formulation of waste management plan for all the functional area of Tropoja: (3,000,000 ALL)
2. Increasing the Municipality capacities for an effective waste management (included in 1).
3. Establishing an institutional unit and preparing the regulation for an effective waste management; (included in 1).
4. Formulation of technical specifications, development of specific criteria and standards; (included in 1).
5. Investment for improvement of waste collection infrastructure (purchase of 2 specific technologic trucks for waste transport, purchase of 300 containers for the urban waste collection, Kojë waste site surrounding fence arrangement, purchase of a compactor machinery for the waste site); (20,000,000 ALL)
6. Activities related to the community awareness.

**Note:** Based on the available resources, this project can be implemented as a whole or in several parts, in two or three smaller projects, such as:

- Formulation of waste management plan for all the functional area of Tropoja;
- Kojë waste landfill preparation;
- Purchase of technologic trucks and containers.

### **Draft-Project**

#### **1. General Information**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Title</b>              | <i>One Stop Shop in Bajram Curri</i>  |
| <b>Project Type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Project</i> |
| <b>Project Location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri</i>   |
| <b>Total Pre-Estimated Budget</b> | <i>6,200,000 ALL</i>  |

#### **2. Project Background and Analysis.**

One of the main problems identified by the forum of the functional area of Tropoja is the information of citizens and the quick effective communication with them on different issues of local government. Information/communication with citizens is currently made through traditional forms. Municipality of Bajram Curri has no one stop shop for the rapid and due information of citizens on different issues of their interest.

#### **3. Project Specific Objectives**

1. Improvement in time and quality of the information related to their rights and Commune services.
2. Increase of capacities for a more effective management and administration of the public communication.

#### **4. Expected Results and Project Indicators**

1. Municipality makes available an organized, centralized, digital system for timely and correct information for the citizens.
2. Higher capacity of the staff for use, administration, and delivery of information for required services.
3. Increase of community awareness regarding the information and communication issues and participation/partnership in the governmental decision-making.

Population benefiting from this project counts 8000 inhabitants of Bajram Curri, but after the local government elections, some 28000 inhabitants of the functional area of Tropoja will benefit from the project.

#### **5. Project Activities**

1. One Stop Shop design, formulation of its standard operating regulation.
2. Installation of technical equipment and system.
3. Staff training on network use and operations.
4. Uploading in network all data and information managed by the municipality.

5. Exchange of experience with other local government units which have previously implemented One Stop Shop.
6. Community awareness activities on the promotion of information model.

The project will be finalized within 6 months.

## **6. Project Maturity**

The project is in the initial phase of inception. There is no technical project previously implemented. Costs are approximate, based on similar previous experiences of other local government units.

## **7. Financial Sources and Implementation Partners**

Funds for the project will be generated from public funds (Municipality of Bajram Curri or local government), potential donors and non-profit national or international organizations, with focus on improvement of services.

In the event the project is implemented by the Municipality, implementation of works will be made by contract with best companies of the public tendering process organized by the Municipality.

## **8. Project cost**

Total cost of the project is 6,200,000 ALL, including:

1. One Stop Shop design, formulation of its standard operating regulation. (1,500,000 ALL)
2. Installation of technical equipment and system. (4,500,000 ALL).
3. Staff training on network use and operations (included in 1).
4. Uploading in network all data and information managed by the municipality.
5. Exchange of experience with other local government units which have previously implemented One Stop Shop (200,000 ALL).
6. Community awareness activities on the promotion of information model.

## **Draft Project**

### **1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Fencing and setting up appropriate premises at the high school and nine-year school in Bajram Curri town.</i> |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <i>Economic development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Projects</i>                                 |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri</i>  |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>150,000 Euro</i>  |

### **2. Project background and analysis**

Bajram Curri high school is the largest one in the functional area of Tropojë. It numbers roughly 700 students and 45 teachers. Nearby it is located the nine-year school “Ali Podrimja”, which has been built in 2012 and attended every year by about 500 pupils and 30 teachers. Both schools share a common territory, which is not surrounded by a fence. The high school does not provide adequate conditions for the education of students. One of the key problems apart from the surrounding wall is the damaged roof, which leaks continuously during winter. Likewise, the school yard lacks minimum conditions of an educational environment for the students. The sport facilities are out of order; there are no footprints of previous sport premises due to their lack of maintenance. The nine-year school has failed to offer since the very beginning, an appropriate environment for the student break intervals between education and sport classes. Often, the premises outside the school are visited by other persons and it is impossible to keep them under control.

Consequently, there have been conflicts among young people and persons outside the school, or other negative phenomena such as use of cigarettes, drugs etc. The high school gathers also students from the communes of Margegaj, Bujan and Tropoja fshat, Llugaj etc., since it is their preference to study in the city. The surrounding of the yard and the establishment of suitable, sport and relaxing common premises for students and teachers will reduce the risk of external interventions and create a cultured environment at school. The Project is in accordance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area, as to improvement of community social cohesion.

### **3. Project specific objectives**

The project specific objectives are the following:

1. Creating an appropriate facility for teaching, educational and sports purposes for the students of two schools, respectively the high school and nine-year school “Ali Podrimja” in Bajram Curri town.
2. Awareness of students and teaching personnel about the relevant environmental preservation and fight against negative phenomena such as conflict, drugs and trafficking in human beings.

#### **4. Expected results and project indicators**

The project expected results, based on the above objectives, include as follows:

1. Safe fencing physical environment for two schools;
2. Reconstructed high school roof;
3. Improved infrastructure of the school yard and school corner;
4. Young people awareness about the relevant environmental preservation.

The project beneficiaries include 1200 students of two schools, 75 teachers and the community as a whole of four local units, including Bajram Curri, Margegaj, Bujan, Llugaj, Tropojë village etc.

#### **5. Project activities**

The main activities to meet the expected objectives and results include as follows:

1. Construction of the fencing wall and environmental alignment;
2. Repair of the high school building roof;
3. Construction of sports facilities;
4. Awareness campaign with the school students about the project for environmental preservation and fight against negative trends such as conflicts/drugs/trafficking in human beings.

The period of project implementation is 6 months.

#### **6. Project maturity**

Proposal is in the phase of inception.

#### **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

The project is integrated into the shared municipal functions. It will be implemented by Bajram Curri municipality in cooperation with the Educational Directorate.

Funders: Bajram Curri Municipality, Educational Directorate, community of students and teachers.

#### **8. Project cost**

Project cost will be 150,000 Euro.



**Draft Project****1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Rehabilitation of the center of Bytyç Commune, Tropojë</i>                    |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bytyç Commune</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>70,000 Euro</i>   |

**2. Project background and analysis**

Bytyç Commune has a population of some 2200 inhabitants, according to the Registry Office. The center of this commune is in Pac village, which has a population of 400 inhabitants. Nearby this center there are a number of state, private and religious institutions, including the local authority administration, health center, nine-year elementary school, village mosque and small private businesses. As such, the center of Bytyç commune is visited by inhabitants of the village and other villages that request mainly public services, as well as pupils of the nine year school. The commune center offers inappropriate environment for inhabitants of Pac village and other villages. The surface of 1500 m<sup>2</sup>, considered as communal center, has no green spaces, sidewalks for pedestrians as well as lighting of the square. At the same time, the square is traversed by a trench used for irrigation of land, which is amortized. There is a long lack of investments in this regard. This environment is inappropriate for the circulation of community, becoming tougher in winter time. Children attending school walk across the muddy and often risky roads, due to the lack of sidewalks and lighting. The need to improve this center is evident. The project is in accordance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area as to improvement of community social cohesion.

**3. Project specific objectives**

1. Improving the movement for Pac village residents, Bytyç commune center through territory planning, pavements and lighting.
2. Increase of community awareness about the investment maintenance.

**4. Expected results and project indicators**

The proposed project will have an impact on:

1. Pedestrian pavements, residents from Pac and other villages.
2. Appropriate lighting across the pavements of the commune center.
3. Reconstructed irrigation canal;

4. Appropriate and cultured environment for the residents of Pac village and other villages benefiting public services at Bytyç Commune.
5. Satisfied residents about the environments created.

Number of beneficiary population: 400 residents from Bytyç commune (25% of the population of Bytyç commune, about 1800 residents from other villages within the territory of Bytyç commune).

## **5. Project activities**

The project activities to meet the above objectives include:

5. Alignment of the commune center square;
6. Pavement construction;
7. Lighting installation;
8. Community awareness.

The project will be implemented for a 4-month period.

## **6. Project maturity**

Proposed project is in the phase of inception. There are no projects at the commune about the commune center arrangement and alignment due to lack of funds. This is a vital need and priority for that commune.

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

Arrangement and proper management of public facilities is a direct function of the local government unit. As such, it will be implemented by that unit.

The project will be funded by Tropojë Municipality, community, local and foreign donors.

## **8. Project cost**

The total project cost is 70,000 Euro.

## **Draft Project**

### **1. General information**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>Reconstruction of “Dardania” park, Bajram Curri</i>                           |
| <b>Project type</b>               | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>           | <i>Bajram Curri Municipality</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated budget</b> | <i>80,000 EURO</i>   |

### **2. Project background and analysis**

Bajram Curri town has a population of 5340 inhabitants divided into three quarters, respectively “28 Gushti”, “Dardania” and “Partizani”. “Dardania” quarter is located northeast and southeast of Bajram Curri town. It has 3350 inhabitants and some 800 families. This quarter lacks conditions for an adequate and cultured community life. In a surface of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, inhabitants fail to have an environment according to standards, given that the situation of public spaces is inappropriate due to lack of budget for their maintenance.

Currently, there is a lack of green spaces and by-ways among flats. Likewise, sidewalks and lighting are missing. This quarter is continuously in need of parking spaces, which were not previously considered as essential premises for the community. The inhabitants of this quarter and especially children and elderly, have insufficient places for relaxation and entertainment. There are insufficient playgrounds and spaces mainly for children, to spend the free time without being endangered. There is a playground built in 2010, but very small. Previous investments in this quarter are few in number. The project is in compliance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area as to improvement of community social cohesion.

### **3. Project specific objectives**

The specific objectives include:

1. Improvement of community conditions for recreation and entertainment in “Dardania” quarter, Bajram Curri town.
2. Community awareness about the maintenance of public premises

### **4. Expected results and project indicators**

The project expected results include:

1. Increased green spaces;
2. Creating appropriate premises for the movement of residents, lighting and parking of vehicles;
3. Increase of recreational spaces for the inhabitants,
4. Community awareness about the maintenance of investment made.

Number of beneficiary population: around 3350 inhabitants of Bajram Curri town (around 40 % of Bajram Curri town population).

## **5. Project activities**

The main project activities include:

1. Territory alignment within a surface area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>;
2. Construction of pavements;
3. Lighting of neighborhoods;
4. Construction of playgrounds and installation of benches;
5. Alignment of the parking lot;
6. Creation of green spaces;
7. Community awareness about the maintenance of investment made.

The project completion term is 6 months.

## **6. Project maturity**

The proposal falls within the direct capacities/functions of Tropojë Municipality. This proposal is in the phase of inception.

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

The project will be implemented by Tropojë Municipality.  
Project funders include the Municipality, community, business, local and foreign donors.

## **8. Project cost**

The total project cost is about 80,000 Euro.

## **Draft Project**

### **1. General information**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Project title</b>             | <i>Construction of “Partizani” Park, Bajram Curri</i>                            |
| <b>Project type</b>              | <i>Economic Development/ <b><u>Public Services</u></b>/ Quick Start Projects</i> |
| <b>Project location</b>          | <i>Bajram Curri Municipality</i>   |
| <b>Total pre-estimated buget</b> | <i>90,000 Euro</i>   |

### **2. Project background and analysis**

Bajram Curri town has a population of 5340 inhabitants divided into three quarters, 28 Gushti”, “Dardania” and “Partizani” respectively. “Partizani” quarter is located northeast and southeast of Bajram Curri town. It has around 3600 inhabitants and 840 families. This quarter where about 43 % of Bajram Curri inhabitants live, lacks conditions for an adequate and cultured community life. In a surface of 1500 m<sup>2</sup> inhabitants fail to have an environment according to standards, given that the situation of public spaces is inappropriate due to lack of budget for their maintenance. Currently, there is a lack of green spaces and by-ways among flats. Likewise, sidewalks and lighting are missing. This quarter is continuously in need of parking spaces, which were not previously considered as essential premises for the community. The inhabitants of this quarter and especially children and elderly, have insufficient places for relaxation and entertainment. Basically, there are insufficient playgrounds and spaces for children to spend the free time without being endangered. There are barely previous investments in this quarter. The project is in compliance with the study of Tropojë Functional Area as to improvement of community social cohesion.

### **3. Specific project objectives**

The specific objectives include:

1. Improvement of community conditions for recreation and entertainment in “Partizani” quarter, Bajram Curri town.
2. Community awareness about the maintenance of public premises

### **4. Expected results and project indicators**

The expected project results include:

1. Increased green spaces;
2. Appropriate premises for the movement of inhabitants, lighting and parking of vehicles;
3. Increase of recreational spaces for the inhabitants,
4. Community awareness about the maintenance of investment made.

Number of beneficiary population: around 3600 inhabitants of Bajram Curri town (around 43 % of Bajram Curri town population).

## **5. Project activities**

The main project activities include:

1. Territory alignment within a surface area of 1500 m<sup>2</sup>;
2. Construction of pavements;
3. Lighting of neighborhoods;
4. Construction of playgrounds and installation of benches;
5. Alignment of the parking lot;
6. Creation of green spaces;
7. Community awareness about the maintenance of investment made.

The project completion term is 6 months.

## **6. Project maturity**

The proposal falls within the direct capacities/functions of Tropojë Municipality. This proposal is in the phase of inception.

## **7. Financing sources and implementation partners**

The project will be implemented by Tropojë Municipality.

Project funders include the Municipality, community, business, local and foreign donors.

## **8. Project cost**

The total project cost is about 90,000 Euro.

## 8. DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TFA PROGRAMME: LG ORGANIZATION AFTER THE TAR

Based on the territorial and administrative reform (TAR), the TFA corresponds with one LGU that will include the current LGUs of Tropoja district, with the municipality of Bajram Curri at the center.

The organizational chart of the new municipality might be based on the current organizational chart of the municipality of Bajram Curri also integrating new structures necessary to ensure the economic development and improvement of the public services throughout the FA.

A potential organizational chart of the new LGU is presented in the next page. The organizational structure of the TFA is based on existing structures of LGUs, taking into consideration the structure of the municipality of Bajram Curri and the typical structure of the communes. It aims at integrating the former structures also answering the LGU functions stated by the law. It is also based on the past experience regarding the functioning of different models as well as the contribution of different actors involved in the implementation of TAR.

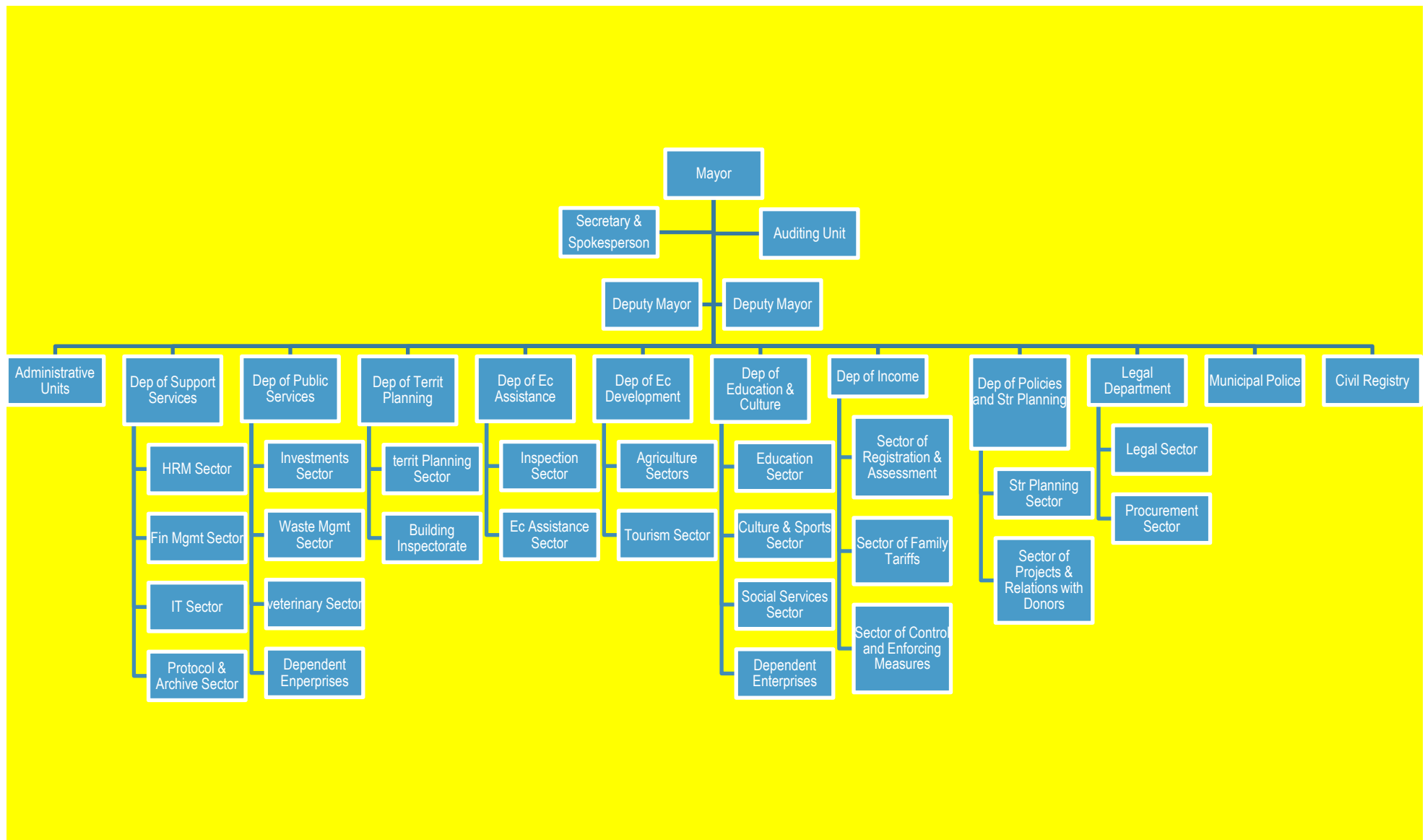
At present, the municipality of Bajram Curri has the most complete structure in the TFA. It is organized in sections. The communes' structure is organized in offices/sectors. Since it is going to be one larger LGU including the existing LGUs, the new organizational structure of the municipality of Bajram Curri should be upgraded to department level.

After local elections, the municipality of Bajram Curri can be organized in 9 departments—support services, public service, territorial planning, economic assistance, economic development, education and culture, income, policies and strategic planning, and legal services—that link with main functions. Also, there are the relationships with administrative units, municipal police, and audit units. Each department is organized in sectors that link to specific functions. Each sector is based on the existing sectors of the municipality of Bajram Curri adding functions that have been characteristics of the rural areas/communes.

In the new organizational structure, the economic development, especially agriculture and tourism and policies and strategic planning are emphasized. Also, provision of services to the whole functional area has been the essential consideration. Social development is emphasized in order to increase the quality of social life in the functional area. Also, the changes that are suggested aim at increasing the work effectiveness of the new LGU. In this framework, the sector of relationship with donors and project has been promoted. It will deal with development and implementation of project based on strategic plans.

The structure will include several sectors that deal with monitoring and auditing, public safety/municipal police, public information office, information technology, archives as independent functions in support of the whole local government. Also, the structure will manage the delegated functions (National Registration Center, National Licensing Center, Civil Registry).

In order to fulfill the main functions, it is necessary that the LGU add the specialised personnel according to departments. The suggested organizational structure is presented below.



Potential organizational structure of the municipality of Bajram Curri



## 9. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF TROPOJA FUNCTIONAL AREA PROGRAMME

The process of the development of the TFA has gone through several phases including:

1. Establishing the Forum of the TFA;
2. Data collection and analysis;
3. Development of the draft study on economic development, public services, and organization of local government in the TFA;
4. Solicitation of Forum's feedback about the draft study, reflection of the feedback in the final study, and Forum discussions about the study;
5. Development of the TFA vision and project ideas for the economic development and improvement of public services.

### **Establishing the TFA Forum**

The TFA Forum is established on December 2014 following an intensive communication with local actors for the identification of potential members. 19 people representing the municipality of Bajram Curri, the communes of Tropojë, Bytyç, Fierzë and Bujan, de-concentrated institutions such as the Education Office and Agriculture Office, civil society (Integrimi, "Bjeshket e Namuna" Local Action Group, and Alpin), and business joined to establish the TFA Forum. The contribution of the Local Coordinator, identified based on previous cooperation experience and local engagement, has been essential for the successful planning, organization, and realisation of the Forum's activities and development of the TFA study and programme.

### **Data collection and analysis**

Main activities carried out in the context of data collection include desk research and individual and focus group interviews.

Data have been collected from the main existing documents including the Development Strategy of the Kukesi Region, Strategic Plan of Bajram Curri, Margegaj and Tropojë, Draft National Strategy of Tourism (2014-2020), 2011 Census, and local statistics (from LGUs, Education Office, Agriculture Office, Public Health Office, and National Registration Center).

Data were also collected at the internet pages of the Regional Council of Kukës, INSTAT, Ministry of Tourism and Urban Planning, dldp, other partner organizations, etc.

Meetings and interviews with main local actors were a main source of information, too. In this context, Forum meetings and focus group interviews provided important data. Three forum meetings were conducted during October - December 2014. Three focus groups were also conducted including: LGU staff responsible for public services; Experts of agriculture and livestock; and Experts of tourism.

The data that were collected were analysed to assess the situation, identify the main trends, and develop the draft study about the TFA.

**Development of the draft study of the economic development, public services, and organization of the local government in the TFA**

The development of the draft study on the TFA was based on the collected data and their analysis. The study focused on issues of economic development, especially agriculture and mountain tourism, situation of public services and steps for their improvement, and organization of local government in the municipality and communes.

**Forum discussions relating to the draft study and reflection of the feedback in the final study**

In addition to individual discussions and communication in electronic form with individual members of the TFA Forum regarding the study, a specific meeting of the Forum has been organized to discuss about the draft study. The purpose was to verify the data, complement them, and improve the study. Participants' suggestions have been reflected in the final study on the TFA.

**Development of the vision and project ideas for economic development and improvement of public services**

Study conclusions and recommendations regarding the economic situation in the TFA, the potential for economic development in the future, situation of public services and their improvement in the future, and organization of local government were used for the development of the TFA vision and 17 project ideas. Project ideas included 6 for the economic development and 11 for the improvement of public services.

The identification and development of the vision and project ideas have been result of the joint efforts of the consultants with the local coordinator and members of the TFA Forum. A specific meeting of the Forum has been organized to discuss the vision and project ideas. Participants' suggestions were reflected in the final document of the study on TFA Programme.

## ANEXES

*SWOT analysis for the agriculture sector*

| Strengths   | Weaknesses   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture is one of main important potential sectors for the economic development of Tropoja.</li> <li>• Fertile soil suitable for arboriculture and viniculture.</li> <li>• Water resources to meet the needs of agriculture for irrigation.</li> <li>• Development of arboriculture (chestnut, plum, apple, etc.).</li> <li>• Cultivation for livestock.</li> <li>• Diverse medical and aromatic plants.</li> <li>• Tradition and natural conditions—pastures—for development of agriculture.</li> <li>• Favorable conditions for diverse livestock (sheep, goat, cattle, etc.)</li> <li>• Agriculture as incentive for the development of summer and winter tourism.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and professional level of agriculture experts and farmers.</li> <li>• Insufficient irrigation capacity, infrastructure, and insufficient capacity of water users associations.</li> <li>• Insufficient mechanisation of agriculture.</li> <li>• Insufficient financial resources.</li> <li>• There are no soft credits for farmers.</li> <li>• Small size of the agricultural farm.</li> <li>• Lack of fruit and vegetable processing centers.</li> <li>• Lack of milk and meat processing.</li> <li>• Lack of medical plants processing.</li> <li>• Lack of services for the chestnut forests.</li> <li>• Insufficient human resources and lack of qualified labor in agriculture and livestock.</li> <li>• Lack of refrigerators for agricultural and livestock products.</li> <li>• Lack of the willingness to work in agriculture and livestock sector.</li> <li>• Lack of farmers' markets for the marketing of local agricultural and livestock products.</li> <li>• Lack of developmental plans.</li> </ul> |
| Opportunities   | Threats  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural pastures that can support twice the number of livestock.</li> <li>• Favourable land for different cultures, cereals, arboriculture, and medical plants.</li> <li>• Favourable conditions for the development of the medical and aromatic plants.</li> <li>• Increased attention of the government and development agencies and donors for mountain areas.</li> <li>• Cross border and regional cooperation.</li> <li>• Vicinity with Kosovo and Montenegro.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emigration and immigration.</li> <li>• Lack of financial resources.</li> <li>• Lack of labor force.</li> <li>• Formalisation of the ownership on agricultural land.</li> <li>• Formalisation of the ownership on the chestnut forests.</li> <li>• Weak infrastructure for remote villages.</li> <li>• Lack of local organizations (associations, etc.) for farmers.</li> <li>• Legal/fiscal obstacles for the exchange of products with Kosovo.</li> <li>• Difficulties regarding the transportation of products towards Tirana because of the distance and high cost.</li> </ul>   |

*SWOT analysis for tourism sector*

| Strengths  | Weaknesses   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse tourism               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ mountain, river, alpin</li> <li>◦ cultural, etnografik</li> <li>◦ curativ,</li> <li>◦ family based,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Traditional restaurants (regarding design)</li> <li>• Traditional cuisine</li> <li>• Interest to invest in the tourism.</li> <li>• Interest of emigrants to return to their home town.</li> <li>• Number of Albanian and foreign tourists—from Germany, Czech Republic, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA—and Kosova is increasing.</li> <li>• Potential touristic destinations that are unexplored.</li> <li>• In general, construction is based on tradition.</li> <li>• Relatively good roads to go to touristic destinations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism is not oriented (it is mainly developed based on individual initiative)</li> <li>• Weak promotion of tourism (guides, maps, touristic offices/information)</li> <li>• River tourism is not explored.</li> <li>• No touristic offices in the TFA (only one office in Valbonë).</li> <li>• Insufficient touristic signs.</li> <li>• Waste management in touristic areas and villages.</li> <li>• Forests are damaged.</li> <li>• Traditional dishes are not transferred to young generations.</li> <li>• Low level of service for tourists and visitors in general at hotels, guest houses, and restaurants.</li> <li>• Insufficient capacity regarding touristic services, especially in the context of increased number of tourists.</li> <li>• Lack of human resources regarding the market economy (effective management of tourism business).</li> <li>• Incomplete update of land ownership.</li> </ul> |
| Opportunities  | Threats  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road infrastructure to go to touristic destinations.</li> <li>• No problems with electricity in Valbona.</li> <li>• Rich fauna (traut, deer, wolf, wild goat, wild cat, bear) and flora (blueberry, linen, etc.)</li> <li>• Terrain is suitable for skiing (Ceremi, Valbona, Padeshi, Lake of Ponars).</li> <li>• Protected areas—Valbona National Park, Lekbibaj National Park.</li> <li>• Touristic corridors: Tropojë-Kosovë-Shkodër (Bjeshkët e Nëmuna).</li> <li>• Cross border and regional cooperation</li> <li>• Location, vicinity with Kosovo and Montenegro.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No road infrastructure to potential touristic destinations like Lake of Ponars, Pastures Mountain Range, etc.</li> <li>• Problems with electricity, especially during the winter, in several areas that have a touristic potential.</li> <li>• Incomplete coverage by mobile operators of the Valbona Valley and other potential touristic destinations.</li> <li>• Construction permits moratorium.</li> <li>• There is no favourable credit or state support for the tourism sector.</li> <li>• Inhabitants' mind set regarding tourism development and management.</li> </ul>  |

## SWOT analysis for public services

| Strengths   | Weaknesses   |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Service: Water supply</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water supply is partly provided in most of LGUs (Bashkia Bajram Curri and communes of Margegaj, Bujan, LLugaj and Tropojë)</li> <li>• Water source from the Valbona water supply system.</li> <li>• The main line is functional; The internal network in Margegaj and Bajram Curri is partly constructed. In Llugaj, the project has started (and stoped because of funds)</li> <li>• Communes of Bytyç, Fierzë and Lekbibaj have sufficient water resources.</li> </ul> | <p><i>Service: Water supply</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient water supply for the community(2-3 times per day in Bajram Curri; Once per day in communes; individual deposits</li> <li>• Schools do not have drinking water.</li> <li>• In Fierzë and Llugaj the water supply system is based on electric lifting and thusis costly.</li> <li>• The water supply system of Bajram Curri is not functional (poor management, meters are missing at 60%).</li> <li>• Financial means for the water supply in Bytyç and Fierzë are not sufficient.</li> <li>• The current source is not sufficient for the supply during the summer.</li> <li>• There are no experts and hydro engineers</li> <li>• Collection of income is very low.</li> <li>• The water Enterprise does not result effective.</li> </ul> |
| <p><i>Cleaning service</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depositing pit for the waste</li> </ul>   | <p><i>Cleaning service</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, within the city, there are no containers.</li> <li>• Waste processing is missing.</li> <li>• There are no containers at rural areas there are no depositing pit and containers.</li> <li>• There is no waste classification.</li> <li>• There are no technological trucks.</li> <li>• There is no sewage system.</li> <li>• Polluted water is poured into the river.</li> <li>• The city collector for rain water has not been completed because of luck of funds.</li> <li>• Bashkia has a natural pit as depositing pit.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><i>Service of the green areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three neighbourhoods are partly regulated.</li> <li>• There are no play grounds, green areas, and entertainment in the communes.</li> </ul>   |  |

| Opportunities   | Threats   |
|---|---|
| <i>Service: Water supply</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>There are water sources</i></li><li>• <i>There is willingness to cooperate between LGUs</i></li></ul> | <i>Service: Water supply</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lack of investments</i></li><li>• <i>Low economic development</i></li></ul> |
| Cleaning service <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the communes, there are suitable locations for waste collection and depositing.</li></ul>                         |   |