



VAU I DEJES MUNICIPALITY



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF VAU I DEJES MUNICIPALITY

S h o r t V e r s i o n

Prepared by: VAU I DEJËS MUNICIPALITY
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Introduction

The Strategic Development Plan of Vau I Dejes is prepared in the framework of the Decentralization and Local Development Programme (**dldp**) implemented by Intercooperation Albania in the Shkodra Region, in the North of Albania.

Vau I Dejes Municipality is one of the eight partner Local Government Units involved in **dldp**, together with Shkodra Municipality, Vau i Dejes Municipality, Puka Municipality, Fushe Arrez Municipality, Velipoja Municipality and Dajç and Gur i Zi Communes.

The **dldp** programme aims at supporting the municipalities and communes in the ongoing decentralization process in Albania. It includes support in strategic and land use/urban planning, public service improvements, administrative and management reforms as well as increasing communication and participation of the citizens towards more transparent and accountable local governance. **dldp** supports the strengthening of inter LGU cooperation and the cooperation with regional (mainly Qark) and national level institutions. The programme is financed by the Swiss government (SDC) and implemented by Intercooperation, a Swiss foundation for development and cooperation.

The aim of this document is to provide local authorities a key strategic guide which identifies main priorities of the Municipality's future development by addressing issues such as economic growth, interventions for improving physical and social infrastructures, distribution of necessary capacities of public services, the planning of territorial management etc.

Based in the current situation of the Vau I Dejes Municipality and in the needs of the communities in Northern Albania, the methodology of preparing the Strategic Development was developed together with the experts and various partners of the municipalities and communes, with a particular focus on:

- a) an open, participative and transparent process, involving the main local and regional actors, in order to ensure a broad acceptance and the final ownership of this important strategic document;
- b) combining the plan with territorial management instruments in order to address the challenges of the local authorities on illegal constructions, urban planning and efficient land use
- c) linking and integrating the Strategic Development Plan into regional and national strategies and policies, to ensure a coherent planning framework.



Foreword



Dear Citizens of Vau i Dejes Municipality!

Since almost a year now, the local administration has been engaged in the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan, which can be considered as the main leading document orienting the future developments of Vau i Dejes Municipality. In this endeavour, our Municipality has been closely assisted by Intercooperation Albania, a Swiss development organisation that operates in Shkodra Region.

Another important actor involved in this project has been Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, an organisation with broad experience in the preparation and implementation of development instruments in different communes and municipalities in Albania. I can say that the collaboration with these two organisations has been one of the most fruitful and productive experiences in our Municipality so far.

The Strategic Development Plan of Vau i Dejes Municipality is also a result of the serious involvement of the municipal working group as well as the local Citizens Group which gave a valuable contribution during the whole process of document preparation. It is important to recognise here the moderating capacities of Co-PLAN members, who were able to establish a balanced and productive participative process with the main local actors in our Municipality.

I want to express my special gratitude to all actors involved in the processes as well as my belief that the Strategic Development Plan will be an important orienting pillar toward new opportunities and aspirations in the future of our Municipalities.

My best wishes to all!

Gjon Marku
Mayor of Vau i Dejes Municipality

What is a Strategic Development Plan and what does it represent?

An innovatory plan: for the first time in Vau i Dejes Municipality history a strategic development plan has been elaborated and approved, paving the way for a more organized approach toward the future.

A process-oriented product: by setting the agenda of local development, the SDP of Vau i Dejes Municipality serves to the increase of welfare of the local community. The plan identifies a whole process engaging not only local administration structures, but also the main actors, interest groups and the citizens of Vau i Dejes municipality.

A visionary plan: due to community involvement in the process of establishing the plan, the SDP is oriented according to the visionary concepts of the community in relation to the development. Since in the Albanian development and planning context there has been a lack of visionary approaches which explain where and how to orient existing potentials, the proposed Plan is incorporated in a better equilibrium of the regional development, being coordinated in all relevant fields.

A pragmatic plan: the SDP is thought to be a sort of “contract” between authorities and citizens, which specifies the type, quantity and the shape of development, protecting by any means the environment and the values. The plan is focused on setting up a specific working framework to initiate and to influence the change process at the Municipality. It addresses the key needs, demands and challenges of the citizens, through the rational use of the existing potentials and resources.

An updated and realistic plan; combined with territorial management instruments, this document will be regularly reviewed and updated. The instrument of territorial management (including the new Regulatory Plan for the town of Vau i Dejes) as well as different pictures representing the actual conditions of the area and its development will serve to facilitate the process of territorial management in this Municipality.

A legally approved and binding document: Based on the existing Local Government Law in Albania, the proposed SDP has consolidated its legal and binding value since the moment it is approved by the Vau i Dejes Local Council.



Profile of Vau I Dejes Municipality



Vau i Dejes Municipality is composed from Vau i Dejes city and eight other villages: Kaç, Naraç, Mjede, Karme, Gomsiqe, Spathar, Dush and Shelqet. It is situated south-east of Shkodra city and borders in south-east and south-west with Hajmel commune; in north-west it borders with Gur i Zi commune; in east and north-east it borders with Puka region. It comprises 31 km² of land, only 4,33 km² of which is urban land.



The Municipality has 1.141 ha of agricultural land which is situated in the western and south-western part of the municipal territory.

Vau i Dejes Municipality has 12.345 inhabitants, 6.147 live in the urban areas of the Municipality, 6.198 inhabitants live in rural areas.

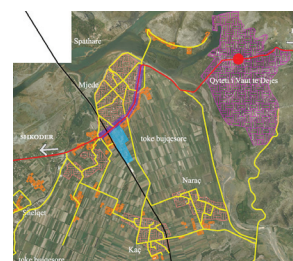
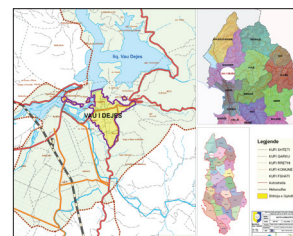
Vau i Dejes Municipality features a variety of topographic, geological, weather and hydrological characteristics due to the territorial morphology and the extension from the hilly heights in the east to the wide agricultural lands of Zadrima region in the west.



A special feature of this Municipality is the considerable water resources where dominates the artificial lake created for the Vau i Dejes power plant is the main water resource, a considerable part of which is situated within the administrative boundaries of the Municipality; the Drin river, which follows its own path, right after it is released from the power plant and Gjadri river which separates from the Drin river 1 km southeast of Vau i Dejes town.



Nr.	Name	Figur Value / characteristic es / characteristics
1	Legal and Administrative Status	Municipality
2	Location	Shkodra Qark
3	Area	31 km ²
4	Number of cities	1
5	Number of villages	8
6	Number of Inhabitants	12, 345
7	Number of families	3330
8	Active work force	50%
9	Annual Budget for 2008	41,056,000 Lek
10	Expected Local Revenues - 2008	17,000,000 Lek
11	Number of private businesses	105
12	Unemployment level	1600 (33% of workforce)
13	Number of employees in the public sector	280
14	Number of employees in the private sector	145
15	Emigration rate	37%
16	Total Road length	63 km
17	Number of public enterprises	1
18	Number of water supply and sewage systems	1
19	Number of employees in the Municipality	32
20	Number of pre-school institutions	5
21	Number of primary and 9-year schools	9
22	Number of High-schools	2
23	Total number of pupils and students	2116
24	Number of health care centres	5
25	Number of hospitals	2
26	Number of counselling centres	0
27	Number of centres for the elderly	0
28	Main economic activities Development Documents and Strategies Number of public enterprises	Hydro Power Plant Agriculture Retailing Small services
29	Number of water supply and sewage systems Number of employees in the Municipality	Urban Plan of the Town Regional Development Strategy
30	Number of pre-school institutions	Improvement of water and sewerage infrastructure Construction of sewerage treatment plant Construction of town by pass Improvement of town road network Construction of the Municipal Hospital Construction of a Waste Landfill Construction of five new schools Construction of river protection walls



Regional Context



Situated in the South-Eastern part of Shkodra Region, Vau i Dejes Municipality will undergo the expected changes foreseen in analytic way in the Regional Strategy for Shkodra Qark Development. The location of the Municipality along Shkodra-Puka-Kosova establishes Vau i Dejes as an entrance gate toward Kosovo, identifying thus the need to carefully elaborate and transform the main Mjede – Vau i Dejes corridor, as well as rebuilding the urban territories alongside this segment.



The construction of the highway Durres-Kukes-Morine which will decrease considerably the time needed from the North-East Albania to Kosova and its link with the main development corridor Tirane-Durres will decrease the importance as well as the traffic along the Shkoder-Puke-Kukes road.

This problem, evidenced in the Shkodra Region Development Strategy and a concern of local authorities of Vau i Dejes Municipality is addressed carefully in the proposed plan with the aim to create a visionary context related to Vau i Dejes development as an integral part of Northern Albania.



The existence of energetic potential related to water and wind resources can be put into a suitable context of use and management to favour economic growth and development of Vau i Dejes Municipality and Shkodra region.



Another important component identified in the Regional Strategic Plan of Shkoder-Lezhe, is the promotion and consolidation of a Polycentric Development Region, which means orienting the future developments not only in Shkodra area but also on the other small urban centers such as Vau i Dejes, Koplik, Bushat etc. Therefore, it is necessary that these small urban centers explore their best potentials to attract a considerable part of the expected migration from the remote mountainous areas in the East toward the Shkodra Plain. This way, it is possible to shift toward the development of attractive labour markets in these areas, in our case, Vau i Dejes Municipality, which is a crucial element for the social and economic development of an urban area.

Main Development Areas – Definitions of Citizen Groups

- I. The orientation of the future municipal development focusing on reorganization and increasing the efficiency of small activities of industrial production;
- II. Promotion and development of agriculture and stock breeding in rural areas focusing in development processes for both community and region;
- III. Identification and definition of criteria of using economic area along the main road corridor, which would stimulate new possible investments in Vau i Dejes Municipality.
- IV. Exploring the possibilities for initiatives in tourism, focusing on cultural/historic tourism and lake tourism, based on natural, historic and cultural resources of the area.
- V. Development of local commerce based mainly on agricultural and stock-breeding products as well as on the advantage of being a link between Shkodra and Kosova.





Development Vision of Vau i Dejes Municipality

Vau i Dejes as an important Municipality in the northern region of Albania, with consolidated economic activities and an important center on qualitative agricultural and stock breeding products, for both local and regional market

Vau i Dejes, a Municipality with a urban center satellite of Shkodra city, with qualitative spaces and infrastructures, with a clear and sustainable environment, where cultures, spirit of cooperation and mutual respect between inhabitants are harmonized

Vau i Dejes, with natural resources and maintained and improved environment where distinguished features of hills and mountains in the east intertwine with those of the western valley

Vau i Dejes as an energy production center for the northern region bringining the current and alternative energy resources in harmony with people and environment

Overall Development Objectives of Vau i Dejes Municipality

1. IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development of the Municipality, by focusing on reviving the small industrial production, development of agricultural and stock breeding products in western and southern parts of the Municipality, promotion of small local enterprises focused on service and commerce sectors, and creating an attractive atmosphere for foreign investors.

2. IN THE FIELD OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT

Improvement and consolidation of spatial structure of Vau i Dejes city as the main urban center of the Municipality, and of urban areas of Mjede, Kaç and Naraç villages in the low lands, addressing carefully the multifunctional transformations in the main corridor Shkodra-Puka.

3. IN THE FIELD OF INFRASTRUCTURE&SERVICES' IMPROVEMENT

Increase of the quality of public services, physical and social infrastructure in all the municipal territory, especially in the city and Mjede, Kaç and Naraç villages, responding in time and quality to the needs of the community for high living standards.

4. IN THE FIELD OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT

Increase of the managing and administrative capacities of the local authorities, addressing the local issues and solving them through effective local policies.

5. IN THE FIELD OF FINANCIAL SOURCES

Increase of the local revenues from taxes and fees in Vau i Dejes Municipality as well as the enabling of potential financing for the improvement of infrastructure and services in all the municipal administrative territory.

Economic Development

Development of local agricultural and stock breeding products, focusing in crops, vegetables and fruit trees:

- a. Increase of technical and financial support to local farmers
- b. Establishment of the capacities for the agricultural production in the territory of Vau i Dejes
- c. Study on assessments of needs for investments to increase efficiency on agricultural land use and supporting infrastructures

Support and development of lake tourism based on the potentials offered by Vau i Dejes Power Plant Lake

- a. Promotion and development of tourism in the lake of the Municipality
- b. Improvement of the situation of potential beach areas in the lake of the Municipality
- c. Promotion of beach area in the artificial lake of Vau i Dejes

Promotion and development of economic areas along Shkodra-Puka corridor, between the territories of Shelqet, Mjeda and Vau i Dejes city

- a. Preparation of technical projects for the development of this multifunctional corridor
- b. Support with tangible investments in the proposed part of the corridor which is inside Vau i Dejes Municipality territory

Establishment and promotion of a free economic area near the railway depots area.

- a. Lobbying and approval of the above-mentioned territory as a free economic area
- b. Improvement of the technical condition of the proposed area regarding the infrastructures and services

Territorial Management

B1.The consolidation of urban centres of the villages in the western area, corresponding to the territories of Mjede, Shelqet, Kaç and Naraç villages

- a. Increase of information level of inhabitants regarding the SDP and the territorial management instruments
- b. Improvement of the situation of physical infrastructures of urban consolidation centers
- c. Studies/projects on urban restructuring of urban consolidation areas

Protection of agricultural land from uncontrolled developments

- a. Increase of the level of control on new constructions (Construction Inspectorate) in the municipal territory
- b. Presentation and consolidation of penalty system and presentation of these measures to the local community
- c. Identification of a special fiscal policy to protect agricultural land and orientation of constructions in this territory

Regeneration of damaged areas from human activity and environmental protection in Vau i Dejes municipality Municipality

- a. Identification of the areas needing improvements in the environment
- b. Improvement of the situation of the damaged(polluted) areas in the territory of the Municipality



Infrastructure and Services

The improvement of the state of the road network in Vau i Dejes Municipality, based on the proposed scheme in the General Regulatory Plan and the improvement of communicative links between different villages of this Municipality.

- a. Implementation of the road network plan proposed in the Regulatory Plan and in the other mapping materials
- b. Elaboration of intervention projects in the road network based on the new General Regulatory Plan
- c. Implementation of investments for improvement on the proposed network

Improvement of water supply and sewage networks in the territory of the Vau i Dejes Municipality

- a. Improvement of technical and managing conditions of the municipal Water Supply and Sewage Networks Office
- b. Improvement of physical conditions of water supply and sewage networks in the territory of the Municipality
- c. Increase staff capacity on the management and administration of the company

Improvement of urban waste collection and disposal in the municipality

- a. Preparation of a collection and management plan of urban waste in the Municipality
- b. Identification of a disposal site/landfill

Improvement of the situation in the schools and kindergartens of the municipality

- a. Highlight the needs for physical improvements of schools
- b. Preparation of technical projects for possible funding from state or other donors
- c. Inciting local forums on the possibility of increasing teaching quality in the schools of the Municipality

Greenery the environment of i Vau i Dejes Municipality

- a. Improvement of physical conditions of green environments

Street lighting

- a. Improvement of street lighting system in the city of Vau i Dejes
- b. Improvement of street lighting system in the villages of the Municipality

Public graveyard

- a. Improvement of actual conditions of public graveyards

City Beautification

- a. Improvement of the image of urban areas and their decoration
- b. Increase of professional skills of the inhabitants
- c. Organization of seasonal employment activities for the people in need

Good Governance

Increase the capacities of the staff in the Municipality

- a. Organizational assessment of the administration and possible adaptations in the structure
- b. Increase of technical capacities of municipal staff

Communication with Local Citizens and Transparency in Decision-Making

- a. Official dissemination of information on municipal activities and projects
- b. Encouraging citizens participation and their notification in local council meetings

Development of the participatory budgeting

- a. Establishing local capacities for participatory budgeting
- b. Organizing periodic activities on the participatory budgeting

Increasing Financial Resources

Increase of the local income of the Municipality of Vau i Dejes

- a. Creation and consolidation of a database for the consolidation of tax and fee level in the Municipality
- b. Improve the capacities of the local administration related to the financial administration issues

Promotion and increase of national and international investments in the Municipality

- a. Preparation of promotion and advertisement materials for Vau i Dejes Municipality
- b. Organization of different event with economic focus

Increase of other financial potentials

Preparation of project-proposals

Instruments for Territorial Management

In relation to define and orient the spatial urban inhabited areas, mix areas, and economic Vau i Dejës Municipality, at the end of this document there are the related maps and their explanations.

The main aim of these graphic maps is to orient spatial interventions regarding the main economic, social and environmental development scopes of Vau i Dejës Municipality. Also, these are the key instruments for public participation offering public or private actors the possibility to intervene and collaborate based on a clear and integrated vision. In more concrete terms these instruments aim to:

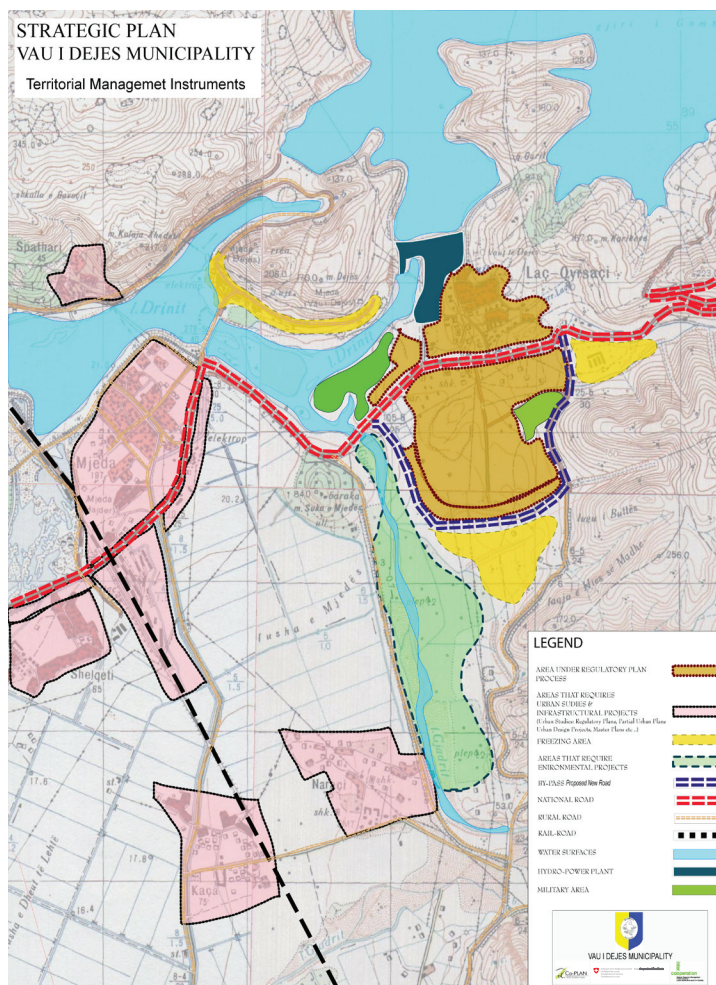
- Manage and lead general land use, defining the frames of territorial management of Vau i Dejës Municipality.
- Defining the main transport axes and corridors.
- Defining mix land use and economic areas.
- Take into consideration the future development of Municipality Vaut i Dejës and the special attention areas with specific functions.

A. Urban inhabited areas

Urban inhabited areas shown in maps can be divided into two main types:

1. In the first type there are included the consolidation urban areas, which must be a subject of Regulatory Plans, thematic Master Plans or partial studies. Regarding this concept these areas must be served with all needed physical and social infrastructures and with services (road network, water and sewage supply network, canals, public transportations, electric energy supply, schools and kindergartens, social and health care centre etc.). Proposed gross is 100 inhabitants/Hectare, while net density is 140 inhabitants/Hectare. In these areas it will be permitted to build new buildings, but always according to local policies, with the main aim to raise density and make public services more efficient.



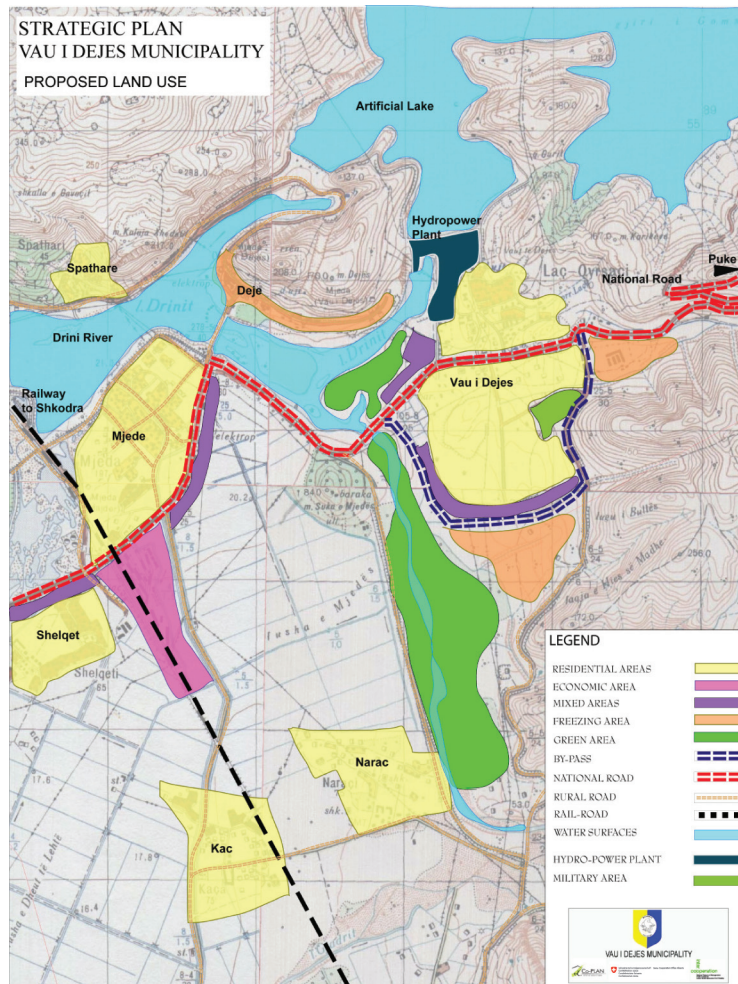


2. In the second type there are included the “freezing” urban areas, which don’t need urban regulatory plans. The plan consists of reducing and prohibiting new buildings in the future.

B. Special areas:

Special areas shown in the map are divided into two types:

- **Economic areas:** here we will consider the areas designated for market development, light industries of agricultural products processing and its respective services.
- **Green areas:** here are treated the specific green areas will regard a special attention as for example; parks along Drin and Gjader River shores, cultivation of trees along River shores etc...



Form and Methodology of Strategic Development Plan Implementation in Vau I Dejes Municipality

Vau i Dejes Municipality (mayor and administration) is the main responsible authority for the LDP implementation. To maximize the efficiency, following measures should be taken:

- a. The establishment of an implementation and monitoring group of the LDP within the municipal administrative structure. It will be in charge of coordinating and implementing the initiatives and activities proposed in the SDP. Under the financial responsibility of the Municipality, the group can be composed by representatives of different administrative offices or experts. In both cases, the group must be headed by the vice-mayor or the mayor himself, to assure the integration of the LDP with the municipal annual planning and budgeting cycle.
- b. The consolidation and further capacity development of the Development Department of the Municipality, which will be engaged to prepare the necessary studies and project-proposals for the funding of proposed activities of all fields.
- c. Possible administrative reorganization of Vau i Dejes Municipality based on the action requirements identified in the proposed LDP action Plan, such as creation of periodic working groups for the preparation of project proposals; organisation and monitoring of participative workshops related to issues such as budgeting, education, agriculture, environment, etc; establishment of cooperative “functional associations” with neighboring local government units etc
- d. Improvement of the territorial, financial and infrastructure database of the Municipality to precede a series of necessary projects or studies needed for the potential implementation of the Local Development Plan.
- e. Increase of capacities and of the level of municipal staff engagement, especially in the field of territorial and physical infrastructures management and monitoring through continuous trainings and the improvement of reporting and evaluation systems.
- f. Institutionalization of periodic reports of each department Municipality regarding the progress of the LDP implementation.

The successful implementation of the Vau i Dejes Strategic Development Plan requires the consolidation of a genuine system of its periodic monitoring and evaluation. This process will reveal potential problems encountered during the Plan implementation giving thus the framework to correct and adapt the process as well as evaluate and clarify the responsibilities of the actors. The Strategic Development Plan refers to a short term-period, 2008 – 2014, so a continuous process of tasks and responsibilities evaluation and adaptation is crucial.

Being that the plan is a strategic document for the use of Vau i Dejes Municipality, it is obvious that its implementation



and monitoring be developed side by side with the processes of election and consolidation of the municipal structures according to electoral terms regarding Albanian local authorities. This will make for the adaptation of the SDP proposals and their monitoring in the framework of annual planning and budgeting cycles of local administration.

Based on the Law on Local Finances, the preparation of Project Budget, for the next three years should be finalized on July. The Project Budget is based on the Guidelines for Project Budget Preparation, issued by the National Government during June, July. The Project Budget foresees the local expenditures and investments for the next three years, while the Budget, which is to be finalized and approved by the Local Council and Prefecture within December, identifies the expenditures and investments for the next year. The investment projects proposed to be funded by the Competitive Funds should be delivered to the National Government within 1 November. The proposed Budget may not involve these projects within its funding framework.

The proposed monitoring scheme

Subject	Timetable (periodic for each year)	Responsible actors	Relevance to annual planning / budgeting
Evaluation of 6-month activities according to the SDP Action Plan	April - May	Coordination and Development Unit	Based on the current results, the Municipality can identify changes in the Project Budget to be delivered within July
Public hearing on SDP implementation results	June July	Coordination and Development Unit	
Internal staff meeting to discuss the progress report and necessary adaptations	October November	Coordination and Development Unit – Vau i Dejes Mayor	The meetings should clearly adopt next year actions to be included in the Annual Budget in December
Annual Evaluation and Implementation Report of the SDP	November	SDP work group	The meeting anticipates the finalization and delivering of annual Budget

After each evaluation, the work group must prepare a summary report which will be presented to the city council. The council has the right to request in writing for another reporting, if necessary.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF VAU IDEJES MUNICIPALITY

S h o r t V e r s i o n