



**UN**  
**Volunteers**



The true adventure is not exploring new lands, but gaining new views.....

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International Volunteer Day

**5 December**

**INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY**

**Year III, Number 9  
IVD 2006**

Inside this issue:

5 December 2006 IVD in Albania	2
No limits for talent!!!	3
Voluntarism fair	4
What should be done to further encourage voluntarism in Albania?	5-6
The tree of 8 promises	7
IVD 2006 Media Coverage in Albania	8
Minority Community Cinema Event	9
On-going UNV Albania projects	10-12
UNV Schemes	13
Facts and figures about UNV Albania	14

**Dear Reader,**

We are pleased to share with you the ninth edition of the **UNV Albania Newsletter**, produced by the UNV team. This newsletter focuses on **IVD 2006 celebrations**.

***Global overview***

The **International Volunteer Day** for Economic and Social Development (IVD) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/40/212 on 17 December 1985.

Since then, governments, the UN system and civil society organizations have successfully joined volunteers around the world to celebrate the Day on 5 December.

Through the years, IVD has been used strategically: most countries have focused volunteers' contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during recent celebrations. MDGs is a set of time-bound targets to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

The organization of IVD is generally the result of a partnership between the UN system, governments, volunteer involving organizations, and committed individuals. Representatives from the media or academia, foundations, the private sector, faith groups, and sports and recreational organizations are also often involved.



*We can do no great things, only small things with great love  
(Mother Teresa)*

For more information:  
[www.unv.undp.org.al](http://www.unv.undp.org.al)  
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**5 December 2006**  
**INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY**  
**in Albania**

The celebration of the IVD 2006 in Albania consisted of:



**Environment activity** *at 9:00 – A.Z.Cajupi school*  
*at 10:00 Tirana Lake Park*

The activity started at the school with activities related to environment awareness and then the students moved at the “Amphitheater” close to Tirana Artificial Lake to plant the symbolic tree “Keep the Promise 2015”

*(This activity is being implemented in the framework of the partnership UNV-REC under the project “Promoting MDG 7 Principle in Albania through Awareness and Volunteerism”.*

**Roundtable** *at 10:00 - Albania Red Cross Conference Room*

All relevant organizations and stakeholders involved in the promotion of voluntarism in Albania were present discussing “What should be done to further encourage voluntarism in Albania”.



**School students performance** *at 12:00 - Pyramid*

Sketches (etyde), songs, poems, drawings, etc. about voluntarism and Millennium Development Goals prepared by the students.

**Voluntarism fair** *at 12:00 - Pyramid*

The drawings of the students related to voluntarism and MDGs have been displayed. Furthermore, volunteer organizations and organizations promoting voluntarism took part of the exhibition with promotional material and pictures documenting their activities.



IVD 2006 activities were carried out in partnership with the Albanian Red Cross; the Albanian Youth Council; the MJAFT! Movement; the Peace Corps, the Regional Environmental Centre (REC); the Institute for the Blind; the Institute for the Deaf and Mute; “Zyber Hallulli” Orphanage; Bajram Curri School; and A.Z. Çajupi School.

*Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good actions;  
try to use ordinary situations*  
*(Jean Paul Richer)*



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## No limits for talent!!!



Students of the Institute for Deaf and Mutes performing

International Volunteer Day (IVD) was celebrated on 5 December at the Pyramid with the presence of 400 children – from high schools and schools for the blind, deaf and mute, as well as Roma, Balkan-Egyptian students and orphans.

The children performed small theatre sketches, songs, poems, dances and music, displaying their many and impressive abilities.

Each performance had a theme, based on the Millennium Development Goals (a set of development objectives that advocate for reducing poverty, improved health and education services, gender equality, environmental sustainability, among others.)



Students of the Bajram Curri School presenting a theater sketch about education



Students of the Institute for Blind performing

Reihan Shkreta, Director of the Institute for the Blind said that the children were happier than anyone could imagine, and that the day would remain in their memories for a long time to come.

Five artists from the Qendra Nderkombetare e Kultures (QNK – International Centre of Culture) worked with students throughout the whole month of November to prepare performances with professionalism and enthusiasm. Furthermore, QNK hosted the event at the Pyramid and provided a great deal of volunteer support, as did the Tirana Education Directorate.

Mujë Buçpapaj, Director of QNK, said that he was very glad to see the children coming and going for their rehearsals. He also said that it wasn't often that they host events with such special children and he said they are amazing and an inspiration to us all.



Students of the Bajram Curri School performing

*What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?  
(George Elliot)*



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## No limits for talent!!! *(continues from page 3)*



Students from the "Zyber Hallulli" Orphanage dancing



Students enjoying the UNV hats



The audience of the student performances



Student from the Institute of Blind playing



Student from the Institute of Blind presenting the performances



Students from the A.Z. Çajupi School performing a theater sketch about HIV/AIDS

Students of Bajram Curri school in a dance performance about environment awareness

## Voluntarism fair

At the Pyramid running concurrent with the children's performance it has been organized a voluntarism fair.

They were displayed paintings related to voluntarism and MDGs prepared by the children of the Institute for the Blind, the Institute for the Deaf and Mute, "Zyber Hallulli" Orphanage, Bajram Curri School, and A.Z. Çajupi School.

Information material of the volunteer-based organizations were presented too.



*It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness  
(Confucius)*



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## What should be done to further encourage voluntarism in Albania?

On 5 December, in the frame of the IVD celebration a **round table discussion** was also held at the premises of the Albanian Red Cross. The theme of the discussion was: "How to further encourage voluntarism in Albania?" Participants were from the main volunteer-based organizations and institutions in Tirana.

Hot topics on the table included the need for a law on voluntarism and the promotion of voluntarism models coming from the community.



**Ms. Esma Shyle, Albania Red Cross (ARC) Volunteer Management Coordinator** - Highlighted the importance of the IVD for their organization and promotion of the Volunteerism in the Country. She pointed out that most of the programmes of ARC are based on the volunteer and their valuable actions.

**Ms. Migena Ruci, Director of the Youth Policies Department, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport (MTCYS)** – Made a summary of the interventions of the MTCYS in the area as well as she mentioned her own personal volunteer experiences, stressing the fact that volunteering makes people feel better and also useful to others.

**Ms. Katia Saro, UNV Programme Officer, UNDP Albania** – Mentioned the main activities and efforts UNV Unit is making to promote Volunteerism in Albania. The speech of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was read to the participants.

**Prof. Zyhdi Dervishi, Social Sciences Faculty Professor, well known among the "V" based NGOs in the country as the author of the book "Volunteerism, a multy functional tissue of the Albanian Society"** – He mentioned the importance of the volunteer action as well as the civic engagement as a potential for social and economic changes in a country.



Albania, he said, has had always a good spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy. He also completed by saying that the legal base for supporting the volunteers and volunteer action is existing but there is a need to implement this laws and amendments.

*Vision without action is a daydream.  
Action without vision is a nightmare.  
(Japanese Proverb)*



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## **What should be done to further encourage voluntarism in Albania? *(continues from page 5)***

**Mr. Eltin Qerazi, Albanian Youth Council Executive Director** – Made a summary of some legal aspects related to the promotion of volunteers and volunteerism in Albania. In his speech, he mentioned that certain laws should be complemented so that the volunteer action is recognized in different levels of Albania society. A suggestion to tackle this gap could be: Volunteer Prices Ceremony.

**Mr. Besjan Pesha, MJAFT Direct Action Coordinator** – Focused on the Volunteer Model Promotion. He is of the opinion that most of the time the real volunteers are forgotten.

**Mr. Gjolek Mera, Executive Director of the Civil Society Development Centre, Elbasan** – He made a clear description of the activities that they are doing with volunteers as well as different ways they are using to promote and recognize the volunteers and their contribution to the implementation of their activities.



“There is a real need to value the role of volunteers in Albania and in general in the Balkans,” said Ms. Zofia Cierniak, a Polish volunteer within the European Voluntary Service programme, working at the Youth Police Department at the MTCYS.

**At the roundtable the following organizations and institutions participated:**

**Albanian Youth Council; Albanian Red Cross; Civil Society Development Centre; ILO; MJAFT! Movement; REC Albania; UNV; Youth Council of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports.**

*It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.*  
*(Albert Einstein )*



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## The tree of 8 promises

On December 5 in Volunteerism day in A.Z. Çajupi School high school in Tirana was organized an activity of environment awareness supported by Regional Environmental Center (REC).

The activity started at 9 in a class room, with presentation of all activities that A.Z. Çajupi high school and Kristal ecological group have organized.



The MDG tree planted in Tirana Lake Park

Also as symbol of the day of Volunteerism all students of A.Z. Çajupi and representatives of other school plant a tree in the city park artificial lake of Tirana.

The posters and paintings prepared during this activity have been displayed at the Volunteerism Fair at the Pyramid.

To this environment awareness event participated representatives of teachers and students from Shkodra, Lezha, Korça, Kukesi and Gjirokastra high schools.



Activity in A.Z. Çajupi school  
Students painting the wall

The students painted the wall of the school yard and then they planted the symbolic tree "Keep the promise 2015" for the attainment of the MDGs.



The MDG tree planted in A.Z. Çajupi school courtyard



Students and teachers that participated to the activity

This activity is being implemented in the framework of the partnership UNV-REC under the project "Promoting MDG 7 Principle in Albania through Awareness and Volunteerism".

*If you want to innovate, to change an enterprise or a society, it takes people willing to do what is not expected.*  
*(Jean Ribould)*



## **IVD 2006 Media Coverage in Albania**

### **Radio Tirana**

A special radio show of an hour time was broadcast on 4 December in the frame of the IVD 2006, dedicated to Volunteerism, Civil Society and Active Citizenship in Albania.

The background materials used during this transmission were provided by the UNV Albania unit, as main document was considered the study on volunteerism "Volunteerism, a multi-functional tissue of the Albanian Society" by prof. Zydi Dervishi. Our office was mentioned so often during the transmission.

During the broadcast citizens interacted with phone calls by posing questions and giving opinions about the theme of the day: voluntarism.

### **TVSH (Albanian State Television)**

The IVD 2006 activities were mentioned during the main News edition.

### **Koha Jone Television**

The IVD 2006 activities were mentioned during the main News edition.

### **ATSH (Albanian News Agency)**

A summary of all IVD 2006 activities organized during the day was presented.

### **Top Channel**

The IVD 2006 activities were presented using the subtitles during the News Edition, highlighting especially the message of Mr. Kofi Annan - Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### **My Music**

The IVD 2006 activities were presented using the subtitles during the News Edition, highlighting especially the message of Mr. Kofi Annan - Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### **Shijak Television**

A reportage during the social section of the main news edition was dedicated to the IVD 2006 activities.

*We're put on this earth not to see through each other  
but to see each other through.*

*(Anonymous)*



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## Minority Community Cinema Event



The audience in Bajram Curri School courtyard

A movie celebrating Roma history and culture, 'Latcho Drom', was screened in Roma communities in Tirana from 10 to 12 October.



Roma girls dancing at the Zemra e Nenes Center

*"We Roma have a very simple but challenging life" said Selvie Rushiti, Director of the Center. "We eat, sleep and love to sing and dance to music. It is our way to escape from the daily reality of poverty."*

The event gathered approximately 600 Roma and Balkan-Egyptians living within the Tirana communities of Kinostudio and nearby Shkolla Teknologjike. The event is part of UNV / UNDP ongoing efforts to promote and celebrate intercultural awareness of Albanian minorities and is the first cultural outreach activity involving vulnerable minority families living in Tirana.

*"These children are very talented, however their talents are not appreciated or accepted by the teachers because it doesn't form part of the everyday school curricula," said Arben Bastri, Head of the Roma NGO 'Qendres per nje Vizion Bashkekohor Rom'.*

The third and final night of the cinema screening of "Latcho Drom", winner of the Cannes movie festival, took place at the "Zemra E Nenes" Roma youth center. Festivities began with live singing and dancing by young Romani children.

Latcho Drom is an internationally acclaimed film showcasing the history of Roma traveling westward from India into the Middle East and Europe.

Through music, the film depicts the difficulties of Roma life and highlights the cultural influences those countries have had on Roma music and dance.

cluded a concert organized by the neighborhood children.

The concert also included a break dancing sequence choreographed and performed by children.



Children break dancing at Bajram Curri

This event is part of a broader UNV / UNDP mission to improve the economic and social conditions of marginalized communities.

The community cinema event was organized by UNV / UNDP done in partnership with: Marubi Film School, the Roma Committee at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as well as Roma NGOs including Qendres per nje Vizion Bashkekohor Rom, Amaro Dives, Roma Active Albania and Amaro Drom.

*We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.*  
*(Winston Churchill)*



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## ONGOING UNV ALBANIA PROJECTS



### UNV/Civil Society Initiative on Volunteerism for Regional Integration and Youth Volunteerism

The UNV/UNDP Regional Integration through Volunteers Exchanges for Reconciliation in South East Europe (RIVER SEE) programme seeks to develop regional confidence and connect people and governments within the Balkan region. The project aims to contribute to regional integration, social cohesion and poverty reduction in the Balkans by strengthening networks through East-East volunteer exchanges, promoting volunteerism and proactive citizenship, and capacity development of civil society to deal with local development and governance processes.

For more info visit: [www.riversee.org](http://www.riversee.org)

#### **Updates:**

*5 East-to-East exchanges involving Albania took place during 2006.*

#### *To Albania:*

- 1 Volunteer from Montenegro was hosted by Mjaft! Movement during the summer*
- 1 Volunteer from Serbia is currently hosted by Albania Human Rights Group*

#### *From Albania:*

*3 Albanian volunteer are currently hosted by different organizations in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.*



*Ms. Aleksandra Mugosa, volunteer from Montenegro while working in the office of Mjaft! Movement*

*One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something...*

*(Henry David Thoreau, poet, writer, philosopher)*



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## Promoting MDG 7 in Albania through Awareness and Volunteerism

In December 2005, funds were secured through the UNV MDG Small Grant Facility to implement awareness raising initiatives on sustainable development and mobilize specific target groups to actively participate in local development and the application of MDG 7 in collaboration with the Regional Environmental Center (REC). The main activities will focus on organizing public events to promote and facilitate public participation in decision making processes, establish specific stakeholder structures to support and facilitate the achievement of MDG 7; and promote access to relevant information through the dissemination of educational material and collaboration with academic and educational institutions.

For more info please visit: [www.unv.undp.org.al](http://www.unv.undp.org.al)

### **Updates:**

The MDG Local Forum activity has been held in the following cities: Berat, Vlora, Kukes, Rrëshen, Korça, Shkodra, Durres, Gjirokastra,

The MDG Day in school activity has been held in the following cities: Berat, Vlora, Kukes, Korça, Shkodra, Durres, Gjirokastra, Lezha, Tirana



Theater performance about gender in Kukes school



Shkodra students planting the MDG tree



Environment march of the students of Berat

*If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.  
(Booker T. Washington)*



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## Joint Strategic Campaign to promote the Millennium Development Goals

The partnership consist of awareness activities with a specific focus on the youth of Albania and builds on the strong media relationships that UNDP, UNV, REC, OXFAM and SNV have established, including the UN Press Club. The campaign focuses on creating opportunities for development partners/ stakeholders (media, youth, Roma, minorities, civil society organizations, private sector etc.) to advocate for the MDGs so that a broad cross section of society is fully represented. Advocating includes pushing for the achievement of the MDG Plus agenda (more ambitious targets) so that the MDGs are achieved by 2015. The campaign seeks to ensure that the voices of those most affected by poverty are heard the loudest.

For more information please visit: [www.mdg.org.al](http://www.mdg.org.al)



*keep the promise*  
Millennium Development Goals



The Regional Environmental Center (REC)  
for Central and Eastern Europe



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

*(Margaret Mead)*



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## **UNV SCHEMES**

### **Corporate/Private Sector (CPS) development**

Albania has been an important recipient of UNV Corporate Private Sector (CPS) advisory missions. Over the past five years 106 Missions of Italian senior experts of VSP have been deployed in Albania in the frame of the UNV Corporate Private Sector (CPS) scheme for developing business plans and feasibility studies, particularly in the agro-industry and tourism sectors.

For more information please visit: [www.unv.undp.org.al](http://www.unv.undp.org.al)

### **UNITeS**

UNITeS, the United Nations Information Technology Service, promotes volunteer involvement as fundamental to efforts focused on information and communications technologies for development ( ICT4D ). The UNV coordinates this UN ICT initiative.

For more information please visit: [www.unites.org](http://www.unites.org)

### **Online Volunteering Service**

The UN Volunteers programme promotes online volunteering as a way to help organizations and initiatives serving the developing world. Hundreds of organizations, including OneWorld, UNDP, and various NGOs recruit and manage online volunteers through our free Online Volunteering service.

For more information please visit: [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)

## **FACTS AND FIGURES about UNV ALBANIA**

The UN Volunteers country office was officially established in Albania, in September 2001. It has been focusing since then on building on the Albanian Government predisposition for democratic governance and civic engagement, and tapping into the growing potential for collaborating with the civil society and local government in promoting volunteering for development.

Since 2001, 33 International UNVs and 22 Albanian National UNVs have been assigned in Albania to support International Organizations, National Organizations and Public Institutions.

For more information please visit: [www.unv.undp.org.al](http://www.unv.undp.org.al)

*It is a rare and high privilege to be in a position to help people understand the differences that they can make not only in their own lives but in the lives of others by simply giving of themselves.*

*(Helen Boosalis)*



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# Season's greetings

## from the UNV team



As I am ending my year of assignment as UNV Programme Officer within UNDP Albania, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your partnerships and commitments.

Katia Saro

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**Please share your ideas and comments with us at: [unv.albania@undp.org](mailto:unv.albania@undp.org)**