

Type of Project:	Education Kindergarten	Country:	Albania	
Approach:	New Construction	Realisation Year:	2000-2001	
Project name:	Kindergarten Kulle, Distr. Durres	Version:	1	Date: January 2004



Initial Situation, Context

In the first war in Kosovo 1998 about 20'000 people fled from their homes to Albania. Albania had at that time no or only poorly maintained infrastructure to host these refugees. SDC/SHA therefore launched a program for a temporary integration of the refugee families in Albania. During their presence and still after the return of the majority of the Kosovar refugees, SDC/SHA maintained a rehabilitation program for schools and kindergartens in Albania (1998-2001). The kindergarten in Kulle is part of this intervention.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Even when the emergency situation for the Kosovar refugees was over, SDC/SHA prolonged its program for rehabilitation of schools and kindergartens with the goal to improve the Albanian infrastructure and to support the educational process of the Albanian children.

Approach

Different to other countries in the Balkans, in Albania the most reasonable way to build or to rehabilitate public constructions is to build with a contractor who is willing to involve people from the region as paid workers. Self Help Approach for public building is no point of discussion in Albania. SDC/SHA financed the whole planning and project management as well as the contractor and the necessary building materials for a ground-floor building in brick and concrete, covered with a tiled roof.

Partner(s)

The project was implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the local Authorities.

Implementations/Results

The implementation procedures, prepared by SDC/SHA were as follows:

- Prior of the planning and implementation a second evaluation of the selected municipality was done by the SDC/SHA construction office. Then a detailed planning with detailed quantities and gathered prices took place.
- According to the broad experience of SHA in Albania, six contractors were pre-selected and invited to submit their biddings.
- Since in Albania clear rules and regulations for construction- and architectural work do often not exist, SHA-standard documentations had to be produced. Disadvantages never occurred in Albania by doing this.
- Unit prices were agreed and a standard contract was signed with the selected contractor and if necessary with the supplier.
- The work of the contractors was partially supervised by freelance engineers (paid by SDC/SHA) or directly by the SHA project manager

Cost, Financing

Total cost for building and external work CHF 108'700.-; Furniture: CHF 3'800.- = Total CHF 112'500.-

Problems/Constraints

The new construction is situated in a remote area. Therefore transport of material was difficult and cost extensive. The contractor faced security problems for his stored materials and had to hire at night guards. Difficult cooperation with the local Authorities due to still wide-spread corruption in Albania.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

Contracted construction is fast, efficient and of good quality in Albania, as long as the supervision is adequate. The "Albanian" standard contracting procedures was appropriate and the cooperation with MoE and the straight approach towards the local Authorities resulted in positive projects. Close and direct supervision and project management was essential to reach a good result and to keep the cost under control.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

Relatively high cost for contracted construction in Albania. There is a need to find a better cost/benefit output.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

- Availability of basic information about how the "construction business" in Albania is functioning.
- Knowledge about the legal system in Albania.
- Good cooperation with Ministry and Local Authorities.
- Field office with administrative and technical capacity to implement contracted constructions.

Evaluations

In 2000 by E. Rüegg/R. Grossenbacher (SHA), in 2001 by H. Gloor (SHA)

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	Martin Zirn, Project Manager SHA, CoOf Tirana
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, Desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	--
Relevant other projects (links):	--

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: --