

Supporting the most vulnerable and fostering access to education and employment opportunities in Albania

Albania, a country rich in history and cultural heritage, has made remarkable progress in its economic and social development. However, many challenges persist, hindering equal opportunities for all citizens. Economic decline, youth emigration, and social exclusion continue to impact access to education, employment, and essential services, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

As part of its longstanding commitment to promoting human dignity, social inclusion, and equal opportunities, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF) has supported impactful initiatives in Albania since 2024, focusing on most vulnerable, children, youth, Roma communities, and people with disabilities. By investing in education, vocational training, and community development, these initiatives aim to empower individuals, strengthen communities, and create sustainable opportunities for a brighter future.

1— **FROM EXCLUSION TO INCLUSION: A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTH IN FIER**

Grantee: Qendra Sociale Murialdo
Location: Fier, Albania, Europe
Grant Cycle: 2026-2028
Type of Grant: three-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights
Website: albania.murialdo.org

Qendra Sociale Murialdo is a non-profit organiza-

tion based in Fier, Albania, founded in 1995. It supports children, youth, and vulnerable communities through education, vocational training, social inclusion, and employment opportunities.

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: A Pathway to Employment and Social Empowerment for Youth in Fier” is a three-year project implemented by Qendra Sociale Murialdo in Fier, Albania, with the support of the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF). The project aims to improve the lives of vulnerable young people, Roma children, and children from disadvantaged families by increasing access to education, vocational training, employment opportunities, and inclusive social activities.

Young people aged 15 to 30 will benefit from modern vocational training, practical learning, digital and employability skills, entrepreneurship support, internships, and cooperation with local businesses. These activities will help them build confidence, gain professional experience, and improve their chances of employment or self-employment.

The project also supports Roma children and other vulnerable children aged 6 to 15 through safe school transportation, after-school educational support, recreational activities, and an inclusive summer camp. Through these actions, the project seeks to reduce barriers linked to poverty, exclusion, distance from services, and limited opportunities. Its expected impact is to improve school attendance, strengthen skills and employment prospects, promote social inclusion, and help children and young

people in Fier build a more dignified and hopeful future.

2— SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE FOR MEDICAL VOCATION AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY “ZOJA E KËSHILLIT TË MIRË” IN TIRANA

Grantee: Fondacioni “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë”

Location: Tirana, Albania, Europe

Grant Cycle: 2026-2028

Type of Grant: two-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights

Website: fzkm.org

Fondacioni “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë” is a non-profit legal entity established in Albania in 1993 by the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. The Foundation operates in the fields of healthcare, higher education, and social development, with the mission of promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Albanian society. Its activities are implemented through two main institutional branches: the Catholic University “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë”, established in 2004, which offers joint degree programmes with Italian state universities in medicine, economics, and engineering; and the Catholic Hospital “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë”, inaugurated in 2021, which provides a wide range of specialised healthcare services.

The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF) supports the Foundation in establishing a Centre for Monitoring and Fostering Vocation in Medicine at the Catholic University “Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë” in Tirana. The initiative aims to strengthen professional identity in the medical field through research, training, and mentorship. More broadly, the project seeks to promote a culture of professionalism and ethical commitment among healthcare providers in Albania, with expected benefits for patient care, the quality of medical education, and the overall credibility of the national healthcare system.

4— ESTABLISHING THE 72-HOUR EMERGENCY CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND THEIR CHILDREN IN TIRANA

Grantee: Linja e Këshillimit për Gra dhe Vajza (Counseling Line for Women and Girls)

Location: Tirana, Albania, Europe

Grant Cycle: 2025-2028

Type of Grant: three-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights

Website: hotlinealbania.org

The Counseling Line for Women and Girls (CLWG), founded in 1996, is a leading civil society organization in Albania dedicated to promoting gender equality, protecting human rights, and combating gender-based violence. With nearly three decades of experience, CLWG provides direct services, legal aid, advocacy, capacity-building, and public awareness to address domestic violence and discrimination, while actively shaping Albania’s legal framework on gender-based violence, justice reform, and media ethics.

As part of its commitment to promoting human dignity and supporting the most vulnerable, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF) supports CLWG in the creation of a 72-Hour emergency shelter in Tirana. This initiative fills a critical gap in Albania’s support system, providing survivors with immediate protection and specialized assistance to escape cycles of violence and begin rebuilding their lives. In addition to offering a safe space, the center will facilitate crisis intervention services, including psychosocial support, legal assistance, and referrals to long-term support programs.

The center will accommodate 140 women and children over an 18 month period, offering them a secure and confidential space to escape immediate danger. During their stay, survivors will receive 24-hour security, basic necessities (food, clothing, hygiene products), and medical assistance. The shelter will be staffed with three social workers and support personnel to ensure round-the-clock care. Additionally, survivors will be linked to long-term housing solutions, employment services, and legal assistance, ensuring a pathway toward reintegration and independence.

5— NEXTGEN LEADERS: LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN SHKODER

Grantee: Consulting and Development Partners

Location: Shkodër, Albania, Europe

Grant Cycle: 2025-2028

Type of Grant: three-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights

Consulting and Development Partners (CODE Partners), established in 2012, fosters economic growth in Albania by supporting marginalized individuals and building inclusive, multi-generational communities of engaged citizens through education and cultural programs centered on ethical leadership. Its activities include vocational training, tourism promotion, employment opportunities, cultural programs in education, arts, and music, as well as business development, networking, and humanitarian initiatives.

As part of its commitment to promoting human dignity and social inclusion, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF) supports CODE Partners' NextGen Leaders programme focused on enhancing the entrepreneurial skills and competencies of youth. The initiative provides sustainable solutions for developing micro and small businesses owned by youth and fosters leadership qualities, such as democracy, vision, integrity, resilience, and communication, among the participants.

6— RESTORING THE SPORTS FIELD FOR YOUTH IN BERAT

Grantee: “Ylli I Mëngjesit” School – Santa Lucia Filippini Educational Centre
Location: Berat, Albania, Europe
Grant Cycle: 2024-2025
Type of Grant: one-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights

Situated in Berat, a city known for its rich cultural heritage, the Santa Lucia Filippini Educational Centre serves local children, including those with disabilities, providing education and social support. However, limited infrastructural resources hinder physical activity and social development.

In 2024, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF) funded the renovation of the school's sports field, creating a safe and inclusive space for physical education and recreational activities. The project aimed to promote a healthy lifestyle and social inclusion for students and the wider community.

7— RESTORING THE SPORTS FIELD FOR YOUTH IN BERAT

Grantee: Shtëpia Rregulltare e Bashkësisë Instituti I Terciareve Françeskane Alkantarine
Location: Vlorë, Albania
Grant Cycle: 2024-2025
Type of Grant: one-year program support, Human Welfare & Rights

The Alcantarine Franciscan Sisters, active in Albania since 1991, provide essential services to women, children, and individuals with disabilities. In Babicë e Madhe, a village near Vlorë, many families struggle with poverty, domestic violence, and limited educational access.

Thanks to the support of the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation (NaEPF), the St. Francis Day Center expanded its educational and social services, offering programmes aimed at reducing youth emigration, promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities, and supporting women's empowerment through community-driven initiatives.