

**Data Template HAMLET** Version n. 1.0

**Territorial Mapping Activity**

**![Description: C:\Users\PC-3\Desktop\HAMLET Interreg\Logo Project Partners\[1]Min. kulture Montenegro logo ENGL.jpg]()** **** 

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# **Location**

Gjirokastra is located in the south of Albania, on the steep eastern slope of the Mali i Gjere. It is located 232 kilometers from the capital, Tirana, 31 kilometers from Kakavia, the border point with Greece and 56 kilometers from Saranda, the port city that connects southern Albania with Corfu.



*https://www.openstreetmap.org/search?query=gjirokaster#map=8/40.518/19.638*

# **Data regarding historical traditions**

**Gjirokaster-**More commonly known as the “Stone City”, Gjirokastra is today an important center in the development of cultural heritage tourism in Albania, a city located in the south of the country. Gjirokastra was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005, as one of the surviving examples in the Balkans of Ottoman-style trading towns. This involvement has already made historical and cultural values part of the world heritage and to increase interest beyond borders.

The city is located on several hills and valleys on all sides of the castle, with multi-storey houses, with stone roofs, which you must find on the characteristic cobbled streets. The surrounding walls of the courtyards are built with a kind of white granite, worked by the stone masons of the city. This is the "city of a thousand steps" that includes hundreds of Ottoman-style tower houses with distinctive stone roofs, wooden balconies and stone walls.

The culture of the Gjirokastra district is characterised by a wealth of folk costumes, musical traditions and regional customs. The area is famous for wood and stone work, as well as for its dairy products and raki (an alcoholic drink) production. The cheese of Gjirokastra is very famous, and this product is well distributed around the country. Some small farmers produce honey and many of them cultivate grapes, apples, nuts etc.

#### **Gjirokastra Costumes**

Albania’s rich and varied culture is reflected in the wonderful array of traditional costumes. Each region and village have its own distinctive style of dress, and even in the Gjirokastra region, there are many different types.

Historically, Albanian’s clothing allowed strangers to gain information directly at first glance — region of origin, marital status, family’s wealth and position, age, and more.

Specialized craftspeople handmade these garments from cotton, wool and imported silk, decorating them with elaborate patterns and scenes thread in gold and silver also with small river pearls.

#### **Iso-polyphony music**

Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (2005)

Traditional Albanian iso-polyphonic music can be divided into two major stylistic groups as performed by the Ghegs of northern Albania and the Tosks and Labs living in the southern part of the country. The term iso is related to the ison of Byzantine church music and refers to the drone accompanying polyphonic singing. The drone is performed in two ways: either it is continuous and sung on the syllable ’e’, using staggered breathing; or the drone is sometimes sung as a rhythmic tone, performed to the text of the song. Rendered mainly by male singers, the music traditionally accompanies a wide range of social events, such as weddings, funerals, harvest feasts, religious celebrations and festivals such as the Albanian folk festival in Gjirokastra.

Albanian polyphonic music has been recognized by ***UNESCO*** since 2005 as an “intangible cultural heritage”.

***LOCAL FEAST, RITES AND ANCIENT TRADITIONS***

**They take place in the Drino-Gjirokastra Valley.**

1. **Pagan Cattle Migration Feasts and Rites.**

National Poet Naim Frasheri in his poem "Livestock and Agriculture" has a very significant verse, "Oh, how beautiful there are herds. How much gas does the cattle fall…”? In Laberi and Libohova there is an expression "The living thing keeps you alive!" and only from the inside of this popular expression can we clearly understand what an important role livestock has played for humans from the earliest centuries to the present day.

Feast or Rite of Migration, is one of the oldest grows in the southern province of Laberia and the Drino Valley in the district of Gjirokastra. In recent years, 5 editions of the **"Festival of Pagan Rites and Games"** have been held, organized by the ANTIGONEA Cultural Media Center every end of May in the center of the Antigone National Archaeological Park. This festival, although it created continuity and good tradition, has been interrupted due to lack of funding.

The need to migrate herds of cattle was related to climate change. During the winter the herds descended to the low and warm areas near the villages in the so-called "mera". During the summer the herds climbed the mountains. The departure of herds and shepherds to the summer pastures in the mountains and their return to the pastures around the villages was celebrated together with dance songs, games, cooking, competitions, fairs of wool products, sherkas, labanes, hejbe, bedding, carpets, ram and goat competitions, etc.

There was no set date for the cattle to leave for the mountains or return to the mera, but they usually left for the mountains in May and returned at the end of October. The movement depended a lot on the weather. Especially when the weather was rainy and in some cases the snow started quickly, the herds came back faster. When the autumn was dry and warm, the herds were kept longer in the mountains and from the beginning of November, they left for the mera.

For the wintering of cattle in the mera, before departure, occasional preparations were made for the most necessary tools needed by the shepherds. These were: personal equipment such as: cloaks, oping-s, body clothing, animal transport equipment, various food cooking utensils, work tools, such as axes, knives, in any case, firearms, and anything else that needed the shepherds for the period they would stay there.

However, for the shepherd who came out day and night, in the rain and sun, after the cattle, for his troubles and troubles, the people have always sung: "To wake up my mother / with the star of the caravan that my friends are waiting for me at the Tomb of the Shepherd…".

"Come out, boys, look at mera" (old folk).

Here are the verses of another song that tells about the act of robbing cattle in the past, about the danger that threatened the shepherd: "I have a crooked point, point / as I threw it in those syska… I threw it in the syska, syska as I took it out, I forgot the conductor ram because I went back to the tent again, the hungry dog was a black Arab, as the shepherd was stuck old man, stay a shepherd, do not wake up, because the bullet is coming from behind…”.

1. **Local Feast "Meeting of Generations in Asim Zeneli".**

"Asim Zeneli" is a village of the Antigone Administrative Unit, Gjirokastra Municipality. It is organized every year at the end of August. At this time in the village return emigrants and displaced to more urbanized areas. Attendees are seated in the center of the village. After an official ceremonial greeting to the attendees, a big concert is given which finally turns into a big dance. Food tables are set around the square. Families are grouped at tables. The feast continues until daybreak.

1. **Feast of St. Mary in the Church of the Cross Labova.**

The Feast of St. Mary is celebrated most majestically on the 8th of September. In this day, apart from the inhabitants of the villages of Labove e Poshtme and Labove e Siperme, Libohove and Suhe, come from all the villages of the Drino Valley, from the Diaspora and Emigration. After the occasional Mass for St. Mary's Day, attendees engage in a grand celebration with dance songs and cooking. Authorities and some of those present from afar greeted. Around the churchyard opens a fair with typical dishes of the area.

1. **Feast of the Monastery of Spile in Tranoshishte – Saraqinishte.**

This feast is organized every year on St. Mary's Day every September 8th. Residents of the area Krine, Tranoshishte, Saraqinishte, Asim Zeneli and people from other areas gather there. In addition to the typical foods of the area, such as grilled meat, cakes in saç, brandy and wine, songs and dances are organized with saze and fairs of wool products and food. During this day, young people climb the Eremir Cave and the cave complex located at the bottom of the rocky massif. The ruins of the monastery are located about 3 km northeast of the ancient city of Antigone. Spile Monastery is located 17 km North-East of the city of Gjirokastra. About 14 km of this road are paved with asphalt, while 3 km of it can be crossed only by off-road or on foot.

1. **Brandy burning festivals.**

Celebrations and Rites of making brandy by cauldron are celebrated as a family. The day of putting the cauldron for the distillation of grapes for brandy are organized in the autumn months. The cauldron is placed when the grapes are fermented when, according to the locals, "the must come". On the day of the boiler the door of the house is open to friends and visitors. These days can be enjoyed by tourists and visitors in the period September-November in all the villages of Lunxheria and Libohova. Visitors do not try "maternity brandy", but obsolete brandy as maternity brandy is not recommended to be consumed before 40 days.

1. **Rites and processing fairs of traditional wool textiles.**

Sheep wool and its processing is an ancient tradition in the Drino Valley. The first feast is the moment of shearing the cattle. All the shepherds of the area gather and shear collectively from one tent to another. The day of shearing is also the day of slice for the shepherds. They slaughter and roast lambs, drink brandy and sing old polyphonic songs. Rets continue from women around the house who have primitive wool weaving loom. Women with flax and forks process wool and make yarn. The yarns are then dyed. Then they continue the process in the loom for the processing of yarns through which they weave the preparation of carpets, rugs, quilts and other patterns of woolen textiles. Tourists can enjoy these ancient rites by taking part in shearing, visiting the wool handicraft fairs and visiting the handicraft workshop "Antigone Artisans" located in the center of Asim Zeneli village.

1. **Folklore festivals at national and provincial level.**

Every 4 years in Gjirokastra Castle is organized the National Folklore Festival, a festival which is preceded by folklore festivals of villages, administrative units, municipalities and regions. While organizing several annual folklore festivals such as Divani Lunxhiot in Dhoksat, Antigone Festival with folk groups of the tradition of Lunxhiote song and dance in the area of the villages Krine-Transhishte - Saraqinishte, the folklore group of children of Labe dance in "Asim Zeneli" folklore of the Vlachs. In this festival there is a parade of traditional costumes, handicrafts fair and the ethnographic values of Lunxherise- Lebers of Asim Zeneli and the Vlachs of Saraqinishta.

1. **SOFAT local festival.**

SOFAT Festival - Organized annually and in different months throughout the Drino Valley area. The SOFAT Festival aims to revive cultural life in the villages of Gjirokastra and is a cultural event organized by the cultural company "Turtle FEST". The first edition was organized in 2019 by this company financially supported by the Visit-Gjirokastra Association and RISI Albania, a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The content of this festival includes modern music, famous singers, bringing different musical genres such as jazz, rock and roll, rege, etc. But the SOFAT festival is a novelty for everyone, a local feast where the modern harmonizes with the traditional, the central with the local. This festival brings life and liveliness to the two villages of Gjirokastra. The word Sofat has a special meaning that only the people of Gjirokastra know. It is a threshold to sit in front of the gate of the house, usually made of large quadrangular stones placed at the foot of the wall in the narrow streets of the city or in the countryside. Gjirokastra expressions reinforce this word: Stone sofa. Sofa stone. They were sitting on sofas. He sat on the gate sofa.

The purpose of this festival is to knock on every door, in every house of Gjirokastra residents in rural areas. This festival brought not only singers and some of the best bands, but also local visitors who were accommodated in the homes of the residents. Guests were offered local cuisine and some of them engaged in village activities such as collecting fruit, boiling brandy and wine, etc. The first activity took place in Asim Zeneli, in the area of ​​Antigone, from October 27-28 and the second activity was organized in Libohova on October 4-5.

In the first event, hundreds of people gathered in the village square of Asim Zeneli. The music bands that performed were: Officina Zoe from Italy, Fanfara Tirana and the singer Hysni Zela, the polyphonic group of Lunxheria and Antigone as well as the saz group of Gentian Selfo. While in Libohova in the first edition performed: Apres la Classe from Italy, Linda Rukaj and her band from France, the Sazet of Libohova and other folk groups. Residents of rural areas are leaving the country, not only due to economic conditions but also due to lack of social activities and cultural life. Sofat Festival aims to restore vitality and cultural traditions in all rural areas of Gjirokastra.

The SOFAT project aims to promote tourism in the Gjirokastra region, including the cities of this region such as Permeti and Tepelena together with their villages. Great efforts are made with the aim of creating an annual event with a structure that can also manage the tourist destinations of the area

1. **Summer Day Feast.**

It is organized every year on March 14 in many centers and in Gjirokastra, Libohova and Antigone Archaeological Park. Celebrations include outdoor marches, horse races, typical traditional cooking, traditional song and dance concerts, outdoor fires, fairs and fun activities.

1. **Celebrations of the Bektashi Ritual of Sultan Novruz.**

**The feast of Novruz is one of the evidences of the inter-religious coexistence of Albanians**. The feast of Sultan Novruz is celebrated one week after the feast of Summer Day, March 22-25. It is celebrated in honor of the birth of the Prophet Imam Ali. But for Albanians it has it roots in the time of Pagan beliefs. That is why in multi-religious Albania at the same time more or less at the same time "Vangjelizmoi" is celebrated, March 25 by the Orthodox population, Sultan Novruz, March 22 by Muslims and Bektashis, "Our Lady's Day" on March 25 by Catholics. March 22 is the day of the Sun's spring equinox. Day and night become the same. This feast symbolizes the arrival of spring. Traditional Bektashi rites recognize only two seasons Spring and Winter.

Novruz celebrations last three days. According to the ritual, the women and brides of the house open the doors and windows. They fill the strains with water and pour abundant water on the thresholds of the house, to remove the wicked from their homes and to find a clean and fresh new season. Early in the morning young brides and children are given a glass of milk, which symbolizes the birth of a new day, health and as much breast milk as possible for brides who will give birth to children. It is called of God when on this day the lady of the house distributes milk, which is understood as whiteness and abundance even for the poor and the needy. or in the village cakes are made with noodles and children roll them in the wheat fields to bring abundance.

The feast of Sultan Novruz symbolizes "the salvation of mankind from the bitter winter and poverty", because the "season of abundance" is coming. The arrival of spring gives life, food, warmth, blessings, love and joy to people. This day brings hope for more prosperity. On this day even the enemy was knocking on the door of the house is welcome, preached Imam Ali. On this feast the believers exchange visits to each other and then pray and pray for more health, prosperity and abundance.

Since ancient Albanians in this day and had to stop felling of green vegetation, trees, earth work, it's because, according to superstition thought that "the earth in this period is pregnant." This ancient ritual of Albanians is also witnessed by the Austrian albanologist Johann Georg von Hahn, his work "Albanian Studies".

On this day various rites are performed that deal with incitement. Children chase snakes from backyards and gardens by ringing bells, bells, tins, whistling in fields or gardens, but also singing hymns. After the songs, the housewives give the children boiled eggs, nuts, whole wheat bread, etc. The characteristic dishes and foods for this day are the pie with 12 different types of herbs. The plants symbolize the 12 Imams, the 12 months of the year and the new life that blossoms in spring and prosperity for the coming year. A coin is inserted inside the pie. He who finds the coin is said to be lucky. On this day sacrifices are made which are divided into 3, 7 or 12 marks that make up the prophetic numbers. With the blood of the victim, the forehead and the right palm are soaked to protect themselves from the "evil eye". It is cooked evenly with chicken or lamb, roasted lamb. Hashurja and Syltiash is the characteristic cake of this day. This dessert consists of milk, which is a symbol of mother's milk, rice that symbolizes cereals, abundance. On this day, some syrup sung in the tekke is taken and given by a spoon to family members, friends and guests at home that day. This with the belief that everyone wishes prosperity. In some cases, Kabuni made with rice, gravy, sugar, raisins and nuts is cooked for this feast.

Sultan Nevruz called to rise above vice and evil, the Bektashis on this day conveyed the message of appreciation and protection of the value of patriotism, love for each other, wisdom, nationwide brotherhood, religious and interfaith tolerance.

Austrian scholar Johann Georg von Hahn, Austrian consul in Ioannina during three trips to Albania collected data on Albanian history, philology, rites and folklore. In his major work in three volumes "Albanian Studies" (1854), he argues the autochthony of the Albanians, the Illyrian origin of the Albanians and the origin of Albanian from Illyrian through pagan rites and songs and customs transmitted from generation to generation. Hahn learned the Albanian language and proved it to be the language of the Indo-European family. His thesis was used effectively by the ideologues of the Albanian National Renaissance, for the national consciousness of the people. It is in these elements of ancient rites and superstitions that Hahn finds the basis of interfaith coexistence in Albania.

# **Data regarding monuments and other historical and cultural objects**

**List of Cultural Monuments**

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| **Name of Cultural Monuments / Protected Area** |
| **LIBOHOVA CASTLE IN THE TOWN OF LIBOHOVE**Libohova Castle, or Shanisha Castle, is a medieval fortress that dominates the entire Drino Valley from a very strategic junction on a rocky hill, in the center of the city of Libohova, located on the steep slopes of Mount Bureto. Ali Pasha built this castle as a gift for the wedding of his sister Shanisa. There are some photos that show what the Castle once was like. Inside the fort are still protected the ruins and part of the castle masonry as well as part of another residential structure, such as interlocking protective structures with a sophisticated living organization.The castle with its surrounding walls and fortifications rises majestically on a rocky hill of Libohova and with its dominant position manages to control not only the outskirts of the city, but also a wide area of ​​the plain of Dropull and Gjirokastra, but also the mountains and gorges that lie from the South-East to the North-West of the Drino Valley. What defines the strategic role of this castle is the control of communication lines and ensuring easy mobility in this large space.Libohova Castle has an almost rectangular plan, with a tower at each corner and three entrances, two of which are positioned on the north side and the other on the east. The castle has a perimeter-fortification wall 70 m long and 50 m wide and height that often goes up to 10 meters. The castle was built by Ali Pasha Tepelena (1741 - 1822), most likely, using the ruins of another structure. Libohova Castle preserves the construction features of this period. There are still pictures of the former castle and mansions where Shanisaja lived. According to the tradition of the area, Ali Pasha ordered the construction of the castle for the wedding of his sister Shanisha. Her grave is also located today in Libohova, in an area between cypress trees near the city mosque.Libohova Castle is one of the many fortifications built by Ali Pasha Tepelena at the beginning of the century. XVIII. Inside the castle, which is empty today, was the family feudal residence. Currently this castle has been declared a "cultural monument" and its walls and ruins are protected by the Albanian state and visited by local and foreign tourists and visitors. Libohova Castle has been visited by foreign travelers such as Lord Byron, Puckeville, Henry Holland, Martin Lick, Han, etc. |
| **LABOVA E KRYQIT CASTLE**Near the village of Labova e Kryqit, an old village located at the entrance of the Selcka Gorge, which is the only path that can be crossed from the Drino Valley to the mountainous region of Zagori - Pogon and further to the Vjosa Valley is the Castle antiquity of the Labova of the Cross. This impressive fortification is located about 500 m East of the village of Labova e Kryqit and just as far south of its neighborhood called Labova e Sipërme. The castle rises a bare rock, which connects from the North with the slope of Mount Bureto, while from the South it is expected on a steep slope towards the bed of the river Suha.It is located on a hill named Paleokastra, in a strategic location at the entrance of the Selcka gorge. To the north, the castle hill is separated from the village by the Gudib stream, which passes at the foot and continues to the east. From the south passes another stream Govadan and from the west the stream Koqinon. Just south a neck connects it to the surrounding hills.The hill is bare and very rocky with a pronounced slope from south to north. At the top of it there is a small square surrounded by a thick wall, which is not uniformly preserved on all sides. Traces of walls can be seen on the northwest and southeast side, while on the south side it is un fortified, but protected by nature itself which offers a natural protection.The fortification wall covers an area of ​​about 1.4 ha. The defensive walls are reinforced with two towers; one trapezoidal and the other circular that protects the entrance. The entrance to the castle passes through an arched corridor 2.30 m. wide, paved with limestone slabs. Beyond the entrance he finds traces of another tower. The stone slabs with which it was built were extracted and transported from the very terrain on which the castle stands. Some stone blocks not placed on the wall, testify that further construction of the wall has been stopped and that the castle has not been completed since antiquity. This also allows to look at the construction technique, which is special compared to other ancient centers of the Drinos valley.The surrounding walls go several times to a height of 5 m, built of large slabs of stone extracted from the limestone layers According to the villagers, they often found coins of Epirus that are not preserved today.Based on the construction technique and architecture of the fortification elements, scholars and archaeologists are of the opinion of an early construction date, which reaches the boundaries of the VI-V century BC. This view is based on regular planimetric forms, straight lines and towers, whether rudimentary, and pottery dating back to the 15th century. V p. Kr.Lack of pottery later than the century. II p. Kr. proves that this castle also had the fate of Antigone and about 70 other cities of Epirus during the campaign of Paul Emil.Architectural fragments, marble columns, Ionic capitals have been found in the surrounding area, while at the entrance of the village are the ruins of a Roman villa with colorful mosaics.**CHURCH SLEEPING OF ST. MARY IN THE VILLAGE OF LABOVE E KRYQIT**In the village of Labova e Kryqit, located in the Municipality of Libohova, you can visit one of the most beautiful Byzantine churches in Albania, which is dedicated to St. Mary. The church was built in 554 in the time of Emperor Justinian. Legend has it that a man from Labova, named Konstandin Laboviti, was a senior commander in the army of Emperor Justinian. He was so good-natured and courageous that Justinian decided to do something for him and asked him one day: I want to reward you for your bravery, ask me for something. He replied: I want to build a church in my hometown of Labova and Justinian agreed. He sent the most capable people to build that church. Four years later, he also sent a gold cross, made of a piece of wood where Jesus was crucified. The whole cross had 600 grams of gold. It was placed inside the church and preserved for centuries. The inhabitants were believers and guarded the church with fanaticism. But the cross that survived for centuries would be stolen in the turbulent years of the beginning of democracy. There is still no culprit for it. The structure of the church resisted to this day, and because of the great importance that this church has had for this village, the village itself took the name of the church and is called: Labova e Kryqit. The church was restored by the Ministry of Culture in 2018 Typical Byzantine building with a high dome at the top. A late narthex provides the main entrance. There are 9 visible levels of paintings and frescoes on the interior walls. Some historians say that although the original construction of the Church dates back to 527-565 during the time of Emperor Justinian, the church has been modified and what we see today resembles a 13th century structure during the time of the despot of Epirus. But the inhabitants of Labova strongly defend their version, that this church was built in the time of Emperor Justinian. Every September 8 in this church is celebrated St. Mary's Day and many people come from emigration and neighboring countries to be part of the celebrations. The road to Labova e Kryqit is paved. You leave for Libohova from Gjirokastra, but return to the village of Suha. The whole trip is 40 minutes by car from Gjirokastra. The ticket is 200 ALL, or you can give this money as a donation in the Church donation box. Even if the door is not open, knock on the bar in the center of the village, and its owner will give you a guide inside the Church. |
| **LADY'S BRIDGE OVER THE SUHA RIVER**The Lady Bridge rises majestically over the Suha River in the place called Karamane. The Suha River is the largest tributary of the Drino River. The Suha River flows through the Selcka Gorge and collects the waters of the Pogon-Zagorie Basin and joins the Drino River near Kordhoca The bridge was built during the reign of Ali Pasha Tepelena and local legends say that, like the castle of Libohova, the Ruler of Janisa also built and built this object for his sister Shanisha. According to the rural legend, this bridge was named the Lady Bridge in honor of Mrs. Shanisha, which according to the locals Ali Pashai built to enable her sister a comfortable journey from Libohova "husband's door", to Tepelena "father's door".But in fact the presence of this bridge proves and is part of the old road Janina Tepelena which in the Middle Ages crossed to the right of the river Drino. After its construction around 1800, the two shores that connected the road were full of movement that started from Ioannina and continued to Melan, Nepravishte, Libohova and further branched to Tepelena and was called "Great Road".The branch of the “Great Road” to go to Gjirokastra passed through another bridge, the Kollorce Bridge, while the Lady Bridge continued towards Lunxhëria, Labova of Zhapa and through the Subashi Bridge ended in Tepelena. For the Kollorca Bridge, the records say that it was built in 1827. and the money for its construction was given by Khadija, the mother of Tahir Bey, the wife of Hodo Bey, the sixth son of the ruler of Gjirokastra, Kapllan Pasha.The Lady Bridge over the Suha River at the time of its operation had 12 arches, but currently there are only 5 arches, as 7 arches have been destroyed by the rapid floods of the Suha River.**AVNI RUSTEMIT MUSEUM HOUSE-LIBOHOVE**The Museum House of the patriot Avni Rustemi is located in the Teqe neighborhood of Libohova. Avni Rusteli is a historical figure with a wide political activity during the period after the declaration of independence and the rise of the Albanian state. He was born in Libohova on September 22, 1895 and was killed during an assassination attempt in Tirana, on April 22, 1924. Avni Rustemi was an Albanian teacher, publicist, and MP. He was the founder and leader of the "Union" society and a member of the democratic opposition elected deputy in December 1923. In the history of Albania he is also known as the public executor of Assad Pashe Toptan in front of the Continental Hotel in Paris, whom he considered a traitor to the Albanian nation, an act for which he was later acquitted by a French court.The apartment where he was born has been turned into a museum since 1975 and is considered an added value for the municipality of Libohova because the life story of Avni Rustemi has a lot of interest from local and foreign visitors.For about 30 years the museum apartment was abandoned, but in 2020 the restoration of this museum apartment has started because in addition to the historical symbolism it is an object of cultural heritage architecture. Its restoration is made possible thanks to funding provided by the European Union.After the 1990s, the building, which had served as a museum, collapsed. Its restoration aims not only to restore the historical values ​​of the museum house, but also to transform the building into a tourism center in the Libohova area.**LIBOHOVA CASTLE PROTECTION AREA**The area around Libohova Castle is a rocky area with an impressive landscape. The visitor and tourist through this area can see the whole Drino Valley, while in this area there are several other objects of interest such as Ottoman period dwellings and two pagan tombs located on a rock in the Marina neighborhood of Libohova.**LABOVA E KRYQIT CASTLE PROTECTION AREA**Around the ancient castle in the village of Labove e Kryqit there is a natural environment with a rich biodiversity, especially with medicinal plants such as oregano, mountain tea, bee grass, wild rose, etc. Also next to it is the Upper Labova neighborhood with dwellings of medieval architecture and an Orthodox church of Post-Byzantine architecture. Meanwhile, the Castle is a starting point to travel on foot to the ridges and the top of Bureto where there are hundreds of bunkers built during the Cold War period when Albania was under communist regime.**LIBOHOVA CLOCK TOWER**The Clock Tower of Libohova is erected in the Hoxhallarë neighborhood of the city. The tower has dimensions of 20X20 meters, while from the former height it has a verticality of about 12 meters. According to the locals, the mechanism of this clock had come from Istanbul since 1860 and was looted by the Greek andards during the war of 1914 and was installed on a public clock in Ioannina. The locals also confess that the bell of this clock is heard throughout the Drino Valle. |
| **SARAJET OF MYFIT BEJ LIBOHOVA** |
| In the city of Libohova, near the mosque and Tekke, there is an Ottoman cemetery in which is the grave of Ali Pasha's sister.Sarajet Myfit Bej Libohoves are located in the center of the city, near the 500-year-old Rrap.The Beys of Libohova built their palace in the center of the city. it is still today the most imposing and interesting building of the city. Nearby is the Libohova Maple, an important and symbolic natural monument for the city.The palaces constitute a traditional-modern architectural complex for the time when they were built in the late 19th century and are a perfect combination of traditional medieval architectural elements with elements of the new European architecture. The Beys built this complex after the old mansions built inside the Shanisha castle were depreciated and out of order.**THE PAGAN TOMBS OF LIBOHOVA**They are located about 500 meters on the southern ridge of Shanisha castle in Libohova. There are two spaces placed 2 meters next to each other on a rock about 3-4 meters high. They are thought to be historical prey tombs. Although not studied by archeology experts, they constantly attract the interest of visitors and tourists.**THE TOMBS OF THE BEJLERS OF LIBOHOVA**The tombs of the Bejlers of Libohova are located in the Marina Quarter of the city, very close to the Mosque and the Tekke along the road from the Natural Monument Rrapi about 30 meters to the south.It is about 20 tombs decorated and surrounded by iron railings. It is thought that one of them belongs to Shanisha, the sister of Ali Pasha Tepelena who was married to one of the Beys of Libohova.**PORTS OF ISUFATS IN LIBOHOVA**Isufate Gate is a cultural monument located in the “Hoxhallare” neighborhood of the city of Libohova. The gate is a monumental construction consisting of side walls, arches and roofs built entirely of stone. The stones of the walls and the arch are carved by local stone masters, while they are decorated with reliefs carved on the gate stone. The ornaments are pagan figures and Ottoman symbols. |
| **ANTIGONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK** |
| Antigonea is one of the largest ancient cities in the territory of Albania and the most important ancient settlement of the Drinos Valley. Settlement within the fortification walls of the century. III has an area of 45 ha, while the territory of the archeological park is over 90 ha.There have been various hypotheses about the location of Antigone until archeological excavations in the ‘70s provided reliable evidence for this. The city takes its name from Antigone, the first wife of King Pyrrhus.The city is fortified with strong walls at the beginning of the century. III BC, while it is not excluded that in that place there was an earlier settlement later renamed by Pyrrhus.The city dominated the Drinos Valley, which was a rich rural area and to protect this whole territory there were other peripheral fortresses: Lekli fortress in the north, Labova fortress in the east and Selo fortress in the south. The perimeter of the fortification walls can be traced. complete and begins to be noticed right at the entrance to the park. To the right of the entrance, in the northern part of the city is the hill called "Acropolis". In fact Antigonea did not have a real acropolis. At the highest point of the hill is the church of St. Mehill, of the medieval period. The surface inside the city is flat and the intensive archeological excavations of the '70s have brought to light a good part of the inhabited area and the road network of Antigone. Like most ancient cities, the road system is called "hypodamic", with parallel north-south parallel roads that intersect with parallel east-west roads. The most important roads end at the city gate. The north-south roads are wider and more important and equipped with wide sidewalks. Rainwater drainage channels can also be seen on some roads. The most important road in the center of the excavated area is named after the archaeologist Dhimosten Budina who carried out the excavations in this center. At the main crossroads discovered are the ruins of a medieval church (IX-X centuries). It is a small church and was built when the ancient city was destroyed and the old urban system was gone. Roads bounded by insulators or apartment blocks. Part of the dwellings have come to light completely from the archeological excavations. The apartments are of the “peristyle” type or with an inner courtyard with colonnades, around which the living and working premises were located. It seems that the walls of the dwellings were built of carved stone blocks only at the bottom of them, while the upper part was probably built of unbaked bricks (adobe). This also explains the preservation of the walls only at the bottom of them and the lack of building stone in the excavated archeological layers. Archaeological finds in the work premises (crafts) have provided evidence of economic activities carried out by the inhabitants of the city. For this reason some dwellings have received conventional conventional names, such as the tannery dwelling, the loom dweller dwelling, or the coachman dwelling. An iron chariot wheel has been discovered in the latter, a rather rare archaeological find. Archaeological excavations at Antigone have uncovered many interesting artifacts, most notably bronze. The bronze sphinx figurine is probably the most interesting. Another important find are the bronze cards with the name of the city stamped on them. These were used, according to archaeologists, by citizens for voting. The finding of these cards was the definitive proof that confirmed the location of Antigone. In the western part of the city, in the area that has the most beautiful view over the Drinos Valley, is the agora, the center of the city. The agora, on the north side, is bordered by a stoa (promenade) which is the most important public building within the city walls. Outside the perimeter wall, on the hillside is another monument newly excavated. It is built of squared stone blocks and has two rooms that communicate with two gates. The monument has been covered with arches and blocks. For the function of this building there are two hypotheses between which stand the opinions of archaeologists. The building can be a monumental tomb or a cistern (water tank). This building dates back to the III-II centuries BC. Outside the city walls, about 250 m from the south gate is another stoa. This is characterized by a polygonal end wall, which also serves as a terrace wall. Stoa is one of the last monuments discovered in Antigone and dates back to the 15th century. III BC. It is about 70 m long and had pilasters with stone blocks on the front that supported the roof. It may have been used by the town as a market where the villagers of the area brought their produce.In fact the stoa is in itself the last part of a long terracing wall that goes to the southernmost end of the fortified part. Although Antigonea is not mentioned in historical sources as a settlement in late antiquity (IV-VI centuries), archaeological records show that it continued to exist even in this period. The best evidence is the discovery of a church of this period in Antigone. The Paleo-Christian Church (5th-6th centuries) is located in the southernmost part of the fortified area of the city. This is a small church, but unique in the territory of Albania in terms of its planimetry. It is a triconch church with a nave and there were also ancillary premises on its sides. The altar area of the church has a polychrome mosaic floor that is still well preserved on site. The mosaic is divided into three parts and contains several dedicated inscriptions. The borders are with geometric motifs. The central part is dominated by a human figure with an animal head. The southern semicircular part represents a marine scene with fish and other marine animals, while the northern, yes semicircular part has a more common decorative motif in ecclesiastical contexts: a ledge from which vine branches emerge. Architectural pieces of marble, decorative fragments of stucco and painted plaster pieces were also discovered in the church.Visitors who want to explore the surrounding area even further can exit through the south gate and, after crossing the stoa outside the walls, can reach the remains of the abandoned village of Ladovishta a few hundred meters further. The most important remnant of the village is a damaged and partially rebuilt church.\*\*Antigonea- the city that was born of love and destroyed by hatred. This city illustrates a challenging history of one of the most important civilizations of antiquity in Albania and in the world, belonging to the period of the 3rd and 2nd century BC. Some cult objects belong to the first period of Christianity. Antigonea was built by order of Pyrrhus, King of the Molossians, in 295 BC in honor of his wife Antigonea, as a gift of love. The city actually survived very little, only two centuries, after being burned overnight by order of the Roman general Amelius Paulus in revenge for Pyrrhus. At that time this was happening, whole cities were not spared as a result of a war or a hostility.The city of Antigone resembles a dolphin, as it lies between two hilly peaks connected by a narrow alley. The city lies on the hill of Jerma. The top of the northern part is 700 meters above sea level and at the top is a small plain, while the southern peak is 600 m above sea level, formed by a series of terraces. The urban area of ​​the city within the fortification walls is located in an area of ​​60 ha, while the entire park has a total area of ​​90ha.What distinguishes Antigone from other ancient cities is its quadrangular and fairly regular urban plan. The city is organized in building squares based on a contemporary urban system. For the first time in our ancient cities, urban and architectural elements unfold in this way. Several bronze round coins bearing the inscription Antigoneia have been found in this city, which are evidence of the first epigraphic document that identifies the city. The territory of the ancient city is surrounded by solid walls about 4000 m long, which aimed to protect the city from all sides, especially from the southern and western part where the danger was greatest due to the nature of the terrain. The highest hill was connected to this settlement by a 4 meter wide corridor formed by surrounding walls. The fortification walls and most of the houses discovered are made of large and medium-sized limestone blocks taken from Mount Lunxheria. The identification of Antigone's location has been much debated, but the credit goes to archaeologist Dhimosten Budina, who during excavations in the 1970s managed to find several silver ballot papers bearing Antigone's emblem. Archaeological excavations led by him uncovered at least 10 private objects, paved roads, water pipes and floors, as well as a tunnel leading to the Bazaar. The main road, about 6 meters wide, crossed the city at a distance of at least 1 km, from the northern entrance to the southern one. According to Albanian and foreign archaeologists, and experts in antiquity, the Drino valley and the district of Gjirokastra has been one of the areas with the largest number of archaeological sites and high intensity of ancient construction. In this valley there are almost 20 ancient cities and fortifications, tombs and monumental tombs, ancient temples and theaters, from the southern extreme of the valley in Selo “Dropull i Siperm” on the border with Greece, in Melan and Sofratika, to Lekel which is the northern part of valley. In this context there is no doubt that Antigonea is the main center of all the ancient civilization of the area. It is located at a dominant point on the hill of Jerma in the middle of the Drino River, southwest of the village of Saraqinisht. The distance from Gjirokastra is 14 km. The park is open daily from 8.00-16.00. The ticket is 200 ALL. On national holidays, admission is free. |

**SOME OTHER MONUMENTS AND ATTRACTIONS IN THE DRINO VALLEY**

**SARAQINISHTE SPRINGS - ANTIGONE**

The springs full of life and freshness of Lunxheri are a rich natural and cultural heritage. Lunxhotes are famous for the construction of water works. Today there are some springs that have remained which function, although they belong to the XVII century and before. Here is what the Frenchman Pukevil wrote in the beginning of the XIX century about their activity, “they form an old community of Albanians who have been practicing the art of water heating or public taps since ancient times”.

The first craftsmen of their construction were from the villages of Dhoksat, Nokove and Kellez who practiced this craft early, within the territory of the province but also in Gjirokastra and outside the borders of the country, up to Istanbul. the Xhahollari family from the village of Dhoksat is mentioned as skilled masters in the construction of hydro works, as well as other masters from the Jaho family, Jorgaqi and his son Thanasi who worked until the beginning of the 20th century.

In the villages of Lunxhi, a part of the hundred-year-old springs still exists today. The springs in function are also those of Dhoksat village, “Kroi i Lagjes se Poshtme”, “Kroi i Çetës se Mesme” located in the center of the village and accompanied by two taps, one older with water only in the winter and the other with water flowing in every season. At the highest point of the village is the Great Cove covered with shelter which is supplied by two springs, with mountain water, called "meme e ujit".There are three springs in the village of Kellez that bear the names "Kroi i Kellezit '," Kroi i Shulit "and" Kroi i Mesit "which the last one is located in the center of the village. There are old springs and functional almost in every village of Lunxherisa, in Mingul in the center of the village, in Nokove where there are three springs, in Qestorat etc. The spring of Selcke village is one of the oldest in the province that has resisted time. It is a construction of 1885 and is accompanied by a band that has dimensions of 4 x 6 x 2 m, which means a volume of about 50 m3. Its distinctive feature, of the building with walls and roof that includes it is also the presence of the reservoir for the storage of water coming from the spring. The common of Lunxheria springs is the simplicity in realization, without pretensions in architectural view and often without accompanying installations related to other functions but in their construction, they have found application of clear concepts of technical nature.

**THE ROMAN CITY OF HADRIANOPOLIS**

The city founded in the period of the great Roman Emperor Hadrian will be included in the integrated guide provided by the project of the future municipality of Gjirokastra. Although it is located near Sofratika in Dropullin i Poshtem, about 12 km south of Gjirokastra, its inclusion in the municipal guides creates opportunities for the integration of tourism development plans. Archaeological expeditions there discovered a rich necropolis, theater, traces of dwellings and a temple. It is thought to have been an episcopal center in late antiquity. In the V-VI century, according to the Procopius of Caesarea, Justinianopol was renamed in honor of the Byzantine emperor, Justinian.The city was last mentioned in the 12th century by the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi in the form Drinopol, a form preserved in the name of the present-day province of Dropull. During the excavations, objects and traces of the Hellenistic period were found, which must be studied and interpreted by archeology experts. Archaeological excavations have been accompanied by studies and geophysical excavations by specialists from the University of Camerino, who with the help of modern remote sensing tools (georadar and geismic) have been able to study the entire protected area of this site a year ago, which includes necropolis, giving archaeologists very valuable information about the urban development of the city and clarifying many problems but also questions which were raised before the start of archaeological excavations.

**PALOKASTRA CASTLE**

Paleokastra is a castle located a few kilometers north of the city of Gjirokastra. Her name translates as Old Castle. Paleokastra is one of the few Roman military installations in the Balkans. It is thought to have been built in the 4th century, in the time of Emperor Constantine the Great (272-337AD) as a refuge for his cavalry army. The walls have collapsed, but the rectangular shape of a typical Roman fortress is still visible, with corner towers in the corner, and a single gate to the west.

**MONASTERY OF SPILE - TRANOSHISHT, SARAQINISHTE ANTIGONE**

Spile Monastery is only 2 km away from Antigone Park in the village of Saraqinisht. Of all the Monastery, only the church has remained, a 400-year-old building, built in the 16th century. Located on a mountain slope of Mount Lungeria, in an area where only the brave can go. It is not only the church, but also a cave complex next to it.

**BYZANTINE CHURCH OF ST. KOLLI – SARAQINISHTE**

The Church of St. Kolli is a cultural monument with architectural and artistic values. It is decorated on all surfaces of its interior walls and porch. The building of the Church of St. Kolli belongs to the Post-Byzantine period and is of the dome-shaped and cross-shaped model.

Shënkolli Church is located inside the cemetery of Saraqinishte village. The walls of the church are built of stone, but in the walls are clearly visible building materials taken from the ruins of the ancient city of Antigone which is located about 1.5 km from Saraqinishta. In the iconostasis of this church is a Bible from 1820.

**CHURCH OF SAINT MARY UPPER PESHKEPI**

Good morning from the Church of St. Mary (Upper Peshkepi) Gjirokaster - cultural heritage monument. One of the rarest of Byzantine architecture and early medieval art. Its initial construction dates back to 619, while it took its current form in the 11th century.

**ANCIENT FOUNTAIN AND NYMPH**

The ancient nymph is a monument located at the entrance of Antigone Park. It is represented by the ruins of the fountain wall where water continues to flow since the third century BC. You can distinguish the places of magic and the beating of clothes during washing.

**EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ANTIGONE - PARK**

Within the 45ha territory of the ancient city of Antigone there are three early Christian churches: the Church of the Trikonke Basilica south of the park, the Middle Church in the center of the park and the Church of St. Mehill located to the north at the highest point of the ancient Acropolis.

**KRINA MAPLE, NATURAL MONUMENT**

It is located in the center of the village of Krine on the way to the Archaeological Park of Antigone. Next to it is the Krina spring. Several sofas have been built around it for the relaxation of travelers.

**NETI’S GATE - SARAQINISHTE**

Net Porta. It is located in the upper part of the village Saraqinishte and is the entrance gate of a monumental apartment of the Neti family. The gate is decorated with some carvings of primitive art that reflect symbols and scenes of everyday life such as hunting, luncheon dance, the symbol of the snake, etc.

**ERENITE CAVE – SARAQINISHTE**

The Caves of the Hermits are located inside the Monastery of Spile, about 2 km away from the park of Antigone between the villages of Tranoshisht and Saraqinisht. Inside the caves are the remains of self-activated hermits in the name of God

Of all the Monastery, only the church has remained, a 400-year-old building, built in the 16th century. Located on a mountain slope of Mount Lunxheria, in an area where only the brave can go. It is not only the church, but also a cave complex next to it.

**DRINO VALLEY**

The Drino Valley has been described as the archeological and historical wonder of Albania, as the place where the cultures of all eras are intertwined and clearly displayed. As a mine that does not tire of producing it continues to "amaze" researchers and archaeologists with hundreds of sites it holds in depth, ancient roads, various monuments as well as with the rare elements of different civilizations that have flourished in it. With an area of about 400 square kilometers, the Drino Valley is distinguished for a number of special historical, architectural, archaeological elements as well as for the extensive use of fortifications and fortified buildings. "Drino Valley is the archeological and historical miracle of Albania. It has all stages, from the Paleolithic to the present day. It has all the monuments. There is an infinity of archeological sites. We count fifteen sites once, we make new discoveries, we cooperate with other factors, we are doubled, we are tripled and this work goes on indefinitely and indefinitely we will be in this history of excavations and discoveries. The Drino Valley is a catalog of cultures, where historical conditions have favored the birth of all civilizations. This has made historians, travelers and archaeologists interested in it at all times "according to archaeologist Vladimir Qirjaqi.

**ANCIENT ROADS OF THE DRINO VALLEY**

The ancient roads are in fact one of the most prominent features of this rich territory. Among all other values, the Drino Valley is the traffic center of various civilizations "according to archaeologist Qirjaqi. Hundreds of kilometers of roads, open and used in different eras, which continue to be visible and clear even today. "In the time of the famous Epirus, the Epirotes preferred to build roads on hills and tops at altitudes of 400-600 meters above sea level. Meanwhile, the all-powerful Romans built the real highways, highlighting the direct passage to the valley, the construction of bridges in the narrowest parts of the river, the crossing of the most favorable geographical necks, and the construction of a secondary network in favor of future settlements. The Romans also standardized roads, set up their construction technique, which is not only reused today, but held as a sign and guide to new construction. The opening of a 6meter bed, the erection of curbs, the laying of 2-3 layers and a cobblestone on them make these roads still to be encountered even after 2 thousand years. The occasional roadside construction of villas, thermal stations and roads make these roads both safe and very enjoyable for ordinary travelers, various minions or even traders. "Step by step, archeology is uniting the elements of these civilizations, solving the still unresolved issue of the" Peugniterian tabula "(Roman guide)", Qirjaqi further states.

**TEKKE OF MELAN**

The Melan's tekke is a religious center for Bektashi Shiite Muslims, but the site is located in ancient times.  A massive wall of polygonal and rectangular blocks surrounds the end of the territory, which are thought to have been an Illyrian fortification. The discovery of pottery from the 4th century BC also supports this idea, that this area has been inhabited. The wall was rebuilt in the 5th or 6th centuries when in many of these ancient hilly places they were re-fortified, after the fall of the Roman Empire. It is thought that these may be the remains of Justinianopolis, a 6th-century city for which an exact location has not yet been determined. Melan was also a fortified site in the Middle Ages, as a small church exists on the south side of the fortified enclosure. A cobblestone road takes visitors to the Tekke of Melan passing an ottoman-type fountain, the original destination of the aqueduct. A cobblestone road takes visitors to the Melan Tekke passing an ottoman-type fountain, the original destination of the aqueduct.

The current Tekke building was erected in 1800 by Father Aliu of Gjirokastra, whose tomb is in Turbe in front of the main tekke structure. Melan's current tekke was built on top of a former Bektashi monastery, which was run by Father Hasani. Initially the Teqe was located on the main road along the eastern part of the Valley. In 1809 Lord Byron passed here on his journey from Preveza to visit Ali Pasha Tepelena. But this road was bypassed when Ali Pasha erected a series of bridges and roads along the valley. To get to Melan you have to reach the village of Grapsh, 4 km from the village of Gline.

**THE TOP OF LUNXHERIA MOUNTAIN**

The highest peak of Lunxheria mountain is called Laluc Peak 2155 m. Lunxhëria Mountain is located in Gjirokastra district, in the Shëndelli-Lunxhëri-Bureto mountain range, it stretches about 25 km from Këlcyrë Gorge in the north to Selcka Gorge in the south. It has the highest altitude in the southern part (the peak of Spile or Laluc 2155 m). The western slope that falls in the direction of the Drino Valley, is softer and wider and there are numerous karst springs, especially near the tectonic faults. From this slope descend a series of streams with high erosive and bearing force. The inhabited centers lie mainly on the western slope of Lunxhëria mountain and climb to an altitude of 800-900 m.

**SELCE WATERFALL AND LAKE DOFTISE – LIBOHOVE**

Have you seen Selcka waterfall and Doftise Lake? There are two miracles hidden in the outskirts of Libohova. The first a natural attraction and the second a water work of value for tourism. They are part of a series of natural attractions in the rural area of Libohova ..

During this tour we will have the opportunity to visit the monastery of Spile, which is also known as the Church of St. Mary, which dates back to 1620.  A tourist tour in the Lunxheri Libohove area where there are many attractions can start with the former communist villages and then we will continue in the villages of Valare, Shen Thodher and Erind. Next, we will climb the bridge of Doftise and stop at Selce Waterfall. From this point we see stunning views of the Drino valley. We should not miss the opportunity to shoot some fantastic photos from this place. We will continue the trip to the Zagorje region with a stop at Nivan Monastery. The stop for lunch will be in the village of Poliҫan, where you will enjoy local products. After lunch we will stop again at Slecka waterfall, a natural wonder.

# **Data regarding businesses (or workshops) related to artisanal products**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nr** | **Bussines** | **Administrator** | **Type** | **Contact details** |
| 1 | Golden Hand | Vjollca Mezini | Artisan | 693161121 |
| 2 | Jewellery “Lida” | Majlinda Cani | Artisan | 674829921 |
| 3 | Artisan Shop | Margarita Mastora | Souvenir | 693628038 |
| 4 | Embroidery House | Lida Kotroci | Artisan | 695366519 |
| 5 | Alketa Souvenir Pazar | Nani Budo | Artisan, leather work | 694662899 |
| 6 | Kocollari Sister | Ardita Kocollari | Artisan | 694341349 |
| 7 | Zhulat | Shuquri Keraj | Wooden Artisan | 69 885 8720 |
| 8 | Handicraft Antigone | Ylli Muho | Artisan | 69 526 6730 |
| 9 | Slowfood and Craft Products Store | Manjola Bici | Owner and Artisan | 69 405 2442 |
| 10 | Jewellery “Kida” | Majlinda Ҫami | Owner/Artisan | 67 482 9921 |
| 11 | Souvenir | Alma Dhrami | Owner/Artisan | 69 317 7700 |
| 12 | Souvenir | Jonida Dhrami | Owner/Artisan | 67 481 7152 |
| 13 | Wood Craver "Petridhi" | Anastas Petridhi | Artisan |  |
| 14 | Carving Stone | Muhedin Makri | Owner/Artisan | 69 319 1279 |
| 15 |  | Fatri Shehu | Artisan |  |

# **Database of Local Craft SME**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nr**  | **NIPT** | **Bussines Name** | **Type of Activity** |
| 1 | K32522607E | PIRALI | Stone extraction and processing |
| 2 | K32510656R | Elmas Mirtaj | Stone products |
| 3 | K32514654V | Shkelqim Muço | Ironwork |
| 4 | K32514732U | ROLAND DEMIRI | Production and processing of timber |
| 5 | K92523603G | Shemsho Xhaste | Production and processing of timber |
| 6 | L02927601O | Kujtim Xhaferi | Welding works |
| 7 | K12511621F | ARGJIRO PATRAS | Production of custom-made cardboard bags |
| 8 | K42611747K | MAKSI KAVO | Marble processing |
| 9 | K32522613C | FERUNI 2 | Production and processing of timber |
| 10 | L41618001S | MARMARA DEMAT | Trade of marbles, stones and similar minerals. |
| 11 | L13202601J | Grigor Jupi | Jewelery |
| 12 | K63411625S | ANASTAS PETRIDHI | Processing and trading of handicraft items |
| 13 | L52516601V | Altin Manga | Production and processing of timber |
| 14 | K93117601T | Vjollca Mezini | Needlework |
| 15 | L92929601K | MARMO MILA | Processing, trade of granite and natural stone |
| 16 | J62903736L | REKOR – ALBANIA | Production, processing, trade of leather and textiles |
| 17 | L63321601U | DIAMANT BAGS | Active processing for the production of cardboard bags |
| 18 | K33111674K | PANAJOT DINAJ | Production and processing of timber |
| 19 | L72729601C | ALEKSANDRA ZHDAVO | Various embroidery services and sewing |
| 20 | K82804601S | Perparim Imeraj | Aluminum work |
| 21 | K73618601O | Alb-Petrax-Natyral Shpk | Stone extraction and processing |
| 22 | L53307605E | Margarita Mastora | Embroidery |
| 23 | K33111697C | Stavro Gjoni | Oxygenator and sheet metal |
| 24 | K92609604Q | DHULI-BZ-2009 | Stone extraction and processing |
| 25 | L83501601U | Aleksandri Velo | Marble works |
| 26 | K83302601S | Vladimir Zylalaj | Jewelery |
| 27 | L82523602V | JORGJI KURO | Marble processing |
| 28 | K32514656O | MUHAREM LAQI | Production and processing of timber |
| 29 | L52521602I | JORGO PANAJOTI | Marble works |
| 30 | L73605601T | STYLE TEXTILE | Active processing in the field of textiles |
| 31 | L53316602C | Bledar Nasi | Production and processing of timber |
| 32 | L02917601K | Telemah Dako | Marble processing |
| 33 | K72909607B | LEONIDHA SINANI | Stone processing and trade |
| 34 | K72909605I | VANGJEL LLAMBRO | Processing and sale of stone, marble and granite |
| 35 | L63210602Q | Meto Muço | Decorative ironwork |
| 36 | K32514767M | ENKELEDA MYRTAJ | Retail sale of artistic items |
| 37 | K32514605R | Nesime Dhrami | Retail sale of artistic items |
| 38 | L53210601H | Mentor Muka | Trade in used items |
| 39 | L83103601S | Velida Kotroçi | Retail sale of souvenirs, embroidery |
| 40 | L53302611A | Manjola Shehaj | Retail sale of various items. Bar-Restaurant |
| 41 | K83513601K | Majlinda Cani | Trade of cosmetic items |
| 42 | K63117601T | Vjollca Mezini | Trade of cosmetic items |
| 43 | L53309613F | Leonora Cici | Retail sale of souvenirs |
| 44 |  | Angjeliqi Memo | Handicrafts |
| 45 |  | Viktor Nurce | Traditional furniture |
| 46 |  | Ermal Makri | Stone work |
| 47 |  | Androniqi Kocollari | Handicrafts |

# **Data regarding associations or NGO´s in the project area**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nr.** | **Emri i OJF-së** | **Qarku** | **Person Kontakti** | **Telefon; Faks; Celular** | **E-mail** |
| 1 | Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB Albania) – Office in Gjirokastër | Gjirokastër | Lejla Hadzic​ | 0694037087​ | albania@chwb.org; lejla.hadzic@chwb.org; |
| 2 | Open Society Education | Gjirokastër | Vasil Muka | 0692032995; 0692823203 | vasilmuka@yahoo.com; |
| 3 | Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization (GCDO) | Gjirokastër | Sadi Petrela | 08467077; 0692078767 | spetrela@gjirokastra.org; info@gjirokastra.org; |
| 4 | ROOF | Gjirokastër | Klodian Muco | 696395831 | klodianmuco@hotmail.com; |
| 5 | Southern Environmental Association "ÇAJUPI" | Gjirokastër | Kleanthi Mandi; Gjon Fierza | 084266411; 0692268015; 0692111333 | kleanthi\_mandi@hotmail.com; fierzagj@yahoo.com; |
| 6 | Association “Miqesia” | Gjirokastër | Stefan Arseni |   | stefanarseni2016@gmail.com |
| 7 | Gjirokastra Foundation/Exper tours | Gjirokastër | Sadi Petrela | 069207 8767 | spetrela@gjirokastra.org |
| 8 | TID Gjirokastra | Gjirokastër | Albert Haloci | 069 311 3733 | alberthaloci@gmail.com |
| 9 | Peace Corpus | Gjirokastër | Andrew Craig |   | acraig@frontier.net |
| 10 | Visit Gjirokastra | Gjirokastër | Hevjola Sherifi | 0692590980 | hevjola@yahoo.com |
| 11 | Experience Gjirokastra | Gjirokastër | Darvin Balla Eni Kaci | 06970450160692251589 | balla@unhcr.orginfo@experiencegjirokaster.com |

**GJIROKASTRA FOUNDATION** is located in the Babameto house, this association is a valuable source of information for visitors. Above all, it offers a wide range of activities related to the traditions of Gjirokastra (by reservation): cooking workshops, dance or polyphonic singing lessons, guided tour in the footsteps of Kadaré, a week's immersion in an Albanian family, an excursion to Antigona, bike rides, hiking, discovery of the old town, etc.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE WITHOUT BORDERS (CHWB)** is dedicated to rescuing and preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage affected by conflict, neglect or human and natural disasters. CHwB works with cultural heritage as an active force in reconciliation, peace building and social and economic development.

Many political conflicts have cultural and/or ethnic dimensions, and reconciliation efforts are urgently needed for preventing further hostilities and preparing for a life where peoples and communities can live and work side by side again. There is considerable evidence that working with reconstruction, conservation and the development of historic environments can help promote peace-building processes, strengthen self-esteem, and contribute towards socio-economic development. Vision of CHwB is that everyone is able to exercise the right to enjoy, have access to and participate in cultural heritage and mission is to promote cultural heritage as both a right in itself and a resource.

**GCDO (ORIGINALLY CALLED THE GJIROKASTRA CONSERVATION OFFICE - GCO)** started working in the stone city with a public discussion, which took place on June 2, 2001, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of Gjirokastra as a city-museum. The aim was to record the feelings that citizens had about their city, its historical significance and the value of its cultural heritage. Over 200 people attended, giving valuable opinions.

GCDO selected the former museum of education (a historic building located on a terrace in the town bazaar, near an obelisk) as its first restoration project. The restoration was carried out by an architect and restorer from Gjirokastra using traditional and material methods from the surrounding areas. Work began in June 2002 and GCDO set up its offices in the renovated building in November 2002. Since then GCDO has funded and co-financed many restoration and development projects.

The main purpose of the ÇAJUPI ASSOCIATION is to contribute with concrete and supportive activities to the protection of the natural environment and biodiversity in the southern region of the country. The association will also work towards lobbying and increasing the capacity of the urban and rural community and residential centers to maintain and stabilize the ecosystem.

**TID GJIROKASTRA** is a not-for-profit organization, with the mission to restore the “Old Bazaar" of Gjirokastra community to a bustling, economically vital touristic area that provides entrepreneurial, cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities.

# **Data regarding the main businesses in the project area**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nr | Bussines | Administrator | Type | Location | Contact details |
| 1 | Taverns "Kuka" | Ibrahim Kuka | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 693405365 |
| 2 | Elona Dina | Elona Dina | Fish Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 698681494 |
| 3 | Restaurant "Landi" | Landi Koci  | Restaurant | Gjirokaster/Dhoksat | 692093976 |
| 4 | The First | Vali Tola | Hotel/Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 692768335 |
| 5 | Restaurant "Mapo" | Aurel Hoxha | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 698500197 |
| 6 | The Barrels  | Marsel | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 686020002 |
| 7 | Restaurant in Llongo | Spiro Proko | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 699503998 |
| 8 | Oda of Hasan Beu | Gjin Hasanbega | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 692025526 |
| 9 | From House | Juli Graci | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 698391492 |
| 10 | Restaurant "Guri" |   | Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 696338554 |
| 11 | Hotel 4rooms | Albert Haloci | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 693113733 |
| 12 | Old "Bazar" | Vangjel Vardhami | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 692055819 |
| 13 | Hotel "Kalemi" | Arber Kalemi | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 692510723 |
| 14 | Hotel "Kodra" | Hysen Kodra | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 694062661 |
| 15 | Hotel "Argjiro" | Pirro Dhima / Bjordi | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 692605488 |
| 16 | Hotel "Kakavie" | Valendina Rexha | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 695229376 |
| 17 | The First | Vali Tola | Hotel/Restaurant | Gjirokaster | 692768335 |
| 18 | Hotel "Kastro" | Polikseni Koca | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 684083844 |
| 19 | Hotel "Shehu" | Entela Shehu | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 692372764 |
| 20 | Bizanti Hotel &Hospitality Hub | Heviola Sherifi  | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 692590980 |
| 21 | Hotel "Lani" | Irma Lani | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 672423897 |
| 22 | Hotel/ Hostel "Ura e Lumit" | Niku Gumaj | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 672044427 |
| 23 | Friend Hostel | Evisa Ahmetaj/ Enea | Hotel | Gjirokaster | 68574444 |
| 24 | Vasillaq | Vasillaq | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 683361917 |
| 25 | Lola | Lola | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 676429262 |
| 26 | Dallendyshe | Dallendyshe | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 698187915 |
| 27 | Guest House Over the Canyon | Petrit | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 695381281 |
| 28 | Guest House Lord Bajron |   | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 698208842 |
| 29 | Guest House & Camping Peshtan | Mirela Muka | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 693172603 |
| 30 | Guest House in Saraqinishte | Vaso Bakuli | Guest House | Gjirokaster | 685386753 |
| 31 | Experience Gjirokastra | Eni Kaci | TO | Gjirokaster | 692251589 |
| 32 | Albanian Dreams Gjirokastra | Vaso Garo | TO | Gjirokaster | 684121555 |
| 33 | Caravan Horse Riding | Ilir Hitaj | TO | Gjirokaster | 695375743 |
| 34 | Kaonia Tours | Robert Celo | TO | Gjirokaster | 682012714 |
| 35 | Off Road Adventure/Freelancer | Selaudin Mosho | TO | Gjirokaster | 683049330 |
| 36 | Vjosa Adventure | Ahmet Berzani | TO | Gjirokaster | 692778215 |
| 37 | Vjosa Explorer Tour Operator | Elisjon Ndina | TO | Gjirokaster | 692778215 |
| 38 | Association "Vjosa Explorer" | Juli  | TO | Gjirokaster | 69835140 |
| 39 | Vjosa Adventure | Ahmet Berzani | TO | Gjirokaster | 692778215 |
| 40 | Golden Hand | Vjollca Mezini | Artisan | Gjirokaster | 693161121 |
| 41 | Jewellery "Lida" | Majlinda Cani | Artisan | Gjirokaster | 674829921 |
| 42 | Artisan Shop | Margarita Mastora | Souvenir/Artisan | Gjirokaster | 693628038 |
| 43 | Embroidery House | Lida Kotroci | Artisan | Gjirokaster | 695366519 |
| 44 | Hand made by Olda Kalimera | Olga Paguna | Wedding Planer | Gjirokaster | 682059599 |
| 45 | Alketa Souvenir Pazar | Nani Budo | Artisan Leather Work | Gjirokaster | 694662899 |
| 46 | Kocollari Sister | Ardita Kocollari | Artisan  | Gjirokaster | 694341349 |
| 47 | "Edua" | Manjola Shehaj | Local Products | Gjirokaster | 694052442 |
| 48 | Women's Cooperative in Dropull | Agathi Baruta | Local Products | Gjirokaster | 693161143 |
| 49 | Cajupi Camping | Pellumb Koko | Camping | Gjirokaster | 693693563 |
| 50 | Polyphonic Group Lunxheria | Koco Vasili | Polyphonic Group | Gjirokaster | 692264373 |
| 51 | Cultural Info Center | Kosta Cavo | Info Point | Gjirokaster | 693063003 |

# **Data regarding geographical characteristics in the project area**

Gjirokastra is located on the side of the Mali i Gjere, on its northeastern slopes and on the left bank of the Drino River valley. The base and side of the mountain where it is located is almost bare, without vegetation. As such, in winter when the rains are not complete, torrents of abundant water are released on the slopes. They come all the way to town. The city itself has many streams and each neighborhood is separated from each other by one. The monastery has been and continues to be one of the main centers of the southern part of Albania. It has had southern connections with Ioannina, the Albanian coast, Vlora, and the Delvina basin. Through the gorge of Këlcyra it is connected with other centers of southern Albania. It is also connected with Upper and Lower Kurvelesh, Lunxheria, Lower Dropulli, Pogon, Zagorina, etc. The Broad Mountain, at the foot of which Gjirokastra is located, separates the city from the coast.

From the north, the city of Gjirokastra is bordered by the village of Mashkullorë, on the south by Lazarat, on the east by the river Drino and the villages of Lunxheria, and on the west by Mali i Gjerë. Due to the rapid urban growth of Gjirokastra, after the fall of communism, there are new toponyms. Gjirokastra has the following neighborhoods: Cfake, Dunavat I, Dunavat II, Hazmurat, Manalat I, Manalat II, Meçite, Palorto, Pazar i Vjetër, Pllake, Teqe, Varosh, Zinxhire.

# **Demographic data in the project area**

**Include 3 districts : Gjirokaster, Permet, Tepelene**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| **Men** | 34,617 | 33,191 | 31,109 | 30,058 | 28,928 |
| **Women** | 33,403 | 32,748 | 31,843 | 31,365 | 30,453 |
| **Total** | 68,020 | 65,939 | 62,952 | 61,423 | 59,381 |

**Gjirokastra District**

Gjirokaster by the population is the largest municipality in the [Gjirokaster County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjirokast%C3%ABr_County). According to [INSTAT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_of_Statistics_%28Albania%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Institute%20of%20Statistics%20%28Albania%29), based on the 2011 Census, Gjirokaster Municipality was estimated to have 28,673 residents (a density of 53.91 persons/km2) living in 6,919 housing units, while the county as a whole has a total of 72,176 inhabitants. The population of the municipality includes the urban and rural population in its Administrative Units such as: Antigone; [Cepo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cepo); [Lazarat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazarat); [Lunxheri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunxh%C3%ABri_%28administrative_unit%29); [Odrie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odrie) and [Picar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picar). The city of Gjirokaster itself has a resident population of 19,836 inhabitants which are a predominantly urban population. In the municipality, the population was spread out with 16.76% from the age 0 to 14, 69.24% from 15 to 64, and 13.98% who were 65 years of age or older. As far as the city itself is concerned, the population was spread out with 16.93% from the age 0 to 14, 70.27% from 15 to 64, and 12.78% who were 65 years of age or older.

Gjirokaster is home to an ethnic Greek community that according to Human Rights Watch numbered about 4,000 out of 30,000 in 1989, although Greek spokesmen have claimed that up to 34% of the town is Greek. Gjirokaster is considered the center of the Greek community in Albania. Greeks are found in almost all neighborhoods of the city. Given the large Greek population in the town and surrounding area, there is a Greek consulate in the town.Other minorities are smaller numbers of Aromanians and Roma.

**Permet District** was one of the thirty-six [districts of Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Albania%22%20%5Co%20%22Districts%20of%20Albania) that is now part of [Gjirokastër County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjirokast%C3%ABr_County%22%20%5Co%20%22Gjirokast%C3%ABr%20County). Its population of 22,029 (2011 estimate) included [Aromanian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aromanians%22%20%5Co%20%22Aromanians) minorities.

**Tepelene District**  is part of [Gjirokastër County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjirokast%C3%ABr_County%22%20%5Co%20%22Gjirokast%C3%ABr%20County). It had a population of 23,800[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tepelen%C3%AB_District%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-2)(2011 estimate), and an area of 817 km².

# **Data regarding other projects which have been already implemented, are undergoing implementation, or will be implemented in the future in the project area**

**Project status: closed**

**Project name (EN): CULTURE BRANDING - STRENGTHENING EXTROVERSION**

* Project acronym: CULTURE PLUS
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-06-18 Project end date: 2020-06-18
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 626 555.51
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

 Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): University of Thessaly - Research Committee
* Municipality of Gjirokaster
* Tourism Organisation of Western Macedonia
* Studies and Development Center
* University of Tirana

**Project name (EN): Culture Lands**

* Project acronym: Culture Lands
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-06-01 Project end date: 2020-05-31
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 548 013.04
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): Municipality of Florina
* Municipality of Gjirokaster
* Technological Research Centre of West Macedonia
* Municipality of Berat
* People and Ideas
* Municipality of Kastoria

**Project name (EN): Greece and Albania Joint Initiatives for Cultural Preservation Through Innovative Actions**

* Project acronym: CULTURAL LANDS
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-03-01 Project end date: 2020-02-28
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 401 079.96
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): Municipality of Zitsa
* Municipality of Metsovo
* Prefekture of Gjirokastra

**Project name (EN): Exploring the cultural heritage of the cross border region through a digital library and oral sources**

* Project acronym: EXPLORAL
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-04-01 Project end date: 2020-03-31
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 551 579.06
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE
* Municipality of Gjirokaster
* Public Central Library of Konitsa
* Municipality of Permet

**Project name (EN): Stone and Wood: Enhancement and Promotion of Traditional Architecture in the Areas of Ioannina and Gjirokaster**

* Project acronym: STONEWOOD
* Period: 2007-2013
* Project start date: 2012-06-01 Project end date: 2013-11-30
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 428 510.00

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): Municipality of Metsovo
* Institution of Prefect of Gjirokastra Region
* Regional Directorate of National Culture in Gjirokaster
* Municipality of Zagori

**Project name (EN): Pilgrimage tours and pilgrimages to Greece and Albania**

* Project acronym: PROSFORA
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-05-01 Project end date: 2020-04-30
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 635 516.32
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE
* Municipality of Gjirokaster
* Holy Metropolis of Gjirokaster
* Holy Metropolis of Korca
* REGION OF EPIRUS
* Holy Metropolis of Ioannina

**Project status: ongoing**

**Project name (EN): Targeted ACTIons for the preservation, rehabilitation and promotion of historical, Cultural and naturAL assets encouraging TOURISM, in the entire GR-AL cross-border area**

* Project acronym: TACTICAL TOURISM
* Period: 2014-2020
* Project start date: 2018-01-01 Project end date: 2020-12-31
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 3 870 311.03
* Co-financing sources: IPA/IPA II

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GJIROKASTRA
* Region of Ionian Islands
* REGION OF EPIRUS
* Regional Council of Berat
* Technical Chamber of Greece - Department of Western Macedonia
* Ministry of Culture & Sports - Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria

**Project name (EN): Network creation and promotion of castles**

* Project acronym: NETCASTLE
* Period: 2007-2013
* Date of latest update: 2020-06-24
* Total budget/expenditure: EUR 495 355.02

Partners

* Lead Partner (EN): Region of Ionian Island/ Regional Unit of Corfu
* Region of Epirus/ Regional Unit of Thesprotia, UET Centre
* Institution of Prefect of Gjirokastra Region
* Region of Epirus/ Regional Unit of Thesprotia
* UET Centre

**![Description: C:\Users\PC-3\Desktop\HAMLET Interreg\Logo Project Partners\[1]Min. kulture Montenegro logo ENGL.jpg]()**

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