

Albania: National Strategy for Socio- Economic Development

First Annual Progress Report

Kathryn Funk

First PRSP in ECA

- I-PRSP presented to Board in June 2000
- PRSP prepared from mid-2000 to mid-2001
- Launched in Albania in November 2001
- Board date delayed to June 2002

An Impressive Start

- Strong government ownership
- Broad, unprecedented participatory process
- Close link with MTEF
- Improved poverty diagnosis
- First strategy focusing on results
- Ambitious plans for M&E

But Promising Start not Sustained

- Three governments in one year
- Slow progress during most of 2002
- Concerted efforts from December 2002-May 2003 (too little too late)
- Highly critical JSA presented to Board with NSSED Progress Report in June 2003

Strong Points of the Progress Report

- Good continuity of gov't ownership: All gov'ts expressed commitment to the NSSED
- Gov't used Progress Report to try to revitalize the NSSED
- LSMS finished on schedule
- Better link between NSSED and MTEF
- Progress in M&E within line ministries
- Better institutional framework for NSSED
- Better link with MDGs

Weak Points of the Progress Report

- Mixed implementation record
- Didn't deepen or institutionalize participatory process
- Relatively weak long-term vision
- Very weak prioritization and practically no costing
- Lack of analysis and candor in PR
- **Main Challenge: Sustaining the momentum of Early 2003**

Observations from Albania re Progress Reports

Cons:

- Paper exercise versus focus on implementation and analysis (the “reporting burden”)
- Cultural/political impediments to candor

Pros:

- Opportunity to build ownership and capacity
- Feeds into annual MTEF

Albania: External Support Still Critical for Fragile NSSED

- DFID to provide TA to NSSED Department
- The Carter Center: “Visioning exercise” and institutionalizing participation
- WB: PRSC helps focus the NSSED, and supports M&E
- WB: CEM on Competitiveness and Growth (FY03)
- PRSP TF: More capacity building, especially for prioritization & costing