

*2015 Development Policy Financing Retrospective
Consultation Meeting*

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Date: May 20, 2015

Location: Tirana, Albania

Total Participants: 5

Consultations were held via Video Conference with country representatives in Tirana (see list in Annex 1) on the preliminary findings of the 2015 DPF Retrospective. Lorena Kostallari (Senior Operations Officer, Albania) gave brief opening remarks and Appolonia Mbowe (Senior Economist, Operations Policy and Country Services) presented the preliminary findings of the Retrospective. The meeting was moderated by Ana Gjokutaj, Senior Communications Officer at the World Bank in Albania.

Overview and General Reactions

Overall, the feedback on Development Policy Financing was positive. The participants were happy with the instrument, pointing out its effectiveness in supporting strategic issues in Albania as it provided a coordination platform among key stakeholders. They also noted its added value in both complementing other Bank instruments, which supported well the country's growth oriented reform program. The key areas of support included financial, fiscal sustainability, public administration, and social with the Development Policy Operations (DPOs) covering various sectors, including energy, health, and social protection. The participants shared some of their own experiences with the instrument, particularly in the area of health and social protection.

Main Issues Raised

Effectiveness of the DPF instrument:

- The impact of DPOs on social reforms in Albania was noted as generally positive. The Social Sector Reform DPOs, which supported both health and social reforms, had a big impact for all stakeholders. For example, they helped to create the necessary environment for garnering coordination among stakeholders around the preparation of the country's health insurance law, which came into effect in March 2013.

- The consensus building across all members of government on policy, strategy, and legal changes was critical for the successful drafting of the health insurance law. The commitment around the reforms was also high. The technical assistance and support provided by the DPO helped to build the needed support and raise awareness on these issues. The approval of the health and pension law paved the way for an IPF operation.
- Similarly, policy reforms in both the energy and transport sector led to the preparation of big project in the energy sector and an investment project in the transport sector.

Achieving country's development results/outcomes:

- One of the experiences provided by a participant was related to the health insurance fund program. Overall, it was noted that the DPO was very successful in helping the government enact critical legislation. Prior to having the support of the DPO, there had been unsuccessful attempts to make progress in pushing forward this reform. It was noted that, when the DPO was prepared, various stakeholders began to take the issue more seriously. It helped raise the profile and awareness among constituents, who began to see the law as a priority.
- Participants also had the benefit of engaging with expert working groups that helped them gain the commitment of policymakers. Additionally, it was noted that their work was aided by another World Bank supported health sector project that was closely associated with the same legislation.

Environmental and social effects:

- It was noted that most of the DPOs in Albania's portfolio have positive social impacts, but no significant impacts on the environment.

Other-Effectiveness of the full complement of Bank's instruments

- A participant noted that overall, the experience working with DPOs has been positive, especially in the last few years where DPOs have supported major interventions needed in the energy and pension sector.
- The instrument was identified as a very important tool for the future, but there is still a need to identify more sectors that could use DPO support.
- The participants expressed their appreciation for the technical assistance provided in the context of the DPOs.
- DPOs were also noted as being an important complement to other World Bank instruments such as Investment Project Financing.

Annex:



*2015 Development Policy Financing Retrospective
Consultation Meeting*

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Date: May 20, 2015

Location: Tirana, Albania

Total Participants: 5

Participant Name	Organization Represented	Organization Type	Country
DM Erjon Luci	Ministry of Finance	Government	Albania
Saimir Kadiu	Ministry of Health	Government	Albania
Petro Mersini	Ministry of Health	Government	Albania
Laura Mano	Health Insurance Fund		Albania
Uwi Basaninyenzi	The World Bank	Multilateral	United States