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Country Assistance Strategy

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What is a CAS? - A new CAS for Albania

Every three to four years, the World Bank designs a work plan to guide its operations in a client country. This work plan is detailed in a document called "Country Assistance Strategy" or CAS. In its final form, the CAS document describes the Bank's planned operations in the country - lending, analytical work, and technical assistance - for the time covered by the CAS - usually three to four years.

Result-based CAS - a new CAS

The World Bank is interested not only to increase development assistance but also to enhance effectiveness in using development resources. The new, result-based CAS encourages the improvement of the impact and effectiveness of its programs. It is the key tool for delivering the Bank's commitment to contribute to improving country's ability to manage for results, and increase its own relevance and impact.

The Goal of the result-based CAS

The main goal of the CAS is to develop a strategy that will guide the Bank's efforts in assisting a country reach the goals of poverty reduction and economic well-being that it has set for itself. In doing so, the CAS takes into account the country's development priorities and its economic performance. It also reflects the Bank's mandate as an international development institution while demonstrating the results of development assistance, providing a framework for greater accountability and transparency, and facilitating greater flows of development assistance in the country.

The CAS is designed with the government, and in consultation with a wide range of representatives from civil society, including NGOs, community groups, trade unions, media, professional associations, religious groups, and so on.

The format of the CAS document is set according to the Bank's internal guidelines. It includes "sections" on such issues as the country's economic and social performance, its main development challenges, a summary of the government's development strategy, and the Bank's proposed package of assistance.

Before a CAS can be implemented, it needs to be discussed and approved by the Bank's Board. This is because the World Bank is owned by 184 member countries whose views and interests are represented by a Board of Directors. The member countries carry ultimate decision-making power in the World Bank.

The World Bank can only disclose a final CAS document to the public if the government agrees to do so. When the CAS document is released to public, the Bank prepares a CAS Public Information Note which summarizes issues it contains.

A New CAS for Albania

The last full CAS for Albania was approved in July 2002. The Bank is currently starting the development of a new assistance strategy that will cover the period September 2005 to June 2009.

The CAS for Albania will be based on the country priorities reflected in the National Strategy for Social Economic Development (NSSED). The NSSED is prepared in



consultation with different segments of Albanian society and identifies priorities that the country needs to address in order to bring economic well-being to all Albanians. In preparing its CAS, the Bank will conduct consultations to gather ideas and feedback on how to best assist Albania to implement the priorities identified in the NSSD.

These consultations will include government officials, members of the parliament, NGOs, academics, media, interest groups, and other civil society representatives. The main purpose is to listen to the people of Albania and take their views into account as the Bank develops the work plan that will guide its operations in the country during the next four years.



CAS Consultations — How You Can Contribute



The process of gathering feedback from the Albanian society will include three rounds of consultations all over the country to be held from February till mid-April 2005. Invitations to attend the seminars and round tables will be sent to different groups, but all meetings will be open to the public. There will be three rounds of consultations in three other regions.



During the meetings, members of the Bank's Albania Team will brief those present on the latest CAS achievements, on-going programs, and instruments for their implementation. The floor will then be open for discussion, during which the Bank's team will be open to receive feedback and information on how the Bank has performed and can help Albania achieve the goals outlined in the NSSD.

The basis for discussion during the consultations will be an information package containing details on on-going programs and an outline of proposed Bank interventions in Albania. The materials will be available to participants in advance of the meetings, as well as on the local office website (www.worldbank.org.al). Comments and feedback collected during the consultations will be considered by the Bank Team as it prepares a final version of the CAS document.

The CAS document is expected to be presented to the Bank's Board of Directors by the end September, and it is important that the Bank's Albania Team receives feedback by May 20, 2005.

Timeline

February 2005	March 2005	April 2005	May 2005	September 2005
CAS Consultations		Preparation of Draft CAS		CAS presented to the Board
Collect feedback				

*Please note that dates are subject to change.

Albania CAS Electronic Forum

In order to supplement on-the-ground discussions, the Bank's Albania Team has designed an Internet site open to the public where interested parties can review written materials and provide comments on how the World Bank can better address Albania's development challenges.

The Electronic Forum (www.worldbank.org/albaniacasforum) will serve as a clearinghouse for the CAS consultation process, posting feedback received as well as minutes of the meetings to the ground. It will also serve as a tool for debate and direct communication of Albanian public members of the Bank's Albania Team.

Comments can also be sent by mail or e-mail to:

World Bank Albania Office
 Rruga "Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit", No. 34
 Tirana, Albania
 Phone: (355 42) 40 587
 Fax: (355 42) 40 590
 Email: AlbaniaCAS@worldbank.org

How Feedback Will Be Used

The Bank's Albania Team will record and compile feedback provided during the consultations and will use it in developing the CAS. The expected result of consultations is a change or adaptation in the focus of the CAS. For example, greater emphasis of Bank support to a particular sector or greater recognition of constraints in an area relevant to the country's economic development may result. The World Bank agrees to provide answers to feedback received, point by point whenever possible - which suggestions have been incorporated into the CAS and which have not, and why.

Why Some Suggestions Put Forward During Consultations Might Not Be Included in the CAS

This may happen because:

- the issue is general in nature and/or falls outside the normal scope of the CAS;
- the issue is not consistent with Bank policy or there is a divergence of opinion on what should be done;
- the issue is already included in an existing Bank program or alternative financing is already available or
- the lack of consensus with the Government and other stakeholders on what should be done, and/or on there is a role for the Bank, is not sufficient at the time of CAS preparation to include a specific program
- the issue is not of high priority given the limitations of the size of the Bank's program, or does not fall v Bank's area of competence and/or its comparative advantage.

Please find a summary of discussions on the [CAS consultation meetings](#) (1.03MB,doc). The consultations serving as the basis for dialogue between the World Bank and representatives of Albanian society that the Albania Team expects will go beyond the CAS framework.

Download:

[Current Albania Country Assistance Strategy \(2002 - 2005\)](#) (1.54 MB, PDF)

[Strategjia aktuale e Bankës Botërore në Shqipëri \(2002 - 2005\)](#)(1.65MB, PDF)



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