



Tirana Folkloric Ensemble

about project

L12



Budget
USD 150,000



Municipal contribution
An additional USD 132,000.00 through Tirana Cultural Center



**Municipal sectors/
directorates**
Tirana Cultural Center



**BETTER
LIVING**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tirana Folkloric Ensemble is an award-winning, public, non-professional, community group of live performing artists, dedicated to the performance, preservation and cultivation of music, songs and dance traditions of Tirana and the central-Albania region. Although this is their primary focus, the ensemble's repertoire is rich with content from all other musical traditions and regions of Albania. It is the only all-inclusive, accessible public entity of its kind in the region, and a crucial cultural asset for the city. It is a laboratory where the old generation of artists meets the new for a continuous educational exchange, and an experience that provides cultural enrichment, pride and entertainment for all. Established in 1978, the ensemble includes a dance group, an instrumental section, and a roster of soloists and ensemble singers. All indoor and outdoor performance are live. The music, the instruments and the costumes are authentic to the customs of the part of Albania which the music derives from. The performances of the Ensemble include diverse costumes from various provinces of the country, as well as special musical instruments that are made by traditional instrumentalists. There are two main components to this intervention. The first relates to the creation of an audio-visual archive of the repertoire as well as a movable exhibit of the traditional costumes the ensemble owns. The second relates to carrying out free workshops, talk-backs, and performances throughout Tirana to the targeted communities.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The main object of this project is to preserve the cultural heritage of Tirana Folkloric Ensemble and to develop a powerful, public, traditional music and dance education program with positive and transformative impact on the targeted communities.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

- Thoroughly assess and address the damage on the existing costume inventory and invest in new but historically accurate and traditionally made clothing elements
- Catalogue texts, music, and dance repertoire, and expand it with the help of experts
- Create a digital, audio/visual archive of the repertoire
- Recruit, train and develop the younger generation of artists
- Provide knowledge of the traditions through workshops, performances and displays in the Tirana Culture Center and throughout the community (schools, public parks, etc.)
- Use traditional songs and dance to model respect and inclusiveness by strategically aiming to include at-risk groups such as young women, children, special needs, and the Roma and Egyptian minorities
- Develop solid methodology and practices for folk arts as tools for social change

PRELIMINARY IMPACTS

- The intervention will reverse the declining trend in the assets and resources of the Ensemble; it will create an archive that will be a referring source for all future artists;
- It will increase the number of attendants from the targeted demographics and the general public, and their knowledge and appreciation of their shared heritage
- It will impact the cultural life of the city with its presence and outreach by offering 50+ performances and workshops
- It will increase participation from women and ethnic minorities.