

CASE STUDY 16: MODERNISING TIRANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In 2005, EBRD provided €21 million for the extension, repair and modernisation of Tirana's international airport (TIA).

With its involvement, the EBRD aims to ensure that the project is environmentally sound and sustainable and that it is designed and operated in compliance with applicable national and EU requirements. An environmental and social monitoring visit was carried out by the Bank in November 2007 to ensure that commitments made by the client have been met and to check compliance with the Environmental, Health and Safety and Social Action Plan (EHSAP) that was developed in 2005.

During the visit it was observed that, since 2005, TIA has managed to establish an integrated environment, health and safety management system which aims to improve continuously. TIA is updating the EHSAP every year with new targets to be achieved, programmes and actions to be undertaken, schedules for implementation and the respective departments or persons responsible for this, for all management issues. All emissions and discharges are in compliance with Albanian regulatory requirements and EU Directives.

Still, the company is looking for further improvements to benefit the environment, as well as the health and safety of workers and nearby communities. One initiative has been to sponsor the preparation of a tourism development plan for the community of Preza with the aim of transforming the area into a cultural asset of regional and national significance. The energy conservation, waste minimisation and recycling campaigns at the airport and the waste recycling programme in settlements near the airport are other initiatives that are planned.