

Summer Programme: *Voices from Thethi*
Thethi, Northern Albania

16 June – 9th August, 2008

After several years of investigation and enquiry as to exactly what kind of Summer Programme would be appropriate in this remote mountain corner of Europe, our pilot project, has already created a great deal of excitement, especially in the hope that it will grow year by year, and revive a community which once knew harmony across the borders into Montenegro and Kosovo/a.

Thethi, in the Shala Valley, and the neighbouring Valbona Valley in northern Albania is one of the most stunningly beautiful areas of wilderness in Europe, which hosts its own distinctive cultural landscapes. It is the only place in southern Europe where a tribal socio-political organization survived well into the last century. It is an area that historically has attracted foreign travellers, and has enormous capacity – and the necessary will to host small-scale modern sustainable tourism

With generous permission from the Regional Education Department and the Head of Thethi School, newly renovated with assistance from GTZ, B3P will co-ordinate volunteer native-English speakers to give daily language instruction to children in three age/ability groups, providing English language skills with an emphasis on phrases that would be useful in communicating with visitors to the area. Albanian environmentalists will also give daily instruction on environmental awareness, including related local activities.

There will also be an *Adult Programme*: focusing on enabling the participants to address the needs and interests of visitors (whether from across the BPPP borders, or further afield), by providing some very basic English instruction, and a chance to voice what further skills they would like to continue to develop in the future; also the possibility to cultivate the rights as well as the responsibilities of citizens, enhancing citizenship and good governance. It is a fertile valley – magnificent organic food is locally produced. Other workshops will focus on marketing local produce and crafts (e.g. wood-carved and woven goods).

We already have the very strong endorsement of the **Shkodra Commune**, of the head of the **Shkodra Region: Dr. Gjovalin Kolombi**; of the head of the **Shkodra Region Education Department, Dr. Atrita Ferketi** and of the **Shkodra Region the National Parks Department** and of the **Rector of the Luigj Gjurkuqi University of Shkodra**