### **Speaking Notes – Head of Swiss Cooperation Albania,** **Holger Tausch**

**Workshop on Public Policy Repository – Cooperation and Development Institute**

### **September 19th, 2014, Tirana, Albania**

Thank you Mr. Ciko. Good morning to you all.

I have the privilege to be the first speaker today but will say only little on the real content of the Public Policy Repository project. This and other substantial inputs on public policy and how government and civil society can cooperate will be delivered by the distinguished speakers to follow.

I would like to limit myself to a few words regarding Swiss support to Albania. Most of this support comes in the form of cooperation through different projects and programmes. The word cooperation itself already includes the essence of our work, since cooperation is as a fundamental principle for a good functioning country, for democracy to develop, and for the economy to flourish. Today’s workshop is also about cooperation.

Designing and implementing of good policies is an essential task of any government. While the meaning of good or bad may be debatable and subject to individual judgement, we can however most certainly affirm that policies will be developed and implemented better and more comprehensively if inputs are generated beyond those provided by the executive and legislative powers. Here the civil society, the academic world and researchers, the media and international organisations should all be involved actors to cooperate for public policy making to become a smoother and more transparent process. If then information on past discussions and decisions is also available to present and future generations, a virtuous circle is in the making.

That is why Switzerland has supported several projects aiming at improving data collection, academic and social research, and civil society functioning. For example support to INSTAT has contributed to improve its capacity to assist in public policy making in Albania. Likewise in one of our regional projects promoting research, we have supported over 50 initiatives aiming at producing valuable knowledge which again can inform public policy and decision making. Finally, our flagship programmes are directed at improving governance and strengthening the civil society.

The public policy repository presented here today is another step towards improving public policy making and the cooperation between different stakeholders. It’s an innovative way of presenting to the public and relevant institutions a substantial knowledge base. My distinguished colleagues will tell you more about the public policy repository and how key elements such as institutional knowledge and data will be made available and help building consensus.

I congratulate the CDI for undertaking this unique initiative. I am sure it will serve the wider Albanian public as well as the government and experts with valuable information which hopefully will result in better policies and decisions.

Thank you!