

Figure 1. Aerial view of the Bazaar of Gjirokastra.
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- state of decay of Omari House which some of them had never seen. The communication with the owners was made easier because the Gjirokastra Foundation had just opened an artisan shop in the house. However, that had only saved a small part of the house; the rest of it was deteriorating rapidly.
3. The Gjirokastra Foundation explained to the owners that the restoration of the whole house would be more feasible if the Foundation and the owners raised funds together and the house ‘used’ for a public purpose. The Foundation introduced its project idea for an “Art and Crafts Incubator and Centre” (ACIC) in the Bazaar of Gjirokastra. The owners agreed enthusiastically to have the ACIC created in their house after it was restored. The ACIC would occupy almost all of Omari House, which would be given to the Gjirokastra Foundation, rent-free for three years (to ‘pay back’ restoration costs). The Foundation had the right to manage the ACIC and prove that the ACIC benefitted the community of the artisans and craftspeople.
 4. The Gjirokastra Foundation contributed by providing the restoration proposal, which was prepared in collaboration with local heritage institutions in Gjirokastra and the capital Tirana.
 5. The Gjirokastra Foundation and the owners lobbied hard and provided the funding for restoration. It took two years to raise the funds. Meanwhile, the Foundation had started to organize the National Heritage and Artisan Fair in Gjirokastra’s Bazaar as an alternative way to increase Gjirokastran and Albanian interest in arts and crafts training and products.
 6. The house was fully restored by May 2010. In July 2010, the ACIC was launched and the training and education programme started. Five more house owners in Gjirokastra have requested collaboration with GCDO using the same method (Figure 2).