

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Albania is a unitary republic with a two-tier subnational government structure, made up of 12 regions and 61 municipalities.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI II)** is closely aligned with the SDGs. As of 2018, drafting an SDG Roadmap was considered to help in identifying roles and responsibilities of the key institutions and other stakeholders in SDG implementation. It is worth noting that Albania has established links between the SDGs and the EU integration goals, including reference to the Albanian National Plan for European Integration (NPEI) 2014–2020 and the EU *acquis* chapters of EU accession negotiations.

## 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The coordination and leadership of SDG implementation is provided by the **Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs**, chaired by the deputy prime minister of Albania and comprising key government institutions, as well as other stakeholders from the business community, civil society, academia and international organizations. It also counts with the technical support provided by the **Department of Development and Good Governance (DDGG)** in the Prime Minister's Office, the **SDG Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group** and the contribution of the UN agencies. The Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group includes technical level representatives from all Albanian institutions participating in implementation of Agenda 2030.

## 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR is based on the inputs received from the main government institutions leading the reforms in each priority area under the coordination of the **SDG Technical Working Group**, and the contribution of UN agencies. A consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all stakeholders, including local governments, academia, civil society and the business community in the country, was held to discuss and validate the main findings and recommendations of the report.

## 1.3 MONITORING

The **Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)** is the coordinator of the National Statistical System. The latter is composed of INSTAT, the Bank of Albania and the Ministry of Finance and Economy. INSTAT is a member of the Inter-Institutional Working Group.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2018 VNR mentions the consultation of local authorities, while the Association of Albanian Municipalities does not report any involvement during the preparation of the report.<sup>3</sup>

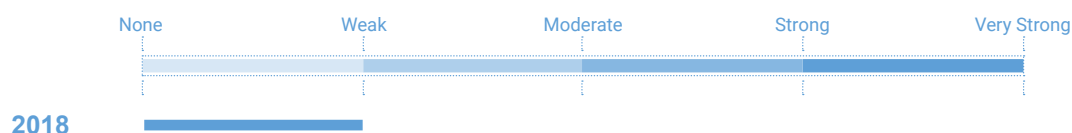
1. See: [https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI\\_2019\\_report\\_country\\_profiles\\_DEC2019\\_UPDATES.pdf](https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf)

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20257ALBANIA\\_VNR\\_2018\\_FINAL2.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20257ALBANIA_VNR_2018_FINAL2.pdf) (2018)

3. Answer of the Association of Albanian Municipalities to the GTF Survey in 2021.

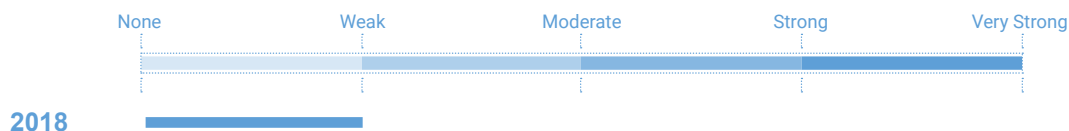
## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



2018

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2018

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

## 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

LRGs are mentioned in the 2018 VNR. It stresses that "implementation of the SDGs calls for improved institutional capacities not only at the level of central government ministries but also for local governments". However, there is no reference to locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

## 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The municipality of [Shkodër](#) published its VLR in 2021.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Considering that NSDI II provides for the national policy framework for implementing the SDGs, the costing and budgeting for SDGs includes the budget analysis along the lines of NSDI II. The possible SDG Roadmap would include financial implications deriving from the national commitment to the SDGs.

The urban renaissance programme supports the local and regional development policy in Albania through the Regional Development Fund. This fund is a development instrument and a competitive financial mechanism that supports the national policy on regional and local development, to ensure territorial cohesion in the country through balanced growth and economic, social and environmental development. Through this fund, the government allocates grants for local governments on a competitive basis for implementing projects with an impact on economic development at the local and the regional level. The fund has a specific section in the annual national budget adopted by Parliament.

The Territorial-Administrative Reform of 2015 is being supported by the planning reform where the government supports technically and financially local municipalities to draft General Local Plans, their main tool for territorial development. As of 2018, 32 municipalities have adopted a general local plan, eight have a plan being drafted, to be adopted in 2018, while 17 others will start this year and complete the process early in 2019. By next year, all 61 municipalities will have in place a General Local Plan. These planning documents are available to the public through an online Web GIS platform, for instant information and participation in decision making.

Albania has worked on making gender equality a central element of planning and budgeting for national development and EU integration. Since 2012, it has introduced the application of gender mainstreaming in the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP).

4. See: [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/shkodra\\_2021.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/shkodra_2021.pdf)

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** The fight against marginalization is a main pillar of the country's strategy. New laws have been drafted, providing broader education, housing and facilitating access to the work market for the Roma community, the LGBT community, and other minorities in the country. In 2018, a new law on ethnic minorities was implemented, focusing on protecting the rights of freedom of expression, association, and self-identification.

### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The proportion of seats held by women in local governments was 36.1% in 2016 and 36.9% in 2017.

### 3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>5</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		43.6 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	44 (2020)
	Rural	54 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		90 (2017, Tirana)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		18.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		43.6 (2019)

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/alb>