



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Albania

Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals

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Agenda 2030 in Albania



- Albania committed in September 2015, along with 192 other United Nations (UN) member states, to the implementation of *Transforming Our World—The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.
- Agenda 2030 in Albania follows the successful implementation of Millennium Development Goals 2000 – 2015 especially:
 - Poverty reduced
 - Social inclusion improved
 - Better education system
 - Women empowered
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs established since 2017 – active in leading the Agenda 2030 processes in the country:
 - Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister
 - Comprising representatives of key government institutions, and representatives from local government, civil society, academia, development partners/international agencies and business organizations
- Inter-institutional Working Group on SDG established since 2017, at Prime Minister's Office, is operational and coordinates the work at the technical level



Agenda 2030 in Albania



- The Albanian Parliament approved a resolution confirming the country's commitment to Agenda 2030, in December 2017
- As part of the engagement of all stakeholders in the process, 25 public and private universities and faculties signed an agreement committing to play an active role in advancing the Agenda 2030, in October 2017
- The National Council on Civil Society has engaged in approving a public statement on supporting Agenda 2030 for the country in June 2018
- The Baseline Report on SDGs has been prepared and adopted by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs in January 2018
- The Voluntary National Report (VNR) for presentation to the UN High Level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2018,
- Preparation of a budget analysis for costing SDG implementation in June 2018
- An INSTAT needs assessment on SDG data is on-going.



Albania and EU accession



- The European Integration is the over-arching development priority for Albania
- Albania's vision for the European Integration has full political consensus and popular support
- Five areas have been identified as priority conditions for the accession negotiations for membership in EU:
 - public administration reform, stable institutions and a modern, professional and depoliticized civil service;
 - strengthening the independence, efficiency and accountability of judicial institutions;
 - increasing the fight against corruption;
 - increasing the fight against organized crime;
 - ensuring the protection of human rights (including property rights)
- The substantial progress achieved in all the priority areas during the recent years led to the recent European Commission (EC)'s **unconditional recommendation of April 2018** to start the accession negotiations with Albania during 2019.



Alignment of SDGs with the national policy



- The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI-II) 2015-2020 is the key policy document outlining the development vision for Albania
- 140 SDG targets (83%) are directly tied to specific components of the NSDI II 2015 – 2020 pillars
- 134 SDG targets (79%) are also linked to the specific objectives of the national strategic policy framework
- Strongest alignment of the national policy with the SDGs is observed in Goals 3, 7, 8 and 9.

Alignment of SDGs with national priorities			
Very good (> 75%)	Good (50% -75%)	Partial (25% - 75%)	Limited (< 25%)



Albania's priorities and the VNR



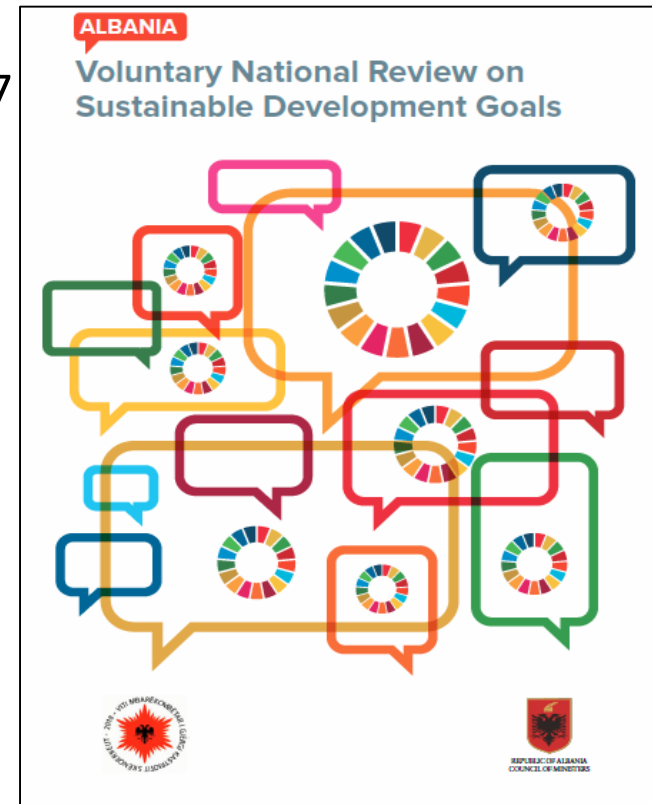
Core of the Voluntary National Review on SDGs for Albania

- The six Government priorities for reforms for 2013-2017 in Albania:
 - Innovative and citizen-centered public services;
 - Recovery and financial consolidation of the energy sector;
 - Fostering innovation and competitiveness, foreign direct investments and domestic investments;
 - Integrated water management;
 - Integrated land management;
 - Financial structural reform.
- Two transformational processes as Success Stories:
 - the justice sector reform and
 - the urban renaissance program

The Voluntary National Review elaborates on Albania's people centered *efforts in leaving no one behind*, by focusing on two important aspects of the theme, relevant to building resilient societies:

- women empowerment, and
- social inclusion

Statistical Annex as part of VNR



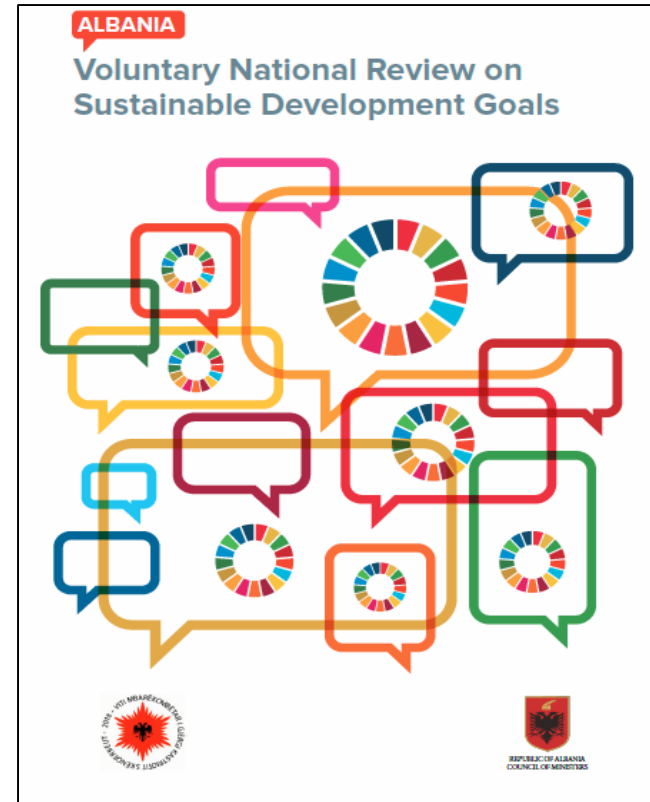


Consultation process for the VNR



A consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all the stakeholders, including the local government, academia, civil society organizations and the business community in the country was organized to discuss and validate the VNR:

- Internal process consultation of VNR preparation with more than 15 institutions (line ministries & agencies) involved
- Five Interministerial Working Group Meetings organized for discussion and validation of the VNR
- Two SDG Committee Meetings, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister, organized with high level representatives for launching the process and approval of the VNR
- External consultation with more than 60 invited representatives from civil society, academia, businesses, interest groups, etc.
- External consultation held with development partners and donors, and UN Agencies (SDG Task Force)
- VNR published at the public consultation register for the wide public comments:
<http://konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/60>





Challenges on achieving the SDGs in Albania



- Defining the National Vision for 2030, particularly in the most relevant policy areas for Albania, through the contribution and cooperation of all the stakeholders involved in the process, is essential to ensure progress with the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Albania would work further to prioritize the SDGs in the national context, based on the identified priorities and the commitments deriving from the European Integration process.
- To achieve these goals Albania is fully committed to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and a specific roadmap for the process will be prepared and adopted.
- The Albanian Government would continue to strengthen institutional development at all levels with the goal of successfully achieving the SDGs. Particularly, the improvement of the monitoring mechanisms and processes, and statistical capacities is at the focus of the government.
- The Albanian Government is fully committed to allocate and utilize the financial means for the achievement of the SDGs in Albania, and is committed to play an active role, also at the Western Balkan Region, in advancing the Agenda 2030 at the global level.



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