



Self-Assessment Report

“On the Implementation of Open Government Partnership Albania Action Plan 2023-2025”

Ministry of Public Administration and Anticorruption

February, 2026

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Action Plan Elaboration Process.....	5
IRM Review of Albania’s OGP Action Plan 2023–2025	7
Coordination of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Albania	10
Evaluation Methodology.....	11
Evaluation Criteria	12
Civil Society Engagement.....	12
Communication	13
OGP at the Local Level.....	14
The Engagement of the Municipality of Tirana in the Open Government Partnership (OGP Local)	14
The Engagement of the Municipality of Elbasan in the Open Government Partnership (OGP Local)	14
.....	14
Implementation of Action Plan Commitments	16
Commitment 1 : Awareness and Educating the General Public on Anti-Corruption Mechanisms.	16
Commitment 2 : Raising the awareness of reporting entities regarding the obligation to register and to update previously registered data.	31
Commitment 3 : Evaluating the best practices of European Union countries concerning the process of registering beneficial ownership data.	31
Commitment 4 : Evaluating the best practices of European Union countries concerning the process of registering beneficial ownership data.	31
Commitment 5 : Awareness and Education of the General Public on mechanisms in the fights against corruption ents.	37
Commitment 6 Adding automatic data to the open data portal and access to Open Data Readiness as Open Data Readiness	60
Commitment 7 : Identification of proactive life-events and implementation of at least 1 life event in e-Albania in the E-Albania government portal	60
Commitment 8 : Transposition of the EU web accessibility directive for government portals	60
Commitment 9 : Development of citizen feedback mechanism for electronic services	60
Commitment 10 : Raising public awareness and educating the general public about the role and mission of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, as well as about the development of a sustainable defense system based on technological innovation.	68
Commitment 11 : Development of Youth Database	74
Commitment No.12 “Awareness and education of the general public on budget transparency”	82
Commitment No.13 “Awareness and education of the general public on revenue transparency”	82
Commitment No.14 “Awareness and education of the general public on public finances”	82

Commitment 15 : Increase transparency for public contracts	95
Commitment No.17 “Awareness and information of the public and especially of groups in need regarding access to comprehensive services”	117
Commitment No.18 “Strengthening the capacities of professionals, with responsibility in providing services to the most vulnerable categories”	117
Commitment No.19 “Strengthening synergies between institutions and CSOs in the processes of strengthening the monitoring framework”	117
Commitment No.20 “Awareness and education of the general public about the importance of inclusiveness in education”.	123
Commitment No.21 “Awareness and education of the general public on the impact of digitization of the education system to increase the quality of education and contribute to the creation of a society based on knowledge”	123
Commitment No.22 “Review of the National Referral Mechanism in order to ensure the continued application of standards and SOPs for the treatment of trafficked persons”.	138
Commitment No.23 “Regulatory impact assessment, programming of regulatory acts and public consultation are at the foundation of a data-based, well-planned policy-making system that enables public involvement in decision-making, for a democratic, transparent and accountable governance”	141
Commitment No.24 “Coordination with the Assembly, for an open and accessible Parliament, as for regarding the improvement of the inter-institutional mechanism platform for monitoring of Independent Institutions as well as implementation of the E-legislation”.	151
1. Completed Commitments	156
2. Commitments with Limited Progress	156
3. Commitments Not Started.....	157
Key Lessons from the Implementation of the 2023–2025 Action Plan	157

Introduction

The Republic of Albania continues its active participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative, consolidating efforts to strengthen transparency, enhance public accountability, and promote citizen participation in decision-making processes. Engagement within the OGP framework constitutes an important component of institutional reforms and supports the country's priorities in improving public governance and advancing the European integration process. Open government is key to safeguarding a functional democracy within a modern and inclusive society.

The Government of Albania has developed its 6th National Action Plan since joining the international Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative in 2011. The National Action Plan 2023–2025 builds upon the experience gained from previous OGP implementation cycles in Albania, with the aim of strengthening existing transparency and participation mechanisms, as well as developing instruments that improve access to public information, the use of digital services, and cooperation between public institutions and civil society. The commitments included in the Plan were developed through a co-creation process, involving both public institutions and civil society actors.

This document constitutes the Final Self-Assessment Report for the OGP Albania Action Plan 2023–2025. This self-assessment report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the international Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative for reporting on the implementation of National Action Plans, providing an assessment of the implementation of planned activities, achieved results, and challenges encountered during the implementation period.

The Self-Assessment Report has been drafted based on data reported by the implementing institutions, relevant progress documentation, and contributions received throughout the consultation and monitoring process of the Action Plan's implementation.

Action Plan Elaboration Process

The Government of Albania have been mobilized based on IRM recommendation and have established the Multilateral Committee on Partnership for Open Government by Prime Minister's Order no. 145, dated 20.12.2021 "For the establishment and operation of the Multilateral Committee on Partnership for Open Government". The creation of this Committee comes in fulfillment of the obligations arising from Albania's membership as a member country with full rights in the Global Initiative for Open Government (OGP).

The implementation of obligations as a member country makes necessary the constitution and functioning of the Committee, which will fulfill the obligation to coordinate a national process for the approval of the National Plan for Open Government and its periodic monitoring.

Line ministries and central institutions take measures to pursue the objectives of the National Plan for Open Government, its implementation and monitoring, in accordance with the standards of the Global Initiative for Open Government. The committee is co-chaired by the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption acting in the capacity of National Coordinator and by representatives of members of non-profit organizations in the role of Co-Chair of the Committee.

With letter no. 6493 protocol, dated 22.11.2022, the Ministry for Service Standards, as the National Coordinator for the Open Government Partnership (OGP), addressed the central institutions and responsible actors to start the process of drafting the 2023-2025 National Action Plan for OGP.

Through this letter, institutions are invited to actively contribute to identify and propose concrete commitments, in line with the principles of open government: transparency, citizen participation, accountability, and innovation in public services according to OGP methodology and standards.

During 2022, the OGP Albania Secretariat, led by the Minister of State for Standards and Services,¹ as the coordinating authority responsible for OGP, in close cooperation with the members of the OGP Multi-stakeholder Committee², initiated the drafting of the Action Plan 2023–2025. Members of the forum submitted their proposals and ideas for future commitments to the Secretariat, with the aim of reflecting them in the new Action Plan.

¹ During this period, the Minister of State for Standards and Services served as the Political Coordinator of OGP in Albania.

² The Multistakeholder Forum is a permanent working group, established in 2021, with the aim of ensuring continuous dialogue between the Government and Civil Society on Open Government issues.

With the aim of defining the main policy objective for the institution and its scope of action, a questionnaire was prepared and disseminated for completion and approval through public consultation, seeking to identify the priority commitments of the Ministry of Justice within the framework of the National Action Plan 2023–2025 (December 2022). The questionnaire requested concrete contributions regarding the role and involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and interest groups.

Summary of the Consultation Process for the OGP National Action Plan 2023–2025

A comprehensive and participatory process was carried out to identify the priority commitments within the framework of the OGP National Action Plan 2023–2025.

1. Dissemination of the questionnaire and public consultation

- In December 2022, a questionnaire was prepared and disseminated to the public, civil society organizations (CSOs), interest groups, academia, and line ministries.
- The consultation process was supported through emails, online platforms, and direct communication.
- A consultation report was prepared with the contributions received.

2. Discussion and validation of results

- The results of the questionnaire were discussed and validated during two meetings held on 12 and 17 January 2023.
- The meetings involved relevant stakeholders, CSOs, academics, and ministries, confirming broad participation in consolidating the commitments.

3. Submission of documentation

- All documentation (questionnaire, consultation reports, meeting agendas and minutes, and proposed commitments) was submitted to the Technical Secretariat of the OGP Multi-stakeholder Committee.

4. Drafting of concrete measures and the draft action plan

- Following formal approval by the OGP Multi-stakeholder Committee on 9 February

2023, the Ministry initiated the drafting of concrete measures and activities.

- The draft plan was further refined and agreed upon during two consultative meetings held on 21 and 24 February 2023, integrating proposals from CSOs.
- Communication during this phase included emails, phone calls, updates on official websites, and public awareness campaigns on social media.

The comprehensive public consultation and cooperation process with all relevant stakeholders aimed to develop concrete commitments focused on raising public awareness and educating citizens on access to justice.

The OGP National Action Plan 2023–2025 was officially approved on 24 March 2023. The plan contains 24 commitments structured across eight thematic areas: anti-corruption and beneficial ownership, access to justice, digital transformation and innovation, fiscal transparency, public services, inclusion, right to information and public consultation, and open parliament.

IRM Review of Albania's OGP Action Plan 2023–2025

The review conducted by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) of Albania's Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2023–2025 assesses the quality of the co-creation process, the relevance and level of ambition of the commitments, as well as their potential to contribute to meaningful open government reforms. This review focuses on the Action Plan development phase and provides recommendations to strengthen implementation, stakeholder engagement, and long-term impact.

The OGP Action Plan 2023–2025 aims to advance transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and innovation in public governance. It builds on previous OGP cycles and seeks to address ongoing challenges related to access to information, public service delivery, anti-corruption efforts, and digital governance.

The main objectives include:

- Strengthening transparency and access to public information;
- Increasing citizen participation in decision-making;
- Improving accountability mechanisms and anti-corruption measures;
- Promoting digital transformation and innovation in public services.

Co-Creation Process Assessment

Strengths

The IRM review highlights several positive aspects of the co-creation process:

- **Structured Dialogue:** The process included consultations between government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs), ensuring structured opportunities for engagement.
- **Multi-stakeholder Involvement:** A range of public institutions, civil society actors, and experts participated in shaping the commitments.
- **Formal Coordination Mechanisms:** The Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC) played a central role in guiding and validating the process.

Challenges

Despite progress, the review identifies key challenges:

- **Limited Inclusiveness:** Participation remained concentrated among a small group of CSOs, with limited outreach to grassroots organizations, local communities, youth groups, and vulnerable populations.
- **Time Constraints:** Short consultation timelines limited the depth and quality of stakeholder input.
- **Uneven Engagement:** Variations were observed in the level of commitment and capacity across institutions.

Key Recommendations

- Expand outreach efforts to ensure broader participation.
- Increase consultation timeframes to improve feedback quality.
- Strengthen institutional coordination and accountability.

Commitments Overview

The Action Plan includes 24 commitments in several thematic areas, including:

- Transparency and the right to information;
- Anti-corruption and integrity;
- Digital governance and the delivery of public services;
- Citizen participation and accountability

The commitments vary in terms of their scope, level of ambition, and potential impact, with some building on existing reforms while others introduce new initiatives.

High-Potential Commitments

Some commitments are assessed as having moderate to significant impact potential, especially those that:

- Introduce new participation mechanisms;
- Improve access to government data and public registers;
- Strengthen the monitoring and reporting framework.

Commitments with Moderate or significant Impact

Other commitments are considered with a more gradual approach, focusing mainly on:

- Improving existing processes, more than making systemic changes;
- Technical or procedural improvements with limited direct involvement of citizens.

IRM encourages increasing ambition through the integration of stronger accountability mechanisms and clearly defining reform pathways.

The Risks and Challenges of Implementation

The main risks identified by IRM include:

- **Lack of institutional capacity:** Uneven technical and administrative capacities between institutions can slow down implementation;
- **Financial limitations:** Limited financial resources can affect the sustainability of reforms;
- **Poor monitoring and reporting:** Unreliable data collection and tracking performance can get in the way of assessing progress.

IRM offers strategic recommendations, including:

1. Strengthening inclusive participation, especially at the local level;
2. Improving coordination between public institutions;
3. Increasing ambition in future efforts, with a focus on systemic reforms;
4. Improving the monitoring framework through clear indicators and measurable milestones;

5. Ensuring sustainability through institutional and budget planning.

The IRM review concludes that Albania's OGP Action Plan 2023–2025 represents a meaningful continuation of open government reforms. While the co-creation process shows noticeable improvements, further efforts are needed to deepen participation, increase ambition, and ensure tangible impact. By addressing the identified gaps and implementing IRM's recommendations, Albania can strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in governance.³

Coordination of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Albania

The OGP process in Albania is governed by Prime Minister's Order No. 145, dated 20 December 2021, which establishes the legal and institutional framework for Albania's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative. This decision aims to ensure effective coordination, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of OGP commitments at the national level, in accordance with the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and inclusive governance.

Prime Minister's Order No. 145 designates the central public institution responsible for coordinating the OGP process and defines the roles and responsibilities of all participating institutions. It provides a clear governance structure for the drafting, implementation, and evaluation of National Action Plans, ensuring coherent inter-institutional cooperation and systematic involvement of civil society and other non-profit actors.

A key component of this order is the establishment of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC), which serves as the main advisory and decision-making body for the OGP process. The Committee is composed of representatives from public institutions, civil society organizations, independent institutions, and other relevant actors. Its mandate includes overseeing the co-creation process, approving strategic directions, monitoring the implementation of commitments, and ensuring transparency and inclusiveness throughout the OGP cycle.

The order also regulates the co-creation process by setting procedures for public consultation, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative drafting of the National Action Plans. It ensures that citizens, civil society, and other interested actors can

³ https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Albania_Action-Plan-Review_2023-2025_EN.pdf

contribute meaningfully to the development of commitments, thereby enhancing public ownership and the quality of reforms.

Additionally, the order establishes mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, including periodic progress reporting by responsible institutions and regular assessment of implementation results. These mechanisms aim to promote accountability, measure impact, and facilitate the continuous improvement of open government reforms.

Overall, Order No. 145 strengthens Albania's institutional capacity for the effective implementation of OGP commitments, promotes open and participatory governance, and supports broader national efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust in public institutions.

In accordance with Order No. 145 and the Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee for the Open Government Partnership, the Multi-Stakeholder Committee is composed of the members foreseen in Prime Minister's Order No. 145, dated 20 December 2021, as amended by Order No. 177, dated 28 October 2022, and is co-chaired by the Minister of State for Standards and Services (previously) and currently by the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption in the capacity of National Coordinator, as well as by a representative elected from among the civil society members of the Committee. This civil society representative is designated by the civil society members themselves and communicated at the Committee's first meeting, in accordance with Law No. 119/2015 "On the Establishment and Functioning of the National Council of Civil Society (NCCS)". The co-chairs prepare the meeting agendas by taking into account the members' proposals.

Committee leadership is exercised jointly by the two co-chairs, based on the principles of partnership, shared responsibility, transparency, and consensus-building. The Minister, in the capacity of government co-chair, holds the primary responsibility for institutional coordination and formal representation, while the civil society co-chair leads stakeholder engagement, participatory processes, and advocacy for openness and accountability.

Evaluation Methodology

The Self-Assessment Report is a mandatory reporting instrument within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). It aims to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based

assessment of the level of implementation of the commitments set out in the Action Plan. The methodology is based on systematic monitoring, data collection, stakeholder consultation, and performance analysis.

The methodology aims to:

- Assess **the level of implementation of each commitment** included in the Action Plan;
- Evaluate **the quality and effectiveness of the implementation measures**;
- Analyze **the results and initial impact** on transparency, citizen participation, accountability, and public service delivery;
- Identify **challenges, risks, and lessons learned** during the implementation process;
- Provide **evidence-based recommendations** for the improvement of future Action Plans.

Evaluation Criteria

Each commitment is assessed based on the Level of Implementation

COMPLETED	
LIMITED PROGRES	
NOT STARTED	

Civil Society Engagement

Civil society engagement has been a fundamental component of the design, implementation, and monitoring of Albania's OGP National Action Plan 2023–2025. Civil society organizations (CSOs), interest groups, academia, and other non-governmental stakeholders have been actively involved throughout all phases of the Action Plan cycle, contributing to a process that is inclusive, transparent, and participatory.

During the co-creation phase, civil society was engaged through public consultations, questionnaires, thematic meetings, and open discussions aimed at identifying priorities, formulating commitments, and defining concrete activities. CSO representatives actively participated in the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC), contributing to strategic guidance and ensuring adherence to OGP principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

During the implementation phase, civil society played an important role in monitoring progress, providing recommendations, conducting awareness-raising activities, and supporting public institutions in the delivery of specific commitments. Cooperation between institutions and CSOs contributed to improving the quality of interventions, strengthening transparency mechanisms, and enhancing public trust.

The monitoring and reporting process was accompanied by regular consultations with civil society representatives, who contributed to assessing implementation progress, identifying challenges, and formulating recommendations for improvement. This engagement supported accountability and continuous improvement in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Nevertheless, challenges remain in broadening the base of participation, particularly in engaging local organizations, youth groups, vulnerable communities, and stakeholders at the local level. Therefore, future OGP cycles will aim to intensify outreach efforts to ensure broader and more inclusive participation.

Communication

In order to provide consistent and comprehensive information on the reforms implemented under the OGP framework in Albania, and to raise public awareness of Open Government issues, OGP Albania initiated the development of the **OGP Albania Communication Strategy** in 2023.

The objectives of the Communication Strategy and its Action Plan is to increase:

- The awareness of civil servants, NGO sector, and the citizens on Open Government;
- The interest and involvement of target groups in the Open Government process;
- The involvement of more civil servants in the development of new Action Plans;
- The involvement of NGO sector and citizens in development and implementation of relevant policy documents.

To support these objectives, OGP Albania created its official website:

<https://ogp.gov.al/>. This page publishes complete information about the OGP,

Albania's participation in this initiative, and the activities of the Multistakeholder Committee, as well as key policy documents related to the OGP, ensuring transparency, accessibility, and timely information for the public.

OGP at the Local Level

OGP Local is a global initiative within the Open Government Partnership that supports municipalities in implementing the principles of open governance: transparency, citizen participation, accountability, and innovation in public services.

The Engagement of the Municipality of Tirana in the Open Government Partnership (OGP Local)

Tirana joined OGP Local in 2020 as the first municipality in Albania to be part of this network. Special structures were set up (working group, monitoring mechanism, multi-stakeholder forum) and civil society organizations, academia, and citizens were actively involved in co-creating the 2021–2023 Action Plan.

Main reforms include:

- The Open Data Tirana portal for increasing transparency;
- The “One-Stop-Shop” model for simplifying services;
- Digital applications like “My Tirana”, “Tirana XXL”, “Tirana Outdoor”, Student Card, etc.

The Action Plan aims to strengthen transparency (info corners), accountability (app for municipal councilors), and citizen participation, by institutionalizing dialogue and monitoring progress.

The Engagement of the Municipality of Elbasan in the Open Government Partnership (OGP Local)

The engagement process started in 2020 and was consolidated in 2024 through agreements with partner organizations for technical support and co-creation. An intersectoral working group was set up, and the **Open Government Partnership (OGP) Forum** was created as an inclusive structure for consultation, co-creation, and monitoring.

The forum includes local administration, civil society, the media, and citizens, and has contributed to the drafting of local plans (social, gender equality, integrity, urban waste, education, participatory budgeting).

The first OGP Action Plan 2025–2027 was officially published, with independent monitoring by civil society. This engagement is seen as a sustainable and replicable model for strengthening transparency, accountability, and citizen participation at the local level.

Essentially, both municipalities have institutionalized concrete mechanisms to make governance more open, transparent, and closer to citizens.

Implementation of Action Plan Commitments

Commitment No.1 “Awareness and Educating the General Public on Anti-Corruption Mechanisms”.

Summary	
The anti-corruption commitment focused on strengthening transparency, public awareness, and education on integrity mechanisms by providing accessible information, communication tools, and educational materials aimed at citizens, civil society, and public administration. Awareness campaigns, e-bulletins, guides, and cooperation with civil society organizations contributed to improving public understanding of reporting mechanisms, integrity instruments, and institutional responsibilities. The commitment also strengthened civic participation through joint implementation with civil society partners and introduced preventive tools such as integrity monitoring and corruption risk assessment methodologies within public institutions. Overall, the activities contributed to enhancing transparency, promoting citizen engagement in anti-corruption efforts, and reinforcing accountability through increased use and understanding of integrity mechanisms.	
Institution	Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of Anti-corruption ⁴
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
In Albania, open government is particularly important in the context of preventing and combating corruption, as corruption continues to undermine public trust in institutions and the quality of public services at both national and local level. Strengthening transparency, access to information, awareness raising and citizen engagement is essential to enable the public to understand how anti-corruption mechanisms function, how public institutions are held accountable, and how citizens can actively contribute to integrity in public life. In this context, open government efforts are not only a governance objective, but also a practical tool for empowering citizens, general public and civil society to detect, report and prevent corruption, thereby reinforcing trust and accountability in the public sector.	
The Government of Albania has identified the fight against corruption as a core governance reform priority, closely linked to its obligations under international anti-corruption instruments including UNCAC and Council of Europe conventions as well as to the requirements of the EU accession process. These commitments are operationalized at national level through the Inter-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy which places strong emphasis not only on prevention and enforcement, but also on public awareness, education and active citizen engagement as key	

⁴ At the time of drafting and adoption of the OGP NAP, the responsible institution was the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). However, following the change in the scope of its responsibilities and the establishment of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption (DPAK) as a separate public authority in June 2024, the monitoring and implementation of this plan became the responsibility of DPAK. Reporting was also undertaken by DPAK.

components of a sustainable integrity system. Strengthening public understanding of corruption risks, reporting mechanisms and citizens' rights is recognized as a strategic priority for building a culture of integrity and social intolerance toward corruption. Within this framework, the OGP National Action Plan 2023 - 2025 contributed by strengthening preventive, transparency-based and citizen-oriented approaches to integrity, complementing the broader national anti-corruption strategy.

This commitment therefore acts as a bridge between Albania's national anti-corruption strategy and the open government agenda, translating strategic objectives on integrity, transparency and awareness into concrete, citizen-focused OGP actions. The anti-corruption commitment of the OGP Action Plan, "*Raising public awareness and educating the general public on anti-corruption mechanisms*" directly supported the core OGP principles of transparency, civic participation and public accountability.

First, the commitment strengthens transparency by expanding public access to clear, practical and user-friendly information on how anti-corruption mechanisms function in practice. Through publications, anti-corruption materials, communication tools, e-bulletins, manuals, citizens and public officials are better informed about reporting channels, whistleblowing procedures, integrity instruments, investigation mechanisms and institutional responsibilities. This reduces information asymmetry between public institutions and the public, and makes the anti-corruption system more visible, understandable and accessible. **Second**, the commitment promotes civic participation by actively engaging citizens, civil society, and public officials in awareness-raising and educational activities. By educating the general public on their rights, on how to report corruption and how to engage with integrity mechanisms, the Action Plan enables people to move from passive observers to active participants in preventing and exposing corruption. Civil society organizations, schools, universities and professional groups become partners in disseminating information, building knowledge and fostering a culture of integrity. **Third**, the commitment reinforces public accountability by empowering both citizens and public servants to use integrity mechanisms and reporting tools effectively. Awareness and education on the fight against corruption focused in various instrument as the: whistleblowing, conflict of interest, integrity plans, investigation procedures and monitoring methodologies increases the likelihood that wrongdoing is reported, followed up and addressed. At the same time, capacity-building and training of public administration staff improve institutional compliance with anti-corruption rules and strengthen internal accountability mechanisms. By combining public awareness, education and institutional capacity-building, the OGP anti-corruption commitment supports a more open, transparent and accountable governance system, in which anti-corruption is not only enforced by institutions but also actively supported and monitored by an informed and engaged society.

Action Plan Process

Albania applied a structured, inclusive and transparent co-creation process for the development of the OGP National Action Plan 2023 - 2025. The process was conducted in line with the calendar and methodology approved by the OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum and ensured the early and meaningful involvement of civil society, academia, public institutions and other interested stakeholders.

For the anti-corruption commitment "*Raising public awareness and educating the general public on anti-corruption mechanisms*", the institution responsible for the commitment at that time

(through the Directorate of Anti-Corruption) launched an open call for inputs in December 2022 through an online questionnaire aimed at identifying priority policy goals and stakeholder roles. The questionnaire was distributed via email and published on the official websites of the Ministry of Justice and OGP Albania, and was supported by intensive outreach through direct communication and public announcements. This was followed by a series of open online consultation meetings in January and February 2023. On 12 and 17 January 2023, stakeholders from civil society organizations, academia, line ministries and interested actors discussed and validated the proposed anti-corruption awareness and education objectives, and confirmed their interest in contributing to the OGP commitments. Approximately 70 stakeholders were invited and 27 actively participated in the first consultation phase, providing feedback and guidance for refining the commitments.

During the second phase of co-creation of the action plan, on 21 and 24 February 2023, the institution responsible for the commitment presented draft objectives, milestones and outputs for the anti-corruption component and invited concrete proposals from civil society organizations. These consultations resulted in the integration of several CSO proposals, including the addition of a specific objective focused on the education and awareness of public administration staff on integrity and anti-corruption mechanisms, as proposed by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation Albania and ALTRI Centre.

All draft documents, consultation reports, agendas and stakeholder inputs were formally documented and submitted to the OGP Multi-Stakeholder Forum Secretariat, ensuring full transparency and traceability of the co-creation process.

Participation of the stakeholder did not end with the adoption of the Action Plan. The anti-corruption commitment was designed as a co-implementation framework, in which civil society, public institutions and other stakeholders continue to play an active role throughout delivery.

Civil society organizations that contributed during co-creation (including IDM Albania, ALTRI, Helsinki Committee of Albania, and others) are directly involved in implementing activities such as public awareness campaigns, citizen education, monitoring instruments for integrity plans, and training programs. The commitment includes concrete products such as anti-corruption publications, communication materials, videos, e-bulletins, manuals, monitoring methodologies and integrity instruments, many of which are delivered jointly with or by non-governmental partners

Public administration staff are also engaged both as beneficiaries and as implementers, particularly through the third specific objective added during consultations: education and awareness of public officials on anti-corruption and integrity frameworks. This ensures that participation is embedded not only in public outreach but also in strengthening internal accountability and institutional compliance.

Continuous communication channels (email, websites, social media of the Directorate of Anti-Corruption and OGP Albania, and dedicated online meetings) are used to maintain dialogue,

collect feedback and coordinate implementation with stakeholders throughout the OGP cycle of implementation.

In more details: Citizen and public participation to the OGP Action Plan, commitment no.1, was ensured through a wide range of open communication and outreach channels, including:

- regular publication of anti-corruption videos, posters and messages on social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram);
- monthly publication of the e-bulletin “Anti-corruption”, reaching citizens, civil society and public officials with up-to-date information on anti-corruption mechanisms, legislation and institutional activities;
- public forums with businesses, professional chambers and sectoral stakeholders, aimed at promoting reporting and integrity in areas with high corruption risk (e.g. public procurement).

These tools enabled two-way communication: institutions informed the public, while citizens and stakeholders were encouraged to engage, ask questions, and report concerns. Civil society organizations were not only consulted but actively involved in delivery of the results. Let’s mention:

- ALTRI Centre partnered with Directorate of Anticorruption to establish the National Network of CSOs against Corruption, which now serves as a permanent platform for information exchange, consultation and joint action in anti-corruption policy and monitoring.
- IDM Albania implemented the monitoring of integrity plans in key institutions (HJC, MoHSP, PHI, IDP and Parliament of Albania) and publicly presented the findings through roundtables and reports, which were formally followed up by Directorate of Anticorruption.

In parallel, students became active participants through the “Education against corruption” program implemented in 12 secondary schools across Albania, creating a new generation of integrity ambassadors and linking civic education directly to OGP goals.

The third priority measure (education and awareness of public administration in the fight against corruption) was also implemented in a participatory manner. Civil society organizations monitored integrity plans and discussed their findings with institutions in open roundtables, while Directorate of Anticorruption initiated the development of a national corruption risk assessment methodology as a shared tool for institutions and external partners to identify vulnerabilities and strengthen accountability

The OGP process for this commitment complies with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards by ensuring:

- Early and ongoing engagement through open questionnaires, public announcements and multiple consultation rounds before commitments were finalized.

- Inclusiveness and diversity by involving civil society organizations, academia, independent experts, line ministries and other stakeholders, with open calls and targeted outreach.
- Transparency through the publication of questionnaires, draft plans, consultation reports and meeting information on official websites and OGP Albania.
- Feedback loops, whereby stakeholder proposals (notably on public administration education and integrity monitoring) were reviewed, accepted and integrated into the final Action Plan.
- Ongoing participation during implementation, with CSOs and public institutions continuing to jointly deliver awareness, education and integrity-building activities.

Through this structured and participatory approach, Albania ensured that the anti-corruption awareness commitment of the OGP Action Plan is not only government-owned, but genuinely co-created and co-implemented with society.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The Government of Albania used the findings and recommendations of the IRM Action Plan Review for the 2020 - 2022 cycle as a key reference point in designing and implementing the OGP National Action Plan 2023 - 2025.

The IRM review highlighted five main areas requiring improvement:

- (1) the lack of a formal multi-stakeholder forum.
- (2) limited and late-stage civil society engagement.
- (3) weak feedback and “reasoned response” mechanisms.
- (4) commitments largely derived from pre-existing government initiatives rather than from participatory priority-setting, and
- (5) the need for clearer, more verifiable and results-oriented commitments.

These lessons were systematically taken into account in the 2023–2025 action plan cycle of co-creation.

First, the government addressed the absence of a multi-stakeholder forum by establishing and operationalizing the OGP Multi-Stakeholder Committee, which provided formal oversight of both the co-creation and implementation phases. Unlike the previous cycle, where no evidence existed that a forum discussed OGP matters, this body approved the OGP calendar, validated commitments and received full documentation of consultations and implementation.

Second, to respond to the IRM’s criticism of limited and late-stage participation, the 2023-2025 process introduced early, open and structured engagement. A public survey to identify priorities was launched before any commitments were finalized, followed by multiple consultation meetings in January and February 2023, ensuring that civil society, academia and other stakeholders could influence not only the content but also the scope and design of commitments.

Third, the IRM recommendation to improve feedback loops and reasoned responses was operationalized through the systematic production and publication of consultation reports, meeting agendas, draft commitments and consolidated matrices of comments and responses.

These materials were submitted to the Multi-Stakeholder Committee and made available through OGP Albania, ensuring that stakeholders could clearly see how their inputs were reflected in the final Action Plan, directly addressing the IRM finding that feedback in the previous cycle was unclear and inconsistent.

Fourth, the government acted on the IRM finding that previous commitments were mostly pre-planned reforms, by allowing civil society organizations to add, modify and shape concrete objectives and activities. In the anti-corruption commitment, for example, civil society proposals led to the inclusion of a third pillar on education and awareness of public administration, as well as joint monitoring of integrity instruments in order to transform the commitment from a government to a co-created reform.

Fifth, responding to IRM concerns about ambition, verifiability and results, the 2023 - 2025 Action Plan adopted a more structured design with clear milestones, products and responsibilities, particularly in areas that IRM previously assessed as promising, such as integrity mechanisms, public participation and anti-corruption monitoring. The anti-corruption awareness and education commitment was designed as a multi-year, multi-actor reform with concrete outputs (e-bulletins, manuals, education programs, monitoring reports, digital tools), allowing for systematic tracking of progress and outcomes.

In addition, during implementation, the government directly applied IRM recommendations on meaningful civil society participation by embedding CSOs as co-implementers, monitors and partners (e.g. ALTRI, IDM Albania and others), rather than treating participation as a one-off consultation. This responds to the IRM's warning that engagement should not become a "tick-box exercise" but must demonstrate how contributions are incorporated into monitoring and evaluation.

Through these changes, Albania used the IRM findings not only as a diagnostic tool but as a roadmap for reforming both the process and the substance of the OGP cycle 2023 - 2025, resulting in a more participatory, transparent and results-oriented Action Plan.

Assessment of the Commitments

Completed
severe deficiencies



Limited progress



Not started/With



Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
1. Raising public awareness of the		Activity 1.1.1	This measure is assessed	Sustain and professional

mechanisms in the fight against corruption		2023 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 13; 132)	as substantial progress because most of the planned awareness-raising activities were delivered and generated continuous public outreach during 2023-2025.	ze digital and public communication on anti-corruption by moving from campaign-based outreach to a permanent, data-driven communication strategy, including improved use of social media, websites and e-bulletins.
Expected outputs/activity:		https://www.drejt.esia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Raporti-i-monitorimit-SNKK-Janar-Dhjetor-2023_AL-1.pdf		
1.1.1		Activity 1.1.2		
1.1.2		Facebook https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089045846232	The Directorate of Anti-Corruption regularly disseminated anti-corruption information through social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram), official websites and targeted communication campaigns, ensuring that citizens had ongoing access to information on reporting mechanisms, integrity instruments and institutional responsibilities	
1.2.1		LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/88693364/admin/dashboard/)		
1.3.1		Activity 1.2.1		
1.4.1		https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10008904584623 ;		
1.5.1		https://twitter.com/DrejtoriaAK ;		
		https://www.linkedin.com/company/88693364/		
		https://www.instagram.com/drejtoria		

		aepergjithshmeak?igsh=aDNqbjY3OGsxOGNs Activity 1.3.1 https://www.drejt.esia.gov.al/e-buletin/ https://antikorrupsioni.gov.al/lista-buletineve/ Activity 1.4.1 https://drejtesia.gov.al/legjislacioni-i-brendshem-2/akte-nenligjore/ https://drejtesia.gov.al/legjislacioni-i-brendshem-2/akte-nenligjore/ https://drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/PLANI-ANALITIK-I-AKTEVE-2023.pdf Activity 1.5.1	In addition, the monthly “Anti-corruption” e-bulletin was consistently published and made publicly available, providing structured and up-to-date information on legislation, institutional actions and anti-corruption tools. The development and publication of sub-legal acts, analytical plans and supporting materials further strengthened the visibility and understanding of anti-corruption mechanisms. Evidence from the 2023 and 2024 Strategy Monitoring Reports confirms that these outputs were implemented as planned and integrated into the broader anti-corruption framework,	
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		2023 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 132) https://www.drejt.esia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Raporti-i-monitorimit-SNKK-Janar-Dhjetor-2023_AL-1.pdf 2024 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 97) https://antikorrupsioni.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/RAPORT-MONITORIMI-PV-SNKK-2024-miratuar.pdf Activity 1.6.2 2023 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 135 e 136) https://www.drejt.esia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Raporti-i-monitorimit-SNKK-Janar-Dhjetor-2023_AL-1.pdf 2024 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 103 e 105)	justifying a positive (green/amber) assessment for this measure.		
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		https://antikorruptsioni.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/RAPORT-MONITORIMI-PV-SNKK-2024-miraturar.pdf		
2. Educating the general public on anti-corruption mechanisms		Activity 2.1.1 https://drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Fjalori_Antikorruption_EN.pdf	This measure is assessed as substantial progress because the planned education and outreach tools for citizens were largely delivered and made publicly accessible. Key awareness and learning materials, such as the Anti-Corruption Glossary and the Citizen's Anti-Corruption Guide, were produced and disseminated through official platforms and social media, providing the public with practical and user-friendly explanations of corruption risks, reporting channels and institutional	Move from general information to more targeted and interactive citizen education, focusing on high-risk groups and sectors (e.g. procurement users, business operators, youth, local communities)
2.1.1				
2.2.1		https://www.linkedin.com/company/88693364/admin/feed/posts/		
2.3.1		https://lnkd.in/eAQBspC8		
2.4.1		https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089045846232		
2.5.1				
2.5.2				
2.5.3		Activity 2.2.1 https://drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Guida_Antikorruptioni_EN.pdf		Further develop the National CSO Network against Corruption as a permanent platform for public education, feedback and citizen engagement in integrity
		Activity 2.3.1 2023 Strategy Monitoring Report		

		(Pg 137 e 138) https://www.drejt.esia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Raporti-i-monitorimit-SNKK-Janar-Dhjetor-2023_AL-1.pdf 2024 Strategy Monitoring Report (pg 97, 100, 101) https://antikorrupsioni.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/RAPORT-MONITORIMI-PV-SNKK-2024-miratuar.pdf Activity 2.4.1 Meetings delivered by IDM on January 2023) with IDP staff and on February 2023, with MoHSP staff Activities 2.5., 2.5.2 and 2.5.3 https://rrjetiantikorrupsion.al	responsibilities In addition, the implementation of public awareness and education activities through civil society partners, including the establishment and operation of the National CSO Network against Corruption, expanded the reach of anti-corruption education beyond government channels. Evidence from the 2023 and 2024 Strategy Monitoring Reports, as well as the publicly available platforms and campaigns, confirms that these tools were actively used to engage citizens and improve their understanding of how anti-corruption mechanisms work in practice,	and anti-corruption reforms.	
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			justifying a positive (green/amber) assessment.	
3. Awareness-raising and education of the public administration on anti-corruption mechanisms		Activity 3.1.1 and 3.2.2- 3.2.3 and 3.3.1	This measure is assessed as substantial progress because the planned capacity-building and integrity-strengthening activities for public officials were implemented and supported by concrete institutional tools.	Institutionalize training and integrity tools by integrating corruption risk assessment, integrity plans and monitoring into regular public administration procedures and training curricula.
3.1.1		Meetings of October – November 2024 delivered by IDM on integrity capacities of the staff of 5 institutions.	Targeted trainings and integrity capacity-building sessions were delivered to staff of key public institutions, supported by civil society expertise (IDM Albania and ALTRI Centre), and complemented by the monitoring of integrity plans and public presentation of findings.	Ensure that the CRA methodology, integrity monitoring and perception-measurement tools are fully operationalized and used systematically by institutions and civil society for preventive and accountability purposes.
3.2.1				
3.2.2				
3.2.3		https://idmalbania.org/sq/indeksi-i-integritetit-te-institucioneve-publike-janar-2024/		
3.3.1				
3.4.1				
3.4.2		Activity 3.4.1 and 3.4.2		
3.5.1		https://antikorrupSIONI.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Metodologjia-e-CRA_28.3-final.pdf		
3.6.1		Activity 3.5.1		

		https://altri.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Draft-Metodologjia-mbi-matjen-e-perceptimit-te-publikut-Versione-konsultim-me-MAPA.pdf Activity 3.6.1 https://rrjetiantikorruption.al/trajnim-i-trajnerëve-metodologjia-e-vleresimi-te-riskut-te-korrupsionit/ semi-annual strategy report (pg 44)	In parallel, the development and adoption of the Corruption Risk Assessment Methodology and related training of trainers created a sustainable framework for identifying vulnerabilities and strengthening internal accountability within public institutions. Evidence from the 2023 and 2024 Strategy Monitoring Reports, as well as the published methodologies and training activities, demonstrates that this component moved beyond awareness-raising to the institutionalization of preventive and analytical anti-corruption tools, justifying a positive	
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			(green/amber) assessment.		
Lessons and Insights					
The implementation of the anti-corruption commitment under Albania's OGP National Action Plan 2023 - 2025 during the implementation time has generated a number of important lessons for both the design and delivery of open government reforms. 1. <i>Awareness and communication tools are powerful entry points for participation</i> .One of the most significant insights is that simple, regular and accessible communication tools, such as social media, posters, videos and especially the monthly “<i>Anti-corruption</i>” e-bulletin, proved highly effective in reaching citizens and keeping anti-corruption mechanisms visible. The steady increase in digital communication channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and the Minister's and Anticorruption Directorate platforms) enabled continuous two-way interaction and strengthened public awareness of reporting channels and institutional responsibilities Lesson learned: Open government works best when transparency is delivered through multiple, user-friendly channels rather than through one-off publications. 2. <i>Co-implementation with civil society significantly increases impact</i>. The collaboration with ALTRI Centre and IDM Albania demonstrated that civil society can play a decisive role not only in consultation, but also in delivery, monitoring and outreach. The establishment of the National CSO Network against Corruption, the monitoring of integrity plans in five key institutions, and the public presentation of findings created real accountability loops between institutions and society Lesson learned: When CSOs are treated as partners rather than beneficiaries, OGP commitments become more credible, more visible and more sustainable. 3. <i>Education of youth creates long-term value</i> .The program “<i>Education against corruption</i>” implemented in 12 secondary schools across Albania showed that young people are highly receptive and motivated to engage with integrity and anti-corruption values. The involvement of schools, teachers and international partners (e.g. Guardia di Finanza mission of Italy) created a new constituency for open government and integrity Lesson learned: Investing in youth-focused integrity education strengthens the long-term social foundations of open government and anti-corruption reforms. 4. <i>Monitoring and data tools need stronger digital support</i>. While important progress was made in monitoring integrity plans and producing analytical tools, the digital platform for the CSO network and the perception-measurement methodology remain incomplete or under-utilized					

Lesson learned: The next OGP cycle should prioritize digital infrastructure for data, monitoring and citizen feedback, to make participation more systematic and measurable.

In conclusion: The 2023-2025 cycle demonstrated that awareness-raising, education and co-implementation are highly effective vehicles for advancing open government in the anti-corruption field. At the same time, it showed that institutional stability, digital tools and sustained CSOs engagement are essential for turning openness into lasting accountability.

Recommendations

Based on the implementation of the anti-corruption commitment under the OGP National Action Plan 2023 - 2025, several critical actions and adjustments are needed to consolidate results and ensure sustainable impact. In more concrete:

1. Move from awareness to behavior change and impact measurement Communication and education activities have reached wide audiences, but systematic measurement of their impact (e.g. changes in reporting, perception, behavior) should be improved and focus on actual use of anti-corruption mechanisms.
2. Deepen co-implementation with civil society and the private sector The collaboration with ALTRI Centre, IDM Albania and business chambers proved highly effective and should become structural rather than project-based.
3. Focus on high-risk sectors of corruption OGP commitments should be targeted at sectors where corruption has the greatest impact, such as: public procurement, public service delivery (taxes and customs), health, education, property and land administration. This will ensure that open government reforms generate tangible anti-corruption results.
4. Institutionalize civil society monitoring Civil society organizations should move from *ad-hoc* partners to formal accountability actors with: defined monitoring roles, access to relevant data, and a place in reviewing integrity plans and reform implementation.

Overall recommendation : The new phase of Albania's OGP anti-corruption commitments (preparation of new OGP Action Plan) should shift from broad awareness-raising to deeper, data-driven and digitally supported accountability, anchored in strong institutions and long-term partnerships with civil society and citizens. This will ensure that open government continues to function as a core pillar of Albania's anti-corruption and EU accession reforms, rather than as a stand-alone initiative.

Commitment No.2 *“Raising the awareness of reporting entities regarding the obligation to register and to update previously registered data”.*

Commitment No.3 *“Evaluating the best practices of European Union countries concerning the process of registering beneficial ownership data”.*

Commitment No.4 *“Evaluating the best practices of European Union countries concerning the process of registering beneficial ownership data”.*

Summary

Within the OGP Action Plan 2023–2025, the National Business Center implemented a set of commitments aimed at strengthening transparency, improving the accuracy and reliability of beneficial ownership data, and enhancing institutional accountability. The activities focused on raising awareness among reporting entities regarding their legal obligations, promoting alignment with European Union best practices on beneficial ownership registration, and initiating the revision of the legal framework governing the beneficial ownership register.

During the implementation period, progress was achieved through continuous awareness-raising activities, dissemination of information through digital channels, stakeholder meetings, and the provision of practical guidance to reporting entities. Communication tools such as website notifications, instructional materials, and automated notifications through the e-Albania platform supported compliance and improved understanding of reporting requirements. In parallel, the institution contributed to interinstitutional efforts aimed at revising the legal framework in line with EU acquis and anti-money laundering standards.

Overall, the commitments contributed to improving transparency in business ownership structures, strengthening preventive mechanisms against money laundering, and reinforcing public trust through clearer procedures, improved data quality, and enhanced institutional cooperation, in line with the OGP principles of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability.

Institution	National Bussiness Center
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

Within the framework of the OGP Action Plan, the institution has undertaken three main commitments aimed at improving open government at the national level. These commitments are aligned with the governance reform priorities, addressing the need to enhance transparency, strengthen stakeholder participation, and improve public accountability. Specifically, the commitments of the National Business Center are as follows:

Commitment 2: Raising the awareness of reporting entities regarding the obligation to register and to update previously registered data;

Commitment 3: Evaluating the best practices of European Union countries concerning the process of registering beneficial ownership data;

Commitment 4: Revising the legislation related to the registration of beneficial ownership data, as part of improving the procedures followed for registering beneficial owners' information.

Consequently, the national OGP Action Plan is essential for strengthening transparency, preventing corruption, and increasing public trust in state institutions. A particularly important area is transparency regarding beneficial ownership, which plays a key role in combating money laundering. Improving the legal framework, procedures, and institutional capacities in this area directly contributes to enhancing accountability and institutional integrity.

The institution's commitments are directly linked to the core principles of the OGP:

Transparency is strengthened through improvements in the quality, accuracy, and updating of beneficial ownership data, as well as alignment with best practices from the European Union.

Civic participation is indirectly supported by creating a more transparent and trustworthy environment, enabling better public oversight by citizens, civil society, and the media.

Public accountability is enhanced through the strengthening of the legal and procedural framework, establishing clearer obligations for reporting entities, and improving monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Action Plan Process

Within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and its Action Plan, the National Business Center (NBC) has engaged reporting entities and other relevant stakeholders from the drafting phase of OGP commitments and continues to do so during implementation, particularly through information dissemination, consultation, and raising awareness regarding the registration and updating of beneficial ownership data. Specifically:

In line with improving the services it provides and in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 112/2020 "On the Register of Beneficial Owners", as amended, the National Business Center has organized an informational meeting with stakeholders to clarify that reporting entities are now required to perform the initial registration of beneficial ownership data simultaneously with the registration of the legal entity in the Commercial Registry. These meetings also provide stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss and present practical cases related to the registration of beneficial ownership data.

In fulfillment of its OGP commitments, the National Business Center continuously publishes, in the form of pop-up notifications on its official website, information on the legal obligation to register or update beneficial owner data, the relevant procedures, and reporting deadlines for reporting entities. Furthermore, the official NBC website provides the procedure for the initial

registration of beneficial owners, as well as the application for updating beneficial owner data. The link: <https://qkb.gov.al/>. Following the approval of each application in the Commercial Registry, whether for initial registration or for changes in ownership quotas, commercial entities are automatically notified of their obligation to register or update beneficial ownership data via the e-Albania government portal, specifically: In the “My Messages” section, through messages sent to the phone number registered on the e-Albania portal, through e-mail, to the address registered on the e-Albania portal.

On the official website of the National Business Center, to facilitate the process of completing the application for initial registration or updating of beneficial owner data, as well as to raise awareness among reporting entities, illustrative videos are available demonstrating how to complete the application for both initial registration and updating of beneficial owner data. The link: <https://qkb.gov.al/>.

The National Business Center is in the process of evaluating a revision of Law No. 112/2020 “On the Beneficial Owner”. The NBC has participated in meetings regarding the potential legal amendments requested.

Use of IRM Recommendations

Based on the recommendations of the latest IRM report, the National Business Center will continue its engagement not only through participation in international panels to share best practices with other countries regarding beneficial ownership, but also through discussions and the development of activities of this nature with reporting entities and relevant interest groups.

The National Business Center (NBC) is continuously engaged in raising awareness among entities regarding their obligations related to the registration of beneficial ownership. In this context, the NBC provides direct assistance, including meetings with entities that have uncertainties or shortcomings in their understanding and application of the relevant legislation.

In addition, informational pop-up notifications have been introduced on the NBC’s official website, as well as within entities’ user accounts on the e-Albania portal. To further enhance communication and provide real-time support, the NBC has established a chat feature on its official website, through which entities receive guidance on any uncertainties and are directed toward appropriate solutions.

Meanwhile, with regard to the third commitment concerning the review of Law No. 112/2020 “On the Beneficial Owner,” we would like to inform you that, pursuant to Prime Minister’s Order No. 222, dated 26.11.2025, “On the Establishment of the Interinstitutional Working Group for the Alignment of the Legal Framework in the Field of Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing with the EU acquis,” the National Business Center is a member of this interinstitutional working group.

In this context, the National Business Center has worked on the first draft of amendments to Law No. 112/2020 “On the Register of Beneficial Owners,” as well as on the compliance table, completed in all sections and submitted to the technical secretariat in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned order.

Assessment of the Commitments				
 Completed  Limited progress  Not started/With severe delays				
Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Commitment 2: Raising the awareness of reporting entities regarding the obligation to register and to update previously registered data				The National Business Center (NBC) is continuously engaged in raising awareness among subjects regarding their obligations related to the registration of BO-
Commitment 3: Raising awareness of the reporting entities regarding the beneficial owners' registration and data update obligation				National Business Center will continue its engagement not only through participation in international panels to share best practices with other countries regarding beneficial

				ownership, but also through discussions and the development of activities of this nature with reporting entities and relevant interest groups
Commitment 4: Review the legislation in beneficial owners' registration				The National Business Center is in the process of evaluating a revision of Law No. 112/2020 "On the Beneficial Owner".

Lessons and Insights

The implementation of the action plan confirmed that effective beneficial ownership transparency depends on the availability of accurate, up-to-date, and verifiable data. For the National Business Center, the development and maintenance of the beneficial ownership register highlighted the importance of sustainable data validation mechanisms, clear reporting obligations, and inter-institutional data exchange. Continuous improvements to ensure the regular updating of beneficial ownership data were identified as essential for maintaining transparency and compliance with open government standards.

Recommendations

The National Business Center should continue its efforts to fulfill its three OGP commitments. This includes organizing meetings with civil society to inform and raise awareness about the role of beneficial owners, as well as the importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date data. Additionally, a draft amendment to the Beneficial Ownership Law has been submitted,

representing a key step in advancing one of the OGP commitments. Finalizing this legislative change remains a critical priority to ensure the full implementation of the planned actions.

Commitment No.5 *“Awareness and Education of the General Public on mechanisms in the fights against corruption ents”.*

Summary	
Commitment No.5 focused on increasing public awareness and legal education regarding access to justice mechanisms, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups and children. Implementation was carried out primarily through the Free Legal Aid Directorate (DNJF), the National Chamber of Mediation, and QPKMR, providing extensive information on free legal aid, mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, and child-friendly justice. The accessibility of information was improved through sign language, child-friendly formats, Braille, and visual materials. In addition, field awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes in schools were conducted, along with open forums for citizens. Overall, commitment achieved substantial progress in public information and legal empowerment.	
Institution	Ministry of Justice
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
Within the framework of Albania’s commitments under the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Ministry of Justice has continued to implement with dedication the measures envisaged under the component “Access to Justice, Public Information and Education.” This component is of particular importance for strengthening citizens’ rights, especially those of the most vulnerable groups in society, by ensuring transparency, inclusion, and legal empowerment. Its objective is to build a justice system that is as inclusive, equitable, and accessible as possible, through information, legal education, and the provision of quality services. The Ministry of Justice implements the measures and activities provided for in the OGP Action Plan through the Free Legal Aid Directorate (FLAD), the National Chamber of Mediation, and the Center for the Prevention of Crimes of Minors and Youth (CPCMY). Free Legal Aid Directorate (FLAD) – State-guaranteed legal aid constitutes one of the most fundamental forms of access to justice that every state must ensure in an efficient and effective manner as a constitutional obligation. The primary objective of this law is to provide free legal aid to all categories of beneficiaries stipulated in the law on free legal aid, giving priority to vulnerable groups as direct beneficiaries of the free legal aid system, as well as to persons with insufficient income. The Free Legal Aid Directorate cooperates with international organizations, legal clinics, and domestic and foreign non-profit organizations in the development of the legal aid system, through public awareness-raising and legal education. On a monthly basis, the Directorate approves the Calendar of Awareness-Raising Activities, with themes dedicated to the twelve (12) beneficiary categories set out in Law No. 111/2017, with particular emphasis on specific groups.	

Within the OGP framework, the Free Legal Aid Directorate has prepared and published information in sign language and in plain, child-friendly language on child-friendly justice services and free legal aid; has increased public awareness of citizens' rights; has organized information campaigns in areas with at-risk children; and has developed materials adapted with graphics, symbols, and signs, based on the assessment of citizens' priority needs.

National Chamber of Mediation aims to guarantee citizens a high-quality and professional service, serving as an alternative mechanism for the out-of-court resolution of conflicts and disputes, at low cost, within a short time frame, and in a confidential manner.

In this context, the National Chamber of Mediators has ensured quality and confidential services for the out-of-court settlement of disputes, with a particular focus on children and vulnerable groups. It has prepared and published accessible and child-friendly information, increased awareness of free mediation services, and organized information campaigns both online and in the field.

Center for the Prevention of Crimes of Minors and Youth (CPCMY), whose primary mandate is the prevention of crimes committed by minors and young people, as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of minors into society. The Center has initiated activities aimed at raising awareness among the general public and increasing citizens' access to justice through Legal Education. The purpose of this campaign is to inform minors by familiarizing them with the principles of juvenile criminal justice, as well as with the preventive, rehabilitative, and reintegration programs developed by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with CPCMY.

Furthermore, CPCMY has prepared manuals, brochures, and magazines in order to assist not only minors, but also teachers, school safety officers, parents, and any professional or citizen interested in this type of information. This information is easily accessible through social media and the official website, and hard copies have also been distributed to institutions and organizations focusing on minors and young people, as well as to schools where legal education activities have been implemented to date.

Action Plan Process

The Ministry of Justice, for its component, has been guided by a comprehensive approach throughout the OGP cycle, from co-creation of the Action Plan to its implementation and monitoring. The drafting process included consultations with civil society actors, non-profit organizations, public institutions, justice sector professionals and relevant stakeholders, ensuring access to information, opportunities for public input and transparency in the selection of engagements. During implementation, participation has been maintained through cooperation with local and international organizations, legal clinics and specialized structures, actively involving citizens and vulnerable groups through awareness-raising campaigns, legal education and direct service provision. This approach is fully in line with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, particularly with regard to transparency, inclusion, ongoing dialogue and accountability.

Use of IRM Recommendations

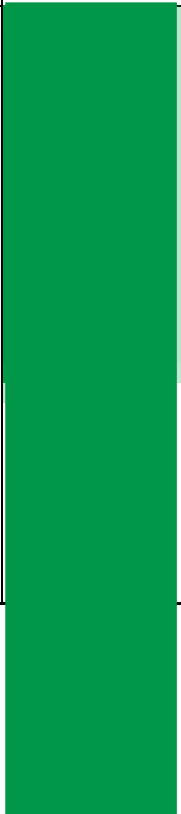
The key recommendations of the IRM were applied to improve both the co-creation and implementation of the Action Plan as follows:

1. Strengthening the involvement of civil society and non-governmental stakeholders in planning and monitoring;
2. Clarifying the objectives and expected results of each commitment;
3. Increasing focus on vulnerable groups and ensuring effective access to justice;
4. Enhancing public communication through accessible materials (plain language, sign language, and child-friendly formats); and
5. Reinforcing mechanisms for tracking and reporting progress.

These measures were practically implemented through awareness campaigns, inter-institutional cooperation, and active citizen engagement during the Action Plan's execution.

Assessment of the Commitments

 Completed
  Limited progress
  Not started/With severe delays

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Awareness-raising campaigns on the Law on Free Legal Aid, including the use of leaflets, meetings, and joint institutional activities.		FLAD implemented a total of 549 awareness-raising and informative activities aimed at increasing public understanding of free legal aid. As part of these efforts, informative leaflets on free	Raising public awareness on the Law on Free Legal Aid is essential to ensure effective access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups who may be unaware of their rights and available legal aid services. Continuous awareness-raising	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue implementing awareness-raising campaigns on the Law on Free Legal Aid through the distribution of informative

		legal aid were prepared and distributed, including materials specifically tailored to particular beneficiary categories. Furthermore, FLAD carried out joint activities in cooperation with key national institutions and international organizations, strengthening institutional coordination and further enhancing public awareness and access to free legal aid services .	campaigns are necessary to address information gaps, strengthen public trust in institutions, and promote the consistent use of free legal aid mechanisms. The use of diverse tools, such as leaflets, meetings, and joint institutional activities, ensures wider outreach, clear understanding, and improved accessibility of information for all target groups.	materials, organization of meetings, and joint activities with national and international partners, with the aim of strengthening public awareness, institutional cooperation, and effective access to free legal aid services for all beneficiaries.	
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Preparation of information in sign language about the services of friends for children from each institution and publications on the official website of each institution.		1. On the the National Mediation Chamber website, a video with text and photos, an information manual, on how to choose a MEDIATOR “What is Mediation? How to benefit from it and who benefits from it”. Also, a video for the deaf and dumb and in the languages of minorities (Slavic, Roma and Greek) has been prepared and published https://dhkn.gov.al/; 2. Trainings have been carried out in several cities of Albania, in cooperation with the independent justice institutions and the General Directorate of Police, within the framework of the project	Updating materials in plain language and child-friendly formats is necessary due to legislative changes, other relevant legal acts, and recommendations from international documents. This measure should be maintained consistently to ensure that children understand the information provided and are engaged with their rights and available services. Materials should be published, and their use should be ensured through other forms such as brochures, posters, and similar tools for information, ensuring broad accessibility and awareness. Providing information in sign language and accessible formats for children with	The National Mediation Chamber will continue updating information in sign language about child-friendly services, ensuring accessibility and inclusion for all children. The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue strengthening cooperation with specialized organizations and institutional partners to prepare and publish information in sign language and other accessible formats, including Braille, on its official website and through outreach	
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		“Increasing and strengthening Mediation in Albania” EmPoMe with donor ADA. 3. Cooperation agreements have been implemented with the Probation Service, the Free Legal Aid Directorate and the Police. In this framework, several trainings have been held in several cities of Albania . 4. Resolved 134 cases through mediation referred by the Free Legal Aid Directorate with the support of ADA and in collaboration with the EmPoMe Project “How to Obtain Free Legal Aid through Mediation”.	disabilities is essential to ensure equal access to free legal aid services and the effective realization of children’s rights. Such measures respond to the specific needs of deaf, hard-of-hearing, and visually impaired children, while aligning with principles of inclusion, non-discrimination, and accessibility. Continuous preparation and dissemination of adapted materials are necessary to reflect legislative developments, institutional practices, and international recommendations, ensuring that information remains understandable, child-friendly, and usable in practice. All audiovisual materials available on the Center’s	activities, with the aim of ensuring inclusive, child-friendly, and equal access to free legal aid services for all children. We will translate into sign language all other materials that will be published by the Center	
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		FLAD through cooperation with ANAD, has enabled the provision of accessible information in sign language, as well as training for the deaf community on access to free legal aid services. The Free Legal Aid Directorate (with the support of the OSCE) has undertaken a concrete and symbolic step: the preparation and distribution of the manual <i>“How to Benefit from Free Legal Aid”</i> in Braille. This manual was accompanied by informative activities carried out in cooperation	website have been translated		
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		with Associations of the Blind at the local level. The Center has translated all audiovisual materials into sign language. The materials are published at the following link: https://qpkmr.gov.al/publikime/			
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Informing and raising awareness of subjects of the law “On the resolution of disputes in the Republic of Albania” about their rights to assistance and access to institutions that can resolve their disputes.		The National Chamber of Mediation has carried out activities to inform and raise awareness among beneficiaries of the law about their rights to resolve disputes across the entire national territory. This includes providing information on available institutional mechanisms for dispute resolution, promoting free mediation services, and ensuring that citizens, including children and vulnerable groups, understand how to access these services to resolve their conflicts efficiently and fairly. Furthermore, all information related to the	The National Mediation Chamber will continue to ensure that information and awareness efforts effectively reach all citizens, especially children and vulnerable groups, by identifying gaps in coverage, improving outreach strategies, and guiding future improvements in mediation and dispute resolution services throughout the national territory. Informing and raising awareness of subjects of the law on the resolution of disputes is essential to ensure that individuals are aware of their rights to legal assistance and the available mechanisms for accessing competent institutions. Continuous information and outreach activities help reduce	The Chamber will continue these efforts, maintaining regular updates and outreach to ensure that all citizens have access to accurate information and support for mediation services. The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue organizing informative and awareness-raising activities across the country to strengthen citizens’ knowledge of their rights, available legal aid services, and access to institutions responsible for dispute resolution, ensuring broader outreach,	
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		activities of the National Chamber of Mediation is published on its official website, with the aim of ensuring transparency and informing the wider public about its initiatives, services, and the opportunities available for mediation. Special attention is given to children, through the publication of information on their rights. In addition, the Chamber prepares and publishes monthly and annual statistical analyses on its website, providing data and insights into its activities and the use of mediation services. https://dhkn.gov.al/;	barriers to justice, prevent misinformation, and encourage the effective use of free legal aid and dispute resolution mechanisms. Such initiatives are particularly important for vulnerable groups, as they promote legal empowerment, early access to assistance, and informed decision-making in resolving disputes.	legal awareness, and effective access to justice.	
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		FLAD has organized informative sessions throughout the entire territory with the aim of familiarizing citizens and local institutions with Free Legal Aid services. These activities have focused on directly informing citizens about their rights and the procedures for benefiting from legal aid. During 2025, 21 activities were carried out with a specific focus on informing and raising awareness among beneficiaries of the Law “On Free Legal Aid.”		
Organizing field-based informative and awareness-raising campaigns in areas where children are at higher risk of coming into contact		During 2025, FLAD implemented 549 awareness-raising and	Children living in high-risk areas are more likely to come into contact or conflict with the law, making targeted field-	The Free Legal Aid Directorate and the National Mediation Chamber will

or conflict with the law.		informative activities across the entire territory. A significant number of these activities were carried out in areas where children are at higher risk of coming into contact or conflict with the law. In particular, 100 activities were specifically designed to target children, with the aim of increasing their awareness of rights, prevention, and access to free legal aid services. The National Chamber of Mediation has organized various activities in educational institutions involving children at risk of coming into contact or conflict with the law, with the participation of	based awareness-raising activities essential. These initiatives play a preventive role by increasing children's understanding of their rights and access to free legal aid services, while supporting early intervention and child-friendly approaches in line with national legislation and international standards on children's rights.	continue to organize information and awareness-raising campaigns on the ground in high-risk areas, with a special focus on children, with the aim of strengthening prevention, legal awareness and effective access to legal aid and child-friendly justice services and mediation.	
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		minors, pupils, and students.		
Organizing awareness-raising campaigns to inform children and parents about opportunities for accessing free legal aid, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups of children.		FLAD carried out awareness-raising campaigns across the territory aimed at informing children and parents about opportunities for accessing free legal aid, with particular attention to vulnerable groups of children. These activities focused on increasing knowledge of legal rights, available support mechanisms, and procedures for benefiting from free legal aid services. The National Chamber of Mediation has organized various activities in educational institutions involving children at risk	Children and parents from vulnerable groups often face barriers in accessing information about their legal rights and available free legal aid services. Awareness-raising campaigns are therefore essential to ensure that both children and their caregivers are informed about opportunities for accessing legal assistance, support mechanisms, and relevant procedures. Targeted outreach helps reduce inequalities, strengthen legal empowerment, and ensure that vulnerable children are effectively protected and supported in line with national legislation and international standards on children's rights.	The Free Legal Aid Directorate and the National Mediation Chamber will continue to organize awareness campaigns targeting children and parents, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, with the aim of improving access to information, strengthening legal awareness and ensuring effective and comprehensive access to free legal aid and mediation services.

		of coming into contact or conflict with the law, with the participation of minors, pupils, and students. In addition, information materials and leaflets were distributed to raise about the possibility of accessing free mediation services.			
Open forums with broad citizen participation aimed at providing legal knowledge on Law No. 111/2017, the free legal aid system, the eligibility conditions and criteria, beneficiary categories, and the services provided.		FLAD organized 21 open forums with broad citizen participation aimed at providing legal knowledge on Law No. 111/2017, the free legal aid system, eligibility conditions and criteria, beneficiary categories, and the services provided.	Open forums with broad citizen participation are essential to promote transparency and public understanding of the free legal aid system, including eligibility conditions, beneficiary categories, and available services under Law No. 111/2017. Such forums provide a direct and inclusive platform for citizens to receive accurate legal information, ask questions, and clarify procedures,	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue organizing open forums with broad citizen participation to enhance public knowledge of Law No. 111/2017, the free legal aid system, and the services provided, with the aim of strengthening transparency, legal awareness, and effective	

			thereby reducing misinformation and strengthening trust in public institutions. Continuous organization of these forums contributes to improved legal awareness and more effective access to free legal aid services, particularly for individuals facing social or economic barriers.	access to justice.
Information activities and the development of educational programs in 9-year and secondary schools, and at multidisciplinary centers on criminal law for juveniles through information activities		The Center has carried out 120 awareness raising campaigns with 9-year and secondary schools throughout Albania. Photos from the activities are published on the Center's website and on the Center's social media networks https://qpkmr.gov.al/aktivitete/	All campaigns envisaged in the annual work plan have been successfully implemented. Moreover, each year we have carried out a higher number of campaigns than initially planned	Legal education in schools is a core functional responsibility of the Center, which will continue to be implemented and strengthened in the years ahead.

Updating online information, using child-friendly language, on rights and child-friendly justice services provided by each institution.		FLAD has updated the information published online by using child-friendly language to clearly explain children's rights and the child-friendly justice services provided by the institution. These updates also include videos in simplified language on free legal aid. The aim is to ensure that children and their families can easily understand the available services, how to access them, and the procedures involved, thereby improving accessibility to justice and promoting informed participation. On the Center's official website,	Updating online information using child-friendly language is essential to ensure that children and their families can clearly understand their rights and the child-friendly justice services available to them. Accessible and age-appropriate content helps reduce information barriers, promotes informed participation, and supports effective access to justice. Continuous updates are necessary to reflect legal and institutional developments, as well as to align with national legislation and international standards on child-friendly justice. All published materials are drafted in simple, clear, and child-friendly language to ensure they are easily understandable for children.	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue updating online information using child-friendly language and accessible formats, including simplified videos, to strengthen children's understanding of their rights and improve access to child-friendly justice services. The Center will continue to prepare and publish additional leaflets and other informational materials
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		several videos have been published with the aim of informing the community about juvenile criminal justice, using simple and easily understandable language for everyone. In addition, the Center has prepared several brochures/leaflets, which have been distributed in schools and at technical roundtables we have organized, in order to support the actors involved in the juvenile criminal justice process. Leaflet: https://qpkmr.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fletepalosje-QPKMR2.pdf Informative and guiding brochure: https://qpkmr.gov.al/wpcontent		
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		/uploads/2023/05/BROSHURE-INFORMUSE-1.pdf		
Preparation of materials focusing on specific legal topics and/or issues of interest to groups of citizens with special needs, in appropriate and easily accessible formats		FLAD has taken measures to develop a range of informative materials focusing on specific legal topics and issues of interest to groups of citizens with special needs. These materials have been prepared in appropriate, simplified, and easily accessible formats and have been published on the official websites of the Directorate, with the aim of improving access to legal information and ensuring inclusiveness for all beneficiary groups.	Citizens with special needs often face additional barriers in accessing legal information due to the complexity of legal language and the lack of adapted formats. Preparing targeted materials on specific legal topics in simplified and accessible formats is therefore essential to ensure inclusiveness, equal access to information, and effective exercise of rights. Continuous development and updating of such materials help address the diverse needs of beneficiary groups, reflect legislative and institutional changes, and align with national legislation and international standards on accessibility and	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue preparing and updating materials on specific legal topics in appropriate and easily accessible formats, ensuring inclusive access to legal information and equal opportunities for all groups of citizens with special needs.

			non-discrimination.	
Assessment of the priority and immediate needs of citizens for Primary Legal Aid (PLA). (i) Identification of the main central and local authorities that should compile and provide legal information in clear and simple language for the public, in accordance with their respective fields of activity.		FLAD, by Order No. 43, dated 21.01.2025, <i>“On the approval of the activity calendar,”</i> approved the calendar of activities, in which the institutions at central and local level, as well as various organizations with which cooperation will take place, have been identified to compile and provide legal information in clear and simple language for the public, in accordance with their respective fields of activity. Within the framework of this activity, the National Chamber of Mediation has undertaken a continuous process of consultation and	Assessing citizens’ priority and immediate needs for Primary Legal Aid requires clear coordination and the provision of legal information in simple and understandable language. Identifying responsible central and local authorities ensures consistent, timely, and accessible legal information, supporting informed decision-making and effective access to legal aid services. The meetings served to identify existing challenges, gaps in access to mediation services and opportunities to improve the quality, efficiency and scope of these services. The contributions and recommendations collected from partner institutions	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue coordinating with identified central and local authorities and partner organizations to ensure the regular provision of legal information in clear and simple language, responding effectively to citizens’ priority and immediate needs for Primary Legal Aid.

		cooperation with the key institutions with which it operates and collaborates. Specifically, the NCM has organized and conducted regular roundtable meetings with representatives of central and local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of identifying and assessing the citizens' immediate and priority needs in the field of mediation.	were used by NCM to guide its activities towards improving mediation services and adapting them to the real needs of citizens.	
Preparation of alternative informational materials using graphics, symbols, and signs adapted to beneficiary categories and their capacities for receiving and understanding information.		The Free Legal Aid Directorate, in cooperation with institutional partners and with the support of international organizations, has prepared alternative informational materials using graphics,	Preparing alternative informational materials using graphics, symbols, and simplified formats is essential to ensure that beneficiaries with different capacities and needs can effectively access and understand information on free legal aid services.	The Free Legal Aid Directorate will continue preparing and updating alternative informational materials, including manuals, leaflets, and visual guides adapted to different

		symbols, and simplified visual elements adapted to different beneficiary categories and their capacities to receive and understand information. These materials include the manual “<i>How to Benefit from Free Legal Aid</i>”, as well as a simplified manual specifically prepared for persons with disabilities, in addition to leaflets, visual guides, and other accessible materials explaining access to free legal aid services, eligibility criteria, and application procedures. The materials have been published on the official website of the Directorate and distributed during	Such materials help overcome communication barriers, promote inclusiveness, and support equal access to justice, particularly for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Continuous development and updating of these materials are necessary to reflect legal and institutional changes and to align with national legislation and international standards on accessibility and non-discrimination.	beneficiary categories, with the aim of strengthening accessibility, inclusiveness, and effective understanding of free legal aid services for all citizens. This activity is ongoing and will continue, as the National Chamber of Mediation remains committed to regularly producing and distributing informative and awareness-raising materials. The continuation
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		awareness-raising and informative activities carried out across the territory, with the aim of improving accessibility, inclusiveness, and understanding of free legal aid services for all beneficiaries. The National Chamber of Mediation, with the support of ADA and in collaboration with the EmPoME Project, has prepared and printed the manual “How to Benefit from Mediation,” which has been published and distributed to citizens. In addition, each year the NCM produces and distributes awareness-raising materials, including leaflets and		of these efforts ensures that citizens across Albania are consistently informed about mediation services and their benefits, reinforcing the reach and impact of the Chamber’s initiatives.	
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		manuals, during activities carried out in all cities of Albania as part of the Promotional Week, to inform citizens about the benefits of mediation.			
Lessons and Insights					
A key lesson learned is that the participation of civil society and beneficiaries greatly enhances the quality and sustainability of OGP engagements. In addition, the provision of information and legal education in accessible formats (for children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups) is essential to achieve real impact. The collaboration between the structures of the Ministry of Justice and local and international partners shows that continuous coordination and a clear division of responsibilities improve implementation, while regular monitoring allows for the timely identification of new needs and the adaptation of interventions.					
Recommendations					
Critical actions include advancing co-creation with civil society in future phases and strengthening mechanisms for public monitoring and reporting. Adjustments may be needed in inter-institutional coordination and in improving the standardization of data collection for monitoring progress. Beyond the formal tasks outlined in the Action Plan, further efforts to consolidate and expand awareness-raising and legal education activities are important. To achieve meaningful results, the systematic involvement of civil society organizations, educational institutions, justice professionals, international organizations, and beneficiaries—particularly children, youth, and vulnerable groups—is essential. The Ministry of Justice remains focused on these priorities and will continue to consolidate and advance its efforts.					

Commitment No.6 *“Adding automatic data to the open data portal and access to Open Data Readiness as Open Data Readiness”*

Commitment No.7 *“Identification of proactive life-events and implementation of at least 1 life event in e-Albania”*

Commitment No.8 *“Transposition of the EU web accessibility directive for government portals”*

Commitment No.9 *“Development of citizen feedback mechanism for electronic services”*

Summary

Commitments No.6,7,8,9 aimed to increase transparency and the quality of public services through: more systematic publication of data (including automation on the open data portal and the Odra assessment), the reorganization of services on e-Albania according to “life events”, improved digital accessibility in line with EU standards, and the establishment of citizen feedback mechanisms for electronic services. Overall, the work has strengthened the institutional and technical foundations for more open government and more citizen-friendly services; however, the “life events” component still requires further development/practical implementation, and citizen feedback needs to be consolidated through public reporting and its effective use for improvements.

Institution	National Agency for Information Society
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

Open government efforts are of critical importance for Albania in the context of ongoing public administration reform, EU integration, and the digital transformation of government services. Strengthening transparency, accountability, and citizen trust remains a national priority, particularly in light of increasing demand for open, data-driven, and user-centered public services. At both national and local levels, open government initiatives support more informed decision-making, improved service delivery, and stronger oversight of public institutions, while enabling citizens, civil society, and the private sector to actively engage in governance processes.

In this context, open data plays a central role in enhancing evidence-based policymaking, improving public sector efficiency, and fostering innovation. Local governments, in particular, benefit from standardized, accessible data to support planning, budgeting, and service provision, while citizens gain greater visibility into government actions and outcomes.

Albania’s governance reform priorities focus on increasing transparency of public institutions, strengthening accountability mechanisms, accelerating digital government reforms, and aligning national frameworks with EU and OECD standards. Key priorities include the digitalization of

public administration, interoperability of government systems, improved data governance, and the proactive publication of high-value public sector information.

The OGP Action Plan 2023–2025 contributes directly to these priorities by operationalizing open government principles through concrete, measurable commitments. In particular, the action plan supports institutional capacity-building for open data, improves coordination across public bodies, and advances the shift from ad-hoc data publication toward systematic, standardized, and reusable open data practices.

Within this framework, the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI) played a central role in conducting the Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and in launching the new national Open Data Portal. These actions strengthened the institutional and technical foundations for open data governance, improved data quality and accessibility, and established a sustainable model for regular data publication and reuse.

Action Plan Process

Throughout the OGP cycle, the Government of Albania ensured an inclusive and participatory approach through the regular functioning of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (MSC) for the Open Government Partnership. In-person meetings brought together representatives from all relevant ministries, public institutions, and civil society organizations to discuss the design, progress, and continuous improvement of OGP commitments.

Within this framework, participating institutions, including the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI), consistently reported on the implementation status of their respective commitments, shared updates on achieved milestones, and actively contributed to discussions on challenges, coordination needs, and opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

This approach ensured informed participation, transparency, and shared ownership throughout the OGP cycle, in line with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The five key recommendations of the latest IRM report were taken into consideration throughout the action plan cycle as part of a broader effort to strengthen the overall OGP process. In the 2023–2025 Action Plan, the commitments under the responsibility of the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI) were defined as fixed and highly specific from the early stages of drafting, with clearly identified objectives and deliverables, and were subsequently completed as planned.

While the scope for mid-cycle adjustments to these commitments was therefore limited, the government values the IRM’s recommendations as an important input for continuous learning and improvement. These recommendations will be carefully reviewed and systematically integrated into the design, co-creation, and implementation of commitments in the next action plan cycle, with the aim of further strengthening ambition, participation, and impact.

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed Limited progress Not started/With severe delays or substantial progress				
Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Add automatic data to the open data portal and conduct an Open Data Readiness Assessment		https://opendata.gov.al/	Expanding the number of datasets available on Albania's open data portal by conducting an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and upgrading the portal with new automatic datasets.	The ODRA process has been finalized, and the final draft report has been delivered. Through this assessment, datasets from line ministries and their subordinate institutions have been systematically identified for publication on the open data portal. Following the ODRA, direct communication has been conducted with representatives of the respective ministries, who have formally

				confirmed the datasets proposed for publication. These datasets will continue to be integrated and published on the portal, including through automatic data flows, in accordance with open data standards
Identify proactive life-events and implement at least one life event in e-Albania portal		https://e-albania.al/	Redesign the e-Albania portal around a “life events” model, making it easier for citizens to locate relevant services. The plan foresaw identifying possible life events and implementing at least one on the portal by 2024.	Implementation of the identified Life Events in the e-Albania portal.
Transpose EU web accessibility directive for government portals		AKSHI has finalized the draft decision transposing the directive, which has been formally submitted to the	Increase the accessibility of e-Albania and other government portals for persons with	The implementation of e-Albania 2.0 will be carried out in accordance

		Prime Minister's Office for review and further processing.	disabilities by transposing the EU Web Accessibility Directive (2016/2102) into national law. The main milestone was to adopt a new legal basis aligned with the directive, enabling compliance with EU standards.	with WCAG 2.1 accessibility standards or their latest versions. Within the framework of the Program "Improving universal access to high-standard public services through technology (GovTech)," which AKSHI is implementing with the World Bank, and which also includes the adaptation of the e-Albania government platform for persons with disabilities, AKSHI has received expertise from a consultant serving as an Accessibility Enhancement Expert, who has been part of this
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				vulnerable group. Through legal initiatives (specifically the aforementioned draft decision), the adaptation of the e-Albania government platform for persons with disabilities will be carried out in line with the National Action Plan for Equality, the Digital Agenda of Albania and its 2022–2026 action plan, as well as the safeguarding of social rights within the strategic objectives defined in the NSDI document (2022–2030). PKIE 2025–2027.
Develop citizen feedback mechanism		https://e-albania.al/	Strengthening the mechanisms	The contract has been signed, and

for electronic services		https://opendata.gov.al/	for collecting citizen feedback on e-services. The plan envisioned developing evaluation criteria for e-government systems and engaging civil society and start-ups active in digitalization to co-design portal improvements	implementation is scheduled for completion by February 2026, in line with the institution's planned follow-up actions.
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Lessons and Insights

The development and implementation of the action plan highlighted the importance of early planning, clearly defined commitments, and sustained inter-institutional cooperation. Regular meetings and continuous dialogue within the multi-stakeholder framework proved essential for maintaining momentum, addressing implementation challenges, and ensuring alignment across institutions. The process also reinforced the value of structured coordination and timely reporting in supporting effective delivery, while underscoring the need to build on lessons learned to further strengthen collaboration and impact in future action plan cycles.

Recommendations

To build on the results achieved, several critical actions should be carried forward to further strengthen the implementation and sustainability of the commitments. Continued coordination through the multi-stakeholder framework remains essential, with regular meetings to monitor progress, address emerging challenges, and maintain alignment across institutions.

Targeted adjustments should focus on strengthening institutional capacities, improving internal coordination mechanisms, and further standardizing reporting and data-sharing practices. Where relevant, timelines and implementation approaches may be refined to better reflect institutional readiness and operational realities.

In addition to the tasks identified in the action plan, complementary actions are needed to support long-term impact, including capacity-building for public officials, improved communication with stakeholders, and enhanced use of data and evidence to inform decision-making. Sustaining and expanding engagement with civil society and other non-government actors will be key to ensuring continued relevance and accountability.

Achieving these results requires the active involvement of line ministries, central institutions, and implementing agencies, supported by the Multi-Stakeholder Committee, as well as continued participation from civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. This collaborative approach will help ensure that commitments are effectively delivered and further strengthened in future action plan cycles.

Commitment No.10 *“Raising public awareness and educating the general public about the role and mission of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, as well as about the development of a sustainable defense system based on technological innovation”.*

Summary	
Commitment No.10 aimed to increase public awareness of the role and mission of the Ministry of Defense/Albanian Armed Forces (MoD/AAF) and to promote a more open and modern approach to the defense sector, supported by technological innovation. Implementation was carried out primarily through QISM, combining public communication with collaborative activities involving academia, the private sector, and international partners (e.g. events, panels, hackathons, and cooperation agreements). Progress is assessed as Green, as the activities and partnerships have been successfully developed and have established a sustainable foundation for engagement and innovation.	
Institution	Ministry of Defense
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023- 2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
Albania’s commitments under the OGP, particularly those related to the work of QISM, are closely aligned with the fundamental principles of open government: transparency, accountability, civic participation, and technological innovation. By creating an environment where information is accessible, decisions are evidence-based, and stakeholders—including citizens, academics, and the private sector—are actively engaged, QISM represents a practical example of applying these principles in the field of security and defense. More specifically, the initiatives led by QISM under the Action Plan: Increase transparency by providing structured access to politically relevant information while safeguarding sensitive data and building public trust in decision-making processes. Promote accountability through clear reporting mechanisms, institutional oversight, and compliance with national and international legal frameworks, ensuring that security and defense activities are subject to democratic oversight. Encourage civic participation and multi-stakeholder cooperation by enabling citizens, experts, and private-sector actors to contribute to innovation, policy development, and the monitoring of implementation. Promote innovation and technological adaptation through support for research and development, piloting of new technologies, and the adoption of best practices such as NATO DIANA, strengthening Albania’s security capabilities while maintaining ethical and legal standards. Through these measures, the Action Plan not only advances QISM’s operational mandate but also strengthens Albania’s broader governance reform agenda. It demonstrates that even in traditionally closed sectors, openness, innovation, and inclusive participation are	

achievable and can deliver tangible benefits for public administration, national security, and society as a whole.

Action Plan Process

Within the OGP framework, the Ministry of Defense has adopted a structured and institutionally driven approach to participation, tailored to the specific characteristics of the security and defense sector. Recognizing the importance of openness, innovation, and stakeholder engagement, the Ministry has operationalized participation primarily through the Security and Defense Innovation Center (QISM), in line with Commitment No. 10 of the Action Plan.

Throughout the OGP cycle, participation has been promoted through awareness-raising, information-sharing, and engagement activities involving academic institutions, research centers, private sector actors, innovation ecosystems, and international partners. These engagements aimed to familiarize stakeholders with the mission and role of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces, while also creating channels for dialogue on innovation, capacity-building, and technological development in security and defense.

This approach is compliant with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards related to access to information, inclusive participation, and early engagement, as the Ministry enabled relevant stakeholders to understand policy objectives, contribute expertise, and engage in structured discussions within the scope permitted by national security considerations.

Ministry of Defense Approach to Participation During Implementation

During the implementation phase, the Ministry of Defense emphasized continuous and practical participation through the activities of QISM. The Ministry engaged stakeholders by organizing and co-organizing innovation-focused events, conferences, hackathons, panel discussions, and technical meetings that brought together representatives from universities, start-ups, private companies, research institutions, and international partners.

Participation during implementation was further strengthened through formal cooperation mechanisms, including memoranda of understanding with higher education institutions and meetings with international academic and industry actors. These mechanisms enabled stakeholders to contribute knowledge, share expertise, and participate in joint initiatives related to research and development, innovation capacity-building, and regulatory improvements in the defense innovation ecosystem. In line with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards on ongoing engagement, feedback and learning, and collaborative implementation, stakeholders were actively involved in shaping activities and supporting policy and legal initiatives, including contributions to the development of regulatory frameworks for the defense industry and innovation-oriented procurement processes.

Overall, the Ministry of Defense's approach to participation during the OGP cycle and implementation phase reflects a balanced and standards-compliant model of engagement, integrating transparency, participation, and accountability within the constraints of the security and defense sector.

Use of IRM Recommendations

To address the recommendations related to participation and co-creation, the Ministry expanded its structured engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, including academia, innovation actors, private-sector partners, and international institutions. These inputs informed both the design and implementation of activities, in line with the IRM's guidance on the early and continuous engagement of stakeholders.

Overall, the five IRM recommendations were used as guiding principles to improve clarity, participation, institutionalization, and the quality of implementation, resulting in a more structured, feasible, and impact-oriented approach to open government within the defense sector.

Assessment of the Commitments

Completed 
delays

Limited progress



Not started/With severe



or substantial progress

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Commitment No. 10 Intensification of communication with the general public and increasing cooperation with academia in the field of Defense and Security		Evidence includes documented awareness-raising activities, stakeholder engagement events, formal cooperation agreements with academic and innovation institutions, records of innovation-focused events (hackathons, panels, conferences), international cooperation	The assessment is based on the level of implementation of planned activities, the extent of stakeholder participation through QISM, and the alignment of actions with OGP principles and IRM recommendations during the action plan cycle.	Strengthen institutionalization of QISM activities, expand stakeholder engagement, enhance transparency of outcomes, and scale innovation-driven initiatives in line with OGP principles and

		meetings, and contributions to regulatory and policy initiatives implemented through the Security and Defence Innovation Center (QISM) during the action plan period.		NATO/EU standards.	
		SDIC has been established through the DCM No. 472, dated 26.07.2023 and has started its activities on April 2024. From its establishment and so far SDIC has been focused in expanding its network through business, industry, academic, international, NGO partners in order to provide mentorship and mutual expertise to innovators in the area of defense and security and is also part of DIANA/NATO initiatives and approaches to support innovators. All relevant			

		information are found in SDIC website		
		Increasing citizens' information on the role and mission of the MoD and FARSH as well as on the creation of a sustainable defense system based on technological innovation		
		Regarding the role and mission of MM and FARSH , SDIC has contributed through many events and activities to raise awareness on the innovation trends, security and defense entrepreneurship, different exercises and activities to enhance the capacities of Armed Forces toward new technological developments impacting thus public awareness toward mission and role.		

Lessons and Insights

The Ministry of Defence learned that a dedicated platform like QISM strengthens coordination, stakeholder engagement, and innovation in the security sector. Early and structured participation of academia, private sector, and international partners improved the relevance and impact of activities. Combining awareness-raising, capacity-building, and policy input showed that innovation can support multiple governance objectives. Formal partnerships and contributions to regulatory frameworks ensured sustainability and alignment with OGP principles.

Recommendations

Expand QISM activities, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and enhance contributions to regulatory frameworks. Improve monitoring, coordination, and integration of emerging technologies. Additional tasks include mentorship for innovators and a knowledge-sharing platform. Key actors: Ministry of Defence, QISM, Armed Forces, universities, private sector, and international partners.

Commitment No.11 “Development of Youth Database”

Summary	
The commitment aims to establish the Electronic Youth Registry (RER) as an instrument to improve transparency, inter-institutional coordination, and evidence-based decision-making in the field of youth. The process was developed in cooperation with the responsible institutions and youth organizations, enabling the system’s architecture and functionalities to be defined in a comprehensive manner. However, implementation was affected by the decision to integrate the RER with other electronic systems and by legislative changes in the field of youth, resulting in the postponement of the registry’s development and full operationalization phase.	
Institution	Ministry of Youth and Children
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
The Government of Albania has positioned youth at the core of development efforts in the country and aims to increase opportunities, services and comprehensive support. To drive such efforts a dedicated portfolio of the state minister for youth was created, mandated among other things, to enhance and facilitate multi institutional interactions, with local government, donors, youth organisations, and young people. Civil society organisations are crucial stakeholders that can help fill the gap on issues not covered by state institutions or can help boost the effectiveness of state programs and policies toward youth through their influences and connections on the ground. The state has recognized this role and Law on Youth has included two types of CSO, ‘youth organizations’ and ‘organizations for youth’ that can be recipients of state grants to support their activity in the representation, protection and development of interests of youth in a comprehensive manner. In addition, Law on Youth puts forward the development of the legal framework of distinctive structures the National Youth Council, the Local Youth Council, National Youth Representative Organisation, that enable young people and representatives from youth and for youth organizations to participate in a structured manner in the consultation of policies and regulatory initiatives in the field of youth. The Law No.75/.2019, “On Youth” foresees the establishing of the database on youth, as an instrument required for providing updated information on the conditions and needs of youth in the country, as well as to support the processes of planning, monitoring, administration and evaluating of youth policies at the central and local levels. The National Youth Strategy 2022-29 also foresees the priority need for establishing this instrument, through a distinctive measure: “No 1.3.3. In accordance with law no. 75, dated on 04.11.2019 "On Youth", a youth database will be developed for youth and for youth organizations, taking advantage also from the digitization processes of public services”. In Albania, data used for the evaluation of conditions of young people or measuring the impact of programs and policies adopted for youth are predominantly collected ad-hoc, to suit specific goals of state institutions and other stakeholders, are randomly exchanged and rarely available and usable from young people and society at large. In addition, studies prepared are oftentimes	

prejudiced by questions on the accuracy and demonstrability of their sources and therefore are oftentimes not taken into consideration by decision makers. In the current state it is very difficult to secure updated and usable data to inform the decision-making processes on youth.

The Council of Ministers through Decision No. 833, dated on 24.12.2021, “On the Method of Establishing, Administering, and Maintaining the Database for Youth, as well as the method of its interaction with other State Databases”, supports establishing the Youth Database as an electronic register on youth (ERY) to be administered from the National Youth Agency and linked with other state databases such as: Judicial register for NPOs registration, data of beneficial owners, tax register, integrated planning system information system (IPSIS). The data collected by the ERY will be utilized by the National Youth Agency and Ministry responsible for youth for fulfilling their institutional responsibilities for periodic evaluation of youth conditions and for evidenced based development and monitoring of youth policies.

This commitment was envisioned to be implemented in cooperation with youth/for youth civil society organizations to ensure a multilevel evaluation on the type and quantity of data to be collected through the ERY, as well as the most suitable manner to elaborate such data, to support state institutions in their decision-making and for improving the work of non-state actors, thus promoting openness and public accountability in the field of youth.

The youth database aims to achieve the following results:

1. To ensure information and data that are reliable, updated and usable in relation to the conditions and needs of young people in the country, as well as support evidenced based decision-making in the field of youth at the central and local levels.
2. To stipulate the list of civil society organizations that fulfill the legal criteria stipulated by the law for youth/for youth organizations and could be engaged in the consultation of policies, programs and initiatives in the field of youth and benefit from the digitalization of public services, such as application to the yearly call of the NYA for the state grant on youth.
3. To increase openness and accountability of national and local state institutions in the field of youth through provision of data to young people and civil society organizations to support their scientific and statistical research, analyses, evaluations and implementation projects in the youth field.
4. To facilitate exchange of information and build joint initiatives in the field of youth.

Action Plan Process

On September 26, 2023, a working group meeting was organized by the Minister of State for Youth and Children and representation of the National Youth Agency (NYA), and youth/for youth CSOs, who expressed their willingness to contribute to the implementation of the action plan. This meeting served to gather the views and contributions from CSOs representatives, primarily regarding the design of the architecture and functionalities of the Youth Electronic Registry, with the aim of creating a system that is effective and usable by both the NYA and youth state actors, as well as youth/for youth CSOs/in support of their operations. Additionally, the CSO representatives were provided with a draft sketch with all the elements and functionalities of the database, on which they could provide their suggestions and comments.

All proposals and comments provided by CSOs on the architecture of the registry and data to be collected, processed, and exchanged were accepted and integrated into the technical system document prepared by NYA and National Agency of Information Society (NAIS).

Minister of State for Youth and Children, the National Agency for Information Society and the National Youth Agency continued working on the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the procurement process related to the project “Establishment of the Electronic Youth Register (RER)” throughout the second half of 2023 and the first half of 2024.

However, based on the technical assessment carried out by the inter-institutional working groups established for the drafting of the necessary documentation and outputs for the development and operationalization of the Electronic Youth Register (RER) and the electronic system for financing youth projects, it was recommended and then approved that the two separate systems ought to be integrated into a single, comprehensive system. This approach aims to ensure a more efficient use of budgetary resources in the procurement process, without compromising the functionalities of either system. Although the creation of the integrated system was deemed the most effective and efficient solution, this decision led to delays in the originally foreseen timelines for the procurement and establishment of the RER.

Moreover, the Albanian Parliament approved the Law no. 24/2025 “For some addendums and changes to Law no. 75/2019, “On Youth” aimed to expand and enhance the framework for the protection and promotion of youth rights and youth engagement in Albania. The changes to the Law on Youth enacted in April 2025 will also need to be reflected in the bylaw regulating the functioning of the youth database by including a new set of stakeholders, such as the youth workers and youth informal groups. The revisions of Council of Ministers Decision no. 833, dated 24.12.2021, upon their approval by the Council of Ministers, will be reflected in the architecture of the Electronic Youth Register (RER) as well.

Due to delays in the process of unifying the two systems, designing a final technical material and the procurement process of the Electronic Youth Register (RER) and changes to the youth legislation, subsequent activities envisioned in the action plan need to be rescheduled as follows:

The unification of the two systems, the conception of a final technical material, the establishment and testing of the Electronic Youth Registry (RER) has been rescheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2027.

The preparation and implementation of a national communication campaign for the population of the Electronic Youth Register (RER), as the final activity of the action plan, is rescheduled for the second half of 2027.

The commitment is relevant to the values of Open Government / OGP as it conforms to the four principles of OGP which are:

Transparency & Access to Information

In line with the principles of transparency and citizens' access to information the electronic register on youth (ERY) will provide information and data pertaining to the conditions and needs of young people in the country that will be reliable, updated and accessible by the public and

non-state actors, in line with the established framework of access to public information and data protection in Albania.

Public accountability:

The establishment of the electronic register on youth (ERY) supports evidenced based decision-making in the field of youth, at the central and local levels and increases openness and accountability of such institutions to young people and other youth stakeholders, through provision of reliable, updated and usable data and information.

Public & Civic Participation:

The entirety of the measures and provisions of this action plan are set with the aim of ensuring effective engagement and an active role for non-governmental stakeholders. The consultation process for the establishment of the electronic register on youth (ERY) was open and comprehensive, involving over 24 youth and for youth CSOs in the consultation phase and 6 youth and for youth CSOs during the designing phase of the register's architecture and functionalities. All proposals and comments submitted by CSOs regarding ERY's architecture and the data to be collected, processed, and shared were accepted and integrated into the technical system document prepared by NAIS and NYA. After establishing the electronic register on youth (ERY), an information campaign is envisioned to be jointly organized with youth and for youth CSOs focused on the promotion of the registration and data entry processes, targeting youth and for youth CSOs, youth informal groups, youth workers.

Technology & Innovation:

The electronic register on youth (ERY) functions as a state electronic database that is administered by the National Youth Agency while relevant information will be populated by state and non-state stakeholders. The establishment of the electronic register will improve effectiveness and reduce the time needed for provision of information pertaining to the conditions and needs of young people as well as provision of public services in the field of youth to non-state stakeholders.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The entirety of the measures and provisions for implementing this commitment were set with the aim of ensuring effective engagement and an active role for non-governmental stakeholders. The consultation process for the establishment of the electronic register on youth (ERY) was open and comprehensive, involving over 24 youth and for youth CSOs in the consultation phase and 6 youth and for youth CSOs during the designing phase of the register's architecture and functionalities. All proposals and comments submitted by CSOs regarding ERY's architecture and the data to be collected, processed, and shared were accepted and integrated into the technical system document prepared by NAIS and NYA. After establishing the electronic register on youth (ERY), an information campaign is envisioned to be jointly organized with youth and for youth CSOs focused on the promotion of the registration process and data entry process, targeting youth and for youth CSOs, youth informal groups, youth workers. The electronic register on youth (ERY) will provide reliable, updated and accessible data on youth issues to the public and non-

state actors, in compliance to the established framework of access to public information and data protection in Albania.

Assessment of the Commitments

 Completed  Limited progress  Not started/With severe delays				
Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
1. Finalizing the architecture of the database, in relation to the data to be gathered and its functionalities		Internal working documents and correspondence.	The architecture and functionalities of the Youth Database were prepared, based also, on the technical inputs and contribution of CSOs, and finalized in 2023. Furthermore, the technical documentation and the Terms of Reference for the project “Establishment of the Electronic Youth Register (RER)” were developed.	Finalizing the Terms of reference for establishing the database and publishing the procurement notice and initiation of procurement for the database.

2. Unification, finalizing the Terms of reference for establishing the database and publishing the procurement notice and initiation of procurement for the database.		Internal working documents and correspondence. Law No. 24/2025, “On amendments and additions to Law No. 75/2019, ‘On Youth’ LINK: https://www.qbz.gov.al/eli/ligj/2025/03/17/24/4912276e-64ae-49f3-bc0f-bd28fecb-a2a2	Based on the technical assessment carried out by the inter-institutional working groups established for the drafting of the necessary documentation and outputs for the development and operationalization of the Electronic Youth Register (RER) and the electronic system for financing youth projects, it was recommended and approved that the two separate systems be integrated into a single, comprehensive system. This approach aims to ensure a more efficient use of budgetary resources in the procurement process, without compromising the functionalities of either system. Although the creation of the integrated system was deemed the most effective and efficient solution, this decision led to delays in the originally foreseen timelines for the procurement and establishment of the RER. Changes to the Law on Youth, enacted in April 2025 will also be reflected in the bylaw regulating the functioning of the youth database and in its architecture, by including a new set of users, such as informal youth groups etc.	Publishing the procurement notice and finalizing the procurement of the integrated system.
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3. Establishment and testing of the youth database.			The establishment and testing of the Electronic Youth Registry (RER) has been rescheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2027.	Prepare and implement the communication campaign with youth/for youth CSOs for population of RER.
4. Prepare and implement a communication campaign for registration to the database at the national level			The preparation and implementation of a national communication campaign for the population of the RER, as the final activity of the action plan, is rescheduled for the second half of 2027.	Finalization of the process.

Lessons and Insights

The entirety of the measures and provisions of this action plan were set in compliance with the principle of co-creation and aimed to provide the necessary space for having continuous dialogue and information exchange with youth/for youth CSOs in the process of establishing the youth database. The engagement by youth/for youth CSOs provided an added value in developing the architecture and functionalities of the Youth Electronic Registry (ERY), that will effectively support the needs and operations of non-state stakeholders in the field of youth. Despite delays occurring in the procurement process of the electronic register on youth (ERY), a great role is envisioned for youth/ for youth CSOs in the design and implementation of a national promotion campaign that will be instrumental to prompt registration in the database from young people, youth CSOs, informal groups, youth workers etc.

However, the level of implementation of the commitment remains moderate. The procurement and establishment of the registry remain unfinished due to the decision to change the approach and set up an integrated system for youth, broader than Youth Electronic Registry (ERY), as well as the requirement to accommodate in the developed architecture of the registry, the changes adopted in the regulations for youth in 2025.

Recommendations

Due to delays in the procurement process for the Electronic Youth Registry (RER) and changes to youth legislation, the subsequent activities foreseen in the Action Plan need to be rescheduled as follows: The establishment and testing of the Electronic Youth Registry (RER) has been

rescheduled for the first half of 2026. The preparation and implementation of a communication campaign to populate the Electronic Youth Registry (RER), as the final activity of the Action Plan, has been rescheduled for the second half of 2026.

Commitment No.12 “Awareness and education of the general public on budget transparency”

Commitment No.13 “Awareness and education of the general public on revenue transparency”

Commitment No.14 “Awareness and education of the general public on public finances”

Summary	
Commitments No.12, 13 and 14 aimed to strengthen transparency, public awareness and citizen engagement in public financial management by increasing budget transparency, improving understanding of the local revenue collection process, and strengthening communication on public finances. During the implementation period, considerable progress was achieved through the regular publication of budget execution reports, fiscal risk statements and the Citizens’ Budget Execution Report, as well as through the adoption of standardized procedures for budget monitoring. Progress was also made in strengthening asset registration in the AGFIS system and advancing the implementation of the Public Financial Management Strategy 2023–2030. Meanwhile, DPTP conducted training sessions with staff from several municipalities on the use of the Fiscal Cadaster and the importance of collecting property tax, while extensive community information activities	
Institution	Ministry of Finance and Economy
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February
Introduction	
COMMITMENT 13: Awareness and education of the general public on revenue transparency Municipalities are the government tier closest to citizens and as such are potentially able to address the needs of their communities better than the central government. Considering the information advantage of the municipalities over the central government, they can potentially better tailor the offer of public goods and services to the citizens needs and preferences. Decentralization reforms undertaken in Albania between 2015 and 2018 aimed at strengthening local government, through the development of conditions and capacities to provide quality and efficient local services. The property tax is an important and sustainable source of revenue for the local budget. The Fiscal Cadastre has been established since 2018. However, it is not fully operational and is not used for the administration of the building tax. Issues related to property rights, as well as the incomplete functioning of the Fiscal Cadastre for the administration of the building tax, among other factors, prevent the full realization of the potential of this tax.	

Meanwhile, although the Fiscal Cadastre has been established since 2018, it is not fully operational and is not used for the administration of the building tax. Following the reform of the property tax and the entry into force of Law No. 106/2017 “On some amendments and additions to Law No. 9632, dated 30.10.2006, ‘On the Local Tax System’, as amended, and Council of Ministers Decision No. 132/2018 ‘On the methodology for determining the taxable value of the immovable property “building”, the tax base for specific categories, the nature and priority of information and data for determining the tax base, as well as the criteria and rules for the alternative assessment of the tax liability’, all municipalities apply this legal framework for the administration of property tax. Structurally, revenue from the building tax accounts for the largest share of total revenue from property taxes. Our main objective is to assist the General Directorate of Property Tax during training sessions with municipal staff, as well as to raise community awareness of the importance of collecting property tax for local self-government units.

Asset inventory enhances transparency by ensuring accurate and verifiable registration of assets, strengthening accountability, preventing misuse, and enabling reliable financial reporting. This supports better management of public assets and increases public trust.

COMMITMENT 14: Awareness and education of the general public on public finances

Commitment 14 “Awareness and education of the general public on public finances” is closely aligned with Albania’s Public Financial Management (PFM) Sectoral Strategy 2023–2030 and its Action Plan for 2023–2026, which outline planned reforms to improve PFM systems. In alignment with the National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDEI) 2022–2030, the overall goal of the PFM Strategy is to establish a public finance management system that ensures transparency, accountability, fiscal discipline, efficiency, and equity in the use of public resources for better public services and economic development, while supporting Albania’s smooth integration into the European Union.

Action Plan Process

Regarding DMB, through Commitment 12 “Public Awareness on Budget Transparency,” the aim is to improve the budget monitoring process. Specifically, during the 2023–2025 period, the following actions were undertaken:

- Monitoring of budget execution, based on key performance indicators (KPIs) was carried out through the preparation and publication of:
 - Annual Budget Execution Reports (ABER).
 - In-years and Mid-year Budget Execution Reports.
 - MoF analysis and recommendations on regards to the periodic (4M basis) LM/BI’s budget performance monitoring reports submissions.
- Adoption of Guideline No.14/2023 dated 30.05.2023 “On Standard Procedures for Budget Monitoring in Central Government Units” introducing standardized reporting

templates on budget monitoring and reporting based on key performance indicators (KPIs), including gender-based KPIs.

- Preparation and publication of the ‘Citizens’ Budget Execution Report for 2024’, a yearly document which was prepared and published for the first time during FY2025.
- Preparation of the Fiscal Risk Statements for 2023 and 2024, and their respective publication on the MoF’s website.

According to the OGP Albania 2023-2025 National Action Plan, one of the milestones for commitment 13 is the milestone: Joint training sessions with the staff of municipalities and community groups on the importance of collecting property tax for the municipality. The expected output for this milestone was: Municipality staff is trained and has the necessary knowledge and tools about the tax. Community groups are aware of the importance of collecting property tax from their municipality, and the expected completion date was S II 2023- S I 2025.

The leader for this milestone was the Ministry of Finance and Economy (currently the Ministry of Finance) and the Supporting Stakeholders were: General Directorate of Property Tax, Municipalities and Save the Children in Albania National Office. As it has been informed during the previous reporting by the GDPTP, being that the leader for this milestone was the Ministry of Finance and Economy (currently the Ministry of Finance), then from the information provided by the Ministry of Finance to the General Directorate of Property Tax (GDPT) it results that this ministry has held discussions and has requested the cooperation of the other actor, Save the Children in Albania National Office and the EU delegation in Tirana, to hold information sessions/workshops related to this commitment in order to assist the General Directorate of Property Tax during trainings with Municipal staff as well as raising community awareness about the importance of collecting property tax (immovable property tax) for local government units. Yet, to the date of this reporting, GDPT did not participate in or was not informed about the holding of any information sessions/workshops related to this commitment. However, in the framework of performing its legal functions (but not in the framework of this milestone), the General Directorate of Property Tax during the year 2025 has conducted trainings with the staff of the several municipalities regarding the use of the Fiscal Cadastre and the importance of immovable property tax collection. As part of the development of sessions/workshops related to this commitment, the Directorate for Management of Public Finance Strategies and Budget Support within the Ministry of Finance has held discussions with development and integration partners, who have expressed interest in implementing them once the Law on Property Tax is approved.

COMMITMENT 14: Awareness and education of the general public on public finances

On April 5, 2024, the PFM strategy document 2023-2030 was published in the Electronic Register for Public Notices and Consultations. After the publication of the draft strategy for public consultation and uploaded of the document in the Electronic Archive of Acts (E-acts

system), the comments received from the institutions have been reflected. Hereafter, on May 3, 2024, the Public Finance Management Steering Committee was organized. Part of this event were all actors involved in the planning of the PFM reform (members of the Technical and Steering Committee), international partners and representatives from Civil Society Organizations. In order to achieve at the final version of the strategy, the comments received from international partners such as the EU Delegation, UN Women, IMF, WB and the Swedish Embassy were shared with the responsible units and some reflections were made in the strategic document. Meanwhile, following the comments received from the institutions through E-acts system during the consultation process, the Ministry of Finance sent the request for cooperation agreement. After obtaining the consent from the institutions via e-acts, the complete package which includes: the MoF strategy document; draft - report and draft - decision on the PFM strategy, was sent to the Council of Ministers. The strategy was approved with DCM no. 390, dated 12.06.2024. The PFM strategy is published in the Official Gazette⁵ and also in the MoF's website⁶.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Public Finance Management Strategy 2023-2030, the Ministry of Finance prepares and publishes annual PFM monitoring reports, which are discussed and approved in Steering Committee meetings that include CSO representatives.

The draft annual monitoring report of the PFM for 2023 was discussed and approved by the 18th PFM Steering Committee (SC) meeting on October 31, 2024 and is published in the MoF website. The 19th Public Finance Management (PFM) Steering Committee (SC) Meeting was held on November 11, 2025. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss and approve the 2024 PFM Annual Monitoring Report and the 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report. The reports are published on the Ministry of Finance's official website. The CSOs have been always invited in the SC meetings to give their contribution and feedback to the implementation and monitoring of the PFM reform. Additionally, awareness activities, such as training sessions on budgeting and public finance in vocational schools in Tirana, were organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Civil Society Organization (Save the Children in Albania). These actions demonstrate commitment to transparency, civic participation, and accountability throughout both the co-creation and implementation phases.

Use of IRM Recommendations

Based on IRM recommendations regarding the Fiscal Risk Statement (FRS), primarily the identifying risks and mitigation measures, we shall emphasize that FRS is prepared in accordance to the MoF's Guideline No.35/2022 "*On the standard procedures for reporting and monitoring fiscal risks by General Government units and other public sector entities*", based on which the reporting units submit their assessments, both on the respective identified risks and risk mitigation measures.

⁵ <https://qbz.gov.al/eli/fz/2024/105/d896de92-1aea-4d73-991e-7a99cf934f>

⁶ <https://financa.gov.al/en/menaxhimi-i-financave-publike/>

During 2025, the migration of the public asset inventory for the institution with direct access to the Government Financial Information System (GFIS), the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy was completed in the production (live) environment.

The total number of institutions with direct access to AGFIS that have migrated their fixed assets is 14.

The University Hospital Center of Tirana, due to encountered issues such as the lack of an accurate fixed assets inventory and staff shortages, has not yet submitted the fixed assets inventory information to be migrated to AGFIS. We maintain continuous communication with these institutions in electronic and verbal form, and the Business Processing Directorate has also provided ongoing training for completing the necessary format with the required data for the purpose of migrating fixed assets to AGFIS.

According to the OGP Albania 2023-2025 National Action Plan, one of the milestones for commitment 13 is the milestone: *Joint training sessions with the staff of municipalities and community groups on the importance of collecting property tax for the municipality*. The expected output for this milestone was: *Municipality staff is trained and has the necessary knowledge and tools about the tax. Community groups are aware of the importance of collecting property tax from their municipality*, and the expected completion date was S II 2023- S I 2025.

The leader for this milestone was the Ministry of Finance and Economy (*currently the Ministry of Finance*) and the Supporting Stakeholders were: General Directorate of Property Tax, Municipalities and Save the Children in Albania National Office.

Within the framework of the commitment ***Raising Awareness and Educating the General Public on Revenue Transparency***, training/information sessions were envisaged under the activity “*Joint training sessions with municipal staff and community groups on the importance of property tax collection for the municipality*”, in cooperation with Save the Children – National Office in Albania. This activity is led by the Ministry of Finance, with the General Directorate of Property Tax, municipalities, and the civil society organization “Save the Children in Albania National Office” identified as stakeholders. The purpose of these sessions was to support the General Directorate of Property Tax in conducting training sessions with municipal staff, as well as to raise community awareness of the importance of property tax collection for local self-government units.

However, in the framework of performing its legal functions (*but not in the framework of this milestone*), the General Directorate of Property Tax during the period March-April 2025 has conducted trainings with the staff of the several municipalities regarding the use of the Fiscal Cadaster and the importance of immovable property tax collection.

As part of the development of sessions/workshops related to this commitment, the Directorate for Management of Public Finance Strategies and Budget Support within the Ministry of Finance has held discussions with development and integration partners, who have expressed interest in implementing them once the Law on Property Tax is approved.

Assessment of the Commitments

 Completed  Limited progress  Not started/With severe delays				
Completed Limited progress Not started/With severe delays				
or substantial progress				
Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Commitment 12: “Public awareness on budget transparency”		Annual Budget Execution Reports (ABER): https://financa.gov.al/buxheti-faktik-nder-vite/ Mid-year Budget Report: https://financa.gov.al/raporti-i-mesvitet/ In-years Budget Execution Reports: https://financa.gov.al/raporte-monitorimi/ <i>*This link provides the MoF’s analysis & recommendations on regards to the periodic (4M basis) LM/IB’s budget performance</i>	*The Ministry of Finance ensured regular fiscal and budget transparency through the publication of the Annual Budget Execution Report (ABER), Mid-Year Budget Report, and four-month budget execution reports, providing consistent and accessible updates on budget performance.	*Maintain the annual and in-year publication of budget execution reports. *Continue the preparation and publication of annual Fiscal Risk Statement.

		<i>monitoring reports submissions; monitoring reports of line ministries and budget institutions, along with the direct link to each published report; the consolidated report on budget execution.</i> *The new Guideline No. 14/2023, no.14, date 30.05.2023 “On the Standard Procedures for Budget Monitoring in Central Government Units” https://financa.gov.al/udhezime-standarde-per-monitorimin-e-buxhetit/ *‘Citizens’ Budget Execution Report for 2024: https://financa.gov.al/buxheti-faktik-per-qytetaret/) *The Fiscal Risk Statements for 2023 and 2024	*Line ministries and budget institutions published their annual budget monitoring reports on their respective official websites, demonstrating improved compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements. *The Ministry of Finance’s publication of comments and recommendations on the periodic (4 M basis) LM/IB’s monitoring reports strengthens accountability and institutional oversight. DMB publishes a consolidated report every four months, including data on the Initial Budget, Revised	
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		https://financa.gov.al/deklaratat-e-risqeve-fiskale/	Budget, and actual data for each ML and IB. *The adoption and implementation of Guideline No. 14/2023 “On the Standard Procedures for Budget Monitoring in Central Government Units” strengthened the standardization and quality of budget monitoring processes across institutions including the monitoring of gender based KPI-s. *The Citizens Budget Execution Report for 2024 was published, enhancing public access to simplified and citizen-friendly budget	
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			information (<i>this report includes gender-based information</i>) * The Fiscal Risk Statements for 2023 and 2024 are prepared and published on the MoF's website.	
Commitment 12: "CSOs/NGOs for MTBP hearings"	The activity should be evaluated by external experts.		Regarding this milestone, during March-June 2024, Line Ministries and Central Institutions did not organize hearing session with CVO/NGO even though this was a requirement of the annual budget preparation guideline approved by the Minister of Finance on 28.2.2024. For the period January-May 2025, the	

			Ministry of Finance approved annual instruction no. 7, dated 28.02.2025 “On the preparation of the MTBP 2026-2028”, where point 8 d) also defines the obligation for line ministries and budgetary institutions to organize hearings with civil society within the framework of participatory budgeting. Currently, consultation meetings on the 2026-2028 medium-term budget are being held with Line Ministries and Central Institutions, where it is reported that 2 out of 11 ministries have held hearings	
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			with civil society. The minutes of the meeting and the recommendations of civil society will become part of the MTBP document of the first phase for the period 2026-2028, which is expected to be approved within June 2025.	
Commitment Nr 13. Awareness and education of the general public on revenue transparency Activity 5. Full public assets inventory is recorded in the Albanian Government Financial Information System (AGFIS) by those Budgetary Institutions (BI's) which have direct access in the system		Assets Register Raport exetulable from AGFIS	Out of the two institutions planned for the year 2025, one institution Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy has successfully migrated its fixed assets to AGFIS, while the other University Hospital Center , due to objective reasons, has not yet submitted its	For the year 2026, the migration of fixed asset data of institutions that directly access AGFIS is planned for two budgetary institutions (the Ministry of Economy and Innovation and the University Hospital

			inventory of fixed assets for migration to AGFIS	Center of Tirana).
COMMITMENT 14: Awareness and education of the general public on public finances		https://financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Public-Finance-Management-Strategy-2023-2030.pdf https://financa.gov.al/raporte-monitorimi-2/	 Reasons for the assessment Commitment	The monitoring report on public finance management for the year 2025 will be prepared and published
Lessons and Insights				
Based on the implementation of the 2023–2025 Action Plan, the key lessons learned are as follows: 1. Clear institutional responsibility and coordination are essential. Where responsibilities were clearly defined substantial progress was achieved, while activities requiring multi-institutional coordination faced delays, 2. Alignment with national strategies ensures sustainability. Linking commitments to broader national plans and strategies helps maintain progress over time and ensures reforms continue beyond the current action plan. 3. Civil society participation is essential, and collaboration must be strengthened. Engagement of CSOs in PFM Steering Committee meetings and consultation on the MTBP improved transparency and policy relevance. Strengthening ongoing cooperation between government institutions and civil society ensures more effective participation and better outcomes. 4. Monitoring and evaluation strengthen implementation. Regular reporting and the use of measurable indicators help track progress, identify challenges, and support continuous improvement in achieving commitments.				
Recommendations				
Based on the results from the 2023–2025 Action Plan, the following recommendations are needed to ensure progress in achieving the commitments: 1. Clarify and strengthen institutional responsibilities. Assign clear roles and establish coordination mechanisms to ensure timely implementation of activities, especially those requiring multi-institutional collaboration.				

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Align commitments with national strategies. Integrate OGP commitments into broader national plans and sectoral strategies to ensure sustainability and continuity of reforms beyond the Action Plan period.3. Enhance civil society engagement and collaboration. Strengthen ongoing cooperation between government institutions and civil society to improve transparency, accountability, and policy relevance.4. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Maintain regular reporting and use of measurable indicators to track progress, identify challenges, and support continuous improvement. |
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Commitment No.15 “ Increase transparency for public contracts ”

Summary

Commitment No.15 aimed to enhance transparency, integrity, and public oversight in public procurement and concession processes through improved publication of contract data, promotion of open contracting standards, and strengthened digital complaint and monitoring mechanisms. During the implementation period, progress was achieved through the continued use of the Electronic Procurement System, expansion of open data availability, strengthening of the electronic complaint submission and management system, and increased collaboration with civil society organizations in monitoring procurement data and promoting transparency standards. The Public Procurement Commission further improved access to procurement information by upgrading its website in line with open data principles and the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), while capacity-building activities and stakeholder engagement contributed to increased awareness and institutional capacity. However, the systematic publication of full concession and PPP contracts remained partially limited due to technical constraints of the electronic registry.

Institution	Public Procurement Agency
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023- 2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

With regard to public procurement, it is well known and accepted that transparency is at the core of the whole process, from planning to contract execution. In this context, transparency in public procurement procedures contributes significantly to the increase of competition, reduction of corruptive practices, increase efficiency and guarantee value for money.

Although the public procurement procedures in Albania have been conducted electronically since 2009, there is always a need for further improvement and increase of transparency in different levels.

Equally, the collaboration with the civil society in this context, is very important as it contributes to improving data availability and the overall procurement system.

A series of actions undertaken so far by the Government of Albania, contribute significantly to the increase of transparency in public procurement, namely:

- Electronic conduction of all the procurement procedures in the EPS since 2009; All procurement procedures in Albania are carried out electronically in EPS, including small-value procurement procedures and, since 2018, also negotiated procedures without prior publication of the contract notice. This system is constantly improving, especially considering the legal changes of 2020 and the approval of the new procurement law, as well as the need to guarantee an efficient, sustainable and transparent procurement system in Albania.

- Establishment of a Concessions and PPPs registry. The register of concession/public private partnership is created and maintained by the “Concessions Treatment Agency (ATRAKO)” in accordance with the legal provisions in force. Based on the above, since 2019 when this register was created by ATRAKO, every concession is registered and published in this register.
- Introduction of an Open Data portal in the PPA website; From 2021, there is also an open data window on the PPA website where data on all procurement procedures developed by each contracting authority can be easily accessed. This includes data for all procurement procedures since 2010, which can be used by anyone interested according to their own needs.
- Establishment of an e-appeal system for electronic submission of complaints. During 2021, the Public Procurement Commission implemented the most important reform of digitization of services and complaint management. This reform consists in the electronic submission of complaints and arguments, as two separate services in the unique government portal e-albania. Domestic and foreign economic operators have the opportunity to submit online all complaints about public procurement procedures and concessions/public private partnerships. This system, created in accordance with the legal framework in force, has enabled the digital execution of every task and work process provided for by law, both for the Contracting Authorities and for the Public Procurement Commission. It offers full transparency based on open data principles, for which the Commission has collaborated with the Open Contracting Partnership.

The last legal amendments of 2024 to Law 162/2020 “On Public Procurement”, as amended, provide for provisions regarding the Electronic Procurement System, which will be developed using advanced artificial intelligence technology and robotized processes in accordance with European provisions. This will increase the transparency and visibility of procurement procedures for all interested third parties and the digitalization of all public procurement processes starting from planning, conduction of procedures, awarding of contracts, monitoring and management of public contracts, including payments for public contracts. This will be achieved through the implementation of solutions using Artificial Intelligence for the conduction and evaluation of procurement procedures.

Action Plan Process

In order to further increase transparency in public contracts the following actions can be taken:

- Continuous publication of the concessions and PPPs contracts in the Concessions and PPPs registry;
- Increased use of the e-appeal system from the contracting authorities and economic operators;

- Increasing collaboration with civil society to promote open data standards for public contracts

Use of IRM Recommendations

The following recommendations have been identified in the abovementioned report related to Commitment no. 15 regarding public procurement:

- It is not clear how the commitment will ensure the publication of all concessions and PPP contracts solely through awareness raising (there are no sanctions for not submitting information in a timely manner).

This commitment has not been fully achieved due to technical issues with the Concession Registry. In any case, please note that, during the period of implementation of the action plan there have not been any concession/ppp contracts signed.

- The electronic complaints system was already adopted in 2021. A red flag identification system for e-procurement already exists, but it is not clear if or how the PPA will incorporate the Albanian Institute of Science's ongoing work in its own red flag system. It is true that the e-complaints system has been functional in 2021, but it has been made mandatory to be used by the Contracting Authorities and Economic Operators through the Law 16/2024 which amended the Law 162/2020 "On Public Procurement".

There is no red flag identification system within the Electronic Procurement System. AIS is implementing its own red flag system as a watchdog organization. However, some of the indicators used by AIS have been taken into account for the preparation of the Corruption risk assessment methodology on public procurement procedures.

It has been required that red flags be incorporated into the new EPS.

- Adopting the Open Contracting Data Standard for the Public Procurement Commission (PPC)'s website is also a potentially important step towards better access to public procurement data. However, it is not clear from the action plan whether this activity will result in the publication of significantly more data on the entire procurement lifecycle than was previously available.

PPC is the institution mandated by law to the complaints review and the data generated by them are related to this part of the process mostly. However, the electronic submission of complaints and also the electronic follow up of the process contribute to better data and create possibility to expand the data analysis further.

All the above mentioned recommendations will be taken into account during the preparation of the next action plan.

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed
severe delays

or substantial progress



Limited progress



Not started/With

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
<i>15.11. Systematic Publication of Concession and PPP Contracts in the Electronic Registry</i> Expected Date: May 6, 2024 Lead Institution: PPA Actors: ATRAKO		Electronic Concessions/PPP Registry	As part of its efforts to enhance transparency in public contracts, the Concessions Treatment Agency (ATRAKO) has committed to systematically publishing all concession and PPP contracts in the electronic concessions registry.	ATRAKO has maintained ongoing communication, including verbal discussions, official letters, and emails, with the AKSHI institution to explore alternative solutions that would allow at least the publication of basic information regarding concession and PPP contracts and

				their amendments. Despite these efforts, full uploading and downloading of complete contracts has not yet been achieved.	
<u>15.2 – PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</u> <u>15.2.1. Promoting Open Contracting Standards and Principles</u> <u>15.2.2. Integration of Risk Assessment Tools</u> <u>15.2.3. Promoting Open Corporates Standards (Integrity Checks for Public Contractors)</u> Expected Date: June 6, 2024		15.2.1. The transparency of the public institution (agency) has enabled monitoring by civil society and the piloting of Tender Passport models. Link: https://openprocurement.al A Tender Passport model has been piloted, providing centralized information for all stages of the tender process, from the initial announcement to contract execution. In addition to data, the Passport includes relevant documentation.	15.2.1. AIS has developed activities related to the Public Procurement Sector using the Agency's data as a primary and consistent source, including: -Well-structured procurement information and documentation following Open Contracting standards. Increased accountability through the Risk Assessment Tool in tendering,		

Lead Institution: PPA Actors: Albanian Institute of Science (AIS)		LinkedData has been applied, connecting procurement data with spending data (spending.data.al – Treasury transactions) for the tendered contracts, as well as with business data for contractors implementing the contracts (linking to OpenCorporates. Al). The Tender Passport also includes information on the appeals process and the decisions of the Public Procurement Commission for each procedure, where applicable. Pilot institutions include: Redflags - Open Procurement Albania Local Governance (Redflags - Open Procurement Albania) Albanian Road	using the RedFlag algorithm for tenders in the Health Sector.		
			15.2.2. A public		

		Authority (Redflags - Open Procurement Albania ARRS) Albanian Development Fund (Redflags - Open Procurement Albania). 15.2.2. AIS, with the participation and contribution of the PPA, organized the event: “Need for Improvement of Public Procurement Legislation” (AIS Event) AIS trained approximately 150 activists and media representatives on the use of data and evidence. Each training included links and information on OpenData standards published by the Public Procurement Agency (PPA).	consultation event was held on the Public Procurement Law. A Capacity-Raising Workshop was conducted for economic journalists and activists on capacity building, integrity, and risk elements during public procurement procedures: Capacity Raising Workshop: Public Contracting Cycle – Integrity and Risk Elements during the Procurement Procedures – OpenData in Corruption Prevention – Open Data Albania (ndiqparate.al)	
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			Government data in Open Data format on public procurement was promoted on the PPA homepage (www.app.gov.al). This promotion was carried out by AIS in all trainings with data and evidence users. 15.2.3. The visibility of data on public contractors has increased following the implementation, improvement, and ongoing enforcement of the legal framework, as well as the Beneficial Owner database, enhancing transparency and accountability.		
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15.3.1. <i>15.3.1. Electronic Submission and Management System for Complaints</i> 15.3.2. <i>New website of the Public Procurement Commission (https://kpp.al/) based on the open data principle and the Open Contracting Partnership.</i> 15.3.3. <i>Activities with stakeholder participation – Annual conference “Challenges of the Procurement System in Albania” with broad participation of economic operators, contracting authorities, media, etc.</i> 15.3.4. <i>Trainings with economic operators and contracting authorities/entities –</i>		15.3.1. On the official website of the Public Procurement Commission (PPC), specifically in the Complaints Register, there are 21 fields which are published after interaction with the service “Complaint by Economic Operators for Public Procurement Procedure, Mining Permit, Auction, or Concession.” Economic operators and interested parties also have the possibility to download and process the open data on the official website of the Public Procurement Commission. This is done using the JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)	15.3.1. Electronic Submission and Management System for Complaints -Reduction of costs for parties involved in the process, mainly economic operators and others (fuel costs, postal fees, manpower, etc.); -Efficiency in providing the service of submission and review of complaints; -Faster access and interaction with domestic and foreign economic operators and contracting authorities; -All communicatio	
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<i>procedural and legal aspects of submitting complaints in the electronic complaints system.</i> <i>Workshop with judges from the Supreme Court, Administrative Court of Appeal, Special Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organized Crime, participants from the High Judicial Council, National Bureau of Investigation, SIGMA – OECD.</i> Expected Dates: June 2023 – 2024; January 6, 2025 Leads: PPA, PPC Actors: PPC		format. JSON is a lightweight data interchange format. JSON is used to send data between computers, enabling the reading of data published on the official website of the Public Procurement Commission in sections such as: • Complaints Register • Decisions Register 15.3.2. • submitted complaints, • decision-making, • history of decisions in the three published registers: Complaints Register; Decisions Register; Decisions History;	ns in accordance with the Public Procurement Law – contracting authority – economic operator – Public Procurement Commission, only in electronic form (review of the complaint, issuance of the final decision, notification of the parties); -Execution of procedural actions of the Public Procurement Commission through the Complaints Management System (procedural actions such as file sorting, assignment of rapporteurs, inspectors, communication with third parties, etc.);	
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		- statistics https://kpp.al/Raport eStatistiko re - annual reports https://kpp.al/Raport e - monthly bulletins, - progress of PPC decisions challenged in court, including decisions of the judicial system https://kpp.al/en/AnkesaOCDS 15.3.3. Annual Conference “Challenges of the Procurement System in Albania” with broad participation of economic operators, contracting authorities, media, etc. Conference:	-Access for persons with disabilities 15.3.2. New Website of the Public Procurement Commission https://kpp.al/ Based on the open data principle of the Open Contracting Partnership: -Transparency and accessibility for all its users to access detailed information -Publishes data according to the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS)		
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		“Next Generation Procurement” Trainings with economic operators and contracting authorities/entities – procedural and legal aspects of submitting complaints in the electronic complaints system. On 16 and 17 March 2023: “Transparency and Corruption Prevention in Public Procurement: Methods and Best Practices” On 14 June 2023: seminar: “On the Development of Review and Legal Tools. System Based on Past and Future Practices” On 15–16 June 2023: international conference “Open and Sustainable Procurement in Europe”	15.3.3. Activities with Stakeholder Participation 15.3.4. Trainings with Economic Operators and Contracting Authorities/Entities Procedural and legal aspects of submitting complaints in the electronic complaints system. 15.3.5. Workshop with Judges: From the Supreme Court, Administrative Court of Appeal, Special Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organized Crime, participants	
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		On 27 March 2024: workshop on presenting manuals on complaint procedures for contracting authorities and economic operators in public procurement On 17–19 April 2024: three workshops: Electronic Procurement in Albania e-forms – Public Procurement Data Space 21st Meeting of the Multistakeholder Expert Group on e-Procurement (EXEP) On 22 April 2024: 14th Meeting of the Network of Review Bodies for Public Procurement of EU Member States, Zagreb, Croatia	from the High Judicial Council, National Bureau of Investigation, SIGMA – OECD;		
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		On 12–13 September 2024, Rome, Italy: Conference: “Next Generation Procurement” On 7 October 2024: workshop: “Integrity Risks in Public Procurement: The Albanian Case and European Practices” On 10–11 October 2024: “Complaint and Review Procedures: Perspectives and New Challenges” On 11–12 November 2024: 15th Meeting of the Network of First Instance Public Procurement Review Bodies, Luxembourg On 19 November 2024: online Global Virtual Roundtable: “Improving Procurement Capacities to			
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		Reduce Risks and Increase Efficiency” On 27–28 November 2024: 22nd Meeting of the Expert Group (EXEP) on e-Procurement On 3–4 December 2024: conference focusing on updates and innovations in electronic procurement and data management On 10 December 2024: Regional Conference: “Shaping the Future of GovTech” From 5 to 7 March 2025: workshop on “New EGP System with Artificial Intelligence in Albania” On 11–12 March 2025: workshop: “Strengthening Regional Progress through			
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		Cooperation, Innovation, and Knowledge Sharing” On 12–13 May 2025: 16th Meeting of the Network of First Instance Review Bodies in Public Procurement On 3 and 4 November 2025, the Public Procurement Commission participated in the 25th Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP), organised by the European Commission, DG GROW, in Brussels. A regional meeting was held on 1 and 2 December in Zagreb, with the participation of representatives of public procurement review bodies from South-Eastern Europe, for a direct and high-level exchange on ways			
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		to increase accountability standards in our systems. On 12 December 2025, at the premises of the Public Procurement Commission, a meeting was held with representatives of the EBRD and members of the Commission, during which reforms in the public procurement system and future objectives were discussed.			
Lessons and Insights					
The commitments above have been drafted based on the overall objectives of the Albanian Government to further improve public procurement and increase transparency. In this context, the involvement of the civil society organisations is also very important as close collaboration between public institutions and civil society greatly contributes to the improvement of the public procurement system in general and to the increase of transparency on this process.					
Recommendations					
The preparation of the next action plan shall take into account the main strategic objectives envisaged for public procurement in various strategic documents as well as the recommendations from EU Commission as well as other international partners. In this context, greater focus should be given to the Corruption Risk assessment and inclusion of red flags into the new EPS.					

Commitment No.16 *“Promotion and inter-institutional cooperation in order to improve public services towards entrepreneurship, through the creation of a supportive climate and environment for entrepreneurship”*

Summary	
Commitment No.16 has significantly improved public services for startups through digitalization, increased transparency, and strengthened interinstitutional coordination. Two national grant schemes (2024–2025) have been implemented, with 960 applications and 170 startups funded. The process is fully digitalized through e-Albania and startupalbania.gov.al, legal amendments have been adopted (Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 844/2025), and evaluation and complaint mechanisms have been established. Progress assessment: Green (Substantial Progress).	
Institution	Minister of state for the protection of entrepreneurship
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
Albania has undertaken important governance reforms in recent years, particularly in the areas of digitalization, transparency and harmonization with European standards. Open government efforts are particularly important for the country to: • Increase transparency in the provision of public services • Strengthen trust between citizens/entrepreneurs and public institutions • Improve institutional accountability • Accelerate the digitalization of public administration • Harmonize national policies with European Union priorities Entrepreneurship and innovation are key factors for economic growth and competitiveness. However, historically, bureaucracy and lack of inter-institutional coordination have created barriers for startups and innovative enterprises. The main priorities of the governance reform include: • Digitalization of public services • Increasing transparency and accountability • Promoting competitiveness and innovation • Harmonization with EU policies (Growth Plan, Smart Specialization ip– S3)	

Commitment 16 directly contributes to these priorities through:

- Digitalization of grant application and evaluation processes
- Establishing clear and traceable procedures
- Strengthening inter-institutional coordination
- Publishing criteria, complaint mechanisms and monitoring framework

Alignment with the OGP Core Principles

Transparency

- Publication of grant evaluation criteria and mechanisms
- Publication of winners
- Digital traceability and tracking through e-Albania and startupalbania.gov.al

Civic Participation

- Consultations with ecosystem stakeholders
- Involvement of civil society and startup representatives
- Continuous engagement through online platforms

Public Accountability

- Establishment of evaluation and appeal committees
- Monitoring and reporting of public funds
- Full digital traceability of applications

Action Plan Process

The Government of Albania has implemented a structured participatory process, in line with the OGP Standards for Participation and Partnership.

During drafting:

- Thematic questionnaires were prepared and published
- Public consultations were held
- Online meetings were organized (participants: 58)
- Civil society and startup ecosystem stakeholders were involved

During implementation (2024–2025):

- Ongoing collaboration with ecosystem stakeholders

- Coordination with line ministries and financial institutions

- Public information on support schemes

- Engagement through digital platforms

Adaptation to the OGP Participation and Partnership Standards

- Early and timely notification to all stakeholders

- Multiple participation channels (online, meetings, questionnaires)

- Documentation of consultations

- Ongoing dialogue during implementation

Use of IRM Recommendations

1. Improving the measurability of commitments

Clear indicators: 960 applications and 170 beneficiary startups.

2. Increasing digital transparency

Full digitalization through e-Albania and startupalbania.gov.al

3. Strengthening institutional accountability

Establishing evaluation and appeal committees

4. Increasing public access to information

The startupalbania.gov.al platform as an information and transparency center

5. Ensuring the sustainability of reforms

Legal amendments and DCM no. 844/2025

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed



Limited progress



Not started/With severe delays

or substantial progress

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps

"Promotion and inter-institutional cooperation aimed at improving public services towards entrepreneurship, through the creation of a supportive climate and environment for entrepreneurship"		- Implementation of two national grant schemes (2024–2025) - 960 applications and 170 funded startups - Full digitalization of the application process (2026 scheme) - Launch of startupalbania.gov.al - Approval of legal amendments and VKM no. 844/2025 - Establishment of evaluation and complaint mechanisms - Elimination of physical documentation	- All planned activities have been completed - Digital systems are functional and traceable - Measurable results: increase in applications and beneficiaries - Legal and institutional consolidation - Strengthening of inter-institutional coordination	- Integrating platform analytics for public reporting - Publishing open data on grant outcomes - Monitoring the impact of funded startups - Developing international collaborations in innovation	
Lessons and Insights					
• Digitalization significantly increases transparency and public trust • Structured evaluation reduces perceptions of favoritism • Ongoing dialogue improves policymaking • Legal consolidation ensures sustainability • Grievance mechanisms increase accountability					
Recommendations					
During the implementation of Commitment 16, it has been highlighted that digitalization and transparency are key to improving public services to entrepreneurship. It is recommended that					

the government continue publishing periodic reports on grant data and evaluation processes, making all data open to the public and interested stakeholders. This will increase accountability and enable more effective monitoring of the impact of support schemes.

In addition, it is suggested to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and data exchange between relevant institutions, ensuring better coordination of support programs and compliance with national and European priorities. It is also necessary to develop a framework for measuring the long-term impact of grants and other programs, ensuring a sustainable assessment of the results for startups and the innovation ecosystem.

It is also recommended to expand communication with all stakeholders in the ecosystem, including civil society, investors and international partners, encouraging participation and collaboration at every stage of policy and program implementation. These steps will contribute to creating a more sustainable, transparent and supportive environment for innovative entrepreneurship in Albania.

Commitment No.17 “Awareness and information of the public and especially of groups in need regarding access to comprehensive services”

Commitment No.18 “Strengthening the capacities of professionals, with responsibility in providing services to the most vulnerable categories”

Commitment No.19 “Strengthening synergies between institutions and CSOs in the processes of strengthening the monitoring framework”

Summary	
Commitments No.17,18 and 19 aim to improve access to inclusive services for vulnerable groups by increasing public awareness, strengthening the capacities of professionals, and reinforcing monitoring mechanisms and institutional coordination. The processes have been developed in cooperation with civil society organizations and stakeholders, ensuring broader participation in the design and implementation of social policies. Through training, awareness-raising activities, and monitoring of strategic documents, the commitments have sought to increase transparency, improve the quality of services, and better address the needs of vulnerable groups, thereby contributing to more inclusive and accountable policies.	
Institution	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026
Introduction	
All documents drafted by the Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Health are of particular importance, as they include measures and objectives in protecting the rights of vulnerable social groups, their inclusion and participation, such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, Roma and Egyptians, children, women, LGBTI persons. Open government initiatives have a key role as they influence the improvement of policies at both the national and local levels. By promoting open public consultation, whether with civil society organizations, or public participation, by enabling their participation in every process of drafting these acts, it has been made possible for these policies to be transparent, inclusive and more responsive to the needs of vulnerable social groups. In this context, the priorities of the country's governance reform, in relation to the priorities of the Ministry of Health, focus mainly on improving access to information and promoting inclusive decision-making processes. The action plans to be drafted will be based on these priorities by defining targeted commitments that strengthen integrity and promote greater cooperation between government and civil society.	
Action Plan Process	
Currently, the process of drafting three strategic documents has begun: the National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian Minorities, the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and the National Agenda for Children's Rights. For each of these plans, respective monitoring reports have also been developed according to the timelines set out in the strategic documents. Based	

on the assessments and recommendations provided in these reports, the main pillars of the new plans are being developed.

Currently, the implementation of the Action Plan for LGBTI persons, the Action Plan for the Elderly, and the Gender Equality Strategy is ongoing.

All strategic documents that are in the process of being drafted, as well as those currently being implemented, undergo consultations with civil society organizations, interest groups, and public consultations on the institution's website, with the aim of including the targeted social groups in these processes. This also seeks to enhance their engagement for active participation in order to improve current policies and establish the strategic pillars that ensure equality, rights, inclusion, and integrity.

At the same time, children will continue to be involved in the drafting of the new strategic document related to the protection of their rights, through their participation in the meetings that will be held during this process.

These documents are expected to have a positive development, particularly in the context of the obligations we have undertaken regarding the European Union integration processes.

Use of IRM Recommendations

In every plan drafted, all consultation processes have had an inclusive approach, with broad participation from civil society, actors from local self-government units, and the support or assistance provided by strategic partners or field experts.

The processes for drafting each strategic document or monitoring reports have been carried out through inter-institutional coordination, based on the Orders of the Minister of MSHMS, for the establishment and functioning of Inter-institutional Working Groups, with the representation of line ministries according to the area of coverage, independent institutions, and the inclusion of civil society actors during these processes. All interest groups participating in the consultation processes have had and continue to play a key role in monitoring progress and addressing the implementation challenges related to the needs and issues concerning the target groups in need.

Throughout the entire process, every meeting held, whether in person or online, has been accompanied by lists of participants involved in the meetings, as well as the minutes of the meetings. Similarly, updates and reflections on the draft strategic documents during the consultations have included all data, opinions, ideas, comments, and suggestions collected from each actor involved in the processes. All communications and notifications have been carried out through official written communication or email.

The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation of the action plans have been inclusive, aligning with OGP standards.

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed
or substantial progress



Limited progress



Not started/With severe delays

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Engagement 17. Awareness and informing the public, especially vulnerable groups, about access to inclusive services		• The Inter-institutional Working Group for drafting the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2027–2030 was formed. • The monitoring report of the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021–2025 was presented. • Children will be involved in drafting the new document through participatory meetings. • The new National Agenda 2027–2030 will reflect measures for implementing the 2023 Final Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in a comprehensive,	Active inter-institutional coordination and participatory processes demonstrate concrete steps toward awareness and inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly children, in policy development.	Finalize and adopt the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2027–2030, ensuring full integration of EU accession obligations and CRC recommendations.

		structured, and measurable way.			
Engagement 18. Strengthening the capacities of professionals responsible for providing services to the most vulnerable categories, such as: children, women, persons with disabilities, Roma and Egyptians, LGBTI, the elderly		• July 2024: Two-day capacity-building meeting with local coordinators on domestic violence case management. • 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign co-organized with UN Women. • Annual Awards Ceremony (2023–2024) organized with the UN in Albania during the 16 Days of Activism. • December 17: MHSW represented at the "Inspiring Boys and Men – 5th Edition" Forum (UNFPA/Voice of Youth Network), securing institutional commitments with CSOs. • Children consulted on NCCHR measures in multiple cities	Multiple capacity-building activities conducted across target groups (DV coordinators, children, LGBTIQ+), with multi-stakeholder engagement including UN agencies, CSOs, and local institutions.	Address reporting gaps at local level; strengthen institutional capacity for consistent data collection and reporting across all vulnerable groups.	

		(National Agenda 2021–2026, p. 148). • MHSW participated in IDAHOT 2025 awareness activities, including the Pride Parade. • A dedicated LGBTIQ+ specialist has been in place in the Directorate of Social Inclusion Policies since March 2024.			
Engagement 19. Strengthening the monitoring framework through monitoring instruments and mechanisms in cooperation with civil society and strategic documents for protection and social inclusion		MHSW completed the Final Evaluation Report for the National Action Plan for the Elderly 2020–2024. The "Policy Document on Aging 2025–2030 and the Action Plan for its Implementation" was drafted and adopted via Council of Ministers Decision No. 315, dated 04.06.2025.	Completion of an evaluation cycle and adoption of a successor strategic document demonstrates a functioning monitoring framework with evidence-based policy continuity.	Implement the Policy Document on Aging 2025–2030; establish civil society monitoring mechanisms aligned with the new Action Plan.	
Lessons and Insights					

The inclusion of interest groups, civil society organizations, and the target groups focused in these plans made it possible for the action plans to address real needs, ensure inclusivity, and improve their drafting process.

Another key insight is that inter-institutional coordination is essential. The institutions involved in the process had clear roles, defined responsibilities, and these processes operated based on regular coordinating mechanisms to achieve the set objectives.

Consultation processes in policy drafting resulted in increased institutional accountability and empowered citizens to understand and exercise their rights. The results achieved highlighted that, in addition to transparency, it is very important for information to reach all interest groups.

During these processes, capacity building is very important, through trainings developed to ensure that the processes are as productive as possible, realized within the timelines, and of high quality.

Recommendations

One of the key pillars of the Action Plan for Open Government is communication and the dissemination of data and information to the public through awareness campaigns, but not only. Several tools have been envisaged for transmitting information and reaching interest groups, in collaboration with civil society organizations, which once again demonstrates and confirms the key priorities of open governance, such as field activities, meetings, electronic correspondence, dialogues, publications on websites, the Public Consultation Platform, etc. However, despite the wide range of communication tools, what is missing is the communication of certain information to specific groups, or in other words, adapting the communication infrastructure in a non-discriminatory way to reach all groups and, consequently, ensuring a higher level of participation.

Horizontal communication is essential, and for this purpose, local civil society organizations must be effectively involved. This interest group is at the heart of local communities and can easily disseminate information that would otherwise not be sufficiently accessible due to its complexity or technical language. Again, local civil society organizations need support in developing capacities and communication strategies.

Commitment No.20 “Awareness and education of the general public about the importance of inclusiveness in education”.

Commitment No.21 “Awareness and education of the general public on the impact of digitization of the education system to increase the quality of education and contribute to the creation of a society based on knowledge”

Summary

Commitments No.20,21 focused on two parallel pillars: (1) raising awareness and promoting inclusive education practices, particularly for marginalized communities and students with special needs; and (2) increasing public awareness of the importance of education digitalization for improving quality, enhancing transparency, and developing the digital competencies of students and teachers. The evidence presented demonstrates concrete and structured interventions, including the operation of mediators and resource centres, the establishment of an early warning system for school dropout, measures to prevent violence and bullying with broad parental involvement, as well as investments in SmartLabs, pre- and post-training assessments, large-scale training and certification programmes, and the adoption of the regulatory framework for SMIP. Overall, the commitments have generated measurable results and enabled the development of concrete implementation instruments, including legal acts, methodologies, modules, equipment, and reporting mechanisms. However, to ensure their sustainability and long-term impact, further scaling-up of the interventions, institutionalization of monitoring mechanisms, and stronger targeted communication with beneficiary groups remain necessary.

Institution	Ministry of Education and Sports
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

The Ministry of Education has defined inclusion, among others, as one of the main pillars of its policies, with the aim of creating an open and equal education system for all.

Each school year, all pre-university educational institutions are guided through the annual school-year instruction, among other things, to:

- take measures to create an external and internal environment for a friendly, safe, and inclusive school;
- prioritize the enrollment in school of children from the Roma and Egyptian national minorities and ensure their completion of upper secondary education;
- implement the measures foreseen in the National Action Plan for strengthening mechanisms to prevent all forms of violence and bullying and to increase safety in pre-university educational institutions, which is fundamentally based on promoting

inclusion, equality, non-discrimination, and the prohibition of violence and bullying, etc.;

- implement the National Agenda for Children’s Rights 2021–2026;
- implement the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030;
- implement the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation of Roma and Egyptians 2021–2025;
- implement the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021–2025;
- etc.

With the aim of increasing school attendance by students, including Roma and Egyptian students, the Ministry of Education has continuously undertaken measures such as:

- providing students with free textbooks in use, including free provision for 16 categories;
- free transportation for students who travel more than two kilometers to school;
- providing scholarships even in basic education for students who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out;
- improving school infrastructure;
- equipping schools with computers and laboratories;
- integrating teaching assistants into the system;
- integrating mediators into the system;
- improving psycho-social services;
- implementing special after-school programs and initiatives such as “School as a Community Center,” “We Do Homework at School,” Art, Crafts, Sports, etc.

In 2024, the Ministry of Education approved the updated Curricular Framework, within whose curricular documents priority has been given to the inclusion of Roma cultural heritage and history. The curriculum update aims to develop students’ socio-emotional competencies, which implies learning skills that help students recognize and manage their emotions, build respectful relationships, and develop empathy, use techniques to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence, and promote communication, respect, and cooperation.

Furthermore, within the review of the Curricular Framework, a new competency has been included, “Competence for Intercultural Awareness and Expression,” implemented across all subjects. This competency aims to develop students’ ability to understand, respect, and express how ideas, values, and cultural experiences are manifested in different cultures, as well as to build a sense of belonging and identity in a culturally diverse environment. Through learning

content, activities, learning situations, and cross-curricular approaches, subject programs aim for students to:

- understand and respect ethnic, cultural, and social diversity;
- develop civic attitudes based on respect for human dignity.

Within the framework of support for national minorities, a teaching plan for schools of national minorities has been developed and approved by Order No. 531, dated 9 September 2022, of the Ministry of Education and Sports. This plan is also applicable to the Roma minority and includes the distribution of subjects taught in the Albanian language and those taught in the minority's mother tongue, thus creating opportunities for the preservation and development of their language and culture.

To strengthen the linguistic and cultural identity of Roma and to equip them with communication, reading, and writing skills in their mother tongue, the Roma language curriculum for grades 6–9 has been developed. The Agency for the Assurance of Quality in Pre-University Education has developed a specific module on the history, culture, and art of Roma and Travellers and will continue with teacher training.

In the curricula of history, civic education, and Albanian language subjects, elements have been included that aim to promote knowledge and awareness of Roma history and culture. These elements apply to all students, not only Roma students, and contribute to the development of linguistic and civic competencies, as well as to increasing respect for and appreciation of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Roma community.

Staff of pre-university educational institutions are being trained in inclusive education, diversity, and anti-Gypsyism.

Vulnerable groups of students receive support from designated staff of local education institutions responsible for pre-university education, acting as mediators for these groups, to support awareness-raising and improve their access to education. Currently, 36 mediators have been employed, who serve to improve communication and cooperation between vulnerable groups and pre-university education institutions, with the aim of increasing attendance in the learning process.

Regarding student enrollment, attendance, and completion of schooling, including Roma and Egyptian students, an early warning system has been established and will be extended to more schools, with the aim of identifying students at risk of dropping out. In this context, schools, principals, teachers, and psycho-social staff cooperate closely with Local Self-Government Units, Child Protection Units, and mediators in order to identify early students at risk of dropping out and to take joint measures to guarantee their school attendance. Furthermore, initiatives such as providing scholarships for students from families in need, free textbooks, free transportation for students who travel more than two kilometers to school, and special

after-school programs have significantly improved school attendance by students, including Roma and Egyptian students.

Educational institutions continuously monitor situations of overrepresentation of Roma and Egyptian students, with the aim of taking measures to prevent and avoid segregation.

The Curricular Framework of pre-university education is built on the principles of non-discrimination, equality, respect for human rights, and the best interest of the child, as reflected in the goals of education, the teaching process, and assessment.

Within the framework of the “National Action Plan for Strengthening Mechanisms to Prevent All Forms of Violence and Bullying for Safety in Pre-University Educational Institutions,” the Ministry of Education updated in 2025 the “Guidelines for the Practice of School Psycho-Social Services.” The new guidelines enable a comprehensive and integrated process that begins with early identification of problematic behavior, continues with assessment through accurate tools, is followed by an intervention plan, includes referral when necessary, and concludes with monitoring and documentation of the case. In this document, in addition to bullying and violence, cases such as mood disorders, anxiety, internet addiction, self-harm, family difficulties, school dropout, and radical behaviors are addressed in detail. The guidelines are equipped with 36 work models and 25 ready-to-use instruments, which help psycho-social workers operate in a uniform and monitorable manner throughout the country, both in urban and rural areas.

In the pre-university education system, approximately 100 teachers from the Roma and Egyptian minorities are employed, all of whom are graduates in teaching.

These commitments are directly linked to the core principles of OGP:

- **Transparency:** publication of training results and monitoring of services;
- **Civic participation:** involvement of NGOs and communities in the creation of training packages and awareness-raising campaigns;
- **Public accountability:** monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of training and services for vulnerable students.

Action Plan Process

Within the framework of the cooperation that the Ministry of Education (MoE) has with NGOs in the field of education, with the aim of providing quality and inclusive education, and supported by policy documents and national strategies related to the education sector, the MoE has consistently considered and included cooperation with NGO partners.

Regarding meetings with civil society, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were initially informed by the MoE via email about the process of drafting the National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) 2022–2024. The organization of the first online meeting aimed to ensure the inclusion of interest groups, primarily civil society organizations, in the

drafting and consolidation of the components of the national OGP action plan, with the purpose of collecting comments and concrete proposals related to the formulation of new measures and activities in support of the proposed commitments.

The purpose of the consultation during the second meeting, held at the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), remained the discussion and agreement on the questionnaire/survey for defining the MoE's priority commitments within the 2022–2024 National Action Plan and the role of CSO involvement in these commitments. Sixty CSOs active in the relevant field were notified via email and were provided with detailed information on the co-creation process and the principles of the initiative. During these meetings, two priority commitments for the involvement of the MoES in OGP were also agreed upon, which were subsequently approved by the Committee.

- The Ministry of Education organized consultative meetings with NGOs, parent associations, and representatives of vulnerable communities in order to identify real needs in education and to determine the priorities of the action plan;
- The process was carried out in accordance with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, documenting comments and integrating them into the drafting of the commitments.

During implementation:

- The Ministry cooperated with NGOs in organizing trainings and awareness-raising campaigns (Commitments 18, 20, 21);
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms were followed to assess the implementation of the commitments and their impact on students and marginalized groups;
- Periodic meetings and public reports were developed to ensure that citizens and involved communities are informed and have the opportunity to provide feedback on progress;
- This process ensures continuous participation, granting citizens and NGOs an active role in overseeing and adjusting education policies.

Use of IRM Recommendations

With regard to the recommendation on raising public awareness and educating citizens about mechanisms for the prevention of and fight against corruption, the Ministry of Education, through the review of the pre-university education curriculum, aims to contribute to empowering citizens to use reporting mechanisms, thereby increasing the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. This commitment is aligned with the core principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), by promoting transparency through the dissemination of clear and accessible information, civic participation through awareness-raising and active education, and public accountability by encouraging the use of reporting mechanisms and citizen oversight.

With regard to public awareness of the importance of inclusive education, the Ministry of Education has undertaken initiatives to increase awareness of inclusive education, including information campaigns with parents, teachers, and the community, training for teachers on inclusive education, and the use of digital platforms to disseminate information on education policies and programs for vulnerable students. These measures aim to increase citizens' knowledge and participation, thereby contributing to transparency, accountability, and inclusion within the education system.

The Ministry of Education has conducted information campaigns for parents, teachers, and students on the use of the SMIP platform and the benefits of digitalization in terms of transparency, monitoring, and efficiency of education services, encouraging knowledge and active citizen participation.

Key recommendations from the latest Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report were used to improve the drafting and implementation process of the Action Plan in the most recent cycle, as well as in the drafting of important documents approved by the Ministry of Education in the context of fulfilling the institutional commitments arising from the Action Plan.

The IRM recommends that the Action Plan drafting process be more inclusive and transparent, involving civil society and other stakeholders from the very beginning of the process in order to ensure broad ideas and priorities. This has helped the Ministry of Education to include, in a range of processes related to the drafting of legal acts or the development of various strategies, a wide range of actors through a proactive approach, who have contributed to the co-creation of important documents, ensuring an open approach and a product with stronger social impact. Drafting these documents through such a process, in which civil society actors and NGOs have also taken part, has enabled a clearer definition of each party's competencies, ensuring a clear, measurable, and more implementable division of responsibilities, thus generating a positive impact on the implementation of the act, document, or strategy.

Within the framework of transparency and accountability, the Ministry of Education operates through a range of mechanisms such as the official Public Consultation website, the mechanism of the Coordinator for the Right to Information, as well as access to open data and institutional transparency, with the aim of informing the general public about policies, initiatives, and any other relevant information related to the field of education.

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed



Limited progress



Not started/With severe delays

or substantial progress

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Ambler/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Commitment 20: Increasing awareness of inclusion in education for students and marginalized communities		By Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 511, dated 27.7.2022, vulnerable groups of students benefit from support provided by designated staff, acting in the role of mediators for these groups, in order to support them in terms of awareness-raising and improving their access to education. Currently, In cooperation with OSFA, special schools have been reorganized into resource centers (DCM No. 148, dated 13.3.2024). Currently, there are 3 resource centers. In cooperation with UNICEF, an	Increasing awareness of inclusion in education. Provision of special pre-university education for students with disabilities, provision of support services for students with disabilities who study in mainstream schools, as well as the provision of training for teachers. Increasing enrollment and school attendance among vulnerable groups. Management of all forms of violence in schools,	Increasing the number of mediators in schools, with the aim of further raising awareness among marginalized communities about inclusion in education. The expansion of resource centers is envisaged. Extending the early warning system to all schools in the system, with the aim of identifying students at risk of dropping out. The involvement of parents during the

		early warning system has been established and implemented in 80 basic education schools, with the aim of identifying students at risk of dropping out. By Order No. 32, dated 21.1.2025, the National Action Plan for strengthening mechanisms for the prevention of all forms of violence and bullying for safety in pre-university educational institutions was approved, in cooperation with UNICEF, CRCA, Save the Children, and the Coalition for Children's Education in Albania. Furthermore, in this process, parents played a key role in the discussions and decisions taken. A total of 1,300	promoting social inclusion and the development of children. Provision of extracurricular courses in eight different fields for children and young people, such as: Painting; Musical instruments; Agriculture and environment; Crafts; Choir; Theatre; Sports – well-being; Technology. Increasing awareness. Within the framework of the cooperation that the Ministry of Education has with NGOs in the field of education, with the aim of providing quality and	national consultation processes for all initiatives/reforms that will be undertaken. Increasing informational and awareness-raising activities. The Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), which provides a practical roadmap for the involved institutions—the Ministry of Education, ASCAP, and other institutions—to ensure continuity, institutionalization, and the gradual expansion of investments and the main results of the project. The project results	
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		meetings were held, with the participation of 65,000 parents. For the 2024–2025 school year, 786 information campaigns and sessions were conducted with Roma and Egyptian parents on the importance of education. Interim Narrative Report for “EU 4 Inclusive Teaching” for the three years of project implementation. Documentation prepared within the framework of the Manual of Procedures for the Implementation of IPA Funds. In cooperation with OSFA – the Open Society Foundation for Albania, which is also the implementer of the project “EU 4 Inclusive Teaching,” within	inclusive education, the project “EU 4 Inclusive Teaching” was implemented with OSFA. This is a grant under the IPA 2019 programme, which began implementation in February 2022 and is implemented by the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA) in cooperation with the University of Tampere, Finland, with the main objective to: To enhance inclusive competency based quality learning in pre-university primary education in Albania that leaves no child behind, based on processes	are aligned with national education reforms and EU priorities related to competency-based learning, teachers’ professional development, inclusive education, and equal access to services, particularly for marginalized children and children with disabilities	
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		the objective of supporting psycho-social offices in schools, 550 schools in Albania have been equipped with ICT equipment for psycho-social offices. Tools have been provided for assessing the needs of school psychologists and social workers, training modules have been delivered for psycho-social professionals and school staff, and awareness-raising materials have been prepared for school communities.	that equip teachers with skills and competencies of inclusive teaching.	
Commitment 21: Assessment of the impact of digitalization on the education system		Implementation of the GovTech project in primary education through Smart Labs, supported on a legal basis and inter-institutional agreement	The commitment has been implemented in a structured manner, with measurable indicators and standardized	Continuation of impact assessments for the third grade (post-test) and comparative analysis. Continuation of the

		(Ministry of Education – NAIS). Systematic assessments of students (pre-test and post-test) were conducted for approximately 5,000 students per class in the ICT subject (grades I–III). Analytical reports on the effectiveness of the ICT curriculum and the impact of digital and numerical skills on learning. Training and certification of over 1,200 teachers, principals, and specialists of ZVAPs on the pedagogical and managerial use of technology and Smart Labs, including modules on Artificial Intelligence in teaching: Digital Education and	assessment tools. There is clear evidence of the impact of digitalization on improving students’ digital and numerical competencies, as well as on enhancing the professional capacities of teachers and school leaders. The evaluation process has been integrated into national policies for professional development and curriculum updates.	training of 1,200 teachers and school leaders on the use of Smart Labs in the teaching process. Gradual expansion of digitalization to other cycles of pre-university education. By 2029, an additional 616 schools will be equipped with 645 Smart Labs. By 2027, 5,500 high school teachers will be provided with laptops to work with SMIP and use them during lessons. For the project “Artificial Intelligence	
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		Artificial Intelligence for Youth. Memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Education and AADF, May 2022. In parallel with digitalization, attention has also been given to cybersecurity. Order No. 32, dated 21/01/2025, “On the approval of the National Action Plan for strengthening the prevention of all forms of violence and bullying for safety in pre-university educational institutions.” Digitalization of educational services through the use of the Pre-University Information Management System (SMIP). Order No. 589, dated 16.10.2023, “On the approval		for Youth,” by 2027, approximately 2,000 students and 140 teachers will benefit. During 2026, online safety training will continue for the Presidents of High School Student Governments .	
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		of the regulation for the use of SMIP,” amended by Order No. 71, dated 19.02.2025, Joint Instruction No. 20, dated 13.08.2025, “For the 2025–2026 school year in the pre-university education system.”		
Commitment 18: Development of training packages for teachers and social service professionals for vulnerable groups.		Commitment 18: Development of training packages for teachers and social service professionals for vulnerable groups. Design and implementation of training modules for teaching assistants and psychosocial service staff in schools. Training and certification of approximately 63 leaders of the professional networks of teaching assistants, who	The commitment has produced concrete results both at the policy level (approved frameworks and methodologies) and at the implementation level (training and certification on a national scale). The trainings have contributed to strengthening professional capacities to support students from	Continuation of the development and implementation of the annual training modules for teaching assistants and psychosocial service professionals within the framework of the NTPPD 2026–2028. Strengthening the monitoring mechanisms for the impact of the trainings on

		subsequently delivered training to around 2,000 teaching assistants at the national level. Design and implementation of specific thematic modules, including “History and Culture of the Roma,” for teachers of social studies, arts, and Albanian language subjects. Approval by Order No. 18, dated 15.01.2025, of the: “Framework for the Assessment of the Quality of School Psychosocial Services” and the “Methodology for Internal and External Evaluation of School Psychosocial Services.”	vulnerable groups and to improving the quality of psychosocial services in schools. The activities are also linked to the National Teacher Professional Development Program and to the priorities of social inclusion in education.	school practice. Expansion of training topics on inclusion, cultural diversity, and support for students with special needs.	
Lessons and Insights					

Taking into account the work carried out so far by the Ministry of Education in fulfilling the aforementioned commitments, it is suggested that there is still work to be done in terms of transparency, co-creation, and co-governance regarding the full inclusion of different communities.

The implementation of the Commitments has highlighted several key lessons and findings for the design and implementation of open policies in the education sector:

- The combination of policies with concrete implementation tools (frameworks, methodologies, training and evaluation modules) significantly increases the effectiveness and sustainability of reforms, ensuring the transition from document to school practice.
- Data-based assessment (e.g., pre-tests and post-tests for students, analytical reports, training evidence) proves essential for measuring the real impact of interventions, particularly in the areas of digitalization and social inclusion.
- Structured professional development, implemented on a national scale (through national programs for the professional development of teachers, has demonstrated itself as an effective mechanism for spreading new practices and increasing institutional capacities.
- An intersectoral and inter-institutional approach (MoE, AKSHI, ASCAP, higher education institutions) has been a key factor in ensuring coherence between digitalization policies, curricula, and support services for students from vulnerable groups.
- Integrating social inclusion and digital transformation within the same reform cycle has shown that technology, when combined with professional support and quality frameworks, can reduce inequalities and improve access to quality education.

Recommendations

Based on the results achieved by the Commitments, several actions are recommended to further advance their implementation and impact:

- Further expansion of digitalization/Smart Labs as well as support services, professional development, and quality monitoring.
- Updating and harmonizing the training packages for teaching assistants and psycho-social staff, reflecting new technological developments.

Commitment No.22 *“Review of the National Referral Mechanism in order to ensure the continued application of standards and SOPs for the treatment of trafficked persons”.*

Summary

Commitment No.22 aimed to review and strengthen the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to ensure the effective and sustainable functioning of mechanisms for the identification, referral, and treatment of trafficked persons. During the implementation period, the cooperation agreement was reviewed and signed, improving interinstitutional coordination and strengthening the application of the relevant standards and procedures. The commitment contributed to enhanced cooperation among institutions and non-state actors, as well as to the improvement of protection and referral mechanisms, in line with the principles of transparency, accountability, and collaboration promoted by OGP.

Institution	Ministry of Internal Affairs
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

Efforts toward open governance undertaken by state institutions are particularly important for increasing citizens’ trust in public institutions and improving the quality of public services. In this context, the Albanian government has undertaken reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, digitizing public services, and combating corruption.

The Open Government Partnership helps address challenges such as limited citizen participation and insufficient institutional capacities by creating spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and public oversight.

The main priorities of governance reform in Albania include:

- increasing transparency and access to public information;
- strengthening accountability and public integrity mechanisms by improving oversight, reporting, and institutional responsiveness to citizens;
- expanding citizen and civil society participation in the design and monitoring of public policies;
- establishing mechanisms for public consultation and co-creation.

The Open Government Action Plan has directly contributed to these priorities by introducing concrete measures to involve civil society and citizens in decision-making processes, as well as by strengthening transparency and the monitoring of institutional activities.

Action Plan Process

The Government of Albania has pursued an inclusive approach of the participation throughout the entire cycle of the development and implementation of the OGP Action Plan, aiming to engage non-state actors in the key stages of the process, including consultation, drafting, adoption, implementation, and monitoring of the Action Plan. During the drafting phase, a range of consultation mechanisms were used, such as public meetings, roundtable discussions, and online platforms, to collect proposals and feedback from civil society, academia, the private sector, and citizens.

The process was supported by coordinating structures and institutional points of contact, which facilitated dialogue between state institutions and stakeholders, with the objective of enhancing transparency and improving the quality of the commitments included in the Action Plan. Overall, the approach sought to maintain an open and collaborative dialogue, strengthening the principles of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability in the implementation of the OGP Action Plan.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The five key recommendations presented in the latest Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report were used as practical guidance to improve both the development process and the implementation of the Action Plan in this cycle. Specifically:

- the recommendation to strengthen co-creation with civil society was reflected in the expansion of public consultations and the earlier and more systematic involvement of non-governmental actors during the commitment development phase;
- the recommendation to formulate clearer and more measurable commitments was addressed by defining more specific objectives, progress indicators, and clearer implementation timelines;
- the suggestion to focus on high-impact reforms influenced the selection of commitments directly related to transparency, public accountability, and civic participation;
- the recommendation to improve inter-institutional coordination was reflected in strengthening the role of coordinating structures and OGP points of contact during implementation.
- the recommendation for more regular and comprehensive monitoring and reporting was applied to increase the involvement of non-governmental actors in tracking progress and to enhance the transparency of reporting during the implementation of the Action Plan.

Overall, these recommendations contributed to improving the quality of the process, the relevance of the commitments, and the alignment of the Action Plan with the principles of open government promoted by the OGP.

Assessment of the Commitments



Completed



Limited progress



Not started/With severe delays

or substantial progress				
Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Commitment 22: Review the National Referral Mechanism		https://mb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Marrevshja-e-Bashkepunimit-MKR-scan.pdf	NRM has been approved	The implementation of the NRM
Lessons and Insights				
During the development and implementation of the Action Plan, important lessons were learned, but several key challenges were also identified. One of the main lessons is that early and continuous participation of civil society and other non-governmental actors improves the quality and implementation of commitments. The implementation of the plan highlighted the importance of inter-institutional coordination. It is worth emphasizing that continuous monitoring and regular reporting are essential for the accountability of public institutions. However, challenges remain related to human resource capacities for systematically tracking progress.				
Recommendations				
• Continue efforts to improve the quality of commitments by defining clear objectives, measurable indicators, and realistic implementation timelines. • Ensure that the Action Plan is more flexible to institutional and contextual changes, incorporating mechanisms for review and updating during implementation. • Improve inter-institutional coordination through clearer roles and responsibilities. • Invest in building the capacities of public administration on the principles of open government and the implementation of the OGP. • Develop awareness-raising and information campaigns for citizens regarding their rights. • Actively engage civil society organizations, stakeholder groups, and other relevant actors. • Collaborate with international partners and donors who can support capacity building and the exchange of good practices.				

Commitment No.23 *“Regulatory impact assessment, programming of regulatory acts and public consultation are at the foundation of a data-based, well-planned policy-making system that enables public involvement in decision-making, for a democratic, transparent and accountable governance”*

Summary

Commitment No.23 aimed to strengthen evidence-based policymaking in Albania by improving regulatory impact assessment (RIA), regulatory planning, and public consultation processes. During the implementation period, significant progress was achieved through the institutionalization of RIA procedures, systematic publication of draft acts and consultation reports, and strengthened monitoring mechanisms. Public participation was enhanced through the Electronic Register for Public Notification and Consultation, while capacity-building activities improved the analytical quality and consistency of RIA reports across institutions. Overall, the commitment contributed to increased transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accountability in policy design and legislative planning.

Institution	Prime minister’s office, Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023- 2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

Open government efforts are particularly important for Albania in the context of strengthening democratic governance, improving public trust in institutions, and advancing the country’s European Union accession process. Transparency, inclusive decision-making, and public accountability are core governance reform priorities, especially in the areas of policy design, legislative planning, and regulatory quality.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2023–2025 directly supports these priorities by promoting structured public consultation, evidence-based policymaking through Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), and improved regulatory planning via the General Analytical Program of Draft Legal Acts (ALP). These processes aim to ensure that government interventions are well-justified, predictable, and responsive to stakeholder input.

Commitment 23 is highly relevant to the core OGP principles. It enhances transparency through evidence based policymaking, systematic publication of draft acts, consultation reports, and monitoring data; strengthens civic participation by institutionalizing public consultation mechanisms and stakeholder engagement; and reinforces public accountability through regular monitoring, performance reporting, and quality control of consultation and RIA processes.

Action Plan Process

Throughout the OGP cycle, the Government of Albania adopted an institutionalized and coordinated approach to participation, both during the co-creation of the Action Plan and its implementation. The process was grounded in the existing legal and procedural framework, notably Law No. 146/2014 “On Public Notification and Consultation,” the Council of Ministers’ Rules of Procedure, and the methodological framework governing the Regulatory Impact

Assessment (RIA) process. These instruments collectively ensure that policymaking is transparent, evidence-based, and open to stakeholder input.

A central role in the implementation phase was played by the RIA and Regulatory Acts Programming Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister. This Unit is responsible not only for coordinating and monitoring public consultation, but also for overseeing the preparation, quality control, and confirmation of RIA reports prepared by line ministries. The RIA process is systematically applied to draft primary legislation and closely linked to both public consultation and regulatory planning.

RIA reports are reviewed at multiple stages. Draft RIAs submitted by line ministries undergo a structured quality control process, including detailed written feedback, methodological guidance, and recommendations for improvement. This iterative process ensures alignment with the national RIA methodology and good governance principles, particularly with regard to problem definition, identification of policy options, assessment of economic, social, and environmental impacts, and proportionality of regulatory intervention. Monitoring of the RIA process is continuous, with findings reported internally and consolidated into periodic reporting.

Public participation is directly integrated into the RIA process through the linkage between RIA and public consultation. Draft laws accompanied by RIA reports are published for consultation on the Electronic Register for Public Notification and Consultation (RENJKP), enabling stakeholders to review both the proposed regulatory intervention and its expected impacts. While public input was primarily collected through the consultation process rather than direct engagement in RIA drafting, the combined use of RIA and consultation contributes to greater transparency and informed debate around policy choices.

Capacity building constitutes a key pillar of the Action Plan implementation in relation to RIA. Targeted training sessions were organized for members of the RIA network across line ministries, focusing on practical application of the methodology, use of cost-benefit analysis and multi-criteria analysis, and improvement of analytical quality. These activities strengthened institutional ownership of the RIA process and improved consistency across ministries.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The five key recommendations of the latest IRM Results Report were considered during the implementation of Commitment 23 and informed both corrective actions during the action plan cycle and the identification of priorities for future reforms.

First, the recommendation to **expand the scope of public consultation and RIA** was partially addressed. Regarding the use of the public consultation process for the DCoMs we can technically assert that none of the provisions of Law No.146/2014 “On public notification and consultation” generally prevent the publication of a DCoM for consultation, provided it does not fall within the exempted categories listed in article 4 of the law. This interpretation is supported by concrete evidence from our Public Consultation E-register. An analysis of the draft acts published for consultation in 2024 and 2025 reveals that nearly 30 draft DCoMs were published for consultation, without counting the decisions which approve strategies or policy documents. These include regulatory decisions on various matters such as:

- Environmental protection declarations (10 protected landscape declarations in 2024)

- Technical regulations and standards (chemical registration rules, tourist trail standardization, hospital waste management requirements)
- Procedural amendments to existing decisions
- Operational procedures for victim protection
- Certification schemes and product lists

This demonstrates that the practice of subjecting various types of secondary legislation to public consultation extends well beyond laws, strategies and policy documents.

However, we acknowledge that there is still room for improvement in ensuring comprehensive and consistent application of public consultation processes across all relevant secondary legislation.

Regarding the extension of the RIA process for the secondary legislation acts (DCoMs) the Unit is collaborating with OECD/SIGMA to extend RIA process to secondary legislation, specifically to the most important Decisions of the Council of Ministers.

The structured approach includes a preparatory phase in 2025 focusing on developing selection criteria for the most significant decisions and preparing implementation guidelines; a piloting phase in 2026 testing RIA process on selected secondary acts with 2-3 participating ministries; and full implementation beginning in 2027, applying RIA systematically across approximately 25-30 relevant DCMs annually.

This expansion strengthens the regulatory framework by ensuring evidence-based policymaking and maintaining rigorous analysis of economic, social, and environmental impacts at the implementing legislation level. The integration of RIA with public consultation process will extend to secondary legislation, ensuring stakeholder feedback remains systematically considered throughout all levels of decision-making.

These measures align with the recommendations and reinforce Albania's commitment to comprehensive RIA application across both primary and secondary legislation, enhancing policy quality, effectiveness, and transparency in the country's regulatory governance system.

Second, in response to the recommendation to **focus on the quality of consultations rather than solely on compliance**, monitoring mechanisms were strengthened to go beyond publication requirements. Performance reports increasingly assessed indicators such as participation rates, acceptance of comments, and use of alternative consultation methods, highlighting the need for earlier and more meaningful stakeholder engagement.

The quality monitoring, which follows SIGMA methodology, shows a rising score for the completeness of information. The results of this monitoring are published in the Public Consultation semi-annual and annual performance reports. In the first half of 2025, the quality index reached **7.3 out of 8 points**, a clear increase from **7.03 points** in 2024. This index specifically evaluates whether sufficient information is provided for broad consultations. Furthermore, **100%** of consulted acts in 2024 and 2025 were accompanied by published consultation reports. The data indicates that institutions are not merely publishing drafts, but are

consistently providing the necessary evidentiary basis required by Law No. 146/2014 “On notification and public consultation”.

Third, the recommendation to **prioritize capacity building across institutions** was actively implemented. Significant investments were made in strengthening the capacities of RIA network members and public consultation coordinators through targeted training, methodological guidance, and continuous technical support provided by the Office of the Prime Minister. From January 1 to December 31, 2025, these trainings have been conducted for: the Ministry of Interior, the Minister of State for Business Protection, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Defence, the Minister of State for Local Government, the Minister of State for Youth and Children, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports and the Agency for Auditing EU-Accredited Assistance Programs. A total of **40** public officials participated in these sessions. On July 16, 2025, in collaboration with ASPA, a 3-hour online workshop on the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process was organized. During this workshop, the benefits that the RIA process brings to the public administration were addressed, best practices from EU countries and other countries were analysed, and the further development of the RIA process in Albania was discussed. Additionally, the key elements of a RIA report, the fundamental steps for its drafting, and practical examples to illustrate the process were analysed. Over **200** public administration employees participated in this workshop. At the end of December (23 December 2025) another webinar was organized in cooperation with ASPA, which aimed to deepen the knowledge on the RIA process and its main components, develop analytical skills for identifying problems and evaluating alternatives, familiarize themselves with the practical tools and techniques of drafting RIA reports, as well as explaining experiences and good practices from recent implementations. This webinar was attended by about 140 participants.

These efforts directly contributed to measurable improvements in the quality of RIA reports.

Regarding the recommendation to **safeguard participatory policymaking during accelerated EU accession reforms**, public consultation and RIA requirements were maintained even under tight legislative timelines as demonstrated by the percentage of acts that underwent these processes.

Overall, while not all IRM recommendations could be fully implemented within the 2023–2025 cycle, they were systematically reflected in monitoring practices, capacity-building efforts, and the formulation of next steps, strengthening the foundation for more meaningful and sustainable open government reforms.

Assessment of the Commitments

Commitment 23: Regulatory impact assessment, programming of regulatory acts and public consultation

Assessment of Progress: Green – Completed / Substantial Progress

Evidence supporting the assessment:

- The public consultation frequency index was 96% during 2025. During this period, the Council of Ministers approved 47 acts subject to public consultation. 45 of them underwent consultation through various methods (RENJKP, consultative roundtables, etc.).
- Consultation result reports were published in 100% of cases.
- 2270 external non-government stakeholders participated in public consultations, generating several hundred comments and recommendations. 291 of them contributing with comments and suggestions
- 1118 comments were collected through the consultation methods.
- The acceptance rate of stakeholder comments increased to over 69% (fully or partially accepted).
- Public meetings and consultative roundtables with stakeholders were held for 23 of the 45 consulted acts (IPM index 51 %).
- 40 regulatory impact assessment reports were confirmed by the RIA Unit.
- 1174 suggestions/comments were prepared by the RIA Unit for these confirmed RIAs, out of which 1038 were reflected in the final versions of the RIA reports.
- The average quality score of confirmed RIA reports reached 85 points out of 100, showing a significant improvement compared to previous years.
- Multiple training sessions were delivered to RIA network members. 2 RIA webinars were organized in which participated, respectively, more than 200 and 140 public officials.
- Structured meetings with line ministries were organized to improve the preparation and implementation of the General Analytical Program of Draft Legal Acts (ALP).
- 54 initial RIA reports were sent, by the line ministries, for the draft acts included in the draft General Analytical Program of Draft Legal Acts.

Reasons for the assessment: Commitment 23 has achieved substantial progress in terms of institutionalization, quantitative performance indicators, and technical quality. Monitoring mechanisms, transparency tools, and capacity-building activities have been significantly strengthened. While the consultation process still faces challenges regarding early-stage engagement and qualitative depth, the overall objectives of the commitment have largely been met within the Action Plan period.

Next Steps:

- Extend RIA requirements to secondary legislation (DCoM).
- Strengthen qualitative analysis of stakeholder input and improve feedback loops explaining acceptance or rejection of comments.
- Diversify consultation methods beyond online platforms, particularly for complex or high-impact policies.

- Enhance capacity-building and targeted support for civil society organizations and business associations, especially outside the capital.

Completed



Limited progress



Not started/With severe delays

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amber/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Impact assessment, programming of regulatory acts and public consultation are at the foundation of an evidence-based and well-planned policy-making system that enables public access to decision-making, for a democratic, transparent and accountable governance.		Semiannual and Annual CoG and Institutional Reports published. <u>Regjistrimi Elektronik për Njoftimet dhe Konsultimet Publike</u> Individual reports of public consultation for adopted legal acts subject	The public consultation frequency index was 96% during 2025. During this period, the Council of Ministers approved 47 acts subject to public consultation. 45 of them underwent consultation through various methods (RENJKP, consultative roundtables, etc.). • Consultation result reports were published in 100% of cases. • 2270 external non-government stakeholders participated in public consultations, generating several hundred comments and recommendations.	1. Extend RIA requirements to secondary legislation (DCoM). 2. Further improvement of the RIA process and the quality of RIA reports 3. Enhance capacity-building and targeted support for RIA and Public Consultation process. 4. Ensure the establishment of a continuous, evidence-

		of PC, published. <u>konsultimi publik .gov.al/docs/reports/Raporti gjashtem i performancës së konsultimeve publike 2025.pdf</u>	291 of them contributing with comments and suggestions • 1118 comments were collected through the consultation methods. • The acceptance rate of stakeholder comments increased to over 69% (fully or partially accepted). • Public meetings and consultative roundtables with stakeholders were held for 23 of the 45 consulted acts (IPM index 51 %). • 40 regulatory impact assessment reports were confirmed by the RIA Unit. • 1174 suggestions/comments were prepared by the RIA Unit for these confirmed RIAs, out of which 1038 were reflected	based policy-making system that strengthens civic participation and reinforces accountability of public institutions. 5. Strengthen monitoring mechanisms with a quality-focused approach to ensure full compliance with legal standards and regulatory requirements. 6. Maintain and consolidate the frequency and quality of public consultations, ensuring comparability with the successful benchmarks
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			in the final versions of the RIA reports. - The average quality score of confirmed RIA reports reached 85 points out of 100, showing a significant improvement compared to previous years. Multiple training sessions were delivered to RIA network members. 2 RIA webinars were organized in which participated, respectively, more than 200 and 140 public officials. - Structured meetings with line ministries were organized to improve the preparation and implementation of the General Analytical Program of Draft Legal Acts (ALP). 54 initial RIA reports were sent, by the line ministries, for the draft acts included in the draft General	achieved in 2025. 7. Expand consultation methods beyond online platforms, particularly for complex or high-impact policies, to increase inclusiveness and stakeholder engagement.	
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			Analytical Program of Draft Legal Acts. The public consultation frequency index was 96% during 2025. During this period, the Council of Ministers approved 47 acts subject to public consultation. 45 of them underwent consultation through various methods (RENJKP, consultative roundtables, etc.).	
Lessons and Insights The implementation of Commitment 23 highlights several important lessons regarding the functioning of public consultation, regulatory impact assessment, and regulatory planning within an open government framework. First, the experience confirms that a strong legal and institutional framework, combined with centralized coordination and systematic monitoring, can significantly improve procedural compliance and transparency. Clear rules, mandatory publication requirements, and regular performance reporting have led to measurable improvements in consultation coverage and RIA quality across government institutions. Second, the linkage between regulatory planning (ALP), RIA, and public consultation can be essential for improving predictability and coherence in policymaking. Early planning of legislative initiatives facilitates better preparation of RIAs and consultations, allowing institutions to allocate time and resources more effectively. Third, the process has demonstrated that quantitative improvements, quality-focused implementation and monitoring, and diversified consultation methods are essential to ensure a meaningful public consultation process and further increase public participation. Fourth, continuous capacity building is critical for sustaining progress. Targeted trainings, methodological guidance, and hands-on support have had a positive impact on the quality of RIA reports and institutional understanding of consultation requirements. Overall, the implementation of this commitment underscores that open government reforms are incremental and require not only formal mechanisms, but also cultural change within institutions and among stakeholders, emphasizing dialogue, evidence, and accountability as integral elements of policymaking.				

Recommendations

Based on the implementation of Commitment 23 and the lessons learned, the following specific and actionable recommendations are proposed:

- Strengthen the integration of PPAP, RIA, and public consultation at the planning phase.
- Improve the qualitative implementation, monitoring and analysis of the public consultation process.
- Diversify consultation methods for complex or high-impact reforms.
- Extend RIA requirements to secondary legislation.
- Further strengthen quality control and peer learning within the RIA network.

Commitment No.24 “*Coordination with the Assembly, for an open and accessible Parliament, as for regarding the improvement of the inter-institutional mechanism platform for monitoring of Independent Institutions as well as implementation of the E-legislation*”.

Summary

Commitment No.24 aimed to strengthen parliamentary transparency and accessibility through the improvement of the interinstitutional platform for monitoring independent institutions and the development of the electronic legislation platform. During the implementation period, significant technical and institutional progress was achieved, including the preparation of a monitoring methodology, the development of digital components of e-Legislation, the digitization and consolidation of a substantial part of the legislation, as well as capacity-building for parliamentary staff. The commitment contributed to enhancing legislative transparency, improving interinstitutional coordination, and establishing the foundation for a more open and accessible parliament for the public.

Institution	Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament
Period Covered by the Action Plan	2023-2025
Date Prepared	February 2026

Introduction

Open government efforts are critical in Albania to strengthen public trust, make legislative processes more transparent and accessible, and to increase civic participation in policymaking. The Action Plan 2023–2025 focuses on improving parliamentary transparency, digital access to legislation, and institutional follow-up on recommendations from independent institutions. These reforms support OGP core principles by: (1) increasing transparency through a consolidated e-legislation system and public access to legislative history; (2) expanding civic participation via education and multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms; and (3) strengthening public accountability by improving monitoring and follow-up of independent institutions’ recommendations.

Action Plan Process

During drafting and implementation, the Ministry of State for Relations with Parliament pursued a consultative, inter-institutional process. Key elements included:

- Formal multi-stakeholder consultations that brought together independent institutions, ministry coordinators and civil society (e.g., a forum held 4 December 2024).
- Iterative drafting and circulation of a draft methodology for monitoring implementation of independent institutions’ recommendations; the draft was shared with line ministries (sent for comment 5 May 2025) and presented to parliamentary staff on 28 May 2025.
- Technical development and piloting of digital components (Lime Editor, search portal) in cooperation with PACEP and other partners, with training delivered to parliamentary staff.

These steps align with OGP Participation & Co-Creation Standards by creating formal mechanisms for stakeholder input, presenting draft deliverables for feedback, and recording follow-up actions.

Use of IRM Recommendations

The latest IRM findings and indicators informed concrete improvements in the Action Plan cycle as follows:

1. **Methodology & Monitoring:** IRM emphasis on measurable monitoring prompted preparation of a draft methodology for tracking implementation of independent institutions' recommendations (draft completed and consulted with the executive and other actors).
2. **Digitalization & Interoperability:** IRM recommendations on accessibility and machine-readable formats were addressed by adopting the AKN4AL (Akoma Ntoso for Albania) standard and building e-Legislation components (Lime Editor and portal).
3. **Capacity Building:** IRM's focus on institutional capacity led to a training program for parliamentary staff (48 staff trained; 85% of Legislative & IT staff completed basic e-legislation training)
4. **Multi-stakeholder Dialogue:** IRM calls for inclusive participation were implemented through the multi-stakeholder forum (4 Dec 2024) and continued consultations with civil society and independent institutions.
5. **Sustainability & Institutional Arrangements:** IRM's suggestion to secure long-term structures informed steps to create a dedicated working group and internal arrangements (innovation hub; consideration of permanent staffing to manage e-Legislation).

Assessment of the Commitments

 Completed
 Limited progress
 Not started/With severe delays
 or substantial progress

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Amb or/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
Coordination with the Assembly for an open and accessible Parliament: improvement of the Inter-Institutional Monitoring Platform		Draft methodology for tracking implementation prepared, consulted with the executive, and	There is demonstrable technical progress (standards adoption, software	Finalize the draft methodology after receiving and integrating feedback

for Independent Institutions and roll-out of the e-Legislation platform (Commitment 24)		sent to independent institutions for comment. Multi-stakeholder forum (4 Dec 2024) and subsequent consultations with ministries and independent bodies (meetings and presentations 5 May 2025 and 28 May 2025). e-Legislation technical components developed (Lime Editor and search portal), integrated internally with the official website via APIs; the portal currently includes around 160 primary and amending laws, and at least 100 laws have been processed in consolidated form in Lime Editor. Digital archive scanning completed for a large volume (at least 82,000 pages scanned) Staff capacity-building: training	components, scanning and consolidation of laws) and institutional progress (draft methodology, coordinator network, training). These are substantial, material steps toward the commitment's objectives. Some deliverables (e.g., full public launch of the portal and permanent staffing within the Assembly to sustain e-Legislation functions) were not fully completed at the time of reporting; nevertheless, the combination of draft methodology, platform development, consultations and training justifies the	from independent institutions and publish the final methodology as a public document. Complete the pilot of the inter-institutional platform, fix issues from pilot feedback, and proceed to full public launch of the e-Legislation portal (ensure the portal exposes consolidated law and change history) Secure a permanent, budgeted structure within the Assembly (or an agreed hosting arrangement) to staff and operate e-Legislation	
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		sessions delivered to 48 parliamentary employees; 85% of legislative & IT staff received basic training on e-Legislation. A pilot schedule for the inter-institutional platform and modules was prepared (platform drafted, pilot intended for Sept 2025 and full readiness for Dec 2025 as per plan).	“substantial” rating.	and the inter-institutional monitoring platform (move from temporary contracts to permanent positions). Expand training to additional parliamentary staff and to relevant ministry coordinators; institutionalize a refresher training cycle. Ensure technical integration and interoperability with e-Parliament and other executive systems through documented APIs and public technical specifications (AKN4AL).	
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Lessons and Insights

Technical standards + institutional buy-in are both required. Adoption of AKN4AL and development of Lime Editor showed that technical solutions succeed only when paired with staff training and clear institutional roles.

Multi-stakeholder consultation improves legitimacy and usability. The December 2024 forum and subsequent consultations helped shape a methodology and platform features that reflect user needs (ministries, independent institutions, civil society).

Sustainability requires permanent resourcing. Temporary staffing and interim workarounds (innovation hub, temporary operators) are helpful short-term but insufficient for long-term maintenance and content curation.

Phased rollout yields visible early results. Scanning, processing and consolidating an initial set of laws produced tangible outputs that can be used to demonstrate value and to attract further institutional commitment.

Recommendations

- Complete platform pilot and public launch; publish API and technical documentation. This supports reuse by media, civil society, researchers, and other public bodies. Responsible: Parliamentary IT + project partners (PACEP).
- Publish the final methodology and apply it consistently. Formal publication will make monitoring results and processes transparent and reproducible. Responsible: Ministry of State for Relations with Parliament / Parliament Monitoring Service.
- Monitor and publish indicators of impact (number of consolidated laws available, number of platform users, percent of recommendations tracked and closed) to demonstrate results and guide adjustments. Responsible: Monitoring Directorate, Ministry of State for Relations with Parliament.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) 2023–2025 demonstrates a differentiated level of commitment fulfilment, depending on their nature, the complexity of the interventions, the number of institutions involved, and the extent to which implementation depends on other institutional processes. The assessment was based on the categories established for this purpose.

COMPLETED	
LIMITED PROGRESS	
NOT STARTED	

Overall, the implementation of the Action Plan demonstrates that the commitments have contributed to strengthening open government practices, particularly by increasing transparency, improving access to information, expanding public participation, strengthening accountability, and enhancing mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation and engagement with civil society. Alongside the results achieved, the self-assessment analysis also identifies several challenges that need to be addressed in the next OGP cycle.

1. Completed Commitments

A number of commitments reached the “Completed” level, having implemented the main activities envisaged in the Action Plan and produced concrete and verifiable results. These results include, among others, the adoption of legal acts and regulatory frameworks, the development and operationalization of digital tools, the improvement of consultation and transparency mechanisms, and the strengthening of institutional capacities. These commitments are particularly important as they have moved beyond the establishment of mechanisms towards the institutionalization of open government practices. However, the formal completion of a commitment should not be considered the end of the process. To ensure the sustainability of the results achieved, the mechanisms, tools, and practices established should continue to be implemented, monitored, and improved where necessary.

2. Commitments with Limited Progress

A considerable number of commitments were assessed as having “Limited Progress.” In these cases, concrete progress has been made in implementing activities and developing the envisaged outputs, but the commitments have not yet reached full completion or their impact in practice has not been sufficiently demonstrated. In some cases, the necessary institutional structures, procedures, platforms, methodologies, or technical tools have

been established, while the main challenge remains their consolidation and systematic use. In other cases, progress has been conditioned by the need for interinstitutional cooperation, the adoption of legal acts, the availability of financial and human resources, or the completion of processes extending beyond the period of the Action Plan. For these commitments, the priority in the next cycle should be to move from the establishment of mechanisms towards their full operationalization and the demonstration of their results and impact. This requires clearer performance indicators, periodic data on the use of the mechanisms, and a more direct assessment of the benefits for citizens and stakeholder groups.

3. Commitments Not Started

A limited number of commitments were assessed as “Not Started.” These cases are mainly related to the complexity of the envisaged interventions, their dependence on other institutional processes, the need for coordination among multiple institutions, and constraints in administrative, technical, or financial capacities. This category highlights the need for a more realistic approach at the commitment-design stage. In particular, future commitments should be based on a prior assessment of available capacities, resources, timelines, and institutional dependencies, while clearly defining the lead institution, supporting institutions, expected results, and the conditions required for implementation.

Where the implementation of a commitment depends on processes that are not directly within the control of the institution responsible, this should be clearly reflected from the outset in the design of the commitment and in the establishment of implementation timelines.

Key Lessons from the Implementation of the 2023–2025 Action Plan

The assessment of the 2023–2025 cycle highlights several important lessons for the design and implementation of the next Action Plan.

First, commitments should be more strongly results- and impact-oriented, avoiding an excessive focus solely on the completion of activities and outputs. For each commitment, it should be clearly defined what change the intervention is expected to generate and how that change will be measured.

Second, there is a need to establish clear, specific, and measurable indicators, accompanied by identifiable sources of verification. This will enable a more objective assessment of progress and facilitate the timely identification of delays or implementation challenges.

Third, interinstitutional coordination remains a determining factor for the successful implementation of commitments involving multiple institutions. Therefore, the responsibilities and contributions of each institution should be clearly defined from the design stage, together with appropriate coordination and reporting mechanisms.

Fourth, periodic monitoring should be strengthened, not only to assess the level of implementation, but also to identify obstacles, undertake corrective measures, and continuously document progress and results.

Fifth, for commitments involving the creation of new platforms, mechanisms, or instruments, the institutionalization and sustainability phase should be planned from the outset, including the necessary human and financial resources, responsibilities for maintenance, regular use, and monitoring.

Finally, the experience of this cycle demonstrates the importance of the continued involvement of civil society actors and other stakeholders, not only during the design of commitments, but also throughout their implementation and the assessment of results. This will contribute to strengthening shared ownership, transparency, and accountability throughout the OGP process.

Overall, the implementation of the 2023–2025 National Action Plan demonstrates real progress in consolidating the principles and practices of open government in Albania, while also highlighting the need for a stronger focus on results, impact, and sustainability.

The results achieved provide an important foundation for the next cycle, while the challenges identified should serve as a basis for improving the planning and implementation processes. In this regard, the next Action Plan should aim not only at completing the activities envisaged, but, above all, at generating measurable and sustainable improvements in transparency, public participation, accountability, and the quality of public services and policies.

Against this background, the lessons learned from the implementation of the 2023–2025 Action Plan will provide a basis for developing clearer, measurable, feasible, and impact-oriented commitments, as well as for strengthening monitoring, coordination, and cooperation mechanisms among public institutions, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.

