

Waste prevention country profile

Albania

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European Environment Agency



Country profile: Albania

General information

Name of the country/ region	Albania
Geographical coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan or into the circular economy strategy)	Integrated into waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	National strategy on integrated solid waste management (ISWM) 2020-2035
Duration of programme	2020-2035
Language	Albanian/English
Contact person in the country/region	N/A
Development process of the programme/ revision	Approved in May 2020. Implementation began in 2021.
Foreseen budget for implementation of the programme	N/A

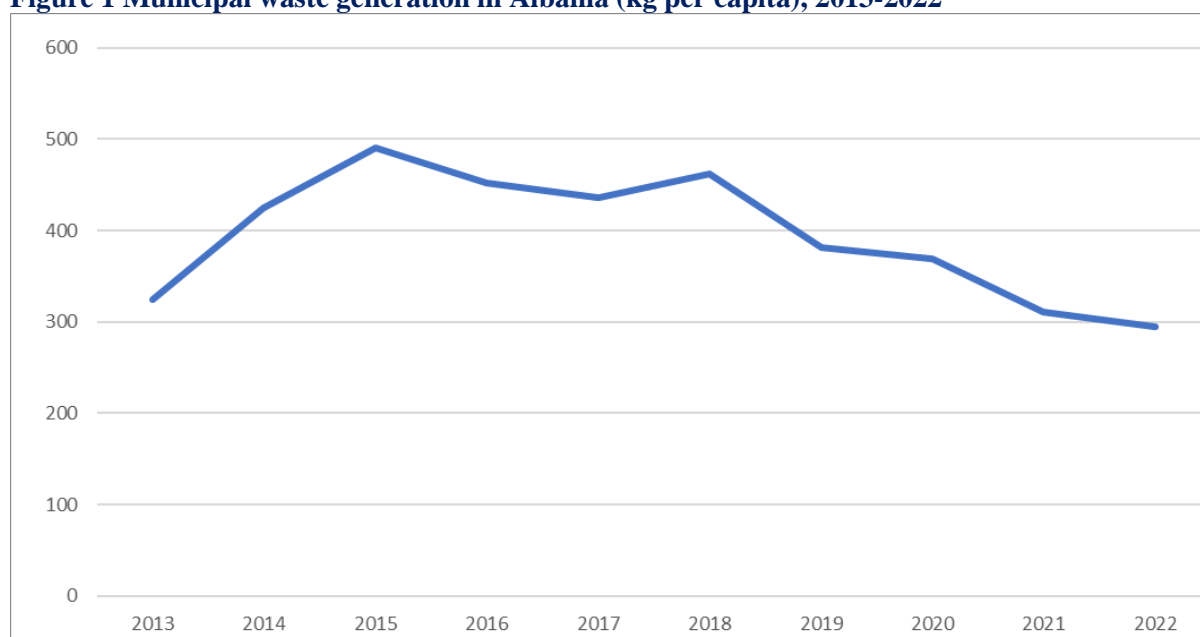
WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Albania:

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

The first Albanian waste prevention programme (WPP) was implemented in 2010. Municipal waste generation per capita increased significantly between 2013 and 2018 from 325 kg to 462 kg (Figure 1) followed by a significant decrease with 167 kg from 2018 to 2022. This decrease is most likely attributed to methodological changes in data reporting rather than a reduction in waste generation resulting from the implementation of the WPP. Overall, the Albania's municipal waste generation is nearly 42 % less than for EU-27 average of 513kg¹. Data on MSW before 2013 is not available.

Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Albania (kg per capita), 2013-2022



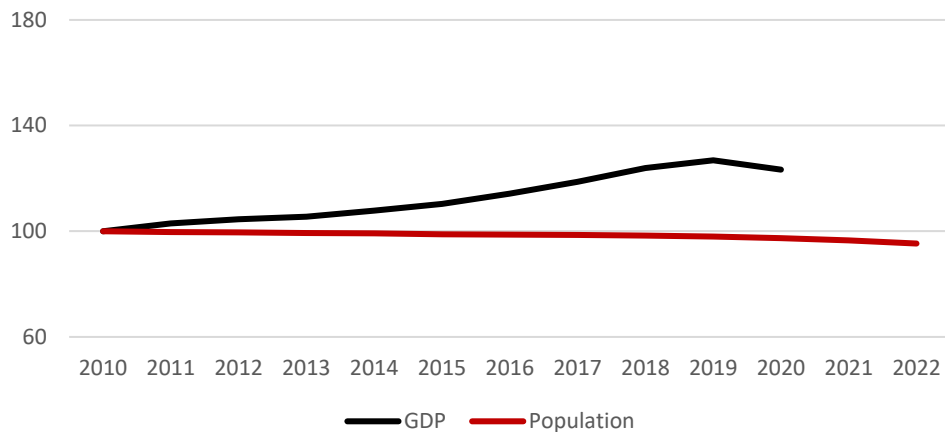
Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN].

¹ Based on data collected from Eurostat in November 2024

Total waste (excluding major mineral waste)

Albania has not reported any data on total waste before 2022. Albania's GDP grew between 2010 and 2019 with nearly 27% (Figure 2). Between 2019 and 2020 Albania experienced a drop with 3 % most likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Albania has not reported any data on GDP for 2022.

Figure 2 Total waste generation (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP, and population in Albania, 2010-2022, (2010=100).



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

Note: Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated. Total waste (excluding major mineral wastes) is not available before 2022

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	<p>The main goal of the ISWM is to provide strategic directions and determine a number of measures that help the country to join the European Union by fulfilling the obligations deriving from Chapter 27 dedicated on the field of environment. It was developed on the vision of the “zero waste” concept, so that waste is collected and treated as raw material and management is done in line with the circular economy.</p> <p>The ISWM lists a number of specific objectives. A selection of those that are more relevant to waste prevention is listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OS1: Improving waste management by meeting key principles and legal planning requirements• OS2. The waste management legal framework is improved and harmonized with the European Directives and an efficient national institutional system is set up• (SO3): Establishment of an integrated management system for other municipal waste streams, which is based on the waste hierarchy.• OS 6. Waste management is a national priority and an important part of the planning of foreign aid funds, IFI and EU through IPA funds.• (SO 8): Citizens use and respect waste infrastructure and become part of the measures to meet the objectives of Local Plans.• (SO9): All hazardous waste streams that have been produced or are being produced in the territory of the country by the public and private sector have been identified.
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Packaging• Biodegradable waste• Construction and demolition waste• End-of-life vehicles waste• Batteries• WEEE• Waste oil• Waste tires
4. Target groups	National and local government authorities, businesses, households and consumers

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators used to monitor progress	<p>On the specific objectives, a number of indicators were proposed, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Municipalities and waste generators that report data according to the system/total number of generators • Feasibility studies designed for all waste management zones are in line with the waste zone study approved by the Council of Ministers • Number of Municipalities having an approved IWMPs • % of service coverage expressed as equivalent number of inhabitants receiving services/ equivalent number of resident inhabitants • % of the amount of waste collected/ amount of waste generated (as planned) • % of the population covered by the integrated waste management service. • % of the population in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants (urban areas) are covered by integrated waste management service. • % of other waste recovered from mixed municipal waste versus total waste from recoverable packaging • % of the amount of packaging waste that is recovered at the municipal level versus the total generated • % of the amount of waste deposited in landfill or landfills/ total amount of waste collected ton/year • No. of reception centers or other formats set up by municipalities for differentiated waste collection from demolition and construction • % of waste from packaging collected from Extended Product Liability Schemes • % of batteries and accumulators sent to reception centres and withdrawn from licensed businesses • Number of functional schemes for the recovery and treatment of specific waste. • Number of full-time administrative staff employed for waste management service throughout the country. • % of specialised staff trained in a year. • No. of trainings per year for public or private institutions generating hazardous waste • No. of periodic trainings for companies treating hazardous waste • % (number of schools that have/apply waste education in their curriculum.
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2.	Quantitative targets	<p>The ISWM lists the following as indicators to monitor the progress of integrated waste management implementation. However, they can also be seen as waste stream-specific targets.</p>
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Until 2035, the following are set:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste from packaging: at least 60% recovered, between 15-60% recycled (depending on the type of packaging, i.e. wood, glass, plastics, metal and paper and cardboard) • Biodegradable waste: reduction of 35% (compared to 2016) • C&D waste: recycling/reduction of 70% • EoL vehicles: at least 95% recovered, at least 85% recycled (by weight) • Batteries: recovery/recycling of “between 50-75% for different materials” • WEEE: recovery of 70-80% for different materials, recycling 50-70% for different materials • Waste oil: recovery of at least 40% (by weight) • Waste tires: recovery of 65% of weight accumulated during the year, recycling of 50% of weight accumulated during the year
3.	Monitoring mechanism of the programme	The ISMW sets out 5-year timetables, between 2020 and 3035, for the assessment of the progress towards implementation, by making use of a number of measurable progress indicators. The first progress monitoring was conducted for the implementation years of 2020-2021.
4.	Evaluation of the programme	N/A

Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9	The state of waste management in Albania is such that most of the focus is to develop sufficient waste management infrastructure (namely for waste collection and treatment) and develop general public awareness and education on waste management. As such, most of the measures in the ISWM reflect this. Nonetheless, measures that relate more to waste prevention pertaining to Article 9 of the WFD are included in the table below.
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The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	
Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient , durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable , re-usable and upgradable .	
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.	Import/production from all businesses for specific stream products, in accordance with the “extended producer responsibility” principle, set up special and/or joint schemes in cooperation with the Municipalities of the country and other users of specific waste, such as tires, batteries, electrical and electronic waste, organic waste, end-of-life vehicles, etc., for their recovery and treatment.
Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities , including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.	The LESS-WASTE-II project involves the development of an action plan for the management of bio-wastes at the cross-border region of Albania and Greece (Interreg Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance crossborder cooperation programme ‘Greece-Albania 2014-2020’, 2021). The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency, has begun a project on waste reduction and the promotion of reuse, reduction and recycling in some municipalities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tirana municipality • Himara • Peqin • Cërrik municipality • Vau Dej municipality, extending to other municipalities

	<p>The Ministry responsible for the environment proposes the types of tax revenues for different categories of products on the Albanian market and uses these funds to promote the reduction of the amount of waste, their reuse and recycling.</p>
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights , the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p>	
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a database on the hazardous waste (inventorying the waste inherited from existing industries, by industry currently generating hazardous waste). • Drafting of the Master Plan for specific waste streams including hazardous waste • Guidelines, protocols and training programmes are developed for hazardous waste management.
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>	
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>	
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p>	

<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.</p>	
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the national extended producer responsibility schemes for packaging and packaging waste • Central Government, in line with the extended producer responsibility principle and/or in partnership with businesses ensures the implementation of the national extended producer responsibility schemes for packaging and packaging waste, etc.
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Green procurement” expertise covered by Universities • Municipalities organise annual “Let’s do It” public awareness campaigns promoting responsible environmental behaviour and reduction, reuse and recycling. • Educational materials and courses are disseminated to schools across the country to help them organize classes and educational activities for their students.

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

Estimates suggest that every private household in Albania wastes around 7-13 kg of food every year. This amounts to 18 000-37 000 tonnes per year at the national level (Preka et al., 2020).

Measures to prevent food waste

Food Bank Albania, founded in 2015, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the fight against food waste in Albania and is the first national initiative to address this issue. It raises awareness about food waste throughout Albanian society. The organisation combines the goal of reducing food waste with that of eradicating poverty, based on the assumption that these two issues are strongly linked, i.e. the distribution of food surpluses (instead of wasting them) contributes to improving the living conditions and food security of low-income households in Albania. To address food surpluses, the Food Bank works with businesses (e.g. supermarkets, farmers), the Albanian Red Cross, institutions and individuals to collect food donations and raise awareness about food waste. The collected food is provided to over 40 nongovernmental organisations, 10 social soup kitchens and the state social services involved in the fight against poverty. Food Bank Albania also provides information to Albanian households to support them in reducing food waste, saving money and protecting the environment.

REUSE OF PRODUCTS

Data

Albania has not reported any data for reuse of textiles, furniture, electrical and electronic equipment and construction and building materials according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 for the year 2021 by the reporting deadline (EEA, 2024)

Best practice examples

A 'dialogue forum' on the waste sector was established in 2017. The forum, which aims to discuss key issues affecting the sector, was very active between 2017 and 2019. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the forum is no longer active. It will, however, resume once it is appropriate to have in-person meetings again.

The Project for the support of waste minimisation and 3R promotion in Republic of Albania, implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, aims to introduce the 3R framework (reduce, reuse, recycle) to sustainable solid waste management within local governments in Albania to reduce waste in a nationwide effort. Pilot projects have been finalised and include:

- Vau i Dejës municipality. Solutions for reducing agricultural/green waste were explored and the pilot project identified the challenge of introducing on-site and offsite composting to reduce agricultural/green waste. The project also offered opportunities to maintain a clean environment and efficient waste collection in rural areas.
- Cërrik municipality. The pilot project identified the challenge of making recycling economically feasible and offered opportunities to develop efficient door-to-door waste collection services to support a clean environment.
- Tirana municipality. The pilot project showed that schools have high potential to raise students' and their parents' awareness on the issue of recycling (Republic of Albania (Ministry of Environment et al., 2017)).

A project on the prevention of marine litter began in 2018, involving local and national actors in the waste and recycling industries in Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its focus is on regional cooperation and the exchange of knowledge between national institutions, municipalities and companies. The project promotes a regulatory framework for reducing and banning single-use plastic items (GIZ, 2018).

Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into Albanias waste prevention programme.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	N/A	
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	N/A	
Recycling	Yes	Recycling is recognized as a major priority as part of the country's development of integrated waste management and its shift towards the circular economy.
Economic incentives and finance	N/A	
Circular business models	N/A	
Eco-innovation	N/A	
Governance, skills and knowledge	N/A	