

# Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



# Albania

2021

Photo: © Mario Cvitkovic from Pixabay

## General information

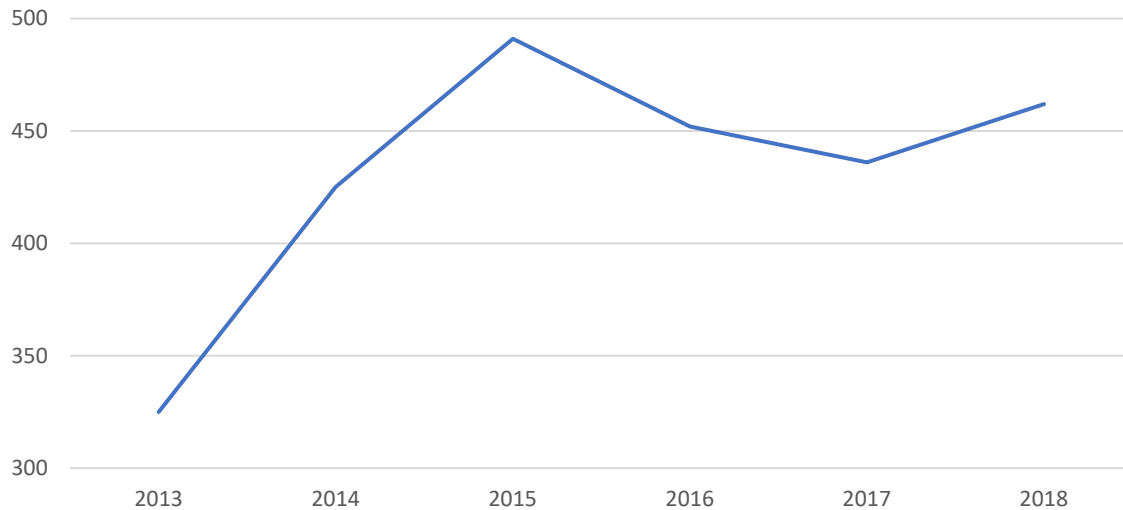
Name of the country/region	Albania
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	National strategy on integrated solid waste management (ISWM) 2020-2035
Duration of programme	2020-2035
Language	Albanian
Development process of the programme/revision	Approved in May 2020. Implementation expected after the middle/end of 2021
Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	Budget estimate is stated in the ISWM 2020-2035.

## Waste generation

The following figure illustrates the progress towards waste prevention in Albania.

- The first Albanian waste prevention programme (WPP) was implemented in 2010. However, municipal waste generation per capita increased significantly between 2013 and 2018 (see Figure 1). This trend shows that economic growth in Albania affected the rise in the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated.
- Between 2013 and 2015, a steep increase occurred, from 325 to 491 kg. In the years after, the municipal waste generation per capita remained at around 450 kg.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation (kg per capita), 2013-2018



Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

## Waste prevention programme

### *Objectives and priorities*

1.	Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	Objectives and targets set in line with the EU Waste Framework Directive
2.	Sectors covered	Not applicable
3.	Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction and demolition waste</li><li>• Packaging</li><li>• Waste electrical and electronic equipment</li></ul>
4.	Target groups	Not applicable

## *Targets, indicators and monitoring*

1. Indicators proposed	Not applicable
2. Quantitative targets	<p>National strategy and national plan on waste management of 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• by 2020 — stop growth of the amount of municipal waste produced</li><li>• by 2015 — achieve a 25 % recycling and composting rate of municipal waste (by 2020: 55 %)</li><li>• recover energy from 15 % of municipal waste</li><li>• reduce landfilling of municipal waste from the current 90 % to around 30 %</li></ul> <p>Decision on batteries and accumulators and their waste (p. 38):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The minimum percentages for the collection of batteries and accumulators and their waste (p. 38) at national level:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ by 2015 — 25 %</li><li>○ by 2025 — 65 %</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Decision on the necessary measures for the collection and treatment of biowaste, and criteria and deadlines for their reduction (p. 154):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• by 2021 — 50 % reduction in total weight of biowaste produced in 2014</li><li>• by 2026 — 35 % reduction in total weight of biowaste produced in 2014</li></ul> <p>Decision on differentiated waste collection at source (p. 154):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• local government units, by the end of 2020</li><li>• preparation, reuse and recycling of solid waste, including paper, metal, plastic and glass, should reach a minimum of 50 % of the total weight of waste generated in 2014</li></ul>
3. Monitoring of programme	Not applicable
4. Evaluation of programme	Not applicable

## Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive	Not applicable
---	----------------

## Planned prevention measures

Table 1 is based on the analysis of the WPP and further research. The measures have been structured by the EEA/European Topic Centres (ETCs) in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), which obliges Member States to take action on a variety of aspects concerning waste prevention. Page numbers refer to the original WPP, if not stated otherwise.

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the WFD

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	
Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), repairable, reusable and upgradeable	
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent those materials becoming waste	
Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products	<p>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 cross-border 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tirana municipality</li> <li>• Himara</li> <li>• Peqin</li> <li>• Cërrik municipality</li> <li>• Vau Dej municipality, extending to other municipalities</li> </ul>

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 reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety	
Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques	
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 UN 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	
Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products	
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 EU 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	
Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling	Based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU 2019/665 on packaging and packaging waste, the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with Tirana municipality, started initiatives to ban the production of unbiodegradable packaging during 2016 (anticipated to be finalised in 2017) (EEA, 2019, p. 153)
Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural	The Marine litter management project is an agreement between the UN Environment

<p>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 should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	<p>Programme and the Urban Research Institute of Albania. It sets out a pilot project on marine litter management in Albania, which contributes to implementing the regional plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, developed under the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (Urban Research Institute, 2019). The GIZ project ‘Integrated waste management and marine litter prevention in the Western Balkans’ aims to conserve natural and economic resources. At the regional level, the project also seeks to establish a common understanding of the issue and associated action plans (GIZ, 2018)</p>
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering</p>	<p>Public awareness campaigns (Annex IV: 12, 6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public awareness campaigns in all waste areas should promote environmentally friendly behaviour, promote waste segregation, provide information on damage caused by dumping waste, promote reuse and recyclability of goods, and provide information on the need for cost recovery of municipal waste management services</li> <li>• Outcome — the general public is more conscious of waste management issues</li> <li>• Implementation — by the end of 2015</li> </ul> <p>Raising awareness among staff involved in MSW management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to raise awareness among MSW management staff and enable the collection of larger amounts of materials for recycling, Tirana municipality introduced containers for segregation of paper and plastic waste at its premises</li> </ul> <p>This pilot project is to be extended to other institutions in the city</p>

Note: GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit; LBS, land-based sources and activities.

---

Additional prevention measures implemented not covered by Article 9      Not applicable

---



## **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 non-governmental 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*

Not applicable.

### *Measures to support reuse*

Not applicable.

## 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 off-site 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 the circular economy

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Not applicable	
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Not applicable	
Recycling	Yes	For example, by 2020 achieve a 55 % recycling and composting rate of municipal waste
Economic incentives and finance	Not applicable	
Circular business models	Not applicable	
Eco-innovation	Not applicable	
Governance, skills and knowledge	Not applicable	