

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Environment Support Programme (ESP) Albania
Strengthening strategic, legal, institutional, and financial
frameworks for EU accession in environment and climate
change (Chapter 27)

Context

Albania’s path toward European Union accession requires full alignment with the EU acquis on environment and climate change (Chapter 27), the most complex and investment-intensive chapter of the negotiation process. While Albania has made progress in legislative transposition, implementation remains at an early stage, constrained by fragmented institutional responsibilities, limited administrative capacities, weak coordination mechanisms, and insufficient long-term investment planning. Key environmental sectors, including air quality, water and wastewater management, waste and circular economy, nature protection, industrial pollution, chemicals, noise, and climate change, require coordinated reforms, transitional implementation planning, and substantial public investment. In this context, the Environment Support Programme (ESP) provides targeted technical assistance to enable Albania to meet EU accession requirements through integrated strategic planning, strengthened governance structures, and sustainable financing mechanisms.

Project Objectives:

The overall objective of ESP is to support the Government of Albania in fulfilling EU accession requirements in the field of environment and climate change (Chapter 27).

Specific objectives include:

- Developing a national cross-cutting strategy and policy framework for environment and climate change aligned with EU requirements and national development priorities;
- Supporting the full transposition of the EU environmental acquis through structured planning and institutional capacity building;
- Strengthening institutional and administrative systems at national and local levels to ensure effective implementation and enforcement;
- Preparing a national environmental financing strategy to address high investment needs and support compliance with EU standards;
- Enhancing inter-institutional coordination, stakeholder engagement, and long-term sustainability of reforms.

Key Components & Deliverables

- Strategic and Policy Framework: Develop national environment and climate strategies, implementation plans, and supporting legal acts.
- EU Acquis Transposition & Capacity Building: Prepare the Chapter 27 transposition plan and strengthen institutional capacity through training and mentoring.
- Institutional & Administrative Strengthening: Improve governance through institutional reviews, capacity development, and infrastructure needs assessments.
- Financing & Investment Planning: Define environmental financing priorities, integrate them into budgets and donor frameworks, and build financial implementation capacity.



GENERAL
INFORMATION

DONOR:
Swedish International
Development Cooperation
Agency (SIDA)

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:
Central Finance and
Contracting Unit (CFCU)

BENEFICIARY INSTITUTION:
Ministry of Environment

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:
28 October 2024 – 27
October 2027 (36 months)

IMPLEMENTING CONSULTANT:
EPTISA Servicios de
Ingeniería S.L.
Urban Research Institute

CONTACT: Zana Vokopola
Executive Director

Urban Research Institute
“Barricades” Street,

Building 14 K, Floor 4, Ap. 44,
Tirana 1057
T: +355694333808
E : zvokopola@uri.org.al

About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society /Soros Foundation, etc.

