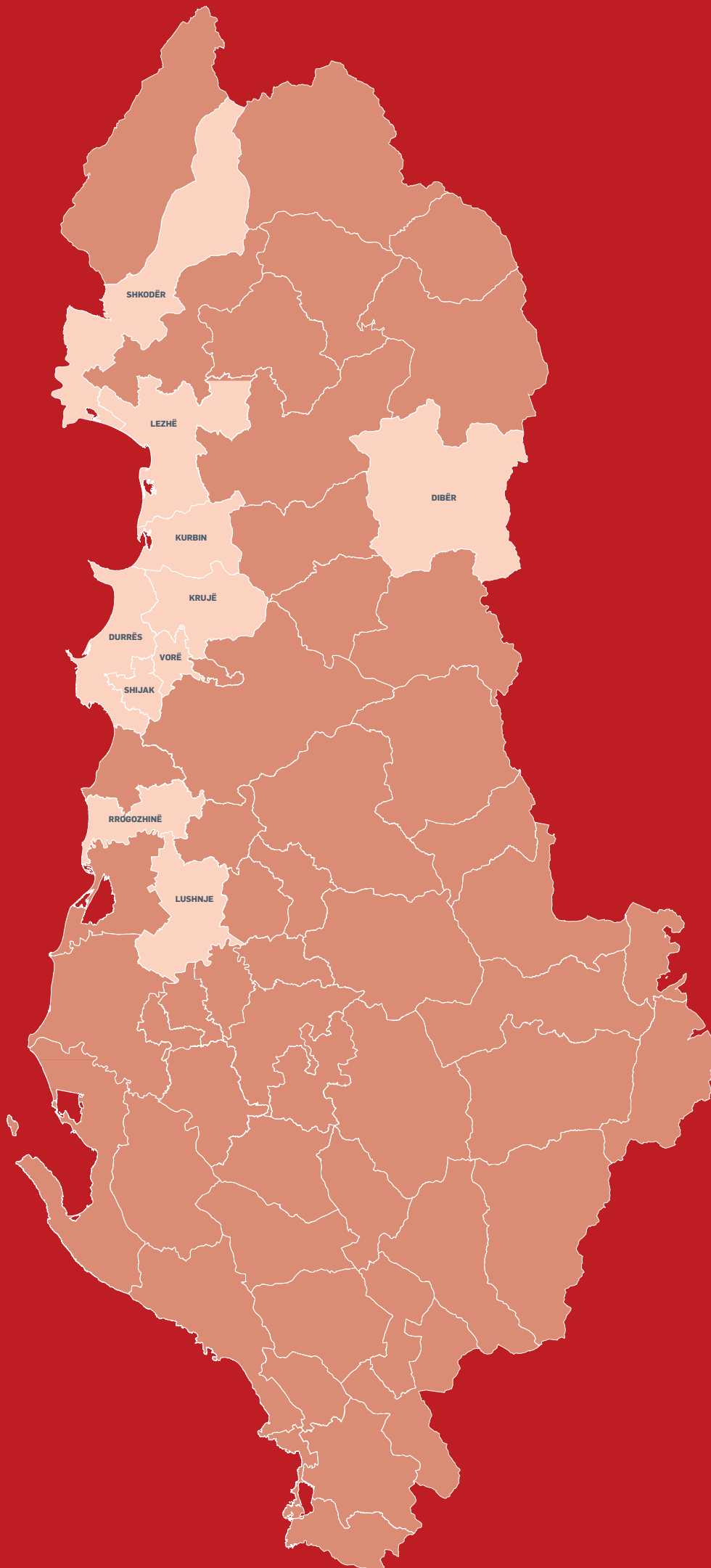

**MONITORING REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS
FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES
TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

December 2022



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INTRODUCTION

The “40 promises, 10 municipalities” project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and implemented by Faktoje Center. The aim of this project is to monitor municipalities in terms of keeping promises and transparency. During this year, the project included the municipalities of Shkodra, Lezha, Dibra, Durrës, Vora, Rogozhina, Lushnje, Shijak, Kruja and Kurbin, which were monitored by local journalists as well as civil society activists. Six of these municipalities have been selected after being part of the partial local elections held in March 2022 and four other municipalities have been monitored as municipalities involved in the reconstruction process after the 2019 earthquake.

The methodology followed for the implementation of this project is the same as the methodology used last year. For each of the municipalities, 4 promises made by the current mayors were selected. These promises were monitored based on an analytical methodology that included budget analysis, public procurement monitoring, and field observations. The report also monitored the transparency program, the legal obligation of the Municipalities derived from the local government legislation, the public consultation legislation, and the law on the right to information. On the other hand, transparency and public consultation are regulated by the legal and sub-legal framework of Albania. Given that, based on local legislation, every public

institution must implement the transparency program, the project has monitored to what extent this program is implemented by the municipalities included in the project.

This updated report aims to convey data related to the monitoring of the implementation of these plans by ten municipalities in the country. In the report, you will find the methodology used, the detailed findings of each of the municipalities, and some recommendations for improvement in terms of accountability and the implementation of legal provisions regarding transparency.

This report is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is related to the transparency index. The second chapter focuses on the status of promises made by the mayors. The third chapter consists of a comparative analysis of the budgets of these municipalities for some budget programs. The fourth chapter is related to the activities prohibited by the Electoral Code, while the fifth one is related to the establishment and operation of the Local Youth Councils.

Faktoje has monitored municipalities during 2020 and 2021. In the following links, you can find the relevant reports for 2019-2020 and 2021-2022, which give you a clearer picture in terms of the implementation of the legal framework on transparency, as well as the status of promises made.

2022 REPORT

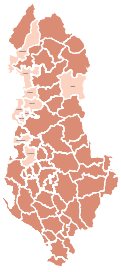
TRANSPARENCY

METHODOLOGY

The obligations of local self-government units regarding the public consultation process and the implementation of transparency have been identified through an analysis of the relevant legal framework. The organization and operation of local self-government units are regulated by Law No. 139/2015 "On local self-government", while their obligations for the public consultation process and the implementation of transparency are further regulated by Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information", Law No. 146/2014 "On public notification and consultation", and Law No. 68/2017 "On local self-government finances", which ensures fiscal discipline, stable and transparent management policies of public funds, and realistic estimation of expected local revenues and expenditures.

The legal regulations regarding transparency in local government units have been further supplemented by Order no. 211, dated 20.09.2018, of the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data, where the "Model Transparency Program for Local Self-Government Units" is defined, further detailing the obligations of local government bodies in ensuring transparency and public information. From the provisions of these three laws, 16 indicators have been generated for which the ten municipalities of the country have been monitored:

- **INDICATOR 1:** Appointment and introduction of a person as coordinator of public notification and consultation, who is responsible for coordination and general administration of the work to guarantee the right of notification and public consultation;
- **INDICATOR 2:** Consultation of the annual budget of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 3:** Consultation of the package of local taxes and fees;
- **INDICATOR 4:** Consultation on the alienation of municipal assets;
- **INDICATOR 5:** Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or in the public notice stand of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 6:** Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings by the municipal council on the website or in the public notice stand of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 7:** Announcement in advance the date and time of the municipal council meetings on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 8:** Announcement in advance the date and time of the meetings of the municipal council committees on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 9:** Determination and publication of data of the Coordinator for the Right to Information;



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- **INDICATOR 10:** Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 11:** Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 12:** Publication of the annual budget of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 13:** Publication of the decisions of the Municipal Council;
- **INDICATOR 14:** Publication of minutes of municipal council meetings;
- **INDICATOR 15:** Publication of orders and decisions of the mayor;
- **INDICATOR 16:** Publication of budget implementation reports on the website or on the public notice stand.

The data of this report for the monitoring of 16 indicators were collected by journalists in the field. Journalists previously held informative meetings with the experts who worked on the identification of indicators and the legal expert, in order to be informed and receive relevant explanations for all the indicators, their legal basis and the way they were monitored. Following this informative and clarifying process with the journalists, the latter having the right information on the indicators, the legal provisions on the obligations of the municipalities for monitoring such indicators, and the sources from which they could get information about each indicator, analyzed the official websites of municipalities and monitored the public notice stands of the municipalities, as an alternative way used by the municipalities for communicating with citizens. Also, journalists followed directly the in-person and online meetings of the municipal council. Another source used by journalists for collecting data is direct communication with the municipality, through requests for information.

In addition to this monitoring of journalists, an official letter was sent to the monitored municipalities on December 5th, 2022, requesting the relevant information and documentation for the above indicators regarding the consultation of the approved acts and the announcements that must be made within the framework of public consultations for them. Despite the legal obligation provided for in Article 15 of Law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information" where it is stipulated that the institutions must return an answer within 10 working days from the day of submission of the request, none of the municipalities responded.¹

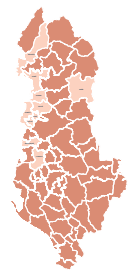
In order to rank the municipalities included in the project in terms of transparency, for each of the above-mentioned indicators, 1 point was allocated to the municipalities for a total of 16 points for the municipalities that meet all legal requirements.

LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR MONITORED INDICATORS

The monitored indicators for the country's ten municipalities are generated from the relevant legal provisions that regulate local self-government units, the public consultation process and transparency. This includes Law No. 139/2015 "On local self-government", Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information" and Law No. 146/2014 "On public notification and consultation".

Law No. 146/2014 "On public notification and consultation" regulates the process of public consultation, to ensure transparency, inclusion, and timely implementation of actions. This public consultation, to ensure inclusion in the decision-making process, is carried out for draft laws, national and local strategic documents, as well as policies of high public interest. The legal provisions provided for in this law, the implementation of which has been monitored for the municipalities, include specifically:

¹ The letter sent is attached to this Report in Annex 1.



- Appointment and introduction of a person as a coordinator of public notification and consultation, responsible for coordination and general administration of the work to guarantee the right of notification and public consultation²;
 - Consultation of the annual budget of the municipality³
 - Consultation of the package of local taxes and fees⁴
 - Consultation on the alienation of municipal properties⁵
 - Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality⁶
 - Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings on the website or in the public notice stand of the municipality⁷
 - Advance notice of date and time of meetings of the municipal council on the website or at the public notice stand of the municipality⁸
 - Announcement in advance the date and time of the meetings of the municipal council committees on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality⁹
- Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information" regulates the right to know the information that is produced or kept by public authorities. The legal provisions provided for in this law, the implementation of which has been monitored for the municipalities, include specifically:
- Determination and publication of data of the Coordinator for the Right to Information¹⁰
 - Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the municipality¹¹

² "Each public body shall appoint a person as a coordinator of public notification and consultation, responsible for the coordination and general administration of the work to guarantee the right of public notification and consultation, provided by this law"; Article 10, Law No. 146/2014 "On public notification and consultation"

³ "This law regulates the process of notification and public consultation of draft laws, draft national and local strategic documents, as well as policies of high public interest"; Article 1, Law No. 146/2014 "On notification and public consultation". The obligation for this consultation stems also from the provisions of law no. 139/2015 "On local self-government", specifically articles 18 and 54 of this law.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ "Notification of draft acts that will be subject to the public consultation procedure is made through the electronic register. In cases where the public body considers it necessary, the notification can also be carried out in one or several of the following forms: a) by electronic mail; b) with a public announcement, which is displayed in the premises of the initiating public body; c) with an announcement in the national, regional or local audiovisual media; c) by publication in local newspapers or in the two most widely read newspapers at the national level. 2. Comments and recommendations from the public consultation process are collected in one of the forms mentioned above, and occasionally in verbal and/or written form and recorded in the minutes of public meetings". Article 1, Law No. 146/2014 "On public notification and consultation".

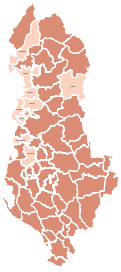
⁷ Ibid

⁸ "The notice for the meeting of the council is published in places designated for this purpose within the territory of the local unit and in media accessible to the local unit and contains the date, place, time and agenda of the meeting"; article 17, law no. 139/2015 "On local self-government". In addition to the provision in this law, the last two indicators have also been analyzed from the point of view of the development of public consultation, where through the meetings of the municipal council and committees, the municipality consults with the citizens.

⁹ Article 54 of Law No. 139/2015 "On Local Self-Government" provides that the Municipal Council chooses the council's committees among its own members and approves the internal rules for its operation. The committee, as one of the structures of the municipal council, has the same obligations towards the citizens of the local unit, especially considering that the municipal council is also responsible for consulting with the community on the creation of these committees according to the provisions of articles 18 and 54/a of law no. 139/2015 "On local self-government".

¹⁰ "For the implementation of this law, in order to coordinate the work to guarantee the right to information, the public authority appoints one of its employees as the coordinator for the right to information"; Article 10, law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information".

¹¹ "In accordance with the transparency program approved for each public authority, the latter prepares in advance, in easily understandable and accessible formats, as well as make available to the public on their website the following categories of information: a) a description of the organizational structure, functions and duties of the public authority; b) the complete texts of by-laws; e) budget data"; Article 7, Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information".



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- Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality¹²
- Publication of the annual budget of the municipality¹³
- Publication of the decisions of the Municipal Council¹⁴
- Publication of minutes of municipal council meetings¹⁵
- Publication of orders and decisions of the mayor¹⁶

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid. Implementation of the provisions of Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information" refers to the obligation to publish municipal council acts directly from law no. 139/2015 "On local self-government" in article 18. This article also provides that the acts of the municipal council are published on the official website and posted in public places.







¹⁵ Ibid

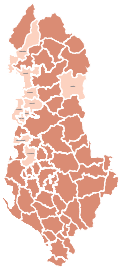
¹⁶ Ibid

FINDINGS FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY

LUSHNJE MUNICIPALITY

For Lushnje Municipality, all indicators have been monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has fulfilled the obligation to publish its Transparency Program on the official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Lushnje has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the data of the coordinator of the public consultation, since the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on the official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Lushnje has fulfilled the obligation to appoint and publish the data of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has fulfilled the obligation to publish its organizational structure on the official website.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has fulfilled the obligation to publish its annual budget on the official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has published on the Internet notices for the conduct of public consultation sessions, as in the case of consultations on the 2023 budget and fiscal package.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has consulted its 2023 annual budget of the Municipality with the citizens. Observation of the website and notice stands show that announcements have been published on the development of consultation processes for the 2023 annual budget of the Municipality.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Lushnje has consulted with the citizens on the package of local taxes and fees. The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that activities have been carried out to fulfill this obligation.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The municipality responded to the request for information on this issue, emphasizing that during 2021 there were no alienations of property, considering therefore this indicator as met.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Lushnje has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Lushnje has not published notices of municipal council meetings on its website.	



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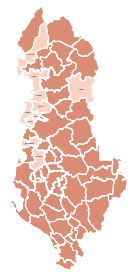
TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Lushnje has not published any preliminary notices on its notice stands and has not published on the official website any preliminary notices regarding the meetings of its municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Lushnje has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Lushnje has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website. Although the respective section appears on its official website, there is no access to these decisions when you click on it.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Lushnje has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Lushnje has not published any reports on the monitoring of the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		50%

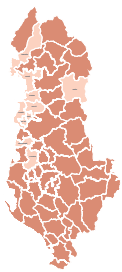
RROGOZHINA MUNICIPALITY

For Rrogozhina Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has fulfilled its obligation to publish its organizational structure on its official website.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years. The website contains only the budgets for the years 2017-2020.	



6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Rogozhina has not published any announcements on the internet about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Rogozhina has not consulted its citizens on the 2022 annual budget of the Municipality. From the observation of the website and its notice stands, no notices have been published for the development of consultative processes for the annual budget of the Municipality. The Municipality replied to the request for information, specifying that it has actually conducted public consultation sessions, but did not provide any evidence for them.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Rogozhina did not consult its citizens on the package of local taxes and fees. The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that activities have been carried out to fulfill this obligation. The Municipality replied to our request for information, specifying that it has carried out public consultations, but did not provide any evidence for them.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The Municipality replied to our request for information on this issue, confirming that there has been no alienation of the property, therefore we are considering it as an achieved indicator.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Rogozhina has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Rogozhina has not published any notices of municipal council meetings on its website.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Rogozhina has not published any preliminary notices on its notice stand and has not published any preliminary notices regarding the meetings of its municipal council committees on its official website.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Rogozhina has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Rogozhina has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Rogozhina has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Rogozhina has not published any reports on the monitoring of the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		43.7%



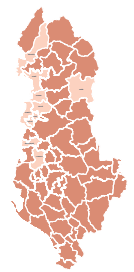
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LEZHA MUNICIPALITY

For Rrogozhina Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Rrogozhina has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish its organizational structure on its official website.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Lezha has published on the Internet notices for the conduct of public consultation sessions, as in the case of consultations on the 2023 budget and fiscal package.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Lezha has consulted its 2022 annual budget of the Municipality with the citizens. Observation of the website and notice stands show that announcements have been published on the development of consultation processes for the 2023 annual budget of the Municipality.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Lezha has consulted with the citizens on the package of local taxes and fees. The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that activities have been carried out to fulfill this obligation.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The Municipality replied to our request for information on this issue, emphasizing that there has been no alienation of property, which makes the municipality consider this indicator as achieved.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website, where there is a list of the number and title of several orders and decisions, but these documents are not accessible.	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Lezha has not published any notices of municipal council meetings on its website.	

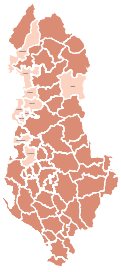


12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Lezha has published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand but not on its official website.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Lezha has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Lezha has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Lezha has published reports on the monitoring of the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		100%

KURBIN MUNICIPALITY

For Kurbin Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

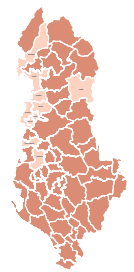
No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kurbin has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Kurbin has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Kurbin has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kurbin has fulfilled its obligation to publish its organizational structure on its official website.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality.	The Municipality of Kurbin has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Kurbin has not published any announcements on the internet about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	



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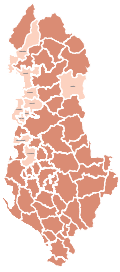
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kurbin has not consulted its citizens on the 2022 annual budget of the Municipality.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Kurbin did not consult its citizens on the package of local taxes and fees.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities have been carried out to fulfill this obligation.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Kurbin has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Kurbin has published notices of municipal council meetings on its website.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Kurbin has not published any preliminary notices on its notice stands and has not published on the official website any preliminary notices regarding the meetings of its municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Kurbin has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the Minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Kurbin has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Kurbin has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Kurbin has not published reports on the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		37.5%



SHKODRA MUNICIPALITY

For Shkodra Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	✓
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have been published on its official website.	✓
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	✓
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on the website, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	✓
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	✓
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Shkodra has published announcements on the internet and on its stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	✓
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has consulted its 2022 annual budget of the Municipality with the citizens.	✓
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Shkodra has consulted with the citizens on the package of local taxes and fees.	✓
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	Shkodra Municipality has fulfilled this legal requirement.	✓
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	✓
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Shkodra has published notices of municipal council meetings on its website.	✓
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Shkodra has published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	✓
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	✓
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	✓



MONITORING REPORT

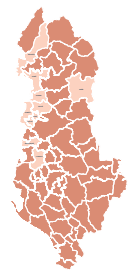
TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has posted announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands, but not on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	Shkodra Municipality has published reports on the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		100%

DIBRA MUNICIPALITY

For Dibra Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Dibra has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Dibra has published announcements on the internet and on its stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has consulted its 2022 annual budget of the Municipality with the citizens.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Dibra has consulted with the citizens on the package of local taxes and fees.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The Municipality replied to our request for information on this issue, emphasizing that there has been no alienation of property, which makes the municipality consider this indicator as achieved.	

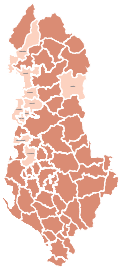


10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Dibra has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Dibra has published notices of municipal council meetings on its notice stand.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Dibra has published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Dibra has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has posted announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands and on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Dibra has published reports on the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		75%

KRUJA MUNICIPALITY

For Kruja Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

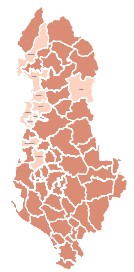
No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kruja has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Kruja has fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Kruja has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kruja has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kruja has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	



MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

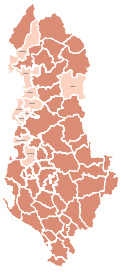
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Kruja has published announcements on the internet and on its stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Kruja has consulted its 2022 annual budget with the citizens.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Kruja has consulted its package of local taxes and fees with the citizens.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The municipality did not respond to our request for information on this issue, therefore we consider this indicator as not achieved.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Kruja has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Kruja has published notices of municipal council meetings on its notice stand and website.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Kruja has not published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Kruja has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Kruja has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Kruja has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	The Municipality of Kruja has published reports on the monitoring of the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		68.7%



VORA MUNICIPALITY

For Vora Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Vora has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Vora has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Vora has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Vora has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Vora has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Vora has published announcements on the internet and on its notice stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Vora has consulted its 2022 annual budget with the citizens.	
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Vora has consulted its package of local taxes and fees with the citizens.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. Actually, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The municipality responded to the request for information on this issue, emphasizing that there had been no alienations of property, considering therefore this indicator as met.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Vora has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Vora has not published notices of municipal council meetings on its notice stand and website. The Union responded to the request for information by emphasizing that these announcements were made on the Facebook social network, which is not an official information channel.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Vora has not published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	



MONITORING REPORT

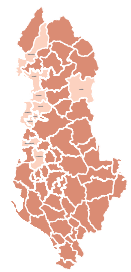
TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Vora has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Vora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Vora has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	Vora Municipality has not published reports on the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		56.3%

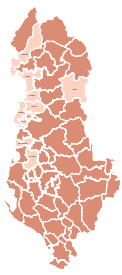
DURRËS MUNICIPALITY

For Durrës Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Durrës has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Durrës has published announcements on the internet and on its notice stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has consulted its 2022 annual budget with the citizens.	



8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Durrës has consulted its package of local taxes and fees with its citizens.	
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The municipality responded to the request for information on this issue, emphasizing that there had been no alienations of property, considering therefore this indicator as met.	
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Durrës has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Durrës has published notices of municipal council meetings on its notice stand and website.	
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Durrës has published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	
14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	Durrës Municipality has not published reports on the implementation of the budget. Only the 2018 budget reports can be found on its website.	
17	Total Delivery on Promises		75%



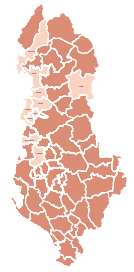
MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

SHIJAK MUNICIPALITY

For Durrës Municipality, all indicators were monitored according to the methodology described above and the findings of this Municipality for each of these indicators are as follows.

No.	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the website of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shijak has fulfilled its obligation to publish its Transparency Program on its official website.	✓
2	Appointment of a Public Consultation Coordinator and publication of their contact information	The Municipality of Shijak has fulfilled its obligation to publish the contact information of its public consultation coordinator, as the email address and phone number of the coordinator have not been published on its official website.	✓
3	Appointment and publication of contact information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Shijak has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information contact of its Coordinator for the Right to Information.	✓
4	Publication of the Organizational Structure of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shijak has fulfilled the obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality, although only on the notice stand and not on its webpage.	✓
5	Publication of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shijak has fulfilled its obligation to publish its annual budget on its official website throughout the years.	✓
6	Publication of notices for the organization of sessions for public consultation on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The municipality of Shijak has published announcements on the internet or on its notice stand about the conduct of its public consultation sessions.	✓
7	Public consultation of the annual budget of the Municipality	The Municipality of Shijak has consulted its 2022 annual budget with its citizens.	✓
8	Public consultation of the package of local taxes and fees	The municipality of Shijak has consulted its package of local taxes and fees with its citizens.	✓
9	Public consultation of decisions on the alienation of the Municipality's assets	The observation of the website and the notice stands showed that no activities are carried out to fulfill this obligation. In fact, the Municipality may not have done any asset alienations. The Municipality replied to our request for information on this issue, emphasizing that there has been no alienation of property, which makes the municipality consider this indicator as achieved.	✓
10	Publication of Orders and Decisions of the Mayor	The municipality of Shijak has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the orders and decisions of the mayor on its official website	✗
11	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Shijak has published notices of municipal council meetings on its notice stand and website.	✓
12	Announcement of the date and time of the City Council meetings on the website or on the physical stand of public notices	The municipality of Shijak has published preliminary notices regarding the meetings of the Municipality Council committees' meetings on its notice stand and official website.	✓
13	Publication of the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The municipality of Shijak has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of its municipal council meetings.	✓



14	Publication of Municipal Council Decisions	The municipality of Shijak has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the municipal council on its official website.	
15	Publication of notices for the organization of public hearings from the Municipality Council on the website or on the public notice stand of the municipality	The Municipality of Shijak has not posted any announcements regarding the holding of public hearings by the municipal council on its notice stands or on its official website.	
16	Are budget implementation reports published on the website or in the public notice stand?	Shijak Municipality has published reports on the implementation of its budget.	
17	Total Delivery on its Promises		93.7%

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The table below summarizes the monitoring results for the fifteen monitored municipalities, ranked by their result in the transparency index. It is worth noting from the beginning that out of the ten municipalities monitored during the past year, only one of them turned out to have worse transparency indicators. Two municipalities have maintained the same level of transparency, while seven others have become more transparent than a year ago.

The municipalities with the highest performance are those of Shkodra and Lezha with 100%, followed by the Municipality of Shijak, which has fulfilled the requirements of the legislation in terms of transparency to the extent of 93.7%, realizing 15 of the 16 measured indicators. Meanwhile, the Municipality with the weakest performance is the Municipality of Kurbin whose level of transparency is only 37.5%.

As for the indicators, it is observed that almost all monitored municipalities have published the Transparency Program on their website. On the other hand, all monitored municipalities have appointed their Coordinators for the Right to Information and published their contact information, although

only 3 out of the 10 monitored municipalities have appointed a Coordinator for Public Consultation.

Municipalities have a good performance in the public consultation of the Annual Budget and in its publication on their website. In this way, 9 out of 10 monitored municipalities have carried out public consultations for the drafting of their budget and have published their annual budget. The performance is the same in terms of public consultations for the package of local taxes and fees, where 8 out of the 10 monitored municipalities have held public consultations on this issue.

As for the transparency of the Municipal Councils, 7 of the 10 monitored municipalities have announced the date and time of their Municipal Council Meetings. Only 4 of the 10 monitored municipalities have published the Minutes of their Municipal Council Meetings. On the other hand, 9 out of 10 monitored municipalities have published the Decisions of their Municipal Councils.

Transparency is very low regarding the publication of Mayor's Decisions and Orders. Only 2 of the 10 monitored municipalities have published their Mayors' orders or decisions.

No.	Municipality	Transparency Index
1	Shkodër Municipality	100%
2	Lezha Municipality	100%
3	Shijak Municipality	93.7%
4	Dibër Municipality	75%
5	Durrës Municipality	75%
5	Kruja Municipality	68.7%
7	Vora Municipality	56.3%
8	Lushnje Municipality	50%
9	Rrogozhina Municipality	43.7%
10	Kurbin Municipality	37.5%

MONITORING PROMISES

Faktoje team selected four promises made during the electoral campaign for the 2022 partial local elections, or during their term as mayors until the May 2023 local elections, as well as promises related to the reconstruction process for municipalities affected by the 2019 earthquake. The following methodology was followed for monitoring these promises:

METHODOLOGY

Promises for public services can be divided into two large groups:

- 1 Promises related to administrative acts on the reduction or removal of taxes and fees or for the return of a public space to pedestrians, or for the opening of a social center, cinema, etc.

Such promises are kept through the approval of legal administrative acts like Decisions and Orders of the Mayor and Decisions of the Municipal Council. Some of these promises also have financial effects, and therefore the budget must be analyzed to see if funds have been allocated for new promised structures to be actually built;

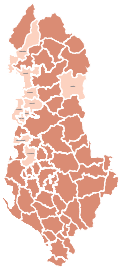
- 2 Promises related mainly to public infrastructure that constitute the main duties and powers of municipalities such as water supply and sewerage, roads, and green spaces, schools and kindergartens, health centers, social centers and other public buildings, etc. Keeping these

promises is closely related to the municipal budget.

To analyze and document whether promises are kept, one must first check whether they are included in the Municipality's budget, more precisely in the "Capital Expenditures" or "Maintenance Expenditures" item of the budget.

However, even if they are included in the budget, this does not necessarily mean that the promises are kept because municipalities almost always fail to stick to their budget commitments. Therefore, it is important to see if a municipality has done or plans to do public procurement for the project in question. The procurement plan can be viewed on the website of the Public Procurement Agency.

It is worth noting that some of these promises can be kept in cooperation with or with the help of other institutions, such as the Line Ministries, for example, the Ministry of Health for health centers or the National Agency for Water and Waste in the case of water supply plants or landfills. Therefore, it is important to study the budgets and procurements of these institutions to see if they have included the respective project or not. As a result, the database is also expected to contain a section named "Other institutions involved" to be able to also identify and monitor these institutions that can fully finance or co-finance the implementation of these projects.



MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

The indicators that are proposed to be measured, as far as Public Services are concerned, are:

- 1 Decisions and Orders of the Mayor;
- 2 Decisions of the Municipal Council;
- 3 Budget;
- 4 Procurement Plan;
- 5 List of Announced Contracts;
- 6 The budget of other Involved Institutions and their procurement plan.

LARGE PROJECTS

Large projects include projects that require a very large funding compared to the budget of a municipality and necessarily require the involvement and funding of the Central Government. These projects include Highways and National Roads, Ports, Airports and Terminals, Hospitals, Theaters, Stadiums, etc.

These projects, despite the fact that they may have been promised by the mayors, are actually outside the competence of the Municipality. However, the mayor's promise can also be linked to lobbying with the Government or Ministries for the financing of these projects. Therefore, in order to monitor the realization of these promises, the budget and procurement plan of the central institution should be monitored instead of municipality budgets and procurement plans.

The indicators that are proposed to be measured, as far as Large Projects are concerned, are:

- ◆ The budget of central institutions depending on the field, such as the Ministry of Health for Hospitals, Albanian Football Federation / Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth for Stadiums, Albanian Development Fund or the Albanian Road Authority in case of roads, etc.

To monitor whether these promises were kept, Faktoje Team took the following steps:

- 1 Municipal budget analysis;
- 2 Analysis of the Procurement Plan;
- 3 Sending requests for information to municipalities;
- 4 Carrying out field visits to follow the situation closely.

MONITORED PROMISES

The selected promises for each of the Municipalities included in the project include.

RROGOZHINA MUNICIPALITY

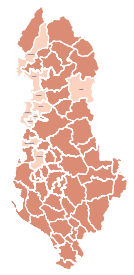
- ◆ Construction of the water supply system in Sinaballaj;
- ◆ Reconstruction of the 9-year-old school "Qamil Gjuzi";
- ◆ Reconstruction of the 9-year school in Lekaj;
- ◆ Shkumbin river embankments.

LUSHNJE MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Construction of the river embankment in Thanasaj;
- ◆ Asphaltting of several road segments;
- ◆ Construction of the big ring road of Myzeqe;
- ◆ Reconstruction of the City Stream.

DIBRA MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Construction of sidewalks;
- ◆ Closing the waste disposal site in Peshkopi;
- ◆ Asphaltting of the "Iliaz Pashë Dibra" road;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of the facades of the buildings in Peshkopi.



SHKODËR MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Freeing public spaces;
- ◆ Shelter for stray animals;
- ◆ Prevent floods in Bërdica;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of "Qafa e Bishkazit" and "Dragushaj" Streets.

LEZHA MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Reconstruction of the palace on "Luigj Gurakuqi" street;
- ◆ Reconstruction of the dormitory of the vocational school "Kolin Gjoka";
- ◆ Construction of 80 new apartments as part of the reconstruction;
- ◆ Installation of 39 security cameras in Shëngjin and Lezhë.

KRUJA MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Demolition of buildings damaged by the earthquake and the starting of reconstruction;
- ◆ Construction of 13 educational facilities for the new school year;
- ◆ Construction of Kruja and Fushë-Kruja water supply systems;
- ◆ Expansion of the Hospital Road in Krujë.

KURBIN MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Cleaning of Drainage Channels;
- ◆ Disbursement and compensation with reconstruction grants;
- ◆ Reconstruction of the Municipality building;
- ◆ Reconstruction of "Gjon Gjonaj" School.

VORA MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Reconstruction of the public garden;
- ◆ The opening of two new 9-year schools;
- ◆ Laying of the Road of the village of Bërxulle;
- ◆ Reconstruction of individual dwellings;

DURRËS MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ The opening of an eco-park on June 1st, 2022;
- ◆ Repair within 6 months of 103 buildings of the DS4 scale;
- ◆ Reconstruction of "Aleksandër Goga" street;
- ◆ Commencement of works for the coastal promenade;

SHIJAK MUNICIPALITY

- ◆ Construction of 3 buildings for the homeless;
- ◆ Issuance of ownership certificates for individual dwellings;
- ◆ Construction of the Palace of Culture;
- ◆ Reconstruction of building blocks.

FINDINGS FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY

RROGOZHINA MUNICIPALITY

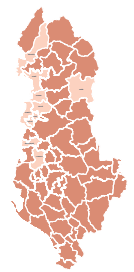
The Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of the water supply plant in Sinaballaj;	The water supply plant is built but the quality of water is not good, which makes it not drinkable.	Promise partially kept
Reconstruction of the 9-year elementary school;	The works for the reconstruction of the school have started and are expected to be completed in April 2023.	Promise kept
Reconstruction of the 9-year elementary school in Lekaj;	The works for the reconstruction of the school have actually started, but they should be completed in July 2022.	Promise not kept
Shkumbini river embankments.	From the field visit, it does not appear that the embankments along the shores of Shkumbin have been built, although the Municipality claims otherwise.	Promise not kept

LUSHNJE MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of the river embankment in Thanasaj;	The river embankment has been built, although not within the deadlines promised during the election campaign	Promise kept
Asphalting of some road segments;	Works on a number of road segments have started, but the deadline for their completion has expired.	Promise not kept
Construction of the big ring road of Myzeqe;		Promise partially kept
Reconstruction of the City Stream.		Promise partially kept

DIBËR MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of sidewalks;	The municipality declares that it has this promise on its list of priorities, but from the observation on the ground it appears that the works have not yet started.	Promise not kept
Closing the waste disposal site in Peshkopi;	The waste disposal site is still open. The Municipality responded to our request for information, noting that it was still in the technical and financial evaluation phase.	Promise not kept
Asphalting of "Iliaz Pashë Dibra" road;	The road is asphalted and fully functional.	Promise kept
Rehabilitation of the building facades in Peshkopi.		Promise partially kept



SHKODRA MUNICIPALITY

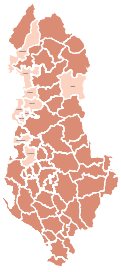
The Promise	Comments	Status
Shelter for stray animals;	The shelter is under construction, although the deadline for its completion has expired.	Promise kept
Freeing of public spaces;	Field observation by Faktoje showed that public spaces have not been freed and a number of informal economic activities take place in them.	Promise not kept
Prevent floods in Bërdica;	The municipality admits that no investment has been made in this area.	Promise not kept
Rehabilitation of Qafa e Bishkazit and Dragushej Streets.	Although the investment has been completed, the quality of the work leaves much to be desired, causing more problems than it was intended to solve.	Promise partially kept

LEZHA MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Reconstruction of the palace on "Luigj Gurakuqi" street;	According to the municipality, the building will be built by a foundation, but it does not make public any information about when the works will start.	Promise partially kept
Reconstruction of the dormitory of the vocational school "Kolin Gjoka";	The building has been built and is functional, although it was opened only after the academic year had started.	Promise kept
Construction of 80 new apartments as part of the reconstruction;	The apartments have been built and the residents have received their keys.	Promise kept
Installation of 39 security cameras in Shëngjin and Lezhë.	Cameras are installed in Shëngjin, but in Lezha the work has not yet started.	Promise partially kept

KRUJA MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Demolition of the buildings damaged by the earthquake;	From the observation on the ground, it appears that the buildings have been completely destroyed, which is delaying the reconstruction process, but the municipality does not provide information about Site 4	Promise partially kept
Construction of 13 educational facilities for the new school year;	The field visit proved that the schools have been built and are functional.	Promise partially kept
Construction of Kruja and Fushë-Kruja water supply plants;	The works are completed but the water supply is not available 16 hours a day and the quality of the water is not of the standards that would make it drinkable.	Promise not kept
Expansion of Kruja Hospital Road	The visit showed that there is no sign of the launch of such a project, and the local residents are not even aware of it.	Promise not kept



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KURBIN MUNICIPALITY

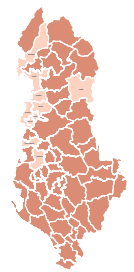
The Promise	Comments	Status
Disbursement and compensation with the reconstruction grants.	From the observation in the field, it appears that no investment has been realized, which has become a risk to the safety of the residents.	Promise not kept
Cleaning of drainage channels;	The field visit showed that the canals are not yet cleaned.	Promise not kept
Reconstruction of the Municipality building;	The work for the reconstruction of the Municipality has started, but the deadlines for the completion of the works have expired.	Promise not kept
Reconstruction of "Gjon Gjonaj" School.	The work started a long time ago, but it has not yet been completed, although the deadline has expired.	Promise not kept

VORA MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Reconstruction of the public kindergarten;	The work has started, but 2 years after the demolition of the old kindergarten, the work is not yet completed.	Promise not kept
Road construction in Bërxullë	The road is in a very bad condition and no work on its rehabilitation has started.	Promise not kept
The opening of two elementary 9-year schools	Schools opened within the given deadlines.	Promise kept
Reconstruction of individual dwellings;	The field visit showed that there are houses that have not been demolished and where the reconstruction process has not started.	Promise not kept

DURRËS MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Opening of the eco-park on June 1 st	Although most of the work has been completed, the park is still not open.	Promise not kept
Repair within 6 months of 103 buildings of the DS4 scale;	Information confirms that only 9 building blocks have been reinforced.	Promise not kept
The reconstruction of "Alexander Goga" Street		Promise not kept
Commencement of works for the coastal promenade;	During the on-site verification, it was found that the road reconstruction work had not yet started.	Promise kept



SHIJAK MUNICIPALITY

The Promise	Comments	Status
Reconstruction of building blocks;	According to the information available, 26 of the 31 buildings in the reconstruction process have been finalized.	Promise partially kept
Construction of 3 buildings for the homeless;	According to information available, the National Housing Authority has opened a procurement procedure for only one building, and the works have not yet started.	Promise not kept
Issuance of ownership certificates for individual dwellings within the month of August 2021;	The municipality admits that the distribution has not yet started and that the Albanian Development Fund is responsible for this.	Promise not kept
Construction of the Palace of Culture;	Works have started, although 1 year after the promised date.	Promise kept

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MONITORED MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

During this year, the monitoring of the municipalities was also intended to analyze the municipalities' 2023 budgets to see if they made attempts to use their budgets for electoral purposes, given that 2023 is an election year. Of the ten monitored municipalities, only 6 have published their 2023 budget, although all of them have approved their budget before the

start of 2023. Of these, the budget sent by Dibra Municipality after the request for information from Faktoje is incomplete and almost illegible. Consequently, since the budget document was only available for half of the monitored municipalities, such an analysis would be incomplete.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2023

ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED BY THE ELECTORAL CODE

The President of the Republic of Albania, through Decree no. 13864, on 24.10.2022 set May 14, 2023 as the date of holding elections for local government bodies.

In February 2022, the Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc parliamentary committee for Electoral Reform, which aimed to implement the necessary legal changes according to the latest recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR for the 2021 elections, giving it a six-months mandate. The committee was established on June 17, 2022. At the end of its mandate, in August 2022, it turned out that the Committee had only held its constitution meeting. In September 2022, the Committee with political consensus decided to postpone the deadline by another 6 months, since it failed to fulfill the purpose for which it was set up.

Under these conditions, the existing legal provisions of the Electoral Code will continue to be applied in the 2023 local elections of May.

On March 6, 2022, Albania held partial elections in six municipalities. The President of the Republic decreed the partial elections on January 20, 2022, following a decision of the Constitutional Court on the validity of the 2019 local elections. Partial elections were held to re-elect the Mayors of Shkodër, Vorë and Lushnjë after the dismissal of the mayors for reasons of decriminalization, in accordance with the law *"On guaranteeing the integrity of persons who are elected, appointed or exercise public functions"*,

in Durrës and Dibër municipalities the mayors had resigned, while in the Rrogozhinë municipality the mayor had passed away.

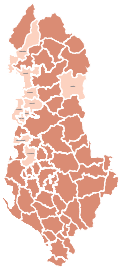
Eleven political parties registered to participate in the by-elections through 19 candidates, including three women. Electronic voting and counting were piloted in Vorë municipality and biometric identification of voters was implemented in all polling stations.

The Socialist Party won five out of six municipalities, while a coalition of two opposition parties won the remaining municipality. Two out of six mayors are women. No electoral subject contested the results. All the newly elected mayors will be in office for almost a year, as regularly scheduled elections for local government bodies are expected to be held in 2023.

A series of reports from international organizations on the organization and management of the electoral process, such as the OSCE/ODHIR Report, the US State Department Report, as well as the Albania 2022 Report, found that the elections were generally well organized and the Central Election Commission managed to fulfill adequately most of its obligations, including the complex new ones related to the electronic identification of voters. The local elections of March 6, 2022, set a milestone for the elections in Albania as for the first time in the 30-year history of pluralist electoral processes, the election results were certified without any contestation.

The 2022 Albania report emphasizes the fact that the misuse of state resources during electoral campaigns continues to remain a concern. Committee

The Central Electoral Commission imposed a fine on the Mayor of Durrës as an administrative measure



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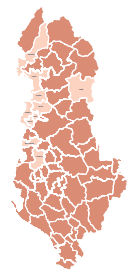
for the use of public resources during the election campaign in the partial elections of March 6, 2022. Such incidents and others related to vote-buying practices in the general elections of April 2021, confirmed the need to ensure transparency regarding the financing of political parties in accordance with international and European standards.

On July 23, 2020, new changes to the Electoral Code entered into force. These changes, in addition to changes regarding party financing, semi-open lists and the introduction of technology in elections, also include changes in terms of the use of state resources in support of electoral subjects and the activities of public institutions in the election campaign, which is requests made by the opposition. The reflected changes aimed at creating fair and equal conditions for all candidates and political parties participating in the electoral process, as well as limiting and prohibiting the use of assets, human resources and employment, setting a limit of four months to the election day. Upon entering into force of the amendments to the Electoral Code, on December 24, 2020, the Regulatory Committee under the Central Election Commission issued decision no. 9 *“On the Rules for Reporting the Activities of Public Institutions and Prohibited Activities in the Election Campaign”*.

The Electoral Code, in terms of institutional organization, assigns the Central Election Commission as the institution responsible for the organization and management of elections and referenda, for leading and supervising the activity of the electoral administration, monitoring the activity of electoral subjects, state bodies and institutions and the media in relation to the elections, as well as for the administrative resolution of requests or complaints related to the election process.

Also, the Electoral **Code** provides for the governing bodies of the CEC, such as:

- The State Commissioner for Elections, a monocratic body that exercises executive powers, directs the administration of the CEC and represents the CEC in relations with third parties;
 - The Regulatory Committee as a competent body for the approval of normative acts in the field of elections and the establishment of rules for elections as well
 - The Complaints and Sanctions Commission as the competent body for examining administrative complaints and imposing sanctions for violations of the electoral law.
- The main competences of the Regulatory Committee include the approval of draft acts of a normative character regarding the rules for reporting on public activities of public institutions, agencies and/or state-owned enterprises, the categories of prohibited activities during the campaign, as well as the procedure of the CEC for enforcing the relevant prohibitions.
- Within the framework of the ban on the use of state/public resources in the election campaign, the provisions of the Electoral Code include:
- Article 91 “Prohibition of the use of public resources in support of electoral subjects”** (amended by law no. 101/2020, dated 23.7.2020)
- With the exception of the cases provided by law, the resources of public bodies or entities at the central or local level, or any other type of entity where the state owns capital or quota or/and appoints the majority of the supervisory body or the administrative body of the entity, regardless of the source of capital or ownership, may not be used to support candidates, political parties or coalitions in elections.
 - For purposes of this article, “resources” shall mean movable and immovable assets provided for in Article 142 of the Civil Code, as well as every human resource of the institution. The use of “human resources” means the forced use of the administration of an institution during the working hours for election purposes, as well as the forced and organized use within



the teaching hours of the students of the pre-university school system in the election campaign. Using human resources also means promising or offering benefits to public servants or students to participate in activities related to the election campaign outside of work or school hours, as well as exerting pressure on them for this purpose.

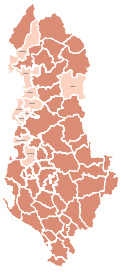
- During the election campaign, it is prohibited to hire, fire, release, move and transfer duties in public institutions or entities, except in legitimate cases. Legitimate cases are considered cases when a movement or dismissal comes as a result of violations, according to the relevant legislation, or the employment is done within the structure and organization in force before the election campaign by the institution or public entity in fulfilling its mission. Exceptions include cases of emergencies due to unforeseen events that dictate employment of people.
- Four months before the date of the elections until the formation of the new government after the elections, the proposal, approval or issuance of laws or bylaws, which provide for the provision of benefits to certain categories of the population, such as acts that provide for increase of salaries, pensions, economic or social support, reduction of taxes or exemption thereof, introduction of fiscal amnesties, privatization or granting of assets or rewards, etc., are not allowed, unless the initiative is conditioned by a state of natural disaster.
- The CEC issues detailed instructions to determine the use and misuse of public resources.

Article 92 “Activities of public institutions in the campaign” (amended by law no. 101/2020, dated 23.7.2020)

- Public, central and local institutions, as well as state agencies and/or enterprises, are obliged to report to the CEC all activities of a public nature that they plan to develop in the period four

months before the date of the elections until the day of the elections. Public activities are all activities that are open to the participation of the public or the media, as well as those whose agenda is to inform the public about them, in the period starting four months before the date of the elections until the day of the elections.

- Reporting is the personal responsibility of the person responsible for the administrative management of public institutions, agencies and state enterprises (the general secretary of the institution or, as the case may be, the general director or the executive director). Reporting must be done no later than 5 (five) days before the planned deadline for the development of the activity.
- Reporting according to point 1 of this article is carried out through the website for reporting public activities, which is maintained and administered by the CEC. Responsible persons get personalized access to this interface and enter data on the date and time of the event, its type, theme, highest level of participation, guests of honor, scheduled speakers and media coverage. The information according to this point is accessible to all users of the interface from the moment of data entry until the date of announcement of the final election result.
- In the event that the CEC, ex officio or at the request of third parties, determines based on the information available, according to point 3 of this article, that the activity may constitute a misuse of state resources, then it orders that the activity should not be conducted. The ban is carried out by putting a note reading “Banned by the CEC” in the reporting interface, in the section related to the activity. The note “Banned by the CEC” is placed no later than two days before the date on which the activity is scheduled to be conducted. The information according to this point is accessible to the public, from the moment of data entry until the date of announcement of the final election result.



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- Failure of public institutions, agencies and/or state enterprises to report on activities of a public character, or the conduct of such activities, despite the prohibition by the CEC, makes the person responsible for such activity, as well as the head of the relevant institution liable, when the latter has prevented the implementation of this provision. ○ The rules for examining, ex officio or upon request, cases that may constitute misuse of state resources, according to points 1 and 4 of this article, are approved by the CEC with a normative act.

Based on the above provisions, as well as the responsibilities that the Electoral Code assigns to the Central Election Commission for controlling and taking measures to prevent the use of state resources in the 4-month period before the elections, the Regulatory Committee approved decision no. 9, dated 24.12.2020 " ***For the Rules of reporting on the activities of a public nature of every public institution, with state capital, agencies, state entities, the categories of prohibited activities, as well as the monitoring of the activity, behavior and use of human, financial and logistical resources of the state administration before elections***".

The purpose of this decision is to sanction rules in order to take measures, monitor and prevent prohibited activities, behavior or use of public resources, whether these are human or financial and logistical resources of institutions at the central and local level, as well as of the state administration during the time period of 4 months before the elections until the date of the elections.

In addition, this decision has as its object the determination of the rules not only for the reporting of public activities of central and local public institutions, etc., but also the determination of the categories of prohibited activities, the procedures for examining them by the State Election Commissioner for the prohibition of their realization as well as the administrative measures that are taken in cases of non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Code or this normative act itself.

Article 2, point b) defines what will be considered public activities. According to this definition, "***public activity***" refers to all the activities that are open to the participation of the public or the media in the sense of point 1 of article 92 of the Electoral Code, carried out by the subjects defined in this decision, as well as those, whose agenda includes providing information to the public about them during the four-months period before the date of the elections until the day of the elections.

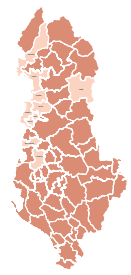
Referring to the provisions in article 3 of this decision, point 1.1, it is sanctioned that: "***activities not allowed to be promoted***" shall include those public activities for which public funds were newly made available or transferred not according to the approved budget plan, in the period of 4 (four) months before the election date...

What does the Electoral Code prohibit during the election campaign period!

If we analyze these two provisions, we will find that the public activities prohibited to be promoted will only include those activities for which there is "new financing" or public funds have been transferred not according to the approved budget plan, limiting it to a period 4 monthly before the election date. This means that activities, which aim to support and promote infrastructural investments (such as transport, energy, telecommunications, water works, etc.), carried out by local leading officials mostly on the eve of the election period or even during the election period, or the support and promotion of reconstructed objects or in the process of reconstruction/reconstruction in the framework of the reconstruction process as a result of the 2019 earthquake, will not be subject to these restrictions and will not be considered as prohibited activities to be promoted in terms of the provisions of the Electoral Code and Decision no. 9/2020.

Another category of prohibited activities in the 4-month period before the elections also includes:

- The distribution of legalization permits in public activities;



- The distribution in public activities of acts for the registration of agricultural land, ownership certificates, as well as any other type of ownership title;
- Making movable and immovable assets available for electoral purposes, owned or administered by local government units, etc.

Restrictions on public activities began to be implemented on December 25, 2020. Since that period, 2 years have passed and it is assumed that enough time has passed for all the institutions and candidates in the elections to become familiar with these provisions, and to implement them, given that there is already a consolidated practice from the general elections.

The panorama appears differently when we discuss the partial local elections of March 6, 2022. The Central Election Commission, in the case of the partial local elections, was under pressure in terms of deadlines and had several decisions by halving the time of the normal election campaign from 30 to only 14 days and setting the date January 31 as the limit for reporting activities of a public character of state institutions, while elections were scheduled to take place on March 6th.

Referring to the legal provisions in Article 4 of Decision No. 9 on "Rules for Reporting the Activities of Public Institutions and Prohibited Activities in the Election Campaign", the reporting of all public activities is enabled by the CEC by accessing the official website (reporting interface) <https://aktivitete.kqz.gov.al>. The information contained in the interface is freely accessible to the general public, only for the period from the moment of data entry until the date of announcement of the final election result. The reporting of activities by the institutions in the reporting interface is expected to be carried out no later than 5 days before the date on which the public activity is scheduled to take place.

In the event that the State Commissioner of Elections, ex officio or at the request of third parties, finds that

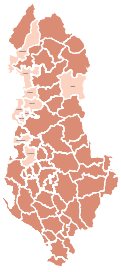
the public activity constitutes a prohibited activity and/or a misuse of state resources, the Commissioner orders the prohibition of the relevant public activity. The prohibition is carried out by placing the note "Prohibited by the CEC". Information about prohibited activities is organized in a special column "Prohibited activities" on the official website of the CEC. From the checking carried out on this page, it appears that there is no information on whether or not there were activities prohibited by the CEC for the partial local elections of March 2022. This shows that during the entire period of the election campaign, no event was marked as prohibited by the CEC, which calls into question whether the CEC did effectively have the opportunity and institutional capacity to review and verify the information for all statements for official activities on time.

On the other hand, Article 10 of Decision No. 9/2020 requires the CEC to impose fines as administrative sanctions in cases the entities provided for in point 2 of Article 3 of Decision No. 9/2020 do not report, partially report or still carry out activities prohibited by the CEC, as well as fines on heads of the institutions themselves, where they are found to have hindered reporting, have influenced, have ordered that the reporting be delayed, or have carried out activities despite the prohibition of the CEC.

The Electoral Code provides for the Appeals and Sanctions Commission (KAS) as the body responsible for examining administrative appeals and for imposing sanctions for violations of the electoral law.

KAS examines and resolves administrative complaints against the acts of the Commissioner and CEAZs. Upon a request of the Commissioner, KAS imposes disciplinary measures against election officials or administrative sanctions against persons/election subjects who commit administrative offenses related to the elections.

In order to analyze in concrete terms the monitoring of the use of state resources during the partial local elections for mayor, "Faktoje" Center sent a request for information to the Central Election Commission. From the analysis of the statistical data provided



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by the CEC, it results that the CEC received 21 reports requiring administrative investigation in the framework of the partial local elections for mayor of March 6, 2022. Of these 21 reports, 5 (five) cases are related to the misuse of state resources during the election campaign, including 2 (two) cases in Durrës Municipality, 1 (one) in Lushnja Municipality and 2 (two) cases in Shkodër Municipality.

The State Commissioner for Elections took the following 5 decisions:

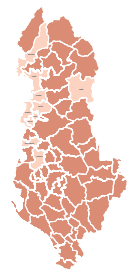
- Decision no. 152 dated 28.04.2022 "Administrative Sanction through a fine against the Director of the 9-year elementary school "Armath" Mr. Vlash Doda in the amount of 5,000 (five thousand) ALL and an Administrative Sanction through a fine against the candidate for mayor in the municipality of Durrës, proposed by the electoral entity "Socialist Party of Albania", Mrs. Emiriana Sako in the amount of 100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL.
- Decision no. 167 dated 19.05.2022 "Conclusion of the administrative review of the report against Mr. Pirro Vengu, General Director of Durrës Port Authority, Mrs. Emiriana Sako, Mayor of Durrës Municipality, Mr. Klevis Hysa, General Director of the National Employment and Training Agency and Ms. Kseanela Sotirofski, Rector of "Aleksandër Moisiu" University Durrës. Finding no violations of the provisions of law no. 10019, and decision no. 9, dated 24.12.2020 of the Regulatory Committee.
- Decision no. 168 dated 19.05.2022 "Completion of the administrative review of the report against Mrs. Eriselda Sefa, candidate for Mayor of Lushnjë, Mrs. Ogerta Manstirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection and to Mr. Perin Vogli, Director of "Ihsan Çabej" Hospital, Lushnjë; Finding no violation of the provisions of law no. 10019, and decision no. 9 dated 24.12.2020 of the Regulatory Committee by Ms. Ogerta Manstirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection and on the part of Mr. Perin Vogli, Director of "Ihsan Çabej" Hospital, Lushnjë; -

Finding a violation of the provisions of law no. 10019, and decision no. 9 dated 24.12.2020 of the Regulatory Committee by Ms. Eriselda Sefa, Mayor and at the same time candidate for mayor of Lushnjë Municipality; - Request the Complaints and Sanctions Commission to impose an administrative sanction.

- Decision no. 182, dated 30.06.2022 "Complete the administrative review of the report against Ms. Edona Tafa, Director and at the same time a medical doctor of Rrethina Health Center, "Dobraç" Ambulance and Mrs. Majlinda Angoni, candidate for Mayor of Shkodër, for the partial elections for mayor on March 6, 2022; - Finding a violation by Ms. Majlinda Angoni, candidate for mayor of Shkodër, Finding a violation by Ms. Edona Tafa, Director and Doctor at the Rrethina Health Center, "Dobraç" Ambulance; - Request the Appeals and Sanctions Commission to impose an administrative sanction.
- Decision no. 186 dated 22.07.2022 "Complete the administrative review of the report against Mr. Xhemal Bushati, candidate for Mayor of Shkodër, Mr. Fatmir Juka, Head of Shkodër Art Gallery and the "Democratic Party" as an electoral subject; Finding no violation of the provisions of law no. 10019 and decision no. 9, dated 24.12.2020, of the Regulatory Committee from on the part of Mr. Xhemal Bushati, candidate for Mayor of Shkodër, Mr. Fatmir Juka, Director of Shkodër Art Gallery.

In relation to this decision-making, the Appeals and Sanctions Commission, based on the complaints against the decisions of the State Election Commission, has decided as follows:

- Uphold decision no. 152, dated 28.04.2022, of the State Election Commissioner.
- Accept the request of the State Election Commissioner partially for imposing an administrative sanction against the candidate for Mayor of Lushnjë, Mrs. Eriselda Sefa and



impose an administrative sanction in the amount of 100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL. Impose an administrative sanction against the General Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Mrs. Gelardina Prodani.

- Impose an administrative sanction against the Director of the Hospital "Ihsan Çabej" Lushnjë, Mr. Perin Vogli in the amount of 2500 (two thousand five hundred) ALL. Terminate the administrative proceedings against the Minister of Health and Social Protection, Mrs. Ogerta Manastirliu.
- Dismiss the request of the State Election Commissioner for imposing an administrative sanction against the candidate for mayor of Shkodër, Mrs. Majlinda Angoni; Dismiss the request of the State Election Commissioner for imposing an administrative sanction against Ms. Edona Tafa, director of "Rethina" Health Center, Dobraç Ambulance 3.
- Terminate the administrative proceedings related to the report registered by the ID unique number 3671, dated March 4th, 2022, reported on the reporting portal on the official website of the Central Election Commission;

Regarding Decision no. 168 dated 19.05.2022 (partially amended by KAS by Decision no. 19 dated 31.05.2022), a complaint was made in court by plaintiff Ms. Eriselda Sefa and the Administrative Court of the First Instance of Tirana decided to dismiss the claim as unsupported by law and evidence and to uphold Decision no. 168 dated 19.05.2022 of the State Election Commissioner and Decision no. 19 dated 31.05.2022 of KAS, regarding:

- The finding of a violation of the provisions of law no. 10019, and decision no. 9, dated 24.12.2020 of the Regulatory Committee by Ms. Eriselda Sefa and the imposing of a fine of 100,000 ALL.

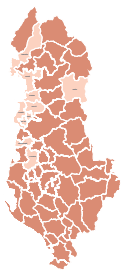
From the monitoring of the reporting interface of the Central Election Commission, for the public activities of the institutions, for the partial elections for mayor on March 6, 2022, the CEC has identified the following issues:

- The activities that were to be carried out by the institutions were not reported on time, not respecting the 5 (five) day deadline for reporting, provided under Article 4, point 4, of decision no. 9 dated 24.12.2020 of the Regulatory Committee;
- The thematics of the Activity, carried out by the reporting institution, is incomplete and general. The lack of detailed information on the topic of the activity means that the State Election Commissioner did not have the opportunity to classify the activity performed as prohibited or not.

In relation to these findings, the CEC, through letter no. 1209, dated 24.02.2022 of the State Election Commissioner, has drawn the attention of the six Municipalities that participated in the elections in order to take immediate measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of decision no. 9, dated 24.12.2020, of the Regulatory Committee in the Central Election Commission.

The process of monitoring the use of state resources during election periods requires not only the rigorous implementation of the electoral legislation but also the coordination of reporting institutions or other independent institutions, whose mission is related with the management and control of the state's material goods. On the other hand, the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the CEC regarding the administration and timely examination of reports about the use of state resources during the election campaign is of primary importance. This need becomes even more evident for the effective follow-up and verification of information for all declarations for official activities in time.

On the other hand, referring to the published report on the monitoring of the 2021 parliamentary



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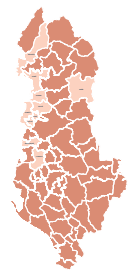
TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

elections, and more specifically to Decision no. no. 224, dated 07.12.2022 of the State Election Commissioner, it results that 61 fines were imposed as administrative measures on Audiovisual Media Service Providers (the amount varies from 30,000 - 100,000 lek depending on the violation committed), as well as 4 administrative measures against political

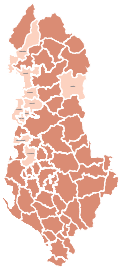
parties, obliging them to return these amounts to the CEC.

Also, in 17 cases, the Appeals and Sanctions Commission received proposals for taking administrative measures against a number of political parties through fines ranging from 100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL - 5,000,000 ALL.

No.	Audiovisual Media Service Provider/Political Party	The amount of the fine	Violation committed
1.	News 24	100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL	92/6, point 6, and 173, point 8 of the Electoral Code
2.	TV Ora	100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL	92/6, point 6, and 173, point 8 of the Electoral Code
3.	Vizion Plus	100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL	92/6, point 6, and 173, point 8 of the Electoral Code
4.	Top News	100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL	92/6, point 6, and 173, point 8 of the Electoral Code
5.	Top Channel	100,000 (one hundred thousand) ALL	92/6, point 6, and 173, point 8 of the Electoral Code
6.	ABC News	70,000 (seventy thousand) ALL	84, point 6, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
7.	Top Channel	70,000 (seventy thousand) ALL	84, point 6, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
8.	TV Best	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
9.	Klan Plus	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
10.	One TV Vlora	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
11.	Top Channel	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
12.	RTV Ora	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
13.	RE-AL	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
14.	TV1 Channel	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
15.	ABC News	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
16.	Top News	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
17.	Vizion Plus	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
18.	News 24	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
19.	Klan TV	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
20.	Fax News	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
21.	Euronews Albania	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
22.	Syri TV	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
23.	A2 CNN	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
24.	Tv 6+1 Vlora	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
25.	Shijak TV	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
26.	Klan News	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code



27.	Report TV	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
28.	One TV Ora	50 000 (fifty thousand)	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
29.	TV Re. Al	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
30.	TVT	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
31.	TV UTV Education	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
32.	Star Plus Tv	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
33.	Tv Sot 7 s	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
34.	Tv Scan	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
35.	Tv Saranda	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
36.	Tv Rozafa Motiv	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
37.	Tv Premium Channel	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
38.	Tv Mati	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
39.	Tv Lobi	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
40.	Tv Kukësi	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
41.	Tv Kopliku	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
42.	Tv Klaudiana	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
43.	Tv Jug	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
44.	Tv Channel 7	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
45.	Tv Channel 1	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
46.	Tv Berati	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
47.	Tv Apollon	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
48.	Tv Antena Nord	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
49.	Tv Alpo	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
50.	Tv 6+1 Vlora	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
51.	Tv BS s	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
52.	Shijak TV	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
53.	Syri TV	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
54.	One TV Vlora	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
55.	Glob Tv	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
56.	Era Digitalb	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
57.	Club Tv	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
58.	BBF	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
59.	ABEG Tv	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
60.	Digitalb TV	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code



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61.	ADTN	30,000 (thirty thousand) ALL	84, point 5, and 171, point 1 of the Electoral Code
	Political party		
1.	New Democratic Spirit	to return to the CEC the amount of 485,332 Date: 07.12.2022 No: 224 Time: 11:00 "On the approval of the report of findings from the audit of funds received and spent by political parties participating in the 2021 elections" 4 (four hundred and eighty-five thousand three hundred and thirty-two) ALL	article 88 point 7 of the Electoral Code
2.	Movement for National Development	to return to the CEC the amount of 55,166.74 (fifty-five thousand one hundred sixty-six comma seventy-four) ALL	article 88 point 7 of the Electoral Code
3.	Social Democratic Party	to return to the CEC the amount of 1,629,360 (one million six hundred and twenty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty) lek	article 88 point 7 of the Electoral Code
4.	Socialist Party of Albania		

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS

- ◆ Out of 10 (ten) municipalities under monitoring, 6 (six) of them have established Local Youth Council by Decision of the Municipal Council;
- ◆ Out of 10 (ten) municipalities under monitoring, 3 (three) of them appear to be in the process of selecting members of Local Youth Councils.
- ◆ Out of 10 (ten) municipalities under monitoring, 1 (one) turns out to have not yet started the process of setting up its Local Youth Council.

The data provided by the National Youth Agency were compared with the data collected from the answers returned by some of the municipalities up to this moment, as well as with the monitoring carried out by "Faktoje" Center, mainly of the official websites of the municipalities as well as their notice stands.

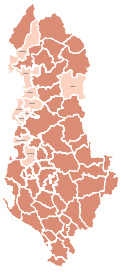
It is interesting to mention the fact that, despite the fact that the National Youth Agency reports for 6 (six) municipalities out of 10 (ten) monitored municipalities having established their Local Youth Councils by Decision of their Municipal Councils, from the result of the confrontation of the monitorings, it turns out that only 2 (two) municipalities have established Local Youth Councils, Dibra municipality and Lezha municipality, but none of them provides information on whether the respective Local Youth Councils have been established or not. In collecting and processing information, attention should be paid to make sure that the different decisions during the procedures for setting up Local Youth Councils are not confused, i.e. decisions taken by the mayor and those taken by the municipality council. The Municipality Council has the power to approve the criteria and

procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council and decide how councils shall be organized and operated, while Mayor has the power to approve the members of the Local Youth Council and decide on and finalize the process of setting up a Local Youth Council.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Membership in the European Union represents a challenge and a long journey for the countries of the Western Balkans that affects them directly. Despite the transformative economic, social and political processes in which these countries are already involved, another important process undertaken is the Berlin Process. Since 2014, this initiative aimed to increase regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and help the integration of these countries into the European Union. The goals of the Berlin Process are described in the Final *Declaration of the German Leader: "To make further and real progress in the reform process, in the resolution of bilateral issues and internal issues, as well as in achieving reconciliation within and between societies in the region"*, as well as to increase *"regional economic cooperation and laying the foundations for sustainable growth"*. Following this process, a number of annual Summits of the Western Balkans have been held, such as Civil Society Forums, Business Forums, and Youth Forums.

This process emphasized the youth of the region with the aim of creating further opportunities as well as the development of spaces for their promotion and participation in some spheres of society and politics.



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Youth participation in policy-making processes in Albania but also in the region remains low as a result of the migratory trends of the region's young people, the lack of stimulating spaces for their involvement in these processes, the lack of targeted information for this category as well as civic education or the lack of political mechanisms to enable communication and interaction of young people with state institutions. Referring to regional studies, it turns out that young people in the six Western Balkan countries face mainly a lack of access to quality education and employment. Given that the current and potential rate of emigration of young people from the six Western Balkan countries continues to be very high, their involvement in policy-making and decision-making processes where they can be part of solving problems remains the main objectives of youth development and policies.

What is worth researching further is the progress of the implementation of youth policies in the country with a focus on the integration of Albania into the EU and the measures taken at the national and regional level by Albania for this purpose.

The demographic data from INSTAT or demographic studies for the Western Balkans continue to assess Albania as a country with a young population, where 23.3% of the population is young. This part of the population represents the vital force of the country to make money, and undertake and change social norms, systems, and processes. This is already reflected in policy-making at the regional, European, and above all at the national level, where youth is considered one of the main actors and an important pillar of society.

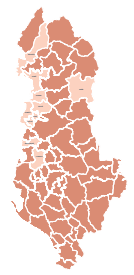
Considering Albania's aspiration and journey to be a part of the European Union, the inclusion of young people as a specific social group with specific requirements in this process has become a necessity and this can be achieved by drafting special policies which should address separately the demands of young people, targeted information, civic education and specific mechanisms that support their involvement in this important process which directly impacts their lives and society as a whole.

Although 92% percent of young Albanians support European integration and Albania's EU membership, this support continues to be accompanied by a low level of knowledge about the process and often this target group faces various challenges that prevent or slow down their full activation in society and in policy making. Youth in Albania face a lack of opportunities, social and economic policies, as well as non-participation in public decision-making that directly affects their lives.

In this context, it is important that the potential of young people is seen not only in the context of certain negotiating chapters such as Chapter 19, *Social Policies and Employment*, Chapter 25, *Science and Scientific Research* as well as Chapter 26, *Education and Culture*, the obligations arising from the SAA, but their inclusion should be seen in a wider context and from an intersectoral perspective in this important process of the country which is considered as a geostrategic and political objective of Albania, which lies at the core of its internal and external policy.

On the other hand, the state itself, through the policy-making process and the implementation of these public policies, should aim not only to ensure the alignment of the existing and new legislation with the "*aquis communautaire*" but also the proper implementation of these policies through the establishment and operation of efficient and well-consolidated national implementing mechanisms and structures. These mechanisms accompany the integration process and operate in accordance with appropriate rules and procedures, first by enabling the creation of an environment in which young people and policymakers sit together to constructively explore ways in which priorities can be met and the needs of young people. This dialogue would lead to an increase in the voice of young people and their concerns addressed in policies relevant to them.

What is missing in Albania today or does not happen under optimal conditions, is the involvement of young people in a professional dialogue about



the activity and results of all existing or newly established institutional structures for the efficient implementation of the agenda of the European integration of Albania, both at the national and local level. Young people need today, more than ever practical, opportunities to be informed about the dynamics of the process itself and the challenges to advance major reforms in the country. Through healthy debate, young people have the opportunity to expand information, to understand the role of available mechanisms, and thus, to adjust their personal approach to "reading" information, but also to identify their potential and role within this process.

In order to address these issues, the decision-makers, both at the central and local level, *(taking into consideration that young people make up the majority of the population in the country and play a very important role in the further development of the country in the social, economic and cultural context)*, should recognize and appreciate that the engagement of young people in society serves as an important tool for democratic developments in the country. Socio-economic divisions, social exclusion, unemployment, lack of opportunities for vocational education, and poverty are increasingly affecting young people. Therefore, it is very important that young people at both levels of government are encouraged, engaged in the reform processes in the country.

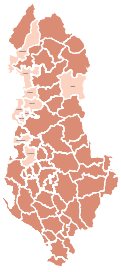
REGULATORY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Although followed by many controversies during the process of discussion and approval of Law no. 75/2019 "On Youth" by various institutional actors but also representatives of civil society, or various interest groups, the Parliament did approve this law in November 2019 with a majority of votes. This law was drafted as a result of the lack of a special legal framework for the protection and promotion

of the rights of young people, in the framework of the right of young people to special protection from the state. The purpose of this law is to protect the rights of young people in a comprehensive way, creating the necessary conditions for the activation, participation, and support of young people, defining the functions and competencies of institutions at the central and local level, as well as ensure cooperation with organizations that exercise activities in the field of youth. This law aims to define the activities, mechanisms and authorities responsible for the protection and promotion of the rights of young people in the Republic of Albania and of young Albanians in the diaspora, as well as the financing of youth activities, within the framework of youth rights for special protection from the state. The adoption of this law is intended also to establish and ensure the operation of the authorities/institutional structures or organizations at the central and local level responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of youth policies in the economic and social spheres, as well as participating in their decision-making.

One of the issues that received special attention during the discussion and adoption of this law was the addition of a new function delegated to local self-government units related to the creation of administrative structures for youth issues and the financing of the creation and development of youth infrastructure. This legal obligation makes the local government pay more attention to youth and is translated into concrete actions by requiring staff to be tasked with drafting local strategies for the youth. In the framework of the advancement of the decentralization process, the Local Self-Government Units play a key role in providing services and supporting the empowerment of youth through the involvement of young people in local decision-making, the growth and strengthening of their models of activism and advocacy through the establishment and the functioning of the Local Youth Councils with the active participation of young people.

In order to enable the implementation of the law in practice and the establishment of institutional structures, by-laws have been approved which



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clearly provide the manner and rules for the establishment of youth structures at the central and local level, ensuring transparency, representation and an inclusive process.

- DCM no. 681, Date 02.09.2020, "On the method of creation, organization and operation of the National Youth Agency" ○ DCM no. 969, dated 02.12.2020, "On determining the criteria and procedures for selecting members of the National Youth Council, as well as the manner of its organization and operation"
- DCM no. 1141, dated 24.12.2020 "On determining the criteria and selection procedures of youth organizations and/or for young people, which benefit from funding from grant funds from the state budget, dedicated to youth"
- DCM no. 274, dated 12.05.2021 "On determining the criteria that must be fulfilled by the National Youth Representative Organization".
- DCM no. 833, dated 24.12.2021, "On the method of setting up, administration, maintenance of the database for youth, as well as the method of its interaction with other state databases"

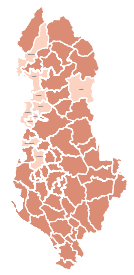
On the other hand, even though these acts were approved about two years ago, it is almost impossible to find information on their implementation and the effects they have produced, and this is especially noticeable for the institutional structures that the law has foreseen to be established at the local level. Despite the adoption of the legal framework, more specifically the implementation of the powers provided for local self-government units in terms of the necessary support with human and financial resources for the exercise of these functions, there is no official public information about how many Local Youth Councils have been established in the 61 municipalities in the country, the activity carried out by the National Youth Council since its establishment or information on the functioning of the youth database, the electronic youth register (RER). It is also important to note that since the adoption of

the legal and sub-legal framework, in terms of the establishment and operation of the Local Youth Councils, no unified model has been drawn up and approved for their establishment. Under these conditions, each municipality has the freedom to follow the procedure deemed the most appropriate by the mayor but not followed by a concrete plan in time, budget, or institutional terms to guarantee the inclusion of young people in local decision-making, based on the number of young people and the size of the territory of the municipality.

The Albanian Government, by its decision no. 692, dated 26.10.2022 approved the National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 as well as its Action Plan for a period of 7 years. The strategy envisages 3 political goals.

The first political goal is related to guaranteeing active participation in society as well as strengthening their voice in society. Intersectoral youth policies must be coordinated, based on analysis, with well-funded mechanisms. It aims to establish and make functional a complete support and organizational system for youth throughout the country, creating opportunities for young men and women to express themselves and contribute effectively to the life and development of their communities. So, according to the purpose of the policy, it is planned to establish and fully operate the network of Local Youth Councils, which serve as a link between young people and mayors, to make young people active participants in policy-making and the decision-making process, mainly at the local level. The second goal is related to the part of youth innovation with the increase of professional skills of young people, of course with a special focus in the field of technology and the third goal is related to the part of social, mental and physical well-being, where a variety of programs are foreseen, starting with the part of psychologists in schools and career counseling.

Law no. 75/2019 "On Youth" in addition to the functions it assigns to the bodies at the central level, also provides for some important functions for the local self-government units. The creation of Local



Youth Councils aims to create a structure at the local level where young people have the opportunity to be informed, exchange information and influence the decision-making of the Mayor or the Municipal Council for issues related to youth. Membership in a Local Youth Council should be seen by the participants as an act of active citizenship where the highest interest for each member should be the causes of young people, addressing problems and advocacy to provide solutions to these problems. An integral part of the activity of the councils should be the increase of accountability for youth issues by the local government and the improvement of transparency in relation to the budget forecasts and the proper reflection in the budgets of the municipalities, of funds for the realization of the rights of young people for the development of youth projects, programs and activities.

The main articles that determine the legal basis for the role of the Local Youth Council are Article 5 and Article 7 of Law No. 75/2019.

Article 5 states that the local government unit must cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MESY) for policies, projects and programs in the field of youth; to contribute to the provision of activities for young people in cooperation with MESY, institutions and other local authorities, defining the standards in the provision of youth activities and work with youth.

Article 7, on the other hand, defines in more detail the specific powers and obligations of local self-government units, which are assigned the obligation to draft and implement local policies in the field of youth and are responsible for the following:

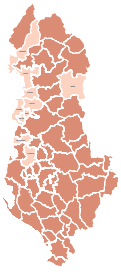
- reflect and respect the rights of young people, defining objectives and priorities, as well as guaranteeing their implementation;
- create local youth councils;
- organize and coordinate activities aimed at achieving local objectives in the field of protection and youth empowerment;

- organize and provide activities to support the well-being and development of young people;
- d) encourage youth volunteerism and their informal education;
- finance the creation and development of youth infrastructure and safe youth spaces;
- create administrative structures for youth issues;
- plan funds in their budgets for ensuring funds for the realization of the rights of young people for the development of youth projects, programs and activities;
- collect, analyze and report data, in cooperation with other institutions, about the situation of young people's rights in their territory.

Article 10 of Law No. 75/2019 provides for the establishment and powers of the Local Youth Council. It is defined as an advisory body, which functions under the mayor's office and exercises the following powers:

- advises local self-government units on the direction of local policies and youth plans;
- evaluates the situation of young people and the implementation of youth plans and policies at the local level;
- proposes improvements to local youth policies, as well as initiatives that suit the needs of young people in the territory where they operate;
- collaborates and exchanges information with the National Youth Council.

The local council is chaired by the mayor and consists of at least 4 to 6 members, where at least half of the members represent youth and/or youth organizations. Members of the local youth council are appointed by order of the mayor. The criteria, procedures for the selection of members of the local youth council, as well as the way of organization and operation of the local youth council are approved by a decision of the



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municipal council, referring, as far as possible, to the criteria and procedures approved by the Council of Ministers for the National Youth Council.

It is important to note that regardless of the form and the criteria set to be followed, the process for the selection of candidates must be entirely a transparent and democratic process. All young people of each local self-government unit should be guaranteed the right to be elected and represent their peers.

In the legislative aspect, apart from Law No. 75/2019, which clearly defines the responsibilities and obligations of local self-government, there are at least two other laws that prioritize youth issues. Law No. 139/2015 "On local self-government", the organic law of local self-government units, makes youth part of the responsibility and priority of LGUs for functions that transferred to the local government. Although there are no special provisions for youth, Article 23 defines the functions of the municipality in the field of infrastructure and public services, which includes the maintenance of educational institutions, or Article 25, which defines the functions of the municipality in the field of culture, sports and entertainment services. Article 16 of this law guarantees the public participation of different social groups in the decision-making process, and the establishment of Local Youth Councils would directly personify the active participation of young people. On the other hand, Law No. 68/2017 "On the finances of local self-government", article 38, point 2, should support budget planning initiatives for young women and young men in line with the needs of this group, being guided and implemented by the legislation in force and the main strategic documents designed for this purpose.

In order to monitor the implementation of the Law on Youth in terms of the obligation that this law provides for local self-government units for the establishment and operation of Local Youth Councils, as well as providing a general overview of the current situation in 10 local self-government units subject of this monitoring, "Faktoje" Center, on 06.12.2022, sent an official request for information

to the municipalities of Vorë, Lezhë, Dibër, Durrës, Rrogozhinë, Shijak, Krujë, Lushnjë, Kurbin and Shkodër, respectively.

"Faktoje" center also sent a request for information to the National Youth Agency, as the body whose objective is to guarantee the protection and promotion of the rights of young people, through support for non-formal education, youth interaction and activation, and the financing of youth activities, in implementation of state policies in the field of youth.

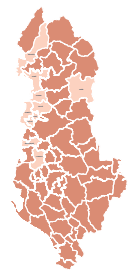
From the information provided by the National Youth Agency, within the framework of the creation and operation of the Local Youth Councils, it turns out that two manuals have been drawn up, (i) The Manual for the Establishment of the Local Youth Councils, which was drawn up in cooperation with POP network, through funding of the Olof Palme International Center. This manual serves as a unified guide for the process of establishing and operating Local Youth Councils. Also, in collaboration with the Reconnecting Albanian Youth and Society project, (ii) the Operational Guidebook for Local Youth Councils has been drawn up. None of these documents is published on the official website of the National Youth Council.

The Manual for the Establishment of Local Youth Councils at Municipalities describes, among other, the procedural steps that each of the local self-government units must follow for the establishment and organization of Local Youth Councils as follows.

The first step - The preparation of the draft decision for the establishment of Local Youth Councils is a step to be taken by the

Municipalities, a draft decision that must be approved by the Municipal Council in one of its monthly meetings.

The second step - Launching the call for the selection of the Local Youth Council members, taking into account



the criteria approved by the Municipality Council. It is very important that this process be as transparent and inclusive as possible from the launch of the call for candidates where all the young people of the administrative areas are informed and given the right to be elected.

The third step - Administration of applications and their review by an internal working group of the Municipality, which must be established by order of the Mayor from the beginning of this process.

The task of this working group is to follow the entire process starting from the announcement of the call, the administration of the applications as well as their review until the final selection of the winning members for the Local Youth Council, which are sent to the mayor for approval.

The fourth step - The Mayor's decision on the appointment of members of the Local Youth

Council. This will contain the list of names of young people selected as members of the Local Youth Council and their mandates.

Step Five - Constitution of the Local Youth Council. At the first meeting of the Local Youth Council, the structure of the Council will be formalized. The meetings will be led by the Mayor, who at the same time will be the Chairperson of the Local Youth Council. At the first meeting of the Local Youth Council, the secretary of the Council will be elected. He or she can either be elected by the members of the Local Youth Council or can be a municipal staff member from the sector responsible for youth. The secretary has a key role in the Local Youth Council, as he not only keeps the protocol of the meetings, but coordinates and notifies also the members of the Local Youth Council about all of its activities and meetings.

Taking into consideration the above, it is clearly evident that the process of setting up the Local Youth Councils will be considered officially exhausted with the conclusion of the last step, which is related to the first meeting of the Local Youth Council, where its constitution takes place .

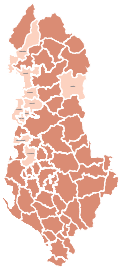
This guiding document provides also templates of official acts or supporting documents helping municipalities, such as:

- Template Decision of the Municipal Council "On the approval of the criteria and procedures for the selection of the members of the Local Youth Council, as well as the way of the Council is organized and operated";
- Public call for the Local Youth Council;
- Decision of the Mayor of the Municipality on the appointment of members of the Local Youth Council;
- Meeting minutes of the Local Youth Council, etc.

Meanwhile, as regards the statistical data administered by the National Youth Agency, it is evident that until December 13, 2022, out of 61 municipalities in total, 49 (forty-nine) of them have established the Local Youth Council by Decision of Municipal Council.

More specifically, these municipalities are: Berat Municipality, Dimal/Ura Vajgurore, Kucove, Polican, Bulqiza, Klos, Mat, **Durrës, Shijak** , Belsh, Gramsh, Peqin, Përrenjas, Fier, **Lushnjë**, Mallakastër, Patos, Roskovec, Gjirokastër, Memaliaj , Permet, Tepelena, Devoll, Kolonje, Maliq, Pustec, Kukës, Tropoje, Mirdite, Fushë-Arrëz, Malësi e Madhe, Puke, Kamez, Kavaje, Finiq, Konispol, Selenice, Vlorë, Delvinë, Librazhd, **Kurbin**, Elbasan, Korçë, **Lezhë**, Divjakë, Skrapar, Cërrik, Has, and **Dibër**.

So, according to this information, out of 10 (ten) municipalities under monitoring, it turns out that 6 (six) of them have established the Local Youth Council by Decision of the Municipal Council.



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On the other hand, it is mentioned that 5 (five) municipalities are in the process of selecting their members. More specifically, these municipalities are: Dropull Municipality, Himare, Vorë, Krujë, and Rrogozhinë. So, out of 10 (ten) under monitoring, 3 (three) of them appear to be in the process of selecting members of the Local Youth Councils.

While 4 (four) municipalities have announced the public call for membership in KVR. More specifically, these municipalities are: Libohova Municipality, Këlcyre and Pogradec.

Finally, it turns out that 4 (four) municipalities have not yet started the process for setting up their Local Youth Councils. These municipalities are: Shkodër Municipality, Vau i Dejës, Tirana and

Saranda. So, out of 10 (ten) municipalities under monitoring, 1 (one) turns out to have not yet started the process of setting up its Local Youth Council.

A more extensive and detailed summary of key findings is organized in a table below.

The most problematic municipality in terms of the process followed for the establishment of Local Youth Councils is Durrës Municipality:

DURRËS MUNICIPALITY:

Referring to the information and documentation provided by Durrës Municipality, it results that the Local Youth Council was established by the decision of the Municipal Council **no. 82 dated 28.06.2021** *“On the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council”*. From the verifications carried out by Faktoje, it appears that this decision has been published on the official website of the municipality. The announcement of the first call for applications was made on the official website of the municipality on 28.08.2021. From September 23-27, the process of selecting members was carried out, considering all applications. Durrës Local Youth Council was expected to consist of 6 people.

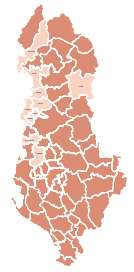
Mayor of Durrës, Mrs. Emirjana Sako, with Decision **no. 133, dated 14.12.2021**, decided to appoint the members of the Local Youth Council. According to this decision, the mandate of the Local Youth Council members is expected to be 2 years with the right of reappointment. From the verifications carried out by Faktoje, this decision is published on the official website of the municipality.

Durrës Municipality, according to the official information provided, has announced a second call on 12.09.2022, where it is foreseen that its National Youth Council will consist of 13 members. The second call for new members of the Council was published on the Instagram page created by the Local Youth Council accompanied by a link to complete the application form on google form. On 25.10.2022, the selection of 10 new members was successfully finalized and the new Local Youth Council is currently in the preparation phase of its constitution.

From the analysis of the above facts and circumstances, we draw attention to the legal provision in point 2 of article 10 of law no. 75/2019, which provides that: *“2. The local youth council is chaired by the mayor and consists of at least 4 to 6 members, where at least half of the members represent youth and/or youth organizations. The members of the local youth council are appointed by order of the mayor”*.

First, it is unclear why Durrës Municipality has decided to announce a second call for members of the Local Youth Council while there was an existing Local Youth Council consisting of 6 members in accordance with the legal provisions, according to which such councils may have up to 6 members. Also, it is not clear which decision of the Municipal Council is the basis for the second call, because Decision no. 82 dated 28.06.2021 of the Municipality Council *“On the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council”* has fulfilled its *“mission”* and cannot be considered valid for other subsequent selection processes which aim to establish a Local Youth Council from scratch.

Secondly, referring to decision no. 133, dated

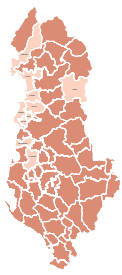


14.12.2021 of the mayor, the mandate of the members of the Local Youth Council is expected to be 2 years, which means that they must remain in office until 14.12.2023, with the exception of cases where a member is faced with legal restrictions such as the loss of legal capacity to act by court decision or punishment by final court decision or resignation. It is not clearly understood what were the reasons that forced the municipality of Durrës to proceed with the announcement of a second call where it is determined that the Local Youth Council will consist of 13 members, exceeding any legal provision.

Finally, the information provided by the municipality mentions that on 25.10.2022, the selection of 10 members (out of 13 required) for the Local Youth

Council was successfully completed, but do not make available the Mayor's decision for the approval of these members. This decision is not published on the official website of the municipality. Again, this is a situation where the process of setting up the Local Youth Council has not been finalized with the decision of the Mayor of the Municipality appointing the members of the Local Youth Council.

Regular and periodic monitoring on the implementation of legal obligations for the establishment and operation of local structures of Local Youth Councils in every municipality of the country, would serve to strengthen the participation of young people in policy-making processes but also to increase the potential of their involvement in the European integration process.

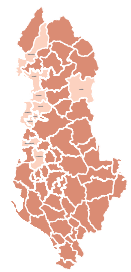


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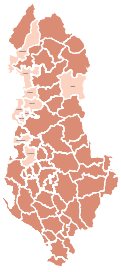
TRANSPARENCY OF 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 40 MAYORS' PROMISES

FINDINGS FOR EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES UNDER MONITORING

CREATION OF LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS IN THE MUNICIPALITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 7, POINT 1/B, OF LAW NO. 75/2019 "FOR YOUTH"				
	Data provided by the National Youth Agency	Data provided by the Municipality	Data from "Faktoje" Monitoring	Current status
Vora Municipality	In the process of selecting members	Public call for application of members of the Local Youth Council. Application deadline 08.11.2022. The municipality reports that it is currently in the process of selecting its members.	The application form for the Local Youth Council, posted on 12.10.2022, is published on the official website of the municipality. From the verification of the decisions of the Municipal Council for the year 2022, it turns out that there is no decision that approves the criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council, as well as the way of its organization and operation.	Based on the information available, it appears that the Municipality of Vora has not established its Local Youth Council.
Lezha Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	- Public call for membership in the Local Youth Council, dated 15.07.2022; - Decision of the Municipal Council No. 515, dated 04.11.2022 "For the appointment of members of the Local Youth Council	-Decision of the Municipal Council No. 44, dated 27.04.2022 "For approval of the criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council as well as the manner of its organization and operation"; - Public call for membership in the Local Youth Council, dated 15.07.2022;	Decision of the mayor on the appointment of members of the Local Youth Council No. 515, dated 04.11.2022 is not published on the official website of the municipality. The municipality does not provide information about the process of constitution of the Local Youth Council, whether this has already happened or not. The Local Youth Council in Lezhë Municipality is considered to be established but not functional.
Dibër Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	Local Youth Council established by the decision of the Municipal Council No. 75, dated 16.09.2022 "For the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council, as well as the method of its organization and operation"; Decision of the mayor on the appointment of members of the Local Youth Council no. 516, dated 07.12.2022.	Decision of the Municipal Council No. 75, dated 16.09.2022 "For approval of the criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council as well as the manner of its organization and operation"; The public call for membership in the Local Youth Council published on the official website of the Municipality (deadline for the selection of candidates, November 4, 2022); On the official website of the municipality, there is no information about the continuation of the final selection process of the winning members for the Local Youth Council, nor the Mayor's decision on the approval of the members of the Local Youth Council.	Decision of the mayor on the appointment of members of the Local Youth Council no. 516, dated 07.12.2022 is not published on the official website of Dibër municipality. The municipality does not provide information about the process of constitution of the Local Youth Council, whether this has already happened or not. The Local Youth Council in Dibra Municipality is considered to be established but not functional.



Durrës Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	The Local Youth Council established by decision of the Municipal Council no. 82, dated 28.06.2021 "On the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council"; Decision of the Mayor of the Municipality no. 133, dated 14.12.2021, for the appointment of the Local Youth Council members; Second call announced on 12.09.2022, finalized on 25.10.2022	The announcement of the call for applications for the Local Youth Council, Durrës Municipality together with the application form, carried out on the official website of the municipality on 28.08.2021.	The establishment and functioning of Durrës Local Youth Council is problematic according to the explanations given above in the explanatory part of the report. The current status of the Local Youth Council in Durrës municipality is not clear.
Rrogozhina Municipality	In the process of selecting members	-Announcement brochure for the public call for the Local Youth Council; - Letter registered by Prot. No. 4278, dated 18.10.2022 for the public call on the establishment of the Youth Council in Rrogozhina Municipality; The municipality also reports that it is in the phase of selecting its candidates.	From the verifications carried out, there is no published information on the official website of the municipality regarding the process of establishing and operating the Local Youth Council, including the Decision of the Municipal Council "On the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council, and the manner of its organization and operation" as well as the public call to apply for membership in the Local Youth Council. The municipality has not made available any link to the official website where the publication of the public call is displayed.	The Local Youth Council in the municipality of Rrogozhina is not considered established.
Shijak Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	Shijak Municipality has not responded to the request for information from "Faktoje", dated 06.12.2022	From the verifications carried out, on the official website of the municipality there is no information published about the process of establishing and operating the Local Youth Council	The Local Youth Council in Shijak municipality has been set up and is operational.
Kruja Municipality	In the process of selecting members	The municipality of Kruja has not responded to the request for information from "Faktoje", dated 06.12.2022	From the verifications carried out, on the official website of the municipality there is no information published about the process of establishing and operating the Local Youth Council	The Local Youth Council in the municipality of Kruja is not considered established.



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Lushnje Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	<p>By Decision no. 20, dated 28.02.2022, the Municipal Council approved the criteria and procedures for the selection of the members of the Local Youth Council as well as the method of its organization and operation". This decision is not published on the official website of the municipality.</p> <p>On 26.04.2022, the municipality held a meeting with young people and the Minister of State for Youth within the framework of the establishment of the Local Youth Council, certified by the minutes kept.</p>	<p>Decision no. 88, dated 24.11.2021 of the Municipality Council "On the approval of the criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council as well as the manner of its organization and operation" published on the official website of the municipality;</p> <p>Two announcements of calls for applications for Local Youth Council members, dated 31.12.2021 and 28.02.2022, made on the FB page of the municipality.</p> <p>No information is published on the official website of the municipality.</p> <p>Decision no. 09, dated 31.01.2022 of the Municipal Council through which the previous decision no. 88, dated 24.11.2021 of the Municipal Council, published on the official website of the municipality.</p> <p>Decision no. 20, dated 28.02.2022 of the Municipal Council is not published on the official website of the municipality.</p>	<p>From the information made available by the municipality, we consider that the Local Youth Council, Lushnje Municipality is considered established and functional.</p>
Kurbin Municipality	Local Youth Council established by Decision of the Municipal Council	<p>Kurbin Municipality has not responded to the request for information from "Faktoje", dated 06.12.2022</p>	<p>From the verifications carried out on the official website of the municipality there is no information published about the process of establishing and operating the Local Youth Council Besides, the publication page of the Municipal Council contains no data on the relevant decisions for 2021 and 2022.</p>	<p>The Local Youth Council in the municipality of Kurbin is not considered established.</p>
Shkodër Municipality	The process of setting up the Local Youth Council has not yet started	<p>- In the process of being established; There is an existing youth center "Atelie" in the municipality which is part of the network of community centers "For the family";</p> <p>- Drafting of a decision "On the approval of criteria and procedures for the selection of members of the Local Youth Council as well as the manner of its organization and operation" for approval from the Municipality Council.</p>	<p>There is no information on the official website.</p>	<p>The information provided by the National Youth Agency does not match the information provided by the municipality itself.</p> <p>The Local Youth Council has not been set up in Shkodër Municipality.</p>

ANNEX 1

Request for information sent to 10 monitored municipalities

REQUEST

28.12.2021

REQUEST MADE BY: Name Surname

Address:

Email:

TO: Municipality_____

LEGAL BASIS:

- ◆ Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- ◆ Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ◆ Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania
- ◆ Law no. 119 dt. 18.09.2014 "On the Right to Information"

Based on the legal provisions of the acts listed in the legal basis above, I request the relevant information and documentation for the questions below:

1 Has the 2020 and 2021 Annual Budget of the Municipality been consulted with the public? If yes, send me copies of the notice/notices for the conduct of public hearings, when and where the notice/notices were published, and copies of the minutes kept, copies of recommendations and

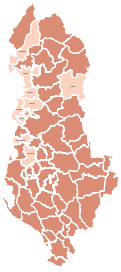
other documents that support the realization of this process.

2 Has the public been consulted on the package of local taxes and fees for the period 2020-2021? If so, send me copies of the notice/notices for the conduct of public hearings, when and where the notice/notices were published, copies of the minutes kept, copies of recommendations and other documents that support the realization of this process.

3 Has the public been consulted on the alienation of the Municipality's properties for the period January 2020-February 2021? If so, please send me copies of the notice/notices for the conduct of public hearings, when and where the notice/notices were published, copies of the minutes kept, copies of recommendations and other documents that support the realization of this process.

4 Have the date and time of the meetings of the Municipal Council for the period January 2020-February 2021 been announced in advance on the website or the notice stand? If so, send me copies of the notice/notices for the conduct of these meetings, when and where the notice/notices were published, copies of the minutes kept and other documents that support the realization of this process.

5 Have the date and time of the meetings of the Municipality Council Committees for the period January 2020-February 2021 been announced in advance on the website or the notice stand? If yes, send me copies of the notice/notices for



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the conduct of these meetings, when and where the notice/notices were published, copies of the minutes kept and other documents that support the realization of this process.

- 6** Are notices for the organization of Public Hearings by the Municipal Council for the period January 2020-February 2021 published on the website or the public notice stand? If so, please send me copies of the notice/notices for the conduct of these hearings, when and where the notice/notices were published, copies of the minutes kept and other documents that support the realization of this process.

Based on Article 3 of Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information" which provides that "Every person has the right to get to know the public information, through the original document or by receiving a copy of it in the form or format that

allows full access to the content of the document, I request the relevant documentation that supports the realization of the processes referred to in the above questions.

Based on Article 15 of Law No. 119/2014 "On the right to information" which stipulates "*The public authority handles the request for information, submitting the requested information as soon as possible, but no later than 10 working days from the day of its submission, except in cases where a special law provides otherwise*" please provide the relevant information and documentation within this legal deadline.

For any other communication to clarify the submitted request, you can also contact me by email: e- **mail:** emermbierner@email.com

Thank you,
Name Surname

This report was supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The report was prepared by:
Enkelejd Musabelliu and Erisa Proko