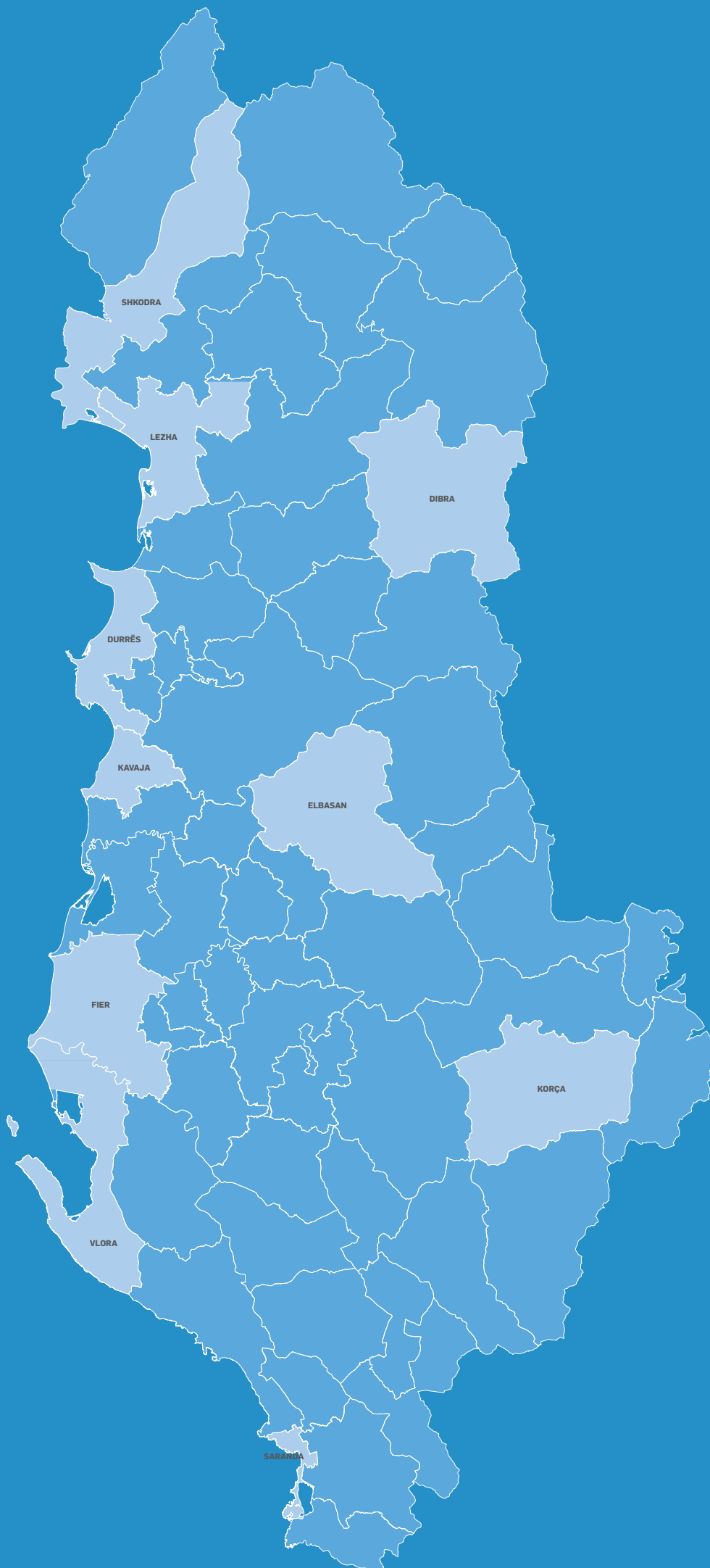

MONITORING REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL OBLIGATIONS FOR ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS BY MUNICIPALITIES

January 2025



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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 ensuring transparency. Last year, the project involved the municipalities of Dibra, Elbasan, Fier, Kavaja, Durrës, Korça, Lezha, Shkodra, Vlorë and Himara, which were monitored by local journalists as well as civil society activists.

The methodology followed for the implementation of this project is the same as the one used during the previous year. For each municipality, four promises made by the current mayors during the 2023 local election campaign were selected. These promises were monitored based on an analytical methodology that included budget analysis, public procurement monitoring, and on-site observations. In addition, the report also monitored the transparency program, a legal obligation for municipalities stemming from local governance legislation, public consultation legislation, and the law on the right to information. Furthermore, transparency and public consultation are regulated by Albania's legal and sub-legal framework. Since, according to national legislation,

every public institution is required to implement a transparency program, the project has monitored the extent to which this program is being applied by the municipalities included in the project.

This updated report aims to present data related to the monitoring of the implementation of these legal provisions by ten municipalities across the country. The report includes the methodology used, detailed findings for each municipality, and several recommendations for improving accountability and the implementation of legal provisions related to transparency.

This report is divided into three chapters. The first chapter focuses on the transparency index. The second chapter deals with the fulfillment of promises by mayors, while the third chapter discusses the importance of the Social Fund as a mechanism to empower municipalities and the challenges faced in fund absorption.

As this report is being prepared for the fifth consecutive year, it includes a comparative analysis of the transparency index and promises for each of the municipalities that have been part of the monitoring process.

RAPORT 2024

TRANSPARENCY

METHODOLOGY

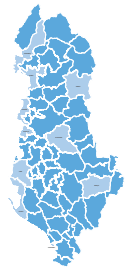
The duties of local self-government units related to the public consultation process and the implementation of transparency have been identified through the analysis of the relevant legal framework. The organization and functioning of local self-government units are regulated by Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government', while their obligations regarding the public consultation process and the implementation of transparency are further governed by Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information', Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation', and Law No. 68/2017 'On Local Self-Government Finances,' which ensures fiscal discipline, sustainable and transparent policies for managing public funds, and realistic forecasting of local revenues and expenditures.

The legal framework on transparency in local government units has been further complemented by Order No. 211, dated 20.09.2018, issued by the Commissioner for the Right to Information and the Personal Data Protection setting out the 'Model Transparency Program for Local Self-Government Units', detailing the obligations of local authorities to ensure transparency and inform the public. Based on the provisions of these three laws, 16 indicators were developed, which served as the basis for monitoring the ten municipalities included in the project.

- **INDICATOR 1:** Appointment and publication of a designated person as the coordinator for public notification and consultation, responsible for the

overall coordination and management of work to ensure the right to notification and public consultation;

- **INDICATOR 2:** Consultation on the municipality's annual budget;
- **INDICATOR 3:** Consultation on the package of local taxes and fees;
- **INDICATOR 4:** Consultation on the alienation (transfer) of municipal properties;
- **INDICATOR 5:** Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board;
- **INDICATOR 6:** Posting notifications about public hearings organized by the municipal council on the municipality's website or public notice board;
- **INDICATOR 7:** Prior notification of the date and time of municipal council meetings on the municipality's website or public notice board;
- **INDICATOR 8:** Prior notification of the date and time of municipal council commission meetings on the municipality's website or public notice board;
- **INDICATOR 9:** Designation and publication of details of the Coordinator for the Right to Information;
- **INDICATOR 10:** Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website;
- **INDICATOR 11:** Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality;
- **INDICATOR 12:** Publication of the municipality's annual budget;



- **INDICATOR 13:** Publication of decisions made by the Municipal Council;
- **INDICATOR 14:** Publication of minutes from Municipal Council meetings;
- **INDICATOR 15:** Publication of orders and decisions issued by the Mayor;
- **INDICATOR 16:** Publication of budget implementation reports on the municipality's official website or public notice board.

The data presented in this report regarding the monitoring of the 16 indicators were collected by journalists operating in the field. Prior to the data collection process, journalists participated in briefing sessions with experts involved in identifying the indicators, as well as with a legal expert, to gain a comprehensive understanding of each indicator, their legal basis and the appropriate monitoring methods. After this informative and explanatory process with the journalists, they, having the correct information regarding the indicators, the legal forecasts of municipal obligations for their implementation, and the sources from which they could gather information for each of them, examined the official websites of the municipalities and observed the public notice boards as another alternative method municipalities use to communicate with citizens. The journalists have also directly attended the municipal council meetings, either in person and/or online, depending on the respective cases. Another source used by the journalists to collect data is direct communication with the municipality, requesting information.

In addition to this journalistic monitoring, an official letter was sent to the monitored municipalities, asking for the relevant information and documentation.

related to the aforementioned indicators, which concern the consultation of approved acts and the notifications that must be made as part of the public consultation process. To rank the municipalities involved in the project in terms of transparency, each municipality was awarded 1 point for each of the above indicators, with a total of 16 points for the municipalities that meet all the legal requirements.

LEGAL PROVISIONS OF MONITORED INDICATORS

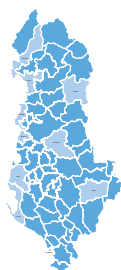
The indicators monitored for the ten municipalities in the country have been generated based on the relevant legal provisions that regulate local self-government units, the public consultation process, and transparency. Specifically, these are Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government,' Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information,' and Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation'. Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation' governs the public consultation process, aiming to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, and the timely implementation of actions. This public consultation, designed to guarantee participation in the decision-making process, is conducted for draft acts such as draft laws, national and local strategic documents, and policies of significant public interest.

The legal provisions outlined in this law, the implementation of which has been monitored for the municipalities, are as follows:

- The appointment and public announcement of a person as the coordinator for public notification and consultation, who is responsible for coordinating and managing the overall work to ensure the right to notification and public consultation;¹
- The consultation of the municipality's annual budget²

¹ "Each public body appoints a person as the coordinator for public notification and consultation, who is responsible for coordinating and managing the overall work to ensure the right to notification and public consultation, as stipulated by this law." Article 10, Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation.'

² "This law regulates the process of notification and public consultation for draft laws, draft national and local strategic documents, and policies of high public interest." Article 1, Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation.' The obligation for such consultation is also derived from the provisions of Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government', specifically Articles 18 and 54 hereby.



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- Consultation on the package of local taxes and fees³
 - Consultation on the alienation (transfer) of municipal properties⁴
 - Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board⁵
 - VPosting notifications about public hearings organized by the municipal council on the municipality's website or public notice board⁶
 - Prior notification of the date and time of municipal council meetings on the municipality's website or public notice board⁷
 - Prior notification of the date and time of municipal council commission meetings on the municipality's website or public notice board⁸
- Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information' regulates the right to access information produced or held by public authorities. The legal provisions outlined in this law, the implementation of which has been monitored for the municipalities, are as follows:
- Designation and publication of contact details of the Coordinator for the Right to Information⁹
 - Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website¹⁰
 - Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality¹¹
 - Publication of the municipality's annual budget¹²
 - Publication of decisions made by the Municipal Council¹³
 - Publication of minutes from Municipal Council meetings¹⁴
 - Publication of orders and decisions issued by the Mayor¹⁵

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Notification of draft acts subject to the public consultation procedure is made through the electronic registry. When deemed necessary by the public body, the notification may also be carried out in one or more of the following ways: a) by email; b) by public notice, displayed at the premises of the initiating public body; c) by announcement on national, regional, or local audiovisual media; d) by publication in local newspapers or in the two most widely read national newspapers. 2. Comments and recommendations during the public consultation process are collected in one of the formats mentioned above, and, in certain cases, can also be provided verbally and/or in writing, recorded in the minutes of public meetings". Article 1, Law No. 146/2014 'On Notification and Public Consultation'.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "The notification for the council meeting is made public in designated locations within the local unit and in accessible media within the local unit, and includes the date, location, time, and agenda of the meeting." Article 17, Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government'. In addition to the provisions of this law, the last two indicators have also been assessed in terms of public consultation development, where the municipality engages with citizens through council meetings and commissions.

⁸ Article 54 of Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government' states that the Municipal Council elects commissions from its own members and approves its internal operating regulations. A commission, as one of the structures of the Municipal Council, holds the same responsibilities toward the citizens of the unit, particularly as the council is tasked with consulting the community when forming these commissions, as per Articles 18 and 54/a of Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government'.

⁹ "To implement this law, and to coordinate the work for ensuring the right to information, the public authority designates one of its employees as the coordinator for the right to information." Article 10, Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information'.

¹⁰ "In accordance with the transparency program approved for each public authority, these authorities prepare in advance, in formats that are easy to understand and accessible, and make the following categories of information available to the public on their website: a) a description of the organizational structure, functions, and duties of the public authority; b) the full texts of... sub-legal acts; e) data regarding the budget." Article 7, Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information'.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid. The implementation of the provisions of Law No. 119/2014 'On the Right to Information' refers to the obligation of publishing the acts of the Municipal Council directly according to Law No. 139/2015 'On Local Self-Government' in Article 18. This article also stipulates that acts of the Municipal Council are published on the official website and displayed in public areas.

¹⁴ Ibid.

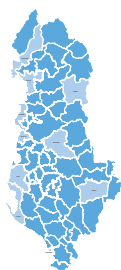
¹⁵ Ibid.

FINDINGS FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY (TRANSPARENCY INDICATORS)

For each of the selected municipalities, all indicators were monitored in accordance with the methodology described above. The findings for each indicator are listed as follows:

MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Durrës has not fulfill its obligation to publish the public consultation coordinator's information, as no such notice is available on the official website.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the annual budget over the years on its official website.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Durrës has published notifications on the internet regarding the holding of public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Durrës has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and the official response from the Municipality, notifications have been published concerning the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The local tax and fee package for the period 2023-2024 was consulted with the public at the same time as the Municipality of Durrës' annual budget for 2024. Observations of the website and notice boards indicate that actions have been taken to comply with this obligation.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	In reply to the information request on this issue, the municipality explained that no public consultations were held, as no procedures for the alienation of Durrës Municipality's properties were carried out during the period January 2024 to December 2024.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Durrës has posted preliminary announcements on the notice board about the Municipal Council meetings.	



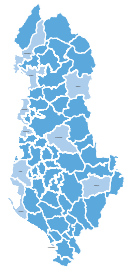
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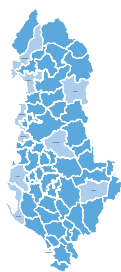
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Durrës has placed preliminary notices on the notice boards and published them on the official website related to the meetings of the Municipal Council committees.	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Durrës has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Municipal Council's decisions on its official website	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Durrës has posted notifications on the notice boards and published them on the official website about the public hearings organized by the Municipal Council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Durrës has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		93.75%

MUNICIPALITY OF DIBRA

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator, as the email address and details of the coordinator are listed on the official website.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the annual budget over the years on its official website.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Dibra has published online notices regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Dibra has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	



8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The local tax and fee package for the period 2023-2024 was consulted with the public together with the Municipality of Dibra's annual budgets for 2023 and 2024.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	Regarding the alienation of properties, the Municipality of Dibra has not held public consultations, as no procedures for the transfer of Municipality of Dibra properties have taken place during the period from January 2024 to December 2024.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Dibra has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipal Council has provided notifications for each of its meetings, specifying the date and time of every session held. The notifications have been made available on the official website of the Municipal Council, as well as on the Dibra web portal, under the section 'Municipal Council – Public Notices'.	
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Dibra has published prior notifications regarding the meetings of the Municipal Council's committees, along with the agenda, which includes the date and time of the Standing Committees' meetings	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Dibra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Dibra has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Dibra has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		93.75%

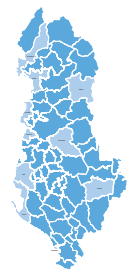


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MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA

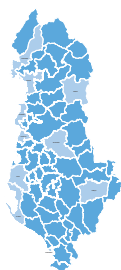
No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	✓
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator, as the email address and details of the coordinator are listed on the official website.	✓
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	✓
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	✓
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the annual budget over the years on its official website.	✓
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Shkodra has published online notices regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	✓
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Shkodra has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget.	✓
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Shkodra has consulted the citizens on the local taxes and fees package.	✓
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled this legal requirement.	✓
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website	✓
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Shkodra has posted prior notifications on the noticeboard related to municipal council meetings.	✓
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Shkodra has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	✓
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	✓
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Shkodra has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	✓
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Shkodra has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	✓



16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Shkodra has published reports on budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		100%

MUNICIPALITY OF SARANDA

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website up to the year 2022; therefore, this indicator is not considered to be fulfilled.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Saranda has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Saranda has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled this obligation.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled this obligation.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Saranda has posted prior notifications on the noticeboard related to municipal council meetings.	



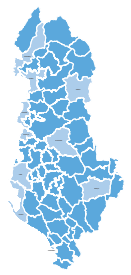
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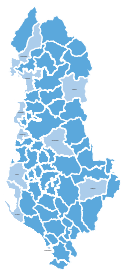
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Saranda has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Saranda has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Saranda has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Saranda has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		87.5%

MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the 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 the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Lezha has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	



7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Lezha has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	✓
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Lezha has consulted citizens on the local taxes and fees package. Observations of the website and notice boards indicate that actions have been taken to comply with this obligation.	✓
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Lezha has consulted citizens regarding the decisions to transfer the municipal properties. Observations of the website and notice boards indicate that actions have been taken to comply with this obligation.	✓
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	✓
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Lezha has posted prior notifications on the noticeboard related to municipal council meetings.	✓
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Lezha has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	✓
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	✓
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Lezha has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	✓
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Lezha has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	✓
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Lezha has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	✓
17	Fulfilment rate		100%

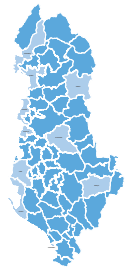


MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF THE 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EVALUATION OF 40 PROMISES OF MAYORS

MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA

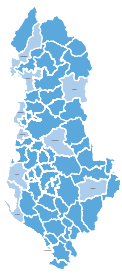
No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	✓
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	✓
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	✓
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	✓
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	✓
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Korça has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	✓
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Korça has consulted the citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	✓
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Korça has consulted citizens on the local taxes and fees package. Observations of the website and notice boards indicate that actions have been taken to comply with this obligation.	✓
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Korça did not conduct any property transfers in 2024, thus public consultation was not required. This indicator is considered as fulfilled.	✗
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Korça has not fulfilled this obligation. On the Municipality's website, the most recently published are the Mayor's orders from 2019.	✗
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Korça has posted prior notifications on the notice board related to municipal council meetings.	✓
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Korça has posted preliminary notifications on the notice boards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	✓
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	✓
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Korça has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	✓



15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Korça has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Korça has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		93.75%

MUNICIPALITY OF FIER

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Fier has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	From the observation of the website and the notice boards, the Municipality of Fier has conducted public consultations on the budget	
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	A review of the website and noticeboards shows that public consultations on the local taxes and fees package have taken place.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	An observation of the website indicates that no notifications have been published regarding public consultations on property transfers.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Fier has not fulfilled the obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	



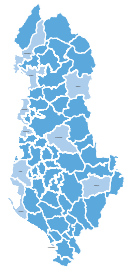
MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF THE 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EVALUATION OF 40 PROMISES OF MAYORS

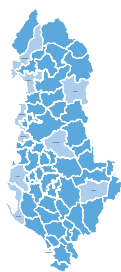
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Fier has not posted prior notifications on the notice board related to municipal council meetings.	
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Fier has not posted preliminary notifications on the notice boards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Fier has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Fier has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Fier has not published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		68.75%

MUNICIPALITY OF KAVAJA

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Kavaja has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Kavaja has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Kavaja has not fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Kavaja has not fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Kavaja has not fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Kavaja has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	



7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	From the observation of the website and the notice boards, no announcements have been published regarding the conduct of consultation processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	From the observation of the website and the notice boards, no announcements have been published regarding the conduct of consultation processes for the local taxes and fees package.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	From the observation of the website and the notice boards, no announcements have been published regarding the conduct of consultation processes for the local taxes and fees package.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Kavaja has not fulfilled the obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Kavaja has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboard regarding municipal council meetings.	
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Kavaja has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboards and its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Kavaja has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Kavaja has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Kavaja has posted on the notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Kavaja has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		50%

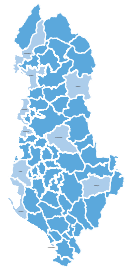


MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF THE 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EVALUATION OF 40 PROMISES OF MAYORS

MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

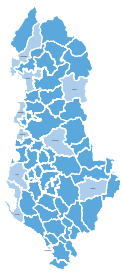
No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	✓
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	✓
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish the information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	✓
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	✓
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	✓
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Vlora has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	✓
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Vlora has consulted citizens on the Municipality's annual budget. According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	✓
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Vlora has not published public consultations on this issue on its website.	✗
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Vlora has not published on its website the public consultations it held with citizens on this issue.	✗
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Vlora has not fulfilled the obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	✗
11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Vlora has published preliminary notices regarding the municipal council meetings.	✓
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Vlora has posted preliminary notifications on its official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	✓
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	✓
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Vlora has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	✓



15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Vlorë has posted on the noticeboards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Vlorë has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		81.25%

MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN

No	Indicator	Comments	Status
1	Publication of the Transparency Program on the municipality's official website	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to publish the Transparency Program on its official website.	
2	Designation and publication of the information on the Notification and Public Consultation Coordinator	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to publish the information of the public consultation coordinator.	
3	Designation and publication of the information on the Coordinator for the Right to Information	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to appoint and publish information of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.	
4	Publication of the organizational structure of the municipality	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to publish the organizational structure of the municipality on its official website.	
5	Publication of the municipality's annual budget	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled the obligation to publish the annual budget on its official website over the years.	
6	Posting notifications about public consultation sessions on the municipality's website or public notice board	The Municipality of Elbasan has published online notifications regarding the organization of public consultation sessions.	
7	Public consultation of the Municipality's annual budget	According to the observation of the website and noticeboards, notifications have been published about the consultative processes for the Municipality's annual budget.	
8	Public consultation on the local tax and fee package	The Municipality of Elbasan has not consulted with citizens on the local taxes and fees package. Upon reviewing the website and the noticeboards, no activities have been found to fulfill this obligation.	
9	Public consultation on decisions related to the alienation of municipal property	The Municipality of Elbasan has not fulfilled this obligation. Upon reviewing the website and the noticeboards, no activities have been found to fulfill this obligation.	
10	Publication of the Mayor's Orders and Decisions	The Municipality of Elbasan has not fulfilled the obligation to publish the mayor's orders and decisions on its official website.	



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11	Notification of the date and time of Municipal Council meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Elbasan has posted preliminary notifications on the noticeboard regarding the municipal council meetings.	
12	Notification of the date and time of the Municipal Council committee meetings on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Elbasan has posted preliminary notifications on the notice boards and published them on the official website regarding the meetings of the municipal council committees.	
13	Publication of the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to publish the minutes of the Municipal Council meetings.	
14	Publication of the Municipal Council's decisions	The Municipality of Elbasan has fulfilled its obligation to publish the decisions of the Municipal Council on its official website.	
15	Publishing notifications about the organization of public hearings by the Municipal Council on the website or public notice board	The Municipality of Elbasan has not posted on notice boards and published on its official website announcements regarding the organization of public hearings by the municipal council.	
16	Have the budget implementation reports been published on the website or the public notice board?	The Municipality of Elbasan has published reports on the monitoring of budget implementation.	
17	Fulfilment rate		75%

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The table below summarizes the monitoring results for the ten municipalities that were monitored, ranked according to their performance in the transparency index. It is important to note that for the municipalities of Shkodra, Lezha, Korça, Vlora, Elbasan, Fier, Dibra, Durrësi, and Kavaja, which were also monitored last year, the municipalities of Shkodra, Lezha, and Fier have maintained the same level of transparency as last year. The Municipality of Korça has experienced a slight decline compared to the previous year, while the municipalities of Vlora, Elbasan, Durrësi, Dibra, and Kavaja show an improvement in the percentage of their transparency index.

Following the Municipality of Shkodra and Lezha, which hold the highest level of transparency, there are three other municipalities that meet

15 out of 16 indicators: specifically, the Municipalities of Dibra, Durrësi, and Korça. Next in the ranking is the Municipality of Saranda, with a transparency level of 87.5%, having met 14 out of 16 indicators. This is followed by the Municipality of Vlora, which meets 13 out of 16 indicators, and the Municipality of Fier, fulfilling 11 out of 16 indicators. Lastly, with only half of the indicators fulfilled, the Municipality of Kavaja ranks at the bottom.

In terms of the indicators, it is observed that almost all monitored municipalities have published their Transparency Programs on their websites, without

exception. Additionally, 8 out of 10 municipalities have appointed and published information regarding the Public Consultation Coordinator, while 9 out of 10 have published the details of the Coordinator for the Right to Information.

The municipalities show relatively strong performance in organizing public consultations on the Annual Budget and in publishing it on their websites. Specifically, 9 out of 10 monitored municipalities conducted public consultations during the budget drafting process, and 8 out of 10 published the final annual budget. However, performance is somewhat weaker regarding public consultations on the local taxes and fees package, with 7 out of 10 municipalities organizing consultations on this issue.

Regarding the transparency of the Municipal Council, 9 out of 10 monitored municipalities announced the date and time of the Council meetings. Similarly, 9 out of 10 municipalities published the Minutes of the Municipal Council meetings, while all monitored municipalities published the Council's Decisions.

Transparency remains comparatively low with respect to the publication of the Mayor's Decisions and Orders. Only 4 out of 10 monitored municipalities have published orders and decisions. Nevertheless, there has been a slight improvement compared to the previous year, when only 3 out of 10 municipalities met this indicator.

No	Municipality	TRANSPARENCY INDEX
1	Municipality of Shkodra	100%
2	Municipality of Lezha	100%
3	Municipality of Dibra	93.75%
4	Municipality of Durrës	93.75%
5	Municipality of Korça	93.75%
6	Municipality of Saranda	87.5%
7	Municipality of Vlora	81.25%
8	Municipality of Fier	68.75%
9	Municipality of Elbasan	75%
10	Municipality of Kavaja	50%

MONITORING OF PROMISES

Faktoje's team selected four promises made during the electoral campaign for the May 2023 local elections for each municipality, along with promises related to the reconstruction process in municipalities affected by the 2019 earthquake. The following methodology was applied to monitor these promises:

METHODOLOGY

Promises regarding public services can be divided into two major groups:

- 1 Promises related to administrative acts concerning the reduction or removal of taxes and fees, the transformation of a public space into a pedestrian area, the opening of a social center, a cinema, etc.

The fulfillment of these promises is achieved through the approval of legal administrative acts such as the Decisions and Orders of the Mayor and the Decisions of the Municipal Council. Some of these promises also have financial effects, and for this reason, the budget should be analyzed to see whether funds have been allocated for the establishment of a new structure;

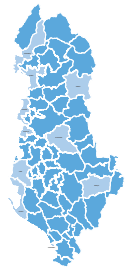
- 2 Promises mainly related to public infrastructure, which constitute the main duties and competencies of the municipalities, such as water supply and sewerage, roads and green spaces, schools and kindergartens, health centers, social centers, and other public buildings, etc. The fulfillment of these promises is closely linked to the municipalities' budgets.

To analyze and document the fulfillment of these promises, it is first necessary to check if they are included in the Municipality's budget, specifically in the 'Capital Expenditures' or 'Maintenance Expenditures' sections. However, even if they are included in the budget, this does not necessarily mean that the promises will be kept, as municipalities almost always fail to meet their budget commitments. Thus, it is important to also verify whether the municipality has conducted or plans to conduct a public procurement process for the respective project. The procurement plan can be accessed on the Public Procurement Agency's website.

It is also important to note that the fulfillment of some of these promises may involve cooperation with or assistance from other institutions, such as line ministries. For example, the Ministry of Health for health centers, or AKUM for water supply systems or landfills. Therefore, it is crucial to review the budgets, and procurement plans of these institutions to determine if they have included the project. As a result, the database is expected to also include a section called 'Other Involved Institution' in order to identify and monitor these institutions that may fully finance or co-finance the implementation of these projects together with the municipalities.

The indicators proposed to be measured, regarding Public Services, are:

- 1 Decisions and Orders of the Mayor;
- 2 Decisions of the Municipal Council;



- 3 The Budget;
- 4 The Procurement Plan;
- 5 The List of Awarded Contracts;
- 6 The Budget for Other Involved Institutions and their Procurement Plan.

To monitor the implementation of these promises, the Faktoje team carried out the following actions:

- 1 Analysis of municipal budgets;
- 2 Analysis of the Procurement Plan;
- 3 Submission of information requests to the municipalities;
- 4 Conducting field visits to observe the situation up close.

MONITORED PROMISES

The selected promises for each of the Municipalities involved in the project are listed below.

MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS

- ◆ Reconstruction of the DS5 apartment buildings in Neighborhood No. 5 on the same site.
- ◆ Construction of a public parking facility in the city center.
- ◆ Renovation of the Children's Cultural Center.
- ◆ Ongoing reconstruction of the Sports Palace.

MUNICIPALITY OF DIBRA

- ◆ Irrigation of 500 hectares of agricultural land in Maqellara.
- ◆ Asphaltting of the road in Bresti i Sipërm (Upper Brest).
- ◆ Meeting with residents of Rreth Kale village, Muhurr administrative unit, to discuss completed work and future projects.
- ◆ Road rehabilitation and asphaltting in Limjan and Vrenjt, within the Kastriot administrative unit.

MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA

- ◆ Clearing public spaces in Hafiz Sabri Koçi Square.
- ◆ Building a dock at the entrance of Shkodra city.
- ◆ Revitalizing the Rus Market in Shkodra.
- ◆ Completing the Shirokë – Zogaj – Border road.

MUNICIPALITY OF SARANDA

- ◆ Constructing a modern terminal for intercity buses at the entrance of Saranda.
- ◆ Urgently improving roads and traffic flow through the construction of Road 6 and the extension of the city promenade to the Çuka Channel.
- ◆ Building 4 public parking areas to ease tourist access and mobility in the city.
- ◆ Increasing green spaces by requiring each apartment building to include a mandatory green area.

MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA

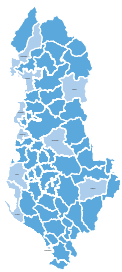
- ◆ Project for the construction of a new center for the elderly.
- ◆ Provision of a 24-hour water supply for Lezha residents.
- ◆ Partial reimbursement (50%) of urban transport tickets for the elderly and other vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Reconstruction of building 71 in the 'Besëlidhja' neighborhood.

MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA

- ◆ Construction of a ski resort in one of Korça's most scenic mountainous areas.
- ◆ Construction of Korça Airport.
- ◆ Lekas - Voskopoja road rehabilitation.
- ◆ Construction of a sewage system. Around 2.5 km of pipes to connect every home in Melçan.

MUNICIPALITY OF FIER

- ◆ Construction of a modern wholesale market for agricultural products.



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- ◆ Construction of the road linking Ardenica Monastery to Saint George's Church in Libofshë.
- ◆ Rehabilitation of Libofsha center, an area with exceptional resources and potential for tourism development.
- ◆ Rural road investment has been a key priority for the municipality, along with the cleaning of drainage canals.

MUNICIPALITY OF KAVAJA

- ◆ Provision of monthly bonuses amounting to 50,000 ALL for every newborn in Kavajë during their first year of life.
- ◆ Final resolution of the water supply issue by ensuring 24-hour access to drinking water, vital for residents and tourism alike.
- ◆ Revitalization of the city's Grand Park, turning it into a destination for the extended family and surrounding areas.
- ◆ Cleanup of Kavaja city

MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

- ◆ Construction of a central bus terminal in Vlorë.
- ◆ Establishment of daily care centers for the elderly in each urban zone, along with a municipal social canteen for vulnerable groups.
- ◆ Full redevelopment of the city's markets within two years.
- ◆ Increase in trash bins, creation of designated waste collection areas, and promotion of public awareness campaigns on urban cleanliness.

MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN

- ◆ Improvement of the initial segment of the existing road leading to the village of Funar.
- ◆ Cleaning of the Gurra stream.
- ◆ Reconstruction of the 9-Year 'Jonuz Çarçiu' School in the village of Tregan and the renovation of the 'Naim Frashëri' school in the city of Elbasan

- ◆ Establishment of agricultural collection points in Shushica, Bradashesh, and Gjergjan.

LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS

Large-scale projects refer to those that require substantial funding beyond the capacity of a municipal budget and therefore necessarily involve the participation and financial support of the Central Government. These include highways and national roads, ports, airports and terminals, hospitals, theaters, stadiums, and others.

These projects, even though they may be promised by mayors, are in fact beyond the competencies of the Municipality. However, a mayor's promise may also involve lobbying with the Government or relevant Ministries for the funding of these projects. Therefore, monitoring the fulfillment of these promises must be based on the budget and procurement plan of the central institutions, not the municipality.

The indicators proposed to be measured for large-scale Projects are:

- ◆ The budget of central institutions depending on the sector, such as: Ministry of Health for hospitals, Albanian Football Federation/Ministry of Education and Sports for stadiums, Albanian Development Fund (FSHZH) or Albanian Road Authority (ARRSH) for roads, etc.

To monitor the implementation of these promises, the Faktoje team carried out the following actions:

- ◆ Analysis of municipal budgets;
- ◆ Analysis of procurement plans;
- ◆ Submission of information requests to the municipalities;
- ◆ Conducting field visits to observe the situation up close.

FINDINGS FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY (PROMISES)

MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS

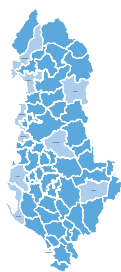
Promise	Comments	Status
Reconstruction of the DS5 apartment buildings in Neighborhood No. 5 on the same site.	Only one apartment building in the area has been completed, while construction on the remaining eight has not yet started.	Promise not fulfilled
Construction of a public parking facility in the city center.	The public parking facility in center of Durrës city is not yet operational, despite the construction deadlines having passed.	Promise partially fulfilled
Renovation of the Children's Cultural Center.	The Children's Cultural Center in Durrës is now open and offers free courses for students in 9-year schools, although construction extended beyond the planned timeline.	Promise fulfilled
Continuation of the reconstruction of the 'Sports Palace'	No work has started on the ground. The municipality confirms that a project exists, but no start date has been announced.	Promise not fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF DIBRA

Promise	Comments	Status
Irrigation of 500 hectares of agricultural land in Maqellara.	Officially, the Municipality of Dibra explained that the project is still in the drafting phase.	Promise not fulfilled
Asphalting of the road in Bresti i Sipërm (Upper Brest).	The approximately 1 km road in Brestit të Sipërm (Upper Brest), Dibra, has not yet been asphalted, despite the promise made by the mayor during last year's election campaign.	Promise not fulfilled
Road of the village Rreth Kale in Dibër	The road of the village Rreth Kale in Dibër has not been asphalted yet.	Promise not fulfilled
Rehabilitation and asphaltting of the road in Limjan and Vrenjt in the Kastriot administrative unit.	The road connecting Limjan and Vrenjt villages in the Kastriot administrative unit in Dibra has been asphalted, although the investment was carried out by a private company, not the Municipality of Dibra.	Promise fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA

Promise	Comments	Status
Clearing public spaces in Hafiz Sabri Koçi Square.	According to the information gathered and field verification, sidewalks have been returned to citizens, and designated spots have been arranged for street vendors inside the market, though not all are complying.	Promise partially fulfilled
Building a dock at the entrance of Shkodra city.	Construction of the new dock near the old Buna Bridge has been completed.	Promise fulfilled
Revitalizing the Rus Market in Shkodra.	Construction work on the Rus Market was completed before the official contract deadline. The market opened on December 15.	Promise fulfilled
Completing the Shirokë – Zogaj – Border road.	Based on the latest checks, in October 2024 the EBRD signed the contract to begin the works. As of January 8, 2025, construction was ongoing on the first three kilometers of the road.	Promise partially fulfilled



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MUNICIPALITY OF SARANDA

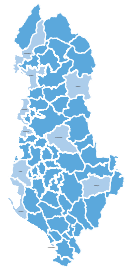
Promise	Comments	Status
Constructing a modern terminal for intercity buses at the entrance of Saranda.	The terminal is planned to be built in the Qafë Gjashtë area. Construction works have begun, but the deadline for completion has been exceeded.	Promise partially fulfilled
Extension of the city promenade up to the Çuka channel.	Field verification shows that extending the promenade toward the Çuka canal appears unfeasible due to overcrowding with buildings along the road. The municipality informed that it still does not have a concrete plan for extending the city promenade toward the Çuka canal.	Promise fulfilled
Building 4 public parking areas to ease tourist access and mobility in the city.	Field inspection revealed that out of the four promised parking lots, only one — at the entrance of Ksamil — has started construction, and even there, no sign indicates the start or end dates of the works.	Promise partially fulfilled
Increasing green spaces by requiring each apartment building to include a mandatory green area.	Green areas have increased based on field checks, but not in front of every apartment building as initially promised.	Promise partially fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA

Promise	Comments	Status
Project for the construction of a new center for the elderly.	The promise made by Mayor Ndreu is part of the priority projects of the Municipality of Lezha in the medium-term budget 2025–2027. The municipality renovated a deteriorated garage in the Besëlidhja neighborhood, turning it into a day center frequented by elderly residents of Lezha.	Promise partially fulfilled
Provision of a 24-hour water supply for Lezha residents.	The Municipality of Lezha is cooperating with AKUK and other institutions to provide drinking water, and expectations are that by 2027 the entire territory will be covered with 24-hour water supply.	Promise partially fulfilled
Partial reimbursement (50%) of urban transport tickets for the elderly and other vulnerable groups.	The Municipality of Lezha's budget for this year has no funds allocated for the reimbursement of urban transport tickets for the elderly and vulnerable groups. Moreover, this is not included in the 2025–2027 medium-term budget program either.	Promise not fulfilled
Reconstruction of building 71 in the 'Besëlidhja' neighborhood.	The municipality has financed the reconstruction of the building through the 2025 budget, while homeless families continue to receive rent bonuses. The reconstruction of apartment building no. 71 in the 'Besëlidhja' neighborhood was included in the 2025 investment plan of the Municipality of Lezha.	Promise not fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA

Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of a ski resort in one of Korça's most scenic mountainous areas.	In an official response, the Municipality of Korça states that due to the scale of the project, its implementation requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders. Therefore, it has not been realized so far.	Promise not fulfilled
Construction of Korça Airport.	The airport is being constructed in the village of Lumalas, 7.5 km away from the southeastern city. The site is still surrounded by a wire fence, and the land area has been leveled.	Promise partially fulfilled
Lekas - Voskopoja road rehabilitation.	According to on-site inspections, the condition of the road remains very poor. Additionally, the gravel applied about a year ago has shown no results.	Promise not fulfilled
Construction of a sewage system. Approximately 2.5 km of pipes will be laid to connect every house in Melçan.	The sewage works were completed in October of the previous year. However, residents of the village complain that many houses were excluded from the project, which was valued at 8.5 million ALL.	Promise partially fulfilled

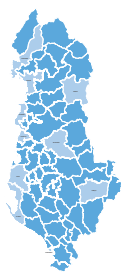


MUNICIPALITY OF FIER

Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of a modern wholesale market for agricultural products.	According to Faktoje.al's on-site verification and the Municipality of Fier's response, the promised market has not been built in the city.	Promise not fulfilled
Construction of the road linking Ardenica Monastery to Saint George's Church in Libofshë.	The work on the road connecting the Monastery to the Church has not yet started. The Municipality of Fier explained that the construction of the road connecting Ardenica Monastery to 'Shën Gjergji' Church, is conditioned by the 'Rehabilitation of Libofsha center', while FShZh states that this project is unrelated to the construction of the promised road.	Promise not fulfilled
Rehabilitation of Libofsha center	After Faktoje.al's on-site verification, it was found that 18 months after the promise, the work is left incomplete, creating difficulties for residents. Cracks have appeared on the newly built pedestrian street.	Promise not fulfilled
Rural road investment has been a key priority for the municipality, along with the cleaning of drainage canals.	During the field verification, it was found that roads in two villages of the Levan Administrative Unit have been paved, but there is no street lighting.	Promise partially fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF KAVAJA

Promise	Comments	Status
Provision of monthly bonuses amounting to 50,000 ALL for every newborn in Kavaja during their first year of life.	The Municipality of Kavaja has not yet provided the promised 5,000 lek monthly bonus for newborns, which was a promise made by the mayor during the May 14th local election campaign.	Promise not fulfilled
Final resolution of the water issue by providing 24-hour drinking water supply to the villages of Rrakull and Karpen	The residents of the villages of Rrakull and Karpen in Kavaja do not have access to 24-hour water supply. Durrës Water Supply Utility informed Faktoje.al that the project is still in the planning phase, with no timeline provided for the start of the promised work.	Promise not fulfilled
Transforming the large city park into a family-friendly destination and for the surrounding areas	The transformation of the Large Park in Kavaja has begun, with new benches and children's playgrounds installed, and trees planted. Citizens of Kavaja are pleased with this investment, highlighting the importance of continuous park maintenance.	Promise fulfilled
Cleanup of Kavaja city	The Municipality of Kavaja has officially stated that cleaning takes place every day after midnight, although they acknowledge that there are still issues, particularly with inert waste.	Promise partially fulfilled



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MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

Promise	Comments	Status
Construction of a central bus terminal in Vlora.	Based on Faktoje.al's field verification, the intercity bus terminal has not yet begun construction. The municipality confirmed that only the design phase is complete, and funds for construction have not yet been secured.	Promise not fulfilled
Establishment of daily care centers for the elderly in each urban zone, along with a municipal social canteen for vulnerable groups.	The Municipality of Vlora has not fulfilled this promise. More than a year after the promise, no progress has been made.	Promise not fulfilled
Full redevelopment of the city's markets within two years.	Verifications of the 3 markets in Vlora show that no major improvements have been made to enhance the market conditions.	Promise partially fulfilled
Increase in trash bins, creation of designated waste collection areas, and promotion of public awareness campaigns on urban cleanliness.	A verification by Faktoje.al revealed that this promise has not been fully kept. The addition of bins was only a small part of the work done for city cleaning.	Promise partially fulfilled

MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN

Promise	Comments	Status
Improvement of the initial segment of the existing road leading to the village of Funar.	The existing road to Funar village was completed by the end of last year, so the promise is considered fulfilled.	Promise not fulfilled
Cleaning of the Gurra stream.	As of the end of September 2024, Faktoje observed that the Shushica stream had not been cleaned. Both sides of the stream were filled with garbage, showing the same condition as in the last field verification.	Promise not fulfilled
Reconstruction of the 9-Year 'Jonuz Çarçiu' School in the village of Tregan and the renovation of the 'Naim Frashëri' school in the city of Elbasan	For the fourth consecutive year, the renovation of the 'Naim Frashëri' school has not been selected for funding by the Ministry of Education and Sports. The Municipality of Elbasan states that for the 'Jonuz Çarçiu' school, they are awaiting the approval of the construction permit to begin the project worth 161 million LEK (ALL).	Promise not fulfilled
Establishment of agricultural collection points in Shushica, Bradashesh, and Gjergjan.	In Shushica, Bradashesh, and Gjergjan, no collection points for agricultural products existed. At the State Reserves Center in Shushica, there was no visible progress in transforming the facility into a collection point.	Promise not fulfilled

FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This chapter is dedicated to a comprehensive comparative analysis of the performance of municipalities in terms of transparency and the fulfillment of promises, based on data collected from monitoring reports over the past five years (2019-2024). The reports were drafted using analytical methodologies and legal standards that assessed the implementation of key indicators for transparency and public involvement, as well as the fulfillment of promises made by the mayors.

The analysis also incorporates the aspects of fulfillment of promises made by mayors, focusing on the clarity and execution of mayoral commitments and examining specific transparency indicators. These indicators include the publication of transparency programs, public notification and consultation on local budgets and fees, as well as the publication of

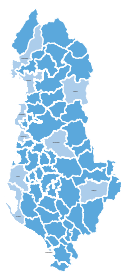
legal documents, such as minutes from municipal council meetings and mayoral decisions.

The results of this analysis will highlight visible changes in municipal performance to identify best practices and areas where further improvements are needed. This chapter also aims to serve as a guide for local policymakers and monitoring organizations, providing concrete recommendations for strengthening local governance.

FULFILLMENT OF PROMISES

The fulfillment of mayoral promises is a significant indicator of good governance and public accountability. Likewise, tracking electoral promises

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Shkodra	1. Shkodra	1. Shkodra	1. Shkodra	1. Shkodra
2. Lezha	2. Lezha	2. Lezha	2. Lezha	2. Lezha
3. Korça	3. Korça	3. Durrësi	3. Korça	3. Korça
4. Vlorë	4. Vlorë	4. Krujë	4. Vlorë	4. Vlorë
5. Elbasan	5. Elbasan	5. Vora	5. Elbasan	5. Elbasan
6. Fier	6. Fier	6. Shijak	6. Fier	6. Fier
7. Patos	7. Durrës	7. Dibra	7. Durrës	7. Durrës
8. Kukës	8. Patos	8. Kurbin	8. Dibra	8. Dibra
9. Belsh	9. Kukës	9. Lushnje	9. Kavaja	9. Kavaja
10. Pustec	10. Belsh	10. Rrogozhina	10. Himara	10. Saranda
	11. Pustec			
	12. Krujë			
	13. Vora			
	14. Shijak			
	15. Kurbin			



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has been one of the priorities of these annual reports, which aim to encourage all municipalities to fulfill their commitments.

Over the years, the monitoring has focused on ten to fifteen selected municipalities each year, including those facing particular challenges in the reconstruction processes after the 2019 earthquake, as well as those that have held partial local elections. In total, 21 municipalities have been part of the project, listed in the table below according to the year in which they were monitored.

In the last five years, excluding 2021, when 15 municipalities were monitored in total, 10 municipalities have been monitored each year. The

selection was based on local challenges or the urgent need for reconstruction. For each municipality, four to five key promises were identified and placed under monitoring to evaluate their level of implementation. These promises pertain to sectors such as infrastructure rehabilitation, enhancement of public services, and the development of the local economy.

Promises have been classified as fulfilled, unfulfilled, or partially fulfilled. This categorization allows for a clearer assessment of commitments made by mayors and how effectively they have been carried out. A summary of the number of verified promises per municipality is shown below.

	Number of verified promises	Fulfilled	Partly fulfilled	Not fulfilled
Shkodra	11	5	4	2
Lezha	13	6	5	2
Korça	7	1	3	3
Vlora	8	1	3	4
Elbasan	8	1	1	6
Fier	8	1	2	5
Durrës	12	3	-	9
Patos	5	-	-	5
Kukës	4	-	-	4
Belsh	4	1	1	2
Pustec	4	-	1	3
Kruja	5	1	2	2
Vora	7	1	1	5
Shijak	5	2	1	2
Dibra	7	4	-	3
Kurbin	7	1	1	5
Kavaja	4	1	1	2
Lushnja	4	1	2	1
Rrogozhina	4	1	1	2
Saranda	4	-	3	1
Himara	4	-	2	2

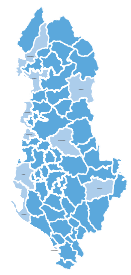
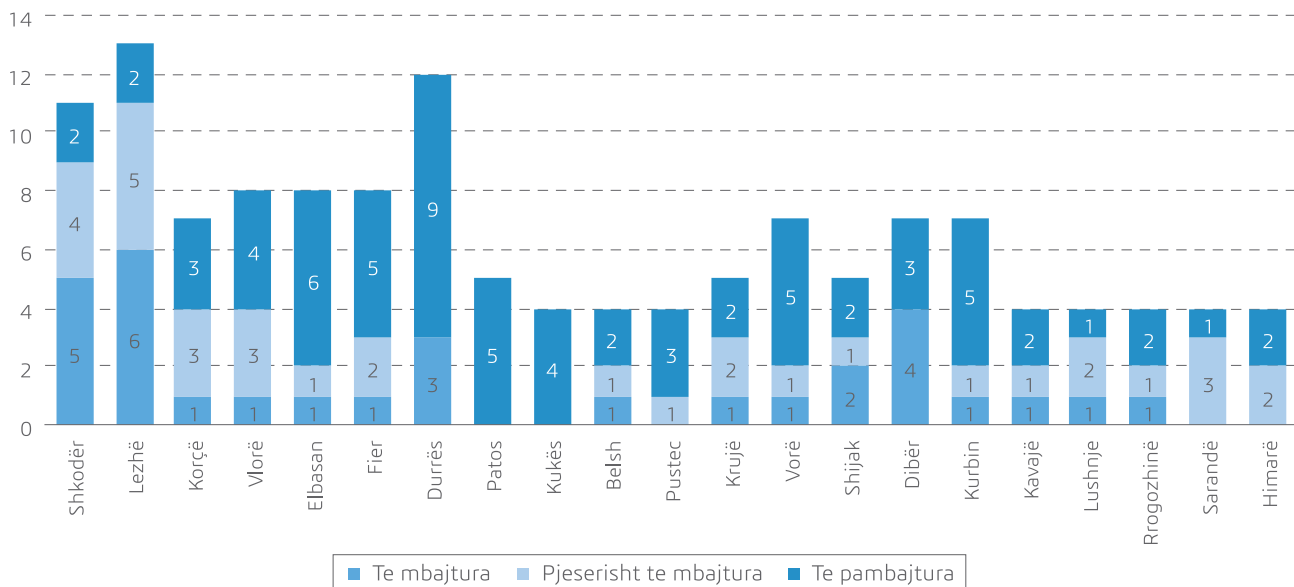


FIGURE 1 - GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF THE NUMBER OF VERIFIED PROMISES



Municipalities like Lezha, Shkodra, Durrës, Elbasan, and Fier have the highest number of verified promises because they were monitored throughout nearly all five years of this project. On the other hand, municipalities such as Lushnja, Rrogozhina, Saranda, and Himara have the lowest number (4) due to being monitored for only one year. When analyzing each municipality, it is evident that Lezha and Shkodra, as two municipalities monitored annually, have fulfilled more promises than any other municipality, thus reflecting the importance of monitoring and transparency that this project aimed to enhance in their performance.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA:

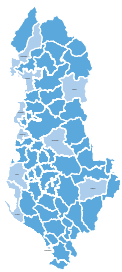
Shkodra has consistently been one of the most successful municipalities in keeping its promises. In terms of percentages, the municipality has fulfilled 45% of its promises and started work on 36% of them, leaving only 20% of the monitored promises unfulfilled.

- 2020** All promises were monitored, with two of them fully completed (community centers and social housing for orphans), while the bicycle lanes were partially completed.
- 2021** Improvement; two promises were fully completed, and one was partially completed.
- 2022** Steady progress; several large projects were finalized.
- 2023** Launch of several key projects, such as the Market in the Rus neighborhood, the new dock, and the clearing of public spaces.
- 2024** Two of the projects launched the previous year (Market in the Rus neighborhood, new dock) were completed.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA:

Municipality of Lezha has also shown good performance, fulfilling 6 out of 13 promises monitored over the past 5 years, initiating work on 6 others, and leaving only 1 promise unfulfilled.



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- 2020** Partial implementation of projects related to drinking water and infrastructure, while some promises remained in the planning stage.
- 2021** Moderate performance with some improvements in small infrastructure projects. Waste management remained an unresolved challenge, directly affecting the quality of life in urban areas. However, 2 previously unfulfilled promises from 2020 were completed (Reconstruction of internal roads and Electricity supply to Torovica)
- 2022** The municipality demonstrated commitment to tourism promotion and made partial improvements to the city center infrastructure, but promises concerning transparency and citizen inclusion were only partly fulfilled.
- 2023** Greater focus on reconstruction resulted in the fulfillment of 2 more promises.
- 2024** Notable progress in social policy-related promises, including the initiation of a new center for the elderly.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA:

This municipality was monitored during 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024, with a total of 7 promises verified. Of these, 1 has been fulfilled, and work has started on 3 others.

- 2020** The reconstruction of areas like Ravonik was partially implemented, while projects for ski tracks remained unfulfilled.
- 2021** Key promises, such as the construction of the Raki Museum, were not fulfilled.
- 2023** Continued low focus on the implementation of promised projects.
- 2024** The promise for the construction of a new airport and the development of the sewage network is considered partially fulfilled.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA:

Municipality of Vlora has demonstrated poor performance in keeping its promises. Out of 8 verified promises over for 4 years, only 1 has been fully implemented.

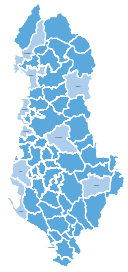
- 2020** The municipality partially fulfilled the promise to build social housing, while promises related to waste management and water supply remained unfulfilled.
- 2021** No advancement was recorded in the reconstruction of the 'Petro Marko' theater. Projects related to tourism and environmental issues were limited and only partially implemented. The only completed project was the construction of social housing.
- 2023** The municipality showed limited progress in improving road infrastructure, while challenges in financing environmental projects continued to hinder goal achievement.
- 2024** Significant progress was seen in coastal development, especially in promoting tourism and the Lungomare area, but no infrastructure solution was provided for the bus terminal.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF FIER:

Over a period of 4 years, 8 promises were monitored in Municipality of Fier, the majority of which were not fulfilled (5 out of 8).

- 2020** Progress in infrastructure improvement was limited, while pollution in the Gjanica River remained a major issue. The promised construction of the Palace of Culture was not carried out.
- 2021** The municipality fulfilled its promise to renovate the theater, but the bus terminal remained in the planning stage.



Environmental pollution, especially in the Gjanica River, continued to be an unresolved problem

2023 Some minor upgrades were made to sports infrastructure but promises related to agriculture and urban services were largely unfulfilled. Urban pollution remained a persistent concern.

2024 Recreational areas were expanded in parts of the city, but major environmental challenges, such as water pollution and waste management, remained unaddressed. Urban improvements were limited and did not meet the expectations of residents.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN:

This municipality is among those with the poorest performance, with only 5 out of 8 verified promises remaining unfulfilled.

2020 Minimal improvements were made in waste management and pollution reduction, while several recreational areas were developed in the city. Promises to reduce industrial pollution were not fulfilled

2021 The sewage system was improved in some parts of the city, but the impact was limited. Air cleaning projects remained in the early planning stages, and there was no significant involvement in youth policies.

2023 The municipality attempted to address waste management through small-scale projects, but major challenges in road infrastructure and transparency remained unresolved. Citizens reported slight improvement in urban service quality.

2024 Public spaces were improved in certain areas, but the recycling system remained in the planning stage, and public transportation continued to suffer from a lack of significant investments. The municipality demonstrated partial commitment to some projects, but without a broad impact.

SUMMARY OF PROMISES

MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS:

Municipality of Durrës ranks second in terms of the number of verified promises (12 in total). However, only 3 of these promises have been fulfilled.

2021 The primary focus was on the reconstruction process, which, although initiated, failed to meet the established deadlines. Infrastructure improvements were limited, and social housing remained in the planning phase.

2022 There was limited progress in waste management and the expansion of recreational areas. Urban traffic problems continued to be a major challenge for the city, with minimal impact from the plans that were implemented.

2023 Several tourism development projects were launched, but coastal protection and public service improvements continued to struggle due to a lack of funding and poor management. The impact of these projects on the quality of life for citizens was limited.

2024 The reconstruction process continued slowly, leading to dissatisfaction among citizens. Road infrastructure improvements were partially completed, while transparency and citizen participation remained weak.

TRANSPARENCY INDEX

The municipalities that have been part of the Monitoring Report from 2019 to 2024 total 21 in number. The table below presents the transparency index for each of these municipalities, based on the year they were included in the monitoring by this project. It is evident from the table that only 2 municipalities, Lezha and Shkodra, have been monitored for the entire past 5 years.

In Graph 2, only the municipalities that have been monitored for several consecutive years are shown

to highlight the changes they have undergone, excluding 4 municipalities that were monitored for just one year: Rrogozhina, Lushnja, Saranda, and Himara. The graph clearly illustrates that in most cases, the transparency index has increased for each municipality that has been monitored for 2 or more consecutive years. The exception is Lezha Municipality, which saw a decline from 2020 to 2021, but then registered a significant increase in transparency in the monitoring reports of

TABLE 1 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX BY YEAR FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Shkodra	93.3%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2	Korça	86.6%	93.3%		100%	87.5%
3	Vlora	86.6%	86.60%		75%	75%
4	Patos	80%	80%			
5	Kukës	60%	67%			
6	Lezha	60%	53.3%	100%	100%	100%
7	Belsh	46.6%	80.00%			
8	Elbasan	46.6%	66.60%		62.5%	50%
9	Fier	40%	60%		68.75%	68.75%
10	Pustec	40%	53%			
11	Kurbin		13.3%	37.50%		
12	Kruja		66.6%	68.70%		
13	Vora		60%	56.30%		
14	Durrës		73.3%	75%	81.2%	93.75%
15	Shijak		73.3%	93.70%		
16	Dibra			75%	87.5%	93.75%
17	Lushnja			50%		
18	Rrogozhina			43.70%		
19	Saranda					87.5%
20	Kavaja				18.7%	50%
21	Himara				43.7%	

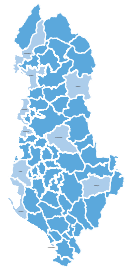
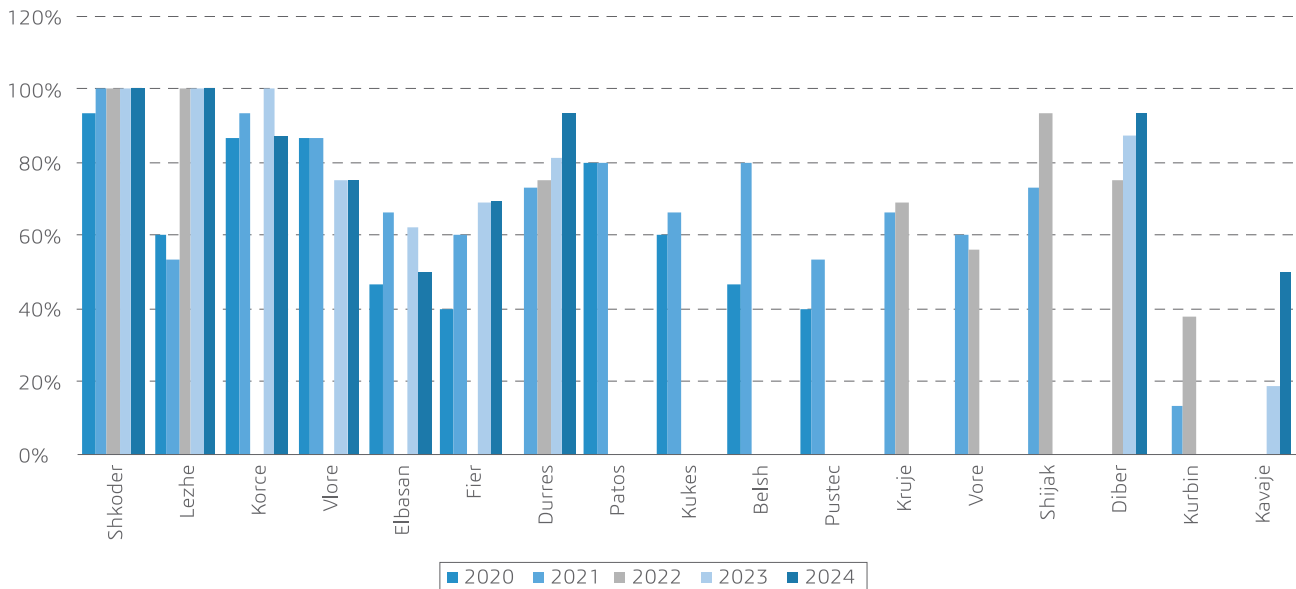


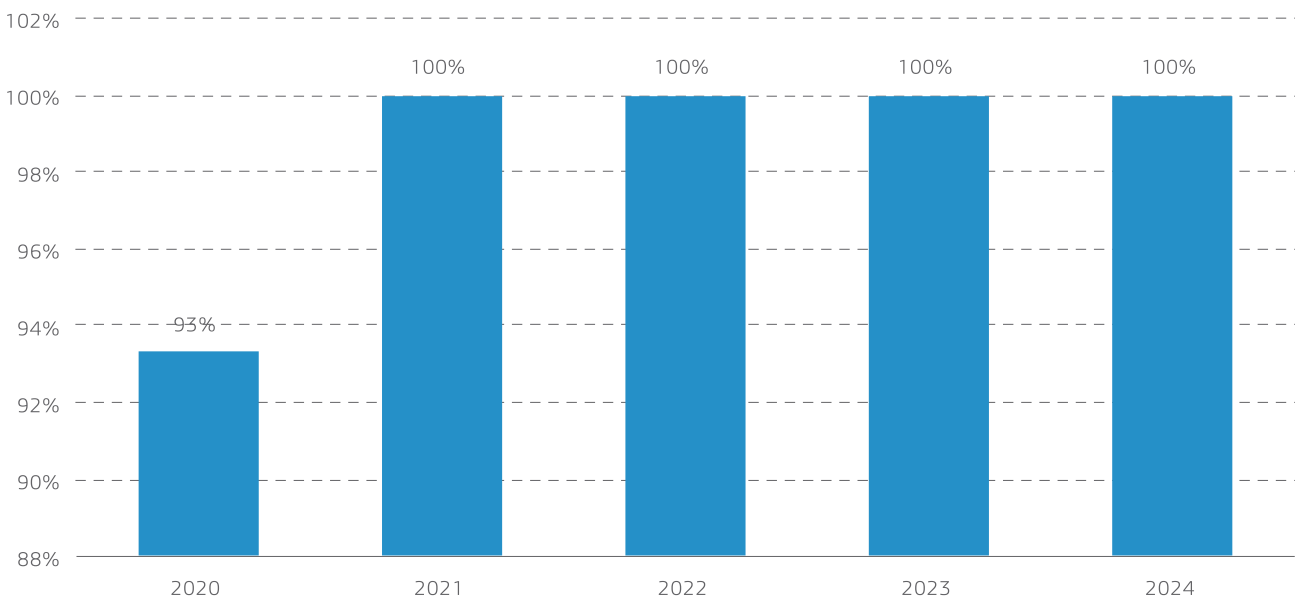
FIGURE 2 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX BY YEAR FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY.

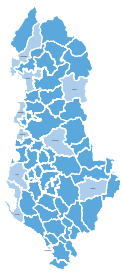


2022, 2023, and 2024, reaching 100%. Similarly, Municipality of Vlore experienced a 3.7% decline in its transparency index, from 60% in 2022 to 56.3% in 2023. Some municipalities where noticeable improvements were seen within a one-year period

include Kavaja, which last year met only 3 out of 16 indicators, while in 2024, it met 8 out of 16, raising its transparency level to 50%. Other municipalities showing relatively significant increases include Belsh and Kurbin.

FIGURE 3 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA

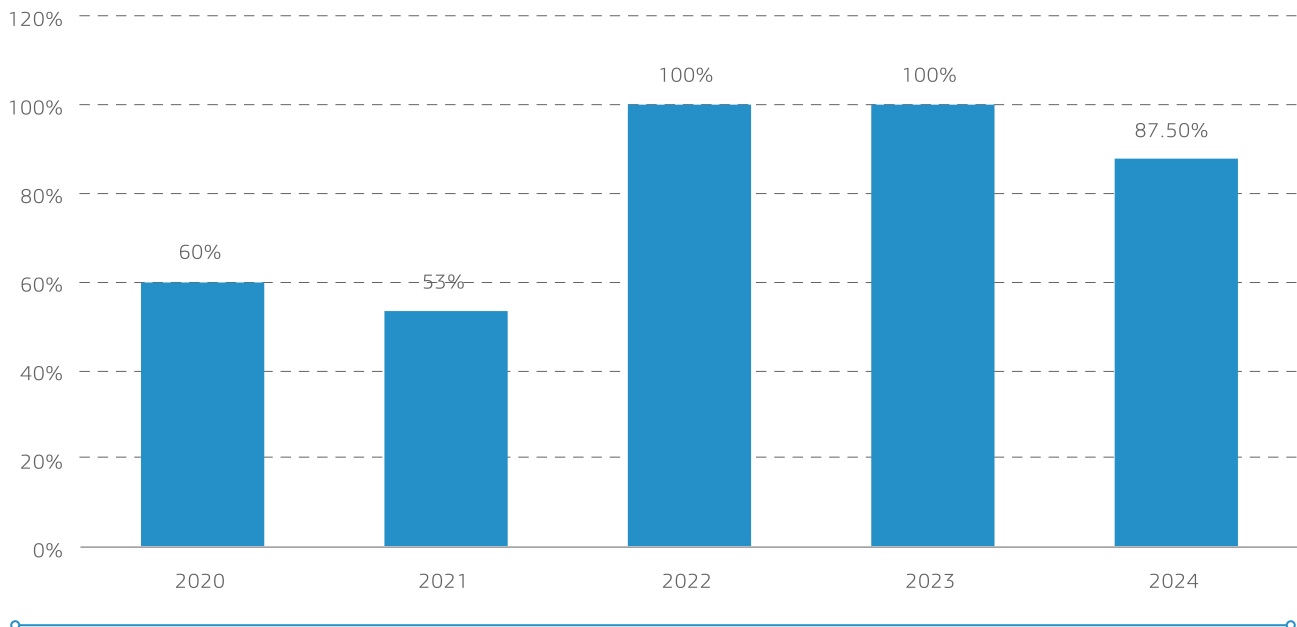




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FIGURE 4 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA



Regarding the municipalities that have achieved the highest level of transparency, Municipality of Shkodra has achieved 100% fulfillment of the indicators for 4 consecutive years.

Below, we outline the key strengths and weaknesses of transparency for each municipality. Lezha and Korça municipalities have also been among those that, during their monitoring years, achieved full transparency for the measurable indicators. More details are provided below for each of the municipalities that have been part of the project over the past 5 years.

1. MUNICIPALITY OF SHKODRA

- 2020** Best performing municipality, with the publication of the transparency program and high participation in consultations. (93.3%)
- 2021** Transparency index reached 100%, fulfilling all indicators.
- 2022** Continuous improvement in the publication of the budget and public meetings.

- 2023** Transparency index remained at 100%, fulfilling all indicators.
- 2024** Transparency index remained at 100%, fulfilling all indicators.

2. MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA

- 2020** Average transparency (60%), significant gaps in public consultation.
- 2021** Transparency index dropped (53.3%), issues with publishing minutes and consulting on taxes.
- 2022** Significant improvement in transparency, meeting all monitored indicators.
- '23-'24** Maintained the same transparency level (100%)

3. MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA

- 2020** Average publication of information, some gaps in notifying about meetings.
- 2021** Transparency index increased to 93.3%, meeting most of the indicators.

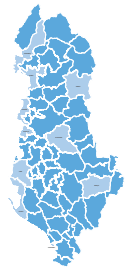
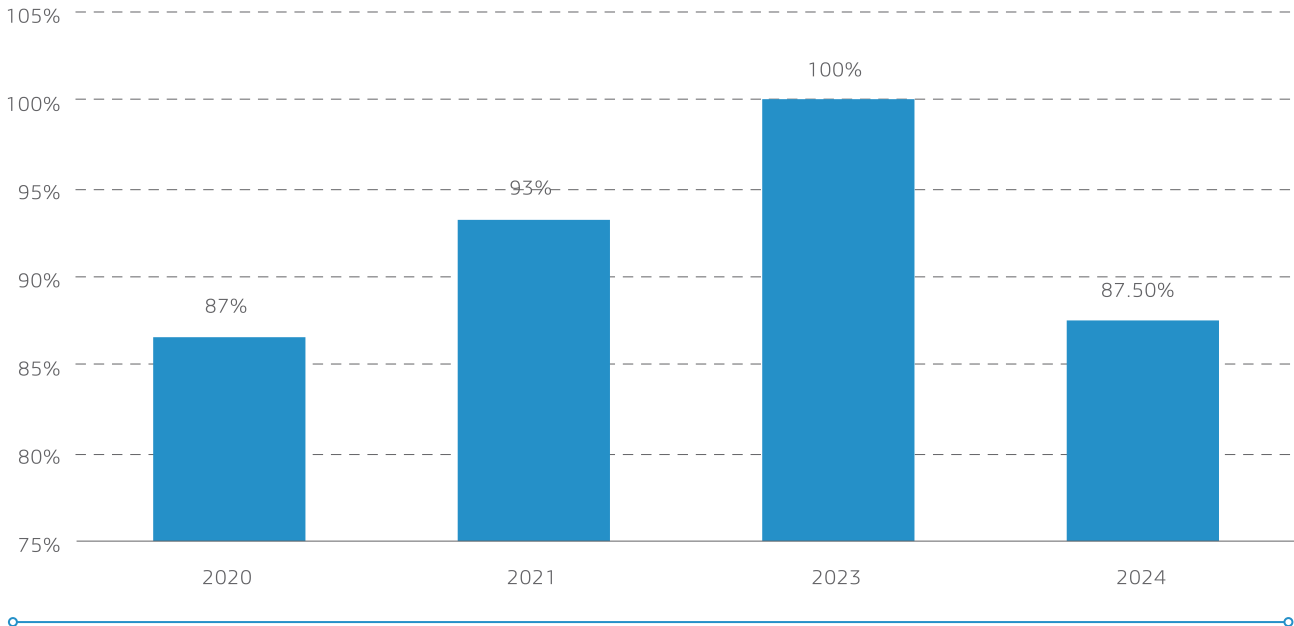


FIGURE 5 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITY OF KORÇA



2023 After a year without monitoring, the municipality meets all indicators in 2023

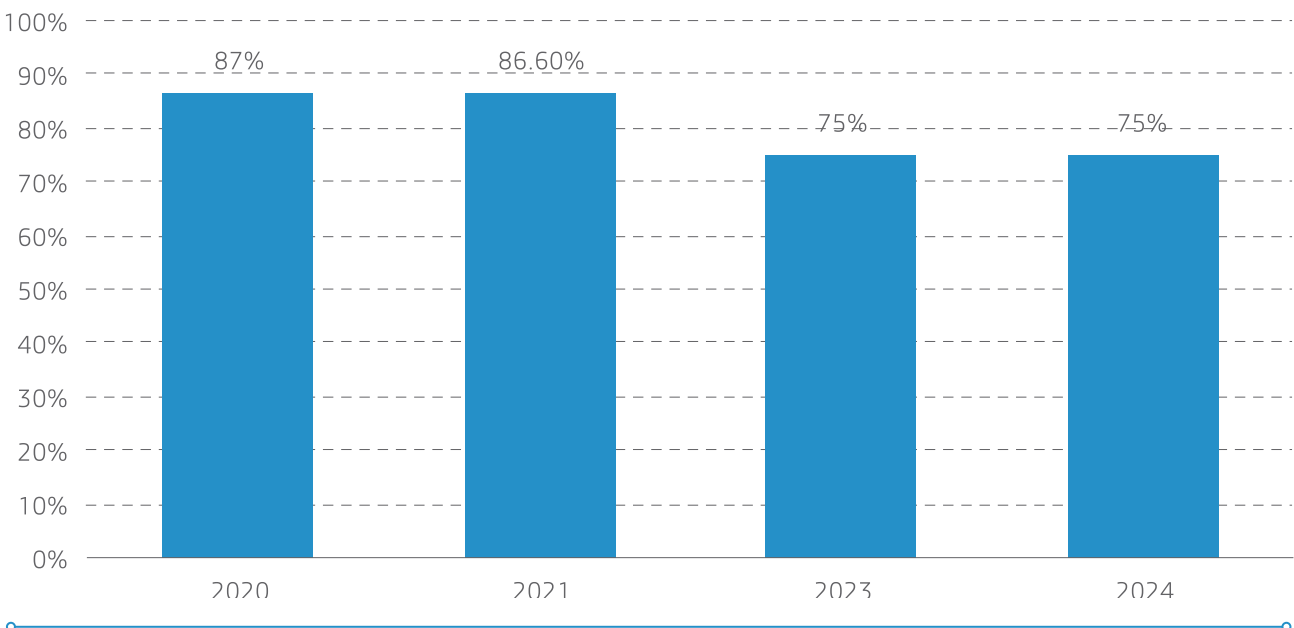
2024 A decrease in the transparency level, with problems in publishing the mayor's orders.

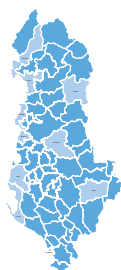
4. MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

2020 Issues with the publication of the mayor's orders and minutes.

2021 The index was 86.6%. There was a lack of transparency regarding the mayor's decisions.

FIGURE 6 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

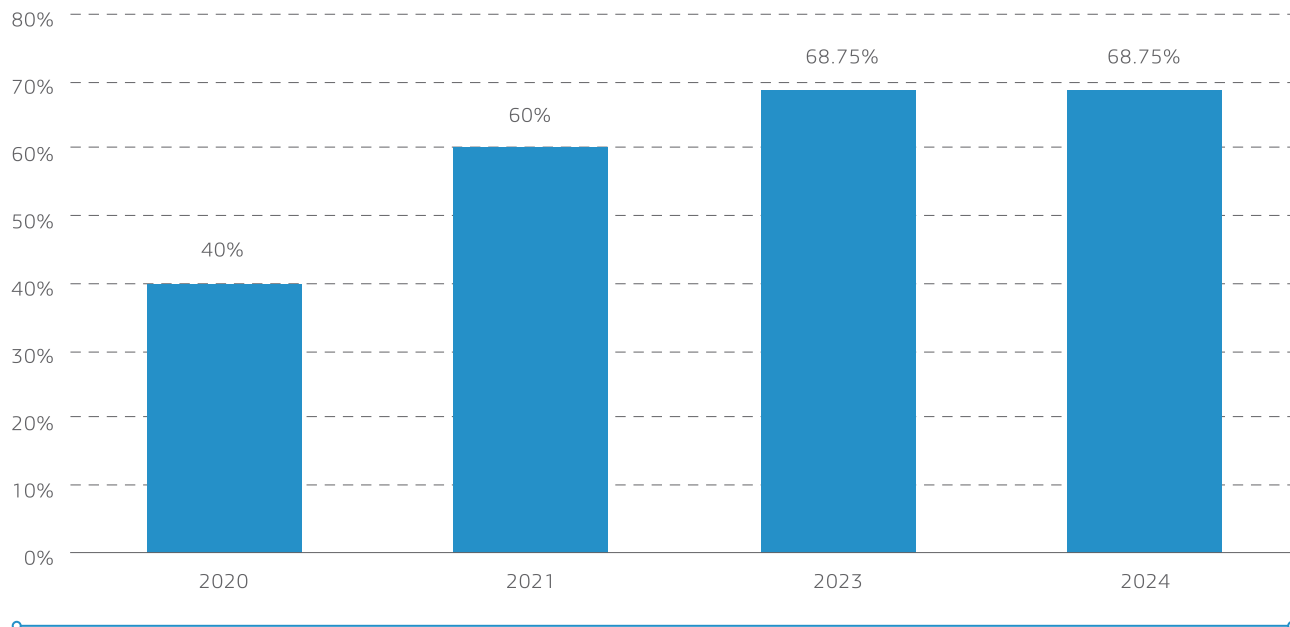




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FIGURE 7 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITY OF FIER



2023 Moderate improvements, but public consultation

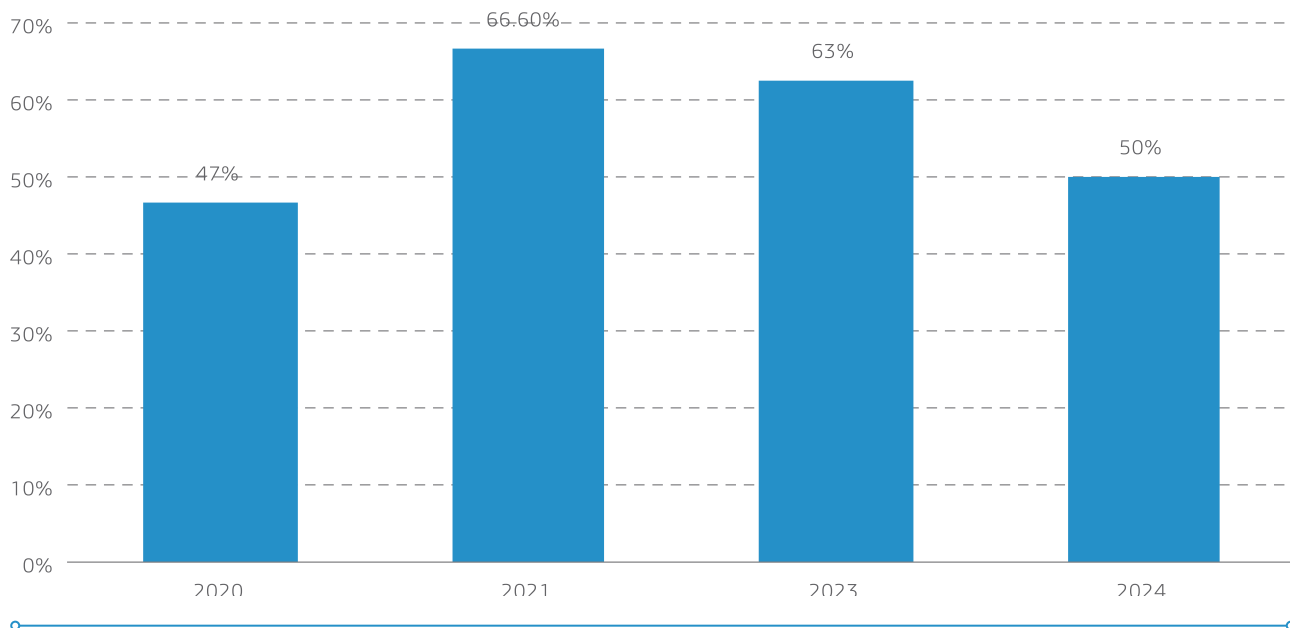
2024 The level of transparency increases.

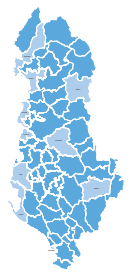
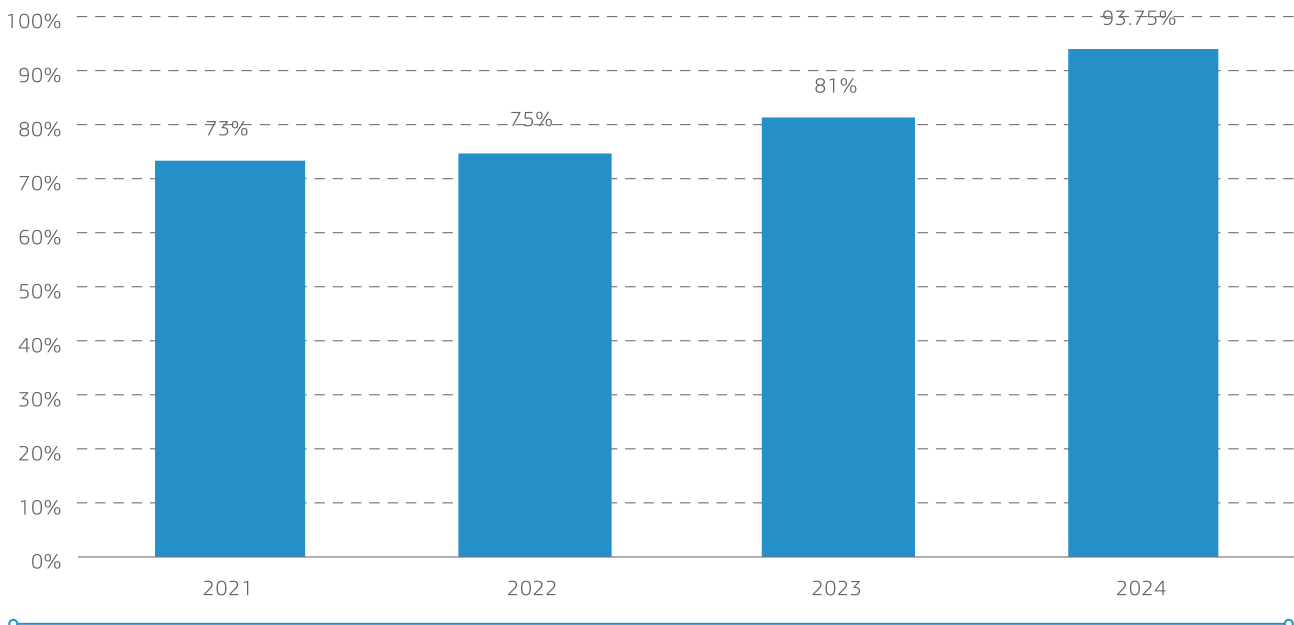
5. MUNICIPALITY OF FIER

2020 One of the lowest-performing municipalities (40%).

2021 Some improvement in transparency, but shortcomings persist in publishing the

FIGURA 8 - INDEKSI I TRANSPRENCËS BASHKIA ELBASAN



**FIGURE 9 - TRANSPARENCY INDEX MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS**

budget and the mayor's decisions.

2023 Progress in budget publication, yet key indicators remain problematic.

2024 Transparency remains at the same level, with continued lack of publication of the mayor's decisions.

6. MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN

2020 Average transparency, issues in public consultations..

2021 Transparency level increased by 66.6%, with delays in publishing decisions.

2023 Maintains nearly the same level of transparency as in 2021.

2024 Improvements, transparency level shows growth.

7. MUNICIPALITY OF DURRËS

2020 Not included in the monitoring.

2021 Included for the first time; major transparency issues following the earthquake.

2022 Improvements in several indicators, especially in budget publication.

2023 Increase in transparency level, missing publication of mayor's decisions and minutes of Municipal Council meetings.

2024 Significant improvement in indicators, still missing names of public consultation coordinators.

SOCIAL FUND

Providing social services to vulnerable groups and those in need is crucial to ensuring a fairer and more inclusive society. These services play a key role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families facing economic, social, and health challenges, offering them tangible support for their integration and well-being.

Through financing from the Social Fund, municipalities have the opportunity to identify and address the specific needs of their communities, offering tailored services that support at-risk children, people with disabilities, elderly individuals without family care, abused women, and any other group requiring specialized support.

With this fund, municipalities can establish and develop essential social services, provide protection for vulnerable groups, and ensure a minimum level of accessible services for the community. Moreover, improving the quality and coverage of these services strengthens citizens' trust in institutions and highlights the role of municipalities as key players in building a sustainable social protection system.

In this regard, continuous monitoring and support of the Social Fund are vital to ensuring the effective operation of these services, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most, and that funds are used with transparency and efficiency in the community's interest.

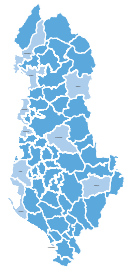
SOCIAL FUND BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries of social care services include the following social groups:

- Families and any child, including children who enjoy international protection in the Republic of Albania, in accordance with the current asylum legislation;
- People with disabilities;
- Adults with social issues, victims of violence, trafficking, and those with proven drug or alcohol addiction;
- Pregnant girls or single parents of children up to one year old;
- Minors and young people in conflict with the law, who have completed their sentence and require social care services to reintegrate into society, as well as those who receive international protection by decision of the responsible authority for asylum and refugees in the Republic of Albania;
- Elderly people in need.

PERFORMANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITIES

Faktoje Center, in order to assess the amount allocated from the Social Fund and the period of support for the 61 municipalities in the country for 2023-2024, requested information from the municipalities, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Social Service. Out of the 61 municipalities, only one municipality, Cërrik, did not respond to the information request.



FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

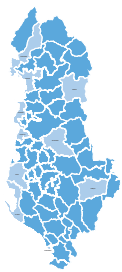
The data analysis has revealed several issues that require immediate and structured intervention to enhance transparency, coordination, and sustainability of the funding scheme.

- One of the primary challenges is the lack of transparency regarding the progress and implementation of the Social Fund. No public institutions, whether at the central or local level, have published detailed data on the allocation and use of this fund over the years. This lack of transparency creates a significant gap in monitoring the effectiveness of the fund and makes it difficult to assess its impact on improving social services. Therefore, it is crucial that all beneficiary institutions publish clear, accessible data, including regular reports on fund usage and outcomes.
- Another problem identified is the absence of a coordinated system for reporting and data collection. In many instances, reports from different institutions contain inconsistencies, which directly affect the quality of analysis and complicate the monitoring of the fund's progress. For this reason, it is vital to establish a unified mechanism for data collection and reporting, including a common platform where all involved actors can access updated and verified information.
- A further concern is the lack of long-term planning by municipalities to ensure the sustainability of social services. The verifications conducted show that no municipality has projected funds in their medium-term budgets (2025-2027) to continue operating services funded by the Social Fund after the financial support period concludes. This points to a lack of commitment to creating a sustainable social service system, jeopardizing the continued support for citizens in need. This issue is particularly critical for municipalities

that are already in the third year of the 90%-60%-30% funding scheme, which should have developed a clear plan to secure the necessary financial resources for the continued operation of services.

- Another critical issue that needs clarification is the status of financing for municipalities in the fourth or fifth year of implementing the Social Fund. Since the funding scheme is designed as a three-year program, it remains unclear whether the current funds have been allocated for the continuation of existing services or for the establishment of new ones. To eliminate uncertainties and provide a clearer understanding of the situation, it is essential that the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, conduct a thorough analysis of the funding for these municipalities and clearly define the future prospects for financial support.
- In addition to the management and funding challenges, it is equally important to assess the range of services offered by municipalities, ensuring they effectively address the community's needs. A comprehensive consultation process with strategic partners and community representatives is crucial to identify any gaps in services and establish priorities for new services that should be developed. This approach would lead to a more accurate and tailored plan for the development of local social policies, ensuring that the Social Fund is utilized more effectively and yields a tangible impact on those in need.

The Social Fund plays an essential role in providing social protection and enhancing the well-being of citizens from vulnerable and marginalized groups. To achieve more successful implementation and long-lasting impact, it is crucial to take decisive actions to increase transparency, enhance the coordination of reporting, ensure financial sustainability, and align services with the actual needs of the community. These actions will contribute to the creation of a more efficient and reliable social service system, ensuring



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that no one is left without the necessary support due to inadequate planning and management of the Social Fund.

SOCIAL FUND FINANCING ANALYSIS 2023-2024

SOCIAL FUND FINANCING VALUE

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), it was observed that for the year 2023, the total amount financed by MHSP for the Social Fund was 94,730,215 LEK (ALL), while for the year 2024, the amount reached 133,079,987 LEK (ALL).

However, after analyzing and calculating the financing for each benefiting municipality based on the data reported by MHSP, a discrepancy was found between the total amount reported by the Ministry and the total amount financed for each municipality in the years 2023 and 2024.

Specifically, for the year 2023, the financed amount

is calculated to be 84,866,879 LEK (ALL), while for 2024, the financed amount is calculated to be 131,232,355 LEK (ALL).

Furthermore, according to the data from the State Social Service (SHSSH), the amount financed for 2023 is 88,571,346 LEK (ALL), and for 2024, it is 131,862,018 LEK (ALL).

These values do not match the values declared by MHSP, as shown in the graph below

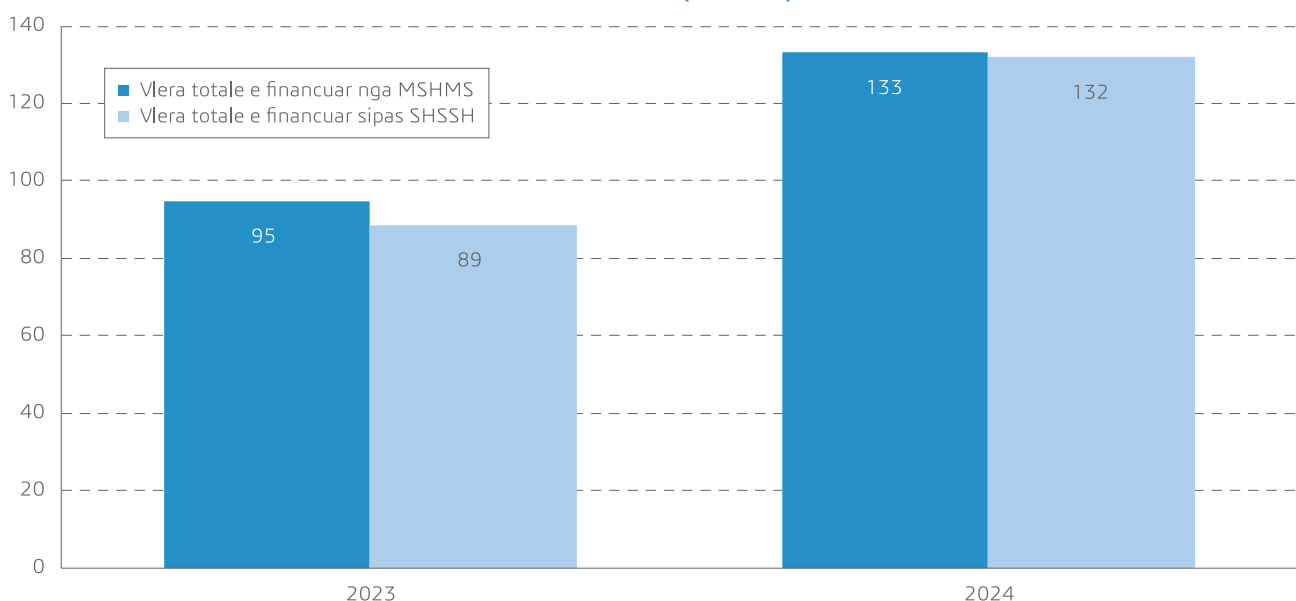
MUNICIPALITY OF VLORA

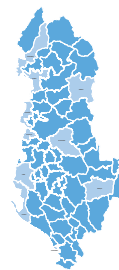
Year 2023: According to MHSP, the allocated funding is 3,971,724 LEK (ALL), while according to SHSSH, it is 6,278,524 LEK (ALL). The difference of 2,306,800 LEK (ALL) indicates the need for a clear explanation regarding the basis of reporting by each party.

MUNICIPALITY OF LEZHA

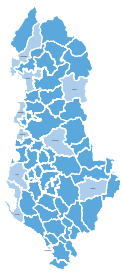
Two distinct services are provided under the Social Fund, and for the first service in 2023, financial discrepancies have been identified:

FIGURE 10 – TOTAL VALUE FOR THE SOCIAL FUND 2023–2024 (MLN LEK)





No.	DATA REFERRED TO MHSP			DATA REFERRED TO SHSSH		Current year of Social Fund Implementation
	Municipality	Amount financed in 2023	Amount financed in 2024	Amount financed in 2023	Amount financed in 2024	
1	Municipality of Durrës	3,536,784 Lekë	3,536,784 Lekë	3,536,784 Lekë	3,536,784 Lekë	5
2	Municipality of Fier	2,383,160 Lekë	3,093,403 Lekë	2,383,160 Lekë	3,093,403 Lekë	2
3	Municipality of Roskovec	1,156,050 Lekë	1,023,000 Lekë	1,156,050 Lekë	1,023,000 Lekë	3
4	Municipality of Kolonja	3,523,152 Lekë	1,761,851 Lekë	3,523,152 Lekë	1,636,800 Lekë	3
5	Municipality of Selenica	1,780,000 Lekë	2,328,000 Lekë	1,780,000 Lekë	2,328,000 Lekë	2
6	Municipality of Tepelena	3,630,240 Lekë	1,940,240 Lekë	3,630,240 Lekë	1,940,240 Lekë	3
7	Municipality of Saranda	4,124,972 Lekë	2,128,508 Lekë	4,124,972 Lekë	2,128,508 Lekë	3
8	Municipality of Delvina	2,609,800 Lekë	1,206,368 Lekë	2,609,800 Lekë	1,206,368 Lekë	3
9	Municipality of Vlorë	3,971,724 Lekë	3,971,724 Lekë	6,278,524 Lekë	3,971,724 Lekë	4
10	Municipality of Gramsh	2,632,000 Lekë	3,210,000 Lekë	2,632,000 Lekë	3,210,000 Lekë	2
11	Municipality of Rrogozhina	2,192,016 Lekë	2,192,016 Lekë	2,192,016 Lekë	2,192,016 Lekë	4
12	Municipality of Elbasan	1,715,945 Lekë	1,715,945 Lekë	1,715,945 Lekë	1,715,945 Lekë	4
13	Municipality of Klos	1,938,000 Lekë	2,258,000 Lekë	1,938,000 Lekë	2,258,000 Lekë	2
14	Municipality of Bulqiza	2,605,000 Lekë	2,605,000 Lekë	2,605,000 Lekë	2,550,000 Lekë	2
15	Municipality of Kukës	1,665,506 Lekë	1,665,506 Lekë	1,665,506 Lekë	1,665,506 Lekë	4
16	Municipality of Kamëz	4,368,903 Lekë	6,241,290 Lekë	4,368,903 Lekë	6,241,290 Lekë	2
17	Municipality of Berat	1,164,000 Lekë	1,164,000 Lekë	1,164,000 Lekë	1,164,000 Lekë	4
18	Municipality of Belsh	1,233,900 Lekë	1,233,900 Lekë	1,233,900 Lekë	1,233,900 Lekë	4
19	Municipality of Cërrik	1,576,974 Lekë	1,094,791 Lekë	1,576,974 Lekë	1,904,791 Lekë	2
20	Municipality of Maliq	1,618,348 Lekë	3,126,776 Lekë	1,618,348 Lekë	3,126,776 Lekë	2
21	Municipality of Pogradec	944,256 Lekë	1,144,324 Lekë	944,256 Lekë	1,144,324 Lekë	2
22	Municipality of Korça	3,946,724 Lekë	3,946,724 Lekë	3,946,724 Lekë	3,946,724 Lekë	4
23	Municipality of Devoll	2,402,667 Lekë	1,572,750 Lekë	2,402,667 Lekë	1,572,464 Lekë	3
24	Municipality of Poliçan	2,653,952 Lekë	3,849,998 Lekë	2,653,952 Lekë	3,849,998 Lekë	2
25	Municipality of Librazhd	2,503,632 Lekë	2,503,632 Lekë	2,503,632 Lekë	2,503,632 Lekë	5
26	Municipality of Përrenjas	2,340,000 Lekë	2,340,000 Lekë	2,340,000 Lekë	2,340,000 Lekë	4
27	Municipality of Puka	1,021,800 Lekë	2,455,200 Lekë	1,021,800 Lekë	2,455,200 Lekë	2
28	Municipality of Lezha service 1	2,503,632 Lekë	1,172,000 Lekë	3,901,299 Lekë	3,901,299 Lekë	5
29	Municipality of Lezha service 2	2,201,108 Lekë	2,729,299 Lekë	2,201,108 Lekë		2
30	Municipality of Shkodra	8,612,016 Lekë	4,158,672 Lekë	8,612,016 Lekë	4,158,672 Lekë	3
31	Municipality of Malësia e Madhe	1,830,000 Lekë	802,500 Lekë	1,830,000 Lekë	802,500 Lekë	3
32	Municipality of Patos	1,244,000 Lekë	2,895,000 Lekë	1,244,000 Lekë	2,895,000 Lekë	1
33	Municipality of Lushnja (2 service)	1,249,600 Lekë	1,933,340 Lekë	1,249,600 Lekë	1,933,340 Lekë	1
34	Municipality of Gjirokastra	1,987,018 Lekë	4,779,857 Lekë	1,987,018 Lekë	4,779,857 Lekë	1
35	Municipality of Dimal		1,354,400 Lekë		1,354,400 Lekë	1
36	Municipality of Mat		5,368,050 Lekë		5,368,050 Lekë	1



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37	Municipality of Vau Dejës		3,630,976 Lekë		3,630,976 Lekë	1
38	Municipality of Memaliaj		3,314,660 Lekë		3,314,660 Lekë	1
39	Municipality of Dropull		5,094,823 Lekë		5,094,823 Lekë	1
40	Municipality of Fushë Arrëz		4,069,700 Lekë		4,069,700 Lekë	1
41	Municipality of Dibra		4,515,000 Lekë		4,515,000 Lekë	1
42	Municipality of Libohova		3,844,200 Lekë		3,844,200 Lekë	1
43	Municipality of Has		4,416,820 Lekë		4,416,820 Lekë	1
44	Municipality of Kurbin		2,498,000 Lekë		2,498,000 Lekë	1
45	Municipality of Këlcyra		2,551,988 Lekë		2,551,988 Lekë	1
46	Municipality of Tirana		6,793,340 Lekë		6,793,340 Lekë	1

SERVICE ONE:

Year 2023: MHSP reports 2,503,632 LEK, whereas SHSSH reports 3,901,299 LEK — a difference of 1,397,667 LEK.

MUNICIPALITY OF BULQIZA

Year 2024: MHSP presents two different funding figures, 2,605,000 LEK and 2,550,000 LEK, without any explanation regarding their classification. SHSSH reports only 2,550,000 LEK, highlighting the need for clarification on the distribution of funds based on the type of services funded.

MUNICIPALITY OF KOLONJA

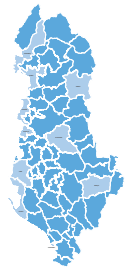
Year 2024: MHSP reports an amount of 1,761,851 LEK, while SHSSH reports 1,636,800 LEK, resulting in a discrepancy of 125,051 LEK that calls for further verification.

The analysis of these data indicates a lack of alignment between the reports from MHSP and

SHSSH concerning the funding amounts of the Social Fund allocated to municipalities. The discrepancies identified point to a lack of consistency in the recording and reporting of funds, raising concerns about the transparency and accuracy of public financial resource management.

These findings emphasize the need for an improved monitoring process, where the responsible institutions must coordinate and harmonize their data to prevent inaccuracies and ensure the proper use of funds for social service delivery. It is recommended that MHSP and SHSSH conduct a detailed review of the reported amounts and establish a clear and verifiable mechanism for the distribution and oversight of funds allocated to municipalities.

With regard to the amounts allocated to each beneficiary municipality under the Social Fund, broken down by year (2023/2024), the information is presented below in tabular form. The table outlines the municipality, the amount financed in 2023, the amount financed in 2024, and the current year of implementation of the Social Fund, based on data provided by MHSP and SHSSH.



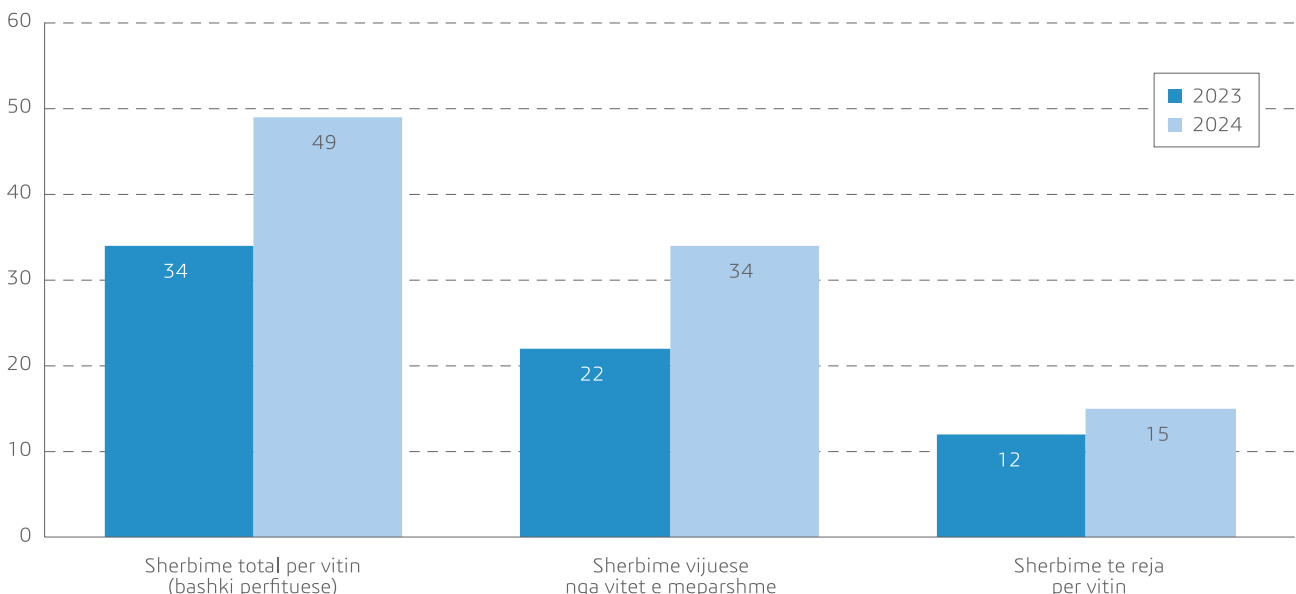
EXPENDITURE VALUE FOR THE SOCIAL FUND

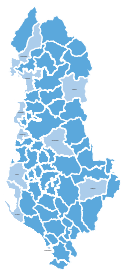
According to the data from MHSP, the fund spent by 40 institutions (33 municipalities and 7 counties) in 2023 is 176,293,132 LEK, while the planned fund for 2024 for 53 institutions (45 municipalities and 8 counties) is 324,042,144 LEK. Meanwhile, the State Social Service reports that 34 municipalities signed agreements as beneficiaries of the Social Fund in 2023, and 45 municipalities in 2024. There is a discrepancy between the Ministry's and SHSSH's data regarding the number of beneficiary municipalities for 2023. These significant differences between the data reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the State Social Service highlight inaccuracies in financial reporting and necessitate a thorough review of the data by the respective parties. This process is crucial to ensure transparency and accuracy in documenting the amounts received by municipalities, ensuring that all financial data is correct and consistent with reality.

FINANCED SERVICES ACCORDING TO MHSP

For the financed services in 2023 and 2024, according to the information provided by MHSP, in 2023, a total of 34 services were financed. Out of these, 22 services were continued from previous years in the municipalities: Durrës, Lezha, Librazhd, Prrenjas, Rroskovec, Berat, Korça, Rogozhina, Kukës, Elbasan, Vlorë, Belsh, Kolonja, Tepelena, Devoll, Delvina, Shkodra, Malësi e Madhe, Saranda, Lushnjë, Gjirokastër, Patos. Additionally, 12 new services were financed in the municipalities of: Poliçan, Selenica, Gramsh, Bulqiza, Klos, Maliq, Kamëz, Cërrik, Puka, Pogradec, Lezha, and Fier. For 2024, 49 services are financed, with 34 services continuing from previous years in the municipalities: Durrës, Lezha, Librazhd, Prrenjas, Rroskovec, Berat, Korça, Rogozhina, Kukës, Elbasan, Vlorë, Belsh, Kolonja, Tepelena, Devoll, Delvina, Shkodra, Malësi e Madhe, Saranda, Lushnjë (2 services), Gjirokastër, Poliçan, Selenica, Gramsh, Bulqiza, Klos, Maliq, Kamëz, Cërrik, Puka, Pogradec, Lezha, and Fier. Additionally, 15 new services were financed in the municipalities of: Dimal, Mat, Vau Dejës, Memaliaj, Dropull, Fushë Arrëz, Dibra, Libohova, Has, Kurbin, Këlcyra, Patos, Gjirokastër, Lushnjë, and Tirana.

FIGURE 11 - TOTAL SERVICES FOR 2023 & 2024 (BENEFICIARY MUNICIPALITIES)

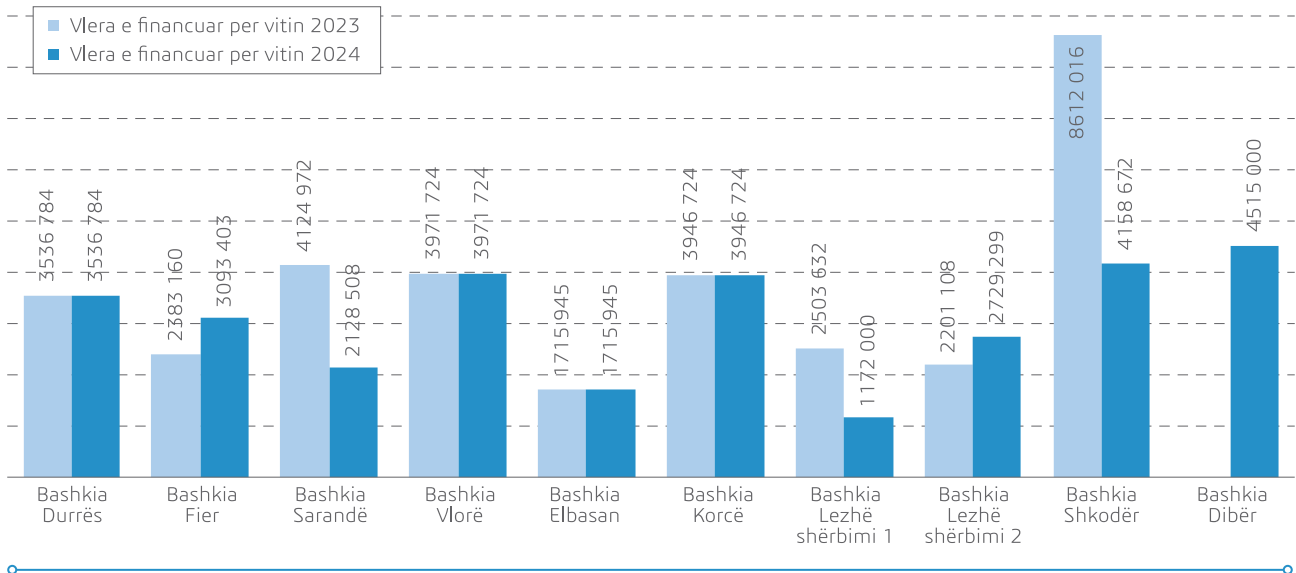




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FIGURE 12 - THE FUNDED AMOUNT FOR THE 10 MUNICIPALITIES UNDER MONITORING FOR THE YEAR 2023 & 2024 (LEK - ALL)



The data in Chart 11 reflect the amounts funded for the 10 municipalities under monitoring, as well as the current year of implementation, excluding the Municipality of Kavaja, since this municipality does not appear to have been a beneficiary of the Social Fund for the years 2023–2024.

LOCAL SOCIAL PLAN

Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 111/2018 'On the creation and functioning of the Social Fund' specifies that the Ministry responsible for social issues has the authority to transfer funds to local self-government units for the financing of social care services. This funding is based on social plans budgeted by municipalities and approved in accordance with the existing legal framework. In this context, for a municipality to benefit from the Social Fund, it must have an approved and budgeted Local Social Plan.

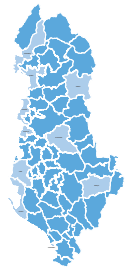
Based on information submitted by 60 municipalities as of October 2024, it results that 9 (nine)

municipalities currently do not have an approved and in-force Local Social Plan. These municipalities are:

- ◆ Municipality of Konispol
- ◆ Municipality of Libohova
- ◆ Municipality of Malësi e Madhe
- ◆ Municipality of Puka
- ◆ Municipality of Pustec
- ◆ Municipality of Rogozhina
- ◆ Municipality of Selenica
- ◆ Municipality of Shkodra
- ◆ Municipality of Vau Dejës

The Municipality of Konispol is currently in the process of drafting the 2024–2027 Local Social Plan and was not a beneficiary of the Social Fund for either 2023 or 2024

The Municipality of Pustec, Municipality of Rogozhina, and Municipality of Vau i Dejës are in the process of drafting a new Local Social Plan.



The Municipality of Selenica is in the final stage of completing its Local Social Plan.

The Municipality of Shkodra is currently in the consultation phase for its new Plan.

From the above analysis, it appears that a number of municipalities have not yet finalized the approval and budgeting process of their Local Social Plans. In order to ensure access to funding through the Social Fund and to guarantee the provision of social services for vulnerable groups, it is essential that these municipalities accelerate the drafting, consultation, and approval processes of their Local Social Plans. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) should closely monitor this process and provide technical assistance where necessary to help municipalities meet the legal funding criteria.

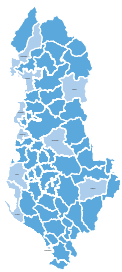
SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2024 ACCORDING TO MHSP

For 2024, the State Social Service reports that 45 municipalities have signed agreements as beneficiaries of the Social Fund, and 15 new services are being provided in the municipalities of: Dimal, Mat, Vau Dejës, Memaliaj, Dropull, Fushë Arrëz, Dibra, Libohova, Has, Kurbin, Këlcyra, Patos, Gjirokastra, Lushnja, and Tirana.

The table below is based on data regarding the 15 new services planned for delivery in 2024 by various municipalities across the country. These services aim to support several vulnerable population groups, reflecting the priorities of this year's social policy agenda.

TABLE 2 - SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2024 BY VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COUNTRY

Municipality	Beneficiary category:	Service typology 2024
Municipality of Gjirokastra	Victims of Domestic Violence	Emergency center for victims of violence
Municipality of Lushnje	Elderly	Daily center for the elderly
Municipality of Mat	Children with disabilities	Psycho-physical support services for children with disabilities at the daily center.
Municipality of Dimal	Families, people with disabilities (PwD), children, elderly	Multifunctional community center for vulnerable groups.
Municipality of Tirana	Youth, children with disabilities	Integrated mobile biopsychosocial services in rural administrative units
Municipality of Patos	People with disabilities (PwD)	Specialized service
Municipality of Këlcyra	Elderly	Daily center for the elderly
Municipality of Kurbin	Elderly	Daily center for the elderly
Municipality of Has	People with disabilities (PwD)	Specialized community service for people with disabilities through mobile service
Municipality of Libohova	Persons with disabilities (PwD) and elderly	Mobile service for the elderly and people with disabilities
Municipality of Dibra	People with disabilities (PwD)	Mobile social service for children with disabilities
Municipality of Dropull	Persons with disabilities (PwD) and elderly	Mobile service and in-home assistance for people with disabilities and the elderly.
Municipality of Fushë Arrëz	Families, people with disabilities (PwD), children, elderly	Multidisciplinary community center for socio-economic integration
Municipality of Memaliaj	Children	Center for protective, empowering, and emergency services for children and families
Municipality of Vau i Dejës	Children with disabilities	Mobile in-home service for children with disabilities.



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- The new services for 2024 are largely focused on people with disabilities (PwD), who benefit from 9 of them.
- Elderly individuals are included in 6 of the new services, indicating special attention to this demographic group.
- Other categories, such as children and families in need, receive more limited support from this set of new services.
- None of the newly reported services are specifically dedicated to victims of trafficking or youth in conflict with the law.

DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL DATA

Based on data reported by 60 municipalities, 33 of them have applied to benefit from the Social Fund for 2024. Of these, only 19 municipalities were declared successful and secured funding for providing social services.

The Municipality of Libohovë, in its official response, confirmed that it did not apply for the Social Fund in 2024. However, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), this municipality is among the 15 that will offer new services during 2024. For this purpose, funding of 3,844,200 ALL has been approved through the Social Fund, marking its first year of implementation in this municipality. Furthermore, the municipalities of Librazhd, Prrenjas, Puka, and Rogozhina stated in their official responses that they applied for the Social Fund provided by MHSP for 2024 and were declared winners. According to MHSP data, these municipalities continue to deliver services funded from previous years. Specifically:

- The Municipality of Librazhd is in its fifth year of Social Fund implementation,
- The Municipality of Prrenjas is in its fourth year,
- The Municipality of Puka is in its second year,
- The Municipality of Rogozhina is in its fourth year.

Referring to the total funding figures approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) for 2023 and 2024, and the purpose of fund allocation at the municipal level, some inconsistencies have been identified between municipalities' official statements and MHSP data. More specifically:

YEAR 2023:

The Municipality of Elbasan reports in its official response that the amount received from the Social Fund in 2023 was 4,343,945 ALL, while according to data from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), the allocated amount was 1,715,945.16 ALL.

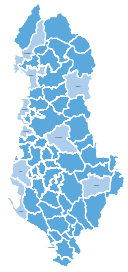
The Municipality of Fier states it received 9,431,288 ALL, but according to MHSP data, the allocated amount for this municipality in 2023 was 2,383,160 ALL.

The Municipality of Gjirokastër reports a funding of 1,429,806 ALL, while MHSP data indicates the allocated amount was 1,987,018 ALL.

The Municipality of Lezha reports receiving 1,172,000 ALL for Service 1 (Mobile home service in 'Tungjatjeta Jetë') and 2,201,108 ALL for Service 2 ('Improving access to community services and developing quality multifunctional community-based services, focusing on empowering, protecting, and socially including families, youth, and children in need'). According to MHSP data, the funding for this municipality includes 2,503,632 ALL for Service 1 and 2,201,108 ALL for Service 2, indicating a discrepancy in the data for Service 1. According to SHSSH data, the fund for Service 1 was 3,901,299 ALL, and for Service 2 it was 2,201,108 ALL. Therefore, there is a difference of 1,397,667 ALL specifically for Service 1.

The Municipality of Librazhd reports receiving 7,510,896 ALL, while the allocated amount according to MHSP data is 2,503,632 ALL.

The Municipality of Malësi e Madhe reports a funding of 1,802,500 ALL, while MHSP data shows the allocated fund was 1,830,000 ALL.



The Municipality of Patos claims it did not receive funds from the Social Fund in 2023. However, according to MHSP data, this municipality received 1,244,000 ALL.

Municipality of Selenicë reports receiving 17,489,600 ALL from the Social Fund, while according to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) data, the allocated amount for this municipality was 1,780,000 ALL.

YEAR 2024:

The Municipality of Elbasan reports an approved funding of 300,000 euros from MHSP for 2024. However, according to MHSP data, the allocated amount for this municipality is 1,715,945.16 ALL.

The Municipality of Kolonjë reports an approved amount of 1,636,800 ALL for 2024. This value does not match the MHSP data, which reports funding of 1,761,851 ALL. However, the amount reported by the municipality aligns with the data from the State Social Service (SHSSH).

The Municipality of Librazhd reports an approved fund of 7,510,896 ALL for 2024, while according to MHSP data, the allocated amount for this municipality is 2,503,632 ALL, indicating a notable inconsistency.

The Municipality of Lushnje reports an approved funding of 2,895,000 ALL, while MHSP data indicates the allocated amount for 2024 is 1,933,340 ALL.

The Municipality of Patos reports receiving 1,933,340 ALL, while according to MHSP data, the approved fund for this municipality is 2,895,000 ALL.

The Municipality of Lezha reports the social fund for 2024 as 1,172,000 ALL for Service 1 and 2,729,299 ALL for Service 2. According to MHSP data, the fund for 2024 is confirmed as 1,172,000 ALL for Service 1 and 2,729,299 ALL for Service 2, and the data matches. However, SHSSH data indicates a fund of 3,901,299 ALL for Service 1, with no allocated fund for Service 2.

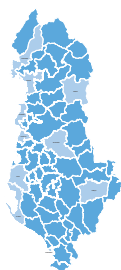
These discrepancies indicate a need for further verification of the reporting and allocation processes for the funds, highlighting the importance of ensuring greater transparency in the management of Social Fund finances.

2025-2027 BUDGET

In response to the question of whether an increase in funds has been planned in the medium-term budget for 2025-2027 to ensure the continuation of social services after the completion of the Social Fund's financing, the Ministry of Finance provided the following reply:

According to Annexes 4 and 5 of Instruction No. 3, dated 28.02.2024, 'For the preparation of the medium-term local budget program 2025-2027', a specific product code for municipalities has been established: 'Social services for vulnerable groups financed by the Social Fund.' This enables municipalities to allocate funds from their budgets to sustain social services. However, an examination of the documents submitted for the 2025-2027 Medium-Term Budget Program (MTBP) to the Ministry of Finance reveals that none of the municipalities have planned funds for this product, which could result in a potential gap in financing and continuity of social services once the Social Fund's support concludes.

On the other hand, over half of the municipalities (36 municipalities) have reported that they have allocated funds in their 2025-2027 medium-term budgets to ensure the continuation of social services in their regions after the Social Fund financing ends. This highlights a lack of consistency between financial planning and municipal declarations, underscoring the need for a more structured approach to integrating social service financing into local medium-term budgets. From the analysis of the municipalities' data regarding the vulnerable groups benefiting from social services, several common trends and challenges are observed.



MONITORING REPORT

TRANSPARENCY OF THE 10 MUNICIPALITIES AND EVALUATION OF 40 PROMISES OF MAYORS

SUMMARY OF KEY BENEFICIARY CATEGORIES

- 1 Elderly and Isolated Persons – Nearly all municipalities identify the elderly as a vulnerable group in need of support, especially those who are isolated or lack family assistance.
- 2 Persons with Disabilities – A significant group benefiting from social services includes persons with disabilities, such as the blind, those with work-related disabilities, and individuals with severe physical or mental disorders.
- 3 Women and Girls Victims of Violence – Many municipalities report women and girls who are victims of domestic violence as beneficiaries of social services, often including victims of trafficking.
- 4 Children and Youth in Need – This includes orphaned children, those in foster care, children with disabilities, and children who are abandoned or at high risk of social exclusion.
- 5 Families in Economic Hardship – A broad category encompassing families with no income, families receiving economic assistance, and those facing significant socio-economic difficulties.
- 6 Roma and Egyptian Communities – This community is reported as vulnerable in several municipalities, particularly those living in severe social and economic conditions.

- 7 Individuals in Special Risk Situations – This includes the homeless, people with substance dependencies, returned migrants with social problems, and the LGBTI community in some municipalities.

Some municipalities have an extensive list of categories benefiting from social services, while others report no vulnerable categories at all or provide incomplete information. This suggests a lack of standardization in the identification and support policies.

SOCIAL SERVICES FAIL TO ADDRESS SOCIAL ALL NEEDS

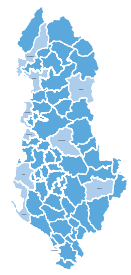
Certain vulnerable groups, such as individuals struggling with substance abuse, trafficking victims, and the LGBTI community, are not mentioned in most municipalities, indicating a lack of focus on their specific needs.

CALL FOR CLEARER POLICIES AND BETTER INTEGRATED SUPPORT

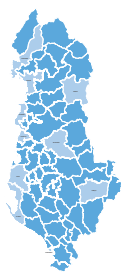
Municipalities that place greater emphasis on identifying vulnerable populations can serve as models for those that lack proper services for these groups. There is a need for a better system to share best practices and harmonize social policies at the local level. This analysis highlights the ongoing challenges in including and effectively supporting vulnerable groups in all municipalities, underscoring the need for improvements in social approaches and support policies.

TABLE 3 - CATEGORIES OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IDENTIFIED IN MUNICIPALITIES THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM SOCIAL SERVICES.

No.	Municipality	Categories of vulnerable groups identified in municipalities that can benefit from social services.
1	Municipality of Belsh	Elderly people; Children with disabilities
2	Municipality of Berat	Women and girls who have been abused; Children in need of protection; Roma and Egyptian communities; Families in difficulty and in need of socio-economic assistance; Persons with disabilities; Homeless people
3	Municipality of Bulqiza	Victims of domestic violence; Elderly people
4	Municipality of Cërrik	No response
5	Municipality of Delvina	Elderly people; People with disabilities
6	Municipality of Devoll	Women in need of protection; Children and youth in critical situations; Elderly people; Homeless people; Individuals with disabilities and work-related disabilities; Individuals in economic need; Unemployed people; Roma and Egyptians



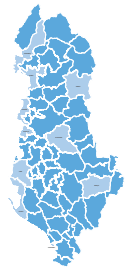
7	Municipality of Dibra	Children with disabilities; Children in foster care; Orphaned children; Victims of domestic violence; Elderly people living alone
8	Municipality of Dimal	National minorities; Abused women; Persons with disabilities; Children in need and protection; other vulnerable groups.
9	Municipality of Divjaka	Workplace invalids; Persons with blindness status; Paraplegics; Persons with disabilities; People receiving Economic Assistance, Families in need (orphans, individuals with protection orders, elderly pensioners living alone); Abused women, abused girls over 18, abused adult men; Roma and Egyptian communities; Adults with mental health issues.
10	Municipality of Dropull	People with disabilities, blind people, paraplegics, invalids, lonely pensioners, autistic children, people dependent on alcohol, people abandoned by families
11	Municipality of Durrës	Children in need of protection, abused women, children with disabilities, the elderly, Roma and Egyptian communities, LGBTI community members, individuals at risk of exclusion and danger, potential victims of trafficking and exploitation.
12	Municipality of Elbasan	The elderly, ethnic minorities, abused women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTI community
13	Municipality of Fier	Families in need and without income sources, lonely elderly people, children with disabilities aged 6-19, children and youth from families in need and the Roma and Egyptian communities, minors and women victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual abuse, individuals in emergency street situations, at risk of trafficking or trafficking, children without parental care or in exploitation situations.
14	Municipality of Finiq	Lonely elderly people, people with disabilities, children, victims of domestic violence
15	Municipality of Fushë-Arrëz	Individuals over 18 registered as beneficiaries of economic assistance; job seekers; workplace invalids; persons with disabilities over 18; youth; adults with social issues due to poverty benefiting from economic assistance; women with health problems; women victims of violence and trafficking; returned migrants with problems.
16	Municipality of Gjirokastra	No specific information.
17	Municipality of Gramsh	The elderly; youth, victims of domestic violence; families in need; people with disabilities.
18	Municipality of Has	Youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, and children in economic difficulty.
19	Municipality of Himara	People in need, children and youth, girls and women survivors of domestic violence.
20	Municipality of Kamëz	Families in need; Children in need of protection; Victims of domestic violence; Persons with disabilities; Roma and Egyptian communities.
21	Municipality of Kavaja	Low-income families; Persons with disabilities; Ethnic minority communities such as Roma and Egyptian communities; Children without parental care; Women and girls in difficult situations.
22	Municipality of Këlcyra	Lonely or abandoned pensioners, people with disabilities, and invalids.
23	Municipality of Klos	Lonely elderly people; persons with disabilities; women/girls; children in need of protection; families in need
24	Municipality of Kolonja	The elderly, people with disabilities
25	Municipality of Konispol	No vulnerable category
26	Municipality of Korça	Families with children placed in social care institutions (regardless of the reasons for the child's separation); families at risk of institutionalizing their children; families with significant difficulties in parenting that affect the child's development and family dynamics; families with conflictual relationships, including divorced families, single-parent families, mother-headed families, mother-daughter relationships, or those affected by a significant loss in the family, etc.; families with members with mental or physical health issues, substance abuse (alcohol/narcotics), or disabilities; professional foster families in need of support in adapting to the child or managing their problematic behaviors that may affect the child's development. Families in social-economic difficulties.
27	Municipality of Kruja	Families receiving economic assistance; persons with disabilities; abused women; Roma and Egyptian communities; lonely elderly people; workplace invalids; orphaned children; children with disabilities; blind people; paraplegics.
28	Municipality of Kuçova	Individuals with health issues; the abandoned; persons with disabilities; victims of violence; children in street situations



MONITORING REPORT

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29	Municipality of Kukës	Children with disabilities; the elderly; victims of violence
30	Municipality of Kurbin	Abused women; children of adults with disabilities; children in need of protection and at risk; families with no income and in need, and families in need
31	Municipality of Lezha	Children; the elderly; persons with disabilities; victims of domestic violence and trafficking; persons in need of financial assistance; the homeless; Roma and Egyptian communities; the LGBTI community; youth
32	Municipality of Libohova	The elderly and people with disabilities
33	Municipality of Librazhd	Persons with disabilities; the elderly; the Egyptian community; orphaned children; abused women
34	Municipality of Lushnje	The elderly; divorced and widowed women; young mothers; victims of domestic violence; abandoned children; persons with disabilities; families in difficult socio-economic conditions.
35	Municipality of Malësi e Madhe	Persons with disabilities; the elderly; abused women
36	Municipality of Maliq	Abused women; children; families from vulnerable groups; the elderly; persons with disabilities
37	Municipality of Mallakastra	Families in need; individuals receiving disability payments
38	Municipality of Mat	Children at risk; persons with disabilities; unsupported elderly; families and individuals living in poverty; women and girls victims of domestic violence; youth without economic support or at high risk of social exclusion
39	Municipality of Memaliaj	Families in need; abused women; children victims of domestic violence; elderly
40	Municipality of Mirdita	People receiving economic assistance; people with disabilities; work-invalids; children with orphan status; victims of domestic violence; children in foster families; elderly over 100 years old; the homeless.
41	Municipality of Patos	Persons with disabilities; families with little or no income; women victims of violence; minors from families in need and beyond; the elderly
42	Municipality of Peqin	People with disabilities; the elderly
43	Municipality of Përmet	Elderly living alone; individuals or children with disabilities; abused women; the Egyptian community; homeless families; children in street situations; persons facing economic difficulties
44	Municipality of Pogradec	Persons with disabilities, paraplegics and tetraplegics, elderly in need and living alone, services for children and abused women, Roma and Egyptian communities.
45	Municipality of Poliçan	Families in need with no income; people with disabilities; abandoned elderly; elderly living alone; persons over 50 living alone; individuals reported as violent cases; individuals with orphan status.
46	Municipality of Përrenjas	People with disabilities; families on economic assistance; orphans; female-headed households; abused women; elderly living alone; Roma and Egyptian communities
47	Municipality of Puka	Abused women; divorced women; orphans; elderly pensioners living alone.
48	Municipality of Pustec	Families receiving Economic Assistance
49	Municipality of Roskovec	Children and persons with disabilities; women survivors of domestic violence; families in need and on economic aid; children in need of protection and psycho-social support or other referral services; children and youth in conflict with the law; elderly in need and living alone.
50	Municipality of Rrogozhina	Elderly persons; individuals with disabilities; low-income families; children and youth; victims of violence and trafficking; Roma and Egyptian communities.
51	Municipality of Saranda	Children without parental care; multi-functional center for the elderly; families on economic aid; people with disabilities
52	Municipality of Selenica	Egyptians; female-headed households; families in need; orphans; foster children; elderly pensioners living alone
53	Municipality of Shijak	Families in need; children in need of protection; children with disabilities; abused women; elderly living alone.



54	Municipality of Shkodra	Children who are under protection; persons with disabilities; adults with social issues; victims of domestic violence, trafficking, drug and alcohol addiction; pregnant girls or single parents with a child up to 1 year old; minors and youth in conflict with the law; elderly people in need
55	Municipality of Skrapar	Elderly in need; families receiving economic aid and those with disabilities; children with disabilities
56	Municipality of Tepelena	Elderly individuals who are alone and in need; children with disabilities; abused women; women who are heads of households
57	Municipality of Tirana	Families and all children, including those under protection; people with disabilities; adults with social problems; victims of violence, trafficking, or proven drug and alcohol addiction; pregnant girls or single parents with a child under one year; minors and youth in conflict with the law; elderly people in need.
58	Municipality of Tropoja	Extremely poor families; abused women; street children; persons with disabilities; elderly people living alone.
59	Municipality of Vau Dejës	Children with disabilities
60	Municipality of Vlorë	Community day center for people with disabilities and a day center for the elderly and vulnerable groups.
61	Municipality of Vora	People suffering from serious illness

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