

**COUNTRY FICHE**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**A: Legal Basis:**

<p>Art 20.9 of the Single Basic Act:</p> <p>The SRG shall report to the GB, and act as an interface with the JU, on the following matters:</p>	Status of relevant national/regional R&I programmes
	Identification of cooperation areas including concrete actions for deployment/uptake of technologies/innovative solutions
	Dissemination events, communication activities
	National/regional measures concerning deployment activities in relation to JU
	National/regional initiatives ensuring complementarities with JU SRIA Agenda/AWP
<p>Art. 20.10 of the Single Basic Act:</p> <p>The SRG shall submit, at the end of each calendar year, a report:</p>	Describing national/regional policies in the scope of the JU
	Identifying specific ways of cooperation with the actions funded by the JU

**B. General Information – to be filled in by each SRG representative and submitted to the EU-RAIL JU on an annual basis:**

<b>Policy</b>	Competent authority:	<b>Albanian Railways/Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy</b>
	Contact details: name and e-	<b>Gentian LIKO, Administrator</b> <a href="mailto:gentian.liko@hekurudha.al">gentian.liko@hekurudha.al</a>



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<b>Strategy</b>	Short description of priorities	<p>Transport Sector Strategy and Action Plan (2025),  <i>Update of the NTS to 2020</i></p> <p><i>Priorities in the railway sector are as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Alignment and Implementation of railway legislation, according to the EU legislation;</i></li> <li><i>2. Fulfillment of the recommendations of the EC annual progress reports;</i></li> <li><i>3. Establishment of independent railway bodies, in implementation of the relevant legislation;</i></li> <li><i>4. Intensification of work for the creation of an integrated transport system, focusing the work on the connection of the ports of Albania with the railway;</i></li> <li><i>5. Establishment of intermodal railway stations Railways - Roads - Railways - urban transport;</i></li> <li><i>6. Completion of all phases of projects launched in the Core and comprehensive network of WB, including the railway connection with Montenegro MNE and toward the Republic of North Macedonia;</i></li> <li><i>7. Railway connection of Albania with Kosovo;</i></li> <li><i>8. Railway connection of Albania with Greece.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>The priorities are as in the European Transport Policy: Albania's transport policies needs to align with the European Transport Policy and coordinate with neighboring countries in the Western Balkans, as in the National Transport Strategy, 2025, referring to the SSMS for the Western Balkans. Moreover, the priorities as in Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy with concrete milestones and 82 initiatives in 10 key areas for action to make the transport system more sustainable, smart and feasible. The goals include having almost all cars, vans, buses and new heavy vehicles with zero emissions by 2050, and doubling rail freight traffic by the same year. The strategy also focuses on making interurban and urban mobility healthy and sustainable, and promoting innovation and the use of artificial intelligence and data for smarter mobility. The European Commission is committed to strengthening the Single Market, making mobility fair and equitable for all, and improving the safety and security of transport in all ways. In the Albanian transport sector strategy it is referred</i></p>

		<p><i>the priorities from the EUSAIR Strategy and its Annex (Adendum)</i></p> <p><i>NTS-The European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), defines the needs and potential for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Adriatic and Ionian Region. This Strategy is accompanied by an action plan, based on the following pillars:</i></p> <p><i>Connection of the Region (transport and energy networks), interconnection agenda; Environmental quality; Sustainable tourism.</i></p> <p><i>It considers the following two interrelated aspects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Capacity building, including communication, for effective implementation and awareness raising and public support</i></li> <li>- <i>Innovation to strengthen the employment of people with high skills, growth and competition.</i></li> </ul>
	<p>Areas covered</p>	<p>TRANSPORT SECTOR AS A WHOLE</p> <p>TRANSVERSAL 1- Soft measure level 1</p> <p>Creation and operation of the Thematic Group for Transport, as part of GMPI for Competitiveness and Innovation.</p> <p>1.1. Albanian transport sector in the context of Albania's National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) and in the regional and EU context</p> <p>1.1.3 Transport Sector Strategy and Digital Infrastructure</p> <p>1.2. Detailed evaluation/ assessment</p> <p>1.2.1. Albanian transport sector as a whole</p> <p>1.2.3. Rail transport</p> <p>1.2.6. Intermodal and combined transport</p> <p>2.1. Strategic priority/ objectives for transport sector as a whole</p> <p>2.3. Priorities and strategic objectives for rail transport</p> <p>2.6. Strategic priorities and objectives for the e-FTI in the intermodal and combined transport</p> <p>3. Policies: Action Plan</p> <p>3.1. Methodological approach</p> <p>3.2 Priority actions for transport sector as a whole</p> <p>3.5. Priority actions for rail transport</p> <p>3.8. Priority actions for intermodal and combined transport</p> <p>4. Implications of Resources</p> <p>5. Accountability, Monitoring And Evaluation</p> <p>5.1. Integrated management policy group and innovation GMPI for the transport sector</p>

		<p>5.2. Assessment and control</p> <p>5.3. Monitoring indicators</p> <p>The NTS 2025 is aligned with policies as in the "Working Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics" (WP.24 and its predecessors) tasked with monitoring and analyzing national measures to promote intermodal and combined transport. Innovation covering all components of the transport chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NTS - Sustainable Transport Plan in Albania. Albania has actively participated in the TCT study on deployment of e-freight in the WB6 Balkans and implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information, with the pilot project on Road, and future deployment for the rail and maritime. Albania is currently transposing the directive of inland transport of dangerous goods (by road and rail) as in the Directive 2008/68/EU which is partially aligned in Albanian legislation, in the Law No 118/2012 on transport TDG, and ADR (road) and RID (rail). Additionally, there are plans in place to align with and adhere to the Council Directive 92/106/EEC of 7 December 1992. This directive aims to establish common rules for specific types of combined transport of goods between Member States. The planning and approximation of these rules are expected to be carried out within a medium-term timeframe. The two actions where Albania is involved are included in Priority Roads 5, RAILWAY 5 and RAILWAY 6 of this National Transport Strategy and Action Plan 2025.</li> </ul> <p>2.6. Strategic priorities and objectives for the e-FTI in the intermodal and combined transport</p> <p>When be able to travel smoothly throughout Albania using sustainable movement choices and different modes of transport. Businesses and the logistics operator should experience fewer delays caused by excessive bureaucracy. This added multimodality must be driven through digitalization and automation, supported by innovation. Innovation is the critical factor to shape the mobility of the future and green transport, so the right framework and creators must be put in place to facilitate the transition to sustainable and smart transport and more efficient transport solutions. In order to achieve an uninterrupted journey which will be sustainable at the same time, directions of the future must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) multimodal passenger tickets; a ticket for all types;</li> <li>b) and e-merchandise or multimodal systems;</li> </ol>
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		<p>c) digitalization of freight transport; and equipment automation;</p> <p>ç) the establishment of intelligent transport solutions for all modes;</p> <p>d) exchange of digital data at borders, through broadband extension and e-FTI;</p> <p>e) Innovation in the interconnection of transport, energy and digital networks.</p> <p>The main strategic objective for the development of multimodal transport in Albania is to connect the Albanian ports with large logistics centers (existing and planned) in neighboring countries, especially on the axes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Corridor VIII (railway connection with the Republic of North Macedonia and further towards Bulgaria);</li> <li>-Route 2 (Tirana - Shkodra - Podgorica), and port connections with Kosovo, towards them and beyond</li> <li>- Construction of a regional multimodality center with UAMD, IoT, HSH, DIH, UPT etc. (Training institution)</li> <li>- Certification of the national remote telecommunication center for railway vehicles, which will administer traffic systems for trains with access to port infrastructures (Durrës, Vlora, Shengjin) and railway service plants (UPN) at the main project</li> <li>- Equal development for all modes of transport (strengthening the position of multimodal and rail transport).</li> <li>- Feasibility for 7 logistics centers in Elbasan and Milot, Fier, Vora, Kukes, Rrogozhinë, Prrenjas.</li> <li>- Construction of 7 logistics centers supports the attractiveness of the line and the relocation of APD2 with 5 railway branches. Parties: Albanian Railways or the new railway infrastructure manager. Durrës Port Authority (AP1 and APD2) and PIR Group (Petrolifera) with the Fier-Vlora railway and the new quay for dangerous goods (solids or solids, fuels or liquids, etc.). The mining industry as central, North-east, and south-East with future connections.</li> <li>- Prioritization of ERRAC innovation research for the EU program where HSH and MEI and TCT participate,</li> <li>- Implementation of Shift2rail cooperation agreement with TCT and STC (MEI) for conducting on-line demonstrations;</li> <li>- Mobilization of the participation of MEI, HSH, DIH etc. with the UIC program of Horizon Europe for railway maintenance</li> </ul>
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		<p>- Conducting regional study with TCT and DIH, MEI, HSH, Albrail Ltd, etc. on level transitions based on the UIC LC model acting according to the call for R &amp; I programs.</p> <p>As stated in the TRANSVERSAL Priority Action 1, the Thematic Group for Transport, as part of the Integrated Policy Management Group (GMPI) for Competitiveness and Innovation, after the adoption of the strategy and will manage in a systematic and integrated way for the development, implementation and monitoring of the reforms of the transport sector in Albania.</p> <p>The Thematic Group for Transport, as part of the GMIP for Competitiveness and Innovation, is established by order of the Prime Minister, as an inter-institutional structure directed by the General Secretary of the MIE, with representatives of the directors of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the responsible technical institutions for each mode of transport. Members of the GMIP are representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Integration, other implementing agencies such as ADF, as well as representatives of other institutions that may be invited to participate depending on the agenda. Also, for certain issues, the main donors for the sector (EU, WB, development banks, etc.), as well as other development actors, are invited to participate.</p>
	Web-links	<a href="https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/en/dokumenta-strategjike/">https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/en/dokumenta-strategjike/</a>
<b>Dedicated or other related programmes</b>	Short description, including Technology Readiness Levels covered within the programme	<p>ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMME 2023-2025 (ERP) in <a href="https://financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Economic-Reform-Programme-2023-2025.pdf">https://financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Economic-Reform-Programme-2023-2025.pdf</a></p> <p>TA to Connectivity in the Western Balkans EuropeAid/137850/IH/SER/MULTI, Code: CONNECTA-TRA-CRM-ITS-08</p> <p>Area: Connectivity Transport Reform Measures</p> <p>Technical Assistance for preparation of national ITS strategy for Albania (railway and maritime) and other regional partners in the Western Balkan WB6</p> <p>FINAL REPORT, September 2023</p> <p>REPORT 2: Assessment of the current situation in terms of policy framework, legal approximation as per Annex I of Transport Community Treaty, institutional &amp; technological framework, Feb 2023</p>

		<p>REPORT 3 : Development of the Vision and Strategic Objectives, September 2023</p> <p>REPORT 4 : Development of Measures for achieving the strategic objectives for short, mid, and long-term development scenarios, and implementation roadmap and monitoring, September 2023</p> <p>Western Balkans investment framework (WBIF)</p>
<b>Calls/Funding scheme identifications</b>	Short description	<p>1. Title of the project: Rehabilitation of railway Durrësi – Tirana and construction of the new railway to Rinasi Branch 1.1. Title of the grant: Rehabilitation of railway Durrësi – Tirana and construction of the new railway to Rinasi Branch (WB-IG01-ALB-TRA-01)</p> <p>2. Title of the project: Rehabilitation of the Railway line Vora – Hani i Hotit 2.1. Title of the grant: Detailed Design for Rehabilitation of Railway line Vora – Hani i Hotit (WB16-ALB-TRA-01)</p> <p>3. Title of the project: Rehabilitation of the railway line Durrësi – Rrogozhina 3.1. Title of the project: Detailed design for rehabilitation of the railway line Durrësi – Rrogozhina (WB21-ALB-TRA-01)</p> <p>4. Title of the project: Corridor VIII Rail – Durrësi – Pogradeci – Lin section 4.1. Title of the grant: PD and ESIA for section Rrogozhina to Pogradeci – Border to Republic of North Macedonia</p> <p>5. Title of the programme: IPA 2021 – 2027 Program/IPA III Agreement Albania – EU 5.1. Title of the project: Technical assistance to Transport strategy sector – RAIL, Maritime (IPA 2022, EUIF Instrument)</p> <p>6. Title of the programme: IPA CBC 2014 – 2020 6.1. Title of the programme: Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020 Title of the project: “Initiative for improving cross border transport through rail connection between Krystallopigi and Pogradec”</p> <p>7. Title of the programme: European regional Development Fund Interreg Balkan MED (Balkan Mediterranean)</p>

		<p>7.1. Title of the project: SCOPE Shared freight transport services connecting shipper and carrier operations (forwarding and carriers)</p> <p>8. Title of the program: IPA Interregional 2014 – 2020, Adriatic and Ionian Agreement</p> <p>8.1. Title of the programme: Interreg Adrion Programme 2014 – 2020</p> <p>8.2. Title of the project: “Inter-Modality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic – Ionian Region”/ INTER-CONNECT</p> <p>9. Title of the project: Detailed design study in the extension of railway line Tirana Public transport terminal to Tirana new boulevard terminal (Light rail Tramway in Tirana-LRT)</p> <p>9.1. Timeline of project: 2016 – 2024 (status: ongoing, with the update/review). The Smart City Program and strategic railway project started from June 2020 to June 2021, € 550,000. 100% Grant from EBRD/WBIF, between the stakeholders the Ministry as a promoter to the Project, Albania MIE &amp; Albania Railways HSH, and Tirana Municipality.</p> <p>10. Title of the project: Feasibility study &amp; concept-design of Durrës-Pristine railway connection</p> <p>10.1. Project’s cost and financing resources the project is adopted under the ANTP3, Milot-Morine</p> <p>11. Title of the project: Railway maintenance program under the M&amp;R strategy with the AMP</p> <p>11.1. Project’s cost and financing resources the project is adopted under the AMP technical project EU. Timeline of the project: 2022 – 2026</p> <p>11.2. Status: finalized in 29 June 2022, with the EBRD technical EU TA Results on Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges</p>
	Time-plan	<b>2023-2030 (as in the NTS 2025 and until 2038 as in the ANTP3)</b>
	Available budget	<b>1,094 billion euros</b>
	Strategic priorities	<p>1. Strategic priority 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reforming the railway sector to create an open market for the public and private investors, ensuring sustainable and smart transport</li> </ul> <p>1.1. Priority Railway Action 1</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reforming the railway sector to create an open market for the public and private investors, ensuring sustainable and smart transport</li> <li>1.2. Priority Railway Action 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separation of the management from the operation in the Albanian Railway</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.3. Priority Railway Action 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fully functioning of railway safety bodies (safety, accident investigation) and market regulatory body and staff training</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.4. Priority Railway Action 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electrification of the rail network in Albania</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Strategic priority 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To achieve a comprehensive and modernized rail network in Albania while simultaneously strengthening regional cooperation through improved rail connections.</li> <li>2.1. Priority Railway Action 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integration of the TEN-T Main Axis in the corridor system of the European Railway Network (RNE) and implementation of the respective RNE and RFC procedures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2.2. Priority Railway Action 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of inland attractive railway corridors for the Port of Dures in line with the 5 years multiannual plan and the active involvement of ports for promotion and marketing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2.3. Priority Railway Action 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a high level of maintenance through a preventive system, for maintenance, on the core and comprehensive railway network</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The strategic objectives in rail transport currently are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuation of the Railway Reform, that means institutions fully operational and separation of the management from the infrastructure;</li> <li>- Modernization of the railway network with the implementation of the Fourth Railway Package as an obligation under the Transport Community Treaty</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Strategic priority 1 Inter-modality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of intermodal and combined transport</li> <li>3.1. INTERMODAL Priority Action 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li></ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinate national policy measures to promote the e-FTI intermodal and combined transport.</li> </ul> <p>3.2. INTERMODAL Priority Action 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of intermodal legal centers to facilitate multimodal transportation.</li> </ul> <p>3.3. Priority action INTERMODAL 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of the missing connection from the new cargo terminal in Durrës to the regional railway network.</li> </ul> <p>3.4. Priority action INTERMODAL 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining a National Multimodal Strategy of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)</li> </ul>
	Web-link	<a href="https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/dokumenta-strategjike/">https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/dokumenta-strategjike/</a>
	Future calls (time plan if any)	<p><b>Yes in the WBIF calls twice per year</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/investment-grants">https://www.wbif.eu/investment-grants</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/technical-assistance-grants">https://www.wbif.eu/technical-assistance-grants</a></p>
<b>General dissemination events, communication activities</b>	Short description, including target audience for, for example, : General info days National programme consultation	<p><a href="https://hekurudha.al/projekte/?lang=en">https://hekurudha.al/projekte/?lang=en</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/storage/app/media/Library/10.Projects/Flagships%202022/WBIF%20ALB%20Rail%20R2%20Vore%20HHotit%20Factsheet%20final%20July%202022%201.pdf">https://www.wbif.eu/storage/app/media/Library/10.Projects/Flagships%202022/WBIF%20ALB%20Rail%20R2%20Vore%20HHotit%20Factsheet%20final%20July%202022%201.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20210795">https://www.eib.org/en/projects/all/20210795</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/start-eu-funded-technical-assistance-rehabilitation-durres-rrogozhina-railway-section-albania">https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/start-eu-funded-technical-assistance-rehabilitation-durres-rrogozhina-railway-section-albania</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/eu-funded-technical-assistance-rehabilitation-durres-rrogozhina-railway-section-albania">https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/eu-funded-technical-assistance-rehabilitation-durres-rrogozhina-railway-section-albania</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/eu-and-ebrd-support-rehabilitation-tirana-durres-railway-albania">https://www.wbif.eu/news-details/eu-and-ebrd-support-rehabilitation-tirana-durres-railway-albania</a></p> <p><a href="https://wbif.eu/project-detail/PRJ-ALB-TRA-008">https://wbif.eu/project-detail/PRJ-ALB-TRA-008</a></p> <p><a href="https://ecep.ebrd.com/delta/viewNotice.html?displayNoticeId=26326730">https://ecep.ebrd.com/delta/viewNotice.html?displayNoticeId=26326730</a></p>



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