

## **SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS OF ALBANIA (SEI)**

This project aims to assist the Government of Albania with the harmonization of the national legislation with the EU acquis and increase the capacities of the involved structures in the accession negotiations process. This comes as part of the work SEI is conducting in the identification of institutional, legal, operational and communication needs to ensure long term results. The political decision taken by the Council on March 25, 2020 opened accession negotiations between Albania and European Union. Our country is now preparing for an important milestone such as the First Intergovernmental Conference as it embodies the technical aspect. The pre-screening process which has to do with the harmonization of legislation with EU Acquis has started with explanatory meetings for 33 chapters and the dialogue and interaction between state and non-state institutions has been mandatory. The involvement of civil society actors, private sector, academia, social partners, and other interest groups in informing and monitoring the accession negotiations process of the country was facilitated by The Prime Minister Order 113/2019 "On the forms of participation, modus operandi and institutional structure of The European Integration Partnership Platform (EIPP)." Moreover, with regards to Order No. 94, date 20.05.2019 "On the establishment, structure and functioning of inter-institutional working groups for European integration" 33 inter-institutional working groups have been established for 33 negotiating chapters. Inter-Institutional Working Groups (IIWG) are responsible to prepare action plans for each chapter and their heads should also chair the consultation tables of the EIPP. These discussion Tables aim to establish steady and efficient strategies that will raise public awareness and provide more information for the access negotiation process. A ministry may be responsible for one or more chapters hence Inter-Institutional groups, which means that the roundtables need to go in accordance with that. Regarding these objectives and the measures taken by the government, the number of PPEI Tables of Discussion and Consultations established to date (from a total of 33) has been assessed below.

➤ **The Ministry of Finances and Economy (MFE) is the lead institution for:**

- Chapter 1 (Free movement of goods);
- Chapter 2 (Freedom of movement for workers)
- Chapter 3 (Right of establishment and freedom to provide services)
- Chapter 6 (Company Law)
- Chapter 7 (Intellectual property law)
- Chapter 16 (Taxation)
- Chapter 20 (Enterprise and industrial policy)
- Chapter 28 (Consumer and health protection)
- Chapter 29 (Customs Union)

- Chapter 30 (External relations)
  - Chapter 32 (Financial Control)
  - Chapter 33 (Financial and Budgetary provisions)
- The economic criteria

The roundtables for Chapter 6 (Company Law), Chapter 16 (Taxation), Chapter 29 (Customs Union) and Chapter 32 (Financial Control) led by the Ministry of Finance and Economy were held on July 12, 2021. WG V as part of the NCEI has conducted 2 roundtables, the second ones for Chapter 1,3 and 20 and 28 were held on July 22, 2021. For the remaining chapters only one respective roundtable has been organized.

\*This information is not available on the official website of the MFE.  
<https://financa.gov.al/tryezat/>

\*The data has been extracted from the SEI Workshop On (EIPP) based on the remarks of Vasilika Vjero, Deputy Minister at Ministry of Finance and Economy and the roundtables organized as part of the NCEI.

- **The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 22 (Regional Policy and coordination of structural instruments) one roundtable 08.07.2020 and the second one was supposed to be organized in October 2020 but it was canceled.
  - Chapter 31 (Foreign, security and defense policy) no information has been provided

\*This information is not available on the official website of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

<http://integrimi-ne-be.punetejashtme.gov.al/strukturat/platforma-e-partneritetit-per-integrimin-evropian/>

- **The Ministry of Justice** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) (topics: Judiciary, Anti-Corruption, Fundamental Rights); The Political Criteria

Five roundtables and meetings have been set up four of which within the framework of the NCEI as part of WG I November 16,2020; February 5, 2021 ; June 18, 2021 ; June 29, 2021 <https://drejtesia.gov.al/fjala-e-plote-te-mbajtur-sot-ne-aktivitetin-qe-u-zhvillua-ne-kuader-te-konventes-kombetare-per-integrimin-evropian/>

- **Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth** is the lead institution for:

- Chapter 25 (Science and Research)
- Chapter 26 (Education and culture)

Only one common roundtable has been organized for Chapter 25 and 26.

\*No information can be found online regarding the roundtable except for the invitations to participate: <http://arsimi.gov.al/>

- **The Ministry of Infrastructure and energy (MIE)** is the lead institution for :
  - Chapter 10 (Information society and media)
  - Chapter 14 (Transport policy)
  - Chapter 15 (Energy)
  - Chapter 21 (Trans-European Network)

No information available regarding the roundtables:

<https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/>

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 11 (Agriculture and rural development)
  - Chapter 12 (Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy)
  - Chapter 13 (Fisheries)

No roundtables have been organized yet.

\*No information has been provided on the official website of the Ministry:

<https://bujqesia.gov.al/>

- **Ministry of Health and Social Protection** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 19 (Social policy and employment)

\* Preparations have started on November 5, 2021 but no information is available

<https://shendetesia.gov.al/>

- **Ministry of Internal Affairs** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 24 (Justice, freedom, security)

3 roundtables have been organized

\*No information on the official website: <https://mb.gov.al/>

- **Ministry of Tourism and Environment** is the lead institution for :
  - Chapter 27 (Environment)

No information available for the roundtables but the announcement has been made:

<http://turizmi.gov.al/njoftim-publik-lidhur-me-marrjen-pjese-ne-tryezat-e-diskutimit-dhe-keshillimit-ne-kuader-te-p/>

- **Bank of Albania** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 4 (Free movement of Capital)
  - Chapter 17 (Economic and monetary policy)

No information available: <https://www.bankofalbania.org/kreu/>

- **Public Procurement Agency** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 5 (Public Procurement)

2 public announcements one in September and the second one in October but the interest was insufficient to establish the Consultation Table. \*No further information available :

<http://www.app.gov.al/>

- **Competition Authority of Albania** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 8 (Competition policy)

No information available: <http://www.caa.gov.al/>

- **Financial Supervisory Authority** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 9 (Financial services)

\* No information available: <https://amf.gov.al/?lng=0>

- **INSTAT** is the lead institution for:
  - Chapter 18 (Statistics)

\*The inter-institutional working group has been formed but the information is not complete:

<http://www.instat.gov.al/al/integrimi/strukturat/grupi-nd%C3%ABrinstitucional-i-pun%C3%ABs-p%C3%ABr-integrimin-evropian-kapitulli-18-statistikat/>