



February 2022

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# EITI ALBANIA 2022-2023 Work Plan

## Annexe A: Narrative EITI Albania work plan

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This document represents EITI Albania work plan for the years 2022-2023. In this document, EITI Albania and the Albanian MSG have put down the objectives to fulfil during 2022-2023.

The natural flow of the Albanian EITI process requires us to upgrade from the “start-starting” phase to the “Advanced performing” EITI phase. Therefore we will focus and invest in those activities that will enable EITI processes to be rhythmic and sustainable.

This document is developed in accordance with Requirement 1.5 of the EITI Standard and the respective Guidance Note.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eiti.org/document/guidance-note-eiti-requirement-15>

# 1. Background and context

## ❖ Overview

Rich in natural resources, Albania uses the EITI to modernise and promote good governance of the extractive industries. The hydrocarbon, mineral and hydropower industries have been consistently contributing to the national income and development of the country. Albania's energy sector includes hydrocarbons (crude oil, natural gas, solid fuels), hydropower and renewable energy systems (RES), with crude oil being its primary source. In 2018 the energy sector accounted for 6.1% of country's GDP. The mining sector is mostly represented by chromium, copper and nickel-silicate, and had a domestic output estimated of USD 770 million in 2018. At the same time, Albania is the only EITI implementing country to expand its EITI scope to hydropower. While Albania's extractive sector has been previously dominated by state-owned enterprises, in 1994 it opened up to private investment. The Albanian government is promoting investment in its energy sector to stimulate development and job creation.

Albania's latest [EITI Report](#) published in December 2020 covered the 2017-2018 fiscal years. The country continues to report on hydropower and to disclose relevant information on commodity trading.<sup>2</sup>

## ❖ EITI Standard

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) implements the **global standard** to promote the open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources.

[The EITI Standard](#)<sup>3</sup> requires the disclosure of information along the extractive industry value chain from the point of extraction, to how revenues make their way through the government, and how they benefit the public. By doing so, the EITI seeks to strengthen public and

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/EITI-REPORT-ENG- FinalNEW.pdf>

corporate governance, promote understanding of natural resource management, and provide the data to inform reforms for greater transparency and accountability in the extractives sector. In each of the 56 implementing countries, the EITI is supported by a coalition of government, companies, and civil society.

### ❖ EITI in Albania

Government of Albania (GoA) expressed its support to EITI in March 2009, and Albania became an EITI candidate in May 2009. The implementation of the EITI agenda is ensured by technical Secretariat, which was created by a Ministerial council's decision on July 07, 2010 (repealed) by the Ministerial council's decision No. 993, December 9, 2015<sup>4</sup> and operates under the leadership of a Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), created by a Decree issued by the Prime Minister in July 21, 2011,<sup>5</sup>The MSG includes representatives of civil society, extractive industries, operators, and government. The Multi Stakeholder Group is headed by the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Energy and Industry, consisting of 16 representatives. The government is represented through the Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Justice, the General Directorate of Taxes, Geological Albanian Service and the National Agency of Natural Resources. There are also 5 representatives from civil society and 5 representatives from the companies which operate in extractive industry.

Albania is using the EITI process for wider reforms in the sector, including the development of a revenue management plan to address informality in the mining sector and building its capacity in contracts.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://eiti.org/standard/overview>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/VKM-nr.-993-date-09.12.15-per-organizimin-dhe-funkcionimin-e-Sekretariatit-Kombetar-te-Nismes-per-Transparence-ne-Industrine-Nxjerrrese-EITI-Shqiperi.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Urdheri-i-Kryeministrit-Nr.-71-date-21.07.2011.pdf>

## ❖ Albania Validation

During the Validation process Albania achieved a moderate overall score (82) in implementing the 2019 EITI Standard in February 2022.<sup>6</sup>

The EITI Board has determined that Albania will have until the next Validation to carry out corrective actions regarding:

- Industry engagement (Requirement 1.2);
- Contract and license allocation (Requirement 2.2);
- Contracts (Requirement 2.4);
- Beneficial ownership (Requirement 2.5);
- Comprehensiveness (Requirement 4.1);
- Subnational payments (Requirement 4.6);
- Disaggregation (Requirement 4.7);
- Data reliability (Requirement 4.9);
- Social and environmental expenditures (Requirement 6.1);
- Follow-up on EITI recommendations (Requirement 7.3);

## ❖ Work Plan Drafting and Approval

The drafting of this work plan is a result of the on-going consultation made over the past months with MSG members to design the activities needed to improve EITI implementation in Albania, the needs that identified during the implementation process in these years, the issues that have been raised during the Validation process, the recommendations left by the EITI Board in the Validation Decision, certainly in line with the priorities of the Albanian Government in the field of Natural Resources, Good Governance and Transparency and in accordance with

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<sup>6</sup> <https://eiti.org/board-decision/2022-15>

Requirement 1.5 of the EITI Standard.

The process of drafting the work plan was handled by the National Secretariat Staff based on the needs, discussions and issues raised by the MSG during the meetings, as well as the recommendations that have emerged from the Validation and the needs encountered during the EITI implementation process in Albania in previous years. After consultations and discussions with MSG, their comments, suggestion and decisions are reflected in this Work Plan.

The Work Plan will be updated progressively depending on the progress of activities, every 6 months.

## 2. National priorities and governance of the extractive industries

### GoA's Program 2021-2025 linked with the Work Plan activities

While reaching compliance with the EITI Global Standard it is very important at the same time to be in line with major objectives of GoA's Program 2021 -2025 and the Corrective Actions to be implemented.

The official GoA's Program 2021-2025 is conceived as a careful plan and detailed reforms and actions program, intended to materialize in each cell of governance "Albania 2030" Vision, a major project that embodies the ambition to take Albania to the next level of Economic and Social development.

The clear objectives set in GoA's Program to build step by step, European future for Albania, substantially relying on the main pillars, while the main 3 formulated in the Program are:

1. Economic recovery from earthquake and pandemic;

2. Welfare for all, which will translate into a developed economy that creates opportunities for everyone.

3. Modernization for the development of productive Economy, Tourism, **Energy etc.**

In the GoA's Program 2021-2025 is formulated that *“ Based on the objective for a strong and sustainable economy through modernization, productivity and competitiveness, Albania will be a net exporter of Electricity throughout the Region; with a much more diversified Energy system, and a place that reducing its Renewable hydropower reserves along droughts will offset it with Green energy, produced by Solar and Wind plants “.*

In the GoA's Program 2021-2025 in the European Integration Chapter is formulated :

*“In 2014, Albania received the status of Candidate country, after fulfillment in 5 main key areas, which included the fight against Corruption. Albania has made steady progress in all the priorities set by the EU and as a result of these achievements in March 2020 the EU took the decision to open membership negotiations with Albania, the last step towards full integration”.*

Alb EITI MSG and NATIONAL Secretariat are fully committed to ensure that EITI implementation continues to be relevant and in properly line with National priorities.

The formulation of the EITI Work Plan components has taken into consideration that activities should be compatible and organically in harmony with the main objectives and platforms set out in Governing Program regarding Extractive Industry in Energy Sector.

**EITI Implementation Support activities** included in the Work Plan will support the objectives essential to EITI implementation and to meet and maintain its EITI compliant status obligations, including **Annual EITI Report for Albania**. Recruitment of an independent administrator to oversee the preparation of the annual EITI report covering all extractive industries for the calendar year 2019 and 2020. Production of this annual report is a fundamental EITI Standard requirement.

This Activity (A) included in the Work Plan optimizes the GoA's Program 2021-2025 in the objectives as below :

*“Such an important principle of involvement of the public in the decision making processes will be the axis of government, in a more structured form, where the partnership with every Albanian citizen will be a partner of the government, as a guarantee of Transparency but also of regular measurement of government performance”.*

Also Activities A (Annual EITI Report for Albania) of the Work Plan include data disclosing for the Energy Sector and will reflect the objectives of GoA Program 2021-2025 / In the ENERGY – Chapter where is formulated:

*“Within 2022 we sign the contract for the design and construction of the Skavica Hydropower Plant, the largest HPP in the country”.*

*Within 2022, we sign the contract for the start of works for TEC Vlora, a project which includes the conversion of TEC Vlora with LNG, to the construction of a regasification terminal, to the small-scale distribution of LNG, turning Vlora into a regional HUB.*

*We start the construction of the 140 MW Karavasta Photovoltaic Park, the largest in the Balkans, in the spring of next year.*

*The Albanian Energy Exchange will become fully operational”.*

**The activities A - EITI Implementation Support** and it's activity **EITI Report** for the calendar year 2019 and 2020 it is also linked with the Corrective Actions left from the last Validation more specifically:

- ❖ Contract and License allocation (Requirement 2.2);
- ❖ Contracts (Requirement 2.4);
- ❖ Comprehensiveness (Requirement 4.1);
- ❖ Subnational payments (Requirement 4.6);
- ❖ Disaggregation (Requirement 4.7);
- ❖ Data reliability (Requirement 4.9);
- ❖ Social and environmental expenditures (Requirement 6.1);

In the drafting of TORs for the Independent Administrator ( IA ) who will prepare the EITI Reports 2019-2020, will be foreseen in detail every action that will be taken to correct the reporting gaps in the previous Reports, to increase the quality of reporting and to be in compliance with the recommendations left by the Validation team.

**Capacity Building activities** included in the Work Plan aimed the provision of technical assistance and core training on EITI and natural resources management through: (i) Training for MSG members, National Secretariat staff and stakeholders for their involvement in the EITI process; tailored training from well-known agencies, participation of stakeholders in international forums and workshops focused on natural resource governance ;

(ii) Participation of EITI and MSG members in events organized by International EITI and other implementing countries to share the Albanian experience, to connect with other implementing countries in order to share knowledge and effective ways of implementation.

**Capacity Building ( B ) activities** and its activity (i) *Training for MSG members, National Secretariat staff and stakeholders for their involvement in the EITI process*; tailored training from well-known agencies, participation of stakeholders in international forums and workshops focused on natural resource governance is in line with the corrective action:

Industry engagement (Requirement 1.2) :

*“Stakeholders have effectively used the EITI platform for public debate on reform of the extractive industries. The government remains fully engaged in EITI implementation, while Civil society has gradually expanded its engagement, outreach, and coordination with the broader constituency. However, the Board notes evidence of the weakening of industry participation in EITI and highlights the opportunity for companies to use EITI implementation to improve their corporate performance on environmental, social and governance indicators. The multi-stakeholder group has overcome challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to retain oversight of all aspects of EITI implementation, although further efforts to consider gender aspects of representation in EITI implementation are encouraged”.*

These foreseen activities will enable all the stakeholders, especially industry representatives to strength their engagement in the EITI implementation.

**C. Communication and Outreach activities** will support the implementation of the EITI Communication and Outreach activities accordingly to his communication Strategy for 2021-2022 including: Communication and Outreach for 2022 – 2023 regarding media outreach campaigns, Internet and social media activities, awareness raising events (US\$ 70,000)

These two activities ( B and C ) included in the Work Plan optimize the GoA’s Program 2021-2025 in the objectives formulated as below :

*“Such an important principle of involvement of the public in the decision making processes will be the axis of Government, in a more structured form, where the partnership with every Albanian citizen will be a partner of the government, as a guarantee of Transparency but also of regular measurement of government performance”.*



## **Communication and Outreach activities**

- ❖ Corrective Action: Industry engagement (Requirement 1.2);

These foreseen activities will enable all the stakeholders, to strengthen their engagement in the EITI implementation and highlights the opportunity for companies to use EITI implementation to improve their corporate performance on environmental, social and governance indicators and community information regarding their activities.

**Consultancy services for assessment of impact of the Albania Beneficial Ownership Law and relevant legislation.** Propose changes to current legislation in order to improve Beneficial Owners reporting, will include provision of support for the improvement of access to EITI data.

The activities as part of the Work Plan is fully in line with the objective of GoA's Program in the Albania more Secure and anti - Corruption Chapter where is formulated :

*“GoA will approve the law that provides and expands the access of the State Police to the registers of bank accounts, to the registers of Beneficial Owners ( BO ), suspicious transactions, as well as to the databases of taxes and customs authorities”.*

**Activity E - (iii) Consultancy services on including Renewable energy and Gas in EITI reporting (Energy Transition)** as part of the Work Plan is in line the objectives of GoA's Programm 2021-2025 / in the ENERGY – Chapter where is formulated :

*“Within 2022, we sign the contract for the start of works for TEC Vlora, a project which includes the conversion of TEC Vlora with LNG, to the construction of a regasification terminal, to the small-scale distribution of LNG, turning Vlora into a regional HUB.*

*We start the construction of the 140 MW Karavasta Photovoltaic Park, the largest in the Balkans, in the spring of next year”.*

Activities conceived and included in the Work Plan like :

- *Annual EITI Report for Albania 2019-2020;*
- *Consultancy services for assessment of impact of Albania Beneficial Ownership Law and relevant legislation*

- *Consultancy services on including Renewable Energy and Gas in Reporting ( Energy Transition )*

*Gender and Extractives ;* are provided in accordance with EITI International main priorities included : EITI Annual Reporting, Energy Transition, BO Transparency, Anti- Corruption, Gender and Extractives etc.

**Consultancy services for assessment of impact of the Albania Beneficial Ownership Law and relevant legislation.**

Regarding the Corrective Action: Beneficial ownership (Requirement 2.5) this activity is in line with it. Details on the best way to address this Corrective Actions will be discussed and established in collaboration with MSG in the ToR's that will prepare for this activity.

### 3. Activities

#### AlbEITI WORK PLAN 2022- 2023 (Table 1)

	Outcome	EITI Standard	Activities	Outcome and performance indicators	Milestones and timeline	Responsibility	Budget USD	Source	Status
1	Clarify the objectives of the EITI at the national level. Coordinate, Monitor, evaluate the EITI Implementation in Albania. Follow up on findings and recommendations of EITI reporting and Validation	Requirement 1.5	<b>AlbEITI 2022- 2023 Work Plan</b> - Planning activities  - Reorganization of activities including unimplemented activities of the work plan 2021. MSG approval.  - Online publication in the official website of EITI Albania.	Preparation and approval of the work plan aligned with the EITI standard .	2021- March 2022	Secretariat/ MSG	None	None	Completed
2	Assessment of Progress towards meeting each EITI Requirement. Assesment of progress towards achiving objectives set out in EITI Albania2021 Work	Requirement 7.4	<b>Annual Progress Report</b> - Preparation of the EITI Albania progress report for year 2021 in compliance with EITI standard.	Preparation and approval of the Annual Progress Report aligned with the EITI standard .	April 2022- June 2022	Secretariat/ MSG	None	None	Not started

	Plan.								
3	Ensure there is a clear and documented process that ensures actual review and follow up on recommendations from EITI reporting and validation.	Requirement 7.3	<p><b>Follow up on findings and recommendations of EITI reports 2017-2018 and III Validation of Albania.</b></p> <p>- Establishment of a permanent working group within the MSG which will continuously follow the findings of the EITI reports and the implementation of Corrective Actions arising from Albania Validations.</p> <p>- Informing the MSG every 3 months about the work done to address the findings. Results achieved, difficulties encountered.</p>	Addressing the findings of the EITI Report and Corrective Actions in accordance with the EITI Standard and the Board Decision on Albania Validation	2022-2023	MSG/ Secretariat	None	None	Not Started
	Communication and Outreach for 2022-2023 (media outreach campaigns, internet and social media activities, awareness raising events)	Requirements 7.4, 1.2, 1.3	<p><b>Communication and Outreach Activities for 2022-2023</b></p> <p>- Drafting ToRS in accordance with EITI Requirements 7.4, 1.2, 1.3 and the Board Decision on Albania Validation, targeting mostly areas when the extractive industries operates. (for ex. Bulqiza, Rroskovec, Patos, etc.) and relevant stakeholders such as extractive companies, Government</p>	Reach out to broader stakeholder constituencies, including increased use of telecommunications platforms to mitigate the potential limitations of outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic. To improve its efforts to document the impact of the Albanian EITI	2022-2023  2022	MSG/Secretariat/ Consultant	70,000 \$	World Bank	Not started

			<p><i>institutions, Local government, civil society, local public in the interested areas.</i></p> <p><i>- Discussion and approval by MSG of the Terms of Reference.</i></p> <p><i>- Development of the procurement process and selection.</i></p> <p><i>- Activities development.</i></p>	<p><i>process.</i></p>	<p>2022</p> <p><i>Upon approval and disbursement of the WB funding.</i></p> <p><i>Upon approval and disbursement of the WB funding- 2023</i></p>			
5	<p><b><i>Preparing and publishing EITI Reports 2019-2020 in accordance with the EITI Standard 2019 and the Board Decision on Albania III Validation.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Requirement 4.8</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>EITI Report 2019- 2020</i></b></p> <p><i>- Selection of reporting subjects for EITI reports.</i></p> <p><i>- Drafting ToRs in accordance with EITI Requirements 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 of the EITI Standard and the Board Decision on Albania Validation</i></p>	<p><i>Published EITI Reports</i></p>	<p><i>March- April 2022</i></p> <p><i>April - May</i></p>	<p>MSG</p> <p>MSG/ Secretariat</p>	<p>160000\$</p>	<p><i>Completed</i></p> <p><i>In Process</i></p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sending ToRs for comments and suggestion to International Secretariat.</li> <li>- Discussion and approval of MSG for the terms of reference referred to the EITI standard.</li> <li>- Approval of the ToRs from the World Bank</li> <li>- Development of the procurement process and contract signing.</li> <li>- Consulting Services to assist government agencies and extractive companies in implementing recommendations from EITI Reports and Corrective Actions from the Validation related to EITI Reports.</li> <li>- Publishing the Final Reports.</li> <li>- Informing the public about the results and findings of EITI Reports.</li> </ul>		2022					
					Upon approval and disbursement of the WB funding.					
					December 2022					
6	Following and addressing EITI		Discussing in the MSG meetings Addressing Corrective Actions	Corrective Action and recommendation	2022-2023	MSG/Secretariat	None	None	In process	

	<b>Albania III Validation Corrective Actions and Recommendations</b>		<i>from the Validation Report and monitoring the implementation of recommendations.</i>	<i>addressed (when possible)</i>					
7	<b>Capacity building EITI</b>	<b>Training programs for Albanian EITI staff and MSG members</b>	<p><i>Trainings from ASPA / DAP, Communication Standards, Public Policy Development, Project Management, Public Procurement, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Training of MSG members on the role of MSG, the purpose, opportunity and capacity to act and stakeholders on increasing their role in the Extractive Industry.</i></p> <p><i>Determining the complete training courses offered by reputable agencies in this field,</i></p>	<p><i>EITI Albania / ASPA/ DAP</i></p> <p><i>EITI Albania/MSG</i></p> <p><i>EITI Albania/ MSG</i></p> <p><i>EITI Albania / MSG/ EITI/ Intern. Secretariat / Other implement countries</i></p>	<p><i>2021-2022</i></p> <p><i>2021-2022</i></p>	<p><i>ASPA/DAP</i></p> <p><i>World Bank</i></p>	<p><i>None</i></p> <p><i>60000\$</i></p>		<p><i>In process</i></p> <p><i>Not started</i></p>

		<p><i>such as Universities, Research Agencies, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholder Participation in International Forums, Workshops Focused on Natural Resource Governance Participation of the Secretariat and MSG members in events organized by the International Secretariat EITI and other implementing countries to share the Albanian experience, to establish links with other implementing countries to enable better knowledge sharing and more effective implementation.</i></p>		<p>2021-2022</p> <p>2021- 2022</p>	<p>World Bank</p>	<p>20000\$</p>		<p><i>Not started</i></p>
	<p><b>Establishing greater partnership between EITI-Albania and other implementing countries to enable better knowledge sharing and more</b></p>							



		<p><b>Effective EITI implementation.</b></p> <p><b>Albania more aware of the latest developments in the EITI Standard.</b></p>							
8	<p><b>EITI Impact Assessment for the 10th Anniversary (10 Years of Transparency);</b></p> <p><b>EITI Transparency Week</b></p>	<p><b>A series of weekly meetings and information sessions on the transparency of extractive industries and the good governance of Natural Resources.</b></p> <p><b>An impact assessment that the implementation of EITI has had these 10 years in Albania</b></p>	<p><b>Extractive Industries Transparency Week will feature various EITI-related topics such as Gender, Transparency of Beneficial Ownership, systematic data reporting and good governance of extractive industries, etc.</b></p> <p><b>Selection of a consultant who through surveys, Google forms or other methods will assess the impact that EITI has had in Albania in these 10 years of implementation.</b></p>	<p><b>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Groups of interest/ Consultant</b></p>	2021	World Bank	30000\$		<b>Not started</b>

9	<b>Study for legal review for project-based reporting</b>	<b>Study for analysis and evaluation of the current legal basis for project-based reporting. changes to be made to enable project-based reporting of mining companies</b>	<b>Consulting services for analysis and evaluation of the current legal basis for project-based reporting. Identify changes that need to be proposed to enable project-based reporting of mining companies</b>	<b>EITI Albania /MSG/ Consultant</b>	2021	World Bank	20000\$		<i>Not started</i>
10	<b>Assessment of the impact of the Law on BO</b>	<b>Assess the impact of the Law on Beneficiary Ownership and make proposals for possible improvements</b>	<b>Consulting services for the analysis and assessment of the impact of the entry into force and implementation of the Law on Beneficiary Owners.</b>	<b>EITI Albania Shqiptar/MSG/ Consultant</b>	2022	World Bank	20000 \$		<i>Not started</i>
11	<b>Energy Transition Study in the Renewable Energy Sector: Gas / Wind / Solar;</b>	<b>Scoping Study for the inclusion of renewable energy and gas in the EITI Report</b>	<b>Consulting services for the evaluation of the production / use of renewable energy and gas in Albania and the possibility of their inclusion in the EITI Report.</b>	<b>EITI Albania / MSG/ Consultant</b>	2021	World Bank	35000\$		<i>Not started</i>

12	<b>Safety at work in the Extractive Industries Sector</b>	<b>Assessment of current safety at work legislation of extractive industries</b>	<i>Consulting services for reviewing current safety at work legislation of extractive industries, case study of some of the companies currently working in this sector and the evaluation on how these companies implement the legislation in force.</i>	<i>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Consultant</i>	2021	World Bank	35000 \$		<i>Not started</i>
13	<b>Cooperation with universities and the academies for involment in the EITI process</b>	<b>Launching a collaborative process to involve academia in the EITI process</b>	<i>Establishing relationships and starting cooperation with universities and other academic institutions through the development of activities for their continuous involvement in the EITI process.</i>	<i>EITI Albania /Universities/ other Academic Institutions</i>	2021-2022	World Bank	10000\$		<i>Not started</i>
14	<b>Study women and extractive indutries</b>	<b>Study on the involvement of women in the extractive industry. Development of a gender mainstreaming strategy and capacity building for extractive industries.</b>	<i>Consulting services for analysing and evaluating the involvement of women in the extractive industry. Assessing opportunities for greater involvement of women, strategy development and stakeholder capacity building for greater integration of women in the extractive industries.</i>	<i>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Consultant</i>	2021	World Bank	30,000 \$		<i>Not started</i>

15	<b>The Local Reporting Standard development</b>	<b>Consulting services for the development of a local reporting standard.</b>	<i>Consulting services for the evaluation of local reporting and the development of a local reporting standard in rich areas of natural resources.</i>	<i>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Consultant</i>	2021	World Bank	35.000 \$		<i>Not started</i>
16	<b>Support for Civil Society</b>	<b>Promoting a healthy environment that encourages the independence, efficiency and sustainability of civil society in the Albania EITI process.</b>	<i>Promoting a healthy environment that encourages the independence, efficiency, sustainability and inclusion of Albanian civil society in the EITI process, through financial support for activities organized by/for civil society in relation to the process.</i>	<i>EITI Albania / Civil Society</i>	2021-2022	World Bank	30000 \$		<i>Not started</i>
17	<b>Study for the analysis of the advantages and obstacles for foreign investments in Albania</b>		<i>Analysis of the problems encountered and the advantages that foreign investors have in the extractive industries sector in Albania.</i>	<i>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Consultant</i>	2021-2022	World Bank	25000\$		<i>Not started</i>
18	<b>Impact assessment of the oil extraction industry on the areas where it</b>	<b>Consulting services for impact analysis of oil extraction industry in the areas where it operates.</b>	<i>Impact analysis of oil extraction activities, related to technical processes, seismic oscillations, soil and water pollution and the impact it has on the lives of the respective areas residents.</i>	<i>EITI Albania/ MSG/ Consultant</i>	2022	Banka Botërore	30000\$		<i>Not started</i>

<i>operates</i>									
	<i>Expected total for World Bank funded activities/ Other donors (no operative cost)</i>				<i>670000 \$</i>				
	<i>Expected total for proposed activities</i>				<i>670000\$</i>				
	<i>Unidentified funding sources / potential</i>								

MSG has addressed the detailed steps needed to mainstream EITI implementation in company and government systems.

Thanks to the commitment of the AlBEITI MSG and National Secretariat, the EITI has been able to respond to the complex situation for the country, companies and civil society during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to address properly all the requests of the new Validation model introduced, to ensure that EITI implementation continues to be

relevant and in line with national priorities and the new priorities settled by the EITI International with important themes such as : Contract and Beneficial Ownership transparency, the Energy Transition, and Anti-corruption.

The Work Plan is formatted in the requested form and Include measurable and time-bound activities to achieve the agreed AlBEITI objectives (detailed in the Table 1).

The MSG assessed and outlined plans to address any potential capacity constraints in government agencies, companies and civil society that may be an obstacle to effective EITI implementation;

In this context Trainings to be realized and included in the Work Plan will enable MSG members to better understand the key issues and challenges pertaining to Extractive sector development especially in this challenging global political and economic situation.

With enhanced capacity, MSG representatives can influence positively decisions and sustainable management of the Extractive sector in Albania. Enhanced capacity of Albania EITI MSG to manage the EITI process will increase substantially the capacities of addressing the discrepancies explained in the EITI Reports and Corrective actions derived from the Validation process.

Regarding the Anti- Corruption measures the fully disclosure of payments and revenue flows between the industry and the government through EITI Reports and analytical work related to the regulatory and legal framework foreseen in the Work Plan activities, reduces opportunities for corruption with concrete benefits for the wider public in Albania.

Activities included in the Work Plan are conceived to improve the capacity to communicate on issues associated with transparency and accountability in the Extractive industries, measured by increased reporting in the media by

journalists compared to the previous year, aiming to enhanced understanding and the synergy of the public on benefits of EITI implementing process.

Regarding the Corrective Actions Requirement 1.2. Industry Engagement in the Work Plan conceived activities is aimed to enable the Industry representatives in the MSG and companies to strength their engagement in the EITI implementation and highlights the opportunity for extractive companies to use EITI platform to improve their corporate performance on environmental, social and governance indicators.

In this context are planned Activities included in the Work Plan:

- *Consultancy for analysing advantages and disadvantages of foreign investment in Albania.*
  
- *Consulting services for analysing the impact of Oil Industry in the areas where it operates regarding economic impact, social impact, environmental local impact, forestry, and arable land affected employment etc.*

The Alb- EITI MSG will address plans for strengthening systematic disclosures and addressing technical aspects of reporting, such as comprehensiveness and Data reliability (Requirements 4.1 and 4.9).

The Alb–EITI MSG has identified and outlined plans to address to incorporate the EITI Requirements within national legislation or regulations, specifically the activities conceived in the Work Plan :

- *Revision of the current Legislation and recommendations for improvement. This activity will include provision of support for analysing, assessing and identification of changes to be made in order to improve the current Legislation regarding the Extractive Industry Transparency.*
- *Consultancy services for revision of the current Legislation for reporting on Project Bases as required by the EITI Requirements.*

In the Work Plan are conceived the MSG plans for implementing the recommendations from EITI implementation and Validation.

The MSG has outlined plans for disclosing Beneficial Ownership information in accordance with Requirement 2.5.c-f, through the activity conceived in the Work Plan:

- *Consultancy services for assessment of impact of the Albania Beneficial Ownership Law and relevant legislation and Propose changes to current legislation in order to improve BO reporting.*

The MSG aimed to ensure that the activities and results proposed in the Work Plan adhere to the SMART criteria (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound*).

The MSG has assigned and detailed in the Work Plan the roles and responsible parties for each activity.

#### **4. Budget and funding**

The 2022/23 work plan provides financial needs for the period 2022- 2023. For the 2022 Financial year, indicative commitments from the Government of Albania will be 15 Million ALL. In 2022 to AlBEITI have been approved in principle financial support amounting to USD 700,000 from the World Bank. The aim of the grant is to Improve capacity to mainstream EITI agenda, as measured by EITI compliance maintained in Albania. Mainstreaming in this context will mean to achieve standardized data quality of company disclosures around production data, licenses, and payments, revenues in the extractive and hydropower industries. This data will be provided on an on-going basis in implementing its EITI agenda.

The planned activities to be implemented in the World Bank funded project are also included in the 2022/23 work plan. Given that AlBEITI receives Government allocations and financial support through the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, therefore, AlBEITI is required to comply to Government of Albania financial regulations. Expenditures are regularly audited by the internal audit unit of the



ministry to inform the Ministry's management on financial compliance. Similarly, AlBEITI is required to comply to World Bank Procurement Regulations for the activities supported from the WB funds. All the processes supported from the WB funds, such as procurement procedures and financial procedures from the WB funds are audited from their auditors on an annual basis.

## 5. Dissemination and communication

The MSG aims to ensure that EITI disclosures be made widely available to the public, for example published on the national EITI website and/or other relevant Ministry ( MIE ) websites, in print media or in places that are easily accessible to the public.

The MSG aiming to explore innovative approaches to extending EITI implementation to inform public debate about natural resource governance and encourage high standards of transparency and accountability in public life, government operations and in business, has planned a activity included in the Work Plan :

- *Consultancy services for assessment of EITI impact.*

The MSG aims to use the consultation mechanisms to maintain on-going engagement with stakeholders, including regular review and feedback on the work plan and its implementation through a 3-monthly screening process.

## 6. Monitoring and review

*The MSG will:*

- *Monitor and evaluate the work plan every 3 months in accordance with the progress made in single activities using the columns provided in Annexe B that is considered as integral part of the work plan.*
- *Review and update the work plan annually and will use the conclusion of the precedent year when developing the next work plan.*

### MSG approval

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Date

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MSG signature(s)