

Albania, September 2021

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## MSG review of the outcomes and impact of the EITI

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## Introduction

Regular disclosure of extractive industry data is of little practical use without public awareness, understanding of what the figures mean, and public debate about how resource revenues can be used effectively. The EITI Requirements related to outcomes and impact seek to ensure that stakeholders are engaged in dialogue about natural resource revenue management. EITI disclosures lead to the fulfilment of the EITI Principles by contributing to wider public debate. It is also vital that lessons learnt during implementation are acted upon, that recommendations from EITI implementations are considered and acted on where appropriate and that EITI implementation is on a stable, sustainable footing.

The multi-stakeholder group may use this template to monitor the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation. Where information is already available elsewhere, it is sufficient to include a link to other publicly available documentation. The scope of this template reflects EITI Requirement 1.5 on work plan and Requirements 7.1 to 7.4 on outcomes and impact.

The MSG is required to review the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation annually (Requirement 7.4). The MSG is encouraged to update this document annually to monitor progress, keep track of efforts to improve data accessibility and inform work planning.

To inform Validation, the MSG is required to submit the completed form to the International Secretariat Validation team by the Validation commencement date. The period captured in this review may be the period since the previous Validation or the previous calendar/fiscal year. The MSG should clearly indicate the period covered by its review.

The MSG's annual review of the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation should be publicly available, and stakeholders beyond MSG members should have an opportunity to provide feedback on the EITI process (Requirement 7.4).

## Part I: Relevance of EITI implementation

## Work plan (Requirement 1.5)

### 1. Basic information about the current EITI work plan.

Period covered by the current EITI work plan	<b>2021-2022</b>
Information on how the public can access the work plan.	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Plani-i-Punes-2021-2022-EITI-Shqiperi-Final-1.pdf">https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Plani-i-Punes-2021-2022-EITI-Shqiperi-Final-1.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-2022-Work-Plan-22.02.2021.pdf">https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-2022-Work-Plan-22.02.2021.pdf</a>
Process for producing the current EITI work plan	The EITI Albania work plan for 2021-2022 is founded on the strategic objectives that the Albanian MSG developed based on the previously identified needs. It has been developed after a thorough review of Albania EITI's progress in implementing its previous work plan, and with due consideration of the issues and concerns that stakeholders raised during previous years. The work plan is envisioned not only to be

responsive to the EITI Standard, but also to needs of extractives stakeholders and EITI implementation in Albania. In addition, the work plan is aligned with some of the strategic priorities of the EITI International Board, and includes deliverables related to the government's commitments.

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Minutat-e-Takimit-12.-02.-2021.pdf>

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/year-2021/>

In general, events and activities shall be held online in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The plans and activities identified in the work plan shall be implemented with a total budget of USD 670000, and with the technical and administrative support of the EITI Albania Secretariat, including services of technical consultants.

MSG approval of the work plan

Following weeks of preparation and discussions, the MSG approved the current work plan in February 12,2021.

**2. Explain how the work plan's objectives reflect national priorities for the extractive industry. Provide links to supporting documentation, such as studies or national development plans, if available.**

The Albania EITI work plan for 2021-2022 is consistent with the reform agenda "*Reforming national legal framework for better management of natural resources*". Based on the findings and the neuralgias that we have identified during the preparation of our EITI reports we need to work with our legal framework to enable a normal flow of the reporting process. During 2021-2022 EITI Albania will work to approve and implement legal and regulative changes suggested by the legal review made and the one that will be completed according to the new workplan and agreed with stakeholders. Implement legal changes that will enable and regulate release, publication and open data per each government agency dealing with natural resource governance.

**Government Program:**

<https://kryeministria.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/PROGRAMI.pdf>

**Government Program for Anti-Corruption:**

The Albania EITI work plan for 2021-2022 is consistent with the government program for anti corruption:

<https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/dokumente-strategjike/>

The centre of our activities and in compliance with the EITI standard will be the Production and Publication of EITI reports in the year + 1 format. The improvement of each consecutive EITI report will be our core objective. With the successful inclusion in our 2013 + 2014 EITI reports of the

hydrology sector, the EITI reports in the following year will continue to contain full report on our water resource usage. Important aspects that complement Natural Resource Governance will be in our agenda, such as the Local Content and Environment issues.

**Albeiti 2021- 2022 Workplan:**

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-2022-Work-Plan-22.02.2021.pdf>

On 18.2.2015 the Council of Ministers approved the decision no. 147: “Approval of the Document on the Open Data Policy and establishment of the Open Data portal2 . Based on these priorities and with increasing demands from the public for transparent and accountable governance, Albania is going through very significant and massive transformations in regard to its Digital Agenda for 2015-2020 on E-governance and Information Society strategy and as part of its OGP commitments on “Open Data”. In the framework of the Albanian Government priorities, include open data for EITI and Natural Resource governance, at the national priorities for open data government systems, working towards integration, reflection of up-to-date data from the Mining Industry Sectors in the new Mineral Cadastre and Open Date Portal to ensure timeliness, data quality, reuse and cost effectiveness.

**Government Digital Agenda Strategy:**

[https://akshi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Digital\\_Agenda\\_Strategy\\_2015\\_-\\_2020.pdf](https://akshi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Digital_Agenda_Strategy_2015_-_2020.pdf)

**Link for EITI Albania Open Data Portal:**

<https://www.opendata-albeiti.org/>

**Link for EITI Albania Mining Cadastre:**

<https://miningcadastre.albeiti.org/>

*3. Optional question: Has the MSG developed a theory of change on how EITI implementation will address the identified challenges of the sector in your country? If yes, please reference the corresponding document here.*

Over the years, the EITI Albania has utilized various frameworks in identifying priorities and specific activities aimed at meeting the EITI Standard and addressing issues and concerns in natural resource governance and extractives transparency. In the previous years, EITI Albania used different tools to better pursue and monitor impact of implementation, like EITI Reports, surveys and Annual Progress Reports. After a careful review of issues and concerns raised and identified by above amentioned tools desired outcomes had been identified and from there, outputs, activities, specific studies and deliverables were mapped out and throughout the years EITI Albania tried to address their relative recommendations in the specific field

<https://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Legal-review-Final-Report-ENG.pdf>

[https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/AL-AB-BA1-Albania-EITI-Environment-Scoping-Study-Final-Report\\_English-signed.pdf](https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/AL-AB-BA1-Albania-EITI-Environment-Scoping-Study-Final-Report_English-signed.pdf)

[http://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Social-impact-of-EI-in-Albania\\_Final-Draft\\_EN\\_EXE.pdf](http://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Social-impact-of-EI-in-Albania_Final-Draft_EN_EXE.pdf)

## Monitoring progress

**4. Provide an overview of activities undertaken in the period under review and progress in achieving the objectives of the previous work plan.** The MSG is encouraged to provide a summary here and to document progress in more detail in the work plan itself.

The period under review, 2018-2021 starts with the discussion and the review of 2018-2019 to Work Plan; Corrective Actions Plan set by the EITI International Board regarding the Validation Process in Albania; Approval of the Terms of Reference for the Independent Administrator, prepared the 2017-2018 EITI Report; Since then, significant progress has been observed in several areas of EITI implementation including report production, stakeholder engagement, and systematic disclosure, among others.

The Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and the EITI National Secretariat drafted the Terms of Reference for the Independent Administrator who prepared the 2017 and 2018 EITI Report. This draft has been discussed in all of its phases; include comments and suggestions made by members of the MSG, as well as the civil society groupings and business representatives. The EITI National Secretariat has proposed and supported the fact that for the first time is required the participation of sectorial technical capacity staff from mines and hydrocarbons as team of Independent Administrator. Along with, the EITI National Secretariat has included in the Terms of Reference for the Independent Administrator new elements such as: Monitoring the Safety at Work and Life of Employees in the Mining and Petroleum Sector; Emphasis on the revenues of local governments and communities received by mining activities in their region, as well as the environmental and social impact of these activities; Engagement of the Independent Administrator on the organization of workshops on materials prepared in the function of the EITI Annual Report.

In the period under review the country reporting in general saw significant strides in sustaining and expanding EITI implementation in the country.



In terms of stakeholder engagement, the EITI Albania has consistently conducted national, local, and international activities that promoted extractives transparency among stakeholders, communicated the key findings of EITI reporting to a wide range of audience, and gathered feedback and concerns on EITI implementation and natural resource governance in general. Hundreds of participants have been reached and serviced by these activities which continued to broaden stakeholder engagement including extractive companies, local government units, foreign embassies, civil society, and members of the media, other stakeholders.

Meetings with local authorities play a very important role for the progress of the EITI initiative implementations. During 2018-2021, EITI Albania organized several meeting in the areas with extractive industries.

Also, in the period under review EITI Albania on the Finalization of Corrective Actions recommended by the Validation Mission; Initiation of procedures for the appointment of new Civil Society Members in the MSG in 2019; Annual Assessment for MSG Members; Addressing the issues regarding Mining Royalty and effective income management at local level; Discussion on the existence and materiality of 'quasi fiscal' expenditures; Review of the EITI Standard in line with the recommendations of the International Secretariat; Meeting with the World Bank Mission in Tirana to discuss EITI priorities and sustainable sectorial vision; The EITI Albania and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE - Presence in Albania, signed in 2019 the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation aimed at promoting transparency and raising public awareness on the good governance of natural resources, ensuring the effective management, distribution and transparency of revenues from the Mining Royalty at local level, and addressing the environmental and social impacts of the Extractive Industry activity.

Despite the difficult situation due to the Covid-19 pandemics during 2020, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Albania has managed to complete the projects planned for 2020.

The main project of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and the EITI National Secretariat was the

publication within 2020 of the EITI Report for the years 2017-2018, achieved through joint and coordinated work between various stakeholders.

One of the most significant achievements has been, the approval of the Law no. 112/2020, “On the register of Beneficiary Owners” on July 29, 2020. This law regulates the definition of the beneficiary owner, the obliged entities which must register the beneficial owners, and the creation, functioning and administration of the Register of Beneficiary Owners, the procedure and the manner of registration and record keeping of the registered data of beneficiary owners, as well as penalties applicable in case of non-registration of beneficial owners. Additionally, the Government has approved DCM no. 1088, dated 24.12.2020 "On the determination of the manner and procedures for the registration and publication of the information on beneficial owners, and the notification by the competent state authorities and obliged entities

The creation of the Open Data portal, which is a novelty for the EITI Albania, will significantly increase transparency and public involvement in decision-making processes related to the Extractive Industries, in the context of sustainable development and strengthening the generation of potential economic and social interests. The EITI Open Data platform will provide the necessary information and focus to serve the interests of potential international and domestic investors in the Extractive sectors in Albania. The Open Data portal will be accessible to the public, civil society, media and businesses/potential investors, providing information required by the EITI Standard 2019 (Requirement- Open Data), in order to stimulate public debate and improve good governance policies in Extractive Industries.

The MSG and the Secretariat, through a Consultancy contract financed by the World Bank, implemented the Mining Cadaster project, whose objective is to provide detailed presentation of the mining inventory, digitalization of cartographic and alphanumeric information, and the creation of a mining geodatabase and Web-GIS portal, that is accessible to the public, potential investors and both state institutions and local government units.

Special importance and attention was also given to the publication of the Environmental Impact

Assessment report, which contains an assessment of the current situation in the extractive sector, identification of problems and recommendations.

The Social Impact Assessment of Extractive Industries on Local Communities and Employment, prepared by the Consultant and financed by the WB, analyzes the Extractive Industries impact on: - Revenues and benefits of Municipalities and Communes in extractive areas; - Revenues and benefits from Mining Royalty; - Employment benefits for local communities - Social-economic components of Extractive Contracts, Agreements and Licenses; - Prohibition of illegal employment of children in these sectors; - Local capacity building, through Vocational Training; - Addressing Gender issues in extractive sector; - Civil Society's key role in this process; - Corporate Responsibility/Standards related to Social Impact Assessment;

The development of the EITI Communication and Outreach Strategy 2021-2022 was the result of joint efforts aimed to improve visibility and transparency towards the achievement of strategic goals of the MSG and the EITI National Secretariat. This document constitutes a planned and efficient framework, for the preparation of detailed programs for the implementation of communication activities as well as the establishment of a sustainable communication system with all stakeholders. The Communication and Outreach Package represents one of the best approaches to inform on the activity of the EITI Initiative in Albania. The package is based on the principles of transparency and effective management and aimed to raise public and media awareness on extractive industries and activities related to EITI work.

A more detailed list of activities you can find it in the work plans and in the 2018- 2021 Annual Progress Reports and relative studies linked below.

**Note: Please refer to List of activities and links for Outcome and Impact document in the Albeiti Validation Dossier:**

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/>

**5. Provide an overview of the multi-stakeholder group’s responses to and progress made in addressing the recommendations from EITI reporting and Validation and gaps in information in accordance with Requirement 7.3.**

The multi-stakeholder group is required to list each recommendation and the corresponding activities that have been undertaken to address the recommendations and the level of progress in implementing each recommendation. Where the government or the multi-stakeholder group has decided not to implement a recommendation, it is required that the multi-stakeholder group documents the rationale

Recommendation:	Status/progress:
<p>1. In accordance with Requirement 1.3.e, civil society stakeholders including but not limited to members of the MSG must be substantially engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process, and ensure that it contributes to public debate. The civil society constituency is encouraged to implement all provisions of its Code of Conduct in practice, including those related to regular coordination and canvassing of views, and ensure that adequate outreach is undertaken towards all CSOs with potential interests in EITI</p>	<p><b>Fully addressed.</b>  <i>The civil stakeholders were fully engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluating the EITI process. Below you can find the links of Civil Society webpage where are documented all the respective activities and documents:</i></p> <p><b>Note: Please refer to List of activities and links for Outcome and Impact document in the Albeiti Validation Dossier:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/</a></p>

<p>implementation.</p>	
<p>1. In accordance with Requirement 2.2, Albania is required to publicly disclose a comprehensive description of the process for transferring or awarding licenses in mining, oil and gas, including the specific technical and financial criteria assessed. Where licenses are awarded through a bidding process, the government is required to disclose the list of applicants (including non-winning applicants).</p>	<p><i>License allocations. In the Hydrocarbon sector Albania has made public the free oil zones/ Blocks and companies interested enter into negotiations with the Albanian government. According to the 2017-2018 EITI Report and in accordance with requirement 2.4.b, Albania has made progress in disclosing new oil contracts and all hydropower concession terms. Oil and gas agreements were allocated through ad hoc negotiations procedures up August 2013. Information on recipient licensees and joint operations were publically disclosed in MEI's website. Mining licenses are provided by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy based on Law No. 10 304 dated 15.07.2010 "On Mining Sector in the Republic of Albania, as amended". The annual mining program, approved by D.C.M defines competing mining areas and free zones. For competitive mining areas, interested parties are subject to a public competition where the winner's assessment is made on the basis of the criteria set by law. For open areas, the license is issued to the interested subject who meets the terms of the permit by principle - first in time, the first in the rights. The publication of the Annual Mining Plan and all the competitive procedures is done in the Public Procurement Agency and in the official website of MEI. Building of new hydropower plants is done with BOT type concession (Building, Operation, Transfer). The winner wich is announced after an open competitive procedure called by MEI (Ministry of Infrastructute and Energy) after being published by PPA (Public Procurement Agency). After the announcement of the winner the subject must complete the necessary</i></p>

<p>1. In accordance with Requirement 2.6, Albania should publicly clarify the rules and practice related to Albpetrol’s ability to raise third-party financing, any changes in state participation in the year under review and any outstanding loans and guarantees from either Albpetrol or the state to companies in the mining, oil and gas sector. Albania may wish to consider improvements in the accessibility of Albpetrol’s published audited financial statements as a means of clarifying the practice of financial relations between Albpetrol and the state.</p>	<p><i>documentation defined by law.</i></p> <p>State participation</p> <p><i>a) The State-owned entities in Albania are defined by article 213 of the Law 9901 dated 14.04.2008 “On entrepreneurs and commercial entities”, as commercial entities owned and controlled directly or indirectly by central Government or the Local government, whereas control is the power to govern activities of the commercial entities. This law suggests that in case of matters requiring a qualified majority, the Shareholders’. The definition of SOEs is explained in the 2017-2018 EITI Report and the MSG agreed with this definition during the EITI reporting process.</i></p> <p><i>b) The level of ownership of SOE(s) is explained in the 2017-2018 EITI Report.</i></p>
<p>1. In accordance with Requirement 4.1, Albania should ensure that the materiality threshold for selecting companies in future EITI reporting ensures that all</p>	<p><i>Comprehensive disclosure of taxes and revenues.</i></p> <p><i>The tax system that is applied in Albania for the extraction industry sector is the same that apply to the entire country's economy, value added tax (TVSH), profit taxes, dividends + royalties, bonuses, and other significant payments and material benefit to government.</i></p>

payments that could affect the comprehensiveness of EITI reporting be included in the scope of reconciliation, and ensure that all material companies participate in EITI reporting. Albania may wish to consider revisiting its materiality threshold for selecting mining companies to strike a balance between the comprehensiveness of disclosures and the quality of reporting. The MSG may wish to consider a sampling approach, which would allow these payments to be investigated without creating an unreasonable reporting burden.

*Mineral rent from the government is seen as a tax for the development of this area. To give impulse or development to the processing industry in the country, the government reduced the royalty for the processed chromium ore (ferrochrome) from 6 to 3 percent.*

*The EITI Report shows a comprehensive tax overview gathered by the government for 2017-2018.*

1. In accordance with Requirement 4.6, Albania is required to ensure that all company payments to subnational government entities, when material, are disclosed and reconciled. Albania is encouraged to

*Sub-national payments Royalty levied from taxable sales of oil, gas, and minerals is recorded in the State Budget. According to Law on National taxes no. 9975, dated 28 July 2008, amended, a portion of royalty tax shall be allocated to each local government unit ("LGU") in proportion with their contribution to the domestic output of oil, gas and mining.*

<p>publicly disclose a more detailed explanation of the types of local taxes collected by local governments and to enhance its outreach to local governments ahead of future EITI reporting and reconciliation of material direct subnational payments.</p>	<p><i>Data quality and assurance</i></p>
<p>1. In accordance with Requirement 4.9.a, the EITI requires an assessment of whether the payments and revenues are subject to credible, independent audit, applying international auditing standards. In accordance with requirement 4.9.b.iii and the standard Terms of Reference for the IA agreed by the EITI Board, the MSG and IA should develop and agree quality assurance procedures for Albania's EITI reporting, based on a review of audit and assurance practices in the year under review. Albania should ensure that the IA</p>	<p><i>Data quality and assurance, Applied Accounting Standards The current regulatory provisions in Albania require that the incorporated entities apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) or the National Accounting Standards (IAS), published by the National Accounting Council for accounting purposes and legal reporting.</i></p> <p><i>Applied Auditing Standards</i></p> <p><i>All entities, including participating joint stock companies ("SHA") and limited liability companies ("KPS") are subject to statutory audit, excluding those KPS classified as smaller units.</i></p> <p><i>LAW No. 10 091, dated 5.3.2009 "ON LEGAL AUDIT, ORGANIZATION OF THE PROFESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR AND THE APPROVED ACCOUNTANT" (amended by Law No. 10 297, dated 8 July 2010, No. 47/2016, dated Article 41, Legal entities obliged for the statutory audit of the financial statements (amended by letter "c" by Law No. 47/2016, dated 28.4.2016) are obliged to carry out the statutory audit of the annual financial statements, before their publication, by legal</i></p>



provides an assessment of whether all companies and government entities within the agreed scope of the EITI reporting process provided the requested information. Any gaps or weaknesses in reporting to the IA must be disclosed in the EITI Report, including naming any entities that failed to comply with the agreed procedures, and an assessment of whether this is likely to have had material impact on the comprehensiveness and reliability of the report. Albania should ensure that the IA provides an assessment of comprehensiveness and reliability of the (financial) data presented, including an informative summary of the work performed by the Independent Administrator and the limitations of the assessment provided. In accordance with requirement 8.3.c.i, the MSG should develop and disclose an action

*auditors or audit firm: a) all commercial companies, regardless of their form, which apply international financial reporting standards; b) all joint stock companies, which apply financial reporting to national accounting standards; c) limited liability companies that apply financial reporting to national accounting standards when, over two years in succession, they exceed two of the following three indicators: i - total of balance sheet assets at closing of the relevant accounting period, amounts to or exceeds the amount of ALL 50 million; ii- the amount of income from the economic activity (turnover) in that accounting period amounts to or exceeds the amount of ALL 100 million; iii- there are, on average, 30 employees during the accounting period.*

*We clarify that the mining entities that report to the EITI Report are generally limited liability companies and a considerable part of them do not meet the condition that compels them to audit their balance sheets by an independent expert.*

*Level of disaggregation*

*The Level of disaggregation is represented in Appendix 1, 2, 3 of the EITI 2017-2018 Report. Data timeliness The 2017-2018 EITI Report was produced in accordance with the Contract (21.12.2020) and published in January 2021. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, the closure for a long time of the entire economy and social life (long quarantine) the 2017-2018 EITI report was successfully realized.*

*Data Quality and assurance*

*EITI 2017-2018 Report provides an assessment of the assurance 31 procedures performed on the numbers reported by the government entities and licensees in this report. Chapter 10, provides details of the reconciliation of flows for the year 2017-2018 and lists all entities who fail to report in 2017-2018,*

plan for addressing the deficiencies in the reliability of reporting documented in the initial assessment.

*including disclosure of impact based on unilateral reporting from the government entities. Recommendations for improvements are also listed in EITI 2016 Report.*

The EITI Albania Secretariat is drafting an action plan on *following up the EITI 2017-2018 Report Reccomandations and with the approving of MSG all the requirements will be covered aming to improve the EITI reporting in Albania.*

## 6. How have lessons learned from EITI implementation informed the current work plan?

Considering feedback from stakeholders and the review of the previous work plan, the current work plan now has a greater focus on systematic disclosure, transparency and accountability initiatives, report coverage expansion and gender inclusion.

These areas intend to not only improve transparency and accountability in the extractives sector but also improve the efficiency of reporting and the accessibility of the data and information. For one, improving transparency in royalty payments and analys and evaluat the current legal basis for project-based reporting, legal changes that need to be made to enable project-based reporting of mining companies. The evaluation of local reporting and the development of a local reporting standart in rich areas of natural resources. Analysis of the problems encountered and the advantages that foreign investors have in the extractive industries sector in Albania. 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. Analyse and assess the impact of the entry into force and implementation of the Law on Beneficiary Owners.

To broaden stakeholder engagement EITI Albania also seeks to include in the EITI reporting the production / use of renewable energy and gas in Albania and the possibility of their inclusion in the EITI Report.

Please refer to Albania 2021-2022 Work Plan:

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-2022-Work-Plan-22.02.2021.pdf>

#### Innovations and impact

### 7. Summarise any steps taken by the MSG to exceed EITI Requirements in a way that addresses national or local extractive sector governance priorities.

1. STUDY OF TRANSPARENCY ABOUT THE USAGE OF ROYALTY INCOME AND DONATIONS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY COMPANIES IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY This project was organized in cooperation of OSCE Presence in Albania. Meetings in local units where extractive industry is present were organized. Also, two meetings in Tirana with the representatives of government, local units and the local governance agency were organized. Due to the earthquake on November 2019 and Covid-19 the national event that was foreseen to be organized and where the findings and conclusions of this project would be summarized did not took place.
2. As part of the activities approved in the Work Plan, on November 13, 2020, EITI Albania signed an agreement, Ref. with the Consultant Abkons sh.p.k, for the creation of the Mining Cadaster Portal, whose objective whose objective is to provide detailed presentation of the mining inventory, digitalization of cartographic and alphanumeric information, and the creation of a mining geodatabase and Web-GIS portal, that is

accessible to the public, potential investors and both state institutions and local government units. The project highlights in detail the great potential of the mining sector in Albania, which for more than 50 years has been one of the most important sectors in economic development, with significant impact on social communities and employment.

2. As part of the activities approved, EITI Albania, in collaboration with a contracted consultant prepared the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Extractive Industry in Albania. Despite the difficult conditions as a result of Covid-19 pandemics, the consultant conducted a comprehensive study on the environmental impact of extractive industry in Albania. The study provides an in-depth analysis of all environmental impacts, specifically including.

3. STUDY ON SOCIAL IMPACT OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN LOCAL CONTENT AND EMPLOYMENT

The study was focused on assessing the impact of Extractive Industries on: - Revenues and benefits of Municipalities and Communes in extractive areas; - Revenues and benefits from Mining Royalty; - Employment benefits for local communities - Social-economic components of Extractive Contracts, Agreements and Licenses; - Prohibition of illegal employment of children in these sectors; - Local capacity building; - Addressing Gender issues in extractive sector; - Civil Society's key role in this process; - Corporate Responsibility/Standards related to Social Impact Assessment

4. OPEN DATA The Open Data Portal which contains data on the Extractive and Hydropower sectors is available online at the link <https://www.opendata-albeiti.org/> In the framework of activities approved by the World Bank, on October 8, 2020 the EITI Secretariat entered into agreement Ref. No. ALBEITI/CS/CQ/E.1 with Ikub INFO for the development of the Open Data Portal. The creation of Open Data portal for EITI, which constitutes a novelty for the EITI National Secretariat, will significantly increase transparency and public involvement in decisionmaking processes related to the Extractive sector, which will

support sustainable development and generation of potential economic and social interests. The main objective of this service is to collect, produce and submit for publication complete technical, economic, legal and social data of extractive and hydropower sectors. - To build an online public information line which will serve to inform the general public at home and abroad, various individuals and entities interested in the trend of indicators and in general for the sustainable development of these areas while achieving the objective to expand the scope of EITI Albania reports. - To disclose to the general public the economic and social indicators of all entities operating in the extractive and hydropower sectors. - Another objective is to disclose, use, analyze and evaluate the economic, social and legal indicators of extractive areas in order to undertake initiatives, design and implement effective reforms and interventions in extractive areas. The EITI Open Data platform will provide the necessary information and focus to serve the interests of potential international and domestic investors in Extractive sectors in Albania. The Open Data portal will be accessible to the public, civil society, media and businesses/potential investors, providing information required by the EITI Standard 2019 (Requirement 7- Open Data), in order to stimulate public debate and improve good governance policies in Extractive Industries.

5. A study on gender in extractives, particularly, will be commissioned to locate and assess the role of women in the sector, including their contribution to the industry and the impact of the industry on women. The study will be intended to inform policy recommendations towards a more gender sensitive and inclusive extractive industries.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. Consulting services for the evaluation of local reporting and the development of a local reporting standart in rich areas of natural resources.
9. 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 relationto to the process.
10. Establishing relationships and starting cooperation with universities and other academic institutions through the development of activities for their continuous involment in the EITI process.
11. Analysis of the problems encountered and the advantages that foreign investors have in the extractive industries sector in Albania.
12. 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.

**Note: Please refer to List of activities and links for Outcome and Impact document in the Albeiti Validation Dossier:**

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/>

## 8. What kind of outcomes and impact have these measures resulted during the period under review?

The MSG tracks outputs, outcomes and impact through surveys organized in the past years in in areas where the extractive industry operates, Annual Progress Reports, meetings with local

government units in the areas where extractive industries operate, companies and civil society representatives, to promote the EITI and EITI reporting and to assess EITI impact. EITI Albania also gathers stakeholder feedback in events. Feedback from stakeholders helps EITI Albania in how to improve stakeholder engagement activities and which issues the stakeholders wish to focus on in future engagements.

The surveys result in the beginning showed that local and central administration (affected by the EITI reporting) had no information on the EITI requirements. As a result, the EITI Albania decided that the activities provided on the following work plans would play a key role in organizing information activities mainly focusing on this grouping. We can mention that the local government (where the extractive industry operates) and the central administration by responding to the requirements and obligations of the EITI initiative proves that the EITI work plans has achieved the objective on this regard. Progressive growth of reporting companies in the EITI. Over the years, the percentage of reporting by the extractive companies has increased progressively, aiming at a greater involvement of the sectors.

In the 2021-2022 Work Plan EITI Albania as agreed to conduct an impact assessment through surveys, google forms or other methods that will assess the impact that EITI has had in Albania in these 10 years of implementation.

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-2022-Work-Plan-22.02.2021.pdf>

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/publications/>

#### **8. If the MSG has plans to include new issues or approaches to EITI implementation, please describe these.**

The MSG plans to include new issues or approaches to EITI implementation are described below

and all the informations are provided in 2020-2021 Workplan.

- Assess the impact of the Law on Beneficiary Ownership and make proposals for possible improvements.
- Scoping Study for the inclusion of renewable energy and gas in the EITI Report.
- Assessment for reviewing current safety at work legislation of extractive indistries, case study of some of the companies currently working in this sector and the evaluation on how these companies implement the legislation in force.
- Conducting a study, analyzing and evaluating the involment of women in the extractive industry. Assessing opportunities for greater involment of women, strategy development and stakeholder capacity building for greater integration of women in the extractive industries.
- Consulting services for the evaluation of local reporting and the development of a local reporting standart in rich areas of natural resources.
- Analysis of the problems encountered and the advantages that foreign investors have in the extractive industries sector in Albania.
- 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.

## 9. What kind of outcomes and impact are these plans expected to result in?

Current and future plans on EITI Albania reporting and implementation are aimed at providing the



public with timely, comprehensive, comprehensible, and relevant extractives disclosures and analyses. Implementation is hoped to address governance issues through data-informed policy recommendations and aggressive follow-up on government actions on these recommendations. Implementation is also intended to be more inclusive with considerations on gender balance and possible inclusion of more agency and industry representatives.

**10. Summarise the MSG's efforts to strengthen the impact of EITI implementation in the period under review, including any actions to extend the detail and scope of EITI reporting or to increase engagement with stakeholders. The MSG is encouraged to document how it has taken gender considerations and inclusiveness into account.**

#### *Implementation*

The MSG have exerted effort to strengthen EITI implementation through continues communications and outreach activities, addressing the recommendations of the EITI Reports and relevant studies conducted.

The MSG will continue to evaluate and assess the implementation of BO data and the disclosure of beneficial owners.

#### *Scope of Reporting*

Every reporting cycle, the MSG agrees on the terms and scope of EITI reporting. Almost each year, the scope of reporting expands with the latest plans including the reporting of hydropower sector, plans to include the renewable energies in the EITI reporting and to cover more extractive companies for the upcoming reports. EITI Albania intends to include in EITI reporting also the Renewable Energies.

### *Data Reporting and Accessibility*

EITI Albania has developed several tools which include the Open data portal and the Mining Cadaster. These tools are continuously being updated to make reporting more efficient and to capture as much relevant data as possible.

### *Stakeholder Engagement*

The MSG has held activities that reached out to various stakeholders mentioned above. Gender balance is also always being considered developing a scoping study in gender issues in extractive sector in Albania and once thre study will be finished we will try to put together events and inviting participants and resource speakers to help ensure equal representation.

### *Impact*

The MSG will commission an impact study to assess the effectiveness and impact of EITI implementation in Albania in these years.

## Part II: Public debate

### Open data (Requirement 7.2)

## 11. Open data policy and disclosures

<p>Provide a link to the open data policy agreed by the MSG (Requirement 7.2.a)</p>	<p><i>[Add link(s) to relevant open data policy(ies) and any commentary.]</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Open-Data-Policy.pdf">http://www.albeiti.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Open-Data-Policy.pdf</a></p>
<p>Is EITI data available in open data format and publicised? (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p>Yes, EITI Albania data and information are available in open format.</p> <p><a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/home-eng-home/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/home-eng-home/</a></p>
<p>Has the MSG identified gaps in the availability of EITI data in open format? If yes, what kind of gaps? (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Has the MSG undertaken efforts to improve the availability of data in open format? If yes, please describe these. (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p>Yes, Albania during 2020 has build the Open Data portal and the Mining Cadaster which are available in EITI Albania website and facilitates easier search, sorting, and manipulation of EITI</p>

	<p>data.</p> <p><a href="https://www.opendata-albeiti.org/">https://www.opendata-albeiti.org/</a></p> <p><a href="https://miningcadastre.albeiti.org/">https://miningcadastre.albeiti.org/</a></p>
<p>Have summary data files been completed for each fiscal year for which data has been disclosed? (Requirement 7.2.c)</p>	<p>Yes, all the summary data files can be found in the following link.</p> <p><a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/publications/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/publications/</a></p>
<p>What systematically disclosed data that is in the scope of EITI disclosures is machine readable and inter-operable? (Requirement 7.2.d)</p>	<p><i>Yes, revenues, production, export, social and and environmental, employment and other economic data are in open format and available in various locations including National Registering Center (QKB) and Institute of Statistics (INSTAT).</i></p>

Outreach and communications (Requirement 7.1)

**12. Describe the MSG's efforts in the period under review to ensure that information published about the extractive sector is comprehensible and available in appropriate languages.**

EITI Albania has come up with brochures and leaflets about EITI and the different aspects of EITI requirements and implementation. Some of these knowledge products have been translated to English language to better communicate with host and neighboring communities.

The key findings EITI Albania reports are also communicated to stakeholders through outreach activities. The language used in these activities varies from Albanian to English depending on stakeholders.

Most of the times any information published about the extractive sector and also of EITI implementation in Albania is published in Albanian and English languages.

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/home-eng-home/>

### 13. Describe examples of use of EITI data.

EITI Albania publishes extractives data through country reports and through its online portals such as the main website <https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/home-eng-home/>, the Open Data Portal <https://www.opendata-albeiti.org/> and the Mining Cadaster <https://miningcadastre.albeiti.org/>. The data found in the portals are in open format and are publicly accessible.

From time to time, EITI Albania also receives requests for extractives data and information, particularly from legislators, development institutions, and the media. These request are via email

The data published EITI Albania are also used in meetings seminars for natural resource governance.

**Note: Please refer to List of activities and links for Outcome and Impact document in the Albeiti Validation Dossier:**

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/>

### 14. Provide information about outreach events organised to spread awareness of and facilitate dialogue about governance of extractive resources, building on EITI disclosures.

Year	Event name	Brief description of	Date	Location	Organiser	Number and type of	Links to further information
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		the event				attendees	
<b>YEAR 2020</b>							
1.	TV Chronicle	The chronicle was dedicated completely to EITI's work and projects during this year	December 24	Tirana	PR Ambassador	-	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5Q-ZRD6khl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5Q-ZRD6khl</a>
2.	Meeting with journalists	Economics and other journalists were gathered for a presentation by EITI director on the projects realized during this year	December 18	Tirana	PR Ambassador	Journalist from local media	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/meeting-with-journalists/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/meeting-with-journalists/</a>

3.	TV Chronicle	The topic of the chronicle was on the revenues from the minenary industry in Albania and the role of EITI.	December 16	Tirana	PR Ambassador	-	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1AqIxHCGIA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1AqIxHCGIA</a>
4.	Roundtable	Despite the difficult situation with the Covid-19 pandemic the EITI Secretariat managed to realize the projects	November 11	Tirana	EITI National Secretariat	Attendance from MSG, Secretariat and Journalist	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/successful-year-for-eiti-in-albania-despite-covid-19-pandemics/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/successful-year-for-eiti-in-albania-despite-covid-19-pandemics/</a>



YEAR 2019	Event name	Brief description of the event	Date	Location	Organiser	Number and type of attendees	Links to further information
5.	Meeting on extractive industries' royalties	The participants agreed on the plan of activities for 2020, which includes the organization of a national roundtable on royalty issues, the drafting of legal proposals to amend legislation gaps, and the simplification of the whole royalty claim process.	February 5	Tirana	The OSCE Presence in Albania	Attendance from the OSCE Presence in Albania, Agency for the Support of Local Self-Governance, the Association for Local Autonomy, the Albanian Association of Municipalities and Secretariat	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/meeting-on-royalty-organized-by-the-osce-presence/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/meeting-on-royalty-organized-by-the-osce-presence/</a>

1.	MEETING FOR THE ROYALTY IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Executive Director of the Association for Local Autonomy stressed the importance of revising the value of the royalty on the sectorial impact and support for the municipalities optimization of addressing issues related to royalty and extractive industry	November 19	Tirana	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-per-impaktin-e-rentes-mbi-zhvillimin-e-gendrueshem-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-per-impaktin-e-rentes-mbi-zhvillimin-e-gendrueshem-2/</a>
2.	THE 4TH INTER-MUNICIPAL MEETING IN BULQIZA: MINING	EITI National Secretariat discussed the potentials and advantages of increasing	October 30	Bulqiza	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takimi-4-tematik-nder-vendor-bulgqize-industria-minerare-dhe-ceshtje-te-rentes-minerare-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takimi-4-tematik-nder-vendor-bulgqize-industria-minerare-dhe-ceshtje-te-rentes-minerare-2/</a>

	INDUSTRY AND ROYALTY ISSUES	local government cooperation with the EITI National Secretariat to the transparency reporting process to maximize the social and environmental impact of royalty in local community and strengthening local capacities					
3.	MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL-SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT	A business meeting was held between the Brazilian Ambassador to Albania Mr. Francisco Carvalho	September 27	Tirana	Brazilian Embassy in Tirana	Representatives from Brazilian Embassy and Secretariat	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-me-ambasadorin-e-brazilit-interes-dhe-vleresim-per-implementimin-eiti-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-me-ambasadorin-e-brazilit-interes-dhe-vleresim-per-implementimin-eiti-2/</a>

	T FOR THE EITI IMPLEMENT ATION	Chagas and the Head of National Secretariat, in the context of significance and assessment of the EITI International standards implementatio n advantages.					
4.	THE THIRD INTER- MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP ON ROYALTY ISSUES	The OSCE Mission Presence Mrs. Arianna Briganti emphasized the OSCE's commitment to support a transparent process for sustainable	September 25	Berat	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/workshop-i-i-trete-nder-vendor-tematik-per-problematikat-e-rentes-minerare-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/workshop-i-i-trete-nder-vendor-tematik-per-problematikat-e-rentes-minerare-2/</a>

		development, as well as environmental and social optimal impacts of the extractive industry activities in local units and communities.					
5.	MEETINGS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BERAT, KUÇOVA, URA VAJGURORE AND SKRAPAR MUNICIPALITIES	The representatives of each of the four Municipalities discussed issues related to: Delivering and maximizing the social and environmental impact of the royalty on beneficiary communities; Problems	September 2-3	Berat	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takime-me-perfaqesuesit-e-bashkive-berat-kucove-ura-vajgurore-dhe-skrapar/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takime-me-perfaqesuesit-e-bashkive-berat-kucove-ura-vajgurore-dhe-skrapar/</a>

		related to the environmental effects of extraction activities; Strengthening local capacities for the use of legal instruments in the fight against informality, etc.					
6.	EITI-OSCE: SECOND INTER-MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP WITH SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES	The OSCE representative introduced the OSCE priorities and scenarios for a sustainable, transparent and by an optimal environmental and social impact of	May 30	Vlora	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-workshop-i-dyte-ndervendor-me-bashkite-e-jugut-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-workshop-i-dyte-ndervendor-me-bashkite-e-jugut-2/</a>

		Extractive Industry activity.					
7.	EITI-OSCE: INTER-MUNICIPAL ROUNDS MEETINGS IN FOUR SOUTH MUNICIPALITIES	National EITI and the OSCE Presence organized series of workshops in the four South Albanian Municipalities: Saranda, Himara, Selenica, Vlora, focusing on the discussions of the local government relations with extractive industries companies.	May 20-21	Saranda, Himara, Selenica, Vlora	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-cikel-takimesh-ndervendore-ne-kater-bashki-te-jugut-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-cikel-takimesh-ndervendore-ne-kater-bashki-te-jugut-2/</a>
8.	EITI AT THE INTERNATIO	In the speech delivered by	May 10	Tirana	Ministry of Infrastructure	Attendees from central	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-ne-konferencen-nderkombetare-per-zhvillimin-">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-ne-konferencen-nderkombetare-per-zhvillimin-</a>

<p>NAL          CONFERENCE          'ON THE          INTEGRAL          DEVELOPMENT          OF          MINING          INDUSTRIES          WITH          MINIMAL          IMPACT ON          THE          ENVIRONMENT'</p>	<p>EITI National Secretariat was emphasized the importance of promoting and implementing the Transparency process in Mining activity, as well as the active role of Albania EITI cooperation with Kosovo's state structures, regarding the initiation of Kosovo's membership process in the EITI International Initiative.</p>			<p>and Energy</p>	<p>and local government institutions of Albania and Kosovo</p>	<p><a href="https://www.eiti.org/albania/integral-te-industrise-minerare-me-ndikim-minimal-ne-mjedis-2/">integral-te-industrise-minerare-me-ndikim-minimal-ne-mjedis-2/</a></p>
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9.	EITI-OSCE: FIRST INTER- MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP WITH LOCAL GOVERNME NT ON ROYALTY ISSUES	OSCE representative , Mr. Qëndro presented the issues related to inter- municipal co- operation of royalty distribution at the local level	May 9	Fier/Patos	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from central and local government institutions and civil society	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-workshop-i-pare-ndervendor-me-pushtetin-lokal-lidhur-me-problematikat-e-rentes-minerare-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-workshop-i-pare-ndervendor-me-pushtetin-lokal-lidhur-me-problematikat-e-rentes-minerare-2/</a>
10.	EITI-OSCE: REGIONAL TECHNICAL PREPARATO RY MEETINGS	After signing the Memorandum of Understanding , the National EITI Secretariat and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE Presence in Albania,	April 25	Patos, Roskovec and Fier	OSCE Presence in Albania and Secretariat	Attendees from local government institutions	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-takime-teknike-rajonale-pergatitore-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/eiti-osbe-takime-teknike-rajonale-pergatitore-2/</a>

		organized preparatory Regional technical meetings in the largest oil municipalities					
11.	MEETING BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SWISS EMBASSY IN ALBANIA, MSG AND THE EITI NATIONAL SECRETARIAT	The MSG Civil Society representatives presented the work of Civil Society within the EITI and made an expose of the Project funded by the Swiss Embassy on Royalty.	February 29	Tirana	Swiss Embassy	Representatives from Swiss Embassy and Secretariat	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-mes-perfaqesuesve-te-ambasades-zvicerane-ne-shqiperi-msg-dhe-sekretariatit-kombetar-eiti-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/takim-mes-perfaqesuesve-te-ambasades-zvicerane-ne-shqiperi-msg-dhe-sekretariatit-kombetar-eiti-2/</a>
12.	CIVIL SOCIETY, ITS ROLE IN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TRANSPARE	Topics on Civil Society Involvement Program in the Natural Resources	February 11-12	Tirana	The Albanian Center for Development and Integration	Representatives from Civil Society Organization in Albania	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/shoqeria-civile-rol-i-saj-ne-transparencen-e-industrise-nxjerrrese-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/shoqeria-civile-rol-i-saj-ne-transparencen-e-industrise-nxjerrrese-2/</a>

<p>NCY</p>	<p>Utilization          Process and          EITI Activity in          Albania;          Royalty and          local          communities;          Fiscal Regime          and revenue          management;          Community          Rights in Social          and          Environmental          Matters;          Beneficial          Ownerships;          The CSOs Code          of Conduct in          the EITI          process;          Obligations of          entities and          companies          using natural          resources, etc          were          presented          during          workshop</p>			<p>(part of MSG)</p>	
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		sessions				
13.	COMBINED EFFORT TO INCREASE SYNERGY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS IN THE TRANSPARENCY PROCESS	Cooperation with representative s of SHELL Upstream Albania BV (branch of Royal Dutch Shell) as a guarantee for promoting an attractive climate for foreign investments and sustainable economic development in Albania.	January 22	Tirana	SHELL Upstream Albania and Secretariat	<a href="https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/per-rritjen-e-sinergjise-me-investitoret-nderkombetare-ne-procesin-e-trasparences-takim-me-drejtoren-e-ri-te-pergjithshem-te-shell-upstream-albania-z-rohan-dsouza-2/">https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/per-rritjen-e-sinergjise-me-investitoret-nderkombetare-ne-procesin-e-trasparences-takim-me-drejtoren-e-ri-te-pergjithshem-te-shell-upstream-albania-z-rohan-dsouza-2/</a>

**15. Describe the MSG efforts in the period under review to consider access challenges and information needs of data users, including different genders and subgroups of citizens.**

*List efforts of MSG to make data more accessible*

In the period under review, the EITI Albania has reproduced copies of reports, executive summaries, leaflets and other promotional materials in print, and distributed them to stakeholders during national e international events, mines, and local government visits and meetings. The key findings of reports are communicated to the stakeholders through the same events/activities, which also serve as platforms for dialogues and gathering of feedback. Representatives from the national government and the industries join the activities to directly respond to concerns raised by stakeholders. Local media are also invited to these events to share report findings and the ensuing discussions to the wider public. Copies of reports and event materials such as presentations and slides are also made available online at the AlbEITI website and Facebook page.

In 2019 EITI Albania has organized an exhibition with photos from the extractive sector and extractive areas.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges in mobility as physical gatherings were prohibited. The MSG adapted to this by holding events online and exploring different tools and technology available to sustain engagement with stakeholders.

**16. Describe other efforts by the MSG in the period under review to ensure that information is widely accessible and distributed.**

*[Document whether the MSG has*

- *produced summary reports, thematic reports or other analysis that is accessible, concise and easily understood by target audiences;*
- *summarised and compared the share of each revenue stream to the total amount of revenue that accrues to each respective level of government.*
- *undertake capacity-building efforts, especially with civil society and through civil society organisations, to improve understanding of the information and data from the reports and online disclosures and encourage use of the information by citizens, the media and others.*

#### *MSG efforts to distribute information*

EITI Albania prints and reproduces copies of reports, executive summaries, and promotional materials (T-shirts, hats, dossiers, USB or mobile chargers, note books, pens, etc. with EITI Albania logo). These materials are distributed to stakeholders during national subnational engagements. Every activity or produced report are also available online at the EITI Albania website or fb page.

EITI Albania also distributes copies to relevant institutions such as member agencies, Ministries, Local Government and development partners.

To explain information contained in the report and the related knowledge products, the EITI Albania holds workshops, capacity-building activities, conferences, and webinars. Members of the media are also invited to these events to disseminate information and encourage the use of EITI data.

Members of the MSG, particularly industry and civil society representatives, also conduct their own activities, where EITI Albania data and information are shared and explained in Albeiti website, Civil Society website and/or relative media channels.

***Note: Please refer to List of activities and links for Outcome and Impact document in the Albeiti***

**Validation Dossier:**

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/validation-2021/>

*These are only some of the links of the efforts by the MSG in the period under review to ensure that information is widely accessible and distributed. More information can be found in:*

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/news/>

and the Civil Society website:

<https://albneteiti.org/>

Other websites examples:

<https://www.globalnpo.org/AL/Tirana/815259021851911/EITI-Albania>

<https://www.osce.org/presence-in-albania/415946>

**17. How could the MSG improve the accessibility and distribution of information, considering the needs of different subgroups of citizens?**

EITI Albania data is accessible to all albanian through online disclosures and printed copies/materials. In addition, EITI Albania has exerted effort to reach out to specific local governments, communities, through local workshops, meetings in extractive areas information has

also been shared. MSG members, particularly civil society representatives, have also conducted outreach activities to their respective constituents. In short, all stakeholders have access to EITI Albania data.

The following are other steps that the MSG is considering to improve accessibility and distribution of EITI Albania information:

- Establishing relationships and starting cooperation with universities and other academic institutions through the development of activities for their continuous involvement in the EITI process;
- A series of weekly meetings and information sessions on the transparency of extractive industries and the good governance of Natural Resources. 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
- Conduct of events or capacity-building activities tailor-made for specific stakeholders;
- Establishing greater partnership between EITI-Albania and other implementing countries to enable better knowledge sharing and more Effective EITI implementation;

### Part III: Sustainability and effectiveness

#### **18. The MSG is requested to present any additional information and evidence related to the indicators for assessing the sustainability and effectiveness of EITI implementation.**

Each indicator will be assigned 0, 0.5 or 1 points by the EITI Board. The points will be added to the overall score of the country. The assessment of performance on the indicators will draw on information provided by the MSG, publicly available sources, stakeholder consultations and disclosures by the



implementing country and companies. Please see the EITI Validation Guide for further information about how performance on these indicators will be assessed.

- I. EITI implementation addresses nationally relevant extractive sector governance challenges. This indicator also recognises efforts beyond the EITI Standard.

Electrical power ranks as the second most important energy source in Albania after petroleum. Hydropower plants provide the main source of zero-carbon electricity generation. Albania EITI reporting goes beyond the EITI Standard with a detailed section on hydro energy. The most recent report presents the legal and regulatory context of hydropower, disclosure of production and revenue data, and reconciliation of subnational payments. This analysis identified significant power distribution system losses, which Albanian authorities are working to address. Albania EITI intends to build on this work with a scoping study to evaluate other renewable energy technologies. The context for this effort is the government's programme to expand clean energy production, including an innovative new floating solar demonstration. Future EITI reporting could align with this trend to take a broader view of the energy transition in Albania.

- II. Extractive sector data is disclosed systematically through routine government and corporate reporting.

*[Add MSG response and additional information/evidence]*

Most of the data and information on extractives contracts, state-owned enterprises, production, exports, and employment can be considered systematically disclosed, although enhancements to format and presentation may still be implemented. Disclosure of company beneficial ownership

information to the government is mandatory, and are available online. Additionally to the major government institutions websites more detailed informations on revenues can be found also in each Local government website in areas where extractive companies operates.

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/en/home-eng-home/>

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

<https://qkb.gov.al/search/search-in-the-register-of-beneficial-owners-rbo/search-reporting-subject/>

<http://www.akbn.gov.al/category/legjislacioni-en/others/?lang=en>

<https://www.tatime.gov.al/eng/>

<http://www.dogana.gov.al/disponueshme/>

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/>

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

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

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

Additionally to the major government institutions websites more detailed informations on revenues and the reallocation can be found also in each Local Government website in affected areas by extractive industries.

III. There is an enabling environment for citizen participation in extractive sector governance, including participation by affected communities.

*[Add MSG response and additional information/evidence.]*

EITI Albania and the Civil Society stakeholder group on the MSG provides outreach and capacity-building of, various sectors in support of the EITI implementation in Albania at national and local levels and communicate and build awareness about EITI and the progress of its implementation in Albania. Please refer to List of Activities in the Validation dossier:

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/albania-list-of-activities-and-links-for-outcome-and-impact.pdf>

IV. Extractive sector data is accessible and used for analysis, research and advocacy.

The MSG communicates EITI information to stakeholders through the annual conferences, workshops, meetings. The events also serve as a platform for debate and feedback on EITI implementation.

EITI Albania publishes extractives data through its website and country reports. These are also referred to by government agencies and civil society representatives in their stakeholder engagements.

Please find relevant evidence links in:

<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/albania-list-of-activities-and-links-for-outcome-and-impact.pdf>

V. EITI has informed changes in extractive sector policies or practices.

AlbEITI MSG representatives has been active members in the multistakeholder Group for drafting the Royalty new legal framework.

AlbEITI has significantly contributed in the Policy Document drafted on 2019-2020 by OSCE Presence in Albania in collaboration with AlbEITI and Ministry of Interior regarding the impact of EI in Local Communities.

AlbEITI through Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy has substantially contributed in the drafting process of Law on Beneficial Ownership and the Decision to create a Register on BO.

#### Part IV: Stakeholder feedback and MSG approval

**19. Describe opportunities provided to stakeholders beyond MSG members to give feedback on the EITI process, including the EITI work plan.**

Every year, EITI Albania holds a conference or meetings to communicate to stakeholders the latest findings of the most recent country report and facilitates discussions to gather feedback from stakeholders. EITI Albania also conducts community, and local government, meetings, visits, surveys to engage local stakeholders.

Aside from these usual activities, EITI Albania also holds and participate to events for different issues and sectors. In 2018 for example COMPLIANCE ADVISOR OMBUDSMAN (CAO) organized a Round Table held in Tirana that helped addressing the problems that emerge in our communities as well as the negotiating process for resolving disputes between communities and businesses operating in extractive areas and EITI Albania was part of the discussions. Also, participated in the 11th INTERNATIONAL PLENARY MEETING FOR THE DIALOGUE ON THE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF NATURAL RESOURCES –OECD. Partnerships with OSCE in Albania or foreign embassies helped also broaden the reach of EITI in Albania. Or capacity-building activities and meetings with media representative to help them in pursuing stories in the extractives sector using EITI data.

The MSG also ensures that, as much as possible, stakeholders are made aware of the latest developments in the sector. In 2019 a round of meetings were organized with Local Government representatives and representatives of local and central institutions on royalty issues.

Please refer to List of Activities in the Validation dossier:

*<https://www.albeiti.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/albania-list-of-activities-and-links-for-outcome-and-impact.pdf>*

**20. Describe how any feedback from stakeholders beyond MSG members have been considered in the review of the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation.**

In each event or meeting organized by EITI Albania include breakout sessions or discussions where stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the latest EITI Albania report and on EITI implementation in general. Issues and concerns are recorded, assessed, and are considered in crafting the next work plan. Issues that can be addressed immediately either by MSG members or representatives from implementing agencies are tackled right at the activity.

To measure the impact of EITI implementation in Albania surveys has been made and in the actual workplan an acitivity to asses the EITI impact in Albania is disgned. Stakeholder feedback is considered in enhancing implementation.

**21. Date of MSG approval of this submission and information on how the public can access it, e.g. link to national EITI website.**

23. 09. 2021

