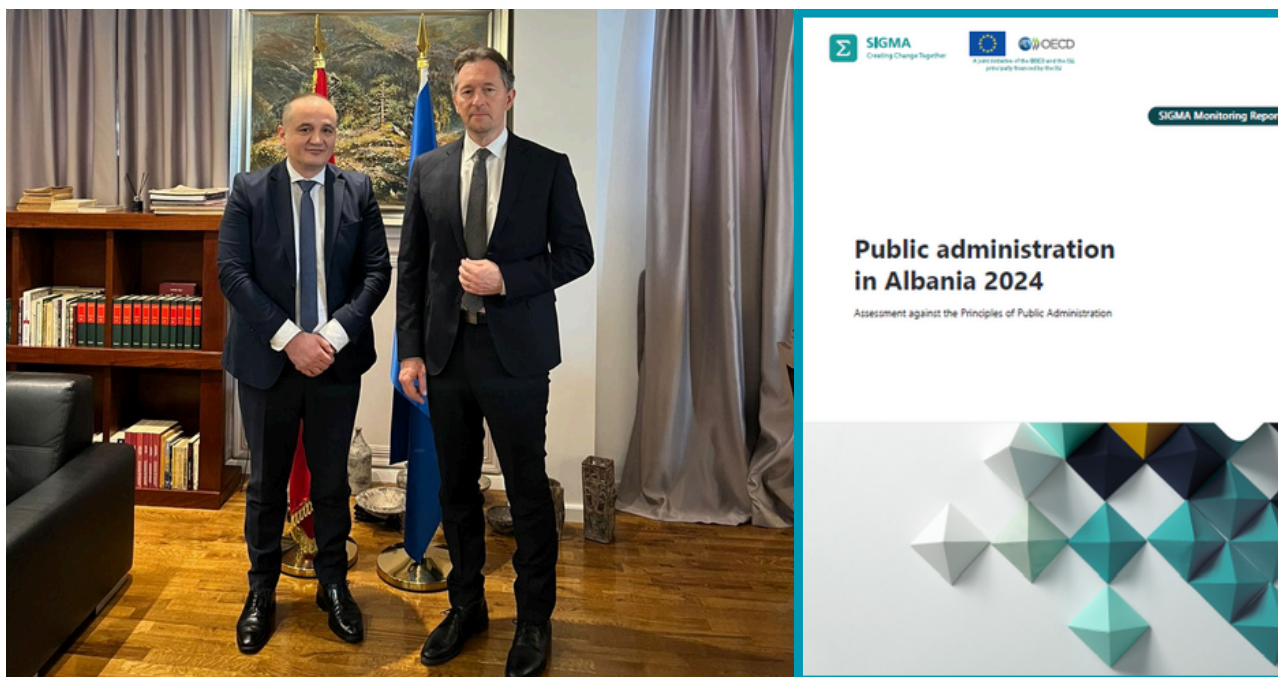




Monthly newsletter

March 2025



The Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, at the meeting with the Director of SIGMA, Mr. Gregor Virant

2024 Report for Albania, SIGMA evaluates the work of the ALSAI, Mr. Shehu meets with Mr. Virant

As part of his visit to Albania to present the results of the 2024 Public Administration Assessment Report, the Director of the SIGMA/OECD Program, Mr. Gregor Virant, met on 05.02.2025 with the Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu.

The meeting held at the premises of the ALSAI discussed current challenges in the Albanian public administration, starting from the transparency of public institutions, increasing accountability and implementing recommendations. The ALSAI is part of the SIGMA Report on the role of audit activity in the use of public funds.

The Director of the SIGMA/OECD Program, Mr. Gregor Virant, while appreciating the role of the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution in the effective supervision of public administration, emphasized that it is very important that the recommendations of the ALSAI are implemented by the audited institutions. Mr. Virant stated that support for the Supreme State Audit Institution will continue closely.

The Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, thanked Mr. Virant for the cooperation and continuous support that SIGMA, as one of the strategic partners of the institution, has given to the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution not only in the field of auditing, but also in the development of professional capacities, etc. Mr. Shehu emphasized that, through increasing and ensuring transparency, the work of public institutions would improve.

Also present at the meeting with the Chairman of the ALSAI were Mr. Timo Ligi, SIGMA Program Manager for Albania, as well as Mr. Alastair Swarbrick, Senior Policy Advisor in this program.

SIGMA is a joint initiative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union. SIGMA's mission is to support candidate and potential candidate countries for membership in the European Union in public administration reforms and professional capacities.

Statistics



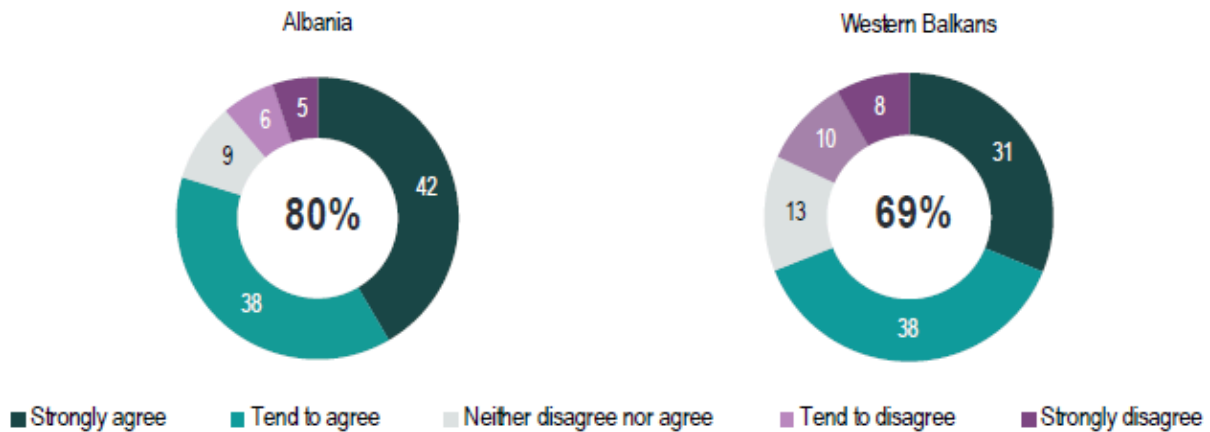
20 finalized audits for 2025

13 finished audits in February

66 audits are in process

28 audit reports are published in the web

Figure 54. Perception of SSAI independence among civil servants, compared to the WB average



SIGMA Survey: Perception of the independence of the ALSAI among public servants, compared to the Western Balkans average

SIGMA report: The ALSAI, an independent institution that audits with international standards

According to the "SIGMA Survey" of public servants on the functioning of public administration in the Western Balkans, the perception of the independence of the ALSAI is at the level of 80% in 2024."

In the SIGMA Report on "Albanian Public Administration 2024", the independent activity in auditing public funds by the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI) is assessed as an institution that provides security for the use of public resources and helps improve the functioning of the public sector. The following is the assessment of the SIGMA report on the ALSAI.

The ALSAI was established on the basis of the Constitution as an independent audit institution, which also defines its role in broad terms. The Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution defines in more detail the functional, operational and financial independence of the ALSAI and, together with the Constitution, defines the legal framework for the ALSAI. The legal framework is in line with the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs).

The ALSAI has the authority to audit budget implementation and revenue collection, as well as the management and protection of public funds and public or state property. The ALSAI also has the right to audit, among other things, the users of public funds provided by the European Union or other international organizations and state grants to political parties. The audit mandate is comprehensive and rarely contested.

SIGMA Survey: The adequacy of the legal framework for external audit and its effectiveness in practice

Indicator 31. Adequacy of the legal framework for external audit and its effectiveness in practice		2024 indicator value	79/100
Sub-indicators			Points
1.	Constitutional, legal, organisational and managerial independence of the SAI		17.9/20
2.	Adequacy and coverage of the SAI mandate and its alignment with IFPP		10/10
3.	Governance and management of the SAI		9/10
4.	Compliance of audit methodology with ISSAIs / Audits are conducted in accordance with the ISSAIs		9/10
5.	Quality management of the SAI		9/10
6.	Reporting and the follow-up of audits		9/10
7.	Implementation of audit recommendations		7.8/15
8.	SAI external engagement and communication		5/5
9.	Use of SAI reports by the legislature		2/10

The ALSAI has a Strategic Development Plan 2023-2027 and an action plan, which are monitored and reported annually. The objectives include increasing support for the Parliament through effective audits of public funds and increasing the impact of their work by improving the implementation of recommendations and optimizing the professional capacities of their staff.

The ALSAI is authorized to conduct financial, compliance, performance and Information Technology audits. The ALSAI's annual audit plan defines mandatory audits and other audits selected based on risk. In the last three years, the ALSAI has conducted between 118 and 140 financial and compliance audits per year. The ALSAI has continued to develop its performance audit capabilities and completed 55 performance reports during the period 2021-2023.

Performance audits cover aspects of key sectors, such as: economic development, education, environment, justice and police, health, public administration, infrastructure and social security.

According to the results of the "SIGMA Survey" of public servants on public administration in the Western Balkans 2024, 70% of respondents considered that the ALSAI reports were easy to understand. Furthermore, 69% stated that the reports contain relevant and useful recommendations.

Recommendations made in audit reports are generally accepted by audited entities. Of the 4,631 recommendations submitted in 2022, 97% (4,494) were accepted by audited entities. This represents an improvement compared to the 2021 acceptance rate of 80%.

The ALSAI aims to engage with external stakeholders (the public, civil society and international partners) in the annual planning process and on specific audit reports or topics, and has published a Strategy for the period 2022-2025, to improve communication and consequently trust in the ALSAI.

Albanian Supreme Audit Institution and National Audit Office of Kosovo, parallel audit "Dam Protection and Safety" in Albania and Kosovo



Following the cooperation and joint audits between the two Supreme Audit Institutions, the Albania Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI) and the National Audit Office of Kosovo will conduct a parallel audit on the protection and safety of dams in both countries.

For this purpose, on 19.02.2025, the Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, held a working meeting with the Auditor General of Kosovo, Ms. Vlora Spanca, at the NAO premises in Pristina.

This meeting marks the continuation of the cooperation between the ALSAI and the NAO, to strengthen accountability and transparency in the management of public resources.



The Chairman of ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, while visiting SAI of Poland



Official visit of the Chairman of the ALSAI to the SAI of Poland, on the occasion of the 106th anniversary of its establishment

The Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, at the invitation of the President of the Supreme Audit Office of Poland, Mr. Marian Banaś, paid an official visit to this institution on the occasion of the 106th anniversary of its establishment on February 7, 2025. Mr. Shehu was welcomed by President Banaś and other senior leaders of the institution. Also participating in this meeting was the President of the Brazilian Federal Court of Accounts, at the same time President of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), Minister Vital do Rêgo.

President Banaś thanked Mr. Shehu for his participation in this significant day for the Supreme Audit Office of Poland.



Mr. Shehu and President Banaś in their conversation emphasized the excellent history of the relationship and cooperation between the two institutions, which will always be in further development and consolidation.

The Chairman of the ALSAI thanked President Banaś for the special reception and emphasized the importance and added value that the cooperation with the institution of the Supreme Audit Office of Poland has for the ALSAI.

During the meeting, topics of common interest were also discussed, such as security and civil protection, auditing of Public-Private Partnership projects, "ad-hoc" audits, etc. Mr. Shehu and President Banaś expressed beyond appreciation their full commitment and willingness to deepen this successful cooperation.

The Chairman of the ALSAI, in his speech during the official anniversary ceremony of the Supreme Audit Office of Poland, expressed congratulations on the 106th anniversary of its establishment and the best assessments for the high level of this institution. He emphasized that every employee of this institution has been and is proud to be part of this system and this honorable people, which is a symbol of great resistance and the preservation of human values.



During his visit to Warsaw, Mr. Shehu visited the "Warsaw Rising Museum", which is dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

Completed audits in February 2025



Audit "On the progress of state obligations for final decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and International Arbitration" at the State Attorney's Office, for the period 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023.



Compliance audit in the General Directorate of Financing and Contracting for EU, WB and other Donor Funds (CFCU), for the period 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2024.



Compliance audit in the companies EDO, APC and TSO for mutual obligations between them, in the period from 01.01.2020 to 30.11.2024.



Performance audit on the topic "Protection of the values and assets of our country at UNESCO" carried out in the following entities: Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, National Institute of Cultural Heritage, municipalities of Durrës, Rogozhinë, Fier, Berat, Gjirokastër and Pogradec.



Performance audit on the topic "Management of public spaces on beaches" carried out in the following entities: Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Coastal Agency and regional branches, Shkodër Municipality, Lezhë Municipality, Durrës Municipality, Vlorë Municipality, Himarë Municipality and Saranda Municipality.



Performance audit on the topic "Impact of mining activity on the forest fund" carried out in the following entities: Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Environment Agency, National Forestry Agency, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, National Agency of Natural Resources, Municipality of Selenica, Skrapar, Kruja, Dimal and Berat



Performance audit on the topic "Career Orientation of Students in the Pre-University Education System". The entities included in this audit are: Ministry of Education and Sports, Quality Assurance Agency in Pre-University Education, National Agency of Pre-University Education (former General Directorate of Pre-University Education), Regional Directorates of Pre-University Education, Local Offices of Pre-University Education and Pre-University Education Institutions.



Performance audit on the topic "Research and scientific projects carried out by the Academy of Sciences, in promoting scientific, technological progress and innovation, for the benefit of the country".



Performance audit on the topic "National Inspectorates in Protection of Public Interests" conducted at the Central Inspectorate.



Audit of Information Technology systems at the Agency for Agricultural and Rural Development (AARD).

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AUDIT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED IN THE AUDITS DURING 2023, IN THE ENTITIES:

- Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
- Ministry of Finance
- General Directorate of Taxes, Directorate of Large Taxpayers
- Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets
- National Agency for Natural Resources

Audit for the implementation of recommendations left in audits evaded in 2023, in the following entities:

- Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
- Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Justice
- University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa"
- General Directorate of State Social Service
- Shkodra Home for the Elderly
- Tirana Home for the Elderly
- High Judicial Council and Institute of Geosciences

Audit for the implementation of recommendations left in the audits of 2024 (first semester), in the following entities:

- Compulsory Health Care Insurance Fund, Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- "Mother Teresa" University Hospital Center Tirana
- Albanian Electric Power Corporation

The ALSAI conducts work analysis for 2024



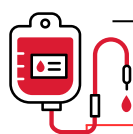
In accordance with Order No. 13, dated 16.01.2025, of the Chairman of the ALSAI, "On conducting the annual analysis of the activities of the ALSAI departments for the year 2024", during February 2025, the audit departments and other structures in the ALSAI have conducted annual work analyses. In these analyses, the assessment of the work carried out during 2024, the planning of audit activity and the objectives for 2025 were discussed.

In his speech during the participation in the analyses, the Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, emphasized the optimization of professional skills and innovative knowledge on international auditing standards, continuous cooperation with counterpart SAIs, part of the INTOSAI and EUROSAI community, training, in order to achieve qualitative results. Mr. Shehu thanked the employees for their commitment so far and highlighted the importance of close cooperation between the various structures of the institution.

Special attention in the analysis was paid to the activities that will be organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the ALSAI, where the Chairman requested maximum commitment from all structures to mark this historical moment of the institution.

The Chairman of the ALSAI requested intensification of communication, interaction and cooperation with both homologous and international institutions in the field of auditing.

During 2024, the ALSAI has continued to intensify cooperation with homologous SAIs, through the signing of new agreements and continuous staff training, with the aim of exchanging experiences and increasing professional capacities.



Solidarity for patients in need, ALSAI staff donates blood

Continuing the tradition established over the years, the staff of the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution has joined the national campaign for voluntary blood donation, in aid of patients with thalassemia, chronically ill people, as well as accident victims.

On February 24, 2025, the employees of the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution took part in a voluntary blood donation session in aid of these patients, organized by the National Blood Transfusion Center.

Employees of the ALSAI have shown solidarity with this humane act that saves the lives of people in need.







The National Blood Transfusion Center has thanked the staff of the Supreme State Audit Office, who have now made blood donation in aid of patients with thalassemia a tradition. The National Blood Transfusion Center appreciates that the solidarity and tradition of the ALSAI have always been a great and important help in the cause of voluntary blood donation.



Thank you for reading!



All rights reserved by ALSAI

 www.klsh.org.al	 Kontrolli i Lartë i Shtetit
 E-mail: klsh@klsh.org.al info@klsh.org.al	 klsh_org_al
 "Abdi Toptani" Street No. 1 Tirana	 Public reception hours: Monday Thursday: 08:00 – 16:30 Friday: 08:00 – 14:00