



# Monthly newsletter

April 2026



## ALSAI submits the 2025 Annual Performance Report to Parliament

The Supreme State Audit Institution of Albania has submitted to the Parliament the 2025 Annual Performance Report, a key document summarizing the main results of its audit activities and overall institutional performance.

In fulfillment of its constitutional and legal obligations, during 2025 the Supreme State Audit Institution carried out 190 audit missions in public sector institutions. These missions included 44 compliance audits, 63 financial audits, 32 combined audits, 13 thematic audits, 13 performance audits, 10 information technology systems audits, as well as 15 follow-up audits on the implementation of recommendations.

The audits were conducted across 271 entities, including 126 central government institutions, 87 local self-government units, 13 public asset management institutions, and 45 public companies with state ownership exceeding 50%.

During the audits conducted in 2025, a total of 222 audit opinions, messages, and conclusions were issued. The audit results were accompanied by 4,994 recommendations, including: 29 proposals for improving the legal framework, 3,268 organizational measures, 281 measures for financial damage compensation, 441 measures addressing irregularities with negative financial impact, and 975 disciplinary and administrative measures.

These measures aimed to address the identified issues, strengthen internal control mechanisms, and enhance institutional accountability, with the objective of with the

objective of improving the management of public funds and preventing the recurrence of such issues in the future.

In accordance with its legal obligations and as a key indicator of the effectiveness and impact of audit activities, the Supreme State Audit Institution of Albania continuously conducts follow-up audits to verify the implementation of recommendations issued in previous audits. This process aims to assess the level of implementation of recommendations by audited institutions, as well as to ensure proper follow-up of the measures taken to address them.

During 2025, the implementation of 4,348 recommendations issued in previous audits was verified. Approximately 99% of the recommendations were accepted, of which 70% have been fully implemented, partially implemented, or are in the process of being implemented by the respective institutions.

Despite the high level of acceptance of recommendations by public institutions, this indicator highlights the need for further improvement in their practical implementation.

In this context, the Supreme State Audit Institution has continued to monitor the implementation of recommendations in audited entities, requiring the adoption of concrete measures to ensure their full and timely implementation, as a key mechanism for guaranteeing effective follow-up and enhancing the performance of audited institutions.

# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

190

### Audit Activities

During 2025, the ALSAI carried out 190 audits out of 180 planned, including compliance audits, financial audits, combined audits, performance audits, information technology audits, thematic audits on specific issues, and follow-up audits on the implementation of recommendations.



271

### Entities Audited

In accordance with its legal mandate, the ALSAI conducted audits in independent institutions, central government entities, local self-government units, public companies with state ownership exceeding 50%, as well as audits of investments financed by foreign funding.



222

### Opinions and Conclusions

Based on audit evidence and the professional judgment of the auditor, taking into account the audit criteria, the materiality of the findings and their pervasiveness, conclusions were reached respectively in the form of audit opinions, messages, and conclusions.



4994

### Recommendations

For the deficiencies, irregularities, and issues identified during the audits, a total of 4,994 recommendations were issued to improve the situation, including organizational, disciplinary, and administrative measures, as well as proposals for legal improvements.



70%

### Level of Implementation of Recommendations

In fulfillment of its legal obligation, the ALSAI carried out audits on the implementation of 4,348 recommendations issued in previous audits, with the aim of verifying their status and monitoring the measures taken by the respective institutions.



# FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS



## 125

**Verified audits on recommendation implementation**

- 43** Combined Audits
- 37** Financial Audits
- 24** Compliance Audits
- 13** Performance Audits
- 6** Thematic Audits
- 2** IT Audits

## 4348

**Recommendations for Implementation by Entities**

- 2368** Organizational Measures
- 1142** Disciplinary Actions
- 717** Financial Impact
- 76** Administrative Actions
- 27** Improvements to the Legal Framework

Institutional performance cannot be achieved without the consolidation of an effective system for monitoring the implementation of recommendations. This is the only way to fulfill the strategic objectives of the institutional mission and vision, as well as the expectations of Parliament, the public, and stakeholders.

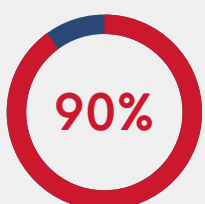
The requirements of the INTOSAI Framework of Professional Pronouncements (IFPP) clearly define the roles and responsibilities of audited entities and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), according to which the responsibility for the timely and effective implementation of recommendations lies with the audited entities; while, on the other hand, it is the responsibility of SAIs to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, namely to verify whether the actions undertaken serve the intended outcomes.

The recommendations addressed represent the instruments through which auditing can bring added value to public sector entities. The effectiveness of the follow-up on the implementation of recommendations by the Supreme State Audit Institution of Albania is essential for achieving maximum benefits from audit activities.

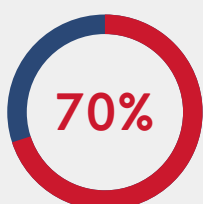
The consolidation of an effective mechanism for the systematic verification and reporting of recommendation implementation, based on standardized, clear, and well-detailed methodologies and procedures, enables not only the Supreme State Audit Institution but also third parties such as Parliament, the Government, and others to continuously ensure comprehensive information on the actions undertaken by audited entities for the preparation of strategic documents at both institutional and national levels, as well as for initiatives related to legal, administrative, and organizational changes.

Field verification of the implementation of recommendations showed that, out of 4,348 recommendations issued during 2024, 4,294 recommendations were accepted (approximately 99%), while 54 recommendations (around 1%) were not accepted.

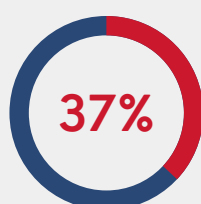
Of the 4,294 accepted measures, 1,598 measures were fully implemented (approximately 37% of the total accepted measures), 645 measures were partially implemented (approximately 15%), 746 measures are in the process of implementation (approximately 18%), and 1,305 measures remain unimplemented (approximately 30%).



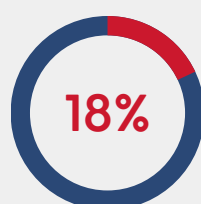
**Acceptance Rate**



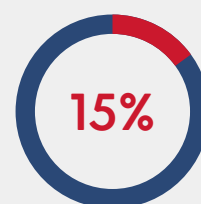
**Implementation Rate**



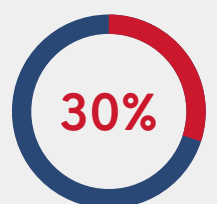
**Implemented in Full**



**In Progress**



**Implemented in Part**



**Unimplemented**

# The Chairman of ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, participates in the National Dialogue Conference: Strengthening Institutional Interaction for Effective Oversight

On 23 April 2026, the National Dialogue Conference titled “Strengthening Institutional Interaction for Effective Oversight” was held in Tirana, organized by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in the context of its cooperation with the ALSAI and the Financial Intelligence Agency, within the framework of the MATRA project “Strengthening Public Oversight and Interinstitutional Coordination”, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Tirana. In his welcoming remarks, the Chairman of the ALSAI, Mr. Arben Shehu, expressed his special thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Reinout Vos for the support and appreciation shown for the work and contribution of the Supreme State Audit Institution, particularly in strengthening the institution’s role through cooperation with peer institutions and international auditing organizations.

Furthermore, in his address, Mr. Shehu emphasized that the ALSAI remains committed to contributing with professionalism, independence, and a



spirit of cooperation to every initiative aimed at enhancing transparency, ensuring the responsible use of public funds, and strengthening accountability mechanisms, with a view to increasing citizens' trust in public institutions and improving good governance in the country.

The conference also addressed, among other topics, the role of state actors and liberal professions in promoting an integrated and collaborative approach to their interaction, with the aim of advancing transparency, integrity, and a more effective oversight system in the country.

## Training on Monitoring Integrity Plans

On 24 April 2026, auditors from the ALSAI participated in a training organized by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), focused on the key role of independent institutions in monitoring the implementation of “Integrity Plans.”

The training, led by expert Alain Hoekstra, aimed to strengthen the conceptual framework on ethics and integrity, as well as to present European best practices. The Dutch experience demonstrates an advanced model, where integrity audits are reported as independent products directly to Parliament, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.

This development represents an important step towards establishing a sustainable and measurable system for monitoring the implementation of “Integrity Plans,” directly contributing to strengthening mechanisms for the prevention of corruption risks.

Within the framework of cooperation supported by SIDA during the period 2021–2025, IDM and the Supreme State Audit Institution developed a dedicated methodology for assessing “Integrity Plans,” integrated into performance audits.

The activity was carried out within the framework of the project “GoEthics 2.0 – Governance, Ethics & Integrity”, with the support of the Embassy of Sweden in Tirana.





## The ALSAI presents to the Subcommittee on Public Sector Audit the findings of the audit “Effectiveness and Safety of Medicines Circulating in Albania”

The ALSAI presented, at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Public Sector Audit held on 21 April 2026, the performance audit report titled “Effectiveness and Safety of Medicines Circulating in Albania.”

The audit presentation, covering the period 2020–2023, was delivered by Ms. Arminda Bushi, Head of the Audit Team and Director of the Performance Audit Department at the Supreme State Audit Institution.

Ms. Bushi emphasized that the audit addresses issues directly related to the life and health of citizens, such as medicines circulating in Albania, raising the question of whether they are safe, of adequate quality, and properly controlled by the responsible institutions.

The audit found that the system for controlling the safety and quality of medicines does not function fully and effectively, as significant shortcomings were identified in the legal framework, control mechanisms, and interinstitutional cooperation, which directly affect the level of medicine safety and the protection of public health.

*“The problem does not lie within a single link, but within several interconnected ones, such as: an incomplete and outdated legal framework, insufficient laboratory analyses, inspections that do not cover the entire sector, pharmacovigilance that is not sufficiently active, and cooperation between national and international institutions that does not meet the level required for ensuring medicine safety,”* Ms. Bushi stated during her presentation.

The Chair of the Subcommittee, Mr. Igli Cara, while acknowledging the importance of the issues addressed in this audit, stated that in the upcoming meetings a hearing session will also be held with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) and the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (NAMMD) regarding the issues identified in the audit and the measures taken to implement the recommendations issued by the ALSAI. During the meeting, auditors also responded to questions from members of the Subcommittee regarding the countries from which medicines are imported into Albania.

Ms. Xhuljeta Çelaj, Chief Auditor at the Performance Audit Department, stated that for the period 2020–2023, approximately 71.5% of the total medicines were imported from Europe, around 14.2% from Turkey, 5.1% from the United States, and 4.7% from the Balkan region. Meanwhile, a portion of medicines was imported from third countries such as India and South Korea, accounting for 2.3% of the total, the United Kingdom with 2%, and Canada with 0.2%.

Based on the issues identified in the audit, the ALSAI has recommended 35 organizational measures to be undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices in order to strengthen the system for ensuring the quality and safety of medicines, with a focus on improving the legal framework, enhancing laboratory control, increasing transparency, and strengthening inspections and pharmacovigilance, among others.

### Key Audit Message

“The Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices should continue their efforts to build a stronger and more reliable system for the quality and safety of medicines. This implies not only legal changes, but also a tangible increase in control, the use of modern technologies, investments in laboratory capacity, staff training, improved interinstitutional cooperation, and broader information for citizens and healthcare professionals. Therefore, based on the issues identified in the audit, it is recommended that, in order to address these shortcomings, the healthcare system for ensuring the quality and safety of medicines should transition from a partial and administrative functioning to an active system that protects citizens.



# The ALSAI welcomes the 7th International Conference of Young Auditors – Young EUROSAI (YES)

## “Future-Ready Auditors: Catalysts for Change in a Digital and Sustainable World

The ALSAI will host, on 9–10 June 2026, the 7th edition of the Young EUROSAI (YES) Conference, organized in cooperation with the European Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI).

This year’s theme is: “Future-Ready Auditors: Catalysts for Change in a Digital and Sustainable World.”

In a global environment rapidly evolving through digital transformation and an increasing emphasis on sustainability, auditors are called to expand their role beyond their primary function.

Future-ready auditors must act as catalysts for change, leveraging advanced technologies and data-driven approaches to support transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation.

The YES EUROSAI project, through its biennial conferences, explores how young professionals can collaborate to help Supreme Audit Institutions enhance and strengthen their impact, as well as the benefits of mutual cooperation within the young auditors’ community.

Young auditors representing Supreme Audit Institutions that are members of EUROSAI, along with special guests, will participate in the Young EUROSAI 2026 Conference.

The conference serves as an international platform for knowledge exchange among young auditors up to 35 years of age, aiming to share ideas and solutions to the challenges faced by audit institutions today and in the future.



The conference will also include social activities, providing participants with the opportunity to connect with their peers while visiting Tirana and other cities in Albania.

## Workshop on Environmental Auditing and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The ALSAI participated in the working meeting on “Environmental Auditing and the Sustainable Development Goals”, organized by SIGMA/OECD in cooperation with the National Audit Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, on 8–9 April 2026.

The meeting brought together representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) from the region and beyond, experts from SIGMA, UNDP, and the European Court of Auditors, with the aim of exchanging experiences and improving audit approaches in addressing the challenges of climate change. The Supreme State Audit Institution was represented at this event by Mr. Bajram Lamaj and Mr. Juljan Hysomemaj. Discussions focused on contemporary approaches to environmental auditing and the role of SAIs in assessing public policies related to climate change. Particular emphasis was placed on the impact of climate risks on public finances, as well as on the need to enhance transparency and accountability in the implementation of environmental policies.

The meeting represents an important step towards strengthening auditors’ capacities and deepening regional and international cooperation in advancing environmental auditing as a key component in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



# Second Regional Meeting on the Joint Audit: Enhancing Women’s Role in Leadership and Decision-Making



The second regional meeting of the joint audit “Strengthening the Role of Women in Leadership Positions and Decision-Making” was held at the National Audit Office of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The event took place on 2–3 April 2026 with the support of UN Women for Europe and Central Asia, within the framework of initiatives aimed at strengthening democratic governance and advancing gender equality.

Representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo participated in the meeting, in cooperation with UN Women, creating an important platform for the exchange of experiences.

Audit teams presented the preliminary findings of their national audits, identified common issues, and defined the next steps towards finalizing their reports and drafting the joint regional report.

Discussions focused on analyzing policies and institutional mechanisms for promoting women’s representation in leadership positions and decision-making, as well as identifying opportunities for improvement.








*“Strengthening the role of women in leadership and decision-making positions is not only a matter of equality, but also a prerequisite for more effective and accountable governance. Through this parallel audit, which we are implementing in cooperation with audit institutions from the region, we reaffirm the importance of joint action, the exchange of experiences, and capacity building,”* emphasized in his opening remarks the Auditor General of the National Audit Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, Mr. Maksim Acevski.

The joint regional audit represents a key opportunity to identify the main needs and gaps in strengthening the role of women in leadership positions.



Thank you for reading!

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 “Abdi Toptani” Street, No.1 Tirana	 Public Reception Hours: Monday – Thursday: 08:00 – 16:30 Friday: 08:00 – 14:00