ALSAI participates in the OECD International Academy for Tax and Financial Crime Investigation Pilot Program “The Misuse of Technology in Financial Crime”

Ostia, 31 March – 4 April 2025

The OECD International Academy’s pilot programme “The Misuse of Technology in Financial Crime” was held in Ostia from 31 March to 4 April 2025. The Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI) participated in this programme for the first time represented by Ms Joniada Goçaj.

The programme focused on issues related to:

- How technology is exploited to facilitate tax evasion, money laundering, and other financial crimes;

- The importance of understanding these risks in order to strengthen investigative and law enforcement capacities, protect public finances, and safeguard the integrity of the global financial system.

This programme focused on issues related to:
- How technology is exploited to facilitate tax evasion, money laundering, and other financial crimes;
- How essential it is to understand these risks in order to strengthen investigative and law enforcement capacities, protect public finances, and safeguard the integrity of the global financial system.

Some of the key topics addressed during the programme included:

- “Big Data” in Financial Crime: Understanding its role in identifying and preventing financial crime;
- Misuse of Financial Technology (FinTech) and Emerging Crimes: How financial technologies are misused to facilitate illicit activities;
- Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT: The role of artificial intelligence in both facilitating and combating financial crime;
- Crypto Assets and Blockchain: Analysing the risks associated with cryptocurrencies, decentralized finance (DeFi), and non-fungible tokens (NFTs);
- Money Laundering Risks Arising from the Misuse of Cryptocurrencies: Identifying vulnerabilities and implementing effective measures to address them.

Throughout the five-day programme, practical case studies from countries and jurisdictions such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and Singapore were presented and discussed in relation to the misuse of technology in financial crime.

In conclusion, the program emphasized that, although technology offers significant benefits in the fight against financial crime, it also creates opportunities for increasingly sophisticated forms of criminal activity, including:

✓Tax evasion through the use of decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms;

✓ Money laundering through NFTs and cryptocurrency exchanges;

✓ The misuse of Artificial Intelligence and FinTech innovations, which may be exploited to conceal illicit activities, including money laundering through decentralized finance platforms or cryptocurrencies, and to generate illegal profits.