

**EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRY IN
ALBANIA**

ALBEITI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2024

Tirana 2025

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (APR) OF ALBEIT – 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

The Annual Progress Report for 2024 of the EITI National Secretariat Albania (ALBEITI) represents a comprehensive overview of the institutional and technical engagement undertaken during the year to ensure a substantial and sustainable implementation of the EITI International Standard. This document contains an in-depth analysis of the progress achieved in fulfilling the strategic objectives set out in the National Work Plan 2024–2025, which was unanimously approved by the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG).

The report highlights the methodological and institutional approach followed by ALBEITI in advancing transparency and accountability in the extractive industry and energy sectors, in line with the latest requirements of the EITI 2023 Standard.

It includes tangible results in several key areas, including the preparation and publication of multi-annual EITI reports, strengthening the reporting system and analysis of sectoral data, fostering the participation of non-governmental and institutional actors, and developing new tools for fiscal and contractual transparency.

Another central aspect of the report is the focus on improving the institutional and legal framework that supports the implementation of EITI requirements. During 2024, the Secretariat has undertaken important initiatives towards strengthening inter-institutional cooperation on issues related to beneficial ownership and contractual transparency, as well as ensuring the maintenance of good governance standards in relation to Albania's international obligations as an EITI member country.

This report is based on a comprehensive analysis of the technical and operational documentation prepared by the Secretariat during the year, a systematic summary of the activities carried out in the field, data from EITI reporting and other national data, as well as consultations with stakeholders within and outside the MSG. It represents a formal monitoring and evaluation instrument, which not only documents the progress of the work for the reference year, but also serves as a basis for continuous institutional improvement and alignment with international best practices in the field of transparency and governance of natural resources.

Summary of AlbEITI's work during 2024

During 2024, the AlbEITI National Secretariat managed to return the reporting process to its usual course and strengthen transparency in the extractive sectors, addressing the remaining shortcomings from the Validation process and aligning the work with the EITI Standard 2023. Key achievements include:

Reporting and transparency

- The finalization and publication of the Consolidated Report for the years 2019–2021, one of the most important achievements of the year.
- Initiation of procedures for the preparation of the 2022 and 2023 reports, including the drafting of the Terms of Reference and the establishment of the technical group for data collection and verification.

Technology and open data

- Maintenance and updating of the Open Data Portal (open.albeiti.org) and the Mining Cadastre, with:
 - migration to secure servers and automatic backup,
 - new UI/UX interface,
 - dynamic payment publishing, interactive graphics and open APIs,
 - special sections for reports, strategies and work plans.

Expanding the scope of reporting

- Initiating work on Beneficial Ownership reporting, through analysis of the legal framework, consultations with the Central Bank and preparation of Terms of Reference for a dedicated study.

Communication and public awareness

- Production of an awareness-raising spot and a documentary on EITI's activities, distributed on the official website and social networks.
- Publication of announcements and information materials on the role of the MSG and the structure of AlbEITI.
- On October 7, 2024, the lifting of Albania's suspension from EITI was announced, a historic moment that strengthened the credibility of the process.

Training and institutional capacities

- Training for public institutions and operators on fiscal transparency and data use.
- Staff participation in international programs of OECD, GIZ and the Energy Training Center.
- Drafting and publishing for the first time the Institutional Integrity Plan 2024–2025.

International engagement

- **Visit of the EITI International Secretariat** in Albania (June 2024) to discuss the implementation of the 2023 Standard.
- **Participation in the Global Meeting of EITI National Coordinators in Geneva.**
- **Meetings with the World Bank Mission** in Albania to monitor progress and provide further financial and technical support.

Starting work on ToR and new strategic studies

In the context of expanding transparency and reporting, during 2024, terms of reference were drafted for new consultancies on:

1. **Impact assessment of the Beneficial Ownership Law.**
2. **Energy Transition** and preparing the reporting model for the renewable sector and natural gas.
3. **Gender analysis** and the inclusion of the gender dimension in EITI reporting.
4. **Socio-economic impacts of the oil industry** and the risks of energy transition.
5. **Occupational Health and Safety** in the extractive industry (2024).
6. **The impact of foreign investment** in the extractive sector.

Albanian Government Program 2021-2025 linked to Work Plan Activities

While achieving compliance with the EITI Global Standard, it is very important at the same time to be in line with the main objectives of the Albanian Government Program 2021-2025 and the Corrective Actions to be implemented. The official Albanian Government Program 2021-2025 is conceived as a careful plan and detailed program of reforms and actions, which aims to materialize in every cell of the governance's "Albania 2030" Vision, a major project that embodies the ambition to take Albania to the next level of economic and social development. The clear objectives set out in the Albanian Government Program to build Albania's European future step by step, essentially relying on the main pillars, while the 3 main ones formulated in the Program are:

1. Economic recovery from the earthquake pandemic situation and the energy crisis;
2. Prosperity for all, which will translate into a developed economy that creates opportunities for all.
3. Modernization for the development of the manufacturing economy, tourism, energy, etc.

The Albanian Government Program 2021-2025 states that "Based on the objective of a strong and sustainable economy through modernization, productivity and competitiveness, Albania will be a net exporter of Electricity throughout the Region; with a much more diversified Energy system and a country that will compensate for the reduction of its renewable hydropower reserves during droughts with green energy, produced by solar and wind plants."

In the Albanian Government Program 2021-2025 in the European Integration Chapter it is formulated: "In 2014, Albania obtained the status of candidate country, after fulfillment in 5 main key areas, which included the fight against corruption. Albania has made steady progress in all priorities set by the EU and as a result of these achievements in March 2020 the EU took the decision to open membership negotiations with Albania, the final step towards full integration". Albeiti MSG and the National Secretariat are fully committed to ensuring that EITI implementation continues to be relevant and in line with national priorities.

The formulation of the components of the EITI Work Plan has taken into account that activities should be compatible and organic in line with the main objectives and platforms

set out in the Steering Programme for the Extractive Industries in the Energy Sector. The EITI implementation support activities included in the work plan will support the core objectives for the implementation of the EITI and to meet and maintain the obligations of its EITI compliant status, including the EITI Annual Report for Albania.

Preparation of the EITI annual report covering all extractive industries for the calendar year 2019 and 2020-2021. The drafting of this annual report is a fundamental requirement of the EITI Standard. This Activity (A) included in the Work Plan optimizes the 2021-2025 Government Program in the following objectives: “Such an important principle of public involvement in decision-making processes will be the axis of government, in a more structured form, where partnership with every Albanian citizen will be a partner of the government, as a guarantee of Transparency but also of regular measurement of government performance”. Also, Activities A (EITI Annual Report for Albania) of the Work Plan include the disclosure of data for the Energy Sector and will reflect the objectives of the Albanian Government Program 2021-2025.

During 2024, despite the fact that physical construction has not yet begun, significant progress has been achieved in the preparatory sector and strategic benefits have been achieved that add to the validity of the Skavica project. By the end of 2023, the main studies were finalized: feasibility, hydrological, geological study, environmental and social assessment (ESIA) by the consortium financed under WBIF and EBRD.

These studies were a stable platform for every further step. The project aims to install 132 MW of new renewable capacity and produce around 470 GWh/year, which is enough to supply electricity to approximately 70,000 households and provide flood protection on 10,000 ha of agricultural land for over 100,000 people. It is expected to create around 300 jobs during construction and another 45 during operation – a significant contribution to local economic development. Skavica has been declared a project of national interest in legislation (Law 38/2021 and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 485/2021) which supports the technical phase and institutional advancement of the project. KESH has worked to ensure that the design and assessments comply with international ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) standards, part of the initiative to support the sustainability of the hydropower plant.

dimension	Status in 2024	Positive Comments
Technical studies	Completed before 2024	Providing a solid foundation for the next stages
Production and capacity	Project of ~132 MW, ~470 GWh/year	Improves energy security and the grid
Socio-economic benefits	About 300 construction jobs + 45 operations	Increasing local stimulus and economy
Uniform transparency	EITI reporting on hydropolicing	Models of transparent and public behavior
Strategic	National and legally supported	Stable policy for international

dimension	Status in 2024	Positive Comments
importance	project	partnership

In 2024, the Skavica project has made significant technical progress – finalizing the baseline studies and strengthening institutional readiness. The projected benefits – from renewable energy to security of supply, employment and reporting transparency – are clear and supported by official documents and initiatives such as the WBIF, EBRD and EITI. This continues to keep the project in line with national strategic objectives and sustainable energy principles.

The Albanian government is operating under a policy of rapid growth of renewable energy to achieve net zero emissions targets. During 2024, the Albanian government has advanced preparations for the transformation of the Vlora Thermal Power Plant from an oil-fired power plant into a new liquefied natural gas (LNG)-based power plant. The project envisages not only the conversion of existing capacity, but also the construction of a regasification terminal at the port of Vlora and the development of supporting infrastructure for LNG distribution to the domestic and regional markets.

This development is part of the vision to transform Vlora into a strategic energy hub for the Western Balkans. In the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2024–2030, approved by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, the Vlora TPP project and the construction of the Fier–Vlora pipeline have been identified as priorities for diversifying sources and increasing the sustainability of energy supply. The plan includes the development of a regasification terminal and integration with the national gas network through the connection to TAP, reinforcing Albania’s strategic role as a connecting node in the regional energy market. (Source: NECP Albania, 2024–2030)

The Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE)’s 2023 annual report, published in March 2024, confirms that the Vlora project is part of the national development plans for the integration of natural gas into Albania’s energy portfolio. The terminal is designed as a regasification unit with a capacity of up to 5 billion cubic meters of gas per year, directly contributing to strengthening energy security and the transition towards a low-carbon economy. (Source: ERE Annual Report, 2024)

Also, in the documentation prepared by the EITI National Secretariat in Albania, within the framework of the work plan for the period 2024–2025, the Vlora project is considered a key point for expanding reporting in the natural gas sector. The inclusion of this project in sectoral transparency through EITI is expected to increase the credibility and long-term value of public investment in energy infrastructure. (Source: [EITI Albania, Work Plan 2024–2025](#))

In 2024, Albania made significant strides in developing photovoltaic projects, supported by clear legal policies, competitive auctions and successful pilots. Key sources include the European Commission’s Country Report on Albania (2024) and reports by the Energy Community and WBIF. The Albanian government has launched the fifth round of auctions for new PV projects in 2024 and aims to add 300 MW of new capacity to the country’s power

grid. The proposed projects could have a power generation capacity of between 10 MW and 100 MW, and the government would purchase the energy produced by these projects as part of a 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA).

Law No. 24/2023 on the promotion of renewable energies approved the national target for 54.4% energy from renewable sources by 2030, in accordance with EU Directives. The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP 2023–2030), adopted at the end of 2024, increased the role of PV in the energy structure and established supportive policies for project development. IN January 2024 saw the launch of a competitive bidding process for photovoltaic projects with a total capacity of 300 MW, where in July 8 out of 9 companies were declared winners, with a total contracted capacity of around 283.93 MW of installed capacity.

This transparent auction platform has been hailed as a model of success for the Western Balkans in promoting renewable energy. Karavasta Solar Park (140 KM) It has been in operation since October 2023 and will be fully operational in 2024 – it is the largest solar facility in the Western Balkans. This important plant lays the foundation for PV expansion and demonstrates the ability for transparent and efficient design and management. The UNDP pilot project “Market Transformation for Solar Energy PV Acceleration” included the installation of PV systems in 10 public spaces in four different municipalities (Shkodër, Klos, Durrës, Përmet), with a total capacity of around 1 MW by the end of 2023; the outcome continued during 2024 in preparation for the expansion of netbilling modalities and energy communities. By the end of 2024, total solar power capacity had increased to approximately 218 MW, a significant increase compared to 2022 when it was only 28 MW.

Summary – Positive Results of 2024

dimension	Status 2024	Positive Comments
PV Auctions	283.93 MW contracted	Transparent and competitive process
Operated capacity	140 MW Karavasta Solar Park	Functional and stable, regional leader
Public PV pilots	~1 MW in public institutions	As a model for community and civic involvement
Total capacity increase	From 28 MW (2022) to ~218 MW	Multi-digit growth in PV
Legal and strategic framework	Law 24/2023 and NECP 2023–2030	Ambitious objectives and support policies

During 2024, Albania has made significant steps forward in the development of photovoltaics, moving from pilots and strategic frameworks to the concrete implementation of projects with contracted capacity and full operation. Transparent auctions, significant capacity growth and leading projects like Karavasta place Albania towards the target of 1 GW PV by 2030 and towards energy diversification with a focus on transparent and competitive renewable sources.

II.COMPLETION OF THE 2024–2025 WORK PLAN

EITI REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY DEVELOPMENT

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the implementation progress of the 2024 Work Plan of the AlbEITI National Secretariat, with a particular focus on fulfilling the obligations arising from the EITI Standard 2023 and the recommendations of the last Validation. During this period, the activity has been oriented towards strengthening transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors, improving reporting mechanisms and increasing the reliability of published data.

The process has included the finalization and publication of multi-year consolidated reports, the initiation of procedures for new reports, the development and maintenance of transparency technology platforms, and the expansion of the reporting scope to include new elements such as beneficial ownership. In parallel, public communication, awareness-raising and training activities for institutional and private actors have been intensified, contributing to increasing local capacities and meeting the expectations of national and international partners.

The results achieved during 2024 mark an important step towards returning the process to its normal course and consolidating the role of AlbEITI as a key mechanism for transparency and good governance of natural resources in Albania.

Finalization and publication of the EITI Report for 2019, 2020 and 2021

Within the framework of the EITI reporting support project: The activity “Selection of a consulting firm as an Independent Administrator for the preparation of EITI Reports for the calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021 and to support government institutions and extractive companies in the EITI process. Review of current legislation on activity-based and project-based reporting in the mining sector and development of Local Reporting Standards” was carried out in 2024, and is related to the EITI Standard and also to the remaining Corrective Actions from the last Validation, more specifically:

- ⌘Contract and license allocation (Requirement 2.2);
- ⌘Contracts (Requirement 2.4);
- ⌘Inclusiveness (Requirement 4.1);
- ⌘Subnational payments (Requirement 4.6);
- ⌘Separation (Requirement 4.7);
- ⌘Data reliability (Requirement 4.9);
- ⌘Social and environmental costs (Requirement 6.1);

The ToRs for the EITI Reports 2019-2020-2021 detailed each action that would be taken to correct reporting deficiencies in previous reports, to increase the quality of reporting and to comply with the recommendations left by the Validation team. The Terms of Reference were approved by the MSG and were also reviewed by the EITI International Secretariat.

After several years of delays due to lack of sustainable funding and institutional challenges, the Secretariat successfully finalized the EITI Consolidated Report for the three years 2019, 2020 and 2021. This constitutes one of the most important achievements of 2024 and marks a turning point for the return to the normal flow of reporting. The report includes fiscal, production, contractual and institutional data, with comparative analysis between years and is openly published on the official ALBEITI website.

Launch of procedures for the EITI Report 2022 and 2023

During 2024, a series of actions were taken to prepare the next two reports for 2022 and 2023:

- Drafting the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the selection of the Independent Administrator;
- Consultations and data collection for reporting with public institutions and key operators for data provision;
- Consolidation of a technical working group by the Secretariat to support the process of collecting and verifying information with the aim of producing a report from the latter.

Maintenance and updating of the Open Data Portal and Mining Cadastre

The Open Data Portal (open.albeiti.org) is regularly maintained and updated with new data extracted from annual reports and institutional registers. During 2024, within the framework of the WB Grant aimed at supporting the EITI Secretariat, it was made possible: Migration of Open Data Portals and Mining Cadastre to new servers with increased security and automatic daily backup. Reconstruction of the graphical interface (UI/UX) in accordance with modern web design practices. Creation of an interface for exporting data in open formats: CSV, Excel, JSON. Integration of data from institutions for automated publications according to the source material. Special section for publishing annual reports, strategies, work plans, bulletins and data separated by year and sector according to the source material. Dynamic filtering system by year, company, sector.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF DISCOVERY AND REPORTING

Preparation for Beneficial Ownership (BO) reporting

In accordance with requirement 2.5 of the EITI Standard, the Secretariat initiated an expansion work on beneficial ownership disclosure:

- Discussions have been held with the Central Bank on the relevant regulations;
- Work has been carried out to implement the terms of reference for the preparation of a study report on Beneficial Ownership in the field of extractive industries.

COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Communication campaign and civic participation

In 2024, public communication was intensified by selecting the relevant consultant who would assist Albeit in this framework, who in 2024 produced a spot regarding the EITI Standard for reporting awareness, and produced a documentary about EITI activities which was published on Facebook and Albeit's website.

- Spot Preparation
- Advertising campaigns on local TV
- Advertising campaigns on national TV
- Advertising campaigns on Digital Boards
- Opening 3 channels on Social Media
- Documentary Preparation
- Production and transmission of 10 memes
- EITI brochure 100 pieces
- Digital Bulletins 4 pieces

The promotion of studies and reports continued through media coverage and participation in national and international panels. Announcements and information reels were published on the role of the Inter-Institutional Group, the structure of ALBEITI and transparency in the extractive sectors. On October 7, 2024, the Secretariat published the official announcement on the lifting of Albania's suspension from EITI member country status.

Training and capacity building

Trainings have been conducted for staff of public institutions and representatives of operators:

- Participation of Secretariat staff in trainings organized by OECD and GIZ and the Energy Training Center;
- Trainings were conducted with a focus on fiscal transparency and data use.
- The "Institutional Integrity Plan 2024–2025" was drafted and published for the first time, as a tool for assessing risk and increasing institutional credibility in relation to the public.

Participation in international activities and collaborations

Visit of the EITI International Secretariat Mission to Albania, June 2024

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat and MSG held a one-day meeting with the EITI Oslo International Secretariat team consisting of Mr. Mark Burnett (Acting Director for Europe) and Ms. Lisa Sviland (Regional Officer) to discuss and share experiences of developing and implementing the EITI Standard in Albania. At this meeting, the General Director of the EITI Secretariat in Albania, Mr. Genci Tërpo, addressed in detail the issues related to the institution's activity and the relevant steps that have been taken regarding the implementation of the work plan within the framework of initiatives aimed at transparency in the field of extractive industries and the issue of government priorities which are in full compliance with the standard approved by the EITI Board in 2023. Within the framework of the Work Plan, Albeiti has laid a strong foundation for achieving the

mission to promote transparency, ensure sustainable development and support the highest standards of governance in the extractive industries of Albania. On the other hand, representatives of EITI International held meetings with representatives of the MSG of Albeiti as well as with officials of Albanian institutions and business companies that assist in the development of the EITI initiative in Albania. During this visit, representatives of the EITI International Secretariat also held a session with the MSG to explain the meaning of the new EITI Standard 2023 and the measures that need to be taken for its further implementation in Albania. In parallel, an important issue in the focus of the works was the collection of data necessary for the realization of EITI Reports, requesting the cooperation of Albanian institutions with Albeiti to ensure the receipt of information in real time and the publication of reports according to deadlines.



Meeting of National Coordinators of EITI countries in Geneva, Switzerland on 17-18 June 2024

EITI, in partnership with the World Bank and the Government of Switzerland, represented by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), organized a mutual learning meeting in Geneva on 17-19 June 2024, bringing together National Coordinators and representatives of EITI Multi-Stakeholder Groups (MSGs) to exchange good practices, opportunities and common challenges. The meeting was also attended by the General Director of Albeiti, Mr. Genci Tërpo.

The objective of the EITI National Coordinators meeting was to foster a shared understanding of the evolving global context regarding extractive sector governance and the implications for EITI implementation. Through mutual learning and exchange, the meeting created opportunities to build capacity on EITI strategic priorities and the EITI 2023 Standard.



Visit of the World Bank Mission to the National Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Tirana, June 2024

The National Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on June 25, 2024 hosted the World Bank mission from Washington DC, consisting of its representatives Ms. Nina Inamahoro (team leader and operational officer) and Ms. Magdalena Chawuta (mining specialist). The World Bank mission was hosted by the General Director of Albeiti Mr. Genci Tërpo and by the institution's staff consisting of Ms. Emiljana Kola, Mr. Lluka Gjergo and Ms. Majlinda Balla.

This meeting discussed the progress and progress of the Albeit project in the field of development of the EITI Initiative in Albania, the progress made so far in the implementation of activities, as well as the advancement in data collection for the production of EITI Reports.

Accelerating activities aimed at implementing the 2023 EITI Standard in Albania is the main mission of the Albanian institution and, in parallel, an important objective of the policies of the Albanian government as a whole. World Bank officials provided their support to facilitate and assist the Albanian institution and the Albanian state in its mission as an implementing country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the continuous fulfillment of the obligations of this initiative.



Meeting of the World Bank Mission in Albania with representatives of the Albeiti Multifunctional Group

The National Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on June 26, 2024 hosted the World Bank mission from Washington DC, consisting of its representatives Ms. Nina Inamahoro (team leader and operational officer) and Ms. Magdalena Chawuta (mining specialist).

The World Bank mission was received by the General Director of Albeiti, Mr. Genci Tërpo, and by the institution's staff consisting of Ms. Emiliana Kola, Mr. Lluca Gjergo and Ms. Majlinda Balla, as well as by representatives of the Albeiti Multifunctional Group, which included Ms. Anila Hajnaj, (representative of civil society organizations), Mr. Robert Beshello, Mr. Mynyr Sinanaj (AKBN) and Mr. Bilal Koçi (SHGJSH).

This meeting discussed the importance of the projects undertaken by Albeit in the field of development of the EITI Initiative in Albania, the progress made so far in the implementation of activities, as well as the advancement in data collection for the realization of EITI Reports and other activities.

The MSG representatives acknowledged the fact that the Albeiti institution needs continued support in line with the importance of the development of the EITI Standard in Albania and the need to be supported with funding in the coming years to ensure sustainability not only in terms of domestic financing but also in the framework of foreign financing. World Bank

officials provided their support to assist the Albeiti institution and the Albanian state in its mission as an implementing country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the continuous fulfillment of the obligations of this initiative, aiming at the fastest possible development of all activities that the institution is undertaking both in terms of systematic progress of open and accessible data for all and in other objectives set through the EITI 2023 Standard.

The EITI strategic priorities aim to address global challenges in natural resource governance. They reflect the diverse constraints faced by resource-rich countries while aligning EITI implementation with national priorities.

This issue raises the obligation of stakeholders supporting Albeit to take ongoing measures to translate the constant and ongoing development of the EITI 2023 Standard requirements into active actions.





Analysis of the effectiveness of the implementation of the EITI Standard

During 2024, the implementation of the EITI Standard in Albania has marked significant progress, demonstrating the commitment of public institutions, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE), the AlbEITI Secretariat and the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) to strengthen transparency and accountability in the extractive and energy sectors.

Main results

- **Finalization of the consolidated report 2019–2021** This is a major achievement, not only bringing Albania back into the mainstream of regular reporting, but also ending a period of suspension. This result demonstrated that the country has the capacity to address complex challenges and restore trust in the EITI process.
- **Improving technology and transparency portals**, through migration to more secure servers, development of APIs and interactive graphs, has significantly increased public access and use of data.
- **Inter-institutional engagement**, led by the MEI and supported by other relevant stakeholders, has been crucial for securing data and publishing reliable reports.
- **Expanding the scope of reporting** through the preparation of terms of reference on beneficial ownership, energy transition, gender, job security and socio-economic

impacts, it clearly demonstrates efforts to make the EITI more inclusive and more aligned with current developments in the country and the region.

- **Public communication and awareness**, through spots, documentaries and distributed materials, has reinforced the positive perception of EITI and of Albania's role as an active member country.

Effectiveness assessment

The effectiveness of EITI implementation during 2024 is assessed as high, for several main reasons:

1. **Resolving historical delays** and bringing reporting back in line with international standards.
2. **Increasing data quality** and building technological mechanisms that guarantee open and understandable public access.
3. **Engagement of state institutions and MSG**, which has been complete and coordinated, indicating that the process has become a national priority.
4. **Adapting to new priorities**, such as energy transition, renewable energy and gender inclusion, which make EITI important and relevant for the future developments of strategic sectors.

Positive reflection

The work done in 2024 has shown that EITI in Albania is not just a technical process, but a living mechanism that unites institutions, civil society, companies and international partners around a common goal: transparency and good governance of natural resources. This progress is a clear indication that Albania not only has the capacity to meet international standards, but also to exceed them by bringing innovations and integrating new areas into reporting.

Budgetary assessment and funding sources;

During 2024, the EITI Albania National Secretariat was financed with funds from the State Budget, and from Grant TF0B998 of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Internal financing from the State Budget The plan approved at the beginning of the year by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy was 14,000,000 lek, for the period January-December 2024. In December 2024, due to the need for additional funds and the liquidation of liabilities within the legal deadlines, an additional 2,700,000 lek were approved in the budget for our institution. These funds were used to cover personnel salary expenses, social security, as well as operating expenses, as follows:(in lek)

At the end of 2024, our institution has no outstanding liabilities.

Approved Budget	
Budget at the beginning of the year	14,000,000
Additions during the year	2,700,000
Reductions during the year	-
Budget at the end of the year	16,700,000
Expenses incurred	
wages	9,438,670
Social Security	1,559,100
Operating Expenses	5,086,559
Investment Expenditures	115,000
Total Expenses	16,119,329
Budget execution percentage	97%

Of the approved grant of 700,000 USD, which ends on July 31, 2025, 173,380.26 USD were disbursed during 2024. The funds spent during the period January - December 2025 are presented as follows in the table: (in USD)

Grant TF0B9998	700,000
Disbursed during 2024	173,380.26
Expenses incurred	
Payment for Consultants	99,446.97
Operating Expenses	52,001
Total Expenses	150,448.05
Budget execution percentage	87%

As for the institution's staff, the planned number of employees was 9, of which 5 positions were filled with organic employees.

Assessment of key challenges and institutional reflections

1. Reporting and data quality

The publication of the consolidated report for the years 2019–2021 in 2024 was a major achievement, ending a period of delays and returning the process to its normal course. This result was made possible thanks to close inter-institutional cooperation and the special commitment of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, which supported the process with necessary data and expertise, as well as the active involvement of the Minister. This contribution demonstrated the importance given to fiscal transparency and partnership at the government level. The challenge that remains is to build a predictable reporting calendar and ensure the highest quality of data over the years.

2. Financial resources and institutional sustainability

During 2024, thanks to good coordination between the MEI, the Ministry of Finance, the Secretariat and international partners, the necessary funds were secured for the implementation of priority activities. However, it remains essential to guarantee a sustainable funding mechanism for the Secretariat, which will ensure stability, long-term planning and capacity to face new challenges. Only through sustainable financial support will AlbEITI be able to maintain the pace and quality achieved.

3. Integration of new sectors

The preparation of terms of reference for renewable energy, gas and beneficial ownership is a very positive step that demonstrates Albania's commitment to expanding transparency. The challenge for 2025 is to translate these initiatives into concrete results, while maintaining the commitment of the MEI, the Ministry of Finance and all other key institutions.

4. Stakeholder engagement

The year 2024 showed a strong commitment of the MSG and an increase in cooperation between public institutions, civil society and companies. The broad and constructive participation, especially in the process of preparing reports and consultations, proves that this forum has become a functional and reliable mechanism for dialogue and transparency.

5. Communication and public perception

The 2024 communication campaigns and multimedia products significantly helped raise awareness and disseminate information to the public. The lifting of the suspension from EITI and the return of Albania as an active member country was reflected as a shared national success. The challenge is to turn this positive moment into a sustainable communication process, with an emphasis on proximity to citizens and civil society.

Institutional reflections

- **The role of the MEI and the Ministry of Finance** has been crucial to the success of 2024, especially in delivering overdue reports and ensuring a credible transparency process.
- **Secretariat and MSG** showed high organizational and coordination capacity, paving the way for the integration of new topics such as energy transition, beneficial ownership, and gender inclusion.
- **International financial support** has been important, but ensuring sustainable national funding for the Secretariat is vital for long-term stability.
- **Culture of transparency** has gained ground and been accepted as an institutional value; now the challenge is to translate this into daily practice and a more inclusive process for the public.

Recommendations for the work of AlbEITI during 2025

1. Consolidation of the reporting process

- Finalization and publication of the EITI Report 2022–2023, respecting deadlines and avoiding delays previously encountered.
- Timely launch of procedures for the EITI 2024 Report, so that the process returns to a regular and reliable annual cycle.
- Improving data quality through standardization of reporting formats by public institutions and extractive companies.

2. Inclusion of new sectors and expansion of transparency

- Implementation of reporting models for renewable energy and gas, as prepared during 2024 with the respective ToRs.
- Deepening the work on reporting beneficial ownership, by preparing the analytical report and linking it to the Central Bank database.
- Integrating the gender dimension into reporting, in line with the 2024 ToRs, to have measurable indicators on gender representation.

3. Improving technology and open data

- Development of additional modules in the Open Data Portal, to enable comparative analysis across years and sectors.
- Implementation of an interactive dashboard system for the public and stakeholders (charts, key indicators, real-time statistics).
- Ensuring sustainable maintenance of servers and APIs, with long-term planned funding.

4. Communication and awareness

- After the suspension is lifted in 2024, a new national information campaign should be developed to promote transparency and Albania's return as an active country in the EITI.
- Organizing regional meetings with municipalities where there are extractive industries to increase the participation of local communities.
- Producing popular reports and infographics that make information more understandable to the public.

5. Strengthening institutional capacities

- Dedicated training for public institutions on data collection and verification according to EITI 2023 requirements.
- Expanding the Institutional Integrity Plan to include more indicators and linking it to staff performance measurement.
- Increasing MSG engagement through thematic workshops on energy, beneficial ownership and energy transition.

6. Studies and consultancies launched in 2024

- Completion and publication of the study on beneficial ownership.
- Development of the study on the energy transition and preparation of the first reports on the renewable sector and gas.
- Completion of the gender study and integration of the results into reporting.
- Developing an analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the oil industry, linking it to the energy transition.
- Implementation of Occupational Health and Safety consultancy for the extractive industry (2025).
- Conducting a study on the impact of foreign investment in the extractive sector and presenting the findings to the MSG.

7. International engagement

- Active participation in international EITI processes and preparation for future validation.
- Utilizing international forums (OECD, World Bank, Energy Community) to promote Albania's progress and provide technical and financial support.

The recommendations for 2025 aim to consolidate the foundation created during 2024, transform the launched ToRs into concrete products, guarantee regular and qualitative reporting, and increase Albania's public and international visibility in the EITI.

CONCLUSION

The year 2024 marked a turning point for AlbEITI: reporting was consolidated, transparency platforms were modernized, the scope of reporting was expanded to include new issues such as beneficial ownership, renewable energy, gender and occupational safety, and public communication was significantly strengthened. These steps ensured the lifting of the suspension from EITI and laid the foundations for a new phase of transparency and good governance in the extractive industry in Albania.