



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**ALBANIAN NATIONAL
DIASPORA STRATEGY
2021 - 2025**





REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**ADOPTED BY DCM DECISION NO. 585,
DATED 22.07.2020**



The challenge of becoming the best version of yourself roots from accepting the reality. The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 represents a projection of the future and as such, is not limited to the chance of making mistakes.

The Albanian Diaspora represents the unknown reality compared to the vast national history. Diaspora represents the courage and goals to quietly serve to the homeland. As such, the Diaspora still represents the unwritten history of the Albanian nation.

The relationship of the Albanian state with the Diaspora has been ambiguous, between the lack of attention and opportunities. Because of this, we faced unnecessary delays, however still having the chance to remediate.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2018 - 2024, adopted 2 years ago, represents the first of its kind in terms of application. This Strategy anticipated its impact towards change. Expectations of its implementation were accomplished faster than expected. The Second Summit of the Albanian Diaspora organized in March 2019 was the cornerstone of this era of change.

Upon adoption of the new strategy, it would be appropriate to consider the upcoming challenges. The relationship with the Albanian Diaspora is a demanding process and the results have exceeded expectations in terms of implementation.

The document National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 represents an assessment of the future status of our country in terms of the relationship with the Albanian Diaspora. This document is just the beginning. The relationship with the Diaspora extends beyond cliché definitions. Boundaries represent old habits to overcome. This is a lesson we learned from the people to whom this document is dedicated.

Pandeli MAJKO

State Minister for Diaspora

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I. ALBANIAN MIGRATION AND DIASPORA

INTRODUCTION

Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025 defines the principles of the state policy of the Republic of Albania for the support of the Albanian communities who legally live in their host countries. The strategy aims to generate a synthesis of the collective commitment of the Albanian society to its compatriots, who live abroad.

The Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025 promotes the development of state policies for the inclusion and contribution of Albanian communities abroad in the socio-economic and political development of the country of origin. The focus is to strengthen and facilitate Albania's relations with the host countries of the Albanian Diaspora.

The Strategy considers Diaspora as an added value of the Albanian society and supports the organization of the Albanian communities in the world in order to engage them for the acceleration of the socio-economic development of the country.

The document of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025 provides the re-evaluation of the achievements from the implementation of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025. The new strategy seeks to the alignment of the state policies to the context of globalization and in coherence with the process of European integration.

Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025 represents a continuation of the implementation of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2018 - 2024, approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 259 dated 09.05.2018. Based on the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2018 - 2024, new legislation was adopted, and new specialised institutions were established.

The establishment of new state institutions contributing to the Albanian Diaspora required practical action and adaptation to amendments in legislation. All these law amendments, new institutions established, and actions undertaken, generated to the improvements reflected in the New Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021- 2025.

Diaspora represents a well-known term for more than 2500 years ago. Nowadays Diaspora can be defined as "a community of migrants, who maintain strong sentimental and material links with the homeland, being integrated in the environment and institutions of the host society". The Diaspora should not be considered as immutable and rigid. It consists of communities whose identities and features change over time.

Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (Valley) are areas that include the sending countries of Albanians for migration.

The Albanian Diaspora is a great opportunity for the development of the homeland. Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021 – 2025 aims to support the organization of Albanian communities abroad, in order to improve the engaging capacity in the homeland. The Strategy's objective is to play the role of an important strategic partner for the future of the homeland. The implementation will be viable through a process of re-evaluating the relationship with the Diaspora serving as a mechanism of influence on the homeland and vice versa.

Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 aims at developing a comprehensive framework for the Diaspora engagement. It is drafted in accordance with the European Union (EU) Policy Guide and in compliance with the international standards. The strategy aims to create mechanisms that shall support Albanian communities in the Diaspora as well as the cooperative engagement of state institutions.

The strategy aims to design the structure of state policy, by not only acknowledging the contribution of different communities of the Albanian Diaspora, but also with the aim to enable and facilitate dialogue with host countries to promote bilateral agreements regarding the Albanian Diaspora.

The document of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 in its priority's addresses:

- *Causes and evolution of the migration process*
- *Assessment of the state structure for the Diaspora*
- *Social and political role of Diaspora in the Albanian society,*
- *Protection of the rights of Albanian communities in host countries,*
- *Organization of Albanian communities abroad,*
- *Improvement of consular services through Albanian diplomacy structures. The document of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 consists of two parts:*

1. The Diaspora National Strategy and

2. The Action Plan 2021 - 2025, which includes the main objectives and actions to be implemented during the period 2021 - 2025.

The alignment and review of the strategic document shall be in accordance with the requirements of DCM no. 290, dated 11.3.2020 "On the establishment of the State Database of the Integrated Planning Information System (SIPI/IPSIS) to ensure the compliance with the IPSIS system.

The Diaspora National Strategy and its Action Plan 2021-2025 were drafted with the contribution of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group chaired by the Minister of State for the Diaspora. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group was supported by a team of national and international experts, who were engaged by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the program "Engagement of the Albanian Diaspora for the socio-economic development of Albania".

This document includes contributions and proposals made by civil society or stakeholders in its public discussion process.

I. ALBANIAN MIGRATION AND DIASPORA

Albanian Diaspora is old and traditional.

The first community of the Albanian Diaspora dates back to when about 200,000 people migrated from their country of origin when the Ottomans invaded Albanian lands in the 15th century. One of the oldest Albanian Diaspora is the Arbëresh community in Italy, which still maintains its own cultural and linguistic roots. This population is the descendant of those Albanian families who led Albania in the 15th century. When the Ottomans invaded the area and Albanians settled mainly in the Kingdom of Naples and other areas in Italy.

Later, Albanians began to migrate within the territory of the Ottoman Empire, and many of them held important administrative positions and military ranks in various parts of this empire.

The Diaspora of Albanian origin which is located in Turkey is in a considerable number and holding a social status. For a long time, declaring the Albanian ancestry was considered dangerous, but in today's Turkey, the Albanian Diaspora is highly respected. Turkish historiography appreciates the important role played by Albanians in the Ottoman hierarchy, but also later in the time of the founding of the modern state of Turkey.

Migration to the United States is consolidated in time and in 2012, the oldest Albanian cultural association "Vatra" celebrated its 100th anniversary. Albanian associations in the United States enabled to unite Albanian immigrants, preserve national sentiment, open schools, publish and distribute Albanian books, supported the struggle for freedom and independence, and intractably opposed the partition of Albanian territories.

In Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Egypt, and Argentina there is a Diaspora, which, though old, maintains language links and is in seek for its proper identity.

1.1 PERIODS OF ALBANIAN MIGRATION

The Albanian Diaspora is in its "maturing" process. It is created by migratory movements and forced displacement.

Late migratory movements of Albanians identify three phases of migration:

- 1. The wave of migrants before 1944,*
- 2. The later Diaspora of those who left during 1945-1990*
- 3. Migration wave after the fall of communism, after 1990.*

A special chapter of the migration of Albanians are the displacement of Albanians from their lands. The most systematic depopulation for which there exists a partial database is the movement from Kosovo to Turkey. Three periods of forced displacement of Albanians took place in Kosovo.

-The first period was the deportation of Albanians from Kosovo in 1910, when 120.000 thousand Albanians were deported to Turkey by the Serbian authority.
 -The second period was in 1926-1938, when about 400.000 emigrated to Turkey.
 The last one was after World War II, in 1953-1966, when nearly 400.000 were forced to emigrate to Turkey from Kosovo.

In Albania in 1989, about 19.5% of the population belonged to the age group from 15-24 years. The political isolation of the communist regime and the idea of freedom in the West were reflected as ideas of freedom of movement and migration to the neighbouring states, mainly in Italy and Greece. Moving abroad was perceived as an investment for the

future seeking for a better life.

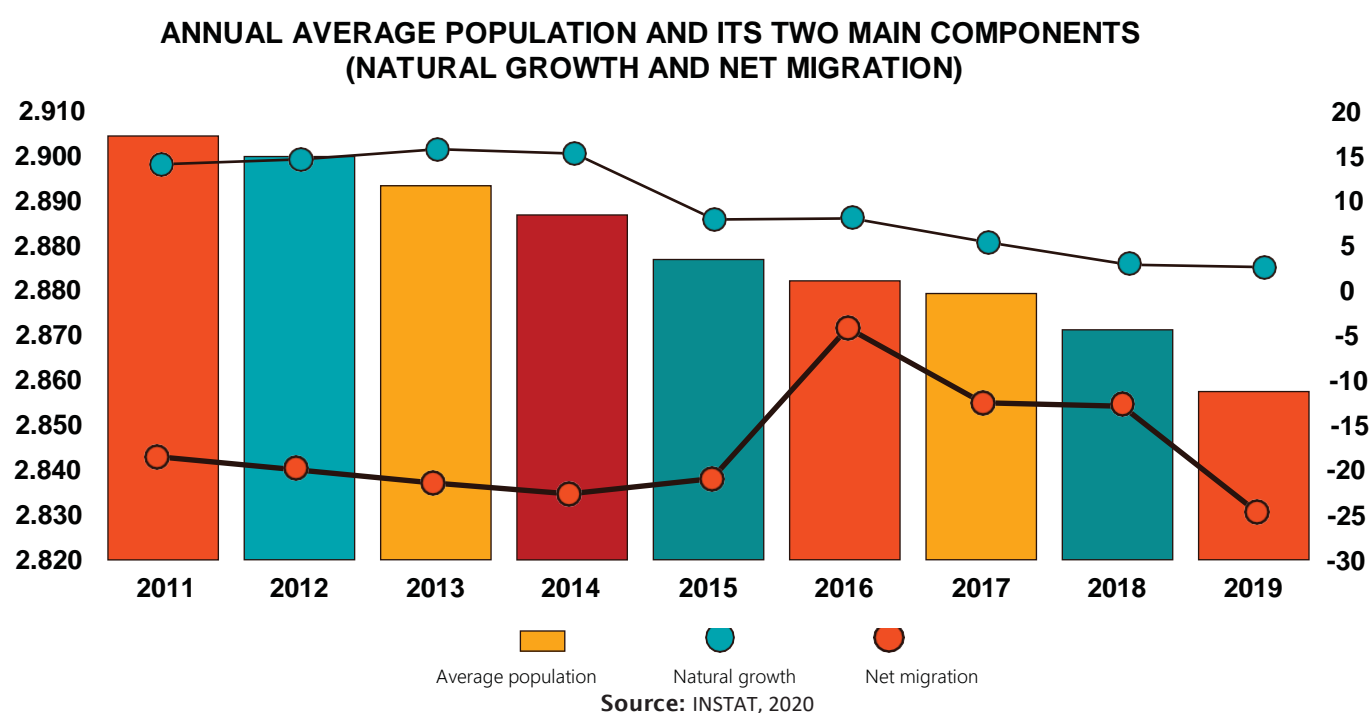
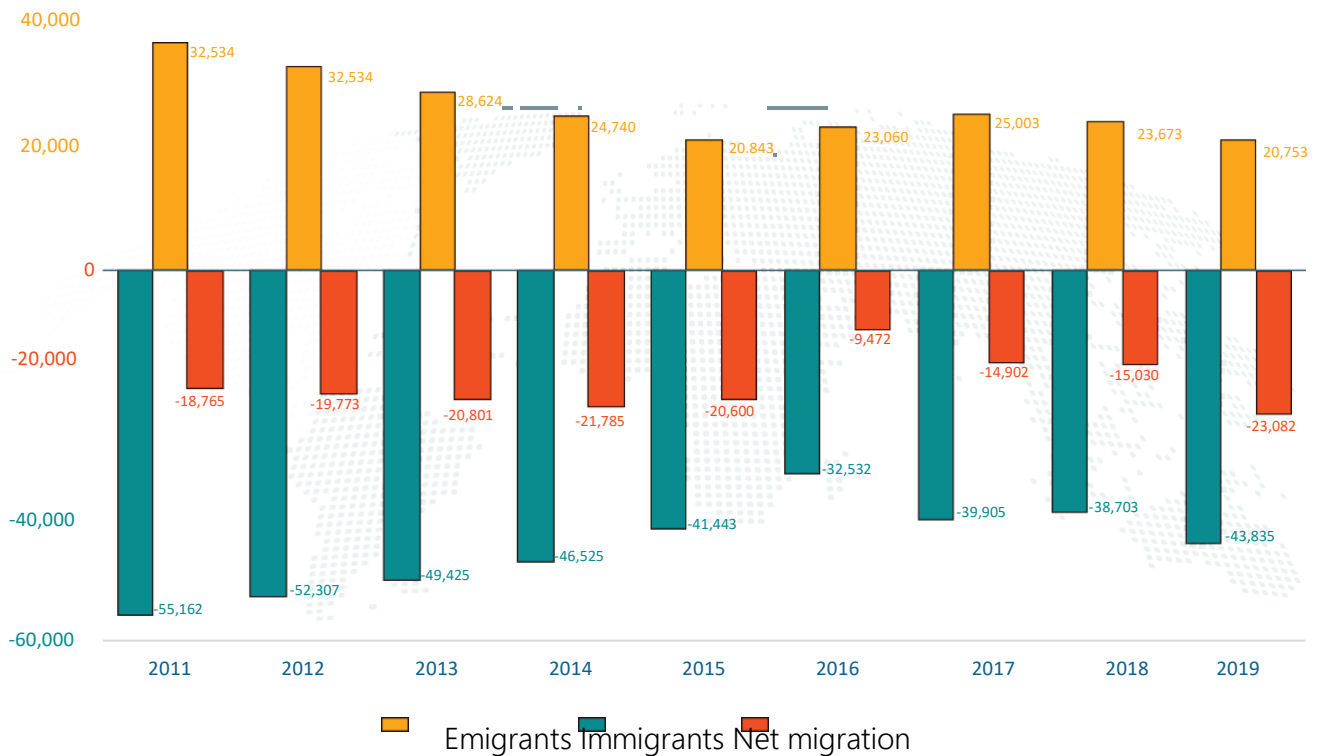


Fig. 1: Annual Average Population and its Two Main Components (Natural Growth and Net Migration), 2019

Albania became the country with the largest outflow of migration in Europe, according to the assessment of the ratio between the migrants and the population. This phase of migration can be divided into several periods:

1. The period 1991-1992, which was completely uncontrolled, when approximately 300 000 Albanians abandoned the country.
2. The period 1992-1996, when the same number migrated, mainly illegally, despite the temporary economy growth and enhanced border control mechanisms.
3. The period 1996-1997, shortly after the collapse of the pyramid savings schemes which led to the migration of hundreds of thousands people. Albania plunged into anarchy and many others dislocated due to the fear of violence.
4. From 2009 onwards, after obtaining the visa liberalization regime with the EU (Schengen Area) of the European Union.

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS, EMIGRANTS AND MIGRATION (NET)



Source: INSTAT, 2020

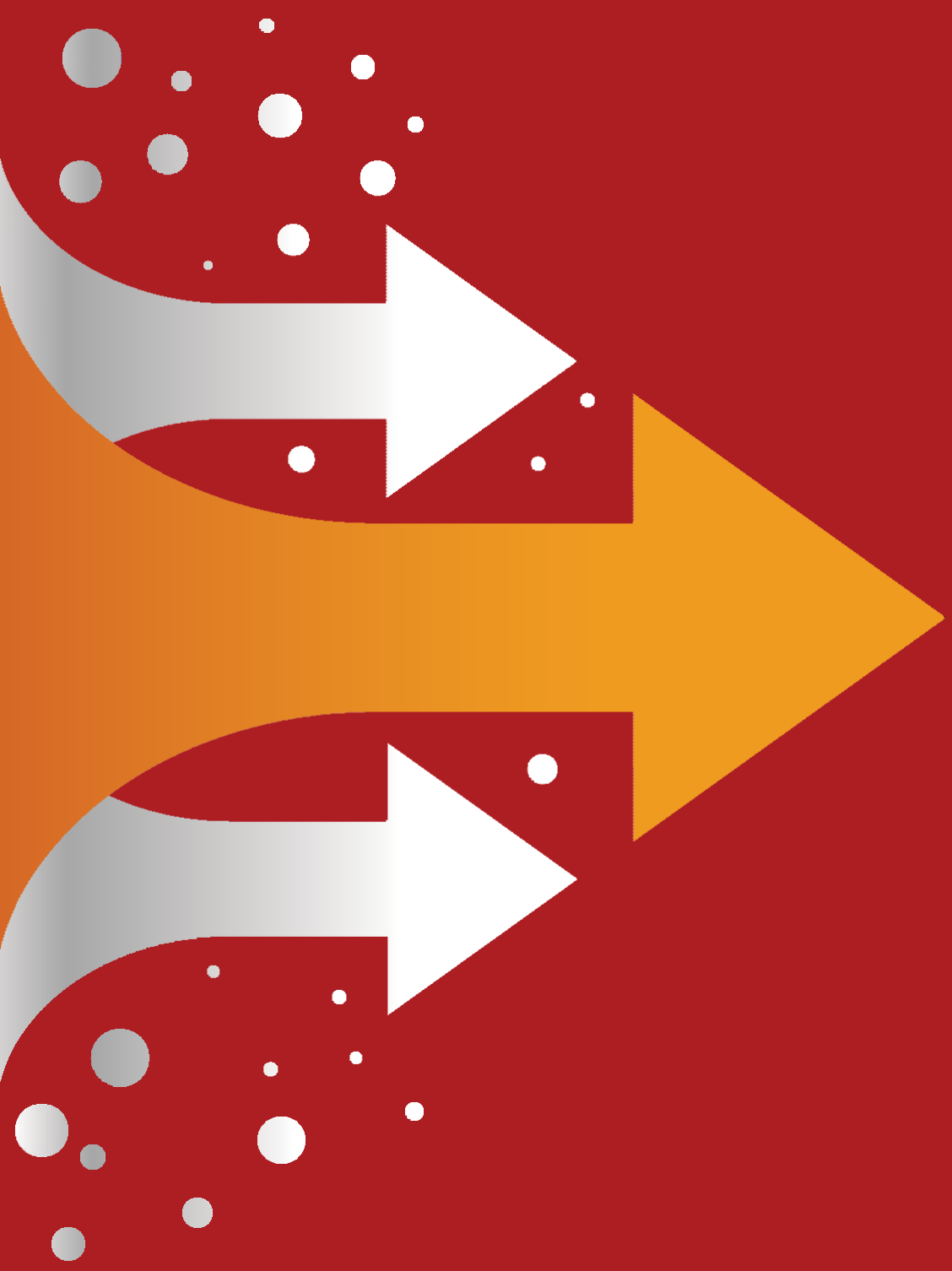
Fig. 2 Number of immigrants, emigrants and migration (net)

During the first decade of transition, a lack of state control over migration emerged. In the early 2000, approximately 25% of the total population, or over 35% of the workforce, had emigrated.

Today, the Albanian Diaspora is present in European countries, Canada, Australia and Africa. In most host countries, Albanians have established their own organizations.

Albanian migrants who left their homeland in the 1990s were reunited with family or friends living abroad. They were also engaged in the structures of Albanian associations, which had long existed in many host countries.

Migration represents a strenuous challenge for state institutions and Albanian society. The scope of the National Strategy of the Albanian Diaspora 2021 - 2025 is to provide Albania with a comprehensive policy in the standards of the European Union and its implementation in alignment with the best international standards.



II. CURRENT STATUS OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

II. CURRENT SITUATION - STATUS OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

2.1 STATUS EVALUATION

In 2004, Albania adopted the "National Migration Strategy 2005-2010". This was the first document that attempted to include the interests of Albanians inside and outside the country, similar to a state policy. The first Albanian strategy on migration on 2004 requested that Albania be considered a country capable of managing migration flows. It was prepared by EU funding and was supported by IOM. Despite the good will, the goal had little to do with the country's economic development

The National Diaspora Strategy 2018-2024 was approved by DCM No. 259, dated 09.05.2018. It assessed the application capabilities of the Albanian administration and during the process the actions and recommendations for the development of state policy on this issue were assessed.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 is in line with the practical application of the National Diaspora Strategy 2018-2024. The document addresses Albania's new state relationship with the migratory phenomenon and the Albanian diaspora.

The complexity of the diaspora phenomenon requires the coordination of many state institutions and bodies. The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 provides recommendations which will coordinate the future work of the responsible state structures. It sets out the nature of the strategic document as a complex interdisciplinary strategy.

The same methodology was used for the preparation and drafting of the National Action Plan 2021 - 2025, which is a continuation of the National Action Plan 2018 - 2024. This document, with its action structure will enable the practical implementation of the National Strategy of the Albanian Diaspora.

Pursuant to the National Diaspora Strategy 2018 - 2024, the Albanian Parliament has approved the legal framework in relation to the state policy for the Diaspora. They are as follows:

- Law No. 115, dated 18.12/2017, "On the establishment of the National Diaspora Agency".
- Law No.32, dated 07.06.2018, "On Albanian Diaspora Development Fund".
- Law No.16, dated 05.04.2018, "On Diaspora".

Pursuant to the above-cited laws, the following state agencies have been established:

- The National Diaspora Agency
- The Albanian Diaspora Development Fund
- The Diaspora Publishing Centre
- The Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh

According to the newly adopted legislation, the Diaspora Coordination Council with 15 representatives was established for the first time. They are from the European Union (6), the United States of America (3), Canada (2), the United Kingdom (2), Australia (1) and Turkey (1). The official meetings of the Diaspora Coordination Council are attended by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the ministers responsible for Diaspora.

The National Strategy of the Albanian Diaspora 2021 - 2025 is a dynamic document, which required to be continuously abided, adapted and monitored. The strategy will be a valuable instrument for state agencies and for interested citizens and will encourage state structures to meet the obligations provided therein.

2.2 MIGRATION FACTORS

People migrate when their country does not offer the necessary resources and opportunities to meet their needs and aspirations. The phrase "for a better life" includes several factors that force Albanians to leave their homeland. This is reflected in the lack of social uniformity among Albanian migrants.

The main factors of Albanian migration include:

- **Economic Factors:** Albanians have mainly left due to economic reasons such as lack of employment opportunities, difficult living conditions, especially in some areas where basic conditions such as electricity, water and housing are not met.
- **Public Safety:** Albania has faced massive migratory flows due to the low level of public safety or unrest in the country. A large number of qualified people, with good economic conditions, have left the country for a more secure future for themselves and their families. This phenomenon occurred especially after the riots of 1997 and was accompanied by another wave of departure.
- **Weak institutions** lead to a lack of trust among citizens who see no way to improve the situation in the country, where corruption and organized crime paralyse the normal functioning of state institutions. Weak institutions and difficulties in law enforcement also affect the efforts and prospects of immigrants to return and settle in the homeland, especially when they encounter difficulties in establishing private companies, or in relations with the public administration.
- **A special case** is departures due to the tradition of "vendettas", which carry a special social and cultural burden in the northern areas of the country.

Reasons for leaving the homeland have been of different importance over time. A study shows that the reasons for leaving Albania in 2019, carried out by INSTAT, are separated in five categories.

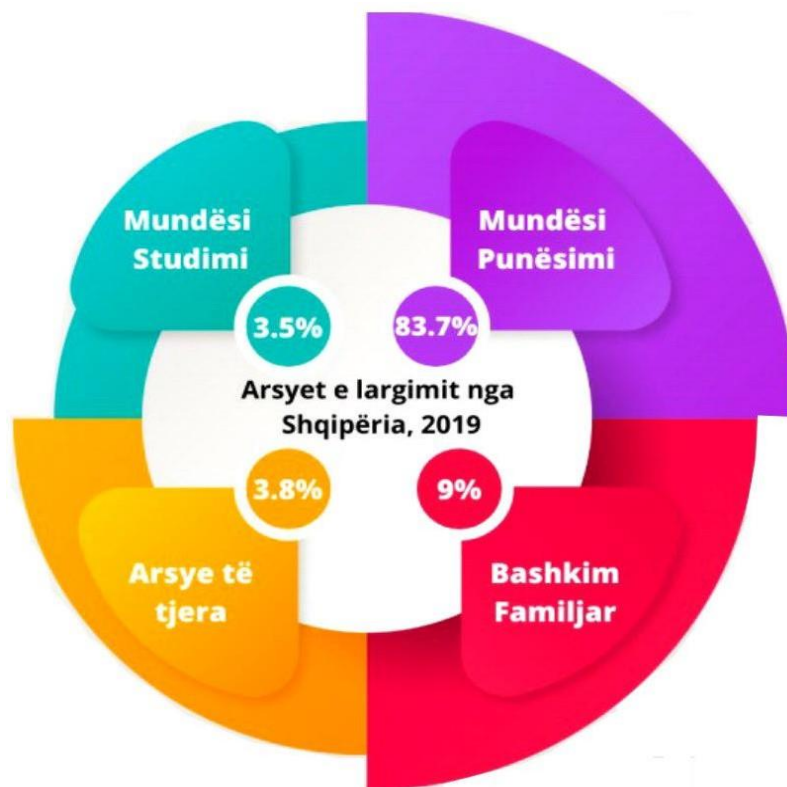


Fig. 3: Reasons for leaving Albania, 2019

Among the main reasons of migration, in terms of free movement in the European Union, the opportunity to work abroad ranks first. It ranks first in terms of individuals who migrated for employment reasons (83.7%), family reunion (9%), study opportunities (3.5%) and finally other reasons (3.8%).

Albanian migration cannot be combated with repressive measures. Instead, it requires preventive measures. These measures are based on the reasons for migration from a practical point of view. This approach will consider the compatibility of the application of the Albanian state policies in line with the Common European Migration Policies.

2.3 THE “BRAIN DRAIN” PHENOMENON

The high level of migration from the homeland of qualified people is a feature of Albanian migration from the Albanian territories, compared to Albanians from Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

In 1990, 40% of teachers and researchers left Albania. In the early 2000s, about 60% of graduates in Western countries had either left the country or never returned after graduation.

The concerning issue is that most of the qualified professionals were employed in sectors different from their qualifications.

The "brain drain" phenomenon includes academics, qualified persons in various fields, as well as a significant number of Albanian students studying in foreign universities. The Albanian "brain drain" moved from Italy and Greece towards Canada, the USA, Germany, Great Britain and other EU countries.

In Albania, the "brain drain" phenomenon is symbolically called as the "Canada phenomenon", as the immigration policies of the government of this host country favour the migration of skilled people. The migration of qualified and educated citizens from the homeland is considered as a damage to the socio-economic development of a country, as they are the development engine of any country.

Measures undertaken to avoid permanent migration of qualified and educated individuals requires the encouragement and promotion of temporary migration, in particular the circular migration of qualified individuals.

The Government of Albania intends to apply the voluntary repatriation of qualified emigrants, either permanent or temporary, through short-term visits for the purposes of consultation, teaching or training. The identification of all intellectual capacities abroad will also serve to this purpose.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will encourage talented individuals of the young generation to become focused and driven towards a professional career in their homeland. Furthermore, another option would be providing scholarships for further studies abroad and thus creating opportunities to participate in programs for the experiences exchange with third countries, provided that they should return to their homeland. This will be considered an investment for the future by enhancing the education level of young academics. To ensure the possibility of their return, the (responsive) institutions shall maintain communication relations with the relevant representatives of Diaspora and provide them with employment opportunities in their homeland.

2.4 MIGRATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

In selecting the host country, the main factor for the new Albanian migration remained the geographical, cultural and linguistic proximity. Neighbours including Greece and Italy were the main destination during the 1992-1995 period. The afore-mentioned countries are preferred as well because of the scarce possibility of application of a costly migration project. The preference of Albanian migrants for other Western European countries or the USA was limited due to the economic scarcity and migration policy in these countries.

Migration statistics are clear in their ambiguity. In 2019, according to the circumstantial surveys conducted by INSTAT, figures of the new Diaspora are approximately 1.64 million citizens are residents abroad or in total percentage 36% of citizens, have migrated and settled mainly in Greece and Italy. According to data from Peoplemov.in, 676,847 Albanians live in Greece, while 522,647 in Italy.

Pursuant to the data of "Peoplemov.in", which refers to the situation of migration, these data in Albania can be considered.

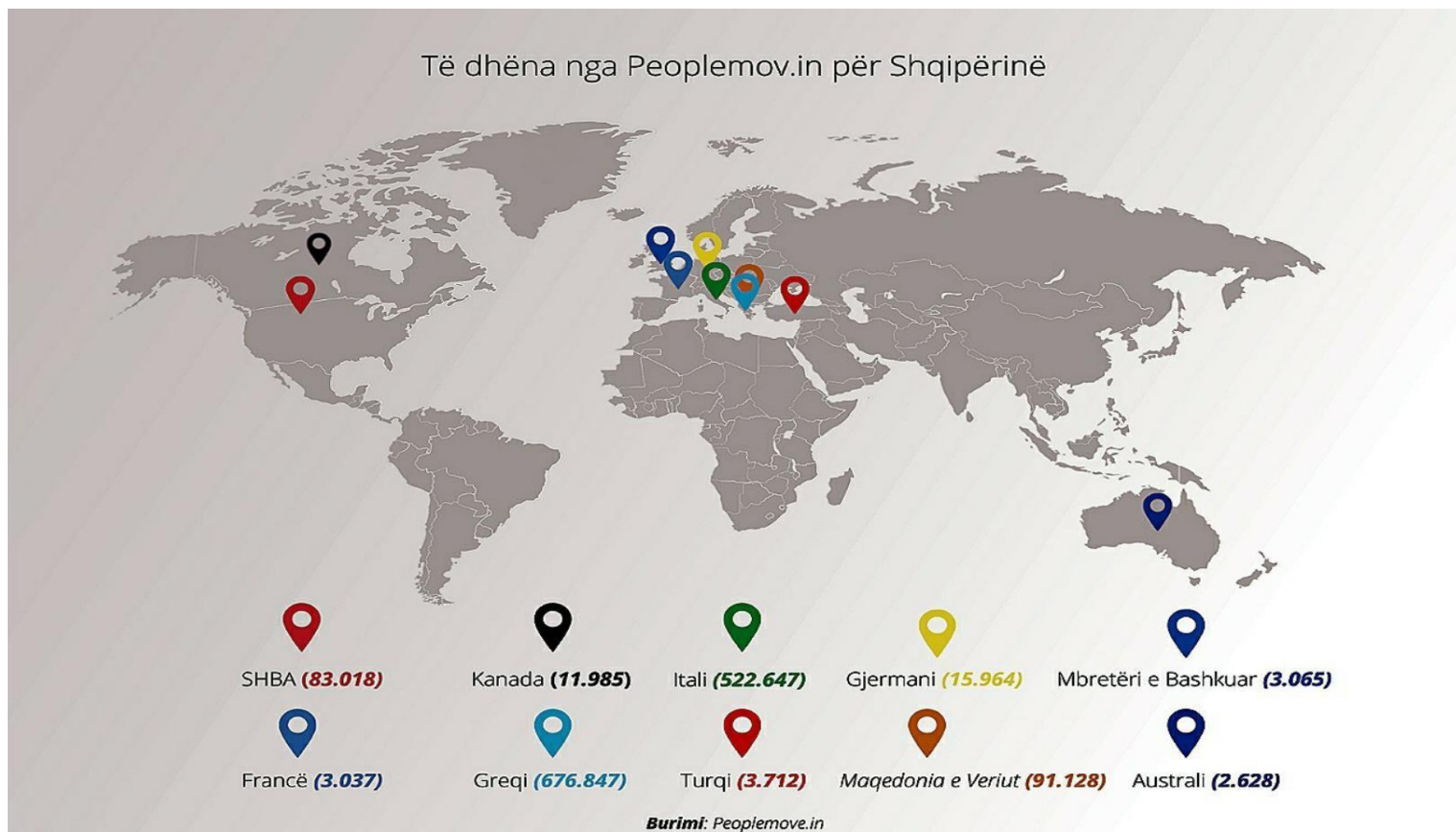


Fig. 4: Data extracted from Peoplemov.in in Albania

For Albanians, Italy was a place which combined cultural preferences and geographical proximity. Living under the communist regime turned Italy into a symbol of freedom and the West. Radio and television broadcasts were the most important ways through which Albanians under the communist regime, maintained ties with the West. The Italian language was the most spoken foreign language in Albania and the Italian art and culture represented highly special attractions. All these elements help to understand why Italy was the most attractive country for Albanian emigrants. In mid-2005, the number of Albanian emigrants living in Italy was higher compared to other emigrants from other countries, respectively 13.7% more than Romanians and Moroccans.

Greece is another country which is geographically close to the Albanians. The illegal crossing of the Greek-Albanian border did not require any financial costs. The citizens of both countries also share certain cultural and historical similarities. Although Greek is not widely spoken in Albania, except for some southern regions where the Greek community resides, mass emigration to this country has involved an increasing number of Albanians. This phenomena led to the increase of the number of people who learned to speak Greek, therefore narrowing the cultural and linguistic gap between the two neighbouring countries.

Researchers describe migration from Albania as an economic and irregular disadvantage, involving high undocumented migrant flow, which evolved rapidly and dynamically. Migration to Greece is also regarded as very frequent (mostly short-term visits).

NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS, AND EMIGRANTS PER 1000 INHABITANTS

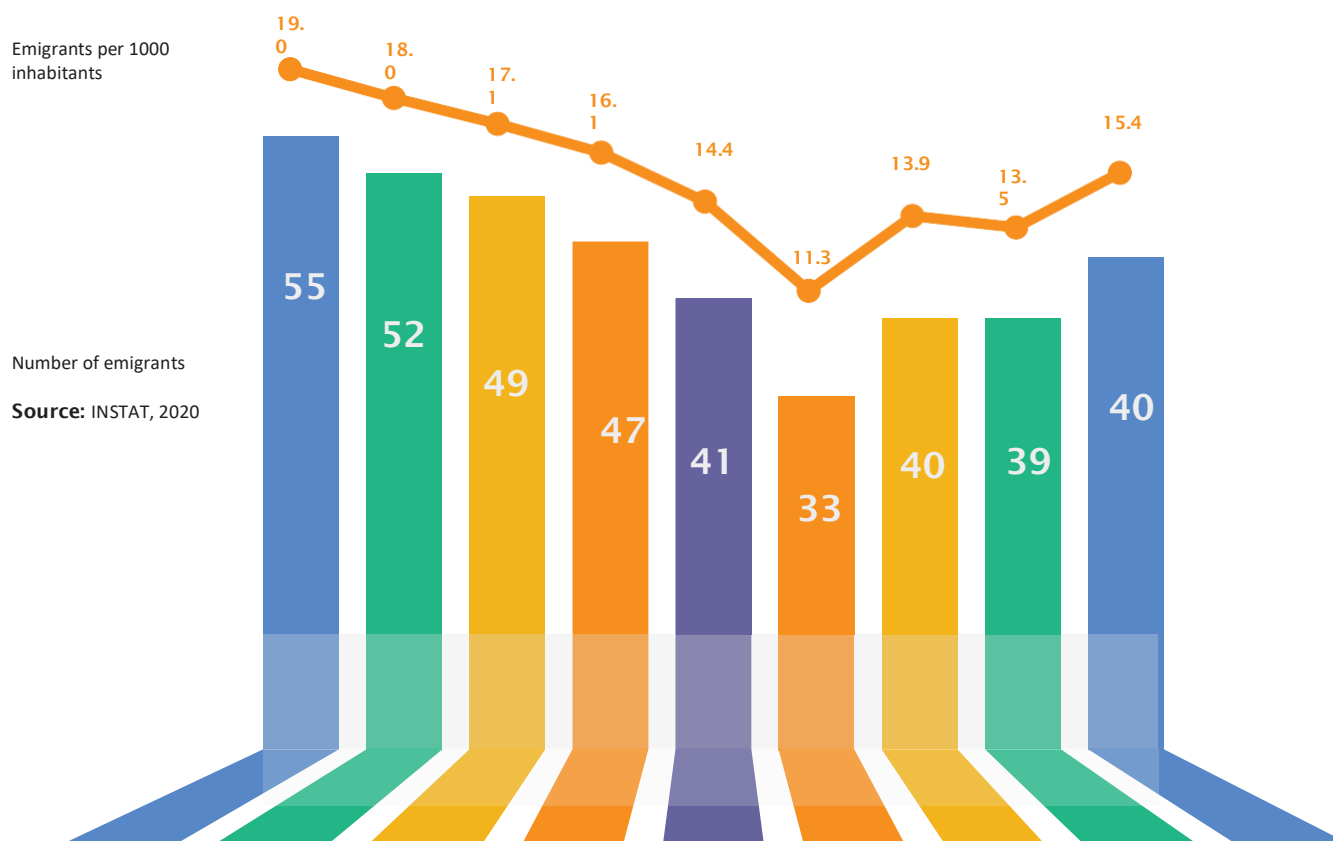


Fig. 5: NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS, AND EMIGRANTS PER 1000 INHABITANTS

In the framework of the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy, The Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), as published two annual reports, respectively the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports. They provided the first official statistical assessment of the Albanian Diaspora and its profile on basic demographic and social characteristics. Based on these reports, INSTAT has conducted an assessment on the number of Albanian citizens living abroad, based on a comparison of the two populations, i.e. the resident population and the civil registry.

In drafting the 2018 Report, INSTAT considered the civil registry population number on January 1, 2018. According to the statistical assessment, on January 1, 2018, 1,584,137 individuals were living outside the territory of Albania, of which 828,530 men and 755,607 women.

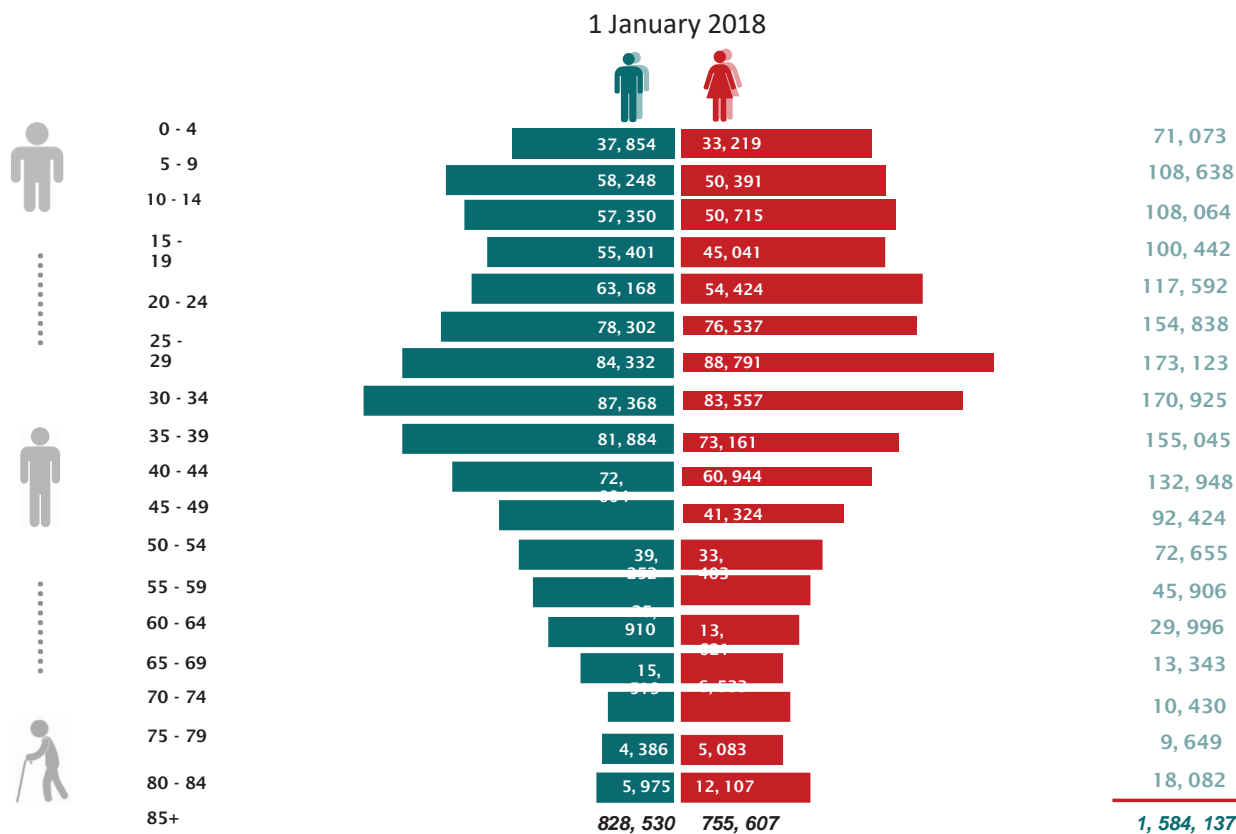


Fig. 6: Number of Albanian citizens abroad as of January 1st, 2018

The Annual Report 2019 published by INSTAT estimated that during this year, there is an increase in the number of Albanian Diaspora by about 3.6%. This estimate indicates that men in the Diaspora increased by about 4.1% compared to women with about 3%.

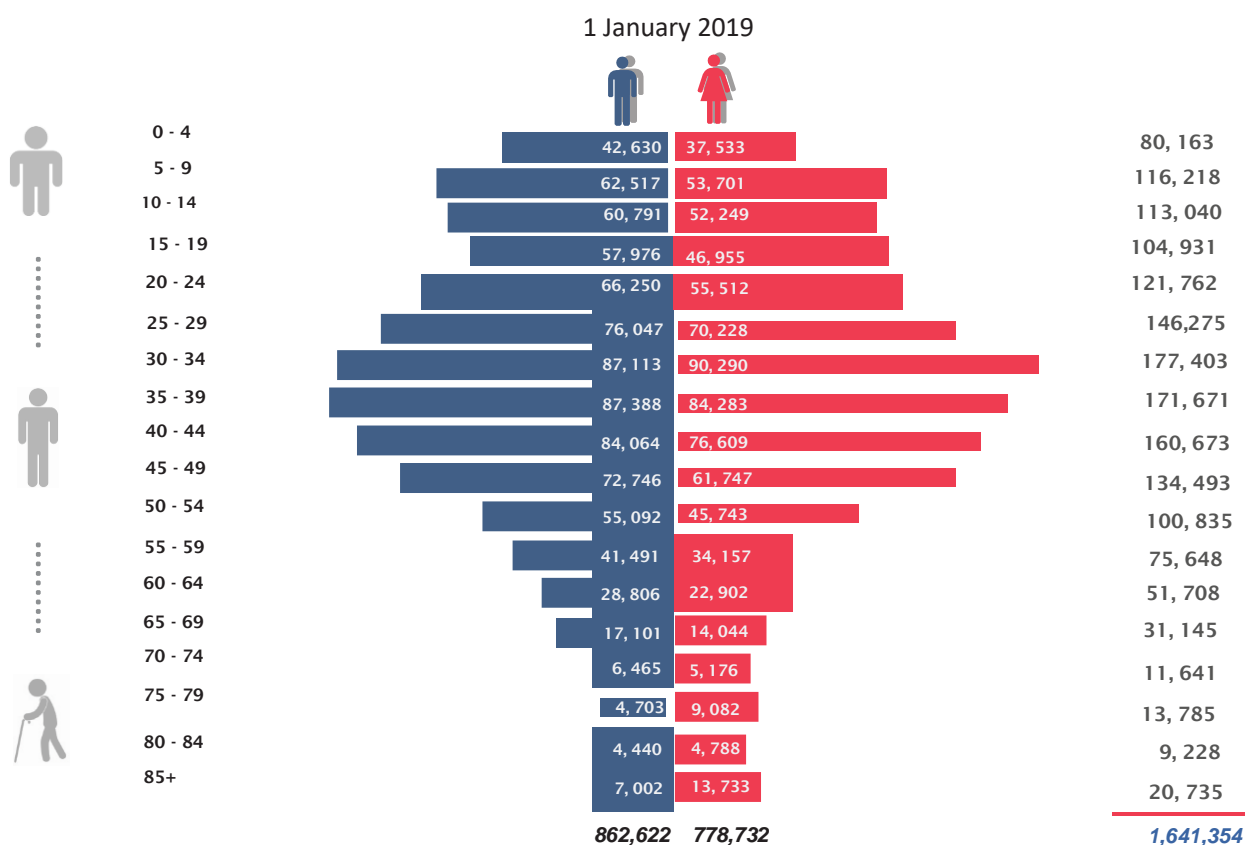


Fig. 7: Number of Albanian citizens abroad as of January 1st, 2019

The INSTAT assessments will also serve the population of the National Registry of Civil Status with data on Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania for a period longer than three months with no interruption or for a period longer than six months within one calendar year. Population of the Register with such data will be carried out through the identification and registration of Albanian citizens living abroad.

For this purpose, Law no. 14/2016 "On the identification and registration of the address of Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and Decision no. 405, dated 04.07.2018, of the Council of Ministers, "On the adoption of the rules on the obligation to self-declaration of addresses by Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and the relevant procedures to be followed" were adopted.

The mobility of migrants who travel frequently between their homeland and host countries has been regulated thanks to the regulatory process (legal status) in Italy and Greece and thanks to the visa-free movement. This process made the Albanian Diaspora emerge in these countries, which focuses on making the social and legal status more sustainable in the host countries for the next generation.

2.5 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE

A distinctive feature of Albanian migration is the rapidly changing social and economic status. Greece and Italy are an example of the role of the Albanian community settled there. Various organizations are being established in these countries, but also in other countries (mainly in European Union countries), based on the interests of political parties in Albania. They have played and still play an important role in encouraging compatriots to participate in electoral voting (by travelling to Albania). In some political parties, the representatives of these organizations are part of the governing structures, increasing the political influence of migration in Albanian politics.

Albanian migrants in European Union countries are highly integrated in the social and economic life of the host country. Over the years, they have settled their legal status and a majority of Albanian migrants in Italy and Greece have been granted the citizenship of these countries. Based on the Italian Institute of Statistics data, in 2019, 428,332 Albanians with regular residence permits living in Italy were estimated.

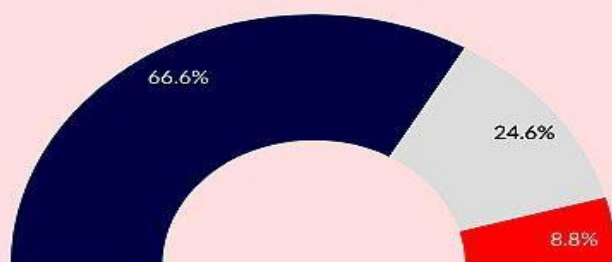
Komuniteti shqiptar në Itali



428 332

Numri i shqiptarëve me leje
qëndrimi të rregullt në Itali

Arsyet e qëndrimit të migrantëve shqiptarë në Itali



Arsye familjare

66.6%

Arsye pune

24.6%

Arsye të tjera

8.8%

Përbërja e popullsisë migrante në Itali 2019



Burimi: Ministria e Punës dhe Politikave Sociale (Itali), 2019

Fig. 8: Data on the Albanian community in Italy

Meanwhile, based on the latest census, 480,851 Albanians with regular residence permits were estimated to live in Greece, constituting the largest migrant community in the country.

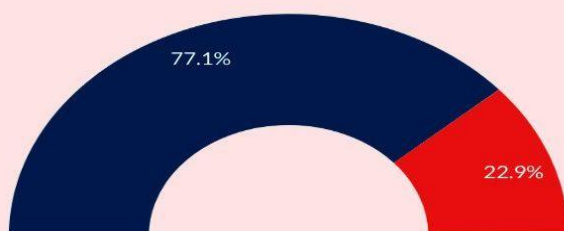
Komuniteti shqiptar në Greqi



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qëndrimi të rregullt në Greqi

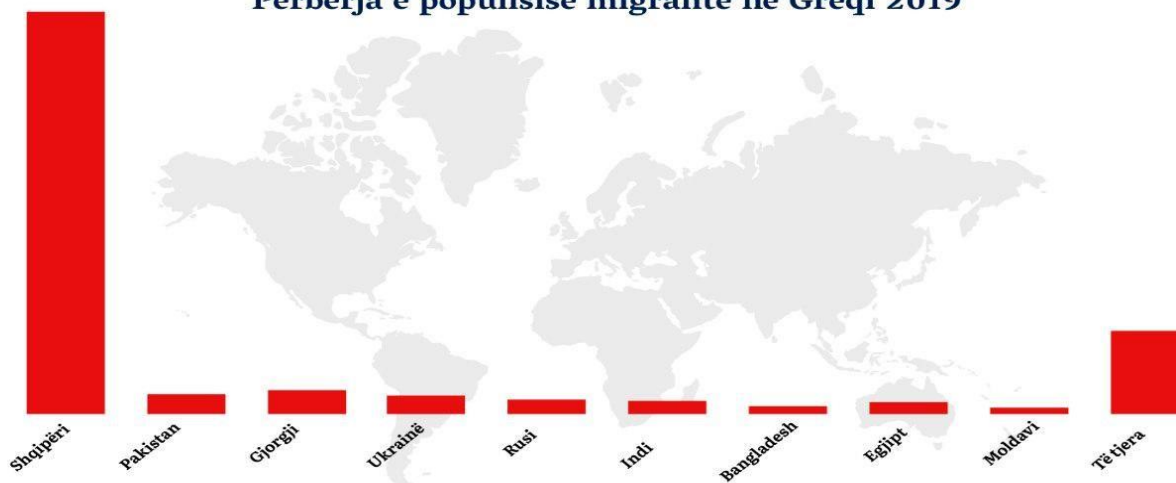
Shpërndarja gjeografike e migrantëve shqiptarë në Greqi



Zona urbane
77.1%

Zona rurale
22.9%

Përbërja e popullsisë migrante në Greqi 2019



Burimi: Raporti "Migracioni në Greqi: Zhvillimet e fundit në 2019 dhe Autoriteti Helen i Statistikave (ELSTAT)

Fig. 9: Data on the Albanian community in Greece

Based on the EUROSTAT data, Albanians rank second in the European Union as regards the number of citizens who obtain citizenship of an EU country. In 2016, the highest number (67,510 cases) of Albanian citizens who obtained citizenship of a European Union country was recorded.

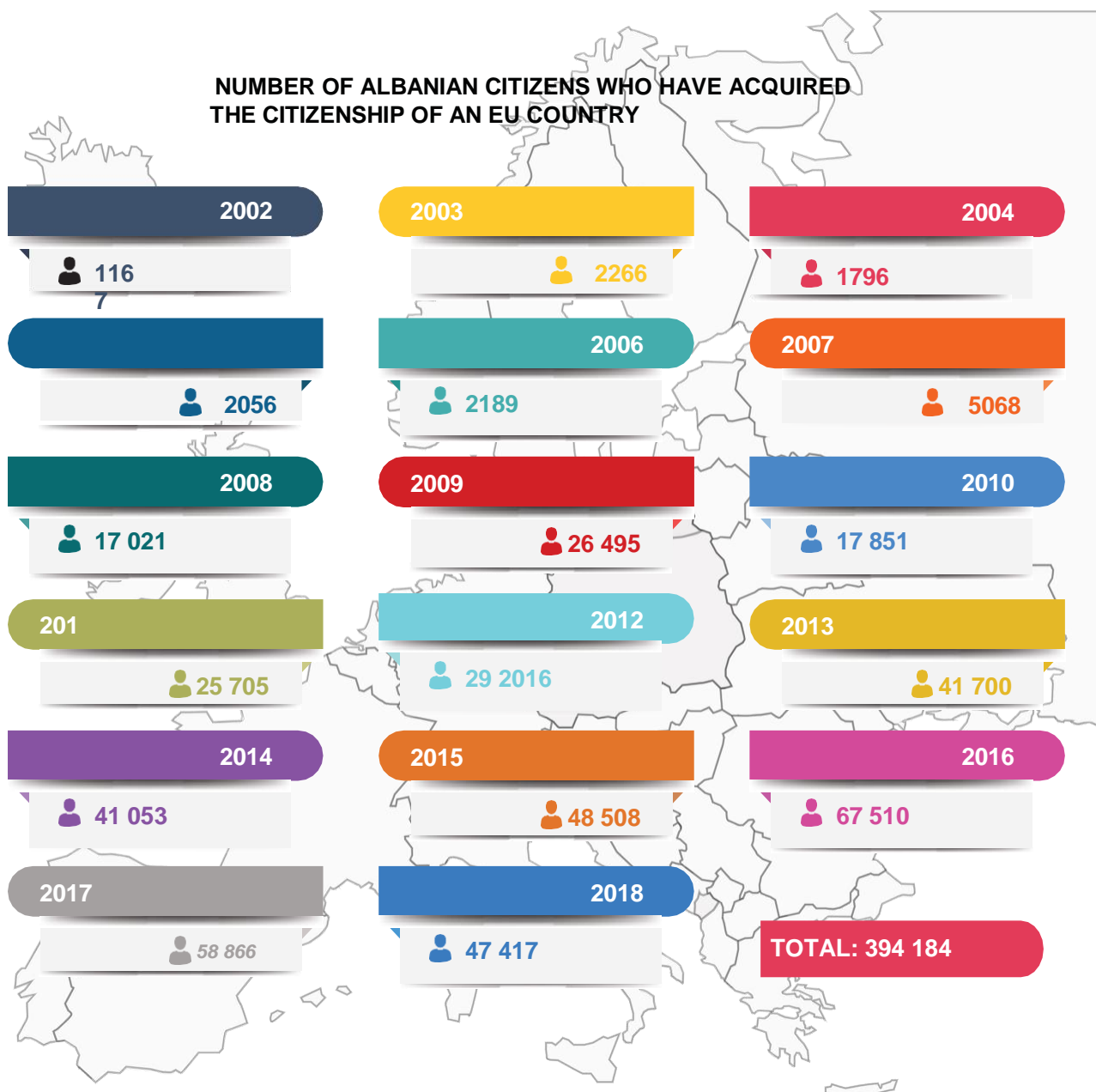
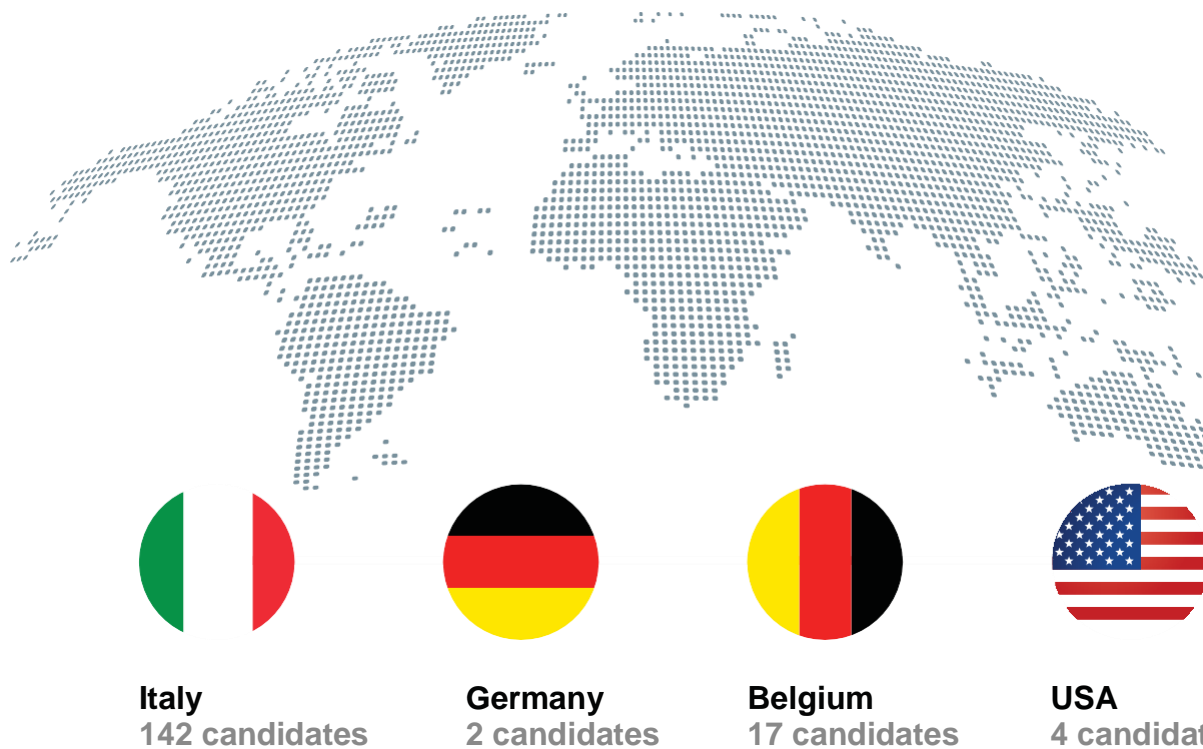


Fig. 10: Number of Albanian citizens who have acquired the citizenship of an EU country

Thanks to the regulation of the legal status in the host countries, especially in Italy and Greece but also in other countries, Albanian migrants are now taking on a natural role. Their votes are now being considered important in the local electoral process. This is making room to more opportunities for the representation of candidates of Albanian nationality in the political and representative structures of the host countries.

ALBANIAN CANDIDATES IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN THE DIASPORA AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Social change and political enhancing role of migration has also drive to qualitative changes in Albania's relations with host countries. This phenomenon, especially in Italy and Greece has significantly affected the strengthening of Albania's relations with these two countries. This has also improved strategic partnership as an example of how migration and the Diaspora affect bilateral relations between the two countries.

2.6 ORGANIZATION OF DIASPORA

The analysis of the current situation shows that the Albanian Diaspora is very dynamic. It is present in many of the world's leading countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and France, but also in emerging economic powers such as Canada and Australia.

The Albanian Diaspora is increasingly better organized, educated and ready to maintain contacts with the country of origin. Remittances are considered an important contribution of the Diaspora. The current level of remittances is controversial. Accurate data collection is difficult as a part of such remittances are transferred through informal channels, such as through relatives and friends. In terms of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025, the goal is to estimate the future of such revenues.

The assessment on Albanian diaspora organizations and migration policies testify on the enhancing role the Diaspora plays as a mediator between host countries and homeland.

Albanian Diaspora organizations in the West are focusing even more on how to better organize themselves in host countries and by pinning their internal priorities. These organizations are addressing the situation of members of Diaspora, their needs and demands related to political participation and the rights entitled to foreign workers, citizenship and the rights of religious communities.

A positive benchmark in this regard was the organization in benefit of the interests of the Albanian Diaspora of the First Diaspora Summit (dates 18 - 20 November 2016 in Tirana) and the Second Diaspora Summit (28 February - 2 March 2019).

At the organizational level, an important event was the establishment of the Diaspora Coordination Council for the first time. Its first official meeting was held on the National Diaspora Day, on December 18, 2019, in Tirana. It consists of 15 representatives i.e. the European Union (6), the United States of America (3), Great Britain (2), Canada (2), Australia (1) and Turkey (1).

The main quality of the Albanian Diaspora is the mobilization also through indirect lobbying to convince the host government to act in favour of supporting the country of origin. The Albanian Diaspora is a strong lobbyist for the governments and institutions of the host countries in support of the development and democratization of Albania, Kosovo and Albanian interests in the region. More specifically, the Albanian Diaspora showed such a commitment in the efforts for the independence of Albania and Kosovo. Readiness proved to better compare to self-organization capacities.

Migration still represent a strenuous challenge for state institutions and Albanian society. The scope of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 is to provide Albania with a comprehensive policy for Diaspora in line with the direction of the integration policy of the European Union and its implementation in alignment with the best international standards.

The National Strategy supports migrants legally living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania. The strategy aims to generate a synthesis of the collective commitment of the Albanian society to its compatriots, who live abroad.

The National Strategy promotes the development of state policies for the inclusion and contribution of Albanian communities abroad in the socio-economic and political development of Albania. It does not cover issues related to foreign nationals living or wanting to live in Albania.

The strategy aims to strengthen and facilitate Albania's relations with host countries through policies of cooperation with Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

The strategy considers the Diaspora as an added value of the Albanian society and provides for the increase of the Government's capacities for appropriate policymaking. It supports the organization of Albanian communities worldwide, aiding the structuring of the Diaspora to increase their interactive role to accelerate the development of the country.

2.7 DIASPORA AND EU INTEGRATION

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 provides for the establishment of the Diaspora and the migration process as two "communication vessels". Migration has always been an important topic of reflection of European Union policies in recent years. The European Strategy 2021 and the Stockholm Program recognize the high potential and great contribution of migrants to the EU, as well as to building a competitive and sustainable economy.

2.8 COOPERATION BETWEEN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Albania and Kosovo are estimated to be among the poorest countries in Europe. But this estimate can be considered in regard to the values of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). These values do not provide the full picture of the economic strength of the Albanian nation. Among the hidden assets of these two countries, one must also count the large Diaspora living in many countries of the world, which sends remittances on a regular basis, thus having important responsibilities for the well-being of its homeland and population.

The National Diaspora Strategy provides for a close cooperation with the institutions of Kosovo, for a reassessment of the relationship with the common Diaspora. The agreements related to the Diaspora entered into between the two countries have served as a qualitative step in this regard. The drafting of a joint Action Plan is considered as crucial and mandatory.

The two countries have been signed various cooperation agreements for placing common policies for the Albanian Diaspora, as follows:

1. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo "On cooperation in the field of Diaspora", signed on 27.11.2017.
2. Cooperation Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo
"On Cultural Centres in Diaspora", signed on 27.11.2017.
3. Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo "On cooperation, encouragement of entrepreneurship and information of Diaspora" signed on 26.11.2018.

Both countries will assess the common level of cooperation with Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia to coordinate with their responsible institutions, on a case by case basis, regarding the rights entitled to the Albanian diaspora respective to their homeland.

Cooperation between Albania and Kosovo will be assessed to extend at the regional level. The focus remains on best practices exchange in addressing common topics related to the Diaspora.



III. VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

III. VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIV OBJECTIVES

3.1 VISIONI AND MISSION

Through the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 is introduced the goal of state institutions to establish a qualitatively new relationship for the engagement and involvement of the Diaspora.

The vision of the Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 focuses on the reassessment of the Diaspora engagement based on the actual relationship status of the Albanian state with the Diaspora. The vision envisages the engagement of the Albanian communities in the Diaspora, acknowledging both the benefits of the economic development of the country, as well as the importance of preserving the national identity.

The mission of the Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 aims to strengthen the role of the Albanian Diaspora in the economic development of the country and with professional expertise.

The fundamental value of this document is the establishment of a reliable partnership between the Diaspora and the state institutions of Albania. This document contains the commitments dedicated for the amendments in state policies and state actions undertaken to strengthen the relationship between the Albanian Diaspora and the Republic of Albania.

3.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 focuses on a set of strategic objectives that enable to focus on the activities to be organized through the 2021-2025 Action Plan.

For the accomplishment of the strategic objectives of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025, the urging need to establish the institutional relationship with the aim to enhance the engagement of the Albanian Diaspora is highly prioritised, as well as the definition of key thematic and viable components for the implementation of the strategy.

The main objectives of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 are:

- Adaptation of legal amendments to the level of policy making
- Coordination of the state administration for the new dimension of state policy for the Diaspora
- Commitment of state structures established to improve and strengthen cooperation with Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

3.2.1 DIASPORA NETWORKS

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 supports the existing networks of organizations of Albanian communities in the Diaspora. The aim is to encourage the establishment of professional Diaspora networks to support activities in line with the goals of the strategy. The establishment and strengthening of professional networks will help in the realization of the foreseen activities in function of the Strategy Action Plan.

The development of operational business, teachers, physicians, writers, media, advocacy, and women's engagement networks shall be encouraged. Professional networks are valued as partnership mechanisms through which state structures and the Diaspora can cooperate to bring about progressive change.

Building professional networks in the Diaspora also includes planning and implementing information and awareness raising campaigns for:

1. Registration of migrants for the voting process and subject to the right of vote (upon adoption in the Assembly);
2. Preservation of the Albanian identity and culture in Albanian Diaspora;
3. Organizing information on issues of professional interest or related to recent political, socio-economic developments in the country of origin.

In order to register the Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania, Decision no. 14/2016 "On the identification and registration of the address of Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and Decision no. 405, dated 04.07.2018, of the Council of Ministers, "On the adoption of the rules on the obligation to self-declaration of addresses by Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and the relevant procedures to be followed" were adopted.

In order to organize professional networks in the Diaspora, the following have been approved:

- Decision no. 321, dated 15.05.2019 of the Council of Ministers "On the financing of the project "Scientific Diaspora as a factor of change in the process of Albania's integration to the European Union" and its implementation by the Albanian Fund for the Development of Diaspora".
- Decision No .339, dated 06.06.2018 "On the criteria and way of awarding the prize "Ambassador of the Nation".

The Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 envisages the creation of sustainable networks of cooperation with various organizations and institutions and with civil society in the host country and in Albania. The "Ambassador of the Nation" award is intended to establish a qualitative professionals' networks of outstanding protagonists in the Diaspora.

3.2.2 EFFECTIVE TOOLS

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 will aim to supplement the appropriate base of effective administrative instruments with the aim to achieve its objectives.

Internationally, these instruments are designed to support the Albanian Diaspora organizations, to establish local advisory structures in those cities or areas where Albanian migrants are concentrated. It will be achieved under the guidelines of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe. The other goal is for these structures to provide for the opportunity to lobby for the protection of their interests, e.g. bilateral agreements on social protection of migrants with host countries, so that migrants can transfer their social insurance to their country of origin.

Pursuant to Law No. 16, dated 05.04.2018 "On the Diaspora", Decision No. 470, dated 26.07.2018 of the Council of Ministers "On the establishment, organization and functioning of Cultural Centres for the Diaspora" was adopted. They will promote a new quality in the state relations with the Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 780, dated 06.11.2019 "On the appointment of Coordination Officers for Albanian Diaspora affairs in the Albanian consulates in Italy and Greece" represents the starting point for the training of persons responsible in the diplomatic bodies in charge of the relations with the Diaspora.

Domestically, the establishment of administrative instruments will serve to the implementation of the newly adopted legislation and will be developed in line with the requirements set to establish relations with the Albanian Diaspora.

In local government level by Law no. 38/2019 "On some additions and amendments to the Law No.139/2015" On local self-governance" in each municipality of the country the administrative structure for Diaspora and migration shall be established . These structures will provide information and services to the interested parties

In view of this legal amendment the Memorandum of Understanding "On the coordination of work for the establishment of the administrative structure for the Diaspora and migration in local government" between the Ministry of Interior, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Diaspora, Albanian Association of Municipalities and Association for Local Autonomy was signed on 01.06.2020.

Moreover, Decision no. 456, dated 10.06.2020 "On some additions and amendments to DCM No. 910, dated 21.12.2016, "On issues, object of consultation and structure, procedure, form and manner of organization and functioning of the Consultative Council of central government with local self-government" is in progress, as amended.

According to this Decision, an integral part of the Central Government - Local Self-Government Consultative Council, shall be representatives from State Minister of State for Diaspora and the State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection.

On education and identity protection by Law no. 48/2018, "On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 69/2012, "On the pre-university education system in the Republic of Albania", as amended, the ministry responsible for education establishes the state register of teachers of Albanian language and culture in the Diaspora, and provides students with a certificate upon termination of the Albanian language and culture curriculum in the Diaspora. Pursuant to this legal amendment, Decision No. 104, dated 28.02.2019, "On determining the criteria for establishing the state register for teachers of the Albanian language and culture and awarding certificates to students in diaspora" was adopted.

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Education and Technology of the Republic of Kosovo "On the curriculum of supplementary teaching of Albanian language and culture in the Diaspora and migration", entered into on 31.05.2018, the work of the Joint Commission under the coordination of the Publishing Centre for the Diaspora began.

Two coordinators were appointed at the deputy minister level to coordinate education issues in the Diaspora:

- Order No. 32, dated 10.2.2019 of the Prime Minister "On an amendment to Order No. 47, dated 18.02.2019, of the Prime Minister, "On the appointment of the State Coordinator for programs/donors who provide scholarships abroad"- The Deputy Ministers of Education, Sports and Youth was appointed as State Coordinator.
- Order No. 112, dated 30.08.2019 of the Prime Minister "On the appointment of the State Coordinator for the implementation of the program "I am Albanian" of the Albanian language and culture" - One of the Deputy Ministers of Education, Sports was appointed as State Coordinator.

With a view to establish the rules for the handling of information in higher education, Decision no. 504, dated 24.06.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On the establishment of a State Database of students studying abroad and foreign citizens of Albanian origin, who receive scholarships from the Republic of Albania". Pursuant to this decision, the database will be administered by the National Diaspora Agency.

On the issue of social insurance, it is planned to re-evaluate the way of calculating or collecting contributions and, when necessary, the signing of agreements between the Social Insurance Institute and the banks. An evaluation of a specific Action Plan for Albanian migrants' pensions will also be carried out. The latter will aim to support vulnerable persons of the Albanian Diaspora through viable assistance, advocacy and information. That is why the Order no. 43, dated 12.02.2019, of the Prime Minister was adopted "On the appointment of the State Coordinator for the state agreements in the field of insurances for Albanian citizens abroad".

- The Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs was appointed as State Coordinator.

Upon adoption of Law no. 1/2020 "On the adoption of the Normative Act with the powers of Law no. 10, dated 18.12.2019, of the Council of Ministers, "On some additions to Law no. 8438, dated 28.12.1998, "On income tax", as amended, tax exemption for pension income and other similar benefits of foreign citizens of Albanian origin or those of European Union countries, with a residence permit in the Republic of Albania was provided, as well as foreign citizens, who have obtained Albanian citizenship and are residents in the Republic of Albania and who benefit from this income according to the legislation of the country where they receive their pension or other similar benefits.

Business and economy wise, the establishment of the Diaspora Business Chamber was established, pursuant to the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo "On cooperation, business promotion and information of Diaspora", signed on 26.11.2018. This was achieved under Decision no. 514, dated 19.07.2019 of the Council of Ministers "On Diaspora Business Chamber - Establishment and Encouragement of Diaspora Investments in Albania" and its implementation by the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund". It was finalised under Decision no. 6378, dated 12.11.2019 of the Tirana Judicial District Court for the registration of the Diaspora Business Chamber. The agreement with Kosovo also provides for the establishment of the Diaspora Bank.

To help and foster business relationships, the following have also been approved:

- Order No. 44/2019, "On the appointment of the State Coordinator for the organization of the annual program of activities for the Diaspora" - State Coordinator was appointed the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment.
- Prime Minister's Order No. 78, dated 17.04.2019, "On the appointment of the State Coordinator on the state agreements on the recognition of driving licenses for Albanian citizens abroad". The Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy was appointed as State Coordinator.

On 06.12.2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Minister for the Diaspora, the Ministry of Justice and the Albanian Red Cross for persons imprisoned abroad. In accordance with the aforementioned, Order No. 92, dated 17.05.2019 of the Prime Minister "On the establishment of the working group and appointment of the person in charge for the protection of rights of Albanians imprisoned abroad, the rights of migrants through access to information on possible options to appeal against violation of their rights, in the international structures of host countries" was adopted. The Deputy Minister of Justice was appointed as head of this working group.

As regards information, Order No. 36, dated 13.02.2020 of the Prime Minister "On an amendment to the Order No. 45, dated 12.02.2019 of the Prime Minister," On the appointment of the State Coordinator for the information of the Diaspora" was issued. The Director of E-gov systems at NAIS was appointed as State Coordinator. He will be in charge of the coordination of the information provided to Albanian communities in the Diaspora, as published in the official websites of the responsible state institutions.

Of particular importance was the issue of annual publications by the Bank of Albania and the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) as the main institution producing official statistics. The publications will be issued on annual basis marking a milestone in accessing official information on Albanian Diaspora.

The annual reports of the Bank of Albania for 2018 were "Remittances: A support for development, 2018 "and for 2019, "Diaspora and Remittances, 2019 ".

The annual reports of the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) for 2018 are: "Albanian Diaspora in Figures 2018" and for 2019 "Albanian Diaspora in Figures 2019".

3.2.3 ALBANIAN DIASPORA AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT

The inclusion of the Albanian Diaspora in the economic development of the country is highly elaborated in the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025, with special focus on:

1. Strengthening the role of the Diaspora Business Chamber;
1. Establishing a legal framework for investments from the Albanian Diaspora;
2. Establishment of a network structure of professionals of the Albanian Diaspora.

The aim stands to encourage Diaspora investment, the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises in several areas, including agriculture, the food industry and the development of rural areas. This will be viable by creating a favourable climate for Diaspora investment through fiscal stimulus activities, disseminating information, reducing corruption and risks, or improving other incentives.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 is designed taking into account the active participation of actors needed to ensure the climate that facilitates and favours investment in the country of origin. This component will be realized in cooperation with the responsible structures in the Republic of Kosovo. The aim stands on drafting a joint institutional plan which will promote the participation of the Diaspora in the process of economic development of the homeland.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 aims to harmonize local and sectoral development plans which are implemented by the line ministries, providing Diaspora with an added value in economic development. The inclusion of the Diaspora within this context shall be realized in accordance with the goals and interests of the Diaspora community itself.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will encourage coordination and organize various activities, such as "Days of Albania" in the host countries based on an annual program that promotes Albanian tourism and facilitate investment in the country. This was the aim of the Prime Minister's Order No. 44, dated 12.02/2019, "On the appointment of the State Coordinator for the organization of the annual program of activities for the Diaspora".

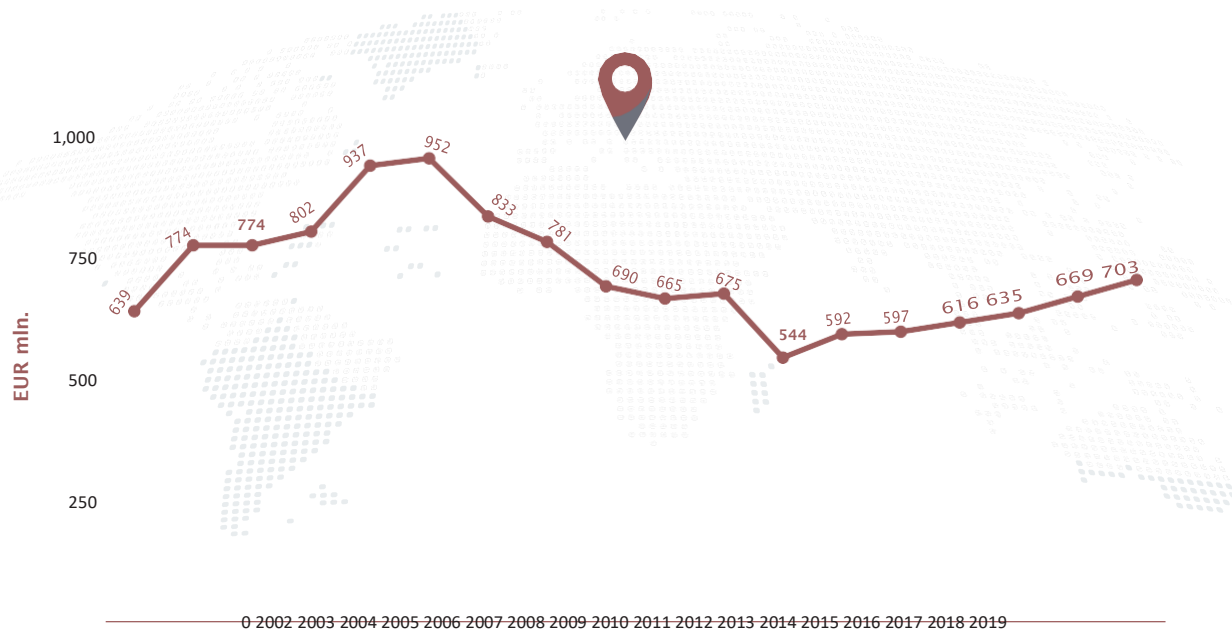
3.2.4 REMITTANCES – FROM CONSUMPTION TO DEVELOPMENT

In the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025, migrants remittances will be considered as one of the pivotal instruments for the socio-economic development of the country.

Remittances, or migrants' remittances to their homeland, have made a significant contribution to the stability and economic development of Albania. They are mainly used for the daily consumption of Albanian families. Thanks to the remittances, families could meet their needs for food, clothing, medicine, or building their housing.

Albania ranks among countries highly dependent on remittances, as money delivery is otherwise known. Remittances represent about 9-15% of the country's GDP and about 15% of the income of Albanian households.

REMITTANCES TRENDS IN YEARS



Source: Bank of Albania 2019

Fig. 12: Dynamics of remittances of Albanian migrants, 2002-2019

The dynamics of remittance income in Albania has undergone the following three phases:

1. Their increase from 1991 to 2007;
2. The decline in the period 2008 - 2013; and
3. Their revitalisation since 2014.

Remittances continued to increase from 1991 to 2007, when they reached their highest level. In 2007, in Albania the value of remittance inflow was EUR 952 million. This made Albania the country with the highest dependence on remittances in the region, with more than EUR 300 per capita. After this year, remittances decreased, reaching their lowest point in 2013 at below EUR 500 million. This decline caused an increase in poverty in Albania.

According to data from the World Bank, remittances increased again in the period 2018 - 2019, reaching the value of 1455 million dollars in the last year.

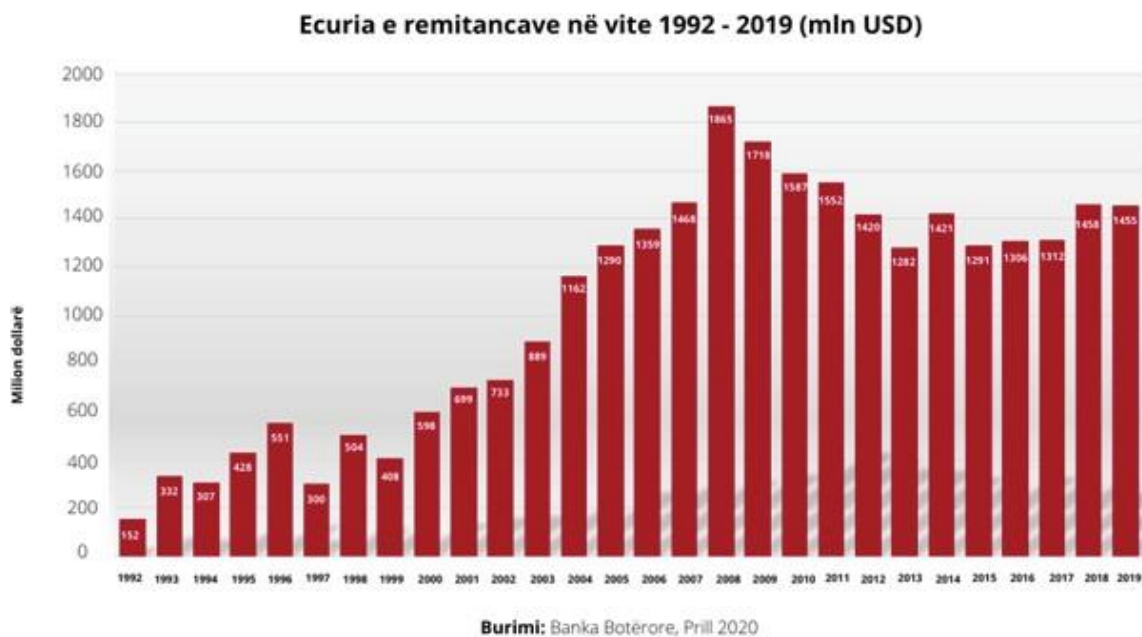


Fig. 13: PERFORMANCE OF REMITTANCE IN THE PERIOD 1992-2019

Albania's high dependence on remittances requires strategic management in their economic approach. Success models combining remittance income with other sources of development in the economy, such as trade or foreign direct investment are already available. Orientation of remittances towards formal mechanisms increases transparency and promotes the banking system by increasing remittances market power. The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 provides for the promotion of low-cost transfers through formal channels, in cooperation with international organizations and the governments of the host countries.

In order to coordinate state policies on remittances, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 11.12.2017 between the Bank of Albania, the Minister of State for Diaspora and the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

The Bank of Albania has started publishing the Annual Reports:

- "Remittances: A support to development, 2018"
- "Diaspora and Payments, 2019"

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 further provides the coordination at the national level of the line state institutions for a joint action plan for remittances, which will provide the following:

1. Identifying best practices for remittances in channelling remittances in the banking system and assessing the practical steps to use them for the development of the country's economy;
2. Extension of banking services and their improvement through cooperation between branches of Albanian banks and foreign homologous branches for remittances;
3. Expanding the capacity of other financial institutions and the Albanian Post to improve the service of remittances.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Remittances, the organisation of annual activities in the Bank of Albania has started between the Governor of the Bank and the Minister of State for Diaspora with representatives of the private banking system in Albania. These activities were held on 11.12.2017 and on 14.12.2018.

3.2.5 HUMAN AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

The Albanian Diaspora has accumulated a considerable non-monetary capital, in the form of human, social and cultural capital. This capital is related to the professional knowledge and skills and work culture that migrants have acquired while working, studying and living abroad. Social capital means the social values that migrants acquire living in the host country. Cultural capital means the cultural values acquired by migrants, which serve to strengthen cultural coexistence between host countries and the homeland.

Diaspora can make a valuable contribution to Albania not only by physically coming back to the homeland, or by transferring its financial capital, but also through connections they have created, or through knowledge and skills they have acquired. It is estimated that many qualified professionals from Albanian communities can share their know-how and experience with people living in Albania, even though temporary return to Albania.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will support the practice of "open invitations" for projects that are promoted within Diaspora. The Albanian Diaspora Development Fund will encourage professionals of different fields from Diaspora to apply to various projects, thus enabling the transfer of knowledge and best practices.

In order to evaluate the engagement of professionals in Diaspora, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund was engaged in the project "Scientific Diaspora as a factor of change in the process of Albania's integration to the European Union", approved by Decision no. 321, dated 15.05.2019 of the Council of Ministers "On the financing of the project "Scientific Diaspora as a factor of change in the process of Albania's integration to the European Union" and its implementation by the Albanian Fund for the Development of Diaspora".

An important part of the intellectual capital in Diaspora are also Albanian students or students of Albanian origin studying abroad, who through the knowledge and professional training that benefit from their studies can become a contributing factor for the country of origin. In order to identify and create a register of students studying abroad and foreign citizens of Albanian origin, who receive scholarships from the Republic of Albania, Decision no. 504, dated 24.06.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On the establishment of a State Database of students studying abroad and foreign citizens of Albanian origin, who receive scholarships from the Republic of Albania". Pursuant to this decision, the database will be administered by the National Diaspora Agency.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will conduct a reassessment of the cooperation between the donors and the "Brain Gain" or "Brain Return" model programs with the aim of creating institutional structures that enable the attraction of diaspora professionals for short- and long-term engagements.

3.2.6 PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY

The Albanian Diaspora has always provided an indisputable contribution to the history and national identity.

Diaspora's identity is a social construct that develops over time. In the case of the Albanian diaspora, the identity building process is based on a common understanding of history, memories evoked and recalled, injustices related to the division of territories inhabited by Albanians, victimization and violent waves of depopulation migration, etc. These common historical memories unite the Albanian communities in host countries by a feeling that together they constitute "a Diaspora".

The main characteristic of the Albanian national identity has always been and remains to this day the family. The Albanian Diaspora and its organization are closely related to the "family", family relations and ties with the homeland. This is an ethnological and national diaspora. The common history and language, the myths and legends, food, traditional clothing and folklore create and preserve the Albanian identity.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 provides for the increase of contributions from Diaspora and of the cooperation with state institutions for the preservation and strengthening the national identity of Albanian citizens. Cultural Centres in the Diaspora and teaching through common curriculum as a product of the Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Education and Technology of the Republic of Kosovo "On the curriculum of supplementary teaching of Albanian language and culture in the Diaspora and migration", entered into on 31.05.2018, shall be the "path" towards the goal of preserving national identity in the Diaspora.

3.2.7 MEDIA AND EDUCATION

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 focuses on preserving the national, cultural and linguistic identity of Albanian communities in host countries. This will be carried out in close cooperation with Diaspora and involvement in specific cultural and educational projects will prevent further linguistic assimilation, especially in the second and third generations of Diaspora.

Albanian Diaspora, with its special cultural characteristics and traditions, encourages the younger generations to preserve their national identity, even though they may live in a host society or have hybrid identities.

Decision no. 469, dated 26.07.2018 of the Council of Ministers "On the establishment, organization and operation of the Publishing Centre for Diaspora" made the Publishing Centre for Diaspora into a coordinator of state institutions responsible for teaching abroad.

The first joint teaching curriculum in the Diaspora is pursuant to the Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Education and Technology of the Republic of Kosovo "On the curriculum of supplementary teaching of Albanian language and culture in the Diaspora and migration", entered into on 31.05.2018.

The two-line ministries of education of Albania and Kosovo have organized annual meetings with teachers in Diaspora. They are as follows:

- XIV Seminar on supplementary education in Albanian in Diaspora, 31 July - 03 August 2018, held in Tirana.
- XV seminar for the supplementary education of Albanian language and culture in Diaspora, organized in Prizren on 31.07 - 03.08.2019.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 acknowledges the role of audio-visual media and social media in language preservation. The Public Television RTSH, created a television channel dedicated to Albanian Diaspora (TVSH 3). The goal is to legally oblige public broadcasters to dedicate 10 to 15% of their programs (terrestrial and satellite) on interests of Diaspora and migration.

In view of this goal, the publication of the newspaper "Albanian Diaspora" has begun thanks to the project co-financed by the Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through the Swiss Embassy in Albania and the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund "On granting a contribution to the project/ activity: Albanian Diaspora Newspaper", signed on 27.12.2019.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 aims at promoting the new digital and social media platforms, which will enable the enhancement of traditional forms in preserving national, cultural and linguistic identity.

3.2.8 ORGANIZATION OF ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 aims at organizing Albanian communities abroad. The organization of Albanian communities in Diaspora has the following main goals:

- Mapping the skills provided by Diaspora in different professions,
- Establishing networks of professionals and "Ambassadors of the Nation" in Diaspora,
- Establishing a platform for diaspora communication

3.2.9 DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE ON DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS

The database for diaspora organizations will be an important mechanism for coordinating different activities and information.

The database for diaspora organizations will accomplish several purposes regarding:

1. Support of the right to vote of citizens living abroad;
2. Establishment of professional networks in Diaspora; and
3. Functioning as a means of informing on the potential and capacities of Diaspora according to professions.

Decision no. 321, dated 15.05.2019 of the Council of Ministers "On the financing of the project "Scientific Diaspora as a factor of change in the process of Albania's integration to the European Union" and its implementation by the Albanian Fund for the Development of Diaspora" was approved for the establishment of a database.

3.2.10 ADVANCING DIASPORA RIGHTS

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 has set its main goal the re-evaluating the state's relationship with the new legal status of Diaspora. This process will require coordinated actions by the government and state institutions with Albanian diaspora organizations. It will promote clear dialogue policies with host countries on important issues, such as integration, mother tongue language learning and citizenship policies.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will encourage state cooperation between institutions of host countries covering migrant issues and the rights of women and children. It will further promote the establishment of high-level bilateral consultative committees to protect the rights of Albanian Diaspora communities. In host countries, Diaspora organizations will be assisted to support Albanians working and living there, regarding the needs they may present, providing information and services that everyone, including young migrants, may need, for political participation, labour rights, naturalization process, religious rights or other issues.

Diaspora can be one of the most important factors for the development of the Albanian civil society, through mediation, exchange of ideas, practices, values, behavioural norms and social remittances. Adult and young migrants can play a key role in helping develop and fund local partners.

3.2.11 RIGHT TO VOTE AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025, shall adapt to the amendments of laws stemming from Order No. 124, dated 18.09.2019, "On the establishment of the inter-institutional working group for drafting the legal package for guaranteeing the right to vote for Albanian citizens outside the territory of the Republic of Albania".

In order to identify and register the address of Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania, Decision no. 14/2016 "On the identification and registration of the address of Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and Decision no. 405, dated 04.07.2018, of the Council of Ministers, "On the adoption of the rules on the obligation to self-declaration of addresses by Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania and the relevant procedures to be followed" were adopted.

The right to vote and get involved in politics will create a new space for Diaspora to be an active part of the Albanian society. The engagement in the public and political life of Diaspora representatives will provide for taking some steps to change the Albanian legal framework, in order to welcome and respect the role of Diaspora and regular migration. The inclusion of Diaspora representatives in the electoral and political system enables the engagement in expertise and protection of interests to take place within the system.

3.2.12 PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Public diplomacy is related to the influence of attitudes and opinions of representatives of Albanian communities in Diaspora in host countries policies. It includes dimensions of international relations beyond traditional diplomacy and cultivates public opinion in other countries.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will further enhance public diplomacy and will promote and encourage diaspora influencers, or "Ambassadors of the Nation" to foster a positive image of the Albanian nation. Decision No .339, dated 06.06.2018 "On the criteria and way of awarding the prize "Ambassador of the Nation" made the process official.

State institutions, or in cooperation with host countries or interested donors, will fund comprehensive migrant organizations. Cultural centres will be involved in the information dissemination and organization of various activities to preserve and strengthen the national identity of Diaspora and to promote the interests of Albania.

3.3 MAIN PILLARS OF THE STRATEGY AND RESPECTIVE ACTIVITIES

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 is founded on five main strategic goals, which aim at achieving the following objectives:

1. Knowledge governance and management
2. Developing the Diaspora political and social rights program
3. Program for Diaspora capital and their links to preserve national culture
4. Engaging Diaspora in the country's social-economic development program.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Each strategic goal sets out activities for its implementation.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY RESPECTIVE STRATEGY PILLAR

Pillar 1 - State relations with the Diaspora

- 1.1 Establishment of a new administrative culture
- 1.2 Strengthening the legal framework on Diaspora
- 1.3 Services and activities for the Diaspora
- 1.4 Strengthening the professional capacities and networks

Pillar 2 - Organization of Diaspora

- 2.1 Mechanisms for supporting Diaspora activities
- 2.2 Links with the Albanian Diaspora
- 2.3 "Ambassador of the Nation" Award.
- 2.4 Diaspora Certificates
- 2.5 Specialist and scholars on Diaspora

Pillar 3 - Economy and Business

- 3.1 Attracting investments from the Diaspora
- 3.2 Formalization of Diaspora remittances
- 3.3 Engaging Diaspora in the economic life of the country

Pillar 4 - Education and Teaching

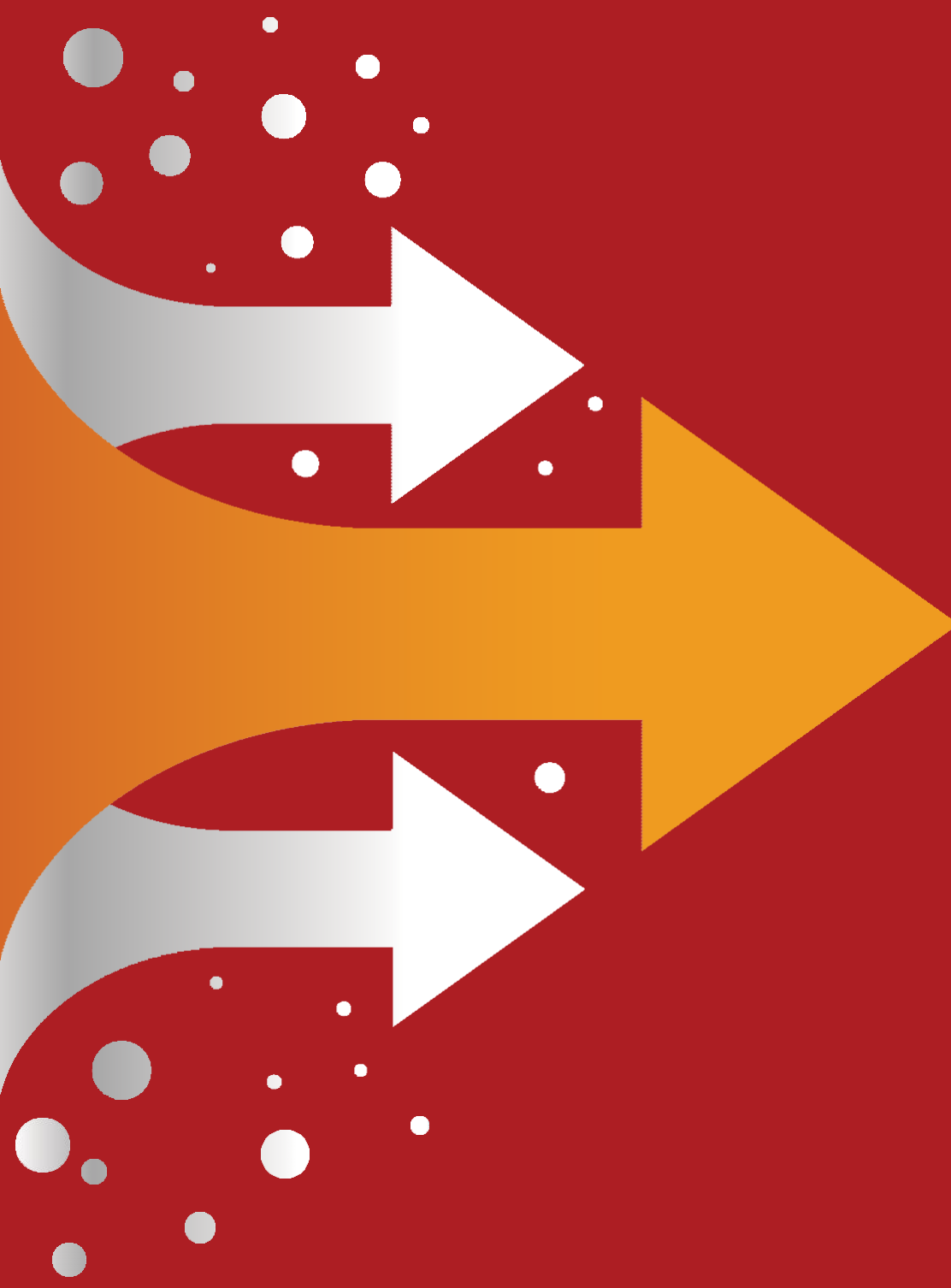
- 4.1 Program about Albanian culture and language
- 4.2 Teachers in the Diaspora
- 4.3 Textbooks for the Diaspora
- 4.4 Students in Diaspora

Pillar 5 - Media and Communication

- 5.1 Supporting information and media networks in Diaspora
- 5.2 Informing the Albanian Diaspora

Pillar 6 - Monitoring and Transparency

- 6.1 Monitoring and Evaluation



IV. STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA

IV. STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA

4.1 STATE POLICY AND DIASPORA

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 aims at achieving a future where Albania will be considered a country capable of managing migration flows. This goal is related to the society's economic and social development and the country's image.

The state relationship with Diaspora includes the administrative practices of the responsible institutions. These practices are based on models that will encourage the administration to strengthen its capacities.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 aims at establishing a quality relationship between state institutions on Diaspora, in accordance with European best practices. It will promote the transparency of institutions in every aspect of the decision-making process and the effectiveness of policies which will ensure coherence in the areas to be applied.

In their efforts to invest, members of Diaspora often face bureaucracy and issues of various natures. The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 provides a new phase of state-diaspora relations. The aforementioned will re-evaluate the administrative mechanisms of state policies in the country for the Albanian Diaspora.

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 will assess the implementation of laws and by-laws implemented by institutions addressing diaspora and migration issues. The training and certification of the Albanian diplomatic corps on migration issues, will be given special importance, especially regarding the rights of the Albanian Diaspora communities.

A systematic re-evaluation of the services of the responsible state structures for Diaspora will be carried out, through the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025. Based on the information that will be collected, an annual report will be drafted on the concrete situation of the Albanian communities, and proposals can be provided for relevant actions that will improve assistance for them.

4.2 DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL

The new relationship between the state and Diaspora will be institutionalized by the establishment of the Diaspora Coordination Council. The latter enjoys a special status with state institutions in orienting the process of cooperation between state institutions and the Albanian Diaspora.

The legal status of the Diaspora Coordination Council has been completed with the approval of Law No. 16, dated 05.04.2018 "On Diaspora" and by-laws:

- DCM No. 340, dated 06.06.06.06, "On the determination of the detailed rules on the conditions and method for the election of representatives of the Coordination Council of Diaspora"
- DCM No. 195, dated 05.04.2019, "On electing the members of the Diaspora Coordination Council"
- DCM No. 320, dated 15.05.2019, "On electing the members of the Diaspora Coordination Council"

The Coordinating Council of the Albanian Diaspora is a central co-representation organization which will lead the cooperation process of state institutions with Albanian communities living abroad. It will support the establishment of an organized network of Albanian communities in the host countries and countries of origin.

The first official meeting of the Diaspora Coordination Council was held on the National Diaspora Day, on December 18, 2019, in Tirana. According to legal provisions, it was attended by the highest authorities of the state. Representatives of this Council hold consultative meetings with the entire political spectrum in the country.

4.3 PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIASPORA AND MIGRATION

The Parliamentary Subcommittee "On Diaspora and Migration", as part of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy. It was established by Decision No. 98, dated 5.10.2017 of the Albanian Parliament "On the establishment of the Subcommittee "On Diaspora and Migration", as a part of the permanent parliamentary committee on foreign policy".

The responsibilities of the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration include making proposals, reviewing and monitoring the implementation of Albanian legislation and the country policies on Diaspora and Migration. This subcommittee will assist the establishment of political cohesion in the Assembly on issues related to Diaspora.

4.4 DIASPORA STATE COMMITTEE

The Diaspora State Committee is the Consultative Body of the Council of Ministers for the coordination of the national policies and activities in the field of Diaspora. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and consists of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Finance and Economy, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, the Minister of State for Diaspora, the Governor of the Bank of Albania, President of the Academy of Sciences and Director of INSTAT.

The State Committee for Diaspora operates pursuant to DCM No. 690, dated 22.11.2017 "On the establishment and functioning of the State Committee on Diaspora" and PMO No. 231, date 07.12.2017, "On the format and competences of the Diaspora State Committee Technical Secretariat".

The activities of the Diaspora State Committee include:

1. Preparation of guidelines for the drafting of new active policies and setting strategic priorities on Diaspora;
2. Implementation of proposals for legal and institutional mechanisms for issues related to improving the position of Diaspora and protecting the rights and interests of its members in the countries where they live;
3. Encouraging and establishing dialogue between institutions responsible for the implementation of the strategy and administrative policies related to Diaspora communities;
4. Coordination of activities and implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy;
5. Support the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy and monitoring its activities.

4.5 NATIONAL DIASPORA AGENCY

The National Diaspora Agency is responsible for the development and consolidation of institutional cooperation with Diaspora, to protect the rights and interests of Diaspora members, providing assistance related to the preservation of the mother tongue language and cultural heritage, as well as for the promotion of economic cooperation between the homeland and Diaspora.

The National Diaspora Agency operates pursuant to Law No. 115, dated 18.12.2017 "On the establishment of the National Diaspora Agency" and the following by-laws:

- DCM No.114, dated 23.02.2018 "On determination of rules of appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the president and members of the Steering Council of the National Agency of Diaspora"
- PMO No. 53, dated 16.03.2018 of the Prime Minister "On Approval of the Organizational Structure of the Publishing House of Educational Textbooks".

The National Diaspora Agency reports on its annual activity in writing form at a special hearing in the Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

4.6 ALBANIAN DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Albanian Diaspora Development Fund aims at providing cooperation and interaction by encouraging projects with donors in the interests of the Albanian communities in host countries and Diaspora investments in support of the country's development.

The Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development operates in accordance with Law No.32, dated 07.06.2018 "On the Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development" and DCM No. 594, dated 09.10.2018 "On the appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Steering Council of the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund".

The Albanian Diaspora Development Fund reports on its annual activity in writing form at a special hearing in the Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

4.7 DIASPORA PUBLISHING CENTRE

The Diaspora Publishing Centre is responsible for publishing and distributing approved textbooks and other books that will help the process of learning and preserving the national identity of the Albanian Diaspora.

The Diaspora Publishing Centre operates pursuant to Law No.16, dated 05.04.2018 "On the Diaspora" and the following by-laws:

- Decision no. 469, dated 26.07.2018 of the Council of Ministers "On the establishment, organization and operation of the Publishing Centre for Diaspora".
- PMO No. 76, dated 15.04.2019 of the Prime Minister "On Approval of the Organizational Structure of the Publishing Centre for Diaspora".

Diaspora Publishing Centre reports on its annual activity in writing form at a special hearing in the Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

4.8 CENTRE FOR THE STUDY AND PUBLICATIONS ON ARBËRESH

The Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh (CSPA) is a scientific research institution for the Albanian Diaspora. Its mission is to conduct specialized studies on the history, literature and culture of the Arbëresh community, by promoting cooperation between scholars in the field, in the diaspora and beyond, in order to support and develop the structure of studies on the Arbëresh community.

The Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh operates pursuant to the CMD No. 601, dated 04.09.2019, "On the establishment of the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh" and PMO No. 38, dated 18.02.2020 of the Prime Minister "On the approval of the structure and staff of the Centre for Study and Publication for Arbëresh".

4.9 ALBANIAN CULTURE CENTERS

The establishment of Albanian Culture Centres in host countries shall be achieved through cooperation with the Republic of Kosovo. The aim of these centres is the preservation of the national identity, promotion of the image of the countries of origin, as well as providing services and information to the Albanian communities in the host countries.

With the adoption of Law No. 16, dated 05.04.2018, "On Diaspora", DCM No. 470, dated 26.07.2018, "On the establishment, organization and functioning of Cultural Centres for the Diaspora" and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo "On Cultural Centres in the Diaspora", signed on 27.11.2017, the legal assessment is considered completed.

The National Strategy of the Diaspora 2021 - 2025 will promote the creation of practices for the functioning of the Albanian Culture Centres according to the functional models that are

4.10 CONSULAR SERVICES AND DIPLOMACY

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 shall support the improvement of the quality of services in the countries with the largest communities of the Albanian Diaspora. Embassies and consulates shall prepare periodic reports on the situation and organization of the Albanian Diaspora. In view of protecting the rights of Albanian citizens, the embassies and consular offices of the Republic of Albania shall have at their disposal legal experts specialized in migration and human rights issues who shall assist with the rules and practices of immigration in the host countries.

Albania has launched a new diplomacy practice by virtue of the adoption of Law No. 16, dated 05.04.2018, "On the Diaspora" and the following by-laws:

- DCM no. 470, dated 26.07.2018, "On the establishment, organization and operation of the Cultural Centres for Diaspora".
- DCM No. 780, dated 06.11.2019, "On the appointment of the coordination officers for Albanian Diaspora affairs in the Albanian consulates in Italy and Greece".

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025 shall raise the awareness of the Albanian citizens abroad on the use of consular and diplomatic services provided by Albanian missions through the electronic consular platform. It will contain information on non-governmental organizations accredited in the host countries, providing legal assistance and protection to foreign communities.

V. BUDGET AND COSTS

The National Diaspora Strategy and the Action Plan for the period 2021-2025 comprises relevant Actions and the costs for their implementation.

For 2019 and 2020, the budget of the state institutions responsible for the Diaspora is as follows:



Fig. 15: Budget of state diaspora institutions

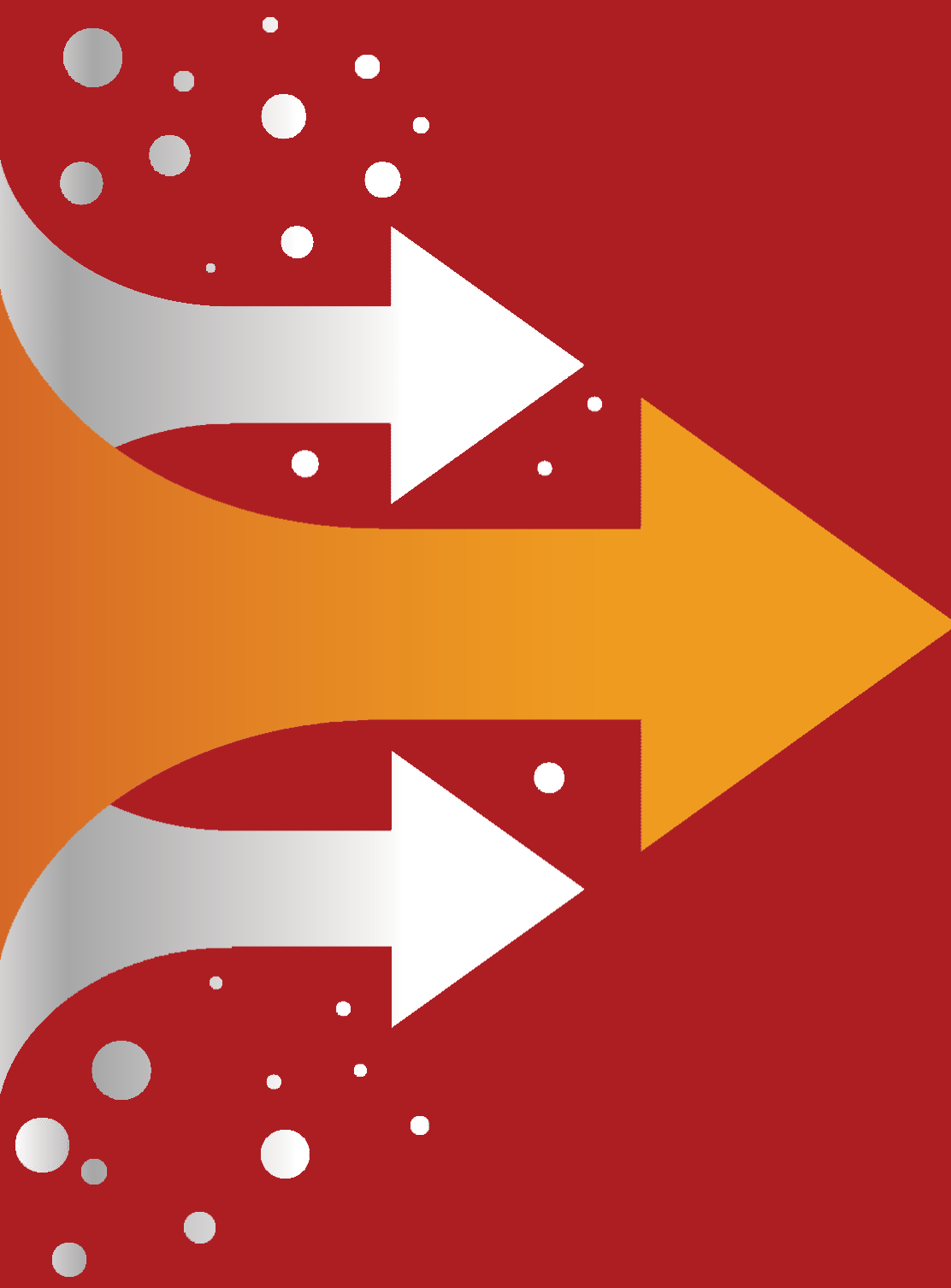
The budgets of the state institutions responsible for the Diaspora refer mainly to the functional and administrative establishment of new state structures. The costs of implementing the Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 shall be covered by the budgets of the responsible institutions and donors.

The calculation of the costs of the main activities of the Action Plan which will be covered by the state budget and donors shall be based on the:

1. Calculation of human resource costs based on the time allocated to each activity and an average daily payment of a certain category of civil servants.
2. Determination of costs for different services, taking into account the cost of services of relevant institutions, based on approved standards.
3. Funding of activities for drafting and reviewing legislation and monitoring and functioning the permanent structures, which shall be calculated taking into account the on-going expenses, such as salaries, social and health insurance contributions and foreign expertise (whenever provided in the plan).
4. Implementation of "specific activities" or similar initiatives which funding is based mainly on the nature of the activity which costs are set by the market.

The National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 includes the costs of training per each person, while the gauging unit are the costs of the Albanian School of Public Administration and/or other costs from similar trainings in the past. With regard to activities which data are not complete, either the analytical method of evaluation has been followed, or the costs of similar activities that have been performed during the implementation of the previous strategy for the years 2018-2020 have been traced, or the cost of similar products in the MTBP has been taken into account.

For the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 and its Action Plan, conclusions on the budget shall be drawn by the State Diaspora Committee.



VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

6.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 sets clear criteria for its monitoring and evaluation, taking into account the spending of public funds and the allocation of various resources by the government and donors, which enable the successful implementation of this strategy. To this end, performance indicators are included within the strategy as an integral part of its objectives and vision, which will enable the second step of review.

This is the reason for the inclusion of the evaluation frameworks and mechanisms for continuous institutional development throughout the Action Plan, which shall improve the administrative capacities to achieve effective clarity in monitoring and evaluating the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 (see Annex I).

The implementation and monitoring of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 includes concrete activities that shall ensure its sustainability, to evaluate the Albanian Diaspora against both its historical and contemporary trajectory. Implementation and monitoring of objectives until 2025 are designed with the aim of:

- Being realistic, achievable and upgrading, given the budgets of the institutions and the support expected from donors;
- Addressing the objectives of social, economic and cultural development of Albania;
- Providing added value to the existing Diaspora commitment structures, opening up new areas of involvement for Albanian communities abroad;
- Encouraging the development of a relationship of pride and trust between the Albanian institutions and Diaspora.

The alignment and review of the strategic document shall be in accordance with the requirements of DCM no. 290, dated 11.3.2020 "On the establishment of the State Database of the Integrated Planning Information System (SIPI/IPSIS) to ensure the compliance with the IPSIS system.

6.2 KEY COMMITMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2025

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 covers a period of 5 years for the program of commitments that it undertakes to achieve. It shall involve Albanian communities in the Diaspora, international organizations and Diaspora experts. This is the reason the program is designed as a two-cycle program of two and a half years each: 2021 - 2023, followed by a review of commitments in 2023 to reorient the needs and evaluate other opportunities that may have arose by then. These commitments would be included as a monitoring and evaluation framework, in order to ensure the success of the initiatives and of the strategy itself. This will lead to the medium-term review and the evaluation of activities in 2023, with the aim of strengthening activities for the period 2023-2025.

Roli i qeverisë për arritjen e rezultateve sipas shtyllave, 2021 - 2025



Fig.16: Role of government in achieving the outcomes by pillar 2021 - 2025

In the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025, it is recommended that in 2023 there be a review of this document, as was the case with the National Diaspora Strategy 2018 - 2024, in order to assess the new potentials for Diaspora commitment and inclusion. To this end, several other consultative activities have been considered, as a basis for the main commitments foreseen during the two-year period 2021 - 2023. Based on the forecasts, the responsible institutions of Albania shall continue with:

- Strengthening relations with the Diaspora and using its contributions to the development of the country;
- New ideas that shall arise from the practical involvement of the Diaspora;
- Drafting of plans and initiatives during the second phase of the strategy;
- Concrete results showing an increase in the contribution of the Diaspora over the mid-term.

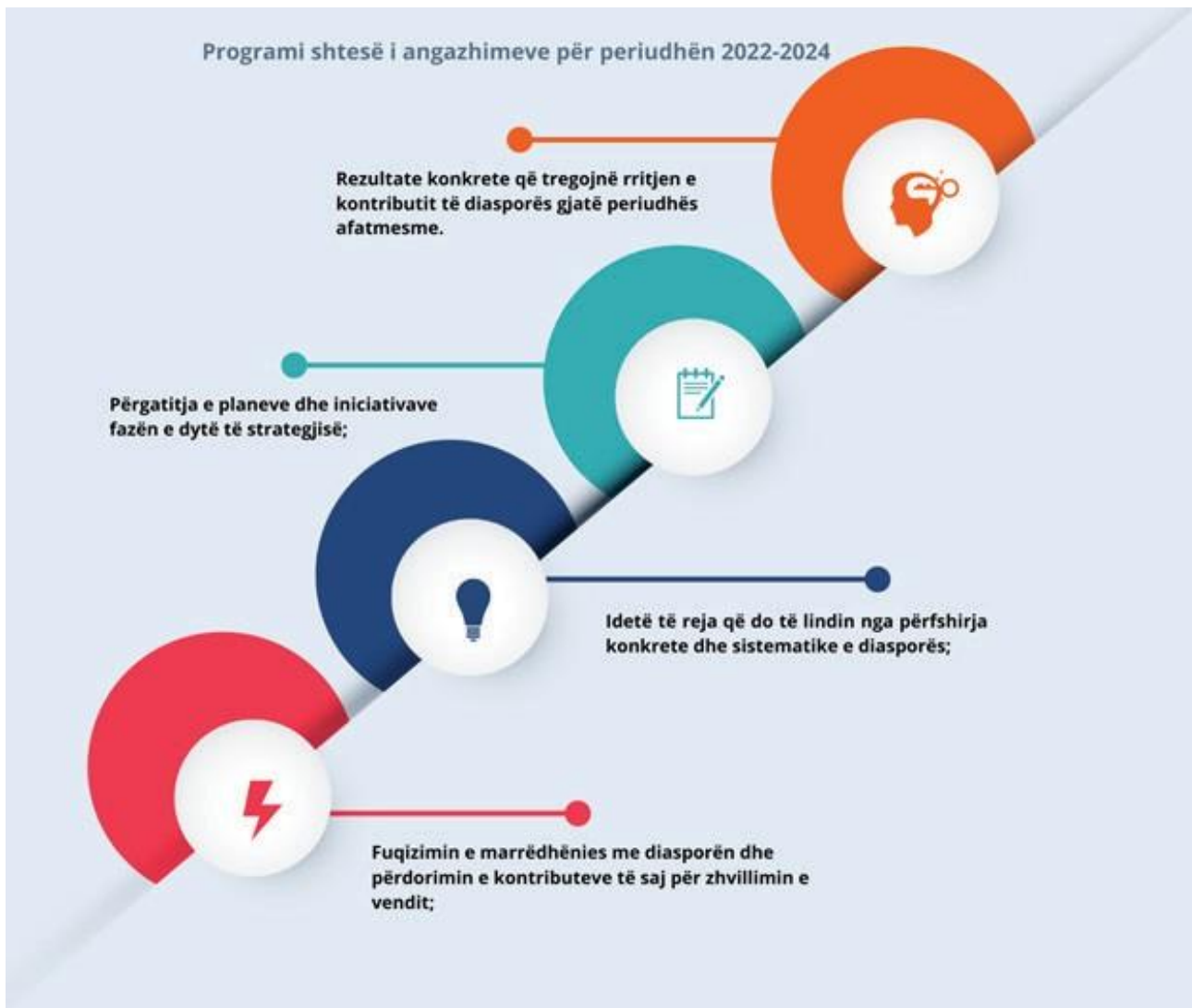


Fig. 17 Additional commitment program for 2022 – 2024

6.3 FUNCTIONING OF THE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 takes into account a number of actions and practices, in view of increasing the level of its implementation and success. Some of them are related to the experiences acquired during the application of the National Diaspora Strategy 2018 - 2024. These experiences will be taken into account by:

- The state institutions responsible for the successful implementation and sustainability of this strategy;
- Procedural obligations of the civil service according to the interests of this document;
- Leadership and management capacities of all state agencies seeking to achieve the optimal performance of this strategy.

The Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 elaborates practical elements that lead to its optimal performance. Main capacities taken into account include:

- Establishing quality indicators;
- Management capacities and their development;
- Commitment and communication;
- State coordination;
- Financial management and evaluation;
- Establishing strategic partnerships with the donor's community.
- Administration components.

6.4 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The most successful forms of Diaspora commitment strategies are those that operate within a hybrid public-private model, which facilitates the role to the government and administration. This leads to a natural connection of the National Diaspora Strategy document 2021 - 2025 with a series of projects and programs, which, according to the terminology of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), engage, allow and empower communities abroad to become development agents in their countries of origin.

With regard to the various projects and initiatives that shall be developed during the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025, the most important elements in the implementation framework that shall help the expectations of its success include:

- Creating and establishing an organizational and operational culture (see Annex IV);
- Development of an engaging work structure and communication;
- Determining professional resources and timeframe to engage with the Albanian Diaspora;
- Creating a "matrix" for reviewing implementation and its performance.

6.5 ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CULTURE

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025, given the broad implications of the involvement of the Diaspora in the social, economic and culture fields, shall impose wide cooperation between all areas of administrative action that it affects. This collaboration shall facilitate the application and obtaining of the expected result follow to the:

- Provision of services with measurable targets;
- Enabling professional and trained staff (training is included in the strategy action plan);
- Coordination services with a range of actors/initiatives;
- On-going support for the network of Albanian Diaspora organizations abroad;
- Active involvement of civil society in the implementation of the strategy;
- Cooperation with the private sector
- Regular and efficient communication and awareness-raising program.

6.6 AUDIT AND TRANSPARENCY

The National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan 2021 - 2025, constitute the basic framework for the quality of cooperation between Albanian state institutions and the Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

The Strategy document is the mechanism for the commitment and involvement of the Diaspora, so that the latter becomes a factor and participant in the development of the country. The strategy is offered in the spirit of cooperation, together with a series of guidelines and activities designed to reflect the current reality of the Albanian Diaspora as well as its needs and potentials.

The National Diaspora Strategy audit and transparency are part of the assessment of expectations. Responsible Diaspora structures shall report regularly to:

- The Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration part of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Albanian Parliament,
- The Diaspora State Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

The audit and transparency of the implementation of the National Strategy document is also useful in avoiding any negative scenario. The successful implementation of the Strategy shall be determined by the leadership and partnership role of the key actors, who can advance its success. It shall be implemented within a comprehensive and transparent framework. This will turn the Strategy into a protagonist, both for the deepening of the ties of the Albanian Diaspora with the homeland, as well as for their definition as partners for the development of Albania.

CONCLUSIONS

The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 is a phase in the official policy development to improve cooperation between state institutions and the Albanian Diaspora.

The document of the National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan 2021 - 2025 represents the maturity of the state policy of the Republic of Albania in the commitment and involvement of the Diaspora in the development of the country.

The successful implementation of the Strategy shall be determined by the cooperation and partnership between its the key actors. It shall deepen the ties of the Albanian Diaspora with the homeland, as well as define them as partners for the development of Albania.

Homeland is the people! Abroad, every Albanian has taken a "part" of it with him/her. This is also the reason this strategy is considered more than an administrative act.

ANNEX I – ALBANIAN DIASPORA NATIONAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2025 (IN ATTACHEMENT SEPARATELY)

ANNEX II - FUNDING SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES (IN ATTACHEMENT SEPARATELY)

*ANNEX III - STRUCTURE OF STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DIASPORA ANNEX IV -
REVIEW OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENT*



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**ALBANIAN DIASPORA NATIONAL
STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2021-2025**



INTRODUCTION

The Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025 envisages the obligations, responsible institutions and deadlines for the implementation of the intended changes of the Albanian policy towards the Albanian communities abroad.

The National Diaspora Strategy is complex and multi-sectoral. The assessment of the effectiveness of its results will be carried out in coordination with various Albanian institutions. Cooperation with the organizational structures of the Diaspora and civil society is of particular importance in this process.

The Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy provides for concrete actions, which will have to be implemented mainly by the Albanian Government and other stakeholders involved in this process. The action plan is divided into six groups:

1. State relations with the Diaspora
2. Organization of diaspora
3. Economics and business
4. Education and teaching
5. Media and communication
6. Monitoring and transparency

Most of the Actions included in the Action Plan envisage activities and actions, which shall be implemented within the set deadlines or periodically. Their implementation requires the concerted intervention of more than one state institution.

The Action Plan of the National Strategy will be part of the activities of the Albanian state institutions in view of its implementation. The document will be accompanied by detailed explanations and the necessary elements for their enactment.

The Action Plan is a gauge of success and vice-versa in the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy.

I. STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA

I. STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA

ACTION 1

Coordination of responsible state institutions the new legislation appoints for the state relations with the Diaspora, including: The National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Publications Centre and the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh. Drafting a detailed plan for financing the policies and actions foreseen in the National Strategy Action Plan. Establishment of a specialized unit for the review of Diaspora legislation so as to undertake the necessary amendments.

INDICATORS: Increasing the budget and staff of the National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Publications Centre and the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister of Finance and
Economy

ACTION 2

Adoption by the Diaspora State Committee of the Diaspora annual program of activities (activities involving books, education, culture, tourism and business) and, in cooperation with the Albanian Parliament, assessment of the level of representation and participation in these programs. Drafting of evaluating information for the Diaspora State Committee and Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

INDICATORS: Adoption of the Diaspora annual program of activities by the Diaspora State Committee.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Education, Sports and
Youth Ministry of Tourism and
Environment
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 3

Follow on the necessary coordinating procedures to be discussed every year during the Diaspora State Committee meetings and to project in the operating annual budget (successive) the funds needed to implement the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan until 2025.

INDICATORS: Discussions and adoption in principle of the needs and the annual budget in the Diaspora State Committee;

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
Ministry of Culture
State Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 4

Assessing other existing or to be adopted national strategies against the National Strategy and Action Plan for Diaspora. During this process, the management of existing or future state policies in relation to policies for the Albanian community abroad shall be performed.

INDICATORS: Organisation of a technical annual meeting to align the National Diaspora Strategy to other existing or to be adopted national strategies.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Ministry of Finance and Economy
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 5

Drafting of annual reports by the responsible institutions whereby data and evaluations on the Albanian communities in the host countries shall be introduced. Drafting of a common publication on reporting on the Albanian Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Drafting of annual reports for the Albanian Diaspora by the Institute of Statistics and Bank of Albania.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 6

Review the framework of existing migration agreements with host countries of Albanian communities in the diaspora. Negotiate the framework of employment agreements with the host countries in order to include in these training agreements, or to discuss them in particular. Reassess, in cooperation with EU countries and specific projects, to facilitate the implementation of employment agreements, benefiting from the provisional and special legislation of the host countries, which are experiencing shortage of manpower.

INDICATORS: Review of the existing framework of migration agreements. Negotiation of a framework for the employment agreements and cooperation with EU countries on specific projects. Annual reporting to the State Diaspora Committee.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Finance and Economy

ACTION 7

Promoting and strengthening Albania's relations with the countries hosting Albanian communities and the work program of the diplomatic and consular services, with a special focus on strengthening the status of the Albanian Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Organization of annual activities to evaluate the structure of diplomatic and consular representation.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 8

Establishing coordination on the basis of an adopted program of projects with international donors, for the implementation of the Action Plan or covering the needs of the Albanian Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Cooperation with the institutions responsible for applications with projects on Diaspora to national and international donors.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 9

Reassessing the existing legal acts in the field of migration, in view of expanding the sphere of protection of the Albanian communities abroad, in line with the international standards. It aims at their alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire* and the implementation of procedures for the finalisation of ratification of international instruments in this field (if not already implemented).

INDICATORS: Organisation of annual meetings for the re-evaluation of existing legal acts in the field of migration and implementing the procedures for the ratification of international instruments.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Justice
Minister of Interior State Minister
for Diaspora

ACTION 10

Establishment and continuity of information structures for the orientation of Albanian citizens abroad for the use of consular and diplomatic services provided by Albanian missions (on-line platform). Providing information about non-governmental organizations accredited by the host country, which provide legal assistance and protection to foreign communities.

INDICATORS: Periodic information of the State Diaspora Committee on the situation and orientation of Albanian citizens abroad concerning services provided through the on-line consular platform and establishment of communication with civil society in the host countries. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Justice
State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 11

Evaluation and expansion of the National Civil Registry and the database with data on migrants and periodic review of the legal basis for the registration of migrants. Defining the responsibilities and data to be collected as well as identifying and planning the establishment of the relevant network and infrastructure. Organizing public activities for the civil society focused on the system of registration and voting of citizens abroad.

INDICATORS: Expansion of the National Civil Registry with data on migrants and organisation of activities abroad. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Interior
State Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 12

Establishing Albanian Cultural Centres in countries hosting the Diaspora, in cooperation with the state of Kosovo, in view of preserving the national identity and provide services and information to the Albanian communities in Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Establishment of Albanian Cultural Centres in host countries, in cooperation with the Republic of Kosovo. Budgeting programme developed;

TERM: Second half of 2022

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Finance and Economy,
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 13

Organizing a network of foreign and Albanian scholars specialized in the field of migration and, civil servants specialized in institutions dealing with Diaspora and Migration policies. (Completion of the network with the names and details of researchers and civil servants from the National Diaspora Agency).

INDICATORS: Organizing and administering a network of foreign and Albanian researchers specialized in the field of migration. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 14

Implementation of general and specific training with the state administration in the field of migration and their inclusion in the programs of Albanian universities. Organisation of periodic trainings on domestic and international legislation for officials covering migration issues. Identification of the needs and experts in need of legal training. Development of related training modules and inclusion of such a module in the training of civil servants.

INDICATORS: : Organisation of general and special periodic trainings. Identification of needs and experts. Preparation of the training modules. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Ministry
for Europe and Foreign Affairs State Minister for
Diaspora

ACTION 15

Drafting practical manuals related to migration issues and making them available to officials involved in the practical implementation of migration legislation. Identification of laws/bylaws that are implemented in practice by each institution that covers certain issues related to the Diaspora and migration. Training and certification of the Albanian diplomatic corps regarding migration legislation and, in particular, on the rights of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

INDICATORS: : Drafting of practical manuals on laws/by-laws. Training and certification of the Albanian diplomatic corps on migration issues. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Interior
State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 16

Promoting state cooperation with the institutions of the host countries which address migrants, women's rights and children's rights issues. Establishment of high level bilateral consultative commissions with the host countries for the protection of the rights of the Albanian diaspora communities and their periodical operation. Public information on the progress and development of this activity for the interested parties.

INDICATORS: Institutional cooperation with hosting countries. Establishment of bilateral consultative commissions and public information on the progress made.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 17

Drafting and dissemination of information (brochures, leaflets, websites, mobile apps, etc.) addressed to the Albanian communities in the Diaspora, on their status and rights, as well as the services provided by the diplomatic and consular missions and migrant associations, with the support of international organizations.

INDICATORS: Dissemination of information on the status, rights as well as services provided to Albanian communities in the host countries. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Justice
Minister of Interior State Minister
for Diaspora
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 18

Establishment of regular contacts with the European Group of European Regional and Local Authorities on Asylum and Immigration (ERLAI) based in Brussels, to assess the possibilities of supporting the protection policy for Albanian communities in the Diaspora in the host EU countries.

INDICATORS: : Regular contacts with the European Group of Regional and Local Authorities in the field of Immigration.

TERM: Second half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
State Minister for Diaspora - National Diaspora Agency Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Interior

ACTION 19

Encouragement and intensification of communication between Albanian organizations in the Diaspora and local associations for the protection of emigrants. Identification of organizations in host countries for the protection of human and emigrant rights in these countries. Awareness raising through information available online, round tables and meetings on social and health protection in host and countries of origin.

INDICATORS: Realization of communications between Albanian organizations in the Diaspora and local associations. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
State Minister for Diaspora - National Diaspora Agency
Ministry of Health and Social Protection
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 20

Periodic reassessment of services policy, procedures and respective tariffs. Based on the information received from the representations, the drafting, by the National Diaspora Agency, of an annual report on the current situation of Albanian communities in Diaspora, with proposals on the Actions, to improve assistance provided to them. The report shall be discussed in the State Diaspora Committee.

INDICATORS: Review of services' policy and drafting of the annual report. Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Finance and Economy
Ministry of Education, Sports and
Youth
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 21

Negotiation to sign bilateral agreements on social protection of migrants with host countries, in order for them to transfer social insurance to Albania. Review of the practices of collecting voluntary social security contributions and, if necessary, signing of agreements between the Social Insurance Institute and banks. (Review of the Special Action Plan on Albanian migrants' pensions issues).

INDICATORS: Negotiating bilateral agreements with host countries. Review of practices for collecting voluntary social insurance contributions. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Finance and Economy Ministry of
Health and Social Protection Ministry of Justice

ACTION 22

Establishment of a register for Albanian citizens serving the sentence as imprisoned abroad and organization of an annual meeting organized in cooperation with the Office of the Office of the Ombudsman and Albanian Red Cross on this issue. Discussion of the evaluation of the periodic information and conclusions for the State Diaspora Committee.

INDICATORS: : Creation of a register for Albanian citizens imprisoned abroad. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 23

Organisation and supporting of networks (including international ones) of special groups and associations of the Albanian Diaspora based on interests, common professions, or geographical location. Provision of facilities such as: various publications in newspapers or websites that enable the creation of professional groups and common interests. Mediation for establishing contacts between "homologous" groups in different countries to establish operational networks of this nature.

INDICATORS: Organizing and supporting Diaspora groups and associations; Preparing projects for the implementation of the Action. Organisation of annual activities.

TERM: First half of 2022

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 24

Supporting, on a project-basis, Albanian Diaspora organizations, on the establishment of local advisory structures for foreign citizens in cities where Albanian migrants are concentrated, on the basis of guidelines prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Council of Europe.

INDICATORS: Supporting Albanian Diaspora organizations on the establishment of local advisory structures. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: First half of 2023

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Justice

ACTION 25

Conducting awareness-raising campaigns regarding various opportunities to appeal against violations of migrants' rights, in the structures of host countries as well as in international ones, which deal with the protection and observation of human rights and the protection of migrants rights, through the following activities:

- Publication of this information on the migration website dedicated to this issue,
- Publication in Albanian newspapers abroad,
- Publication and distribution of leaflets related to these information,
- Publication of the above-mentioned rights on websites developed by the Albanian community operating abroad.

Periodic reporting from the Albanian government on cases of violation of the rights of Albanian migrants. (Some of the international structures dealing with these rights include:

- The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants.
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.
- The European Court of Human Rights
- The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe -
The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance for CoE member states.
- Commission for Petition of European Parliament for the EU.
- EU Ombudsman

INDICATORS: Conduct of awareness-raising campaigns against violations of migrants' rights. Periodic reporting of cases of violation of the rights of Albanian migrants. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2023 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Justice

ACTION 26

Coordination and organization of meetings or "Days of Albania" in the host countries of the Albanian communities in the Diaspora on the basis of an annual program as well as other periodic activities for Albanian tourism and investment-related facilities in Albania.

INDICATORS: Coordination and organization of meetings of Albanian communities in the Diaspora, on the basis of an annual program. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Finance and Economy and
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 27

Coordination with public and private health Institutions, on preparing a campaign for the promotion of health tourism, mainly related to some services on which Albania has advantages (dental, neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, etc.).

INDICATORS: Coordination with public and private Health Institutions, on promoting health tourism. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Health and Social Protection Ministry
of Tourism and Environment

ACTION 28

Involvement of the Albanian communities in Diaspora in the cultural life of the host country and in Albania, aiming at their promotion (signing and/or amending bilateral agreements with the countries hosting the Diaspora, including the interests of the latter in these agreements) and promoting the creation of annual activities for this purpose.

INDICATORS: Albanian communities in diaspora in the cultural life of the host country, aiming at their promoting in Albania. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Culture
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora

II. ORGANIZATION OF DIASPORA

ACTION 29

Organizing the action plan of the line institutions for Diaspora with the Diaspora Coordinating Council for strengthening organisation of the Albanian communities and the involvement in the socio-economic development of Albania.

INDICATORS: Adoption of the joint programme with the Diaspora Coordination Council.

TERM: Second half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 30

Organizing the Albanian Diaspora Assembly in cooperation with the Diaspora Coordination Council, as the most important event of the Albanian communities abroad. Periodic organization of a pan-national activity, aiming at reviewing the current policies for the mobilization of the Albanian Diaspora, which will address issues such as the preservation of language and culture, the brain-drain phenomenon and investments from the Diaspora in Albania.

INDICATORS: Establishment of the Working Group for the arrangement and organization of the Diaspora Assembly, in cooperation with the Diaspora Coordination Council. Periodic organization of the Albanian Diaspora Assembly.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025) First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Finance and Economy Ministry of Education,
Sports and Youth

ACTION 31

Coordination with the Republic of Kosovo in the field of relations with the Albanian Diaspora in the implementation and re-evaluation of existing agreements between the two countries. Drafting and implementation of bilateral agreements related to the Diaspora with all countries which are considered important and "productive" for the Albanian Diaspora worldwide.

INDICATORS: Preparation of a joint Action-Plan with the State of Kosovo. Coordination of Memorandums with Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth State Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 32

Assessment of the level of organisation of the Albanian Diaspora communities in host countries. Organisation of activities based on professions which promote professional networks and identification of human resources.

INDICATORS: Assessment of the organizational level of Albanian communities in the Diaspora and promotion of the organization of networks of professionals. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Ministry of Culture

ACTION 33

Promotion of the cases of successful Diaspora personalities in Albania and awarding of the title "Ambassador of the Nation". Establishment of the network of Ambassadors of the Nation (drafting of necessary related legal acts).

INDICATORS: Promotion of personalities and establishment of a network of Ambassadors.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 34

Preparation of the Diaspora Certificate, which can be applied on-line and in addition to registering the interested party, it provides a printable document ("I am Albanian") which can be placed in open spaces to affirm the Albanian national identity. It shall be specially awarded to children finishing the Summer School project.

INDICATORS: : Enactment of the Summer School project and distribution of the "I am Albanian" Certificate.

TERM: First half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 35

Creation of the Qualified Diaspora Register and implementation of national and joint programs with international institutions in order to attract qualified members of the Diaspora to serve the Albanian economy. Evaluation of programs that encourage investors to hire qualified Diaspora staff abroad. Based on these programs, coordination and creation of opportunities for Albanian students to be welcomed and assisted by members of the Albanian diaspora to facilitate their studies at foreign universities through a network set up for this purpose in the diaspora.

INDICATORS: Qualified Diaspora Register developed; National programs; Evaluation of programs; Coordination and creation of opportunities for Albanian students. Organisation of technical annual meetings.

TERM: First half of 2023 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Finance and Economy
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 36

Identification of cultural, sports, educational, social, scientific associations operating in the host countries as well as talented and successful individuals operating in the Diaspora. Creation of a separate registry for this purpose.

INDICATORS: Identification of associations and development of the register. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
Ministry of Culture
State Minister of Diaspora

ACTION 37

Promoting the organization of the Women's Network in Diaspora and creating special policies in this regard. Organizing the Diaspora Women Summit in Albania or abroad. Establishing a sustainable cooperation network with organizations and institutions covering this issue in host countries and with civil society in Albania for this purpose.

INDICATORS: Activities of the Diaspora Women Network; Organization of Diaspora Women Summit;

TERM: Second half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Health and Social Protection

III. ECONOMY AND BUSINESS**ACTION 38**

Strengthening the Diaspora Business Chamber in cooperation with the network of business entities in the Diaspora. Establishment of the Diaspora Business Register as a basis for organising the Diaspora Business Chamber as the leader of business relations with the state administration.

INDICATORS: Annual activity with Diaspora Business Chamber; Establishment of the Diaspora Business Register.

TERM: First half of 2022

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 39

Establishment of administrative structures in local government units, to inform and support investments by stakeholders in the Diaspora. Such information to the Diaspora shall be coordinated with the investment opportunities in Albania, to motivate Albanian businesses or migrants to invest in specific sectors of the economy.

INDICATORS: Establishment of administrative structures at the local level; Program on informing Diaspora on investment possibilities. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Finance and Economy State
Minister for Diaspora
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 40

Annual assessment on remittances and stimulating banking policies for the Albanian Diaspora under the leadership of the Bank of Albania. Develop and implement a coherent and comprehensive policy for the administration of Diaspora remittances. Reassessment of measures to increase migrant remittance flows by motivating migrants to bring their savings to Albania.

INDICATORS: Annual remittances' assessment activity; Assessment of coherent policies concerning remittances flows.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy State
Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 41

Annual review of actions for the transfer of migrant remittances from informal to formal transfer routes, by applying less operational costs. Establishment of a frequent communication channel with the banking system representatives on this matter. Encouraging private companies to attract remittances through financial products (such as securities).

INDICATORS: Carrying out annual activities for the formalization of remittances from the Diaspora, in cooperation with representatives from the banking system;

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy State
Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 42

Establishing special administrative offices in the relevant institutions of economy for the treatment of Albanian Diaspora, especially in the implementation of the migrant's remittance policies and facilitating the attraction of investments from the Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Establishment of administrative offices in the relevant financial institutions.

TERM: First half of 2022

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy Ministry of
Infrastructure and Energy State Minister for
Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 43

Collaboration with the Bank of Albania and the private banking system on expansion of banking services in the host countries of the Diaspora as well as for their relatives in Albania (mainly in rural areas). Encouragement of banks in host countries to establish "ad-hoc" services for migrants (as far as possible and negotiable), with the help of Albanian migrant associations.

INDICATORS: Annual activity reviewing improvements and expansion of banking services.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy State
Minister for Diaspora
State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 44

Periodic organization of meetings with business networks in the Diaspora and the exchange of necessary related information from any institution covering the field of interest to invest in the homeland.

INDICATORS: Meetings with business networks and exchange of information

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy Ministry for
Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry of
Infrastructure and Energy State Minister for
Diaspora
State for Protection for Entrepreneurship
Protection Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development Ministry of Tourism and
Environment

ACTION 45

Assessment and promotion of circular migration between Albania and the host countries of Albanian communities in the diaspora through favourable actions or negotiations of bilateral agreements (prioritising Greece and Italy). Establishment of a contact and coordination office for the assessment and monitoring of the state of foreign labour markets and communication of this information to the responsible institutions.

INDICATORS: Development of a special program on favourable measures or negotiation of bilateral agreements; Establishment of a contact and coordination office for foreign labour markets. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.

TERM: Second half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Finance and Economy
Ministry of Agriculture

ACTION 46

Drafting of a special annual activities program for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food products by organizing periodic activities serving to the organized networks of Albanian producers and the network of Albanian businesses in the Diaspora that trade products of such natures.

INDICATORS: Annual programs for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food products.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Agriculture and Rural Development State
Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Tourism and Environment

ACTION 47

Development of annual activities in the area of domestic products in coordination with acquiring businesses in Diaspora in order to create a map of restaurants and culinary businesses in the host countries to link with a special project acquiring and selling businesses domestically and abroad.

INDICATORS: Organisation of annual activities; Creating a map of restaurants and businesses.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
 Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs State
 Minister for Diaspora
 State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 48

Development of a special assistance program for the micro-crediting institutions, in view of implementing policies aimed at channelling remittances through agreements with financial institutions in host countries. Encourage migrant associations promote local development through voluntary fund-raising by its members in order to fund various projects in their towns or villages.

INDICATORS: Organisation of annual meetings to support micro-crediting institutions;

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Finance and Economy State
 Minister for Diaspora
 State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 49

Reassessment of policies to encourage the repatriation of skilled migrants. Assessment of the supply and demand for qualified personnel in the Albanian labour market and establishment of contacts between migrants and medium and large enterprises in Albania, by creating an electronic database of CVs of qualified migrants.

INDICATORS: Development of an electronic database of Diaspora professionals.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
 Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
 of Interior
 Ministry of Finance and Economy Ministry of
 Infrastructure and Energy State Ministry of
 Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 50

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will coordinate the implementation in cooperation with the private business sector of a program for the dissemination of economic information and drafting the schedule of annual periodic activities, which promotes business relations between the Albanian communities in the Diaspora with each other and the homeland.

INDICATORS: Establishment of the information structure by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs for private business; Drafting of an annual periodic program of activities.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
 of Finance and Economy Ministry of
 Infrastructure and Energy State Minister for
 Diaspora
 State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection

ACTION 51

Implementation of national holidays for the community in cooperation with the private sector, non-profit organizations, sports federations and promotion by responsible tourism institutions operating in important markets, will result in significantly increasing tourist flows.

INDICATORS: Development of an annual programme of activities in view of the tourism season in Albania.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry of Tourism and Environment
State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Culture

IV. EDUCATION AND TEACHING**ACTION 52**

Review of practices and conditions for the education of the younger generations of the diaspora in Albanian tongue. Reassessment of the drafting of standard curricula for teaching in the Albanian language and the recognition of the Albanian cultural heritage for children in the Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Carrying out an annual activity for reviewing practices and conditions for education and re-evaluating the design of teaching curricula;

TERM: Second half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth Academy
of Sciences

ACTION 53

Annual assessment of the needs for books in view of learning in Albanian language and the teaching Albanian cultural heritage to children in the Diaspora. Periodic improvement of joint curricula with Kosovo, for teaching in Albanian language. Support in the implementation of joint curricula.

INDICATORS: Carrying out an activity for the annual assessment of the needs and quality of the joint curricula books with the Republic of Kosovo.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 54

Coordination and promotion of the joint agreements with the state of Kosovo supporting Albanian language and culture teaching in the Diaspora. Reassessment of the legal framework regarding the responsibility of the Albanian State to enable Albanian language learning for the new generation of Albanian communities in the diaspora.

INDICATORS: Establishment of a Technical Commission for the evaluation of Agreements with the Republic of Kosovo, in view of organising annual meetings and conclusions;

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 55

Updating the Register of Teachers in the Diaspora and the programs supporting the implementation of standards for teachers in the Diaspora. On-going teacher certification and drafting of a pension scheme for teachers in the Diaspora. Organisation of annual educational activities with Albanian teachers and students in the Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Implementation of the Teacher Register, creation of support programs; Annual organization of activities with teachers in the Diaspora.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 56

Establishment of a permanent structure which will follow the training of teachers in the Diaspora. Ongoing provision of textbooks for the Diaspora and training of teachers on joint curricula with Kosovo. Sending seconded teachers from Albania to host countries by the National Diaspora Agency.

INDICATORS: Strengthening the permanent structure (Diaspora Publications Centre) for the textbooks and teachers' trainings; Providing textbooks and teachers' trainings. Sending seconded teachers to host countries

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora Minister of
Education, Sports and Youth
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 57

Development of the "Learn Albanian" and "e-book" project (online download of textbooks placed in the education program for the Diaspora) in order to distribute books worldwide and create facilities to supply everyone with the necessary supplementary materials for language learning and Albanian culture.

INDICATORS: E-book project for on-line book distribution.

TERM: Second half of 2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister of Education, Sports and Youth
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 58

Assessment and signing of cooperation agreements with educational institutions in the host countries (pursuant to domestic legislation), for opening a number of Albanian language courses in schools and educational facilities located in these countries. (Creation and promotion of programs for teaching the Albanian language for the children of Albanian emigrants, in cooperation with the relevant structures of the host countries).

INDICATORS: Carrying out an annual activity for the evaluation of cooperation agreements and for the state-of-art of opening courses in the Albanian language;

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 59

Assessment and orientation of programs/donors who offer study abroad scholarships to the areas of expertise that Albania needs. Review of the inclusion of the return condition in Albania (for a period of not less than one year) for all students receiving scholarships abroad in the framework of various donor study programs for Albania.

INDICATORS: Realization of periodic information to the State Diaspora Committee on the orientation of programs/donors of interest for Albania;

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 60

Develop the register of Albanian students enrolled in universities abroad, on their fields of specialization. Creating a project to promote communication between students abroad.

INDICATORS: Development of the register of Albanian students abroad and their respective area of specialization; Organizing annual information activities.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 61

Compiling an evaluation report on the difficulties of Albanian students studying abroad and on the factors that affect this situation. It shall be drafted by the State Diaspora Committee.

INDICATORS: Carrying out an evaluation report on students' difficulties and influencing factors for the State Diaspora Committee;

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

V. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**ACTION 62**

Establishment and update of the database of Diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions, active in countries considered national diaspora policy priorities. Establishment of Albanian TV and radio networks in the diaspora and implementation of an action plan for communication and training of journalists in the Diaspora with incentive projects and annual activities for this purpose.

INDICATORS: Development of a database of diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions; Conducting an annual activity with Diaspora journalists;

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 63

Establishment of an information network for Albanian and foreign media to appeal and raise awareness of the violations of the rights of Albanian migrants in the relevant structures of the host countries as well as in those of international organizations. Establishment of the Diaspora Media Forum and organization of an annual activity.

INDICATORS: Establishment of an information network to petition against and raise awareness on the violations of migrants' rights. Organisation of Diaspora Media Forum.

TERM: First half of 2022 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 64

Assess of the quality of state institutions websites for detailed information on Albanian communities abroad by opening a section dedicated to this topic (where necessary). Conducting periodic meetings (every 6 months) to assess and coordinate with the "custodians" of the institutions' informational websites the level of information the latter provide for the Albanian Diaspora.

INDICATORS: Periodic reporting on the quality of the websites of the institutions. Organisation of annual meetings with persons in charge of the state institutions' websites;

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
National Agency for Information Society (NAIS)

ACTION 65

Planning and implementation of an informative campaign on:

- Issues related to migration and diaspora
- Large-scale promotion of migrant registration and information on the right to vote (upon approval);
- The identity of Albanians, Albanian history and culture in the diaspora
- Strengthening the newspaper "Albanian Diaspora" with information resources on issues of interest to migration and diaspora and treatment of the latest political, social and economic developments in the country;

Reflecting in this campaign the process that Diaspora and migration will be an integral part of the political and economic developments of Albania.

INDICATORS: Organization of an information campaign on the registration of migrants and on the right to vote; Organization of an annual activity in cooperation with the Albanian Parliament;

TERM: First half of -2021

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Interior
State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
Ministry of Finance and Economy

ACTION 66

Review and evaluation of the broadcasting area by the Albanian national televisions and radios in all countries where there are communities of the Albanian diaspora and migrants. Creating and promoting television programs in the country regarding the topic of the diaspora and its protagonist role in the Albanian society. Empowering TVSH 3 - the public TV channel on Diaspora issues. Encouraging agreements with the media in host countries, aiming at broadcasting programs for Albanian communities.

INDICATORS: Carrying out an annual activity for TV programs for the Diaspora; Project for empowering TVSH 3 - the public television channel on Diaspora;

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 67

Establishment of media projects that promote the creation of information networks for students and coordination of institutions responsible for education to promote the exchange and internship programs of Albanian universities with universities in host countries with a high participation of Albanian students.

INDICATORS: Organisation of annual activities and preparation of projects on media and exchange and internships programs.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Education, Sports and Youth

ACTION 68

Organizing a coordinated media action plan to promote and motivate the Albanian diaspora to take advantage of Albania for tourism and investment purposes. Drafting by the tourism line institutions of a promotional campaign, in cooperation with the private sector of a package that meets the expectations. Well-known diaspora characters in each market can be involved as icons to this campaign.

INDICATORS: Organisation of an annual activity and media action plan; Preparation of a promotional campaign and a special package for the Diaspora;

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry
of Culture

VI. MONITORING AND TRANSPARENCY**ACTION 69**

Monitoring the National Diaspora Strategy Action Plan on a quarterly basis (through Periodic Bulletins) and providing information to the State Diaspora Committee and to the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora. The Subcommittee, when necessary, shall propose to the Parliament the adoption of resolutions addressing migration and Diaspora issues.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 70

Evaluation by the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora and the State Committee on Diaspora in separate meetings of the Reporting documents from the following institution:

- National Diaspora Agency;
- Albanian Diaspora Development Fund
- Diaspora Publications Centre
- Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora

ACTION 71

The evaluation, discussion and proposals for changes to the National Strategy document and the action plan at the National Albanian Diaspora Assembly. These proposals will be considered as initiatives to carry out possible changes of the process.

TERM: Second half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

ACTION 72

Determination of the indicators that will identify the implementation level of the actions set out in this strategy. Obligations of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the strategy to draft periodic reports of the actions undertaken, including quantitative and qualitative monitoring data, based on the determined indicators.

TERM: First half of 2021 (periodic until 2025)

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:

State Minister for Diaspora
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

**ANNEX II – SOURCES OF
FINANCING AND ACTIVITIES**

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SMD	State Minister for Diaspora
MEFA	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
MFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MJ	Ministry of Justice
MC	Ministry of Culture
SMEP	State Minister for Entrepreneurship Protection
MIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
NDA	National Diaspora Agency
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
MESY	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
MI	Ministry of Interior
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment

FINANCIAL SOURCES

This Annex addresses the financial sources needed to implement the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy 2021-2025 Action Plan.

The total estimated cost for the implementation of the Actions, for the 5-year period of implementation of the Action Plan, from all sources of funding, including the budget and donors, is approximately ALL 1.63 billion or approximately Euro 13.06 million. Sources from the state budget shall be allocated to the budgets of state institutions in charge of implementing the Action Plan.

The allocation of funds for the period 2021-2023, has been programmed taking into account the ceilings of the medium-term draft-budget (MTBP 2021-2023). The financial sources from the state budget shall cover about 76.8% of the costs of the strategy, or about ALL 1.25 billion. Whereas the sources of financing committed by donors and other sources shall cover 1.7% of the cost of the strategy, or approximately ALL 27.2 million.

The financial gap not covered by the budget is 21.4%. It is part of additional budget requests and negotiations with various donors and consists mainly of costs for additional activities such as: organisation of the Albanian Diaspora Assembly, establishment of a special assistance program for the micro-crediting institutions, in view of implementing policies aimed at channelling remittances through agreements with financial institutions in host countries and sending seconded teachers from Albania to the host countries.

The costs required for the implementation of the NAP have been subtracted by costing each of the AP Actions separately. In calculating the total costs, the duration of each Action, the number of beneficiaries for certain activities, etc., have been taken into account. The costs of the Action Plan are estimated based on the budget planning practice.

Table 1 introduces the budget in years by strategic objectives. 72.9% of expenditures are needed for strategic objective B.

Exchange Rate 1 Euro = ALL 125

Description	Budget 2021 -2025					
	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	TOTALI
Specific Objective A: Strengthening and developing relations with the Albanian Diaspora	13,836,000 00	33,731,000 00	19,891,000 00	18,637,000 00	18,637,000 00	104,732,000 00
Specific Objective B: Supporting Diaspora activities	206,310,000 00	292,096,800 00	206,072,000 00	280,096,800 00	206,072,000 00	1,190,647,600 00
Specific Objective C: Creating facilities in view of attracting investments from the Diaspora and the role of remittances	7,600,000 00	37,610,000 00	31,250,000 00	31,250,000 00	31,150,000 00	138,860,000 00
Specific Objective D: Implementation of programs for learning the Albanian language in the Diaspora	42,944,499 00	14,410,998 00	26,795,499 00	26,795,499 00	26,795,499 00	150,126,495 00
Specific Objective E: Informing the Diaspora on the socio-economic developments in the country of origin	5,956,000 00	15,654,000 00	7,154,000 00	7,154,000 00	7,154,000 00	43,072,000 00
Specific Objective F: Monitoring the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy Action Plan	1,140,000 00	912,000 00	1,140,000 00	912,000 00	1,140,000 00	5,244,000 00
TOTAL (1+2+3+4+5)	277,786,499 00	394,414,798 00	292,302,499 00	364,845,299 00	290,948,499 00	1,632,682,095 00

Table 2 displays budget by source of financing and the financial gap for each of the specific objective.

Table 2: Costing the implementation of the Action Plan broken down by objectives 2021-2025

Strategic objectives and sub-objectives covered by the strategic document	Total Costs (in 000/ALL)	Financing (in 000/ALL)		Financial Gap (in 000/ALL)	Comments on objectives with financial gaps
		Budget	Donors		
TOTAL	1,632,682.095	1,253,639.495	27.260	349,958.600	
Specific Objective A: Strengthening and developing relations with the Albanian Diaspora	104.732	72.113	6.000	26.619	
1.1 Establishment of an administrative culture	40.478	26.978	0	13.500	Financings for the establishment of the Albanian Culture Centres in the Diaspora hosting countries is needed.
1.2 Strengthening the legal framework on Diaspora	17.654	17.654	0	0	
1.3 Services and activities for the Diaspora	28.353	16.209	6.000	6.1440	Funds are needed to conduct awareness raising campaigns against violation of migrants' rights and to organize meetings of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.
1.4 Strengthening the professional capacities and networks	18.247	11.272	0	6.975	Funds are needed for the training and certification of the diplomatic bodies on migration issues; organisation and support of Diaspora groups and associations

Specific Objective B: Supporting Diaspora activities	1,190,647.6	1,048,708	0	141,939.6	
2.1 Mechanisms for supporting activities	5.094	4.104	0	990	
2.2 Links with the Albanian Diaspora	166,653.6	25.704	0	140,949.6	Funds are needed for the organization of Diaspora Assemblies and activities broken down by professions
2.3 "Ambassador of the Nation" Award.	4.500	4.500	0	0	
2.4 Diaspora Certificates	4.200	4.200	0	0	
2.5 Specialist and scholars on Diaspora	1,010,200	1,010,200	0	0	
Specific Objective C: Creating facilities in view of attracting investments from the Diaspora and the role of remittances	138.860	50.800	21.260	66.800	
3.1 Attracting investments from the Diaspora	23.660	5.600	13.260	4.800	Funds for the establishment of administrative structures at the local level for the information of the Diaspora are needed.
3.2 Formalization of Diaspora remittances	71.400	1.400	8.000	62.000	Funds are needed mainly for the assistance program for micro-credit institutions
3.3 Engaging Diaspora in the economic life of the country	43.800	43.800	0	0	

Specific Objective D: Implementation of programs for learning the Albanian language in the Diaspora	150,126.495	73,126.495	0	77.000	
4.1 Program about culture in Albanian language	16.904	16.904	0	0	
4.2. Teachers in the Diaspora	79.364	6.894	0	72.500	Funds are needed to assign contracted teachers from Albania to host countries and to organize annual educational activities with Albanian teachers and students in the Diaspora.
4.3 Textbooks for the Diaspora	42,708.495	42,708.495	0	0	
4.4 Students in Diaspora	11.150	6.650	0	4.500	Funds are needed to conduct an evaluation report on the difficulties of Albanian students studying abroad. These can also be funded by donors in the form of projects.
Specific Objective E: Informing the Diaspora on the socio-economic developments in the country of origin	43.072	5.472	0	37.600	
5.1 Supporting information and media networks in Diaspora	22.292	3.192	0	19.100	Funds are needed for activities such as the annual organization of the Diaspora Media Forum; Project for strengthening the Public Television Channel for the Diaspora; media projects and exchange programs. These activities may require close cooperation with donors. These can also be funded by donors in the form of projects.

5.2 Informing the Albanian Diaspora	20.780	2.280	0	18.500	Funds for activities such as organizing an information campaign on migrant registration and on the right to vote and organization of voting activities are needed. These activities may require close cooperation with the donors.
Specific Objective F: Monitoring the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy Action Plan	5.244	5.244	0	0	
6.1 Monitoring and Evaluation	5.244	5.244	0	0	

ANNEX II – LIST OF ACTIVITIES BY ACTION

Specific Objective A: Strengthening and developing relations with the Albanian Diaspora Outcomes indicators: **Improving the national legal** framework for Diaspora commitment; having adequate staff levels to ensure efficient implementation and coordinate Diaspora commitment; Institutional capacity building;

No.	Sub-objective	Activities to be undertaken	Time limit Time	Source Financial in 000 ALL	Responsible institution	Outcomes & Indicators	
1	State relations with the diaspora	Establishment of an Administrative Culture Coordination of responsible state institutions the new legislation appoints for the state relations with the Diaspora, including: The National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Publications Centre and the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh.	2021-2025	2.850	SMD MFE	Coordination of state authorities responsible for relations with the Diaspora.	Number of institutions established in view of ensuring Albania's commitment with the Diaspora;
		1.1.2 Drafting a detailed plan for financing the policies and actions foreseen in the National Strategy Action Plan.	2021-2025	380	SMD MFE	Drafting the plan for the financing of the actions of the National Diaspora Strategy's Action Plan.	Number of specific recommendations adopted in line with the implementation of this Action Plan, to ensure a higher degree of responsibility and its successful implementation. a representative.

		1.1.3 Establishment of a specialized unit for the review of Diaspora legislation so as to undertake the necessary amendments.	2021-2025	14.400	SMD MFE	A comprehensive legal reform of Albanian legislation related to Diaspora commitment, along with recommendations for legal amendments by line ministries.	Number of legal amendments adopted every year in view of ensuring Albania's commitment with the Diaspora;
		1.1.4 Follow up to the necessary coordinating procedures to be discussed in the Diaspora State Committee on an annual basis and to project in the operating annual budget (successive) the funds needed to implement the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan until 2025.	2021-2025	1.900	MFE MESY MC SMD	Discussion in the State Diaspora Committee and provision of budgetary funds necessary for the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan.	Number of the State Diaspora Committee meetings held for this purpose.
		1.1.5 Adoption of the annual program of activities for the Diaspora (activities including books, education, culture, tourism and business) in the State Diaspora Committee and preparation of assessment reports for the State Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2021-2025	2.090	SMD	Adoption of the National Program on Diaspora. Preparation of the assessment report for the Diaspora State Committee and Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of adopted programs; Information prepared for the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.
		1.1.6 Drafting of annual reports by the responsible institutions whereby data and evaluations on the Albanian communities in the host countries shall be introduced. Development of a joint publication on Diaspora reporting	2021-2025	3.230	MEFA SMD MESY	Preparation and publication of annual reports by the Bank of Albania and INSTAT. Joint publication on annual reports.	Number of published reports. Number of publications prepared.

		Diaspora.					
		1.1.7 Establishment of Albanian Cultural Centres in the countries hosting the Diaspora, in cooperation with Kosovo, in the framework of preserving the national identity and providing services and information to the Albanian communities in the Diaspora.	2022	13.500	MEFA SMD MFE MC MESY	Establishment of Albanian Cultural Centres in Diaspora hosting countries. Budgeting program prepared; added commitment by the embassies/consular offices and Diaspora community organisations;	Number of Culture Centres established.
		1.1.8 Periodic reassessment of services policy, procedures and respective tariffs.	2022 - 2025	2.128	MEFA SMD MFE MESY MJ	Drafting the report by the National Agency of Diaspora. Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Drafting the reports and reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.
		Strengthening the legal framework on Diaspora 1.2.1 Assessing other existing or to be adopted national strategies against the National Strategy and Action	2021-2025	1.140	SMD MESY MFE	Aligning other existing or to-be-adopted national strategies with the National Diaspora Strategy. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	Number of strategic documents aligned with the National Diaspora Strategy. Number of annual meetings held.

		Plan for Diaspora. Organisation of technical annual meetings on this purpose.			MHSP		
		1.2.2 Review the framework of existing migration agreements with countries hosting Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Negotiate the framework of employment agreements with the host countries in order to include training agreements, or to discuss them in particular. Annual reporting to the State Diaspora Committee.	202 - 2025	3.040	MEFA SMD MFE	Review of migration and employment agreements with the countries hosting Albanian Diaspora. Annual reporting to the State Diaspora Committee.	Number of reviewed agreements. Number of reporting to the State Diaspora Committee.
		1.2.3 Organizimi i nxitjes e forcimit të marrëdhënieve të Shqipërisë me vendet pritëse të komuniteteve shqiptare dhe bashkëpunimi i programit të punës të shërbimit diplomatik dhe konsullor me fokus të veçantë nga këndvështrimi i forcimit të statusit të diasporës shqiptare	2021-2025	3.100	MEFA SMD	Organization of annual activities to evaluate the structure of diplomatic and consular representation.	Number of activities held.
		1.2.4 Cooperation with the institutions responsible for applications with projects on culture to national and international donors.	2021-2025	2.850	MEFA SMD	Cooperating for the preparation of projects addressing the Albanian Diaspora.	Number of projects prepared in cooperation with national and international donors.

	1.2.5 Reassessing the structure of the existing legal acts and agreements in the field of migration, in view of expanding the sphere of protection of the Albanian communities abroad, in line with the international standards. Organisation of annual meetings for the re-evaluation of existing legal acts in the field of migration and implementing the procedures for the ratification of international documents in place.	2021-2025	2.660	MEFA MJ MI SMD	Assessing the existing legal framework in the field of migration. Organisation of annual meetings on this purpose.	Number of reviewed acts. Number of activities held.
	1.2.6 Institutional cooperation with hosting countries. Establishment of bilateral consultative commissions and public information on the progress made.	2022-2025	4.560	MEFA SMD MJ	Establishment of bilateral commissions.	Number of established commissions.
	1.2.7 Establishment of regular contacts with the European Group of Regional and Local Authorities (ERLAI) in the field of Immigration.	2021	304	MEPJ MSHD AKD MD MB	Establishing contacts and cooperation with ERLAI.	Establishing contacts; number of issues addressed or services, follow to establishing cooperation with this group (ERLAI).
	1.3 Services and activities for the Diaspora 1.3.1 Providing periodic information to the State diaspora Committee on the situation of Albanian citizens abroad concerning services through the on-line consular platform. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	2021-2025	2.280	MEFA MJ SMD MESY	Continuous provision of information to the State Diaspora Committee on the state of use of the on-line consular services to Albanian citizens abroad.	Number of reporting to the State Diaspora Committee. Number of activities held.

	1.3.2 Expansion of the National Civil Registry with data on migrants and organisation of activities abroad. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2021-2025	4.125	MEFA MI SMD	Expansion of the National Civil Registry with data on migrants and organisation of activities abroad. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on diaspora and Migration.	Number of reporting performed.
	1.3.3 Dissemination of information on the status, rights as well as services provided to Albanian communities in the host countries. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	2022-2025	3.040	MEFA MJ MI SMD MESY	Dissemination of information on the status and rights of Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	Preparation and dissemination of brochures, leaflets, apps, etc. Number of activities held.
	Realization of communications between Albanian organizations in the Diaspora and local associations. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2021-2025	4.180	MEFA SMD NDA MHSP MJ	Establishing cooperation between Albanian organizations in the Diaspora and local associations for the protection of emigrants. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of reporting performed.

		<p>1.3.5 Negotiating bilateral agreements with host countries. Review of practices for collecting voluntary social insurance contributions. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.</p>	2021-2025	1.824	MEFA SMD MFE MHSP MJ	<p>Negotiating bilateral agreements with host countries in the field of social insurance. Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.</p>	<p>Number of bilateral agreements under negotiation; number of bilateral agreements signed; number of bilateral agreements concluded. Number of reporting performed.</p>
		<p>1.3.6 Conduct of awareness-raising campaigns against violations of migrants' rights. Coordination for periodic reporting of cases of violation of the rights of Albanian migrants. Period reporting to the State Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.</p>	2023-2025	2.679	MEFA SMD MJ	<p>Conduct of awareness-raising campaigns against violations of migrants' rights. Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.</p>	<p>Number of campaigns performed. Number of reporting performed.</p>
		<p>1.3.7 Coordination and organization of meetings of Albanian communities in the Diaspora on the basis of annual programs. Organisation of technical annual meetings.</p>	2021-2025	3.465	MEFA SMD MC MTE MIE MHSP	<p>Organisation of meetings or "Days of Albania" in the countries hosting Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Organisation of technical annual meetings.</p>	<p>Number of activities held. Number of technical annual meetings.</p>

	1.3.8 Coordination with public and private Health Institutions, on promoting health tourism. Preparation of an awareness-raising campaign on health tourism. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	2022-2025	6.000	MEFA SMD MHSP MTE	Preparation of an awareness-raising campaign on health tourism. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	Number of meetings held.
	1.3.9 Signing and/or amending bilateral agreements with the countries hosting Diaspora for the inclusion of the Albanian Diaspora community in their cultural life. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2021	760	MC MEFA SMD	Signing/amending agreements with the host countries. Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of signed/amended agreements. Number of reporting performed.
	1.4 Strengthening the professional capacities and networks					
	1.4.1 Organizing and administering a network of foreign and Albanian researchers specialized in the field of migration. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	2022-2025	1.824	SMD MESY MEFA	Establishment and administration of a network of scholars in the field of migration. Organisation of technical meetings	Number of scholars in the network. Number of meetings held.
	1.4.2 Organization of general and periodic special trainings. Identification of needs and experts. Preparation of the training modules. Organisation of technical annual meetings.	2021-2025	3.250	MJ MESY MEFA SMD	Identification of training needs; Design of modules; Conducting trainings; Organisation of the annual technical meeting	Number of trainings organised. Number of annual meetings held.

		1.4.3 Establish cooperation with higher education institutions in order to organize trainings in the field of migration.	2021 - 2025	1.900	SMD MEFA MESY MJ	Drafting cooperation agreements; Organizing trainings in the field of migration.	Number of agreements concluded; Number of trainings organised.
		1.4.4 Drafting of practical manuals on laws/by-laws. Training and certification of the diplomatic corps in Albania on migration issues. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2021 - 2025	3.600	MEFA MI SMD MJ	Drafting of manuals; Organisation of training for the diplomatic body; Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of persons trained; Number of trainings completed; Number of reports made
		1.4.5 Creation of a register for Albanian citizens sentenced to imprisonment abroad. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2022 - 2025	1.824	MEFA SMD MJ	Register creation; Reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of Albanian citizens suffering deprivation of liberty in prisons abroad; Number of reports performed
		1.4.6 Organizing and supporting Diaspora groups and associations;	2022	3.375	MEFA SMD	Organizing networks by trade, areas of interest or geographical location; Implementation of specific projects on this purpose	Number of networks established; Number of projects implemented.
		1.4.7 Organization of annual meetings with the business' networks	2022 - 2025	1.980	SMD MEFA MD	Organisation of activities	Number of activities organised; Number of participants

					MHSP		
		1.4.8 Supporting Albanian Diaspora organizations in establishing local advisory structures. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	2023	494	MEFA SMD NDA MJ	Supporting the strengthening and expansion of Albanian Diaspora organizations. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of local structures established; Number of reporting performed.

Specific Objective B: Supporting Diaspora activities

Outcomes indicators: Assessment of the organizational level of Albanian communities in the Diaspora and promotion of the organization of networks of professionals; Establishment of the Albanian Diaspora Women Network; Organization of the Albanian Diaspora Assembly; Establishment of a special register of Albanian associations operating in host countries;

Outcomes & Indicators

No.	Sub-objective	Activities to be undertaken	Term	Source Financial in 000 ALL	Responsible institution		
2	Organization of diaspora	2.1 Mechanisms for supporting Diaspora activities			SMD	Assessment of the organizational level of Albanian communities in the Diaspora and promotion of the organization of networks of professionals.	Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.
		2.1.1 Assessment of the level of organisation of the Albanian Diaspora communities in the host countries.	2021-2025	3.800	MEFA MESY MC		
		2.1.2 Designation of an action plan with the Diaspora Coordination Council in view of organizational strengthening and Albanian community Albanian	2021	304	SMD MEFA		
		2.1.3 Preparation of a joint Action Plan with the State of Kosovo.			MEFA	Coordination with the Republic of Kosovo on	Drafting of an action plan; coordination of Memorandums with Montenegro, North Macedonia

		2021	990	MESY SMD	relations with the Albanian Diaspora in the framework of existing agreements between the two states.	and Serbia; Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Agency and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.
	2.2 Links with the Albanian Diaspora					
	2.2.1 Network of Albanian Women in Diaspora	2022-2025	1.824	MEFA SMD MHSP	Establishment of the Albanian Diaspora Women Network; Network promotion.	Identification of women leaders in the Albanian Diaspora.
	2.2.2 Organization of Diaspora Women Summit	2022-2025	15.800	MARD MEFA SMD MHSP	Organization of Diaspora Women Summit promotion of network.	Identification of women leaders in the Albanian Diaspora.
	2.2.3 Organisation of Albanian Diaspora Assembly	2021-2025	132,249.6	SMD MEFA MFE MESY	Organisation of the Albanian Diaspora Assembly	Establishment of the Working Group for the arrangement and organization of the second Diaspora Assembly; Organisation of the Albanian Diaspora Assembly.

	2.2.4 Identifying cultural, sports, educational, social, scientific associations operating in the host countries.	2021-2025	2.280	MEFA MESY MC SMD	Development of a special register of Albanian associations operating in the host countries.	Number of associations identified; Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.
	2.2.5 Organisation of activities based on professions which promote professional networks and identification of human resources.	2021-2025	14.500	SMD MEFA MESY MC	Organizing activities based on the trade of Diaspora members	Number of activities organized ; number of persons attending the activities; number of countries where activities were organized.
	2.3 “Ambassador of the Nation” Award. 2.3.1 Promoting the cases of successful personalities and awarding the prize	2021-2025	4.500	SMD MEFA	Promoting the cases of successful personalities and awarding the prize	Establishment of a network of Ambassadors; number of prizes awarded; frequency of awarding.
	2.4 Diaspora Certificates 2.4.1 Endowing the participants in the Summer School with the certificate “I am Albanian”	2021	4.200	SMD MEFA	Endowing the participants in the Summer School with the certificate “I am Albanian”	Enactment of the Summer School project; number of participants in the Summer School; distribution of the “I am Albanian” Certificate.

	<p>2.5 Specialist and scholars on Diaspora</p> <p>2.5.1 Development of a qualified Diaspora register</p>	2023-2025	1.800	SMD MEFA MFE MIE MESY	Development of a qualified Diaspora register	number of professionals identified; identifying Diaspora skills, education and experiences.
	2.5.2 Creating opportunities and facilities for Albanian students to study abroad	2023-2025	1,000,000	SMD MEFA MFE MIE MESY	Creating opportunities and facilities for Albanian students to study abroad by means of a network established in the Diaspora	Number of students about to study abroad; establishment of a Diaspora network; Organization of a technical annual activity

Outcomes indicators: Organizing annual activities with businesses in the Diaspora; Establishment of special offices for attracting investments from the Diaspora; taking the necessary steps to formalize shipments

Specific Objective C: Creating facilities in view of attracting investments from the Diaspora and the role of remittances

3	Economics and business	3.1 Attracting investments from the Diaspora					
		3.1.1 Strengthening the cooperation of the Diaspora Business Chamber with Albanian businesses in the Diaspora; promoting their membership in the Chamber	2022	760.000	MFE SMD MHSP	Organizing an annual activity with businesses in the Diaspora; Establishment of the Diaspora Business Register.	Number of activities organised; number of businesses included in the Register; number of businesses affiliated with the Diaspora Chamber of Commerce
		3.1.2 Establishment of administrative structures at the local level; Program on informing Diaspora on investment possibilities.	2022 - 2025	4.800	MI MFE SMD MHSP	Establishment of local administrative structures; drafting of a program for informing the Diaspora on investment opportunities; reporting to the State Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora	Number of local administrative structures established; Number of reporting

					and Migration.	
	3.1.3 Establishment of administrative offices in the relevant financial institutions. financial	2022	5.600	MFE MFA SMD MEFA MHSP	Establishment of the special offices	Number of established offices
	3.1.4 Organization of annual meetings with the business' networks	2021 - 2025	12.500	MFE MEPJ MIE MSHD MSHMS MBZHR MTM	Organisation of annual meetings	Number of activities held
	3.2 Formalization of Diaspora remittances 3.2.1 Conduct of an annual review of actions for the transfer of migrant remittances from informal to formal	2022 - 2025	6.000	MFE SMD MEFA	Completion of the annual review/study with measures to encourage the transfer of remittances through formal routes	Number of assessments performed; degree of completion of the defined measures

		transfer routes, by applying less operational costs.					
		3.2.2 Organisation of the Annual remittances' assessment activity; Assessment of coherent policies concerning remittances flows abroad	2022 - 2025	1.400	MFE SMD MEFA	Organisation of annual meetings on remittances	Number of activities held
		3.2.3 Establishment of cooperation with the Bank of Albania and second-tier banks for the expansion of banking services for the Diaspora	2021 - 2025	2.000	MFE SMD MHSP	Expansion of banking services designed for the Diaspora; deployment of <i>ad hoc</i> services as far as possible	Number of banking services tailor-made for the Diaspora
		3.2.4 Development of a special assistance program for the micro-crediting institutions, in view of implementing policies aimed at channelling remittances through agreements with financial institutions in host countries. Organisation of annual meetings to support micro-crediting institutions	2022 - 2025	62.000	MFE SMD MHSP	Development of the assistance program for micro-credit institutions; concluding relevant agreements; Organisation of the annual activity concerning the micro-credit institutions	Number of agreements entered into; implementation of the assistance program; number of activities held.

		<p>3.3 Engaging Diaspora in the economic life of the country 3.3.1 Development of a special program on favourable measures or negotiation of bilateral agreements; Establishment of a contact and coordination office for foreign labour markets. Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration</p>	2022 - 2025	6.000	MEFA SMD MFE MARD	Conclusion of the bilateral agreements; Establishment of the contact office; Periodic reporting to the National Diaspora Committee and the Albanian Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of agreements concluded; Number of offices established; Number of reports made
		3.3.2 Organisation of annual programs of activities aiming at promoting Albanian agricultural and food products.	2022 - 2025	13.200	MEFA MARD SMD MTE	Drafting the programs of activities for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food Albanian	Number of activities included in the program
		3.3.3 Organisation of annual activities; Development of a map of restaurants and businesses in Diaspora.	2022 - 2025	1.200	MARD MEFA SMD MHSP	Development of a map of restaurants and businesses in Diaspora; Organisation of annual activities for the promotion of Albanian Albanian	Number of food businesses and restaurants identified; number of activities held.

		3.3.4 Development of an electronic database of Diaspora professionals.	2021 - 2025	1.900	SMD MEFA Moi MFE MIE MESY	Development of an electronic database of Diaspora professionals' CVs.	Number of qualifies professionals included on the database
		3.3.5 Development of an annual programme of activities in view of the tourism season in Albania.	2021 - 2025	21.500	MTE SMD MEFA MC	Drafting of the Annual Program	Adoption of the Annual Program

Specific Objective D: Implementation of programs for learning the Albanian language in the Diaspora/programs for teaching in the Diaspora; support for teachers in the Diaspora; evaluation of programs offering scholarships to Albanian students abroad							
No.	Sub-objective	Activities to be undertaken	Term	Financial sources in 000 ALL Albanian	Responsible institution	Outcomes & Indicators	
4	Education and teaching	4.1 Program about Albanian culture and language 4.1.1 Annual assessment of the needs for books in view of learning in Albanian language and the teaching Albanian cultural heritage to children in the Diaspora.	2021-2025	760	SMD MESY MEFA	Continuous provision of textbooks	Activity for the annual assessment of the needs for textbooks;
		4.1.2 Development of a curricula for learning Albanian culture, heritage and language abroad	2022-2025	4.920	SMD MESY ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Review of practices and conditions for the education of the younger generations of the Diaspora in Albanian tongue and reassessment of curricula development.	Carrying out an annual activity for reviewing practices and conditions for education and re-evaluating the design of teaching curricula;
		4.1.3 Improving and supporting common curricula with Kosovo for teaching in Albanian language.	2021-2025	7.500	SMD MESY	Establish cooperation with partner institutions to improve and support common	Carrying out an activity for the annual assessment of the needs and quality of the textbooks; number of partner institutions;

					MEFA	curricula with Kosovo	number of documents drafted.
		4.1.4 Reassessment of the joint agreements with the state of Kosovo supporting Albanian language and culture teaching in the Diaspora.	2022-2025	760	SMD MESY MEFA	Cooperative development with Kosovo through the drafting of agreements to support the teaching of Albanian culture and language in the Diaspora	Establishment of a Technical Commission for the evaluation of Agreements with the Republic of Kosovo, in view of organising annual meetings and conclusions;
		4.1.5 Reassessment of the legal framework regarding the responsibility of the Albanian state to enable Albanian language teaching in the Diaspora.	2022-2025	1.064	SMD MESY MEFA	Review of the legal framework to enable Albanian language teaching in the Diaspora.	Drafting of a detailed analytical report
		4.1.6 Signing of cooperation agreements with educational institutions in the host countries for opening a number of courses in Albanian language.	2021-2025	1.900	SMD MESY MEFA	Creating and promoting programs for teaching the Albanian language	Carrying out an annual activity for the evaluation of cooperation agreements and for the state-of-art of opening courses in the Albanian language; number of agreements.
		4.2. Teachers in the Diaspora					
		4.2.1 Establishment of the Register of Teachers in the Diaspora and creation of programs to support	2022-2025	760	SMD MESY MEFA	Compilation of the register with Diaspora teachers; including their location	Number of teachers identified in the Diaspora teachers' register; number of countries where they serve.

		in view of implementing the standards for teachers in the Diaspora.				and schools whereby they teach.	
		4.2.2 Development of programs to support the implementation of standards for teachers in the Diaspora.	2022-2025	1.064	SMD MESY MEFA	Development of supporting programs	Number of supporting programs, number of countries where these programs are implemented.
		4.2.3 Organisation of annual educational activities with Albanian teachers and students in the Diaspora.	2022-2025	10.000	SMD MESY MEFA	Organisation of educational activities	Number of activities held; number of countries where these activities will be held. number of participants;
		4.2.4 Certification of teachers	2022-2025	1.216	SMD MESY MEFA	Certification of teachers	Number of certified teachers
		4.2.5 Drafting of a pension scheme for teachers in the Diaspora.	2022-2025	1.824	SMD MESY MEFA	Drafting of a pension scheme for teachers in the Diaspora.	Establishment of an institutional framework and process on issues concerning the pensions of teachers in Diaspora.
		4.2.6 Training of teachers to teach in the Diaspora, including common curricula with Kosovo.	2021-2025	2.000	SMD MESY MEFA	Training of teachers who will teach in the Diaspora	Establishment of a permanent structure that shall follow on the training of teachers; strengthening the permanent structure

						(Diaspora Publications Centre)
	4.2.7 Sending seconded teachers from Albania to host countries	2021-2025	62.500	SMD MESY MEFA	Sending teachers from Albania to host countries	Number of teachers; countries whereby they shall be sent
	4.3 Textbooks for the Diaspora 4.3.1 On-going provision of textbooks for the Diaspora	2021-2025	21,157.5	SMD MESY MEFA	On-going provision of textbooks for the Diaspora	Number of textbooks; countries whereby textbooks shall be delivered to
	4.3.2 Development of "Learn Albanian" and "e-book" project	2021	21.551	SMD MESY MEFA	Worldwide delivery of textbooks and creation of facilities to supply everyone with the necessary materials for Albanian language and culture learning.	Number of on-line textbooks' downloads provided for in the Diaspora education program; implementation of the "e-book" project for the distribution of textbooks on-line
	4.4 Students in Diaspora 4.4.1 Review and orientation of programs/donors who offer study abroad scholarships in the areas of expertise needed in Albania.	2021-2025	1.520	SMD MESY MEFA	Evaluation and orientation of programs/ donors who offer scholarships	Realization of periodic information to the State Diaspora Committee on the orientation of programs/donors of interest for Albania;

	4.4.2 Development of a register of Albanian students enrolled in universities abroad and their areas of specialization	2021-2025	2.280	SMD MESY MEFA	Development of the register of Albanian students enrolled in universities abroad	Establishment of the register of Albanian students abroad; number of students; identification of their areas of specialization.
	4.4.3 Promoting communication between Albanian students studying abroad	2021-2025	2.850	SMD MESY MEFA	Promoting communication between Albanian students studying abroad	Number of information annual meetings.
	4.4.4. Compiling an evaluation report on the difficulties of Albanian students studying abroad.	2022-2025	4.500	SMD MESY MEFA	Compiling an evaluation report on the difficulties of Albanian students studying abroad.	Evaluation report; identifying student difficulties and influencing factors; informing the State Diaspora Committee.

Specific Objective E: Informing the Diaspora on the socio-economic
Implementation of in the country of origin projects to strengthen the role of the

Outcomes Indicators: Development of a
database on media in the Albanian
Diaspora; Organisation of
information campaigns;

media in the Diaspora; Organisation of
periodic activities

No.	Sub-objective	Activities to be undertaken	Term	Financial sources in 000 ALL	Responsible institution:	Outcomes & Indicators	
5	Media and Communication	5.1 Supporting information and media networks in Diaspora 5.1.1 Development of a database of Diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions and organisation of an annual activity with Diaspora journalists	2022 - 2025	1.368	SMD MEFA	Development and update of a database of Diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions; Establishment of Albanian televisions and radios networks in Diaspora; organisation of annual activities on this purpose	Number of Diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions identified; number of activities carried out
		5.1.2 Establishment of an information network to petition against and raise awareness on the violations of migrants' rights.	2022- 2025	1.834	SMD MEFA	Development of an information network to raise awareness on the violations of migrants' rights.	Number of awareness- raising campaigns;

		5.1.3 Organization of the annual Diaspora Media Forum.	2022 -2025	1.600	SMD MEFA	Organisation of Diaspora Media Forum.	Number of participants to the activity
		5.1.4 Carrying out an annual activity for TV programs for the Diaspora; Project for empowering TVSH 3 - the public television channel on Diaspora;	2021- 2025	10.000	SMD MEFA	Organization of the activity; Implementation of the project for the TVSH 3	Number of participants in the activity; project preparation; Project financing; Its implementation
		5.1.5 Preparation of projects on media and exchange and internships programs. Organisation of annual activities	2021- 2025	7.500	SMD MEFA MESY	Adoption and implementation of media projects; Implementation of internship programs; organization of an annual activity	Project preparation; Project financing; Number of internship programs; number of activities organised
		5.2 Informing the Albanian Diaspora 5.2.1 Periodic reporting on the quality of the websites of the institutions. Organisation of annual meetings with persons in charge of the state institutions' websites	2021 - 2025	2.280	SMD MEFA NAIS	Conducting reporting on the quality of institutions' websites and the information they provide for the Diaspora; Organization of the annual meeting	Number of reporting performed; Number of meetings held.

	5.2.2 Organizing an awareness-raising campaign on the registration of migrants and on the right to vote;	2021	5.000	MEFA MI SMD MIE MFE	Organisation of an information and awareness-raising campaign on migrants' registration;	Number of countries where the awareness-raising campaign will be organised; Preparation of on-line brochures on this purpose
	5.2.3 Organization of an annual activity, in cooperation with the Albanian Parliament, on the right to vote of Albanian citizens living abroad	2021	3.500	MEFA MI SMD MIE MFE	Organisation of activities;	Number of participants;
	5.2.4 Organisation of an annual activity and media action plan; Preparation of a promotional campaign and a special package for the Diaspora	2021 -2025	10.000	SMD MEFA MC	Conducting a promotional campaign aimed at attracting the Diaspora; Organization of an annual activity	Number of activities organised; Number of participants

Specific Objective F: Monitoring the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy Action Plan

Outcomes indicators: Publication of the Periodic Bulletin; Reporting from responsible institutions; Discussions on the proposals for the revision of the National Diaspora Strategy document

No.	Sub-objective	Activities to be undertaken	Term	Financial sources in 000 ALL Albanian	Responsible institution:	Outcomes & Indicators	
6	Monitoring and transparency	6.1 Monitoring and Evaluation 6.1.1 Publication of the Periodic Bulletin every 3 months on the implementation of the Action Plan. Reporting to the State Diaspora Committee for Diaspora and the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora	2021 -2025	2.280	SMD MEFA	Publication of the Periodic Bulletin; Reporting to the State Diaspora Committee for Diaspora and the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora	Number of Bulletins published; Number of reporting performed.
		6.1.2 Reporting in writing to the Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration of the National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Publications Centre and the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh.	2021 -2025	950	SMD	Reporting of the state institutions in charge of Diaspora to the Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.	Number of reporting performed

		6.1.3 Evaluation and discussions on the review of the National Diaspora Strategy in the Albanian Diaspora National Assembly	2021 -2025	684	SMD MEFA	Discussions on the proposals for amending/revising the National Diaspora Strategy and the Action Plan	Receiving proposals for amending the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan
		6.1.4 Drafting reports by institutions responsible for the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan	2021 -2025	1.330	SMD MEFA	Drafting of reports by the responsible institutions	Number of reporting performed

PILLAR 1	STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA	28 ACTIONS
PILLAR 2	ORGANIZATION OF DIASPORA	9 ACTIONS
PILLAR 3	ECONOMY AND BUSINESS	14 ACTION
PILLAR 4	EDUCATION AND TEACHING	10 ACTION
PILLAR 5	MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION	7 ACTION
PILLAR 6	MONITORING AND TRANSPARENCY	4 ACTION

PILLAR 1 STATE RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA

Action 1.1 Establishment of a new administrative culture

A1, A2, A3, A5, A12, A20

Action 1.2 Strengthening the legal framework on Diaspora

A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A16, A18

Action 1.3 Services and activities for the Diaspora

A10, A11, A17, A19, A21, A25, A26, A27, A28

Action 1.4 Strengthening the professional capacities and networks

A13, A14, A15, A22, A23, A24

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 1

Coordination of responsible state institutions the new legislation appoints for the state relations with the Diaspora, including: The National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora Publications Centre and the Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh. Drafting a detailed plan for financing the policies and actions foreseen in the National Strategy Action Plan. Establishment of a specialized unit for the review of Diaspora legislation so as to undertake the necessary amendments.

Adoption by the Diaspora State Committee of the Diaspora annual program of activities (activities involving books, education, culture, tourism and business) and, in cooperation with the Albanian Parliament, assessment of the level of representation and participation in these programs. Drafting of evaluating information for the Diaspora State Committee and Subcommittee and Diaspora and Migration Assembly.

Follow up to the necessary coordinating procedures to be discussed in the Diaspora State Committee on an annual basis and to project in the operating annual budget (successive) the funds needed to implement the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan until 2025.

Consider the approach of other existing national strategies or to be adopted with the National Strategy and Action Plan for Diaspora. This process will carry out the management of existing or future state policies in relation to policies for the Albanian communities abroad.

Drafting of annual reports by the responsible institutions whereby data and evaluations on the Albanian communities in the host countries shall be introduced. Drafting of a common publication on reporting on the Albanian Diaspora.

Review the existing framework of migration agreements with the countries hosting Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Negotiate the framework of employment agreements with the host countries in order to include in these training agreements, or to discuss them in particular. Reassessment in cooperation with EU countries and special projects to facilitate the implementation of employment agreements, taking advantage of the provisional and special legislation of the host countries, which have a shortage of manpower.

Promoting and strengthening Albania's relations with the countries hosting Albanian communities and the work program of the diplomatic and consular services, with a special focus on strengthening the status of the Albanian Diaspora.

Establishing coordination on the basis of an adopted program of projects with international donors, for the implementation of the Action Plan or covering the needs of the Albanian Diaspora.

Reassessing the existing legal acts in the field of migration, in view of expanding the sphere of protection of the Albanian communities abroad, in line with the international standards. It aims at their alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire* and the implementation of procedures for the finalisation of ratification of international instruments in this field (if not yet implemented).

Establishment and continuity of information structures for the orientation of Albanian citizens abroad on the use of consular and diplomatic services provided by Albanian missions (on-line platform). Providing information about non-governmental organizations accredited by the host country, which provide legal assistance and protection to foreign communities.

Evaluation and expansion of the National Civil Registry and the database with data on migrants and periodic review of the legal basis for the registration of migrants. Defining the responsibilities and data to be collected as well as identifying and planning the establishment of the relevant network and infrastructure. Organisation of public activities for the civil society focused on the system of registration and voting of citizens abroad.

Establishing Albanian Cultural Centres in countries hosting the Diaspora, in cooperation with the state of Kosovo, in view of preserving the national identity, and provide services and information to the Albanian communities in Diaspora.

Organisation of a network of foreign and Albanian scholars specialized in the field of migration and, civil servants specialized in institutions dealing with Diaspora and Migration policies. (Completion of the network with the names and details of researchers and civil servants from the National Diaspora Agency).

Implementation of general and specific trainings with the state administration in the field of migration and their inclusion in the programs of Albanian universities. Organisation of periodic trainings on domestic and international legislation for officials covering migration issues. Identification of the needs and experts in need of legal training. Development of related training modules and inclusion of such a module in the training of civil servants.

Drafting practical manuals related to migration issues and making them available to officials involved in the practical implementation of the migration legislation. Identification of laws/bylaws that are implemented in practice by each institution that covers certain issues related to the Diaspora and migration. Training and certification of the Albanian diplomatic corps regarding migration legislation and, in particular, on the rights of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

Promoting state cooperation with the institutions of the host countries which address migrants, women's rights and children's rights issues. Establishment of high level bilateral consultative commissions with the host countries for the protection of the rights of the Albanian diaspora communities and their periodical operation. Public information on the progress and development of this activity for the interested parties.

Drafting and dissemination of information (brochures, leaflets, websites, mobile apps, etc.) addressed to the Albanian communities in the Diaspora, on their status and rights, as well as the services provided by the diplomatic and consular missions and migrant associations, with the support of international organizations.

Establishment of regular contacts with the European Group of European Regional and Local Authorities on Asylum and Immigration (ERLAI) based in Brussels, to assess the possibilities of supporting the protection policy for Albanian communities in the Diaspora in the host EU countries.

Encouraging and intensifying contacts between Albanian organizations in the Diaspora and local associations, for the protection of emigrants. Identification of organizations in host countries for the protection of human and emigrant rights in these countries. Awareness raising through information available online, round tables and meetings on social and health protection in host and countries of origin.

Periodic reassessment of services policy, procedures and respective tariffs. Based on the information received from the representations, the drafting, by the National Diaspora Agency, of an annual report on the current situation of Albanian communities in Diaspora, with proposals on the Actions, to improve assistance provided to them. The report shall be discussed in the State Diaspora Committee.

Negotiation to sign bilateral agreements on social protection of migrants with host countries, in order for them to transfer social insurance to Albania. Review of the practices of collecting voluntary social security contributions and, if necessary, signing of agreements between the Social Insurance Institute and banks. (Reassessment of a Special Action Plan on the matter of Albanian migrants' pensions).

Establishment of a register for Albanian citizens serving the sentence as imprisoned abroad and organization of an annual meeting organized in cooperation with the Office of the Office of the Ombudsman and Albanian Red Cross on this issue. Discussion of the evaluation of the periodic information and conclusions for the State Diaspora Committee.

Organisation and supporting of networks (including international ones) of special groups and associations of the Albanian Diaspora based on interests, common professions, or geographical location. Provision of facilitations such as: various publications in newspapers or websites that enable the creation of professional groups and common interests. Mediation for establishing contacts between "homologous" groups in different countries to establish similar operational networks.

Supporting, on a project-basis, Albanian Diaspora organizations, on the establishment of local advisory structures for foreign citizens in cities where Albanian migrants are concentrated, on the basis of guidelines prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Council of Europe.

Conduct of awareness campaigns regarding various opportunities to appeal against violations of migrants' rights, in the structures of host countries as well as in international ones, which deal with the protection and respect of human rights and the protection of migrants rights, through the following activities:

- Publication of this information on the migration website dedicated to this issue,
- Publication in Albanian newspapers abroad,
- Publication and distribution of leaflets related to these information,
- Publication of the above-mentioned rights on websites developed by the Albanian community operating abroad.

Periodic reporting from the Albanian government on cases of violation of the rights of Albanian migrants. (Some of the international structures dealing with these rights include:

- Special rapporteur for migrant's rights of the United Nations.
- Commissioner for Human rights of the Council of Europe of the Council of Europe.
- European Court of Human Rights.
- European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance for CoE member states.
- Commission for Petition of European Parliament for the EU.
- EU Ombudsman

Coordination and organization of meetings or "Days of Albania" in the host countries of the Albanian communities in the Diaspora on the basis of an annual program as well as other periodic activities for Albanian tourism and investment-related facilities.

Coordination with public and private Health Institutions, on preparing a campaign for the promotion of health tourism, mainly related to some services on which Albania has advantages (dental, neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, etc.).

Involvement of the Albanian communities in Diaspora in the cultural life of the host country and in Albania aiming at their promoting (signing and/or amending bilateral agreements with the host countries of the Diaspora, including the interests of the latter in these agreements) and promoting the creation of annual activities for this purpose.

PILLAR 2**ORGANIZATION OF**

Action 2.1 Mechanisms for supporting Diaspora activities

A29, A30, A31, A32

Action 2.2 Links with the Albanian Diaspora

A36, A37

Action 2.3 “Ambassador of the Nation” Award

A33

Action 2.4 Diaspora Certificates

A34

Action 2.5 Specialist and scholars on Albanian Diaspora

A35

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 2

Organizing the action plan of the line institutions for Diaspora with the Diaspora Coordinating Council for strengthening organisation of the Albanian communities and the involvement in the socio-economic development of Albania.

Organizing the Albanian Diaspora Assembly in cooperation with the Diaspora Coordination Council, as the most important event of the Albanian communities abroad. Periodic organization of a pan-national activity, aiming at reviewing the current policies for the mobilization of the Albanian Diaspora, which will address issues such as the preservation of language and culture, the brain-drain phenomenon and investments from the Diaspora in Albania.

Coordination with the Republic of Kosovo in the field of relations with the Albanian Diaspora in the implementation and re-evaluation of existing agreements between the two countries. Drafting and implementation of bilateral agreements related to the Diaspora with all countries which are considered important and "productive" for the Albanian Diaspora worldwide.

Assessment of the level of organisation of the Albanian Diaspora communities in the host countries. Organisation of activities based on professions which promote professional networks and identification of human resources.

Promotion of the cases of successful Diaspora personalities in Albania and awarding of the title "Ambassador of the Nation". Establishment of the network of Ambassadors of the Nation (drafting of necessary related legal acts).

Preparation of the Diaspora Certificate, which can be applied on-line and, besides registering the interested party, it provides a printable document ("I am Albanian"), which can be placed in open spaces to affirm the Albanian national identity. It will be specially awarded to children finishing the Summer School project.

Creation of the Qualified Diaspora Register and implementation of national and joint programs with international institutions in order to attract qualified members of the diaspora to serve the Albanian economy. Evaluation of programs that encourage investors to hire qualified diaspora staff abroad. Based on these programs, coordination and creation of opportunities for Albanian students to be welcomed and assisted by members of the Albanian Diaspora to facilitate their studies at foreign universities through a network set up for this purpose in the Diaspora.

Identification of cultural, sports, educational, social, scientific associations operating in the host countries as well as talented and successful individuals operating in the Diaspora. Creation of a separate registry for this purpose.

Promoting the organization of the Women's Network in Diaspora and creating special policies in this regard. Organizing the Diaspora Women Summit in Albania or abroad. Establishing a sustainable cooperation network with organizations and institutions covering this issue in host countries and with civil society in Albania for this purpose.

PILLAR 3 ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

Action 3.1 Attracting investments from the Diaspora

A38, A39, A42, A44, A50

Action 3.2 Formalisation of remittances

A40, A41, A43, A48

Action 3.3 Engagement of the Diaspora in the economic life of the country

A45, A46, A47, A49, A51

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 3

Empowerment of the Diaspora Business Chamber in cooperation with the network of business entities in the Diaspora. Establishment of the Diaspora Business Register as a basis for organising the Diaspora Business Chamber as the leader of business relations with the state administration.

Establishment of administrative structures in local government to inform and support investments by stakeholders in the Diaspora. Such information of the Diaspora will be coordinated on investment opportunities in Albania to motivate Albanian businesses or migrants to invest in specific sectors of the economy.

Annual assessment on remittances and stimulating banking policies for the Albanian Diaspora under the leadership of the Bank of Albania. Develop and implement a coherent and comprehensive policy for the administration of Diaspora remittances. Reassessment of measures to increase migrant remittance flows by motivating migrants to bring their savings to Albania.

Annual review of actions for the transfer of migrant remittances from informal to formal transfer routes, by applying less operational costs. Establishment of a frequent communication channel with the banking system representatives on this matter. Encouraging private companies to attract remittances through financial products (such as securities).

Establishing special administrative offices in the relevant institutions of economy for the treatment of Albanian Diaspora, especially in the implementation of the migrant's remittance policies and facilitating the attraction of investments from the Diaspora.

Collaboration with the Bank of Albania and the private banking system on expansion of banking services in the host countries of the Diaspora as well as for their relatives in Albania (mainly in rural areas). Encouragement of banks in host countries to establish "ad-hoc" services for migrants (as far as possible and negotiable) with the help of Albanian Migrant Associations.

Periodic organization of meetings with business networks in the Diaspora and the exchange of necessary related information from any institution covering the field of interest to invest in the homeland.

Assessment and promotion of circular migration between Albania and the host countries of Albanian communities in the diaspora through favourable actions or negotiations of bilateral agreements (prioritising Greece and Italy). Establishment of a contact and coordination office for the assessment and monitoring of the state of foreign labour markets and communication of this information to the responsible institutions.

Drafting of a special annual program for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food products, by organizing periodic activities serving to the organized networks of Albanian producers and the network of Albanian businesses in the Diaspora trading such products.

Development of annual activities in the area of domestic products in coordination with acquiring businesses in Diaspora in order to create a map of restaurants and culinary businesses in the host countries to link with a special project acquiring and selling businesses domestically and abroad.

Development of a special assistance program for the micro-crediting institutions, in view of implementing policies aimed at channelling remittances through agreements with financial institutions in host countries. Encourage migrant associations promote local development through voluntary fund-raising by its members in order to fund various projects in their towns or villages.

Reassessment of policies to encourage the repatriation of skilled migrants. Assessment of the supply and demand for qualified personnel in the Albanian labour market and establishment of contacts between migrants and medium and large enterprises in Albania, by creating an electronic database of CVs of qualified migrants.

Periodic reassessment of services policy, procedures and respective tariffs. Based on the information received from the representations, the drafting, by the National Diaspora Agency, of an annual report on the current situation of Albanian communities in Diaspora, with proposals on the Actions, to improve assistance provided to them. The report shall be discussed in the State Diaspora Committee.

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will coordinate the implementation in cooperation with the private business sector of a program for the dissemination of economic information and drafting the schedule of annual periodic activities, which promotes business relations between the Albanian communities in the Diaspora with each other and the homeland.

Implementation of national holidays for the community in cooperation with the private sector, non-profit organizations, sports federations and promotion by responsible tourism institutions operating in important markets, will result in significantly increasing tourist flows.

PILLAR 4 EDUCATION AND TEACHING

Action 4.1 Program on Albanian culture and language

A52, A54, A58

Action 4.2 Teachers in the Diaspora

A55, A56

Action 4.3 Textbooks for the Diaspora

A53, A57

Action 4.4 Students in Diaspora

A59, A60, A61

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 4

Review of practices and conditions for the education of the younger generations of the diaspora in Albanian tongue. Reassessment of the drafting of standard curricula for teaching in the Albanian language and the recognition of the Albanian cultural heritage for children in the Diaspora.

Annual assessment of the needs for books in view of learning in Albanian language and the teaching Albanian cultural heritage to children in the Diaspora. Periodic improvement of joint curricula with Kosovo, for teaching in Albanian language. Support in the implementation of joint curricula.

Coordination and promotion of the joint agreements with the state of Kosovo supporting Albanian language and culture teaching in the Diaspora. Reassessment of the legal framework regarding the responsibility of the Albanian State to enable Albanian language learning for the new generation of Albanian communities in the diaspora.

Updating the Register of Teachers in the Diaspora and the programs supporting the implementation of standards for teachers in the Diaspora. On-going teacher certification and drafting of a pension scheme for teachers in the Diaspora. Organisation of annual educational activities with Albanian teachers and students in the Diaspora.

Establishment of a permanent structure which will follow the training of teachers in the Diaspora. Ongoing provision of textbooks for the diaspora and training of teachers on joint curricula with Kosovo. Sending contracted teachers from Albania to host countries by the National Agency for Diaspora.

Development of the "Learn Albanian" and "e-book" project (online download of textbooks placed in the education program for the Diaspora) in order to distribute books worldwide and create facilities to supply everyone with the necessary supplementary materials for language learning and Albanian culture.

Assessment and signing of cooperation agreements with educational institutions in the host countries (pursuant to domestic legislation), for opening a number of Albanian language courses in schools and educational facilities located in these countries. (Creation and promotion of programs for teaching the Albanian language for the children of Albanian emigrants, in cooperation with the relevant structures of the host countries).

Assessment and orientation of programs/donors who offer study abroad scholarships to the areas of expertise that Albania needs. Review of the inclusion of the return condition in Albania (for a period of not less than one year) for all students receiving scholarships abroad, in the framework of various donor study programs for Albania.

Creating a register of Albanian students studying at universities abroad and in the fields where they specialize. Develop a project for the promotion of communication between students abroad.

Compiling an evaluation report on the difficulties of Albanian students studying abroad and on the factors that affect this situation. It shall be drafted by the State Diaspora Committee.

PILLAR 5 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Action 5.1 Supporting information and media networks
in Diaspora

A62, A63, A66, A67

Action 5.2 Informing the Albanian Diaspora

A64, A65

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 5

Establishment and update of the database of Diaspora newspapers, websites, radios and televisions, active in countries considered national Diaspora policy priorities. Establishment of Albanian TV and radio networks in the diaspora and implementation of an action plan for communication and training of journalists in the Diaspora with incentive projects and annual activities for this purpose.

Establishment of an information network for Albanian and foreign media to appeal and raise awareness of the violations of the rights of Albanian migrants in the relevant structures of the host countries as well as in those of international organizations. Establishment of the Diaspora Media Forum and organization of an annual activity.

Assessing the quality of state institutions websites for detailed information on Albanian communities abroad, by opening a section dedicated to this topic (where necessary). Conducting periodic meetings (every 6 months) to assess and coordinate with the "custodians" of the institutions' informational websites the level of information the latter provide for the Albanian Diaspora.

Planning and implementation of an informative campaign on:

- Issues related to migration and diaspora
- Large-scale promotion of migrant registration and information on the right to vote (upon approval);
- The identity of Albanians, Albanian history and culture in the diaspora
- Strengthening the newspaper "Albanian Diaspora" with information resources on issues of interest to migration and diaspora and treatment of the latest political, social and economic developments in the country;

Reflecting in this campaign the process that Diaspora and migration will be an integral part of the political and economic developments of Albania.

Review and evaluation of the broadcasting area by the Albanian national televisions and radios in all countries where there are communities of the Albanian diaspora and migrants. Creating and promoting television programs in the country regarding the topic of the diaspora and its protagonist role in the Albanian society. Empowering TVSH 3 - the public TV channel on Diaspora issues. Encouraging agreements with the media in host countries, aiming at broadcasting programs for Albanian communities.

Establishment of media projects that promote the creation of information networks for students and coordination of institutions responsible for education to promote the exchange and internship programs of Albanian universities with universities in host countries with a high participation of Albanian students.

Organizing a coordinated media action plan to promote and motivate the Albanian diaspora to take advantage of Albania for tourism and investment purposes. Drafting by the tourism line institutions of a promotional campaign, in cooperation with the private sector of a package that meets the expectations. Well-known diaspora figures in each market can be involved as icons of this campaign.

PILLAR 6 - MONITORING AND TRANSPARENCY

Action 6.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

A69, A70, A71, A72

ACTIONS INCLUDED IN PILLAR 6

Monitoring the Action Plan of the National Diaspora Strategy on quarterly evaluations (with the Periodic Bulletin) and providing information for the Diaspora State Committee and the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora. The Subcommittee will, when deems it necessary, propose that the Assembly every year shall adopt a resolution on addressing migration and diaspora.

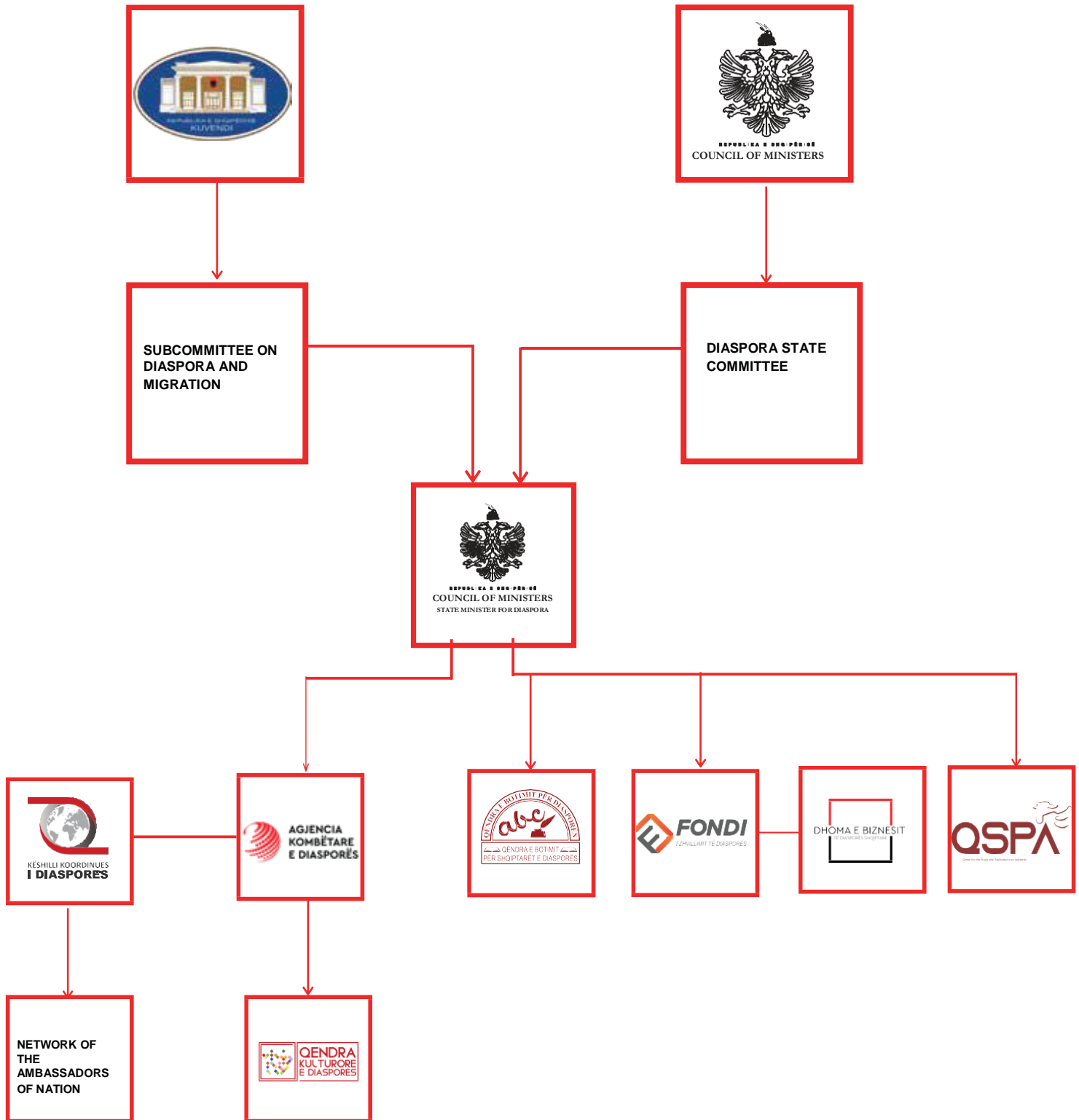
Evaluation by the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora and the State Committee on Diaspora in separate meetings of the Reporting documents from the following institution:
National Diaspora Agency, the Albanian
Diaspora Development Fund, the Diaspora
Publication Centre and the
Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh.

The evaluation, discussion and proposals for changes to the National Strategy document and the action plan at the National Albanian Diaspora Assembly. These proposals will be considered as initiatives to carry out possible changes of the process.

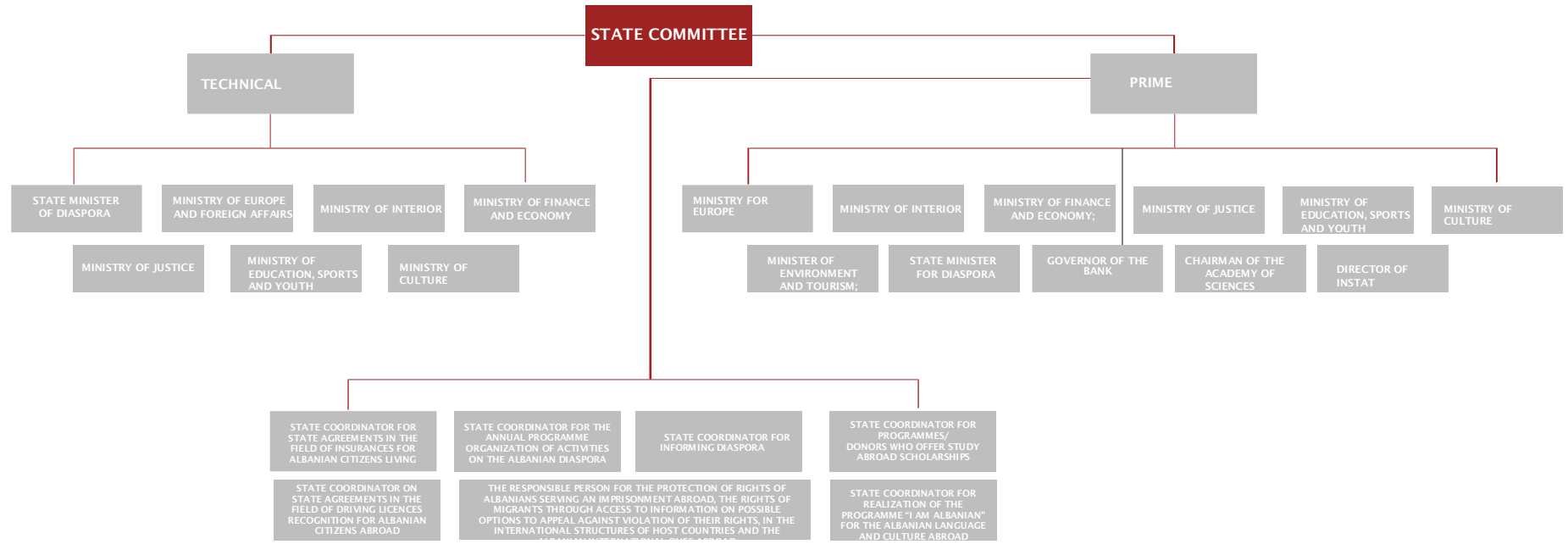
Determination of the indicators for the identification of the implementation level of the actions set out in this strategy. Obligations of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the strategy to draft periodic reports of the actions undertaken, including quantitative and qualitative monitoring data, based on the determined indicators.

**ANNEX III – STRUCTURE OF STATE INSTITUTIONS ON
DIASPORA**

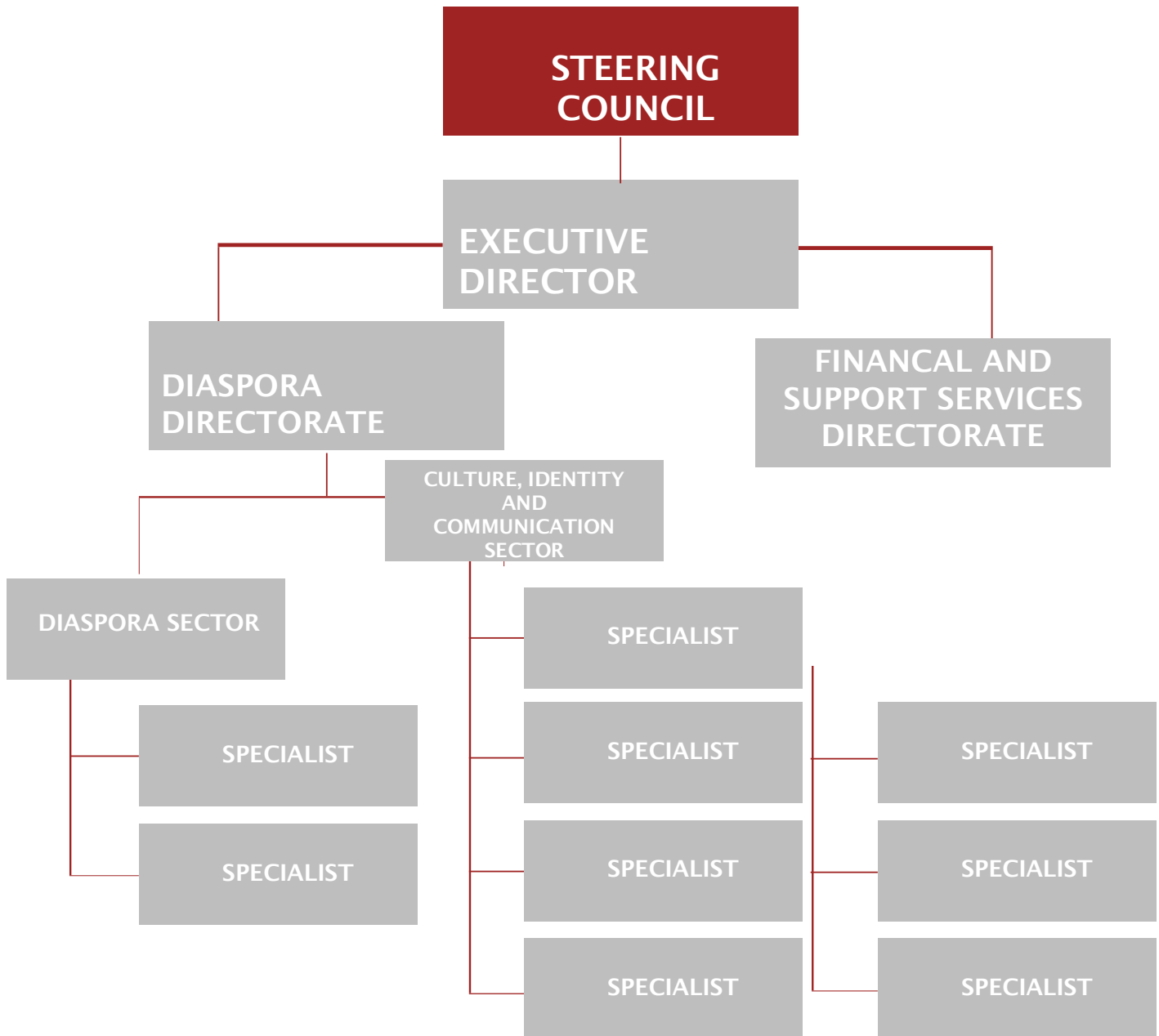
STATE STRUCTURE ON DIASPORA



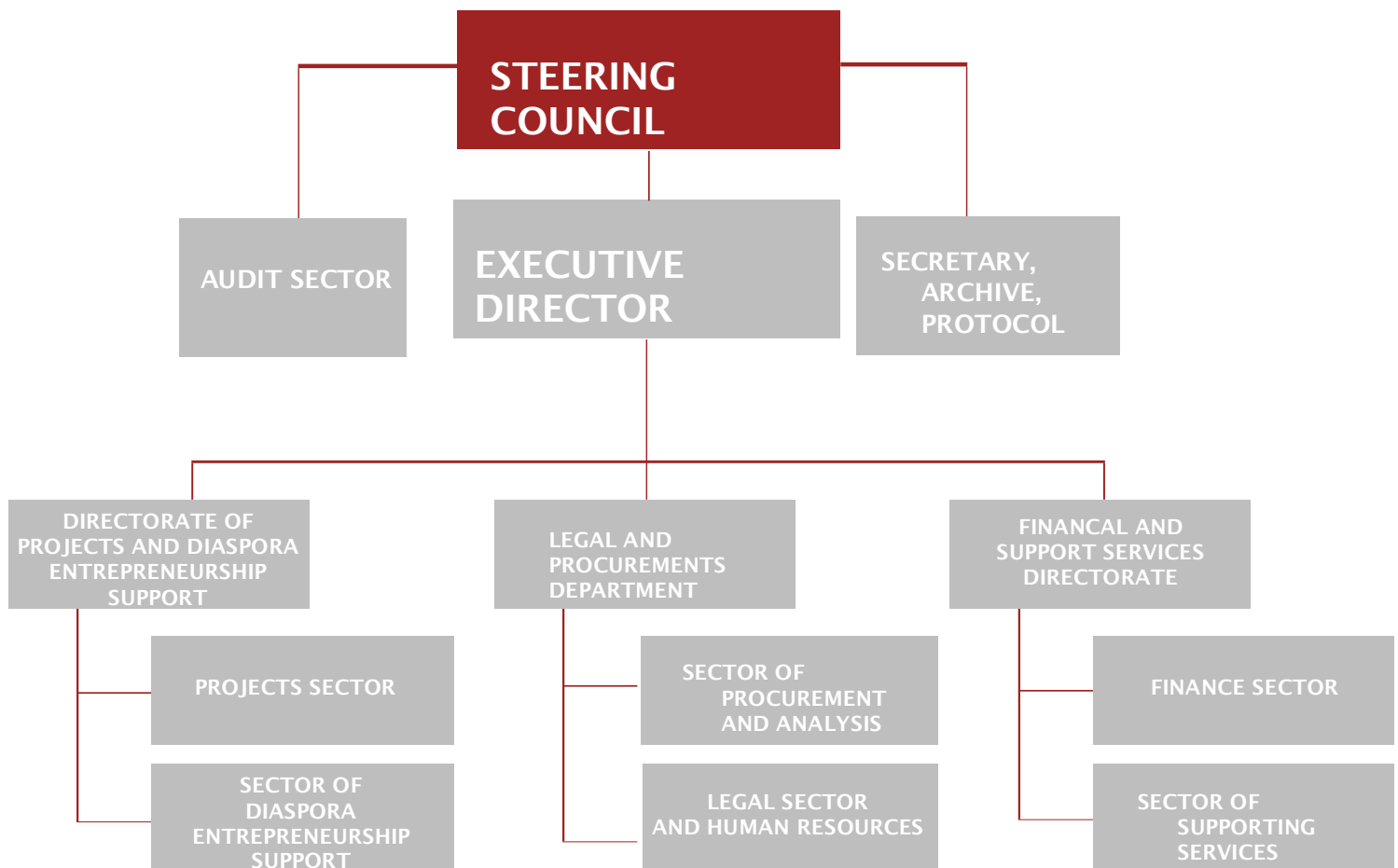
DIASPORA STATE COMMITTEE



NATIONAL DIASPORA AGENCY STRUCTURE



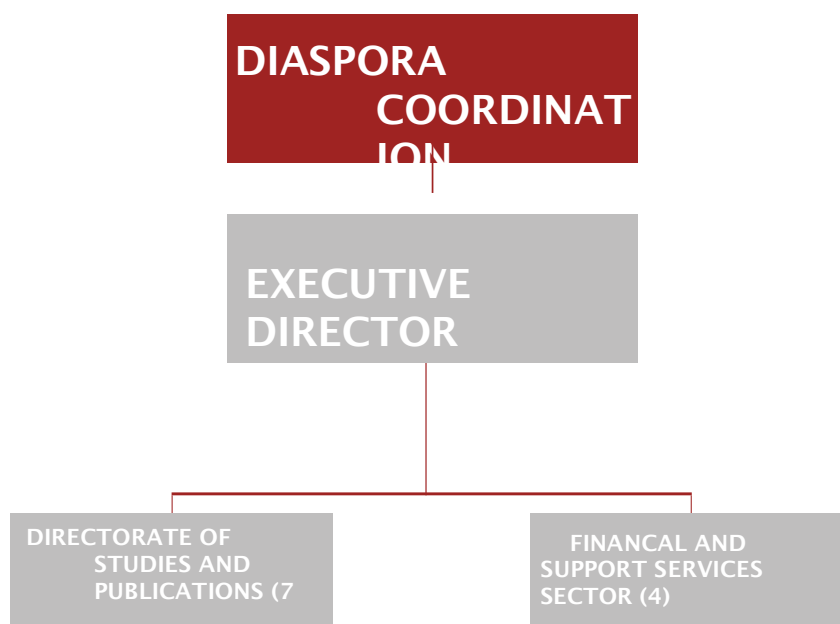
STRUCTURE OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FUND



PUBLISHING CENTRE FOR DIASPORA SECTOR



THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY AND PUBLICATIONS ON ARBËRESH



ANNEX IV - DOCUMENTS REVIEW DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

ANNEX IV – DOCUMENTS REVIEW DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE REVIEW OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND ITS ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The relationship with the Albanian diaspora for the Republic of Albania is of a quality subject to changes over time. The National Strategy on Diaspora and the Action Plan 2021 - 2025, based on the need to review the document, provides for the development of its review in three evaluation phases.

In the review process, as the accompaniment to the National Strategy of the Albanian Diaspora and the Action Plan 2021 - 2025, these three phases describe the methodology which will be followed from strengthening the capacity of state structures and relations with the Albanian Diaspora to the transition to a strategy of adapted in the implementation of the improvement of the state policy for the Albanian diaspora.

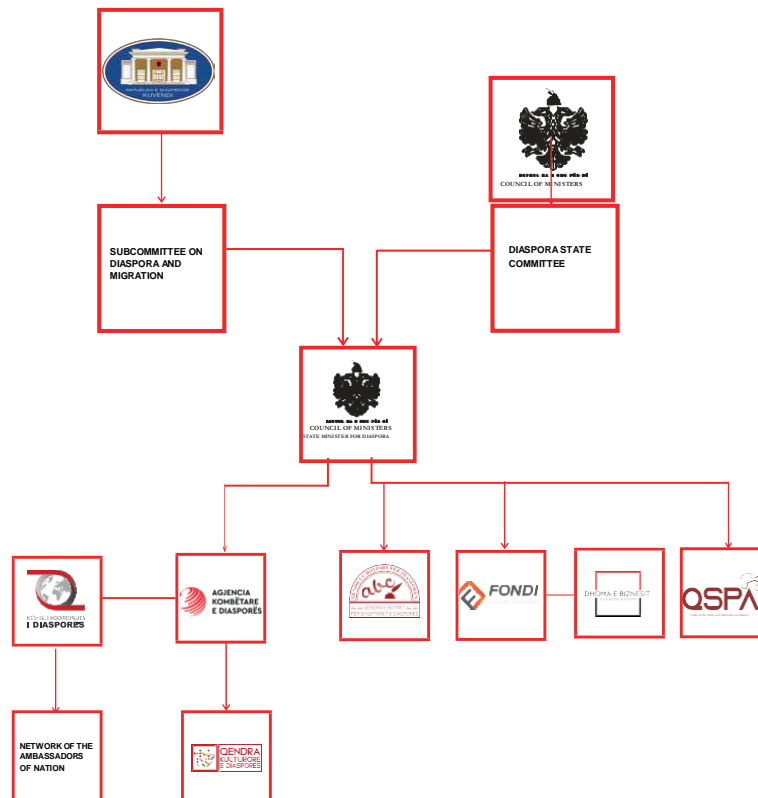
PHASE 1 (2021 UNTIL MID-2023): SETTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CULTURE

The First Phase will assess the interaction of state policy with the National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan 2021-2025 which will determine the need to have the appropriate apparatus and institutional infrastructure for this type of engagement. Emphasis will be especially be placed on strengthening the capacities of state institutions for Diaspora, currently established or to be established, as follows:

- Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration
- State Diaspora Committee
- Diaspora Coordination Council
- National Diaspora Agency
- Albanian Diaspora Development Fund
- Publishing Centre for Diaspora
- Albanian Culture Centres abroad
- Centre for the Study and Publications on Arbëresh
- Administrative Structures on Diaspora and Migration in each municipality

At this stage, in addition to strengthening the institutional framework, expanding and promoting transparency in the evaluation and operation of state policies for Diaspora, will also be important. This process will be coordinated by the Minister responsible for Diaspora who will carry out:

- Engagement of state institutions according to the field of responsibility;
- Professional administration for achieving the goals set out for the Albanian Diaspora;
- Establishment of a linked operational accountability system as a foundation for the operation of strategy activities;
- Commitment of Albanian institutions to establish a complete framework of interaction in the implementation of the document of the National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan 2021-2025



National institutional framework on diaspora commitment

PHASE 2 (MID-2023 - 2024) MID-TERM REVIEW: INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATED SECTORAL COMMITMENT

In the Second Evaluation Phase of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, the harmonization of the administrative actions of the institutions responsible for its implementation will be verified. This will establish a process for recommendations in order to strengthen the cooperation between the institutions identified in the Action Plan of the Albanian Diaspora National Strategy, as well as the contribution of other non-governmental, national or international partners.

This assessment will address the important transition from the second to the third phase aiming at defining the goals of the medium-term review of the National Diaspora Strategy and the Action Plan 2021-2025 document.

During the consultations for the review of the strategy it was recommended that the harmonization process be carried out so as to be applicable in the administrative system, given that the start of activities will be systematically operational in 2022 in accordance with the revised Strategy and the Action Plan 2021-2025 document. This mechanism will be further complemented by joint meetings of the Diaspora State Committee and reporting to the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration. The latter will have a special responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation framework with a re-evaluation structure of the working group, which will function as follows:

FORM OF THE WORKING GROUP COMPREHENSIVE COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUPS

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE MINISTER FOR DIASPORA

DIRECTORS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR DIASPORA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE RESPONSIBLE SECTORS SET OUT IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA 2021-2025

REPRESENTATIVE OF NON-GOVERNMENT PARTNERS, SUCH AS ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS ON DIASPORA ISSUES

PHASE 3 - WITHDRAWAL/EXIT STRATEGY: DEVELOPMENT VISION SCALING

In the Third Phase, the conclusions and goals of the engagement for the development of the document of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, will be defined. As it is a revised document, it already has in place the basic method of initial reassessment. The main goal is to strengthen state and administrative actions on the status of the relationship between the Republic of Albania and the Albanian Diaspora. This important moment represents the quality of the third phase for the re-evaluation of the long-term vision of the relationship with the Albanian Diaspora for the upcoming period.

The frameworks and activities of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 are designed to provide, subsequently, the scaling and review of the progress of each activity and each of action pillar. Action Plan activities will provide a planned action base for responsible state institutions. They are organized in such a way these institutions can scale their vision for the development and organization of new activities to include Diaspora.

During the final review of the document of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, the use of a process which will allow the Albanian government to leave/withdraw from the governance of the strategy, when this is applicable, is recommended. Thus, it will be possible for the Albanian government and other partners to design the next strategy phase and use the awareness components on its impact to scale the vision and goals for Diaspora engagement.

With the scaling process, new pressures will arise, both in design and implementation. It is recommended that within the strategy review process, an "exit" strategy be drafted with several steps that will allow the government and its partners to provide the model for scaling up the development vision for the next step of the state policies for the Albanian Diaspora.

CONCLUSIONS

In drafting and implementing the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, it was ensured that transparency and accountability shall continue to evolve with its development. It will create by itself the mechanism which will push the strategy forward towards application and development to be implemented based on the state needs and possibilities of the Republic of Albania.

The three-stage approach for the review process is provided as a guide, so that the state policy framework is complemented by the institutional cooperation spirit and in cooperation with national and international partners. That is why, this appendix assesses that the impact of the National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 will increase the chances of success and self-correction by establishing space that will be further developed in the future strategy in the years to come.

The National Diaspora Strategy and its Action Plan 2021-2025 have been designed in such a way as to create a work culture, which is based on the cooperation of state institutions for the Diaspora with other responsible institutions, as well as other partners. This in itself will increase Diaspora's confidence in the implementation mechanisms, which will contribute to the development and inclusion of the Albanian Diaspora in the nation's future. The future is a choice. Strategy is the path towards it.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL WORKING GROUP

Pandeli Majko

State Minister for Diaspora - Chair

Etjen Xhafaj

Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs - Member

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Deputy Minister of Education, Sports and Youth - Member

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Fjoralba Caka

Deputy Minister of Justice - Member

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