

# Albania

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Albania. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Albania.

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## Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

### 1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

#### 1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

##### 1.1.1a

**Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?**

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania has a National AMR action plan developed for the surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. The World Health Organization (WHO) Library of National Action Plans shows that Albania does not have a National AMR action plan. [1] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, also states that Albania does not have a National AMR action plan. [2] There is no evidence of a National AMR action plan on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [3, 4, 5] However, in the Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self Assessment 2018-2019, Albania reports to have a National AMR action plan under development. [6] Furthermore, in February 2019, Albania has participated in the Regional Workshop on a 'One Health' Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance in EU Pre-accession Countries taking place in Serbia. [7] There is no further information available on when the plan under development will be ready.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Documents and Forms". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/dokumenta-dhe-formulare/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Strategic Documents". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/dokumenta-strategjike/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[6] Global Database for Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self Assessment. 2018-2019. "Albania". [<https://amrcountryprogress.org/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[7] European Food Safety Authority. February 2019. "Regional Workshop on a 'One Health' Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance in EU Preaccession Countries". [<https://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/antimicrobial-resistance-one-health-approach-EU-preaccession-countries.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

##### 1.1.1b

**Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?**

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2 , Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a national laboratory/laboratory system, which tests for one, but not all of the WHO priority AMR pathogens in Albania. The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, states that Albania has the capacity to test for certain pathogens such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis and that the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) has good microbiological capacity to identify bacterial infections and test for antibiotic resistance. [1] The University Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi" serves as the mycobacteriology reference laboratory testing for mycobacterium tuberculosis. [2] Although the ISHP website lists the national reference microbiological laboratories, which include the national reference laboratories in bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, etc., it does not provide any information on what these laboratories do and the types of tests that they conduct. [3] There is no information provided on sentinel sites, however ISHP reports that the surveillance system of the Haemophilus influenzae type b is hospital based and case based. [4] The country does not have a National AMR action plan developed for the surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. [5,6,7] There is no further evidence provided on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [8]

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [2] Fight Against Tuberculosis in the Central and Eastern Europe (FATE). [<https://fate-consortium.org/partners/microbiology-department-national-tuberculosis-reference-laboratory/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Reference Microbiological Laboratories". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/labororet-mikrobiologjike-te-references/#>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Functions of ISHP". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/funksionet-e-ishp/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [5] World Health Organization (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Documents and Forms". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/dokumenta-dhe-formulare/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [7] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Strategic Documents". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/dokumenta-strategjike/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [8] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

**1.1.1c**

**Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that the government is conducting detection or surveillance activities (e.g. in soil, waterways, etc.) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. No evidence of AMR surveillance activities was found on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. [1] There is also no evidence of surveillance activities in soil, waterways, etc. for AMR residues or organisms on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Institute of Public Health. [2, 3, 4] The Institute of Public Health has a Department of Environment and Health, however it does not provide any information on AMR surveillance activities. [5] Furthermore, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) conducts microbiological tests for water and soil, but it does not include antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. [6] There is no evidence provided by the Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. [7] As per a review of the World Health Organization (WHO) Library of National Action Plans, Albania does not have an AMR national plan [8].

- [1] Ministry of Tourism and Environment. "Environment Strategy". [<http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/strategjia-e-mjedisit/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Documents and Forms". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/dokumenta-dhe-formulare/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Strategic Documents". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/dokumenta-strategjike/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Department of Environment and Health". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-mjedisit-dhe-shendetit/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [6] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Microbiological Laboratory of Water, Air, and Soil". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/laboratori-i-mikrobiologjise-se-ujit-ajrit-tokes/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [7] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.
- [8] World Health Organization (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

## 1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

### 1.1.2a

**Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

National legislation requires prescriptions of antibiotics for human use in Albania. Article 53 ("Classification of medicines according to medical prescription") under Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" enacted on 31 July 2014 provisions that medicinal products are subject to medical prescription when they: (i) are likely to present a danger either directly or indirectly, even when used correctly, if utilized without medical supervision; (ii) are frequently and to a very wide extent used incorrectly, and as a result are likely to present a direct or indirect danger to human health; (iii) contain substances or preparations thereof, the activity and/or adverse reactions of which require further investigation; (iv) are normally prescribed by a doctor for parenteral treatment. [1] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 also states that Albania has enacted legislation that requires prescription of antibiotics. [2] The approved list of medicines that do not require prescriptions, does not include antibiotics, as per Order No. 501 "On the Approval of Medicines that do not Require Medical Prescription in the Republic of Albania" of 3 July 2018 by the Minister of Health and Social Protection. [3] There is however evidence that there are gaps in enforcement. Studies in 2014 and news in 2019 report that antibiotics are accessed without prescription in pharmacies and are used for self-medication in many cases. [4, 5] Studies report that 78.14% of young adults report to use antibiotics for self-medication without prescription. The three main reasons for self-medication include fever, sore throat, and cough. Amoxicillin is the most used antibiotic obtained without prescription in the pharmacies. The news report that Albania has the second highest rates in Europe for using antibiotics without prescription, and that antibiotics are often readily available by pharmacists without prescription.

[1] Government of Albania. 2014. Law No.105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service". [[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\\_nr\\_105\\_dt\\_31\\_7\\_2014\\_18582\\_1.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj_nr_105_dt_31_7_2014_18582_1.pdf)]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Minister of Health and Social Protection. Order No. 501 of 3 July 2018. "On the Approval of Medicines that do not Require

Medical Prescription in the Republic of Albania".

[<http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202018/Fletore%20103/URDHER%20nr.%20501,%20date%203.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Jorgji, K. et. al. 2014. "Evaluation of use of antibiotics without prescription among young adults in Albania case study: Tirana and Fier District". Hippokratia 18

[3] : 217-20. [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25694754/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] Shqiptarja.com. 2019. "Unprescribed use of antibiotics: Usage of medications without prescription causes serious health damage (Perdorimi i antibiotikeve pa kriter: Marrja e barnave pa recete sjell deme serioze per shendetin)".

[<https://shqiptarja.com/lajm/perdorimi-pa-kriter-i-antibiotikeve-mjeku-infeksionist-kalo-marrja-e-barnave-pa-recete-sjell-deme-serioze-per-shendetin>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

### 1.1.2b

#### Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of national legislation or regulation in place in Albania requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals, although there is evidence of restrictions for other types of additives to feed. As per Article 99 of Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania" enacted on 29 September 2011, veterinary medical products may not be used without a medical prescription if they contain narcotic and psychotropic substances, and if restrictions on the use of veterinary medical products are required by European Union Legislation. Furthermore, medicated animal feed for animals, which are used for human consumption, may only be used by veterinary prescription and in accordance to the prescribed usage as per Article 83 of the law. The law also states that veterinary medicinal products may not be traded without a trading certificate. [1] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, does not mention whether Albania has enacted legislation that requires prescription for antibiotic use in animals, but it states that antibiotic treatment of food animals remains a major concern in the country, and it is one of the main drivers of antimicrobial resistance through the food chain. It also states that the Veterinary sector in Albania is very strong and will be able follow international best practices in the future. [2] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Institute of Food Security and Veterinary (ISUV). [3, 4, 5] Lastly, the World Health Organization (WHO) Library of National Action Plans shows that Albania does not have a National AMR action plan. [6]

[1] Government of Albania. 2011. Law No.10465 of 29 September 2011. "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [<http://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ligji-per-Sherbimin-Veterinar-i-ndryshuar-me-26.03.13.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18/en/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[5] Institute of Food Security and Veterinary (ISUV). [<http://www.isuv.gov.al/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[6] World Health Organization (WHO). "Library of National Action Plans". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

## 1.2 ZOOBOTIC DISEASE

### 1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

#### 1.2.1a

**Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is legislation and regulation referring to zoonotic disease in Albania. Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania" of 29 September 2011 lays out the procedures for the prevention, monitoring, diagnosis, treatment and eradication of diseases in animals in order to protect the public health from zoonotic diseases. [1] This law also sets out that the veterinary service prepares annual plans on the control, monitoring, and surveillance of diseases that affect animal health and public health based on the epidemiological situation in the country. The law does not make specific mention of the type of zoonotic disease and zoonotic agent; however, it states that a list of zoonotic diseases of public health concern is prepared by the competent authority. This list is found in Regulation No. 327 "On the Monitoring of Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agents" of 22 November 2012, issued by the then Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection. The regulation provides a list of zoonosis to be monitored along with their zoonotic agents which include: brucellosis, campylobacteriosis, echinococcosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, trichinellosis, tuberculosis mycobacterium bovis, verotoxigenic Escherichia coli. [2] Furthermore, Law No. 15/2016 "On Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases" of 10 March 2016, governs the surveillance and control of communicable diseases including zoonotic diseases. The law does not specify any particular zoonotic disease, but it includes them as a category of communicable diseases that threaten public health. [3] There is no further evidence of updated legislation and regulation referring to zoonotic disease in Albania. [4]

[1] Government of Albania. 2011. Law No.10465 of 29 September 2011. "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [<http://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ligji-per-Sherbimin-Veterinar-i-ndryshuar-me-26.03.13.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020..

[2] Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.327 of 22 November 2012. "On the Monitoring of Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agents". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Monitorimin\\_e\\_Zoonozave\\_dhe\\_Agjenteve\\_Zoonotike..pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Monitorimin_e_Zoonozave_dhe_Agjenteve_Zoonotike..pdf)]. Accessed 27 July 2020..

[3] Government of Albania. 2016. Law No. 15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases". [<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Integrimi/ligj-nr.-15-dt.-10.3.2016-1.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Regulation". [<https://bujqesia.gov.al/rregullore-2/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

#### 1.2.1b

**Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has a national regulation that includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection has issued Regulation No.91 "On Certain Protective Measures Against Avian Influenza and Movement of Accompanying Birds in the Territory of the Republic of Albania" of 28 March 2012, which identifies the risk of avian influenza

and lays out specific preventative steps. These steps include, a load of no more than 5 birds, quarantine of birds for 30 days prior to reallocation, 30 days of quarantine after importation, vaccination against avian influenza, quarantine of birds for 10 days before exportation and testing for the antigen of avian influenza. [1] Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection has issued Regulation No.431 "On the Fight Against Rabies in Animals" of 11 September 2006, which identifies the risk of rabies and requires that preventative measures are taken once a year during the months of February-March through preventative vaccination of all dogs and cats over three months old. Other preventative measures include shelters for the care of stray cats and dogs, identification of stray cats and dogs, their sterilization and vaccination. Furthermore, cats and dogs are not allowed in fairs without the owner having the animal identification and health records, and certificate of vaccination against rabies. [2]

[1] Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.91 of 28 March 2012. "On Certain Protective Measures Against Avian Influenza and Movement of Accompanying Birds in the Territory of the Republic of Albania".

[[https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Influences\\_Avjare\\_dhe\\_Levizjeve.pdf](https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Influences_Avjare_dhe_Levizjeve.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.431 of 11 September 2006. "On the Fight Against Rabies in Animals". [[https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Luftimin\\_e\\_Semundjes\\_se\\_Terbimit.pdf](https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Luftimin_e_Semundjes_se_Terbimit.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

### 1.2.1c

**Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has national regulation that accounts for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. The regulation accounting for surveillance of multiple pathogens of public health concern, is separate from that of control. As noted in the Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania has identified anthrax, brucellosis, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), leishmaniasis and leptospirosis as zoonotic diseases of greatest public health concern within the country. [1] The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection has issued Regulation No.327 "On the Monitoring of Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agents" of 22 November 2012, lays out the rules for the monitoring of zoonotic diseases, zoonotic agents, and antimicrobial resistance related to zoonotic agents, as well as epidemiological surveillance, and exchange of information regarding zoonosis. The regulation provides a list of zoonosis to be monitored along with the zoonotic agents that cause them, which include: brucellosis, campylobacteriosis, echinococcosis, listeriosis, salmonellosis, trichinellosis, tuberculosis mycobacterium bovis, and verotoxigenic Escherichia coli [2]. There is also specific regulation and national plans on the control of various zoonotic diseases and pathogens of public health concern such as brucellosis, salmonella, avian influenza, rabies, etc. There is no further evidence on updated regulation that accounts for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern. [3]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.327 of 22 November 2012. "On the Monitoring of Zoonosis and Zoonotic Agents". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Monitorimin\\_e\\_Zoonozave\\_dhe\\_Agjenteve\\_Zoonotike..pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Monitorimin_e_Zoonozave_dhe_Agjenteve_Zoonotike..pdf)]. Accessed 27 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Regulation". [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/rregullore-2/>]. Accessed 27 July 2020.



### 1.2.1d

**Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has a department, agency or unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. There is, however, the Institute of Food Security and Veterinary (ISUV), which is a body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development responsible for the development of strategies against zoonosis, monitoring, and elimination of zoonosis. [1] The institute cooperates with the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) in microbiological testing of animal origin foods. ISHP in collaboration with ISUV also monitors zoonosis in its sector of national surveillance of communicable disease, where it collects and analyses data on communicable disease including zoonotic diseases. [2] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, does not provide any evidence of an agency or unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. [3] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. There is no further evidence of any structural changes. [4, 5]

[1] Institute of Food Security and Veterinary (ISUV). [<http://www.isuv.gov.al/?q=rreth-nesh>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Surveillance of Communicable Disease ". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/survejanca-e-semundjeve-infektive/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

## 1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

### 1.2.2a

**Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has a mandatory national mechanism for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency. Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania", of 29 September 2011 sets out the mechanisms of reporting for animal owners for suspected or actual animal diseases. Animal owners are obligated to report on suspected or actual animal diseases to the public or private veterinary doctor as per Article 19 of the law. The veterinary doctor reports any suspected or confirmed animal disease to the regional veterinary service. In case of a confirmed infectious disease, the regional veterinary service informs the local authorities, as well as central authorities (such as animal health directorates and ministries) and the authority on food security as per Article 22 of the law. [1] Furthermore, Order No.335 "On the Approval of Forms for the Immediate Reporting of Infectious Animal Disease and the List of Notifiable Animal Diseases" of 3 December 2012 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection specifies that the competent authorities for enforcing this legislation are the Directorate of Veterinary Services, Regional Agriculture Directorates, the National Food Authority (AKU), and the veterinary structures in the local government units. [2] Lastly, both the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Food Authority have made available green (free) numbers. [3, 4]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.10465 of 29 September 2011. "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [<http://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ligji-per-Sherbimin-Veterinar-i-ndryshuar-me-26.03.13.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection. Order No.335 of 3 December 2012. "On the Approval of Forms for the Immediate Reporting of Infectious Animal Disease and the List of Notifiable Animal Diseases".

[[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Semundjeve\\_te\\_Lajmerueshme.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Semundjeve_te_Lajmerueshme.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<https://bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] National Food Authority (AKU). [<https://aku.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

### 1.2.2b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners) is safeguarded by law in Albania. Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania" of 29 September 2011 protects the confidentiality of animal owner data in the system of identification and registration of the animals. As per Article 5, the system of animal identification and registration serves to harmonize with the system of epidemiological surveillance by tracing and tracking the animals, while guaranteeing the confidentiality of the reported data. As per Article 10, the data in the system of identification and registration is protected through technical measures against its loss, damage, or unlawful usage. [1] The national data protection law, Law No.9887 "On Protection of Personal Data", of 10 March 2008, also applies to the data protection of the system of animal identification and registration as noted in Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [2] There is no evidence of further updated legislation. [3]

[1] Government of Albania. 2011. Law No.10465 of 29 September 2011. "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [<http://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ligji-per-Sherbimin-Veterinar-i-ndryshuar-me-26.03.13.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. 2008. Law No.9887 of 10 March 2008. "On Protection of Personal Data".

[[https://www.mb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ligji\\_9887\\_per\\_mbrojtjen\\_e\\_te\\_dheneve\\_personale.pdf](https://www.mb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ligji_9887_per_mbrojtjen_e_te_dheneve_personale.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Regulation". [<https://bujqesia.gov.al/rregullore-2/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

### 1.2.2c

**Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife. However, as per Regulation No.241 "On the Control of African Plague in Swine" of 30 July 2012, if cases of disease in wildlife are evidenced or reported, the Directorate of Veterinary Service at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development establishes a group of experts such as veterinary doctors, hunters, wild-animal biologists and epidemiologists in order to assess the epidemiological situation, define the infected area, and prepare a plan for the elimination of the disease. [1] The Directorate of Veterinary Service, via the veterinary service at the regional directorate, assures that the diagnostic procedures are conducted in accordance with

the diagnostic manuals. The same holds for rabies as per Order No.431 "On the Approval of Regulation for the Elimination of Rabies in Animals" of 11 September 2006, which requires notification of suspected or affirmed cases of rabies, vaccination of animals, control of hunting in areas where rabies in wild animals have been reported, disinfection of affected areas, etc. [2] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 also, reports that except for tuberculosis, diseases are detected through general passive surveillance and are controlled mainly through vaccination strategies. [3] Albania has also reported in the inception workshop of the the project "African Swine Fever Emergency Preparedness in the Balkans" organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2019 that wild boars are part of the general passive surveillance, and that suspected disease must be reported along with testing of damaged or dead wild boars. [4] There is no further evidence provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [5, 6]

[1] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.241 of 30 July 2012. "On the Control of African Plague in Swine". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kontrollin\\_e\\_Semundjes\\_se\\_Murtajes.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kontrollin_e_Semundjes_se_Murtajes.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection. Order No.431 of 11 September 2006. "On the Approval of Regulation for the Elimination of Rabies in Animals". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Luftimin\\_e\\_Semundjes\\_se\\_Terbimit.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Luftimin_e_Semundjes_se_Terbimit.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 18-21 February 2019. Inception Workshop of the Project "African Swine Fever Emergency Preparedness in the Balkans". [[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/reu/europe/documents/events2019/ASFBalkans/8.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/reu/europe/documents/events2019/ASFBalkans/8.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

### 1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

#### 1.2.3a

Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2019

OIE WAHIS database

### 1.2.4 Animal health workforce

#### 1.2.4a

Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 28.41

2018

OIE WAHIS database

### 1.2.4b

**Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 0**

2018

OIE WAHIS database

## 1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

### 1.2.5a

**Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of any legislation, regulation or plan including mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses. Such provisions are not made in Law No.10465 "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania" of 29 September 2011, which lays out the procedures for the prevention, monitoring, diagnosing, treating and eradicating of diseases in animals in order to protect the public health from zoonotic diseases. [1] Law No. 15/2016 "On Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases" of 10 March 2016, which governs the surveillance and control of communicable diseases including zoonotic diseases does not specify any mechanisms of working with the private sector. [2] Evidence of working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonosis is also not present in the Regulation No.241 "On the Control of African Plague in Swine" of 30 July 2012, which lays out the rules for controlling and responding to the disease, as well as Regulation No.298 "On Establishing the Criteria for the National Plans for Accelerating the Elimination of Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, and Enzootic Leucosis in Bovine" of 2 July 2008. [3, 4] There is no evidence provided in the Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. [5] There is also no further evidence provided on the Ministry of Health and Social Protection's website, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's website, the National Food Agency's website and the Institute of Public Health's website [6, 7, 8, 9]. There is no further evidence of updated legislation or regulation.

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.10465 of 29 September 2011. "On Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania". [<http://aku.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ligji-per-Sherbimin-Veterinar-i-ndryshuar-me-26.03.13.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No. 15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases". [<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Integrimi/ligj-nr.-15-dt.-10.3.2016-1.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.241 of 30 July 2012. "On the Control of African Plague in Swine". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kontrollin\\_e\\_Semundjes\\_se\\_Murtajes.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Kontrollin_e_Semundjes_se_Murtajes.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection. Regulation No.298 of 2 July 2008. "On Establishing the Criteria for the National Plans for Accelerating the Elimination of Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, and Enzootic Leukosis in Bovine". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Planet\\_Kombetare-Shrrenjosjes.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Planet_Kombetare-Shrrenjosjes.pdf)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[7] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[8] National Food Agency. [[www.aku.gov.al](http://www.aku.gov.al/)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

[9] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[http://www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al/)]. Accessed 28 July 2020.

## 1.3 BIOSECURITY

### 1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

#### 1.3.1a

**Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has in place a record of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed and that it has been updated in the past 5 years. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania has a record of the institutions that possess high-risk pathogens. [1] In addition, stocks of especially dangerous pathogens are destroyed or kept at extremely low levels in the laboratory facilities. The JEE does not specify which agency or ministry keeps this record, and there is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Defense, and the Institute of Public Health regarding the storage, processing and inventory managements of facilities with especially dangerous pathogens and toxins. [2, 3, 4] There is also no evidence provided in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020. [5] Furthermore, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [6] Lastly, there is no further evidence found in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [7]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/)]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Defense. [[http://www.mod.gov.al](http://www.mod.gov.al/)]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[http://www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al/)]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[5] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[6] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

### 1.3.1b

Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country has in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, confirms that the country's emphasis is mainly on biosafety and occupational health, even though the country does recognize the importance of both biosecurity and biosafety. [1] Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] Although there is no evidence of legislation related to biosecurity, there is legislation in regards to hospital waste, which also includes the ways in which toxic and pathogenic hospital waste should be administered. [3] Furthermore, in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020, there are plans to harmonize with the European Union Directive on the international standards and regulations of security of biological agents, genetic materials, etc. This process is expected to start in 2021 until 2022. [4] A biosecurity project by the European Union has taken place for the veterinary sector, which outlines how to create a biosecurity plan. [5] There is no evidence of biosecurity legislation provided on the websites of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [6, 7, 8, 9]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Decision No.798 of 29 September 2010. "On the Administration of Hospital Waste". [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/798.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[4] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. 2019. "Program of the European Union for Albania: Biosecurity for Veterinarians". [<https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SOP-BIOSIGURIA-PER-MJEKET-VETERINARE.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Defense. "Legal Basis". [<http://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/baza-ligjore>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[7] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Laws". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/ligje-6/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[8] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Laws". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/ligjet/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[9] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

### 1.3.1c

Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations. There is no evidence that the country has in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity. The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, confirms that the country's emphasis is mainly on biosafety and occupational health, even though the country does recognize the importance of both biosecurity and biosafety. [1] Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] Furthermore, in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020, there are plans to harmonize with the European Union Directive on the international standards and regulations of security of biological agents, genetic materials, etc. This process is expected to start in 2021 until 2022. [3] There is also no evidence of a biosecurity agency provided on the websites of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database [4, 5, 6, 7].

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Defense. "Legal Basis". [<http://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/baza-ligjore>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Laws". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/ligje-6/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[6] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Laws". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/ligjet/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

### 1.3.1d

**Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that shows that Albania has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, reports that stocks of especially dangerous pathogens are destroyed or kept at extremely low levels in the laboratory facilities. [1] However, it does not report whether actions have been taken to consolidate the inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] There is no evidence found in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020. [3] There is also no further evidence available on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, the Institute of Public Health, and the Verification Research,

Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database regarding the facilities where especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored, and the consolidation of inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. [4, 5, 6, 7]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Defense. [<http://www.mod.gov.al>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[6] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 29 July 2020.

### 1.3.1e

**Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)–based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax/and or Ebola. There is no evidence provided for these tests on the reference laboratories of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [1] The European Union's IPA 2013 programme for Albania "Control of Anthrax in Livestock in Albania" also confirms that Albania conducts PCR-based diagnostic testing for anthrax in animals, however it does not provide any evidence for the test in humans. [2] The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, states that Albania has identified anthrax among the zoonotic diseases of greatest public health concern within the country. [3] However it does not provide any more details in this regards and evidence on PCR testing does not seem to exist. There is no further evidence found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [4, 5, 6]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Microbiological Reference Laboratories". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/labororet-mikrobiologjike-te-references/#>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. 2019. European Union's IPA 2013 programme for Albania "Control of Anthrax in Livestock in Albania". [<https://bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CONTROL-OF-ANTHRAX-IN-LIVESTOCK-IN-ALBANIA.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Defence. [<http://drejtesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.



## 1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

### 1.3.2a

**Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the country requires biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, only reports that training courses for all staff are in progress, without specifying if the trainings are in biosafety or biosecurity, or both [1]. It also reports that there is a need for strengthening biosecurity and biosafety training programmes in terms of coverage so as to be able to offer the trainings countrywide. The JEE also identifies a need for infrastructure improvement and development in terms of training facilities, as well as a financing mechanisms that is sustainable. The Institute of Public Health reports that it has a National Training Center of Public Health, however it does not provide any information on the kind of training that it provides. [2] Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [3] There is no evidence of biosecurity training requirements on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health, the Ministry of Defence, the National Center for Continuous Education of Healthcare Professional, and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8].

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Functions of ISHP". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/funksionet-e-ishp/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Defence. [<http://drejtesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] National Center for Continuous Education of Healthcare Professional. "Calendar of Accredited Activities". [<https://www.qkev.gov.al/sq/akreditimi/akreditimi-i-aktiviteteve/kalendari-i-aktiviteteve-te-akredituara/viti-2018>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[8] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

### 1.3.3a

**Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?**

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of regulations or licensing conditions specifying that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to checks. There is no evidence of these requirements provided in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. The JEE only reports that there are written procedures for information security, personnel security, transport of materials and procedures to limit the culturing of dangerous pathogens [1]. Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] Furthermore, in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020, there are plans to strengthen the legislation on the implementation of the International Healthcare Regulation standards on licensing and biosecurity. This process is expected to start in 2021 until 2022. [3] There is also no evidence on such requirements provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health, the Ministry of Defence, and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [4, 5, 6, 7].

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Ministry of Defence. [<http://drejtesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

### 1.3.4 Transportation security

#### 1.3.4a

**Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The country has publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (Categories A and B). Albania adheres to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Rail (RID), as per Law No. 9272 "On the Adherence of the Republic of Albania in the European Agreement on the International Road Transportation of Dangerous Goods ADR" of 16 September 2004 [1] and Law No. 118 "On the Transportation of Dangerous Goods" of 26 December 2012 [2]. The above laws provide all the information for national and international regulation on the safe and secure transport of dangerous goods, including infectious

substances (Categories A and B), such as ADR agreements and requirements, packaging, labelling, documents needed for transportation, personal protection requirements, technical vehicle inspection, etc. Furthermore, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [3] There is no further updated legislation or regulation.

[1] Government of Albania. Law No. 9272 of 16 September 2004. "On the Adherence of the Republic of Albania in the European Agreement on the International Road Transportation of Dangerous Goods ADR".

[[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2004/PDF-2004/71-2004.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2004/PDF-2004/71-2004.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No. 118 of 26 December 2012. "On the Transportation of Dangerous Goods".

[[http://www.dpshttr.gov.al/images/stories/dpshttr/arkiva\\_ligjore/ligj\\_nr\\_118\\_2012.pdf](http://www.dpshttr.gov.al/images/stories/dpshttr/arkiva_ligjore/ligj_nr_118_2012.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

### 1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

#### 1.3.5a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has regulation in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins and pathogens with pandemic potential. Law No. 9272 "On the Adherence of the Republic of Albania in the European Agreement on the International Road Transportation of Dangerous Goods ADR" of 16 September 2004 and Law No. 118 "On the Transportation of Dangerous Goods" of 26 December 2012 in accordance with the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Rail (RID) both include requirements on packaging, marking, labelling, and documentation for dangerous goods and infectious substances of Categories A and B. [1, 2] The ADR includes detailed rules on the transport of Category A and B infectious substances. [3] Albania also has Law No.46/2018 "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology" of 2 August 2018, which regulates the export control regime of dual use goods and technologies, requirements for end-user certificate, export license for dual-use goods, and international import certificate. End-users are screened by the National Authority of Export Controls (NAEC), including security clearance and legitimacy of usage. They are required to obtain a certificate, which reports the purpose of use, the placement of the dual-use items, and provides a guarantee that the dual-use goods with not be used for other purposes except for their intended use. The end-users have to report periodically to the NAEC and are subject to inspections. [4] Lastly, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [5] Furthermore, in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020, which includes biological weapons, there are plans to update the common lists of dual-use materials, and improve the capacities and procedures to ensure total control on the import, export and transit to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. It also includes the strengthening of the system for licensing of dual-use materials. This process is expected to start in 2020 until 2022. [6]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No. 9272 of 16 September 2004. "On the Adherence of the Republic of Albania in the European Agreement on the International Road Transportation of Dangerous Goods ADR".

[[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2004/PDF-2004/71-2004.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2004/PDF-2004/71-2004.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No. 118 of 26 December 2012. "On the Transportation of Dangerous Goods".

[[http://www.dpshttr.gov.al/images/stories/dpshttr/arkiva\\_ligjore/ligj\\_nr\\_118\\_2012.pdf](http://www.dpshttr.gov.al/images/stories/dpshttr/arkiva_ligjore/ligj_nr_118_2012.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] United Nations. 2016. "The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)." [[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2017/ADR2017E\\_web.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2017/ADR2017E_web.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Government of Albania. Law No.46/2018 of 2 August 2018. "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology". [<http://akshe.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LIGJ-nr.-46-2018-date-23.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.4 BIOSAFETY

### 1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

#### 1.4.1a

**Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has national biosafety regulation in place. Council of Ministers Decision No.550 "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work" of 27 August 2014, aims to protect the health and security of employees through prevention of risks from exposure to biological agents at work [1]. It also regulates the usage of genetically modified microorganisms and their voluntary release in the environment. More specifically, this regulation includes details on classification of biological agents according to their level of risk, risk reduction measures, hygiene and individual protection, information on inspection authorities, information and training of employees, health oversight, special provisions for laboratories, animal rooms, and industrial processes, etc. Furthermore, Law No.10237 "On Safety and Health at Work" of 18 February 2010 aims at guaranteeing safety and health at work, through the prevention of occupational risks, elimination of risk and accident factors, information, consultation, and training of workers and their representatives, and at defining the general implementation guidelines of the above mentioned procedures [2]. In addition, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) through the support of the regional World Health Organization (WHO) has published in Albanian the WHO "Manual on Biosafety in Laboratories" [3]. Furthermore, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [4] There is no further updated legislation or regulation.

[1] Council of Ministers. Decision No.550 of 27 August 2014. "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/vkm-550-27.8.2014.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No.10237 of 18 February 2010. "On Safety and Health at Work".

[<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88793/101650/F621644906/ALB-88793.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). 2006. "Manual on Biosafety in Laboratories".

[apps.who.int/medicinedocs/documents/s16535sq/s16535sq.pdf]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

### 1.4.1b

**Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations in Albania. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection along with all other ministries where biological agents at work are involved, are responsible for the enforcement of legislation. This is set in the Council of Ministers Decision (CoMD) No.550 "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work" of 27 August 2014, which aims to protect the health and security of employees through prevention of risks from exposure to biological agents at work. [1] It also regulates the usage of genetically modified microorganisms and their voluntary release in the environment. More specifically, this regulation includes details on classification of biological agents according to their level of risk, risk reduction measures, hygiene and individual protection, information on inspection authorities, information and training of employees, health oversight, special provisions for laboratories, animal rooms, and industrial processes, etc. Lastly, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] There is no further updated legislation or regulation.

[1] Council of Ministers. Decision No.550 of 27 August 2014. "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/vkm-550-27.8.2014.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

### 1.4.2a

**Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the country requires biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016) only reports that training courses for all staff are in progress, without specifying if the trainings are in biosafety or biosecurity, or both. [1] It also reports that there is a need for strengthening biosecurity and biosafety training programmes in terms of coverage as to be able to offer the trainings countrywide. Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access

to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [2] There is no evidence of biosafety training requirements on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [3, 4, 5] There are however training requirements for employees that are exposed to biological agents prior to and during employment so as to adjust to new or changing risks as outlined under Article 9 of the Council of Ministers Decision (CoMD) No.550 "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work" of 27 August 2014. [6] Furthermore, training requirements in terms of occupational health and safety are also required by all employers, as well as an update of trainings in regards to changing circumstances or work environment, or additional or changing working hazards as per Article 19 of Law No.10237 "On Safety and Health at Work" of 18 February 2010. This law, however, is a more general law on occupational health and safety and does not specifically deal with biosafety. [7] Lastly, the National Center for Continuous Education of Healthcare Professionals, only shows training on health security at work for nurses, to take place during 2020 in different cities of the country. [8]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<http://www.vertic.org/pages/homepage/programmes/national-implementation-measures/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a.php>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Council of Ministers. Decision No.550 of 27 August 2014. "On Approval of the Regulation on Protection of Security and Health of Employees from Risks Related to Exposure to Biological Agents at Work". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/vkm-550-27.8.2014.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] Government of Albania. Law No.10237 of 18 February 2010. "On Safety and Health at Work".

[<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88793/101650/F621644906/ALB-88793.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[8] National Center for Continuous Education of Healthcare Professionals. "Calendar of Accredited Activities".

[<https://www.qkev.gov.al/sq/akreditimi/akreditimi-i-aktiviteteve/kalendari-i-aktiviteteve-te-akredituara/viti-2018>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

### 1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

#### 1.5.1a

**Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that Albania has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential, and/or other dual use research. A review of the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) and its publications, the website of the Ministry of Health and

Social Protection, the website of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, the website of National Measures Relating to the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database does not provide evidence on the existence of such an assessment. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Law No.46/2018 "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology" of 2 August 2018, which regulates the export control regime of dual use goods and technologies, requirements for end-user certificate, export license for dual-use goods, and international import certificate, also does not refer to an assessment of on-going dual-use research. [6] Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [7] Lastly, there is no evidence on this matter in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020. [8]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Publications". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-promocionit-teshen/publikimet/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Publications". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/raportet/shendetesia-3/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. "Scientific Research". [<http://www.arsimi.gov.al/veprimtaria-kerkimore-shkencore/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). "National Measures Relating to the Biological Weapons Convention". [<https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/7B39AB1C94A4FB12C12571B60051F0F7/%24FILE/compilat/on3.html#a>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Government of Albania. Law No.46/2018 of 2 August 2018. "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology". [<http://akshe.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LIGJ-nr.-46-2018-date-23.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[8] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

### 1.5.1b

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of the existence of legislation or regulation requiring oversight of dual use research, such as research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and/or pathogens with pandemic potential. A review of the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) and its publications, the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the website of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, the website of National Measures Relating to the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database does not evidence on legislation or regulation requiring oversight of dual use research. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Law No.46/2018 "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology" of 2 August 2018, only requires oversight of transfer of dual use goods, but there no stipulation for oversight of dual use research. [6] Albania has submitted

Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [7] Lastly, although there are plans in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020 to strengthen the legislation and standards on dual-use materials, it does not provide any evidence on dual-use research. [8]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Publications". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-promocionit-teshen/publikimet/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Publications". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/raportet/shendetesia-3/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. "Scientific Research". [<http://www.arsimi.gov.al/veprimtaria-kerkimore-shkencore/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). "National Measures Relating to the Biological Weapons Convention". [<https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/7B39AB1C94A4FB12C12571B60051F0F7/%24FILE/compilati on3.html#a>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Government of Albania. Law No.46/2018 of 2 August 2018. "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology". [<http://akshe.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LIGJ-nr.-46-2018-date-23.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[8] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

### 1.5.1c

**Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that there is an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, pathogens with pandemic potential, and/or other dual use research. Although Albania has the Law No.46/2018 "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology" of 2 August 2018, it does not make provisions for such an agency [1]. Provisions are only made for the mandate of the National Authority on Exports, which is responsible for applying national policies of exports of military goods and dual-use items and technologies, and overseeing the requirements for the export control regime of dual use goods and technologies, requirements for end-user certificate, export license for dual-use goods, and international import certificate, but its mandate does not include oversight of dual-use research. There is no evidence that the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and the Ministry of Defense have a mandate on oversight of dual use research. [2, 3, 4, 5] There is also no further evidence found in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [6] Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [7] Lastly, although there



are plans in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22 January 2020 to strengthen the legislation and standards on dual-use materials, it does not provide any evidence on dual-use research. [8]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.46/2018 of 2 August 2018. "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology". [<http://akshe.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LIGJ-nr.-46-2018-date-23.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. [<http://www.arsimi.gov.al>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Defense. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[6] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania".

[<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[7] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

[8] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

### 1.5.2a

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence on national legislation, regulation, policy, or other guidance, requiring the screening of synthesized DNA before it is sold. There is no mention of such legislation or policy on the website of the Ministry of Health, or in the legislation available on the website of the Institute of Public Health. [1, 2] There is no mention of screening of synthesized DNA before it is sold in Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" of 31 July 2014, which sets the rules on the production, placement in the market, import, export, use, pharmacovigilance, marketing, quality assurance, and inspection of activities related to medicines for human use with the purpose of guaranteeing public health. [3] Albania has Law No.106 "On Biological Production, Labelling of Biological Products and Their Control" of 2016, which sets the rules for the biological production and does not allow the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in biological production. This law however does not include anything on synthesized DNA. [4] Law No.46/2018 "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology" of 2 August 2018, which regulates the export control regime of dual use goods and technologies does not include measures on requiring the screening of synthesized DNA before it is sold. [5] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, and the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. [6, 7, 8, 9] There is also no further evidence found in the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [10] Furthermore, Albania has submitted Confidence Building Measures to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) every year from 2014 to 2018, however access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. Albania has not submitted anything to the UNOG for 2019 and 2020. [11] Lastly, there is no evidence provided in the "National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan" of 22

January 2020. [12]

- [1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Laws". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/ligje-6/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Laws". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/ligjet/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [3] Government of Albania. Law No.105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service". [[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\\_nr\\_105\\_dt\\_31\\_7\\_2014\\_18582\\_1.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj_nr_105_dt_31_7_2014_18582_1.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [4] Government of Albania. Law No.106 of 2016. "On Biological Production, Labeling of Biological Products and Their Control". [[http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Ligji\\_i\\_prodhimit\\_biologjik\\_i\\_miratuar.pdf](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Ligji_i_prodhimit_biologjik_i_miratuar.pdf)]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [5] Government of Albania. Law No.46/2018 of 2 August 2018. "On State Control of the International Transferring of Military Goods, and Dual-Use Items and Technology". [<http://akshe.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LIGJ-nr.-46-2018-date-23.7.2018.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Defence. [<http://drejtesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [7] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [8] Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. [<http://infrastruktura.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [9] Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. [<http://arsimi.gov.al/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [10] Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). "Albania". [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/a/>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [11] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Albania. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/albania>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.
- [12] Council of Ministers. Decision No.33 of 22 January 2020. "On the Approval of the National Strategy against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and its Action Plan". [<https://www.mod.gov.al/images/PDF/2020/arme-demtimi-mase.pdf>]. Accessed 30 July 2020.

## 1.6 IMMUNIZATION

### 1.6.1 Vaccination rates

#### 1.6.1a

##### Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2019

World Health Organization

#### 1.6.1b

Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2020

OIE WAHIS database

## Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

### 2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

#### 2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

##### 2.1.1a

**Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?**

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is evidence that the national laboratory system has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests, and these tests are named. There is evidence that the microbiology laboratory in the University Hospital Center (QSUT) conducts serology test of HIV. [1] There is also evidence from academic studies and the World Health Organization (WHO) from influenza surveillance reporting that Albania conducts PCR testing for influenza virus. [2, 3] Furthermore, there is also evidence that Albania conducts the microscopy for mycobacterium tuberculosis testing at the University Hospital Shefqet Ndroqi. [4, 5] Albania also conducts the virus culture for poliovirus test by WHO standards and reports to the polio surveillance. [6, 7] Lastly, there is also evidence that Albania conducts the bacterial culture for Salmonella enteritidis serotype Typhi as reported by the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) in the "Guidance to Diagnostication and Medication for Typhoid Fever" of 2010. [8] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 also reports that a national tiered laboratory system located in district general hospitals, regional hospitals, two teaching hospitals, and reference laboratories at the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) is in place, and it can test for at least 5 of 10 core tests. [9] However, the JEE does not list the tests that the laboratory system can test. There is no evidence of the remaining country-defined tests on the websites of University Hospital Center (QSUT) and the University Hospital Shefqet Ndroqi. [10, 11]

[1] University Hospital Center (QSUT). "Service of the Microbiology Laboratory". [<http://www.qsut.gov.al/sherbimet-mjekesore/sektori-i-aktivitetit-diagnostik/sherbimi-i-labororit-mikrobiologjik/>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[2] Ndreu, Arben, et. al. 2013. "Clinical Findings in Albanian Patients with 2009 Influenza AH1N1 Admitted at the Intensive Care Unit". Clinical Study Open Access. [<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/isrn/2013/914840/>]. Accessed 6 March 2021.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). 2019. "Influenza Surveillance Country, Territory and Area Profiles 2019". [[https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/402082/InfluenzaSurveillanceProfiles\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/402082/InfluenzaSurveillanceProfiles_2019_en.pdf)]. Accessed 6 March 2021.

[4] World Health Organization (WHO). 2018. "Mapping and reviewing roles and responsibilities of the main stakeholders of the National Tuberculosis Programme in Albania".

- [[https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/378080/Governance\\_missionALB2018-08-13PC3AD4BD3GB2AM2final.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/378080/Governance_missionALB2018-08-13PC3AD4BD3GB2AM2final.pdf)]. Accessed 6 March 2021.
- [5] World Health Organization (WHO). 2017. "Albania marks World TB Day, promotes TB care delivery". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/tuberculosis/news/news/2017/04/albania-marks-world-tb-day,-promotes-tb-care-delivery>]. Accessed 6 March 2021.
- [6] World Health Organization (WHO). 2017. "Expansion of molecular diagnostics in the WHO European Polio Laboratory Network". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2017/02/expansion-of-molecular-diagnostics-in-the-who-european-polio-laboratory-network>]. Accessed 6 March 2021.
- [7] Polio Global Eradication Initiative. 2019. "Global Polio Surveillance Status Report 2019". [<https://polioeradication.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Polio-surveillance-status-report-2019.pdf>]. Accessed 6 March 2021.
- [8] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2010. "Guidance to Diagnostication and Medication for Typhoid Fever". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Udherrefyes-TIFO-ABDOMINALE.pdf>]. Accessed 6 March 2021.
- [9] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". <https://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18/en/>. Accessed 31 July 2020.
- [10] University Hospital Center (QSUT). "Home". [<http://www.qsut.gov.al/>]. Accessed April 7, 2021.
- [11] University Hospital Shefqet Ndroqi. "Home". [<http://www.sushefqetndroqi.gov.al/>] Accessed April 7, 2021.

### 2.1.1b

**Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?**

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is evidence that Albania has an action plan for COVID -19, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response to COVID-19. The action plan reports that Albania has the necessary laboratory capacity to conduct the tests, and that the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) is designated as the reference laboratory. Furthermore, standard operation procedures (SOP) for the laboratories has been put in place and measures of quality assurance have been taken.[1] The action plan also mentions that Albania has an influenza action plan, but there is no public evidence of this plan. There is no further evidence provided in the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Institute of Public Health. [2, 3, 4]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al/](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/)]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.com.al/](http://www.bujqesia.com.al/)]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

## 2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

### 2.1.2a

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the public health laboratories within the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), which serve as the national reference laboratories, are accredited. There is no evidence of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) accreditation on the ISHP's webpage. [1] Furthermore, the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that none of the of national laboratories is accredited by recognized international accreditation bodies other than World Health Organization (WHO). [2] There is also no evidence found on the matter in the "Internal Regulation of the Institute of Public Health". [3] There is also no evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [4, 5]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [www.ishp.gov.al]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2014. "Internal Regulation of the Institute of Public Health". [http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Rregullore-e-ISHP.pdf]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [www.shendetesia.gov.al]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [www.bujqesia.gov.al]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

### 2.1.2b

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that the public health laboratories within the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), which serve as the national reference laboratories are subject to external quality assessment review in Albania. The Institute of Public Health (ISHP), in its annual report of 2016, states that it has participated in external quality assessment by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the virology diagnostics of poliomyelitis and non-poliomyelitis enterovirus. It has also participated in external quality assessment by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Emerging Viral Disease-Expert Laboratory Network (EVD-LabNet), and the Network of Laboratories on the emerging arboviruses in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions (MediLabSecure) on identifying Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue virus. [1] There is no updated version of the annual report after 2016. In 2019, the Minister of Health and Social Protection has announced that the WHO has accredited the laboratory of measles and rubella within the ISHP. [2] In regards to accreditation by the Albanian authorities, the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that although there is a General Directorate of Accreditation (GDA), there is no robust routine measures for external quality assurance over the laboratory network by the GDA. [3] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [4, 5]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). October 2016. "Annual Report 2016". [http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Analiza-Vjetore-ISHP..pdf]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[2] Albanian Telegraph Agency (ATA). 16 September 2019. "The World Health Organization Accredits the Laboratory of Measles and Rubella at ISHP". [<https://ata.gov.al/2019/09/16/organizata-boterore-e-shendetesise-akrediton-laboratorin-e-fruth-rubeoles-ne-ishp/>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 31 July 2020.

## 2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

### 2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

#### 2.2.1a

**Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has a nationwide specimen transport system. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of the IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, reports that Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) are in place for sample transport from intermediate or district levels to reference laboratories and national laboratories. [1] However, there is no evidence of such SOPs provided on the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [2] Although the ISHP's website lists the national reference microbiological laboratories, which include the national reference laboratories in bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, etc., it does not provide any information on what these laboratories do and the types of test that they conduct. Their webpages are blank. [3] The JEE also reports that the ministry of health supports the contracts for specimen transport, but those with contracts do not transport samples regularly, and do not always use a system organized by public health authorities. The JEE also suggests that the specimen transport system needs to be improved. Furthermore, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 mentions that specimen transport of COVID-19 is organized through the emergency center in coordination with the public health units. [4] The document makes no further specifications in regards to the transport system. There is no further evidence provided on the Ministry of Health and Social Protection's website, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's website (ISUV). [5, 6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health. "Reference Microbiological Laboratories". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/labororet-mikrobiologjike-te-references/#>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

### 2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

#### 2.2.2a

**Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence of a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 specifies that the Institute of Public Health is the main testing center and is designated as the reference center for diagnosis and confirmation even in the event of adding other testing laboratories. The plan also mentions that there is a built capacity of other laboratories with molecular testing capacities, and that there is a system of monitoring and managing laboratory capacities. [1] So far, only the Institute of Public Health conducts the COVID-19 test and it is the only laboratory accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO). [2] There is no further evidence of a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak in the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [3, 4, 5]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[2] Exit News. 15 June 2020. "Private Laboratories are in a Hurry to Take Part of the COVID-19 Testing". [<https://exit.al/labororet-privat-po-nxitojne-te-marrin-nje-pjese-te-testimeve-covid-19/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

## 2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

### 2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

#### 2.3.1a

**Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?**

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,  
Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance (EBS) and analysis for infectious disease in Albania, but no evidence that the data is being analysed on a daily basis. Event-based surveillance is conducted at the National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease at the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), which gathers, analyses and publishes data on communicable disease. It receives data from epidemiological centers in the districts, health centers, hospitals both public and private. [1] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports pre-identified sources of EBS as animal health, food safety, entomologists and other departments of ISPH. [2] Other sources of information include rumours from the community and ad hoc information transmitted by health professionals and media screening, which are analysed weekly. The description and investigation of public health events is reported on paper by e-mail. There is no further evidence on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [3, 4]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/survejanca-e-semundjeve-infektive/>]. Accessed 2

August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

### 2.3.1b

**Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the World Health Organization (WHO) within the last two years. There is no evidence of a PHEIC reported on the WHO outbreak pages from 2020 and 2019 or the WHO country pages for Albania. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Albania reported its first case of covid-19 to the WHO on March 09, 2020, after it had already been declared a PHEIC by the WHO on January 30, 2020. [5, 6]

There is also no evidence of notification of a potential PHEIC within the last two years on the Ministry of Health and Social Protection's website, and the Institute of Public Health's website (ISHP) [7, 8]. The websites of both institutions only have notifications regarding COVID-19.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. "Disease outbreaks by year: 2020".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2020/en/>]. Accessed 7 April 2021.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). 2019. "Disease outbreaks by year: 2019".

[<https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2019/en/>]. Accessed 7 April 2021.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News Albania".

[<http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/alb/en/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] World Health Organization (WHO). "Albania". [<https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/al>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Garda World. 9 March 2020. "Albania: Health officials confirm first cases of COVID-19 March 9".

[<https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/320656/albania-health-officials-confirm-first-cases-of-covid-19-march-9>]  
Accessed 7 April 2021.

[6] World Health Organization (WHO). 2019. "Archived: WHO Timeline - COVID-19". [<https://www.who.int/news/item/27-04-2020-who-timeline---covid-19>]. Accessed 7 April 2021.

[7] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "News". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/category/lajme/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[8] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 20 August 2020.

## 2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

### 2.3.2a

**Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**



There is no evidence that the Albanian government operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national level. There is no evidence of an electronic reporting surveillance system on the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [1] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 states that Albania has surveillance procedures in place, which may be supported by an electronic system. However, there is no evidence that Albania has made any progress in this regard. In addition, the JEE also reports that there is a mandatory reporting of public and private general practitioners, primary health-care facilities, and emergency rooms of hospitals in all districts. [2] A total of 73 diseases are reported monthly, and nine syndromes are reported weekly. However, as of March 2020 data is transmitted to ISHP by email, mail or telephone. Feedback is provided through weekly bulletins of syndromic surveillance and through monthly or quarterly infectious disease bulletins. [3] There is no further evidence provided on the website of the Ministry of Health. [4]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/survejanca-e-semundjeve-infektive/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). March 2020. "Weekly Bulletin of Infectious Diseases ALERT". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ALERT-JAVA-09-2020.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

### 2.3.2b

#### Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Albanian government operates an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and sub-national level and therefore no evidence of an electronic reporting surveillance system that collects ongoing or real-time laboratory data. There is no evidence of an electronic reporting surveillance system on the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [1] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 states that Albania has surveillance procedures in place, which may be supported by an electronic system. However, there is no evidence that Albania has made any progress in this regard. In addition, the JEE also reports that there is a mandatory reporting of public and private general practitioners, primary health-care facilities, and emergency rooms of hospitals in all districts. [2] A total of 73 diseases are reported monthly, and nine syndromes are reported weekly. However, as of March 2020 data is transmitted to ISHP by email, mail or telephone. Feedback is provided through weekly bulletins of syndromic surveillance and through monthly or quarterly infectious disease bulletins. [3] There is no further evidence provided on the website of the Ministry of Health. [4]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/survejanca-e-semundjeve-infektive/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). March 2020. "Weekly Bulletin of Infectious Diseases ALERT". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ALERT-JAVA-09-2020.pdf>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

## 2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

### 2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

#### 2.4.1a

##### Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence of electronic health records being used in Albania. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there is no integrated national information system, nor electronic medical data in the country. [1] The data from primary healthcare facilities are collected and transferred to government agencies on paper. Even though information technology has started to be rolled out in the country, initiatives are still scattered and uncoordinated. Although the Ministry of Health in October 2016 reported its aim to implement the nationwide Electronic Health Record (EHR) at 79 health institutions within November 2016, there is no publicly available evidence of this implementation. [2] Albania does, however, have an Electronic Health Insurance Card (EHIC), along with an E-Register of the EHIC. There is availability of E-prescription, and of an E-referral system. [3] There is no further information provided on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [4, 5] .

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2018. "Primary health care in Albania: rapid assessment".

[[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. 25 October 2016. "E-Health in Albania".

[[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev\\_20161206\\_co12\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev_20161206_co12_en.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[3] Fund of Compulsory Healthcare Insurance. [<https://www.fsdksh.com.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

#### 2.4.1b

##### Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence of electronic health records being used in Albania and no evidence that the national public health system has access to electronic health records of individuals in their country. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there is no integrated national information system, nor electronic medical data in the country. [1] The data from primary healthcare facilities are collected and transferred to government agencies on paper. Even though information technology has started to be rolled out in the country, initiatives are still scattered and uncoordinated. Although the Ministry of Health in October 2016 reported its aim to implement the nationwide Electronic Health Record (EHR) at 79 health institutions within November 2016, there is no publicly available evidence of this implementation. [2] Albania does, however, have an Electronic Health Insurance Card (EHIC), along with an E-Register of the EHIC. There is availability of E-prescription, and of an E-referral system. [3] There is no further information provided on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [4, 5] .

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2018. "Primary health care in Albania: rapid assessment". [[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Health. 25 October 2016. "E-Health in Albania". [[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev\\_20161206\\_co12\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev_20161206_co12_en.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [3] Fund of Compulsory Healthcare Insurance. [<https://www.fsdksh.com.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

### 2.4.1c

**Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence of electronic health records being used in Albania and no evidence that there are data standards to ensure data is comparable. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that there is no integrated national information system, nor electronic medical data in the country. [1] The data from primary healthcare facilities are collected and transferred to government agencies on paper. Even though information technology has started to be rolled out in the country, initiatives are still scattered and uncoordinated. Although the Ministry of Health in October 2016 reported its aim to implement the nationwide Electronic Health Record (EHR) at 79 health institutions within November 2016, there is no publicly available evidence of this implementation. [2] Albania does, however, have an Electronic Health Insurance Card (EHIC), along with an E-Register of the EHIC. There is availability of E-prescription, and of an E-referral system. [3] There is no further information provided on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [4, 5].

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). 2018. "Primary health care in Albania: rapid assessment". [[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/373718/alb-phc-ra-eng.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Health. 25 October 2016. "E-Health in Albania". [[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev\\_20161206\\_co12\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/indicators/docs/ev_20161206_co12_en.pdf)]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [3] Fund of Compulsory Healthcare Insurance. [<https://www.fsdksh.com.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.
- [5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 2 August 2020.

## 2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

### 2.4.2a

**Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is public evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human and wildlife surveillance to share data (such as through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance, etc.). The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that the public health laboratories and animal health laboratories are not formally linked, however, technical collaboration in the form of exchange consultation is ongoing, based

on case by case needs [1]. Although there is cross notification between the respective epidemiology departments, there is no linked database. Reports produced by the animal surveillance systems on zoonotic diseases are shared with the country's Veterinary Directorate, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), regional veterinary services and the National Food Authority (AKU). The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in its technical report "Data Sources on Animal Diseases: Country Card of Albania" of July 2020 states that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the main source on data for animal disease. [2] The data is registered in the livestock and veterinary electronic information system (RUDA), which includes data on animal disease, animal movement, and disease control. There are various directorates, services and institutes within the ministry that oversee the data. The report however does not provide any further evidence on data sharing. There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development [3, 4, 5].

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). July 2020. "Data Sources on Animal Diseases: Country Card of Albania". [<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2020.EN-1898>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

### 2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

#### 2.4.3a

**Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania makes de-identified health surveillance data on disease outbreaks publicly available via reports on government websites. The Institute of Public Health (ISHP) used to publish weekly update reports on surveillance syndromes of communicable diseases including diarrhoea, respiratory infections, rash with temperature, Hepatitis A, Haemorrhage with temperature, suspected meningitis, and unexplained fever up until February 2020 [1]. The reports have been regularly provided weekly without interruption and they start from 2011. The reports include information on the number and distribution of cases, comparisons with previous weeks and periods, distribution by age-groups, and territorial distribution. However, since March 2020, there have been no weekly alerts of de-identified health surveillance data published by the Albanian government. [2]

There are also monthly epidemiological analysis and annual epidemiological analysis reports analysing the evolution of communicable diseases (both human and animal) under surveillance [3, 4]. These reports include information on various diseases such as diarrhetic diseases (salmonella, shingles, typhus, etc), zoonotic disease (brucellosis, anthrax, tuberculosis, etc.), communicable diseases that are preventable through vaccines, viral hepatitis, infectious respiratory diseases, vector transmitted disease, HIV, etc. They also include information on the number of suspected and confirmed cases, distribution of cases, territorial distribution, age-group distribution, etc. The latest available annual epidemiological analysis report, however, is for the year 2017, published in 2018. There is an archive of reports since 2001. [4]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Alerts". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/alerte/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Viti 2020". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/viti-2020/>]. Accessed 7 April 2021.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Epidemiological Analysis". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/pasqyra-14-sh-viti-2020/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Epidemiological Analysis of Communicable Diseases for 2017". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/buletini-4-2017.pdf>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

### 2.4.3b

**Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania makes de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports on government websites. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection publishes daily on its website de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data on daily case count, total count, daily regional distribution, total regional distribution, number of daily mortalities, total number of mortalities, number of active cases, number of hospitalized cases, number of intubations, number of healed cases, number of tests administered. [1] A daily report is also provided in the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [2]

[1] Ministry of Public Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 8 August 2020. "Daily Communication for COVID-19".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/komunikimi-i-perditshem-per-koronavirusin-08-gusht-2020/>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

## 2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

### 2.4.4a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has legislation that safeguards the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities. Law No.9887 "On the Protection of Personal Data Amended" of 10 March 2008 classifies processing of personal data regarding the state of health as "Sensitive Data", for which under Article 7 processing of personal data, which reveals the health status is prohibited [1]. Exceptions are made only in the case of given permission by the individual, protection of public health and interest while granting appropriate protective measures, or processing of data for historical, scientific, and statistical purposes while granting appropriate protective measures. In case of data processing for medical or diagnostic purposes, the processing is done by or under the supervision of medical staff under a pledge of professional confidentiality. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, has also issued Order No.650 "On Approving the Internal Regulation on Protecting, Processing, and Safeguarding the Security of Personal Data" of 12 September 2018, which abides to Law No.9887 [2]. There is no further evidence of updated legislation or regulation. [3]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.9887 of 10 March 2008."On the Protection of Personal Data Amended".

[<http://www.hidaa.gov.al/ligje/ligji%20i%20brojtjes%20se%20te%20dhenave%20personale.pdf>]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Order No.650 of 12 September 2018. "On Approving the Internal Regulation on Protecting, Processing, and Safeguarding the Security of Personal Data". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/wp->

content/uploads/2018/09/650-RREGULLORE.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Healthcare". [https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/shendetesia-6/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

#### 2.4.4b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The Albanian legislation on personal data protection includes safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware). Law No.9887 "On the Protection of Personal Data Amended" of 10 March 2008 classifies processing of personal data regarding the state of health as "Sensitive Data", for which under Article 7 processing of personal data, which reveals the health status is prohibited. This law includes security of data processing [1]. As per Article 27 of this law, the data collector has the obligation to apply adequate technical and organizational measures in order to protect the data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, disclosure or unauthorized access, notably if the respective processing involves the data transmission within a network, as well as against any other form of illegal processing. These same provisions are also made on Order No.650 "On Approving the Internal Regulation on Protecting, Processing, and Safeguarding the Security of Personal Data" of 12 September 2018 [2]. There is no further evidence of updated legislation or regulation. [3]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.9887 of 10 March 2008."On the Protection of Personal Data Amended".

[http://www.hidaa.gov.al/ligje/ligji%20i%20mbrojtjes%20se%20te%20dhenave%20personale.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Order No.650 of 12 September 2018. "On Approving the Internal Regulation on Protecting, Processing, and Safeguarding the Security of Personal Data". [http://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/650-RREGULLORE.pdf]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Healthcare". [https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/shendetesia-6/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

### 2.4.5 International data sharing

#### 2.4.5a

**Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?**

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the government has made a commitment via public statements, legislation, or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data for 1 or more diseases during a public health emergency with other countries in the region. However, Albania is a member of the Southeastern European Health Network (SEEHN) established in 2001 as a cooperative effort among the governments of Albania, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Israel, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. [1] In 2002, SEEHN initiated a communicable

diseases project aimed at strengthening both national and regional surveillance systems with a focus on cross-border collaboration. The network also collaborates on laboratory capacity and information exchange, where a regional influenza diagnostic center was opened at the Cantacuzino Institute in Romania. However, there is no evidence of surveillance data sharing during an active emergency. [2] The National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease at the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) of Albania, which gathers, analyses and publishes data on communicable disease for the country is also the base for the Center of Regional Development for the Coordination of Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases for Southeastern European Countries as part of the SEEHN. [3] Albania also has a cooperative agreement with Kosovo on public health, which includes information exchange on public health issues, however it does not provide any details whether the exchange includes sharing of surveillance data during a public health emergency. [4] There is no further evidence on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [5, 6]

[1] Bino, Silvia, et. al. 2013. "Southeastern European Health Network (SEEHN) Communicable Diseases Surveillance: A Decade of Bridging Trust and Collaboration". Emerging Health Threats Journal 6.

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3557907/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[2] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). "National Institute of Research & Development for Microbiology & Immunology "Cantacuzino" (NIRDMI) - EUPHEM". [https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/national-institute-research-development-microbiology-immunology-cantacuzino-nirdmi-euphem]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISSH). "National Surveillance Sector of Communicable Disease".

[http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/survejanca-e-semundjeve-infektive/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2016. "Signing of the Cooperative Agreement Albania-Kosovo on Public Health".

[https://www.ishp.gov.al/shqiperia-dhe-kosova-nenshkruajne-marreshje-bashkepunimi-ne-fushen-e-shendetit-publik/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

[6] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [http://www.ishp.gov.al]. Accessed 9 August 2020.

## 2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

### 2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

#### 2.5.1a

**Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of an active public health emergency. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports in the COVID-19 Health System Report Monitor that Albania has implemented contact tracing surveillance teams in all 12 regions of the country. [1] Furthermore, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19" of 2020 states that already existing procedures of contact tracing have been reviewed for COVID-19 and training has taken place using the platform WHO GO Data. [2] The action plan also states that contact tracing groups are established in every local unit of public health and that resources have been made available for contact tracing, as well as training and usage of technology. There is no further evidence provided in

the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [3, 4]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "COVID-19 Health System Report Monitor Albania".

[<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=1.4%20Monitoring%20and%20surveillance&Type=Section>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al)]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

### 2.5.1b

**Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?**

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania provides wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all suspect cases and contacts are required to self-isolate for 14 days. [1] All people residing in Albania are covered for all COVID-related care. The care is not related to contributions and it does not require out of pocket payments. [1] Furthermore, as per Law No. 15 of 2016 "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases" the prevention and fight against epidemic infectious disease is provided by the state free of charge for all individuals. [2] During the COVID-19 pandemic, Albania has passed various pieces of emergency legislation, which included provision of financial support for all those that have been laid off or suspended during the pandemic, as well as vulnerable groups and those in need of economic aid, postponement of rent and mortgage payments. [1, 3] There is no further evidence provided in the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [4, 5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor Albania".

[<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=6.1%20Measures%20in%20other%20sector&Type=Section>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No.15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases". [<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Integrimi/ligj-nr.-15-dt.-10.3.2016-1.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Normative Act No. 15 of 15 April 2020. "On some changes in the Law No. 88/2019 "On the budget of the year 2020"". [<http://dap.gov.al/images/buxheti/Akt-normativ-nr.%2015,%20date%2015.4.2020%20per%20ndryshime%20one%20ligjin%20nr.%2088-2019.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al)]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

### 2.5.1c

**Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0



**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites. However, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Institute of Public Health make available via daily reports on their websites the number of cases that have been traced back to a known source from identified contacts, the total number of tests and cases, number of new cases, rate of recovery, regional distribution, distribution by age and gender, number of cases that are hospitalized, number of cases that are intubated, number of cases that have healed, number of deaths, etc. [1, 2] However, information on contact tracing efforts itself is not made available. There is no further evidence provided in the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [3, 4]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. " News". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/covid-19-ministria-e-shendetesise-37-te-sheruar-125-raste-te-reja-dhe-1-humbje-jete-ne-24-oret-e-fundit/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Daily Updated on COVID-19". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/9-gusht-2020-informacion-i-perditesuar-per-koronavirusincovid-19/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 6 March 2021.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al)]. Accessed 6 March 2021.

## 2.5.2 Point of entry management

### 2.5.2a

**Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has legislation that requires the cooperation between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency, but only in response to an ongoing emergency.

As per Law No. 15/2016 "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases" of 10 March 2016 the ministry responsible for health is responsible for providing compulsory preventative health services through the local structures of public health in every border control point to prevent the spread of infectious disease. This is done through a protocol prepared by the Institute of Public Health in accordance with the international health regulation. Every transportation mean by land, sky, and sea is required to report any cases of disease, infection, or other matter of public health interest. The response includes early notification, or alarming events that have or may have future consequences in public health. The ministry responsible for health in coordination with the Insitute of Public Health disseminates the information on public health threats, or potential threats to all responsible structures including the border control authorities. [1] Furthermore, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19" sets the cooperation with border control authorities, the local structures of health care, and the Inspectorate of Health to conduct checks on temperature measurements. [2] Albanian citizens who are repatriated are requested to be quarantined for 14 days in designated facilities (hotels). The cost of accommodation is co-shared. [3] This is currently applicable to the active covid-19 pandemic.

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases". [<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Integrimi/ligj-nr.-15-dt.-10.3.2016-1.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. "COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor Albania". [<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=5.1%20Governance&Type=Section>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

## 2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

### 2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

#### 2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country
- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that there is an applied epidemiology training program available in Albania and that there are resources provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs. Albania participates in epidemiology training programs through participants from its health institutions. As per the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania has introduced a basic front-line field epidemiology training program (FETP), which includes 3 weeks of basic training and a total of 3 months follow-up, with on-the-job training. [1] The Institute of Public Health (ISHP) provides training on the fight against vectors through its Department of Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases. [2] In 2020, the Regional Epi InfoTM Training and Practice took place in Albania. The training aimed to improve the influenza data management of countries by standardizing influenza database for epidemiologist and laboratory specialists. It was organized by the South East European Centre for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID) in collaboration with Centers for Disease and Control (CDC). [3] Furthermore, Albania participates in the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET) implemented by Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), which has a training site and a designated focal point in Albania at the Institute of Public Health. [4, 5] The MediPIET program is designed to train national trainers and supervisors from participating public health institutions working in field epidemiology. Participants are nominated by national authorities through the MediPIET National Focal Point and the national MediPIET committee. The program is funded by the European Commission. Albania is also part of the Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth) Training in Public Health and Applied Epidemiology in the Mediterranean Countries and Balkans. [6, 7] Albania has sent participants from the Institute of Public Health in the EpiSouth trainings. [8, 9]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Department of Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] South East European Centre for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID). February 2020. "EpiInfo Training Workshop, Tirana, Albania". [<http://www.secids.com/node/1295>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[4] Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). 2017. "Early Detection and Rapid Response to Biological and other Public Health Threats: 10 Years for a Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)". [[http://medi Piet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Concept-note-Regional-FETP-10-years\\_MediPIET.pdf](http://medi Piet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Concept-note-Regional-FETP-10-years_MediPIET.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[5] Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). "MediPiet Midterm Visit to Tirana". [<http://medi Piet.eu/medi Piet-mid-term-visit-to-tirana/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[6] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). April 2010. "Training in Public Health and Applied Epidemiology in the Mediterranean Countries and Balkans." [[http://www.episouth.org/output/wp5/2\\_EpiSouth%20Strategic%20document%20on%20Training%20Rev%20luglio%202010.pdf](http://www.episouth.org/output/wp5/2_EpiSouth%20Strategic%20document%20on%20Training%20Rev%20luglio%202010.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[7] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). "Albania." [<http://www.episouthnetwork.org/content/albania>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[8] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). 7-8 June 2018. "From Episouth to MediLabSecure: strengthening preparedness and capacity building in Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries (2006-2018)". [[http://www.medilabsecure.com/documents/site/episouth\\_medilabsecure\\_atene\\_june\\_2018\\_rev.pdf](http://www.medilabsecure.com/documents/site/episouth_medilabsecure_atene_june_2018_rev.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[9] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). 24-28 June 2013. "The EpiSouth Plus Project". [[http://www.episouthnetwork.org/sites/default/files/episouth\\_plus\\_report\\_9-2013\\_-\\_training\\_on\\_west\\_nile\\_and\\_biosafety\\_ii\\_in\\_the\\_laboratory.pdf](http://www.episouthnetwork.org/sites/default/files/episouth_plus_report_9-2013_-_training_on_west_nile_and_biosafety_ii_in_the_laboratory.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

### 2.6.1b

**Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The available field epidemiology training programs are explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania has introduced a basic front-line field epidemiology training programme (FETP), which includes 3 weeks of basic training and a total of 3 months follow-up, with on-the-job training. [1] The 3-week field epidemiology course is open for veterinary epidemiologists. However it is reported that these staff often do not attend training in priority zoonotic diseases. In addition, there is a lack of public health capacities of veterinary epidemiologists, and epidemiological training within veterinary training is not strong. There is no other evidence provided in the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [2, 3, 4] There is no evidence of participation of animal health professionals in the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET), the Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions, South East Europe (EpiSouth) Training in Public Health and Applied Epidemiology, and the Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID) Regional Epi InfoTM Training and Practice. [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Food Security and Veterinary (ISUV). [<http://www.isuv.gov.al/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

- [3] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [5] Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). 2017. "Early Detection and Rapid Response to Biological and other Public Health Threats: 10 Years for a Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)." [[http://medi Piet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Concept-note-Regional-FETP-10-years\\_MediPIET.pdf](http://medi Piet.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Concept-note-Regional-FETP-10-years_MediPIET.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [6] Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). "MediPiet Midterm Visit to Tirana". [<http://medi Piet.eu/medi Piet-mid-term-visit-to-tirana/>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [7] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). April 2010. "Training in Public Health and Applied Epidemiology in the Mediterranean Countries and Balkans." [[http://www.episouth.org/output/wp5/2\\_EpiSouth%20Strategic%20document%20on%20Training%20Rev%20luglio%202010.pdf](http://www.episouth.org/output/wp5/2_EpiSouth%20Strategic%20document%20on%20Training%20Rev%20luglio%202010.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [8] Network for the Control of Public Health Threats in the Mediterranean Regions and South East Europe (EpiSouth). "Albania." [<http://www.episouthnetwork.org/content/albania>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.
- [9] Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID). February 2020. "EpiInfo Training Workshop, Tirana, Albania". [<http://www.secids.com/node/1295>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

## 2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

### 2.6.2a

Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

### 3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

#### 3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

##### 3.1.1a

Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania does not have a multihazard public health emergency preparedness and response plan developed or implemented [1]. However, there is a "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" of December 2010 [2]. The general platform is a response planning strategic document of the Ministry of Health in case of natural disasters, man-made disasters, epidemics, chemical incidents, etc. that cause massive casualties, and need medical intervention. The platform lays out the system of the operational management, the coordinating mechanisms, alarming system etc in case of the above mentioned disasters and epidemics. There are, however, no provisions made for addressing planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. The World Health Organization reports that Albania has updated the general platform in 2019, however there is no public evidence of the updated document. [3] Albania also has a "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies [4]. The civil emergency plan identifies epidemics as a hazard, but the plan is of 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. Lastly, Albania has disease-specific plans in place. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response against COVID-19. The action plan also mentions that Albania has an influenza action plan, but there is no public evidence of this plan. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). February 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): European Region focusing on readiness". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2020/2/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-european-region-focusing-on-readiness>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dpqi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

**3.1.1b**

**If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?**

Yes = 1, No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania does not have a multihazard public health emergency preparedness and response plan developed or implemented [1]. However, there is a "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" of December 2010 [2]. The general platform is a response planning strategic document of the Ministry of Health in case of natural disasters, man-made disasters, epidemics, chemical incidents, etc. that cause massive casualties, and need medical intervention. The platform lays out the system of the operational management, the coordinating mechanisms, alarming system etc in case of the above mentioned disasters and epidemics. There are, however, no provisions made for addressing planning for multiple communicable diseases with

pandemic potential. The World Health Organization reports that Albania has updated the general platform in 2019, however there is no public evidence of the updated document. [3] Albania also has a "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies [4]. The civil emergency plan identifies epidemics as a hazard, but the plan is of 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. Lastly, Albania has disease-specific plans in place. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response against COVID-19. The action plan also mentions that Albania has an influenza action plan, but there is no public evidence of this plan. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). February 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): European Region focusing on readiness". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2020/2/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-european-region-focusing-on-readiness>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

### 3.1.1c

**If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?**

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania has an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential . According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania does not have a multihazard public health emergency preparedness and response plan developed or implemented [1]. However, there is a "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" of December 2010 [2]. The general platform is a response planning strategic document of the Ministry of Health in case of natural disasters, man-made disasters, epidemics, chemical incidents, etc. that cause massive casualties, and need medical intervention. The platform lays out the system of the operational management, the coordinating mechanisms, alarming system etc in case of the above mentioned disasters and epidemics. There are, however, no provisions made for addressing planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. The World Health Organization reports that Albania has updated the general platform in 2019, however there is no public evidence of the updated document. [3] Albania also has a "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies [4]. The civil emergency plan identifies epidemics as a hazard, but the plan is of 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. Lastly, Albania has disease-specific plans in place. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response against COVID-19. The action plan also mentions that Albania has an influenza action plan, but there is no public evidence of this plan. [5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards".

[<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). February 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): European Region focusing on readiness". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2020/2/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-european-region-focusing-on-readiness>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

### 3.1.1d

**Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

## 3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

### 3.1.2a

**Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has mechanisms for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response. The "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" of December 2010, is a response planning strategic document of the Ministry of Health in case of natural disasters, man-made disasters, epidemics, chemical incidents, etc. that cause massive casualties, and need medical intervention. The platform lays out the system of the operational management, the coordinating mechanisms, alarming system etc in case of the above mentioned disasters and epidemics. [1] The platform includes the private healthcare facilities, pharmacies, etc. as part of its response plan to provide medical assistance and intervention to massive casualties caused by disasters or epidemics. There are however no further details provided on how this plan of collaborating with the private sector will be carried out. Furthermore, the Law No.15/2016 "On Prevention and Elimination of Infections and Infectious Disease" enacted on 10 March 2016 requires that public and private healthcare providers offer free of charge services and medical treatment against prevention and treatment of epidemic infectious disease. [2] Lastly, in the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, which includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response to COVID-19, the private sector is included in various measures such as provision of healthcare and emergency services, assurance of adequate medical supply, provision of experts, meetings for coordination of emergency response, etc. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No.15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On the Prevention and Fight against Infections and Infectious Diseases". [<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Integrimi/ligj-nr.-15-dt.-10.3.2016-1.pdf>]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 10 August 2020.

### 3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

#### 3.1.3a

**Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?**

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease. Albania has the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, which is built upon the "National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan" (this plan is not publicly available), as well as a series of COVID-19 regulations to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic, with specific criteria outlined for when NPIs are implemented. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 outlines the specific criteria for social distancing, hygiene measures, self-isolation, usage of masks, etc., and when they should take place. [1] Furthermore, a series of regulations have set the criteria for the implementation of other NPIs such as mandatory usage of masks in closed spaces, closing of public transportation, closing of bars and restaurants, banning of public gatherings, limitation of sports and cultural activities, etc. [2] Hygiene rules and mask requirements are also posted on the website of the Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [3]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "New Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19". [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/masat-e-reja-per-te-parandaluar-perhapjen-e-covid-19/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "The new coronavirus and the measures against it". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/koronavirusi-i-ri-dhe-masat-ndaj-tij/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

## 3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

### 3.2.1 Activating response plans

#### 3.2.1a

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year?
- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?



Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year but no evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year. Albania has activated the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, which includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response to COVID-19. [1] There is no evidence of a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year. However, Albania has conducted an exercise on flood scenario in 20-21 June 2019. [2] No further evidence of this is found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [3, 4, 5] The "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies including epidemics is from 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. [6]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

### 3.2.1b

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?**

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities in the past year. An after action review is planned on a response to a public health emergency as a result of earthquake, but no specific date is given of when it will take place. [1] There is also no evidence of a biological threat-focused IHR exercise with the WHO. However, Albania has conducted an exercise on flood scenario in 20-21 June 2019. [2] The World Health Organization (WHO), however reports that Albania has finalized a new "Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Plan" in October 2019. [3] The plan was tested during the November 2019 earthquake and a review of response areas was conducted, which was used to further adapt the plan. This plan is not publicly available. No further evidence is found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [4, 5, 6] The "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies including epidemics is from 2004, and there is no evidence of it being

updated. [7]

- [1] World Health Organization WHO. "After Action Review". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [2] World Health Organization (WHO). "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [3] World Health Organization (WHO). February 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): European Region focusing on readiness". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2020/2/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-european-region-focusing-on-readiness>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [6] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [7] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

## 3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

### 3.2.2a

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives in the past year. There is no evidence of a biological threat-focused IHR exercise with the WHO. However, Albania has conducted an exercise on flood scenario in 20-21 June 2019. [1] The World Health Organization (WHO), however reports that Albania has finalized a new "Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Plan" in October 2019. [2] The plan was tested during the November 2019 earthquake and a review of response areas was conducted, which was used to further adapt the plan. This plan is not publicly available. No further evidence is found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [3, 4, 5] The "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies including epidemics is from 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. [6]

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Simulation Exercise". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [2] World Health Organization (WHO). February 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): European Region focusing on readiness". [<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/albania/news/news/2020/2/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-european-region-focusing-on-readiness>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [5] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.
- [6] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

## 3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

### 3.3.1 Emergency response operation

#### 3.3.1a

**Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The National Operational Center on Civil Emergencies (NOCCE) serves as the country's EOC established by Council of Ministers Decision No. 655 "On Establishment and Functioning of the National System Structure on Civil Emergency Planning and Response" of 18 December 2002. [1] NOCCE is at the center of civil emergency management in Albania and it plays an active role through all stages of civil emergency management. [2] It has a permanent structure and a temporary structure, which is added to the permanent structure in times of emergency depending on the type of emergency. NOCCE maintains permanent contact with civil emergency officers and civil emergency centers of other local and central institutions and structures. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, the national EOC provides a means of communicating across government and national and international partners, and for convening partners as required. Although Albania does not have an EOC specific to public health emergencies, public health is part of the national EOC. A focal point is in the Ministry of Health, and there is also a team in the Institute of Public Health that is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week [3].

[1] Council of Ministers. Council of Ministers Decision No. 655 of 18 December 2002. "On Establishment and Functioning of the National System Structure on Civil Emergency Planning and Response".

[[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2003/PDF-2003/7-2003.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2003/PDF-2003/7-2003.pdf)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

#### 3.3.1b

**Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is required to conduct a drill at least once per year or that such a drill for public health emergencies is conducted annually by the EOC. The Council of Ministers Decision No. 655 "On Establishment and Functioning of the National System Structure on Civil Emergency Planning and Response" of 18 December 2002, which establishes the National Operational Center on Civil Emergencies (NOCCE) to serves as the country's EOC, does not include any requirements for conducting a drill, or a health specific drill. [1] The Law No.45/2019 "On Civil Protection" of 18 July 2019, which sets the functions and coordinations of the structures responsible for civil protection, includes provisions for training requirements of those involved in civil protection, but it does not make any specification of drill requirements. [2] Furthermore, there are no such requirements on the "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out

the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies. The plan has not been updated since 2004. [3] There is no information on such requirement or being conducted on the website of the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [4] There is also no mention of drill requirements for the EOC in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. [5]

[1] Council of Ministers. Council of Ministers Decision No. 655 of 18 December 2002. "On Establishment and Functioning of the National System Structure on Civil Emergency Planning and Response".

[[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2003/PDF-2003/7-2003.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2003/PDF-2003/7-2003.pdf)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No.45/2019 of 18 July 2019. "On Civil Protection".

[<https://www.parlament.al/Files/Akte/20190724173027ligj%20nr.%2045,%20dt.%2018.7.2019.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

### 3.3.1c

**Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence to show that the EOC can conduct, or has conducted within the last year, a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that general simulation exercises have been carried out by the Ministry of Defence, but there are no public health exercises or simulations that have taken place. [1] There is also no evidence of a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise on the websites of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the General Directorate of Public Emergencies. [2, 3, 4] The "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies including epidemics, does not provide any evidence on this issue. Furthermore, the plan is of 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated.[5] Lastly, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, which includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response to COVID-19 also does not provide any evidence on the matter. [6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al/](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and

Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

## 3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

### 3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

#### 3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?
- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies with international assistance has organized a 2 week long exercise on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) hazards in April 2015. [1] The JEE does not provide any further details on the exercise. However, as per media sources, the exercise was aimed to "enhance response capabilities and promote inter-agency and regional cooperation in CBRN first response in the Western Balkan and Black Sea regions by enhancing the capabilities to organise and execute table-top and field exercises, as well as train-the-trainer courses both at national and sub-regional level". [2] The JEE also reports that public health and security services also conduct joint training in investigation at points of entry. However, these exercises and trainings are not made public on the websites of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of health and Social Protection and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies [3, 4, 5]. The JEE reports that a CBRN plan is in progress. In 2019 a Regional Exercise "Joint Reaction 2019" was organized in Albania aiming to enhance regional cooperation in response management to natural disasters. [6] There is no publicly available evidence on standard operating procedures, guidelines, MOUs or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event. A review of the websites of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) does not provide evidence. [3, 4, 5, 7]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[2] Epoka University. 2017. "Field Exercise on "Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRN)" at Epoka University Campus". [<http://www.epoka.edu.al/news-field-exercise-on-chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-defense-cbrn-at-epoka-university-campus-3526.html>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al/](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/)]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[5] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[6] Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. 22 October 2019. "Regional exercise "Joint - Reaction 2019".

[<https://aaf.mil.al/english/te-fundit/2915-regional-exercise-joint-reaction-2019>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

[7] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 11 August 2020.

## 3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

### 3.5.1 Public communication

#### 3.5.1b

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has provisions in place to ensure that messages regarding public health response will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that there is a clear line of command related to risk communication within the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and messages are communicated in all relevant languages of the country: Albanian, Greek, Macedonian and Romani [1] The "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", which lays out the risk communication channels in case of health emergency including communication to the public explicitly mentions how the messages will reach different locations within country, but it does not clarify how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (like languages and media reach) [2]. National and local health authorities frequently and continuously communicate to the public regarding health risks, health response and healthcare services, conduct and measures to be taken by the population at large and for population in affected areas. The Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM), which is the sole authority in charge of preparing informative messages for the public, and communicating this information to the media, delegates to local authorities communication with the population of the affected areas. The platform does not provide any further details on how the messages will reach different locations within the country. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also includes a detailed section on the risk communication plan, which makes reference to having communication strategies, use of different technologies, and prepared materials to reach different risk groups including vulnerable groups, and groups in different localities. [3] Further evidence on communication in different languages is not found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [4, 5, 6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[6] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

### 3.5.1 Risk communication planning

#### 3.5.1a

**Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has in place plans that include sections detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency. The "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" clearly lays out the risk communication channels in case of health emergency [1]. According to this platform, the Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM), is the sole authority in charge of preparing informative messages for the public, and communicate this information to the media. The OGHM appoints a contact person for the information who is in charge of assuring information exchange with all stakeholders within and outside of the health sector. The minister in charge of health along with the director of OGHM decide on meetings with the press. This platform also outlines the lines of risk communications within the ministry in charge of health, with the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, with local health authorities, with other actors of the health system, with line ministries, with the public and the press, with foreign agencies and United Nations agencies. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 also reports that although Albania does not have a fully developed multisectoral plan for risk communication, the country has well-developed national risk communication capacities [2]. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also includes a detailed section on the risk communication plan, which outlines the communication plan for different phases of the epidemic, the communication outlets, the spokespersons, communication with different groups, etc. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

#### 3.5.1c

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that the risk communication plan of Albania designates a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency. However, the "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards" clearly lays out the risk communication channels in case of health emergency [1]. According to this platform, the Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM), is the sole authority in charge of preparing informative messages for the public, and communicate this information to the media. The OGHM appoints a contact person for the information who is in charge of assuring information exchange with all stakeholders within

and outside of the health sector. The minister in charge of health along with the director of OGHM decide on meetings with the press. Furthermore, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also includes a detailed section on the risk communication plan, which outlines the communication plan for different phases of the epidemic. It states that the Ministry of Health appoints a spokesperson to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public, and it also appoints a deputy spokesperson in case there need to be any changes. [2]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\_AL-spreads.pdf]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

## 3.5.2 Public communication

### 3.5.2a

**In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?**

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation in the past year. The Institute of Public Health regularly publishes alerts and shares updates on public health concerns such as the situation of measles, rubella, influenza, etc. in the country. The information is shared in its website and social media such as its Facebook page and Twitter. [1, 2, 3, 4] The information and alerts are also posted in the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and its social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. [5, 6, 7] There have also been vaccination campaign against measles and the public is informed against its links to autism. [8, 9] Currently, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) and their social media post daily messages and updates regarding the situation of COVID-19. [10, 11]

[1] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2019. "Updated Information on the Situation of Measles".

[https://www.ishp.gov.al/informacion-i-perditesuar-situata-e-fruthit-ne-shqiperi-3/]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2019. "Information on Influenza". [http://www.ishp.gov.al/event/informacion-per-gripin-stinor/]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2019. Facebook page. [https://www.facebook.com/Instituti-i-Sh%C3%ABndetit-Publik-Faqja-zyrtare-1403099393317094/]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). 2019. Twitter account. [https://twitter.com/Instituti\_ShP]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2019. "Information on Influenza". [https://shendetesia.gov.al/informacion-per-gripin-stinor/]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2019. Facebook page.

[https://www.facebook.com/MinistriaeShendetesisedheMbrojtjesSociale/]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[7] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2019. Twitter Account. [https://twitter.com/ShendetesiaAL]. Accessed 12 August 2020.



[8] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Vaccination Campaign". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/?s=fushate+vaksinimi>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[9] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Vaccination and Autism". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Autizmi-dhe-Vaksinat.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[10] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[11] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [[www.ishp.gov.al](http://www.ishp.gov.al)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

### 3.5.2b

**Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?**

No = 1, Yes = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years. There is no evidence found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Prime Minister's Office, and the President's Office. [1, 2, 3] International and national media outlets also provide no evidence on the subject. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] Prime Minister's Office. "Newsroom". [<https://kryeministria.al/en/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[3] President of the Republic of Albania. "Media". [<https://president.al/en/#>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[4] BBC World News. [<https://www.bbc.com/news/world>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[5] CNN International. [<https://edition.cnn.com/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[6] Gazeta Shqiptare (Albanian Newspaper). [<http://gazetashqiptare.al/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[7] Shqiptarja.com (Albanian.com). [<https://shqiptarja.com/home>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[8] abcnews. [<https://abcnews.al/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

## 3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

### 3.6.1 Internet users

#### 3.6.1a

**Percentage of households with Internet**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 69.64**

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

#### 3.6.2a

**Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants**

Input number

Current Year Score: 91.29

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

#### 3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 9.0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

### 3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

#### 3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 6.0

2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

## 3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

### 3.7.1 Trade restrictions

#### 3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

There is evidence that Albania has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. In March 2020, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection has issued Ministerial Order No. 131 "On the Prohibition of Exportation of Medicines and Medical Devices" as a measures to protect against COVID-19 in accordance to the International Health Regulation. [1] The World Trade Organisation's "COVID-19: Measures affecting trade in goods" list confirms that Albania temporarily prohibited exports of certain drugs and medical devices (HS 3002; 3003; 3004; 3005; 3006; 4818; 6307;

9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [2]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Order No.131 of 8 March 2020. "On the Prohibition of Exportation of Medicines and Medical Devices". [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Urdher-131-Ndalimin-e-eksportit-t-ebarnave-dhe-te-Pajisjeve-Mjebesore.pdf>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] World Trade Organisation. June 4, 2021. "COVID-19: Measures affecting trade in goods". [[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/trade\\_related\\_goods\\_measure\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_goods_measure_e.htm)] Accessed June 24, 2021.

### 3.7.1b

**In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?**

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that Albania has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. There is no evidence found on the websites of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the Directorate of Customs. [1, 2, 3, 4] Even during the COVID-19 outbreak this year, the World Health Organization reports that there have been no restrictions in Albania on the export/import and movement of goods. [5]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[3] Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. [<https://punetejashme.gov.al/en/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[4] Directorate of Customs. [<http://www.dogana.gov.al/>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). "COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor Albania". [<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=6.1%20Measures%20in%20other%20sectors&Type=Section>]. Accessed 12 August 2020.

## 3.7.2 Travel restrictions

### 3.7.2a

**In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?**

Yes = 0, No = 1

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is evidence that Albania has implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak in the past year. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Albania closed its borders with Italy, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the United Kingdom, and Kosovo in March 2020. [1] There is no further evidence on the websites of the General Directorate of Customs, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. [2, 3, 4, 5] There is also no further evidence provided on the World Health Organization's (WHO) disease outbreak news. [6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "COVID-19 Health system response monitor Albania".

[<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=6.1%20Measures%20in%20other%20sectors>]

s&Type=Section]. Accessed 9 September 2020.

[2] General Directorate of Customs. [<http://www.dogana.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[4] Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. [<https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. [<https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[6] World Health Organization (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News". [<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

## Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

### 4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

#### 4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

##### 4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 121.64

2016

WHO; national sources

##### 4.1.1b

Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 364.95

2016

WHO; national sources

##### 4.1.1c

Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that Albania has a public workforce strategy in place to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings. Albania does have a national employment and skills strategy called the "National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014-2020", which aims at fostering decent job opportunities through effective labour market policies, offering quality vocational education and training for youth and adults, promoting social inclusion and territorial cohesion, and strengthening the governance of labour market and qualification system. The strategy has been updated in 2019. [1, 2] However, no particular inference is made to the health sector, or workforce needs in the health sector. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 states that Albania has a public health workforce strategy, but it is not regularly reviewed and updated. [3] There is no evidence provided of a workforce strategy on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Inclusion, and the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. [4, 5]

[1] Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. 2014. "National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014-2020".

[[http://www.financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/NESS-ENG-8-1-15\\_final-version.pdf](http://www.financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/NESS-ENG-8-1-15_final-version.pdf)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[2] Council of Ministers. Council of Ministers Decision No.659 of 10 October 2019. "On the Approval of the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2019-2022". [<https://kryeministria.al/newsroom/vendime-te-miratuara-ne-mbledhjen-e-keshillit-te-ministrave-date-26-shkurt-2020/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Public Health". [<http://shendetesia.gov.al/shendeti-publik-2/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. [<http://arsimi.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

## 4.1.2 Facilities capacity

### 4.1.2a

**Hospital beds per 100,000 people**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 289**

2013

WHO/World Bank; national sources

### 4.1.2b

**Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country. The Infectious Disease Hospital at the University Hospital Center (QSUT) serves as the main COVID hospital in the country. [1, 2] The hospital has isolation rooms with oxygen and negative pressure room. [2] The Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi" is being used as a second COVID hospital, and a

third COVID hospital, with all the needed infrastructure has been built. [3, 4]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "News". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/ministria-e-shendetesise-kater-raste-te-reja-me-covid-19-25-te-shtruar-ne-spitalin-infektiv/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Opening of COVID-2 Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi"". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/manastirliu-hapet-covid-2-spitali-shefqet-ndroqi-realizon-kirurgjine-e-pare-te-nje-paciente-te-prekur-nga-covid-19/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "The new COVID hospital is ready. Rama-Manastirliu reinforce capacities for a second COVID wave". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/gati-spitali-i-ri-per-covid19-rama-manastirliu-forcojme-kapacitetet-per-te-perballuar-nje-vale-te-dyte/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

#### 4.1.2c

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Albania has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years, but there is no evidence that Albania has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years. As a result of COVID-19 Albania has expanded its isolation capacity in the COVID-19 hospitals adding two new Covid hospitals with all the necessary equipment such as isolation rooms with oxygen and pressure rooms, monitors and ventilators. Capacities have also expanded in regional hospitals, which have been equipped with the necessary equipment to be used as COVID hospitals. [1, 2, 3, 4] There is no evidence in regards to an updated or tested plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease found in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. [5] There is also no evidence found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), and the National Agency of Civil Protection. [6, 7, 8]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "Opening of COVID-2 Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi"". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/manastirliu-hapet-covid-2-spitali-shefqet-ndroqi-realizon-kirurgjine-e-pare-te-nje-paciente-te-prekur-nga-covid-19/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "The new COVID hospital is ready. Rama-Manastirliu reinforce capacities for a second COVID wave". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/gati-spitali-i-ri-per-covid19-rama-manastirliu-forcojme-kapacitetet-per-te-perballuar-nje-vale-te-dyte/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 23 November 2020. "Manastirliu in COVI-4 Hospital: Getting ready for COVID4 and regional hospitals". [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/manastirliu-ne-spitalin-covid4-behemi-gati-per-covid4-dhe-spitalet-rajonale/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 8 September 2020. "The fall-winter plan, Manastirliu: Doubling capacities for the treatment of patients with COVID also in regional hospitals". [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/plani-vjeshte-dimer-manastirliu-dyfishojme-kapacitetet-per-trajtimin-e-pacienteve-me-covid-edhe-ne-spitalet-rajonale/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 5 March 2021

[6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<https://shendetesia.gov.al>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[7] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.

[8] National Agency of Civil Protection. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/akmc/3333-organizimi-i-drejtorise-se-pergjithshme-te-emergjencave-civile>]. Accessed 5 March 2021.

## 4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

### 4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

#### 4.2.1a

**Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?**

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is a national procurement protocol in place in Albania which can be utilized by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs. The procurement system is centralized, where the Ministry of Health and Social Protection serves as the centralized purchasing authority. The procurement protocol for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection is provided by Directive of Minister No.334 "On the Method of Organization and Application of Certain Centralized Procedures of Public Procurement of the Ministry of Health" of 4 September 2015 [1]. This directive includes acquisition of laboratory needs and medical supplies through the centralized procedures of public procurement. As per this procedure, contracting authorities prepare the registers of anticipated public procurement, which specify the needs for laboratory equipment and materials, medical equipment, the type of equipment and materials, quantities, anticipated value, technical specifications, terms of contract and time-frame. The centralized purchasing authority procures the funds and conducts the public procurement [1]. Furthermore, there is electronic procurement system available in the country, which enables electronic submission, storing, opening and evaluation of the bids. [2] It allows for open public tender, limited public tender only for selected bidders, competitive negotiations, and simplified procedures for contracts with a reduced value. The procurement procedures are guided by Law No. 9643 "On Public Procurement" of 20 November 2006, which sets out the manner and procedure for awarding public procurement contracts [3]. There is also evidence that the Agency of Veterinary and Food (under the Ministry of Agriculture) has conducted public procurements for the acquisition of laboratory laboratory supplies and medical supplies for routine needs. [4]

[1] Ministry of Health. Directive of Minister No.334 of 4 September 2015. "On the Method of Organization and Application of Certain Centralized Procedures of Public Procurement of the Ministry of Health". [[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Udhezim\\_Ministri\\_334\\_04.08.2015.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Udhezim_Ministri_334_04.08.2015.pdf)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[2] Agency of Public Procurement. "E-Procurement". [<http://www.app.gov.al/e-prokurim/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[3] Government of Albania. Law No. 9643 of 20 November 2006. "On Public Procurement".

[<http://www.app.gov.al/GetData/DownloadDoc?documentId=23f448de-96f0-4e70-83af-2b414fe288f0>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[4] Agency of Veterinary and Food."Open Procurement". [<https://www.prokurimihapur.org/buyer/81>]. Accessed 6 March

2021.

## 4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

### 4.2.2a

**Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is evidence that Albania has a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. As per the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, "since 2009, Albania has had an extensive National Plan for Influenza; the plan, which was established by a multisectoral committee, provides for stockpiling of antiviral drugs and PPE". [1] Furthermore, the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also provides for stockpiling of medical supplies. The plan notes that the stockpile of medical supplies is monitored by a database, which allows for the managing of the stockpile and for ordering additional supplies if deemed necessary. [2] However, there is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interiors, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical Equipments. [3, 4, 5, 6]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Defense. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Interiors. [<https://mb.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

[6] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Equipments. [<http://akbpm.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

### 4.2.2b

**Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that Albania has a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency. The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" states there is plan to increase laboratory capacities in case of increased needs but no further evidence is provided. [1] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interiors, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical Equipments. [2, 3, 4, 5]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.



- [2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 13 August 2020.
- [3] Ministry of Defense. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.
- [4] Ministry of Interiors. [<https://mb.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.
- [5] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Equipments. [<http://akbpm.gov.al/>]. Accessed 13 August 2020.

#### 4.2.2c

**Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Albania conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency. There is no evidence found in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016. [1] There is also no evidence found on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health (ISHP), the National Agency of Civil Protection, the Ministry of Interiors, and the Ministry of Defence. [2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

- [1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 5 March 2021
- [2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<https://shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.
- [3] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/>]. Accessed 5 March 2020.
- [4] National Agency of Civil Protection. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/akmc/3333-organizimi-i-drejtorise-se-pergjithshme-te-emergjencave-civile>]. Accessed 5 March 2021.
- [5] Ministry of Interiors. [<https://mb.gov.al/>]. Accessed 5 March 2021.
- [6] Ministry of Defence. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 5 March 2021.

### 4.2.3 Manufacturing and procurement for emergencies

#### 4.2.3a

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?
- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency in Albania, but there is no evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. On 26 February 2020, the Council of Ministers passed Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 203 "On the Procedures to be Applied to Contracts for Main State Interests", which sets the procedures for the direct procurement of materials needed during emergencies, including medical supplies. [1] Based on the above DCM, the Council of Ministers also passed DCM No. 241 "On the Approval of Contract to Purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19" of 21 March 2020, which allowed the direct purchase from two designated private companies by the

government of PPE. [2] Neither DCM provides any details on the type of medical supplies. Also, based on DCM No. 203, the Council of Ministers also passed DCM No. 272 "On the Approval of Contract for the Purchase of Lot No.1 of Laboratory Kits for the Microbiological Laboratory for the Implementation of Rt-Pcr Suitable to be used for the Existation Equipment of the Bioneer or Equivalent" of 3 April 2020, which allowed the direct purchase of laboratory kits for COVID-19 by the government. [3 ]There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interiors, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [4, 5, 6, 7]

[1] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 203 of 26 February 2020. "On the Procedures to be Applied to Contracts for Main State Interests". [[https://portavendore.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VKM-nr.203-dt.-26.2.2020-P%3%abr-procedurat-q%3%ab-p%3%abrdoren-p%3%abr-lidhjen-e-kontratave-q%3%ab-diktohen-nga-interesa-thelb%3%absor%3%ab-t%3%ab-shtetit\\_compressed.pdf](https://portavendore.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VKM-nr.203-dt.-26.2.2020-P%3%abr-procedurat-q%3%ab-p%3%abrdoren-p%3%abr-lidhjen-e-kontratave-q%3%ab-diktohen-nga-interesa-thelb%3%absor%3%ab-t%3%ab-shtetit_compressed.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 241 of 21 March 2020. "On the Approval of Contract to Purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19". [<https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2020/03/21/241/13cd7603-e7ed-4428-9384-bc2eeb21c548>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 241 of 21 March 2020. "On the Approval of Contract to Purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19". [<https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2020/03/21/241/13cd7603-e7ed-4428-9384-bc2eeb21c548>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Defense. [[www.mod.gov.al](http://www.mod.gov.al)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Interiors. [[www.mb.gov.al](http://www.mb.gov.al)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[7] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [<http://akbpm.gov.al/>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

### 4.2.3b

**Does the country meet one of the following criteria?**

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency in Albania, but there is no evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency. On 26 February 2020, the Council of Ministers passed Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 203 "On the Procedures to be Applied to Contracts for Main State Interests", which sets the procedures for the direct procurement of materials needed during emergencies, including laboratory supplies. The DCM does not provide any details on the type of laboratory supplies rather is sets up the procedure for direct procurement. [1] Based on the above DCM, the Council of Ministers also passed DCM No. 272 "On the Approval of Contract for the Purchase of Lot No.1 of Laboratory Kits for the Microbiological Laboratory for the Implementation of Rt-Pcr Suitable to be used for the Existation Equipment of the Bioneer or Equivalent" of 3 April 2020, which allowed the direct purchase of reagents and laboratory kits for COVID-19 by the government. [2] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interiors, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [3, 4, 5, 6]

[1] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 203 of 26 February 2020. "On the Procedures to be Applied to Contracts for Main State Interests". [<https://portavendore.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VKM-nr.203-dt.-26.2.2020->

P%3%abr-procedurat-q%3%ab-p%3%abrdoren-p%3%abr-lidhjen-e-kontratave-q%3%ab-diktohen-nga-interesa-thelb%3%absor%3%ab-t%3%ab-shtetit\_compressed.pdf]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 272 of 3 April 2020. "On the Approval of Contract for the Purchase of Lot No.1 of Laboratory Kits for the Microbiological Laboratory for the Implementation of Rt-Pcr Suitable to be used for the Existation Equipment of the Bioneer or Equivalent". [https://qbz.gov.al/eli/fz/2020/59/2e4d7d50-ea4d-4135-be61-535cb54be4b7;q=vkm%20nr%20203]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [www.shendetesia.gov.al]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Defense. [www.mod.gov.al]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Interiors. [www.mb.gov.al]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[6] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [http://akbpm.gov.al/]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

## 4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

### 4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

#### 4.3.1a

**Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that Albania has guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures for national use during a public health emergency. According to the "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", the National Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM) along with the National Operational Center of Hazards Management (NOCHM) are in charge of mobilizing and distributing medical countermeasures in health emergencies. [1] However, the platform does not provide any further details on how the countermeasures will be provided and dispensed. Dispensing of medical countermeasures is also part of the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020, but it does not provide any details on the process. [2] There is no further evidence on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Institute of Public Health, the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [3, 4, 5, 6]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\_AL-spreads.pdf]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[4] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). [http://www.ishp.gov.al]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[5] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[6] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. [http://akbpm.gov.al/]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

## 4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

### 4.3.2a

Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that Albania has a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency. According to the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016, Albania does not have an action plan for sending and receiving health personnel during public health emergency [1]. However, there is evidence of a bilateral agreement with Austria facilitating mutual assistance during an emergency. Although the agreement does not specifically mention public health emergencies, it does specify the sharing of medical personnel for disasters and serious accidents. The agreement includes provisions for visa free travel, border crossing support, employment permit waivers and export / import support for necessary relief supplies. [2] More broadly, Albania does not participate in any international personnel deployment agreement such as the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert and response Network (GOARN), and the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), which has been set up to enable coordinated assistance from the participating states to victims of natural and man-made disasters in Europe and elsewhere. [3, 4] The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also does not include any evidence on a plan to receive health personnel from other countries. [5] There is no further evidence provided by the "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", the "National Civil Emergency Plan", the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Defence, and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [6, 7, 8, 9, 10]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] National Council of Austria. 2011. "Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Albania on mutual assistance with disasters or serious accidents." ("Abkommen zwischen der Republik Österreich und der Republik Albanien über die gegenseitige Hilfeleistung bei Katastrophen oder schweren Unglücksfällen.") [<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20007357>]. Accessed 8 August 2020.

[3] European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. "EU Civil Protection Mechanism." [[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[4] European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. April 2018. "European Medical Corps ECHO Fact sheet." [[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/European\\_Medical\\_Corps\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/European_Medical_Corps_en.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[6] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[7] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[8] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[9] Ministry of Defence. [<http://mod.gov.al/>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[10] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturart-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

## 4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

### 4.4.1 Access to healthcare

#### 4.4.1a

**Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?**

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

**Current Year Score: 3**

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

#### 4.4.1b

**Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 99.8**

2018

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

#### 4.4.1c

**Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 440.46**

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

### 4.4.2 Paid medical leave

#### 4.4.2a

**Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?**

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

### 4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

#### 4.4.3a

**Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that the Albanian government has issued legislation, a policy or a public statement committing to provide prioritized health care services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency. There is no evidence of such legislation in the COVID legislation, which includes various ministerial orders and Decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding protective measures, and administrative measures to protect against COVID-19 and manage the situation created by COVID-19. [1] The "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 also does not include any measures to provide prioritized health care services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to COVID-19. [2] Furthermore, Law No.10107 "On Health-care" of 30 March 2009, which provides the legal requirements for the regulation, organization, and functions of the healthcare system in Albania, and includes provisions for public health emergencies, does not make any provisions for prioritized health care services to healthcare workers [3]. There are also no such provisions made in the "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", which lays out the country's health emergency response plan [4]. Lastly, the Ministry of Health and Social protection does not provide any further information in this regard [5].

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "New Measures to Protect Against the Spread of COVID-19".

[<https://shendetesia.gov.al/masat-e-reja-per-te-parandaluar-perhapjen-e-covid-19/>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] Government of Albania. Law No.10107 of 30 March 2009. "On Health-care". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/ligjet/Per-kujdesin-shendetesor-ne-Republiken-e-Shqiperise.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

## 4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

### 4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

#### 4.5.1a

**Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency. This system is outlined in the 2010 "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", which outlines the principles of information management between actors of the health sector and is

activated any time there is an epidemic, or any other emergencies that require medical assistance. [1] In this regard, the Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM), which is the commanding authority in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in case of epidemics, decides on the important actors of the health system including health care workers, and it decides on the manner of communication, the frequency of communication, and the type of information that will be exchanged. It also provides a form for information exchange, which requires information on the type of disaster, type of communication, the type of taken decision, type of requests, actions taken in relation to disaster management, etc. status of activities, parties involved, and the date. The COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 does not provide any further information, but it states that communication will be done according to existing procedures in place. [2] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that there are internal protocols on International Health Regulations (IHR) related matters including communication between national stakeholders and with the World Health Organization (WHO). There is no further evidence provided by the JEE in this regard. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

#### 4.5.1b

##### **Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency which explicitly includes the private sector. This system is outlined in the 2010 "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". This platform outlines the principles of information management between actors of the health sector and is activated any time there is an epidemic, or any other emergencies that require medical assistance. [1] In this regard, the Operational Group of Hazards Management (OGHM), which is the commanding authority in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in case of epidemics, decides on the important actors of the health system including health care workers, and it decides on the manner of communication, the frequency of communication, and the type of information that will be exchanged. It also provides a form for information exchange, which requires information on the type of disaster, type of communication, the type of taken decision, type of requests, actions taken in relation to disaster management, etc. status of activities, parties involved, and the date. There is however no further detailed information provided by the platform on how the communication will take place. The COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020 does not provide any further information, but it states that communication will be done according to existing procedures in place. [2] The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 reports that there are internal protocols on International Health Regulations (IHR) related matters including communication between national stakeholders and communications with the World Health Organization (WHO). There is no further evidence provided by the JEE in this regards. [3]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and

Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 14 August 2020.

## 4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

### 4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

#### 4.6.1a

**Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence of the national public health system monitoring and tracking the number of health care associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities. The Law No.15/2016 "On Prevention and Elimination of Infections and Ineffective Disease" of 10 March 2016, provisions for the reporting of healthcare associated infections by healthcare providers, patients and patients' relatives, as well as for the prevention and limitation of healthcare associated infections under Article 31 of the law. [1] Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 46 "On the Financing of Hospital Services from the Scheme of Compulsory Healthcare Insurance for the Year 2019" of 30 January 2019 includes HCAI in the financing scheme. [2] In addition, there is the Committee for the Control of Hospital Infections (CCHI), which is in charge of designing the strategy against hospital infections including epidemiological surveillance. [3, 4] There is, however, no publicly available evidence on whether this strategy has been designed by CCHI or to the actual strategy, or if the tracking and reporting is ongoing. The CCHI is in also in charge of designing standard procedures for operation rooms in accordance to hygiene and sterilization procedures, verifying abidance to these procedures and report accordingly, proposing operative measures in case of risks of health-care associated infections, providing continuous training of staff in this regard, etc. There is however no further evidence on how and whether CCHI has carried out its mandate. Furthermore, there is also a Sector of Control of Hospital Infections, a different structure from the CCHI, which includes the Surveillance of Hospital Infections at the Institute of Public Health (ISHP) [5, 6]. However, the website of this sector and surveillance does not provide any information. There is no further evidence provided by the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016 on this issue. [7]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On Prevention and Elimination of Infections and Ineffective Disease". [[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/46-2016.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/46-2016.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Council of Ministers. Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 46 of 30 January 2019. "On the Financing of Hospital Services from the Scheme of Compulsory Healthcare Insurance for the Year 2019".

[[https://www.fsdksh.com.al/images/2019/Baza\\_Ligjore\\_24012019/VKMnr46\\_3012019.pdf](https://www.fsdksh.com.al/images/2019/Baza_Ligjore_24012019/VKMnr46_3012019.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[3] University Hospital Center Mother Teresa (QSUT). 28 February 2014. "QSUT gathers the Committee for the Control of Hospital Infections". [<http://www.qsut.gov.al/index.php/qsut-mbledh-komitetin-e-kontrollit-te-infeksioneve-spitalore/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[4] University Hospital Center Mother Teresa (QSUT). "Control of Hospital Infections". [<http://www.qsut.gov.al/kontrollit-te-infeksioneve-spitalore/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[5] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Surveillance of Hospital Infections". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/sektori-i-kontrollit-te-infeksioneve-spitalore/#>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.



[6] Institute of Public Health (ISHP). "Department of Health Information, Technology and Communication".

[<http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-informacionit-shendetesor-teknologjise-dhe-komunikimit/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[7] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

### 4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

#### 4.7.1a

**Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

Albania has a national requirement for ethical review from the Ethics Committee before beginning a clinical trial [1]. Before beginning a clinical trial, an application needs to be submitted. As per Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" of 31 July 2014, under Article 26, the Ethics Committee issues its opinion within 60 days to the applicant and the minister responsible for health by taking into account specific details, such as the: (i) importance of clinical trials and its projections (ii) assessment of benefits and risks (iii) protocol (iv) investigator's file (v) quality of devices (vi) completeness of provided information and followed procedures along with the justification of importance of scientific research on people who are unable to grant permission (vii) qualification of the investigators and supporting staff (viii) indemnities and compensations to be granted in the case of damage or deaths that may be caused by the clinical trial (ix) insurance or compensation covering the liability of the investigator and the sponsor (x) amounts to be paid to investigators and trial subjects, etc. There are no further updates in the national requirement, or updated legislation.

[1] Government of Albania. Law No.105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service".

[[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\\_nr\\_105\\_dt\\_31\\_7\\_2014\\_18582\\_1.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj_nr_105_dt_31_7_2014_18582_1.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

#### 4.7.1b

**Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of provisions made by law for an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures to treat ongoing pandemics through temporary authorization of the distribution of an unauthorized medicinal product. [1] Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" of 31 July 2014 does not make any provisions on expedited clinical trials. There is however, under Article 11 of this law provisions for the importation of unregistered medical countermeasures in case of need by the medical service. The authorization is issued by the minister responsible for health. There is no further evidence provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the

National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM). [2, 3]

[1] Government of Albania.Law No.105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service".  
[[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\\_nr\\_105\\_dt\\_31\\_7\\_2014\\_18582\\_1.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj_nr_105_dt_31_7_2014_18582_1.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[3] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM).[<http://akbpm.gov.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

### 4.7.2a

**Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM) is the government agency in Albania responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. [1] Although Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" of 31 July 2014, does not specifically make provisions for approval of new medical countermeasures for humans, the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM) is responsible for the analysis, registration and control of medicines and medical devices, including vaccines as well as inspection in the field of pharmacology and pharmacovigilance. In addition, AKBPM is also responsible for: (i) issuing marketing authorizations for medicinal products (ii) granting wholesale distribution authorizations, as well as manufacturing and import licenses (iii) authorizing clinical trials (iv) approving the donation of medicines (v) performing health assessments for medicines (vi) monitoring adverse effects of medicines (pharmacovigilance activities) and (vii) supervising advertising and promotional activities. [2] There are no further updates in the national requirement, or updated legislation.

[1] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM).[<http://akbpm.gov.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Government of Albania.Law No.105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service".  
[[http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\\_nr\\_105\\_dt\\_31\\_7\\_2014\\_18582\\_1.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj_nr_105_dt_31_7_2014_18582_1.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

### 4.7.2b

**Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence of an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies in Albania. However, as per Law No.105/2014 "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service" of 31 July 2014, which does not specifically make provisions for approval of new medical countermeasures for humans, under Article 11, in case of needs by the medical service or hospitals for medicines that do not have comparable alternatives that have marketing authorization, the minister responsible for health may authorize the importation of such medicines for which the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM) has not issued a marketing authorization, which allows placing on the market of the medicines. There is no specific mention regarding emergencies. [1] There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the National Agency of Medicines and Medical

Devices (AKBPM). [2, 3]

[1] Government of Albania. Law No. 105/2014 of 31 July 2014. "On Medicines and Pharmaceutical Service". [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ligj\_nr\_105\_dt\_31\_7\_2014\_18582\_1.pdf]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[3] National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM). [http://akbpm.gov.al/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

### 5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#### 5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

##### 5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

World Health Organization

#### 5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

##### 5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of a national risk reduction strategy in Albania. There is, however, evidence that epidemics are integrated into the "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards", which is a response planning strategic document of the Ministry of Health in case of natural disasters, man-made disasters, epidemics, chemical incidents, etc. that cause massive casualties, and need medical intervention. The platform lays out the system of the operational management, the coordinating mechanisms, alarming system etc in case of the above mentioned disasters and epidemics. [1] In March 2020, Albania has prepared the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania", which includes measures for the prevention, preparedness, and response to COVID-19. [2] The action plan also mentions that Albania has an influenza action

plan, but there is no public evidence of this plan. Albania also has a "National Civil Emergency Plan", which lays out the planning and mechanisms for emergency response in the country in case of civil emergencies. [3] The civil emergency plan identifies epidemics as a hazard, but the plan is of 2004, and there is no evidence of it being updated. There is no further evidence provided on the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [4, 5]

[1] Ministry of Health. December 2010. "General Platform of the Ministry of Health on the Management of Risk and Hazards". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3-platforma.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. 2004. "National Civil Emergency Plan". [<http://seekms.dppi.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/National-Civil-Emergency-Plan-of-Albania.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[5] General Directorate of Civil Emergencies. [<https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/dpec>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### 5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

#### 5.2.1a

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

Albania is part of a regional group and has MOUs with neighbouring countries with regards to public health emergencies. Albania, along with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro, is part of "GETPrepaReD" (Global Emergency Training and support for Preparedness and Response to Disease outbreaks), which is a project under the Global Health Programme (GHP) of the Federal Ministry of Health of Germany. [1] GET PrepaReD supports partner countries with advancement of surveillance systems for the early detection of outbreaks, development of crisis plans, practical training on the epidemiology of infectious disease, fast assembly of crisis centers to ensure communication and coordination in the event of health emergencies, deploying international experts, etc. The Institute of Public Health of Albania has also signed an MOU with the Robert Koch Institute on bilateral cooperation between the two institutes within the GETPrepaReD project under the GHP [2]. The focus of this cooperation is to further develop the surveillance systems for the early detection of outbreaks, the joint development of contingency plans, practice-oriented training in infection epidemiology, the rapid establishment of situation centers for communication and coordination during health crises, and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) of 2005. Furthermore, Albania is a member of the Southeastern European Health Network, which aims to deepen regional cooperation, with a focus on common cross-border technical capacity required to deal with potential outbreaks and ensuring proper implementation of the IHR. The network also collaborates on laboratory capacity and information exchange [3, 4]. Lastly, Albania is also a member of the Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID), which aims to strengthen health security in Southeast Europe through increased cross-border capacities, promoting regional initiatives of "One Health", network collaboration, etc. [5] There is no evidence of

reported gaps in implementation.

- [1] Federal Ministry of Health of German Bundestag. "GHP Programme, GETPrepaReD." [https://ghpp.de/en/projects/getprepared/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [2] Robert Koch Institut (RKI). "Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Public Health of Albania and RKI." [https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Institut/Internationales/MoU\_Albanien.html]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [3] Bino, Silvia, et. al. 2013. "Southeastern European Health Network (SEEHN) Communicable Diseases Surveillance: A Decade of Bridging Trust and Collaboration." Emerging Health Threats Journal 6. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3557907/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [4] World Health Organization (WHO). November 2005. "The Skopje Pledge." [http://www.euro.who.int/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0005/99743/E88513.pdf?ua=1]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [5] Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID). [http://www.secids.com/Our%20Mission]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

### 5.2.1b

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

Albania is part of regional groups with regards to animal health emergencies. The country is a member of the Southeastern European Health Network [1]. The network aims to develop and deepen regional cooperation, with a focus on common cross-border technical capacity required to deal with potential disease outbreaks in both human and animals and ensuring proper implementation of the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR). The network also collaborates on laboratory capacity and information exchange. The network sought to increase regional capacity to rapidly detect clusters of human cases of avian influenza and monitor the spread of avian influenza viruses in both human and animal populations by improving integrated surveillance systems and building laboratory capacity [2, 3]. As part of its Communicable Diseases Surveillance Network, leading coordinators for the network from each country have been appointed in consultation with respective ministries of health in order to be supported by teams of experts in various animal and human health areas [3]. There is no further details provided on how the specific collaboration in case of animal health emergencies will function. Furthermore, Albania is also a member of the Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID), which aims to strengthen health security in Southeast Europe through increased cross-border capacities, promoting regional initiatives of "One Health", network collaboration, etc. [4] The SECID includes zoonosis and OneHealth, and prepares gap analysis, cross-border workshops, strengthening of surveillance and reporting, field work etc. There is no evidence of reported gaps in implementation. There is no further evidence provided on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [5]

- [1] Southeastern-Europe Health Network (SEEHN). [http://seehn.org/about-the-see-health-network/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [2] Southeastern-Europe Health Network (SEEHN). "RHDC on Communicable Diseases Control and Surveillance and IHR implementation in SEE". [http://seehn.org/albania]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [3] Bino, Silvia, et. al. 2013. "Southeastern European Health Network (SEEHN) Communicable Diseases Surveillance: A Decade of Bridging Trust and Collaboration". Emerging Health Threats Journal 6. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3557907/]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [4] Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID). "Zoonosis and OneHealth". [http://www.secids.com/Zoonosis%20and%20One%20health]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

### 5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

#### 5.3.1a

Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1b

Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1c

Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1d

Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

## 5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

### 5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

## 5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

### 5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

#### 5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

#### 5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

## 5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

### 5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

### 5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5 FINANCING

### 5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

#### 5.5.1a

Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that Albania has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years. The state budget addresses health care as a very important sector and it aims to consolidate services in this sector, but it does not provide any evidence for allocated national funds to improve the capacity to address epidemic threats. [1] However, in the face of the COVID-19 epidemic, the government reviewed the budget for 2020, allocating funds to the response of the health emergency as a result of COVID-19 as per Normative Act No.15 "On Some Changes to the Law No.88/2019 "On the Budget for the Year 2019", Ammended" of 15 April 2020. It used the reserve fund and the contingency fund for the additional budget. However, these funds were used to surge capacity response related to COVID-19. There is no further evidence provided in the websites of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Prime Minister's Office, and the President of the Republic. [3, 4, 5, 6, 7] News outlets also do not report any further evidence.



[1] Ministry of Finance. "The Budget for the Citizen 2020". [<http://financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Buxheti-i-Qytetarit-2020.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[2] Council of Ministers. Normative Act No.15 of 15 April 2020. "On Some Changes to the Law No.88/2019 "On the Budget for the Year 2019", Ammended". [<http://dap.gov.al/images/buxheti/Akt-normativ-nr.%2015,%20date%2015.4.2020%20per%20ndryshime%20ne%20ligjin%20nr.%2088-2019.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [[www.shendetesia.gov.al](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Finance. [[www.financa.gov.al](http://www.financa.gov.al)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. [[www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[6] Prime Minister's Office. [<https://kryeministria.al/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

[7] President of the Republic. [<https://president.al/en/>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

### 5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

### 5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

### 5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which Albania can access in the face of a public health emergency. As per Law No.10107 "On Health-care" of 30 March 2009 under Article 34, it is provisioned that in case of a national health emergency, the ministry of health uses extraordinary financing through the reserve fund of the Council of Ministers [1]. Furthermore, in the face of the COVID-19 epidemic, the government reviewed the budget for 2020, allocating funds to the response of the health emergency as a result of COVID-19 as per Normative Act No.15 "On Some Changes to the Law No.88/2019 "On the Budget for the Year 2019", Ammended" of 15 April 2020. It used the reserve fund and the contingency fund for the additional budget. [2] With regards to other funds, Albania is not eligible for International Development Association (IDA) funds since it graduated in 2008 [3]. Since the country is not eligible for IDA funds, it is also not eligible for the World Bank Pandemic Financing Facility [4].

- [1] Government of Albania. Law No.10107 of 30 March 2009. "On Health-care". [<http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/ligjet/Per-kujdesin-shendetesor-ne-Republiken-e-Shqiperise.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [2] Council of Ministers. Normative Act No.15 of 15 April 2020. "On Some Changes to the Law No.88/2019 "On the Budget for the Year 2019", Ammended". [<http://dap.gov.al/images/buxheti/Akt-normativ-nr.%2015,%20date%2015.4.2020%20per%20ndryshime%20one%20ligjin%20nr.%2088-2019.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [3] International Development Association (IDA). "Borrowing Countries". [<http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.
- [4] World Bank (WB). December 2017. "Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility Operational Brief for Eligible Countries". [<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/119961516647620597/PEF-Operational-Brief-Dec-2017.pdf>]. Accessed 18 August 2020.

## 5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

### 5.5.4a

**Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:**

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of public commitment by senior leaders of Albania to provide financing or other support to other countries to improve their capacity to address epidemic threats or to improve its own capacity by expanding domestic funding or seeking foreign funding in the past three years. There is no evidence of such public commitments on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the "National Health Strategy 2016-2020", the website of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, or the World Health Organization (WHO) [1, 2, 3]. There is also no evidence that Albania has offered any funds through the Global Health Security (GHS) Tracking Dashboard [4]. However, there is evidence of support for relief efforts. The Minister of Health and Social Protection has announced in August 2020 that as part of the fall-winter strategy against COVID-19 there will be increased capacity in terms of infrastructure, epidemiological staff, COVID-19 tests, and free vaccines against the seasonal influenza for healthcare workers, teachers, senior citizens, children, etc. [5]

- [1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.
- [2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2017. "National Health Strategy 2016-2020".

[[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/albania/draft\\_strategt\\_albania\\_2016-2020.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/albania/draft_strategt_albania_2016-2020.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[3] Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. [<https://punetejashtme.gov.al/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[4] Global Health Security (GHS) Tracking Dashboard. "Albania Funder Profile".

[<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#analysis/AL/d>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 17 August 2020. "Manastirliu presents the fall-winter strategy: Increases in capacity and doubling of tests". [<https://new.shendetesia.gov.al/manastirliu-prezanton-strategjine-e-vjeshte-dimrit-rriten-kapacitetet-dyfishim-te-testimeve/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

### 5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is some evidence that Albania has either provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats or requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats in the past three years. There is no evidence of such public commitments on the website of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the "National Health Strategy 2016-2020", the website of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, or the World Health Organization (WHO). [1, 2, 3] However, the Global Health Security Funding Tracker shows that the majority of the received funds by Albania from various international donors are used for immunization, zoonotic disease, workforce development, real time surveillance, and national laboratory system. Albania has received USD\$ 6.23M from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, USD\$ 2.84k from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), as well as funds from Germany, Switzerland, WHO, United States of America, etc., however there is no specification on what specifically the funding is being used. There is also no evidence that Albania has provided any such funding to other countries on the Global Health Security Funding Tracker. [4, 5] Lastly, in March 2020 Albania sent a group of 50 doctors and nurses to Italy, to help with the COVID-19 crisis in Italy. [6]

[1] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. "News". [<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/category/lajme/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[2] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2017. "National Health Strategy 2016-2020".

[[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/albania/draft\\_strategt\\_albania\\_2016-2020.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/albania/draft_strategt_albania_2016-2020.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[3] Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. [<https://punetejashtme.gov.al/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[4] Global Health Security Funding Tracker. [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#/data>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[5] Global Health Security Funding Tracker. "Funder Profile: Albania". [<https://tracking.ghscosting.org/details/873/funder>]. Accessed 7 April 2021.

[6] Council of Ministers. Decision of Council of Ministers No. 259 of 27 March 2020. "On Providing Aid through Medical Staff to the Republic of Italy". [<https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2020/03/27/259/d3c89b17-2e8d-4b20-a81e-e90b9f93a971>].

Accessed 19 August 2020.

### 5.5.4c

Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## 5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

### 5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

#### 5.6.1a

**Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, epidemiological data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza. There is no mention of such a plan or policy in the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR Core Capacities of Albania, conducted in 2016). [1] However, the JEE reports that Albania has demonstrated timely reporting of potential public health emergencies of international concern to World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, Law No.15/2016 "On Prevention and Elimination of Infections and Infectious Disease" of 10 March 2016 provisions for the reporting and communication of infectious disease of international concern to international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the Southeastern European Network (SEEN), and countries of the European Union (EU). [2] There is also no evidence of such a plan in the "National Health Strategy 2016-2020", the "Action Plan of Health Promotion 2017-2021", or the "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania" of March 2020. [3, 4, 5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). September 2016 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Albania". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.18-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[2] Government of Albania. Law No.15/2016 of 10 March 2016. "On Prevention and Elimination of Infections and Infectious Disease". [[http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/46-2016.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/46-2016.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[3] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. 2017. "National Health Strategy 2016-2020". [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/albania/draft\\_strategt\\_albania\\_2016-2020.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/albania/draft_strategt_albania_2016-2020.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[4] Ministry of Health. 2015. "Action Plan of Health Promotion 2017-2021". [[http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PLANI-VEPRIMIT-PROM-SHEND\\_2017-2021.pdf](http://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PLANI-VEPRIMIT-PROM-SHEND_2017-2021.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[5] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. March 2020. "COVID-19 Action Plan for Albania: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response against COVID-19". [[https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid\\_AL-spreads.pdf](https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid_AL-spreads.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

### 5.6.1b

**Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?**

Yes = 0 , No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that Albania has not shared samples in accordance with the PIP framework in the past two years. The World Health Organization (WHO) has not reported any non-compliance of Albania in the past two years [1]. Furthermore, in the 2018 and 2019 "Meeting of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group" there is no evidence of refusal to provide samples in accordance with the PIP framework [2, 3]. There is no further evidence found in the international and local media outlets.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Virus sharing". [[http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/virus\\_sharing/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/virus_sharing/en/)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). April 2018. "Meeting of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group". [[http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/advisory\\_group/PIPAG\\_MR\\_Apr2018.pdf](http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/advisory_group/PIPAG_MR_Apr2018.pdf)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). October 2019. "Meeting of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group" [[https://www.who.int/influenza/pip/PIPAGMR\\_Oct2019.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/influenza/pip/PIPAGMR_Oct2019.pdf?ua=1)]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

### 5.6.1c

**Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?**

Yes = 0 , No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years. There is no evidence of a lack of sharing by Albania of pandemic pathogen samples including COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO) [1, 2, 3]. There is also no evidence found in international and local media outlets.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Disease Outbreak News Albania".

[<http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/alb/en/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). "COVID-19 Health System Report Monitor Albania".

[<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/albania/livinghit.aspx?Section=6.1%20Measures%20in%20other%20sectors&Type=Section>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). [<https://www.who.int/>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

## Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

### 6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

#### 6.1.1 Government effectiveness

##### 6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1c

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1d

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 0

2020

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.1e

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 36

2020

Transparency International

### 6.1.1f

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.1g

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3

2020

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

### 6.1.2a

How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

#### 6.1.3a

**What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?**

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

#### 6.1.4a

**How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?**

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

**Current Year Score: 3**

2021

Economist Intelligence

#### 6.1.4b

**What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?**

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

**Current Year Score: 2**

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

#### 6.1.4c

**How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?**

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Economist Intelligence



## 6.1.5 Armed conflict

### 6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 4

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.6 Government territorial control

### 6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.7 International tensions

### 6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

### 6.2.1 Literacy

#### 6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 98.14

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);  
The Economist Intelligence Unit

## 6.2.2 Gender equality

### 6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

**Current Year Score: 0.77**

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

## 6.2.3 Social inclusion

### 6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

**Current Year Score: 0.2**

2017

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.2.3b

Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The share of employment in the informal sector in Albania is 32.24% for the year 2019. This is the latest estimate for Albania.  
[1]

[1] The World Bank (WB). 21 June 2020. "Informal employment (% of total non-agricultural employment) - Albania".

[<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS?locations=AL>]. Accessed 19 August 2020.

### 6.2.3c

Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

**Current Year Score: 2**

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.2.4 Public confidence in government

### 6.2.4a

Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

Current Year Score: 0

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.5 Local media and reporting

### 6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.6 Inequality

### 6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.33

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

### 6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

#### 6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

#### 6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

#### 6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

### 6.4.1 Urbanization

#### 6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 61.23

2019

World Bank

### 6.4.2 Land use

#### 6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number

Current Year Score: 0.34

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

#### 6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

### 6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

#### 6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 78.46

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
World Factbook

#### 6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 601.9

2019

WHO

#### 6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 14.2

2019

World Bank

### **6.5.1d**

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 29.2

2018

World Bank

### **6.5.1e**

Prevalence of obesity among adults

Input number

Current Year Score: 21.7

2016

WHO

## **6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation**

### **6.5.2a**

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure

Input number

Current Year Score: 91.04

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

### **6.5.2b**

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities

Input number

Current Year Score: 97.72

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

### 6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita

#### 6.5.3a

Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 376.5

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

### 6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

#### 6.5.4a

Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

#### 6.5.4b

Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018