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ALBANIA



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E-Government Systems for Agriculture Sector in Albania in the Context of EU Pre-Accession Requirements

Assessment and Recommendations



ITU contribution to the Joint Programme on
“Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation in Albania”
implemented by FAO, ILO and ITU.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Labour
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMS	Area monitoring system
ARDA	Agricultural and Rural Development Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural fund for Rural development
EAGF	European agricultural Guarantee fund
FADN	Farm accountancy network
GAEC	Good agricultural and environmental conditions
GIS	Geographical information system
GoA	Government of Albania
GSA	Geospatial aid application
IACS	Integrated administration and control system
LPIS	Land parcel identification system
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NFA	National Food Authority
SMR	Statutory management requirements
WMS	Web Map Service
WMTS	Web Map Tile Service

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BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Context

This assessment is part of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) contribution to the “*Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation in Albania*” (DART) Joint Programme, implemented together with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Labour Organization (ILO). DART harnesses the potential of digitalization to address sustainability goals through systemic interventions targeted at public workers and small-scale farmers—especially those facing vulnerabilities due to geographic, economic, gender, or age-related factors, such as those living in underserved rural areas, young rural women and men, elderly farmers, and persons with disabilities.

This assessment is guided by the Compendium on “[Meeting the European Union's digital agriculture requirements](#)” for pre-accession countries and territories, jointly prepared by the ITU and FAO, in close consultation with the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (EC).

Recognizing the growing importance of digital tools in shaping the future of agriculture and rural development, the Compendium serves as a strategic resource to help countries navigate this transformation. Digitalization is a cross-cutting objective of European Union (EU) agricultural and rural policies, including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The ITU Office for Europe and the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia developed the Compendium primarily for EU pre-accession candidate countries and potential candidates. It aims to support these countries in understanding and aligning their national policies with emerging EU requirements in the area of digital agriculture, particularly those enshrined in the CAP 2023–2027.

Building on the Compendium’s guidance, this assessment aims to translate recommendations into actionable items, supporting evidence-based policy development and practical implementation steps. It identifies priority areas for intervention and outlines pathways for policy alignment, institutional strengthening, and digital capacity-building in the agricultural sector.

Methodology

Objectives of the Assessment:

- Conduct a comprehensive stocktaking of existing digital agriculture e-governance systems and solutions within the national digital ecosystem.
- Analyze the interoperability and interdependencies among digital agriculture e-governance systems and their integration with other national systems and platforms.
- Identify institutional, technical, and procedural gaps in the implementation of EU pre-accession requirements related to digital agriculture.
- Develop actionable recommendations to support alignment with EU pre-accession criteria, focusing on the enhancement and modernization of digital agriculture e-governance systems.

The assessment takes into account:

- Requirements by Art 114(b) of [EU Reg. 2115/2021](#) and [Recommendations to the Member States as regards their strategic plans for the Common Agricultural Policy EU](#) regarding strategy for the development of digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas and for the use of those technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAP Strategic Plan interventions;
- Needs for contribution to the roadmap towards EU accession in setting up CAP compliant information systems: [National programme for accession 2024-2030 and 2024-2026](#);
- Recommendations from [EU progress report 2024](#) related to the further strengthening of quality in use of administrative sources for agri-statistics (Chapter 18), further alignment of Integrated Administration and Control Systems (IACS) elements (in particular LPIS), operationalization of FADN (Chapter 11) and further progress in interoperability and use of digital services (Chapter 10);
- Needs identified under the [Strategy of agriculture, rural development and fisheries \(SARDF\) 2021-2027](#) related to digitalization of the sector and transfer of knowledge and innovation, and those which can be resolved more efficiently with the use of digital technologies;
- Objectives related to [Digital Agenda Albania 2022–2026 and action plan](#);
- Opportunities to simplify and reduce administrative burden in implementing rural development measures under the [Pre-accession IPARD III programme](#) to be re-used as interventions under CAP strategic plan for the post-accession period.

Emphasis on results-oriented implementation of JP:

- Contributing to the design of a comprehensive, smallholder farmer-centric and gender-responsive roadmap for the sustainable digitalization and modernization of the agricultural sector and rural areas;
- Enhancing the Farmers' Portal and promoting the use of e-Government services in agriculture;
- Contributing to the development of digital capacities, including the use of e-Learning tools.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND RELATED TO E-GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

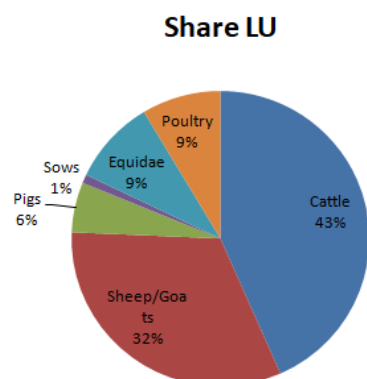
Albanian farms: Albanian agriculture is dominated by a large number of very small and fragmented farms. Around 45% of total farms are micro-farms (0-1 ha), 41% of farms have a size of 1,1-2 ha, and only 14% of farms have an area of more than 2 ha. On average, farm size is around 1,2 ha in Albania, which is close to micro-size and has a significant impact on productivity and competitiveness of farmers in the region (Source INSTAT; IPARD III programme).

Employees in agriculture: Agriculture in Albania employs 47,8% of the total active population, and about 24,31% of the land is used for agricultural purposes. Livestock farming is a very important activity for income generation for the majority of farms in rural Albania, considering that 86% of the farms pursue livestock activity. Livestock contributes to Agriculture GDP 52%. Therefore, it remains a very important sector for the economic and social progress of the country. The largest number of livestock heads is represented by cattle with 46,7% of the total number of livestock heads. Small ruminants represent 30,3%, pigs 6,3%, poultry 9,3% and equidae 7,4% of the total number of livestock heads per cattle unit. (Source INSTAT; IPARD III programme).

Table 1: Breakdown of Livestock by Animal Type

Type of animals	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	LU	LU share
Cattle	415.609	362.583	336.784	297.656	263.385	247.900	43,4%
Sheep/Goats	2.621.198	2.332.193	2.255.787	2.093.250	1.846.448	184.645	32,3%
Pigs	183.847	158.401	159.237	137.304	114.833	31.286	5,5%
Sows	13.539	11.556	12.222	11.656	10.547	5.274	0,9%
Equidae	86.549	78.614	75.568	64.818	66.566	53.253	9,3%
Poultry	8.179.237	7.906.721	7.651.587	6.847.508	7.031.358	49.220	8,6%
Beehives	288.329	358.365	393.635	479.096	518.790		
Total LU						571.576	100,0%

Figure 1: Distribution of Livestock Units Animal Type



Source INSTAT, 2024

The number of registered farms (with a tax identification number/NUIS) was more than 62.000 in 2021 (17,7% of the approximately 350.000 farms in Albania), an increase of more than 72% compared to 2018, indicating that farmers are very interested in the market and financial support and that the government's efforts to formalize the sectors are succeeding. In the first two months of 2022 alone, about 20.000 farmers were provided with NUIS, bringing the number of farmers equipped with NUIS to about 83.000 farmers. Currently, in accordance with [INSTAT report on the registers](#), there were 96.440 farmers registered with NUIS in 2023, out of approximately 320.000 farmers in Albania (as estimated by [CEIC for 2016](#)). There are (in accordance with the Advisory services, 2025) around **140.000 farmers** registered in the Farm register with a unique FARM-ID but have not registered in the Tax office. The reason is likely due to limitations in eligibility for support.

Small farmers in Albania ([FAO 2018](#)): A vast 74% of farms in Albania are small family farms with very limited size of holdings. Nonetheless, these family farmers account for the majority of the land used, highlighting the reliance on small-scale domestic production in Albania. Albania's family farmers today cultivate small parcels, averaging only 0,5 hectare. The average household size amounts to 4 to 5 members, with a notable level of education of the household head of more than 9 years. Remarkably, only 7% among all Albanian family farms are female managed, indicating that farming is a male-dominated domain, while women act as contributing workers.

Considering the weight of small family farms in Albanian agriculture, the main obstacles for increasing their productivity and competitiveness remain a lack of modernized production inputs. Only 11% have access to motorized equipment, and only half of the country's smallholders are able to apply fertilizer on their fields.

Agricultural mechanization: The level of agricultural mechanization per farm is hard to determine and will be more relevant after finalization of the forthcoming Agricultural census in 2026. If the number of active farmers is approximated with those with NUIS and received support under the oil support scheme (52.195), 19% of farms on average have access to wheeled tractors. If we take into account the farms with NUIS (97.000 in 2025), the share is 10,7%, or those registered by regional advisory service (140.000 accordance with advisory service), the access to wheeled tractors has 7,4% of farmers.

Table 2: Distribution of Agricultural Machinery by Type and Usage Share (2024)

Type	Number*	Advisory records	NUIS	Oil 2024
		140.000**	97.000***	52.195****
Wheeled tractors	10.404	7,4%	10,7%	19,9%
Mini-tractors	6.082	4,3%	6,3%	11,7%
Sowing machinery	4.366	3,1%	4,5%	8,4%
Mower	3.250	2,3%	3,4%	6,2%
Auto-combines	697	0,5%	0,7%	1,3%
Tractor in chain	168	0,1%	0,2%	0,3%
Fresa	8.480	6,1%	8,7%	16,2%

*Source INSTAT 2024; ** Source: Advisory service; *** Source: [INSTAT report on the registers](#)

**** Source: Recipients of oil scheme supports ([AZBHR 2024](#))

Processors: Agro-processing employs around 11.300 people in formal jobs and many more informally, especially during high seasons in agriculture and as part of informal businesses. 65% of these jobs are filled with young people under 30, while 70% of them are young women. Most of the youth working in agro-processing are unskilled, manual workers, employed along the processing line – grading, handling, or packing products. The sector has been selected for the important weight it carries in the Albanian economy. This amounts to 24,4% of the total agriculture turnover or 5% of the total Albanian GDP. Additionally, agro-processing trends are promising, as is the potential for growth and job creation. The sector turnover has almost doubled, while employment has increased by close to 20%, supported by a growing domestic demand for processed products.

Beekeeping: In accordance with the IPART III programme, the Beekeeping sector witnessed a gradual expansion from 2012 to 2016 (+25% in number of beehives), while there was a slight decrease in number of beehives up until 2018. The figure is increasing again in 2019. It is important to note that—despite a decreasing number of beehives—production of honey remained at the same level: 4.000.

Land structure: Agricultural land amounts to about 869.000 ha of which cultivated land covers about 415.000 ha (47,7%), permanent crops 87.780 (10%) and permanent pastures and meadows 366.100 ha (42,13%).

Table 3: Land Use in Agriculture and Forestry (2019–2023)

Land use	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Share 2023
Cultivated (including cereals, vegetables, medical and fodder plants)	417,029	421,607	420,579	416,492	415,030	47,77%
Forage (arable)	220,083	225,024	219,704	217,660	214,185	
Cereals	132,203	131,310	134,339	132,839	135,656	
Vegetables	33,038	33,502	33,506	33,797	33,576	
White beans	13,550	13,346	13,363	12,993	12,197	
Potatoes	10,164	9,701	10,378	9,910	10,068	
Medical plants	5,597	6,297	7,040	7,098	7,192	
Other	2,394	2,427	2,249	2,195	2,156	
Permanent crops (fruit trees, olives, citrus, vineyards)	85,838	86,912	87,630	88,243	87,750	10,10%
Olives	53,200	53,802	54,371	54,726	54,950	
Fruit trees	20,361	20,658	20,682	20,924	21,065	
Vineyards	10,842	10,964	11,057	11,040	10,178	
Citrus	1,435	1,488	1,520	1,553	1,557	
Permanent pastures and meadows	478,100	478,100	448,800	449,200	366,100	42,13%
TOTAL agricultural land	980,967	986,619	957,009	953,935	868,880	100,00%
Forests	1051,800	1051,800	1146,700	1146,700	969,900	100,00%

Source: INSTAT, 2024

Rural population: Albania has a total area of 28.748 square kilometers and a population of 2.845.955 inhabitants (1 January 2020), of which 1.429.088 are women and 1.416.867 are

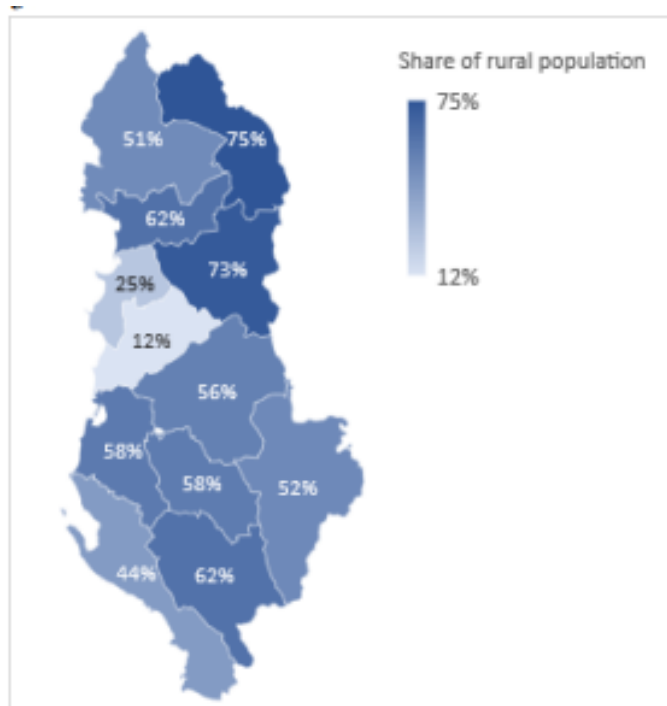
men. The population density is 100 inhabitants per km². The new administrative-territorial organization divides the country into 12 regions and 61 municipalities.

The former communes and old municipalities continue to be functional and are recognized as constituent administrative units of the new municipalities. Thus, the rural population is estimated at 964.791 inhabitants, which constitutes 33,9% of the population of Albania. Only Tirana is an urban or predominantly urban area, where the rural population is less than 20% of the total population.

The nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics is classified by 3 regions according to the new definition:

- Predominantly rural: Berat, Dibër, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastrë, Kukës, Lezhë and Vlorë;
- Intermediate rural: Durrës, Shkodër and Korçë; and
- Predominantly urban: Tirana ([Source IPARD III programme](#)).

Figure 2: Share of Rural Population by Regions in Albania



Source: INSTAT, 2014

Villages: There are about 3.000 villages in Albania ([2016](#)), managed by 373 units of local administration.

Rural tourism: The importance of rural tourism development was emphasized also by the number of applications submitted under IPARD II Programme. There were 117 applications, and 255 agri-tourism profiles published on <https://www.agroalbania.al/>.

Business environment: Overall, the business environment in rural areas is weak. Although 16 banks are operating in Albania, they are hardly present in rural, remote areas. Other,

nonbanking institutions (127) are widespread in rural areas, usually specialized in micro-credit (UNWOMEN, 2016). Under these circumstances, surveys provide that only 10% of the rural population are inclined to use micro credits. In addition, less than 10% of the households in predominantly and significantly rural areas have access to the Internet, while only 28% of households in rural areas have computers (INSTAT, 2018).

Vocational educational training: The system of vocational agricultural education includes 12 secondary schools which cover the following areas: agriculture, agri-tourism, veterinary, food technology, crop and livestock farming, and forestry ([see Table 4 in the IPARD III programme](#)).

University education in agricultural sciences is offered by the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT) and the Faculty of Agriculture of Korça. AUT is the only university specializing in the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate studies, research, training and extension in the field of agriculture and food processing.

Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers (5 QTTB) are responsible for conducting applied research in various fields of agriculture. ATTCs support MARD in formulating strategies and drafting national schemes, transferring technologies to agricultural and agro-processing businesses, supplying certified planting material for some of the seeds and seedlings, etc. The total number of employees in QTTB is 280. The Public Advisory Service (Extension) and Technology Transfer Centers forward information to approximately 20% of farmers and agribusinesses each year. Each year, more than 8.000 farmers are assisted by extension service (AREB) staff to implement and benefit from national support schemes.

Advisory services: MARD manages national agricultural extension service covering the territory of the whole country. The service enables the provision of information, advice and training to farmers and agro-business. In total, this service has 264 employees at the central and local level. At the county level, the extension service is part of 4 RAEA (Regional Agricultural Extension Agencies), in each of them are employed 7 specialists in different fields such as vegetables, orchards, livestock, plant protection, agrarian economists. The rest of the extension staff is in the Agricultural Information Centers (120 of them) at the local level which maintain direct links with the farming community.

INTEROPERABILITY AND SHARING PLATFORMS

National data infrastructure (NDI)

Institution: National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI, <http://akshi.gov.al/>), is a central agency for development and management of information society in the republic of Albania, formed under Council of Ministers on the basis of DECISION No. 673, dated 22.11.2017 [On the reorganization of the National Agency for Information Society](#).

E-Identity and e-Payments: AKSHI is one of the Qualified Providers of Trusted Services, offering Authentication, Electronic Signature and Electronic Seal service to service providers in all areas of the country. E-Identity has been established with [registration through portal e-Albania](#) and with issuing of [e-Signature](#). The [e-Payments](#) service supports payments of bills, governmental fees and fines with a credit card. The Government to citizen

payments are implemented through the Albanian Electronic Clearing House (AECH), an automated clearing system for small value payments, based on [Regulation 35/2020](#) in clearing sessions. Participants in AECH include the Bank of Albania and 11 commercial banks, as direct participants, and the Ministry of Finance and Economy as an indirect participant. The governmental institutions are preparing lists of payment orders grouped by banks and transmitting them to the Ministry of Finance which clears the payments through AECH.

Base registers and interoperability platforms: civil register, business register, address register, cadastre and real property are available through the interoperability platform which enables interoperability of 63 interactive governmental information systems.

Digital post and Digital notifications: The DPI supports communications via electronic post and supports transmission of administrative decisions, certificates and other documents and notifications to individuals.






Digital services AKSHI establishes e-Albania service platform with more than 1.200 services.


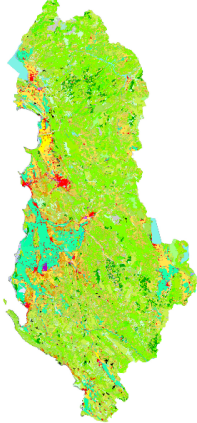
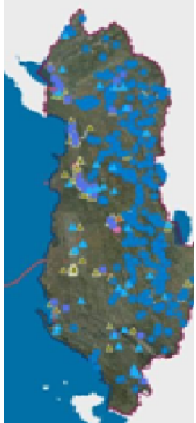
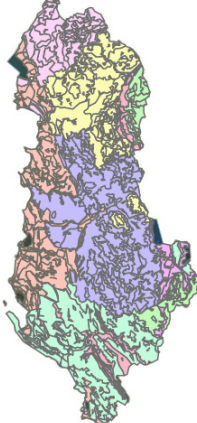
National spatial data infrastructure (NSDI)

The State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG, <http://asig.gov.al>) was established in 2013, according to Law 72/2012 "On the organization and functioning of the national infrastructure of geospatial information in the Republic of Albania."

ASIG (the Albanian agency for spatial data) offers a number of services (WMS and WMTS), which provide most updated Ortho-Imagery (Ortho-mosaic, DEM, digital cadastral maps - DCM, Colored infrared images - CIR), the address system, buildings, inhabited places, administrative units, etc.

Figure 3: Geospatial and Environmental Data Services Overview

Orthomosaic CIR 2023	Orthomosaic coverage 2023	Orthomosaic RGB 70cm/pixel 2023	DEM 2015-2017	Cadastral parcels
				
Service link	Service Link	Service Link	Service Link	Service Link
Protected areas	LandCover 2018	Water permits	Pedology 2001	

				
Service Link	Service Link	Service Link	Service link	

The Ortho-mosaics (Orthophoto) are from 2023. The Cadastral maps are available, however, there is no open information available on the owner. Those are available to all governmental bodies for free.

ALBANIA TOWARDS EU CAP

Albania is strongly committed to join the EU. After applying for EU membership in April 2009, Albania was granted EU candidate status in June 2014. The EU held its first intergovernmental conference with Albania in July 2022. The accession negotiations were opened on 24 March 2020. In 2024 Albania opened 2 clusters (Cluster 1 and Cluster 6). The negotiation chapters¹: Chapter 11 (agriculture) under Cluster 5 (Resources, agriculture and cohesion), envisage structural—normative and institutional—transformation of agriculture resulting in harmonized policy making, as well as policy implementation; Chapter 18 (Statistics) envisages alignment of statistics with agri-administrative systems, and the Administration reform addresses enhancement of e-Government for the reduction of administrative burden, and equal access to agri-policy intervention to beneficiaries.

The intensity of progress in meeting the requirements set by EU Green Deal, Farm to fork and Biodiversity strategies and digital transformation as their key enabler largely depends on carefully planned and coordinated actions.

In the European Union, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays a vital role in supporting the transition towards more sustainable and digitally enabled agriculture. The CAP framework 2023-2027, taking into account digitalization and data collections already established by member states years back, envisages new levels of design of agri-information systems, with enhanced integration, use of advanced monitoring technologies, data exchange, horizontal unification, and data re-use for better and more efficient e-Government. For this, the new CAP strategic plan regulation envisages a single integrated programming framework for EAGF and EAFRD, and description of the strategy of

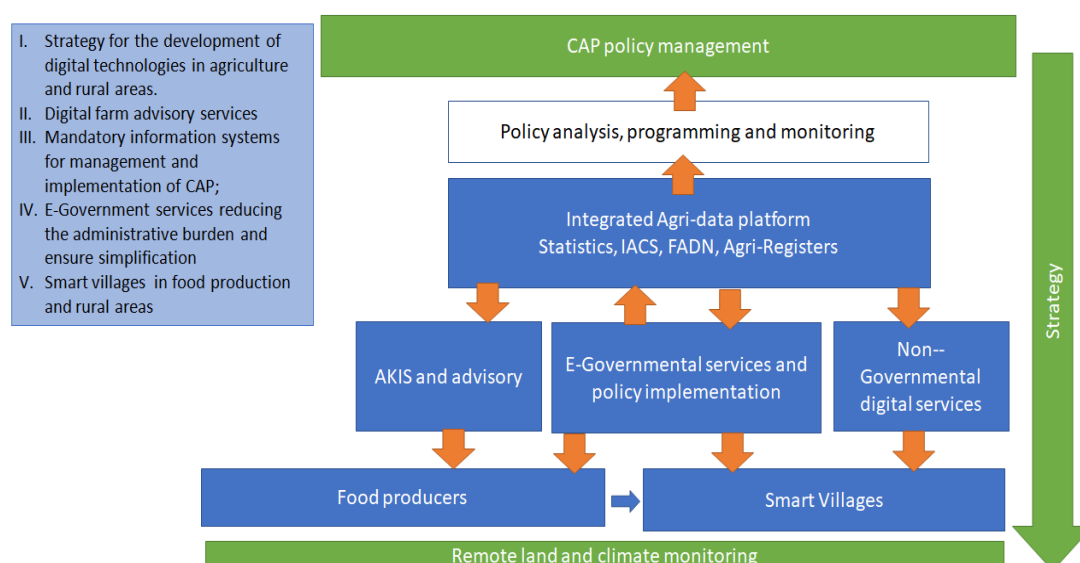
¹ Clusters and chapters introduced a EC communication on "Strengthening the accession process, COM(2020) 57 final"

digitalization for better implementation of interventions in food production and rural areas, and description of use of digital advisory services for farmer's support.

The CAP 2023 – 2027 fosters digital transformation through modernization (as per EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 114), reduction of administrative burden (as per EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 6(3), 109 (2i)), exchange and integration of data between the electronic databases and the geographic information systems (as per EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art 66 (3)) and data sharing and re-use (as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67, EU Reg. 138/2023 and EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67, EU Reg. 138/2023). It also establishes an integrated performance monitoring and evaluation framework (as per proof-based indicators (as per Annex 1 of EU Reg. 2115/2021) as an integral part of policy actions.

The potential of interoperable, integrated and coherent IACS, FADN, agri-statistics and other agri-registers is to play a role of data infrastructure providing data to simplify access for beneficiaries to support and reduce administrative burden.

Figure 4: CAP policy management



Source: [FAO and ITU Compendium for pre-accession countries and territories](#), 2024

EU CAP digital systems requirements

There are a number of information systems envisaged under CAP which need to be established and interconnected in order to provide equal and simple access for beneficiaries to support and ensure sound financial management of EU funds:

Table 4: EU CAP digital systems requirements

Key requirements regarding CAP IT systems	References
Strategy for the development of digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas	EU Reg. 2115/2021, Article 114
Regular agri-statistical data collections, interoperable with FADN and IACS	Statistical EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 6, and Requirements compendium (EUROSTAT)
Farm Accountancy Data Network/FSDN, managed by the national FADN liaison Agency, interoperable with Statistics and IACS	EU Reg. 1217/2009, FSDN: EU Reg. 2623/2023
The information system for management of CAP-strategic plans	EU Reg. 2115/2021 Article 130, 132
Paying agency reporting system managed by CAP Paying agencies	EU Reg. 1046/2018 Article 63, EU Reg. 2116/2021 Article 9(3)
The Integrated Administration and control system (IACS) as defined by CAP Horizontal Regulation Chapter II, integrating several subsystems and supporting data exchange and re-use: identification system for agricultural parcels (LPIS), system for the identification of beneficiaries of the interventions and measures (SIB), an area monitoring system, Geo-spatial aid application System (GSA), control and penalty system, Area monitoring system (AMS) and if applicable animal identification and registration system (AIR) and system for payment entitlements.	EU Reg. 2116/2021 (CH II), EU Reg. 1173/2022 and 1172/2022
IACS data exchange and integration between the electronic databases and GIS	EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66
IACS data public sharing requirement	EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67, EU Reg. 138/2023
Digital document and archives management	EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art. 67
Certification of IT systems in accordance with accreditation requirements	EU Reg. 127/2022, Annex 1
A single web page for publication of information related to beneficiaries	EU. Reg. 2116/2021, Article 98
Vineyard register, interoperable with IACS	EU Reg. 1308/2013, Article 145
Organic production registers	EU Reg. 834/2007, 2018/848
Register for traders of fruits and vegetables	EU Reg. 543/2011, Article 10
Reduce The Administrative Burden and Ensure Simplification	EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 6(3), 109 (2i)

Source: Author

Table 5: Agricultural Information Systems and Registers Supporting CAP Implementation

System/ register	Purpose & function, use in CAP	Data source & interoperability requirements	Users	Legal basis
Farm register	Farm registration Provision of data to administrative systems, FADN and Statistics	Tax register Civil register Business register Cadastre NSDI LPIS Animal register National Food authority	ARDA, MARD, AREB, Farmers, Public, INSTAT	Law on Agriculture and rural development, Instruction for creation of the Consolidated National Farm

		INSTAT, FADN Permanent crops registers GSA PMEF-IS		Register , dated 07/10/2021
LPIS	Land parcel identification system: unique identification of agricultural parcel, its location, use and cultivation	Farm register National spatial data infrastructure Pastures and Forests INSTAT FADN Vineyard register	ARDA, MARD, AREB, Farmers, Public	Art. 66 and 68 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 , EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2,3
AMS	Area monitoring system: Land use and cultivation checks	Farm register Satellite imagery: Copernicus Sentinels satellites data or any other data with at least equivalent value	ARDA, MARD, Farmers, Public	Art. 66 and 70 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 , EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 5 EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 2, 10, 11,12
SIB	a system for the identification of beneficiaries of the interventions and measures, containing all of the recipients of supports	Farm register INSTATFADN GSA CPS	ARDA, MARD, AREB, Tax office, Farmers, Public	Art. 66 and 71 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 ,
Geo-spatial aid application (GSA)	Geospatial aid application for area and animal based supports	Farm register with integrated LPIS Animal register CPS	ARDA, MARD, AREB, Farmers	Art. 66 and 69 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 , EU Reg. 1173/2022 Articles 2, 3-9 1172/2022 Art. 4
Control and penalty system (CPS)	The system for administrative and on-the-spot controls and calculation of supports	AMS LPIS Farm register FADN Animal register PMEF-IS	ARDA, Farmers	Art. 66 and 72 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 , EU Reg. 1172/2022 Chapter III
Animal register	Animal register and register of veterinary establishments	FADN Statistics GSA CPS Farm register	ARDA, MARD, AREB, Farmers,	Art. 66 and 72 of EU Reg. 2116/2021 , EU Reg. 429/2016 , Part IV/Title I
PMEF-IS	Performance monitoring and evaluation system	CPS Statistics Farm register	MARD, ARDA	EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 130
FADN/FSDN	Farm accountancy network	Farm register Farm structure Farm accounts Vineyard register Animal register	MARD, ARDA, AREB, Advisory	EU Reg. 2623/2023 ,

		PMEF-IS		
Agri-Statistics	Farm structure Farm accounts	Farm register FADN Vineyard register Animal register PMEF-IS	Farmers, MARD-Statistics, Instat, AREB	EU Reg. 2018/1091
Permanent crop registers	Vineyards Olive groves Orchards	Farm register LPIS GSA CPS	QTTC, Farmers/Wine producers,	Law on Vineyards and wine 86/2022 , EU Reg. 1308/2013 Article 145

Source: Author

Assessment of CAP information systems and databases

Agricultural statistics

Institutions

In accordance with the [Law on Official Statistics No. 17, 2018](#), the Statistical system consists of a number of institutions in charge of producing official statistics and other institutions, public or private, which release statistics in various fields for monitoring or implementing their development policies. Responsible for the implementation of the Program and monitoring of the Statistical System is the Institute of Statistics ([INSTAT](#)) as the main institution producing official statistics. The institutions in charge of producing official statistics in accordance with Art. 33 of the Law on official statistics share data with INSTAT free of charge and based on a memorandum of understanding.

The INSTAT agricultural statistics cooperates with MARD on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding. Directorate for Statistics, Analysis and Reporting under MARD, is in accordance to [Rulebook on internal organization of MARD \(11.2024\)](#) responsible for agricultural statistics, Market information system and FADN.

Regarding statistics, the Directorate has, amongst others, the following duties:

- Collection and processing of statistical data from administrative registers and compilation of data collected by the Agricultural Extension;
- Training of Agricultural Extension and surveyors who will manage surveys;
- Monitoring the work during the survey/survey process and filling out the questionnaires;
- Compilation of a yearly Green report

The data are collected with the cooperation of the regional offices of Agricultural Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture, which enter data in the Farm register, and are prospective users of FADN. There are a number of collections established yearly with the use of administrative sources: Statistics of plant products, Livestock, meat and egg statistic, Statistics of milk and milk by-products, Statistics on economic agriculture accounts,

Statistics of organic agriculture production and Agro-environment statistics, Fisheries and Forestry.

The administrative sources are: Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Food Agency, and General Directorate of Customs.

EU Requirements

The [Statistical Requirements Compendium](#) (SRC) published by Eurostat serves as a reference document for the EU acquis in statistics. It summarizes the key reference information for European statistical production, taking into account new legislation and other developments relevant to European statistics. The requirements regarding agricultural statistics are covered by Chapter 3.1 of SRC.

[EU Reg. 2115/2021](#) Art 143 (3) requires the use of administrative sources for statistics: Data from administrative registers, such as the integrated system referred to in Article 65(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, the identification system for agricultural parcels referred to in Article 68 of that Regulation, and animal and vineyard registers, shall also be used for statistical purposes, in cooperation with statistical authorities in Member States and with Eurostat.

[EU Reg. 2018/1091](#) on integrated farm statistics in Art. 4 envisages the use of the administrative data sources (IACS, animal registries, the vineyard register, the organic farming registers, sources associated with specific rural development measures) and innovative approaches.

National authorities responsible for fulfilling the requirements of this Regulation shall have the right to access and use data, promptly and free of charge, including individual data on agricultural holdings and personal data on their holders contained in administrative files compiled on their national territory pursuant to Article 17a of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. The national authorities and the owners of the administrative records shall establish the necessary cooperation mechanisms.

The regulation defines the contents of the data to be collected in annexes to the regulation.

Current state and planned activities

EU Report 2024: Agricultural statistics are partly aligned with the EU acquis. Improvement was made to the administrative registers, but the data quality still needs to be improved. Preparatory work for the agricultural census has been conducted, but INSTAT will still need to undertake important steps such as updating its work plan and budget, ensuring the adoption of the agricultural census law, finalizing the questionnaire and ensuring the census logistics are in place.

Interoperability: There is no interoperability between the registers. The data collected from the administrative sources are collected twice per year by the Agricultural extension service and validated by MARD. The 2026 Agricultural census will be implemented by INSTAT. As it is the most important data resource for in field of agriculture, it is a big opportunity to be

used as a resource for digital data infrastructure in agriculture and re-used by all interoperable sectoral registers.

Activities planned: The [official statistical programme 2022-2026](#) (Chapter 3.1) envisages that the Agricultural census is implemented in 2024 (delayed), and Integrated Farm Statistics is fully aligned with EU Acquis by 2026, whilst the other will be mainly (but not fully) harmonized by 2026. The programme envisages the use of administrative sources as per the table below.

Table 6: Statistics of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

3.1 Statistics of agriculture, forestry and fisheries	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Data source	Responsible institution
Forest statistics	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Plant product statistics from the annual agricultural survey				x	x	SS	Inst Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Statistics of plant products (administrative)	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Statistics of plant products from the survey on the planted area				x	x	SS	Inst Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Livestock, meat and egg statistics from the annual agricultural survey				x	x	SS	Inst Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Livestock, meat and egg statistics (administrative)	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Livestock, meat and egg statistics from the monthly survey on monitoring the activity of slaughterhouses for cattle, pigs and small ruminant	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Livestock, meat and egg statistics from the monthly survey on monitoring the activity of poultry slaughterhouses	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Livestock, meat and egg statistics from the monthly survey of the activity of poultry farms for egg production (human consumption)	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Statistics of milk and milk by-products from the annual survey in all factories and dairies that collect and process milk	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Statistics of milk and milk by-products from the monthly survey in factories that collect and process cow's milk	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Statistics of milk and milk by-products from the administrative source	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Census of agriculture and agricultural farms			x			Cens	INSTAT
Statistics on economic agriculture accounts	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Statistics on agricultural prices	x	x	x	x	x	SS	INSTAT
Fishing statistics	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Statistics of organic agriculture production	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT
Agro-environment statistics	x	x	x	x	x	AS	INSTAT

*SS-Statistical survey; *AS-Administrative source

Source: INSTAT, Statistical programme 2022-2026

Objectives, specific objectives and indicators

The [official statistical programme 2022-2026](#) envisages number of indicators related to use of administrative data and innovative digital tools in data collections:

Table 7: indicators related to use of administrative data and innovative digital tools

Objectives and specific objectives	Indicators
Strategic objective 2: Fulfilling the full level of user requests for official statistics Specific objective: 2.1 Increasing the use of administrative data and records for statistic	2.5 Number of SDG indicators produced by NSS 2.6 The number of statistical activities disaggregated at the minimum local level
Strategic objective 4: The inclusion of additional institutions that produce data in the National Official Statistics Program Specific objective: 2.1 Increasing the use of administrative data and records for statistic	4.2 Number of institutions supplying micro administrative data 4.4 Number of administrative registers used for statistical production (micro files that INSTAT receives from other institutions)
Strategic objective 5: Further modernization of statistical processes, methods, products and services to improve the quality, timely delivery and cost efficiency of official statistics Specific Objective: 5.5 Developing information systems to reduce communication load and to increase statistical quality	5.1 Number of applications built/updated for data collection with CATI/CAWICA TI/CAWI 5.2 Number of applications built/updated with CAPI 5.3 The number of statistical activities in which the software will be used

Source: Author

[SARDF 2021-2027](#), as part of vision (1.3.6) raises the importance of improving agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics and their alignment with FADN;

Table 8: Actions and indicators for Improving agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics and their alignment with FADN

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions and indicators
Strategic objective 3: Development of administrative and institutional capacities, cooperation of actors, innovation and digitalization Specific Objective: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation: The FADN will be 80% ready/complete by 2024 and 100% by 2027. (1.MIO envisaged – financed by IPA

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- The main recommendation related to agri-statistics is to establish the interoperability with other agricultural systems (FADN/FSDN and IACS) in line with EU regulations [2116/2021](#) (Art 67) and [FSDN Regulation](#) (Article 4). This will require harmonization/alignment of IACS, FADN, Statistical, and data from the National food authority, and establishment of protocols with supporting digital services for data exchange.

- For this to be possible, all involved registers, IACS (including Farm register), FADN and statistics, need to support consent of the farmers for use of their personal data throughout the administrative systems, on a “one time only” principle.
- There is a need for an increase in quality assurance of data entered in Farm register and FADN in order to avoid errors occurring in all three interoperable systems. This can also be supported by follow-up actions on the basis of on-field controls, validation checks, and use of future LPIS quality management system.
- It is recommended that the agricultural census be interoperable with the official population register and the business register, and include a consent statement allowing farmers' data from the census to be used for farm registration and for FADN purposes, in order to avoid multiple visits to the Extension Service office for Farm Register registration.
- It is necessary to develop e-digital services (APIs) for data sharing, and the compilation platform (in the form of e-mediator code-lists mapping), which would provide administration of data sources and **support to policy analysis** (Green report), and **open data sharing** with data mining.

[FADN/FSDN](#)

Institutions

Law of agriculture and rural development ([No. 9817/2007](#)) in Article 27 defines Farm accounting. Directorate for Statistics, Analysis and Reporting under MARD, in accordance to [Rulebook on internal organization of MARD \(11.2024\)](#), is responsible for FADN (FSDN) management. The Regional agricultural extension Agencies are responsible for the collection of FADN data ([Decision on the establishment, organization and functioning of Regional Agricultural Extension Agencies, 2018](#)).

EU requirements

The EU members states are in according to [EU Reg. 1217/2009](#) and [EU Reg. 2023/2674](#) establishing FSDN (Farm sustainability data network). Regarding the interoperability, the **FSDN, (EU Reg. 2623/2023, Art 1, Art 4, Art 4a) needs to be interoperable with:**

- **Statistics** (as per EU Reg. 2022/2379, 2018/1091 and 138/2004) of the European Parliament and of the Council³, or in other acts adopted on the basis of Article 338(1) TFEU, and art 143 of EU Reg. 2115/2021, regarding administrative source for agri-statistics
- **Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)**
- **system for the identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals**
- **vineyard register**
- **organic farming registers**
- Data from CAP monitoring and evaluation system (DME)
- **any other relevant data source accessible to Member States’ authorities**

The FADN and FSDN technical guidelines are available at [FSDN Committee and Expert group pages](#) under EU CIRCA pages.

Current state and planned activities

EU Report 2024: The implementation of the action plan for setting up a farm accountancy data network (FADN) needs to progress further and to incorporate environmental and social data in line with the EU acquis.

In [accordance to FAO](#), the methodology has been developed. 40 pilot farms were uploaded in the EU RICA1 system in 2023. The FADN software is in development (in accordance with MARD and AKSHI officials), further steps are needed for upgrading FADN to FSDN.

Interoperability: There is so far (in accordance with MARD officials) no initiative in use of innovative approaches in the collection of FADN. However, basic interconnectivity has been established in the test version.

Activities planned: [SARDF 2021-2027](#), envisages FADN to be fully approximated with EU Acquis and operationalized by 2027.

Table 9: FADN Approximation under SARDF 2021–2027

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions and indicators
Strategic objective 3: Development of administrative and institutional capacities, cooperation of actors, innovation and digitalization Specific Objective: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation: The FADN will be 80% ready/complete by 2024 and 100% by 2027.

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- FADN needs to be checked for its compliance when finalized, particularly in calculation of financial statements and compliance with RICA1, and technical papers published in EU CIRCA pages.
- FADN data collection needs to be interoperable and usable with Farm register (IACS) and Statistics as data sources.
- The Quality management system needs to be established to ensure that data shared with other systems are properly validated.
- E-Service for direct access to FADN needs to be established in order to support direct face-to-face advisory and promotion of simple personal use.
- FADN data needs to be available for the scientific institutions/advisory service for development of new innovative approaches in food production, face to face advisory, support in simplification and reduced administrative burden in processing of applications (such as use of simplified cost options, simple business plans, etc.).
- Data mining tool needs to be developed for analysis of FADN data.

The Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework information system (DME)

Responsible institution: MARD

EU Requirements

The information systems supporting performance of CAP Strategic plans need to be established in accordance with EU Reg. 2115/2021 Article 130, 132, in which key information on the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan that is needed for monitoring and evaluation, particularly for monitoring progress towards the objectives and targets set, including information on each beneficiary and operation are recorded. **DME needs to be interoperable with FSDN** (EU Reg. [2623/2023](#), Art 1, Art 4, Art 4a) and with administrative systems as per Art. 128 of [EU Reg. 2021/2115](#), and Art. 66 (2) of [EU Reg. 2116/2021](#).

Current state and planned activities

EU Report: There are no specific comments regarding Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), but it encourages the efficient implementation of the IPARD III in full compliance with the principles of sound financial management.

The monitoring and evaluation framework has so far been established for the IPARD II with use of the ARDA Management Information System (MIS), collecting data on monitoring indicators related to the programme.

Actions planned: [SARDF 2021-2027](#) interventions related to design of Monitoring and evaluation framework envisages development of basic sector indicators and basic environmental indicators:

Table 10: Monitoring and evaluation framework under SARDF 2021-2027

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 1: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	25. TA for statistical data on basic sector indicators 26. TA for statistical data on basic environmental indicators

Source: Author

Digital agenda action plan envisages actions related to Policy Performance management and evaluation:

**Table 11: Policy Performance management and evaluation under Digital Agenda
Section Plan**

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 2: Digital business: accessible, proactive services and business-ready actions	23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- The information system (Performance management and evaluation framework as per EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 130) needs to be developed to compile the statistical (context) and policy (output and result) indicators as envisaged by IPARD III and CAP.
- The information system needs to be enhanced with Indicators from IPARD III and afterwards CAP (as per Annex I of EU Reg. 2115/2021) and interconnected to all administrative systems for approval of support in agriculture and rural development.
- It is recommended that the same system is used for compilation of data from all sources and used for preparation of Green report.

Integrated Administration and control system

Responsible institution:

In accordance to Art 21 of Law of agriculture and rural development ([No. 9817/2007](#)), Agricultural Development Agency ([ARDA](#)) is responsible for IACS in Albania.

EU Requirements:

The mandatory elements of the integrated administration and control system (as per Art. 66 of [EU Reg. 2116/2021](#)) are:

- an identification system for agricultural parcels (LPIS) and LPIS quality assessment (EU Reg. 1172/2022);
- a geo-spatial application system and, where applicable, an animal-based application system (GSA) and GSA quality management system (EU Reg. 1172/2022 and 1173/2022);
- an area monitoring system (AMS), and AMS quality management system (EU Reg. EU Reg. 1172/2022 and 1173/2022);
- a system for the identification of beneficiaries of the interventions and measures referred (SIB);
- a control and penalty system (CPS);
- where applicable, a system for the identification and registration of payment entitlements (SIRPE);
- where applicable, a system for the identification and registration of animals (AIR).

Other requirements:

- The integrated system shall provide information relevant for the reporting on the indicators referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115
- The integrated system shall operate on the basis of electronic databases and geographic information systems and shall enable the exchange and integration of data between the electronic databases and the geographic information systems.

The IACS data sharing requirements are (as per Eu Reg. [2116/2021](#), Art. 67: Data keeping and sharing):

- **Clearance of accounts system (x-tables):** Member States shall record and keep any data and documentation on the annual outputs reported in the context of the annual performance clearance referred to in Article 54, and
- **PMEF (DME):** Member States shall report progress towards targets set out in the CAP Strategic Plan and monitored in accordance with Article 128 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.
- **Open data:** Member States shall ensure that data sets collected through the integrated system, which are relevant for Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³³⁾ or for monitoring Union policies, are shared free of charge between its public authorities and made publicly available at national level. Member States shall also provide the institutions and bodies of the Union with access to those data sets. The [Open data directive 2019/1024](#) and **high-value datasets as determined by the [EU Reg. 2023/138](#)**.
- **Statistics:** Member States shall ensure that data sets collected through the integrated system which are relevant for the production of European statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) No [223/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁴⁾ are shared free of charge with the Commission (Eurostat), the national statistical institutes and, where necessary, with other national authorities responsible for the production of European statistics.

Current state and planned activities

EU Report 2024: A farm register is in place and is regularly updated but it still has to be fully aligned with the EU acquis. There was no progress on further elements of the establishment of the future integrated administration and control system (IACS). Efforts on the land parcel identification system (LPIS) should be especially strengthened.

Planned activities: Digital agenda action plan actions related to IACS

Table 12: Actions related to IACS under Digital Agenda Action Plan

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 2: Digital business: accessible, proactive services and business-ready actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes • Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program • Improving the National Food Authority System • Improving the Water Cadastre System • Improving the National Business Center System • Establishment of the farm register

Source: Author

SARDF 2021-2027 – envisages the following actions related to IACS

Table: Table 13: Actions related to IACS under SARDF 2021-2027

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 1: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i> TA projects for approximation of EU legislation in chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) will be 50% ready by 2024 and 100% ready by 2027. (1,5 M), • The farm register will be 100% ready/completed by 2024 • The number of new IPARD III measures accredited for implementation will reach 5 by 2024 and 9 by 2027.
TA projects for approximation of EU legislation in chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of updating and improving the Animal Registry database and ensuring a good connection with other databases as well as updating the relevant legal basis will reach 80% by 2024 and 100% by 2027. (national)

Source: Author

Assessment of IACS elements

FARM REGISTER

Institutions:

The National Farm Register is maintained by the Regional extension services, and consolidated by ARDA. The regional extension services ([Decision on the establishment, organization and functioning of Regional Agricultural Extension Agencies, 2018](#)) are:

1. Tirana Regional Agricultural Extension Agency;
2. Korca Regional Agricultural Extension Agency;
3. Shkoder Regional Agricultural Extension Agency;
4. Lushnje Regional Agricultural Extension Agency.

EU requirements:

EU Reg. 2116/2021: Art. 71: **System for the identification of beneficiaries**

The system for recording the identity of each beneficiary of the interventions and measures referred to in Article 65(2) shall guarantee that all applications submitted by the same beneficiary can be identified as such.

Current situation:

The farm register is based on the [Law on Agriculture and rural development](#) (2007, Art 22), and regulated by the [Instruction for creation of the Consolidated National Farm Register, dated 07/10/2021](#). The farm register is based on the [Law on Agriculture and rural development](#) (2007, Art 22), and regulated by the [Instruction for creation of the Consolidated National Farm Register, dated 07/10/2021](#).

The farm register is not officially determined by CAP acquis. However, in the context of IACS, it can be recognized as:

- **CAP compliant identification system for beneficiaries** as per EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art 66.1 (d), interoperable with official data on animals (from RUDA system) as per EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art 66.1 (g), interoperable with Tax authority with regards to personal farmer's or company data,
- determining single ID for farm holder (Farmer-ID), which is NUIS,
- determining ID of the Farm (Farm-ID), which is determined in the registration process resulting in the Farmer's card.

The aim of the farm register is also to:

- **use the database for statistical purposes** (as required by Eu Reg. [2116/2021](#), Arti. **67: Data keeping and sharing**);
- support the access for farmers, for registration and updating of data;
- be a pre-condition for eligibility of farmers for state support
- **serve as pre-established data for supports in agriculture** (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (1))

Contents of the farm register (in accordance with the Instruction):

Farmer's identity: Farmers get the NUIS in the [local tax authority](#), and represent e-Identity in all administrative processes in agriculture, on the basis on the Farms Card issued by the Farm register. The NUIS and the Farm ID are the pre-conditions for the farmers to apply for support in agriculture.

Data about the farmer and a farm:

- interoperable with tax office (NUIS, Name, Surname, addresses, contact data, organizational form);
- farm code ensures the unique identification of the farm and enables identification of the administrative location;
- location of the farm;
- real-time farm status.

Data about the farm: The National Farm Register is updated with additional data transferred from regional registers, according to the applicant's self-declaration or administered through official channels, as follows:

- the total area of land on the farm, the areas of each parcel, as well as the legal relationship (ownership, lease, loan-use or another form), location with cadastral map or parcel address;
- location of the farm;
- farm activities with relevant data;
- data on agricultural mechanization with data on each tool;
- benefits from any national support scheme or funding through state institutions;
- administrative measures;
- supporting/evidentiary documents.

Number of registered farmers (end of 2023): In accordance with [INSTAT report on the registers](#), there were 96.440 farmers registered with NUIS in 2023, out of approximately 320.000 farmers in Albania (as estimated by [CEIC for 2016](#)). There are (in accordance with the Advisory services, 2025 around 140.000 farmers registered in the Farm register with unique FARM-ID but have not registered in Tax office. The reason is probably the limitation in eligibility for support.

Interoperability:

FADN and Statistics (Farm structure survey): no interoperability currently

Tax register: The Farm register is interoperable with Tax register, which provides the data on the farmer and presents the e-Identity also for administrative systems for subsidies.

Areas on disposal to farmers (As per Art. 4 (4) of EU Reg. 2115/2021):

- The farm register covers parcels legal relationship, (ownership, lease, loan-use or another form), location with cadastral map or parcel address. The proofs of right of use are brought in paper – some of them can be obtained from the official cadastral records (there is a service in e-Albania for [Property certificate](#) and [Lease of agricultural land](#)). There is no information on whether the parcel is irrigated/not irrigated, Organic/transition/not organic, planted with GMO.
- The Cadastral data are available for Governmental institutions free of charge. Therefore it is recommended that the Farm register is interconnected with cadastral databases, providing the Data on cadastral parcel (Cadastral zone and number), Area, Owner or leaser. The Services under e-Albania support the leasing of agricultural land ([Lease of agricultural land](#));
- The orthomosaic, digital elevation model (DEM, elevation, slope), and digital cadastral maps (containing zone, parcel ID and area) are available through ASIG WMS and WMTS services, but containing no information about legal relationship/ownership;
- The farm register is not interoperable with cadastre not with ASIG, therefore the data about parcels on disposal need to be uploaded into the system for each application

Areas cultivated by farmers are not captured with the use of GIS; instead, the plots are drawn, scanned and uploaded in the application system.

Animals owned by the farmers have already been integrated with the farm register (if not so, the APIs exist for the purposes of direct payments and can be e-used).

Conditionality: The codes related to Good Agriculture and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) and Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs), which need to be applied by farmers in order to be eligible for support under CAP, have so far not been compliant to EU Acquis. The minimal standards have been applied under IPARD II programme.

Recommendations:




Interoperability with FADN and Statistics (Farm structure survey)

- Requires mapping of the IDs (FSDN ID, Statistical ID, Farm –ID), and data formats defined by three different regulations in order to ensure coherency of data
- It has to be taken into account that interoperability can cause systemic errors throughout the systems, therefore it is important to take into account that the needs for the definition of exchange rules, protocols, timing and validation checks for each data set
- It is an opportunity at the time of first registration in the farm register, the data from Statistics are available to the farmer in the form of pre-populated farm registration forms

Interoperability with cadastre and ASIG




- **Areas on disposal to farmer** (As per Art. 4 (4) of EU Reg. 2115/2021): It is recommended that Interoperability with cadastre (or cadastre through ASIG) with use of available services is established as soon as possible which would replace the need for uploading the scanned documentation into a system. It is also recommended that the information is stored centrally in the farm register and used for all of the applications submitted by the farmer. (The alternative is to acquire e-Albania [property card](#) or scan the lease contract and upload it to the Farm register and re-use it for all applications.)
- **Areas cultivated by farmers (not fully aligned with EU LPIS):** It is recommended that GIS delineation of the plots cultivated is implemented as soon as possible in order to replace drawing the plots, scanning and uploading the forms. It is recommended that GIS delineation is done with use of interoperable ortho-imagery provided by ASIG (at least Digital elevation model and Ortho-photo), store the digital plots centrally in the farm register, and re-use them when submitting the aid applications. It is recommended that the approach is piloted as soon as possible.

Table 14: Example 1 - Use of cadastral maps

Step 1 Simple formalization of legal status of areas on disposal to farmers with use of e-Albania or uploading the contracts	Step 2 Graphical capturing of areas of actual cultivation on the top of formal cadastral parcels with use of simple GIS field delineation tools	Step 3 Development of methodologies and establishment of country wide EU compliant LPIS and transformation of digitalized corrected parcels into EU-LPIS parcels
Areas in ownership/Leasing Lease the land through e-Albania	Areas in cultivation Establish simple GIS tool for delineation of areas in cultivation, containing information from ASIG including ownership/leasing	Areas recorded in LPIS Pilot: Develop the methodologies and definitions and develop LPIS system (as per EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2,3) Transform existing plots into LPIS plots - automatically
Upload the lease contract in Farm register (based on standard contract)		In-office digitalization of other LPIS elements (ANC, AMR, EFA)
Upload the lease contract in Farm register (based on standard contract)		
Update the farm register	Digitize the parcels (via e-FR)	Update the parcels (via e-FR)
		

Source: Author based on experience in Slovenia

Table 15: Example 2 - Use of cadastral labels (in order to avoid conflict on cadastral borders)

Step 1 Simple formalization of legal status of areas on disposal to farmers with use of e-Albania or uploading the contracts	Step 2 Graphical capturing of areas of actual cultivation	Step 3 Development of methodologies and establishment of country wide EU compliant LPIS and transformation of GIS parcels into EU-LPIS parcels
Parcels in ownership/Leasing	Areas in cultivation	Areas recorded in LPIS
Determine the land in disposal to farm: ownership/right of use/signed leasing agreement	Establish simple GIS tool for delineation of areas in cultivation, containing information from ASIG	Pilot: Develop the methodologies and definitions and develop LPIS system (as per EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2,3)
Upload/acquire the parcel label data (zone ID, Parcel number, ownership and location – centroid, area)	Locate the parcel label	Transform existing plots into LPIS plots - automatically
Calculate cumulative area of parcels in disposal and determine upper limit of land which can be declared	Delineate actually cultivated land	In-office digitalization of other LPIS elements (ANC, AMR, EFA)
Update the farm register	Delineate the parcels (via e-FR)	Update the parcels (via e-FR)
		

Source: Author based on experience in Slovenia

Other information to be stored in the farm register

It is recommended to include additional information in a farm register, which will be afterwards reused for data exchange (with FADN and Statistics) or for pre-population of application forms:

- **Bank account data**
 - Save the bank account into the Farm register and re-use it for all applications if there is no change
 - On the basis of experience (Slovenia), it is advisable to nominate the deputy Farmer in the farm register, to avoid inheritance procedure in case of absence
 - Agree with individual banks to confirm the validity of the bank account before the payment orders are generated
- **Location of the farm and type of activities**
 - Map the XY location of the farm main building

- Select the activities on the farm
- **Additional information added to area:** whether the plot is irrigated/not irrigated, Organic/transion/not organic with ID of certificate (linked to certificate), planted with GMO, and number of Permanent grove (Vineyard, Olive Grove, Orchard, Aromatic plants) with link to paticularities of those.
- **Mechanization, buildings and family members** (to be re-used for FADN and statistical purpose): data on buildings, family members and work on the farm are added, and more detailed information on the mechanization is recommended:
 - The data of buildings interoperable with approved veterinary objects, food safety registry of food establishments, buildings supported by investment programmes, including their locations, capacities, and material built in order to be reused for PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) and PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) and food quality schemes
 - The data on members, their age, gender and education of the farm which will give consent to the farmer's use of the areas in their ownership
 - Mechanization in ownership by the farm with detailed description and capacities, year built, and whether supported
- **Information on conditionality:** It is advisable that in the Farm register there is information on which GAEC and SMRs need to be respected by the farm (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 6.2(d)). This would besides control purpose of ARDA also contribute to awareness of the farmer of the requirements to be applied in agricultural production.
- **Certificates, licenses, permits** available through e-Albania linked to a person or a farm, to be linked automatically or uploaded into farm register and reused for application purposes
- **Financial documents:** such as official documents regarding support and payments
- **Other documents:** frequently needed as an annex to several applications, and not available electronically

Recommendations:

- Currently, the farmers are declaring land on disposal with provision of paper based cadastral maps issued by cadastre, the appropriation rights and/or lease agreements. It is recommended that the land information on disposal to farmers is available electronically on the basis of farmer's e-identity, and on the basis of consent given by family members registered in the farm register.
- It is recommended that the farmers delimit the land in cultivation with use of GIS during yearly direct payment applications.

LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

EU Requirements: Land parcel identification systems is an integral part of IACS as per Art. 66 and 68 of [EU Reg. 2116/2021](#), and EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2,3. LPIS a geographic information system established and regularly updated by the Member States on the basis of aerial or spatial ortho-imagery, with a uniform standard that guarantees a level of accuracy

that is at least equivalent to that of cartography at a scale of 1:5 000. LPIS uniquely identifies each agricultural parcel and units of land containing non-agricultural areas considered eligible for receiving the aid for the intervention. The LPIS requirements and requirements regarding LPIS quality management are in detail regulated by EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2,3.

Currently, there is no LPIS in place.

Recommendations

- For establishment of EU compliant LPIS, it is recommended that LPIS pilot project is launched, which would result in determination LPIS definitions (as per EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art.2, determination of areas in accordance to EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art 2 (7).d) and (7).e) - ex. EFA; development of methodologies for establishment of EU compliant LPIS, training of trainers, development of EU compliant LPIS editor with LPIS pilot digitalization on pilot areas and development of manual for LPIS quality management as per EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art. 3).

AREA MONITORING SYSTEM

EU Requirements:

AMS is a mandatory element of IACS as per EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art 66.1(c), and is further defined in EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art.70 and EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art. 10 - 12 and 1172/2022 Art. 5 with regards to AMS Quality management system. The area monitoring system shall apply to all aid applications for area-based interventions under the integrated system submitted in each Member State and shall be used to observe, track and assess agricultural activities and practices on hectares under these area-based interventions and at least for the purpose of annual performance reporting. It needs to be used for checks of the eligibility conditions, which can be monitored with Copernicus Sentinel satellites.

Recommendations:

- Use of AMS and AMS Quality management system in parallel with use of geo-tagged photos can substantially reduce the field controls (see the [EU Reg. 2202/2024](#) amending to EU Reg. 1173/2022 art 10). Pilot AMS is needed to develop the methodology of area monitoring with the use of Copernicus satellites. It has to be taken into account that the methodology strongly depends on agricultural area-based interventions in the future CAP strategic plan.

GEO-SPATIAL AND ANIMAL-BASED AID APPLICATION SYSTEM

EU Requirements :

The requirements of Geospatial application are defined in the Art. 69 of EU [Reg. 2116/2021](#) and in detail with [EU Reg. 1173/2022](#) with regards to general rules for aid application system (Art. 3), simplification of procedures related to the aid application system (Art. 4), requirements pertaining to the aid application system (Art.5), content of aid applications (Art. 6), Geo-spatial application (Art. 8), and the Geo-spatial aid application Quality assessment in [EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art.4](#).

CAP interventions implemented through IACS (direct payments) are:

Table 16: CAP interventions implemented through IACS

EAGF interventions (Art. 16, EU Reg. 2115/2021)	EAFRD interventions (Art. 69, EU Reg. 2115/2021)
<p>Decoupled direct payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the basic income support for sustainability; • the complementary redistributive income support for sustainability; • the complementary income support for young farmers; • the schemes for the climate, the environment and animal welfare. <p>Coupled direct payments shall be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the coupled income support; • the crop-specific payment for cotton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental, climate-related and other management commitments; • natural or other area-specific constraints; • area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements; • investments, including investments in irrigation paid per hectare or head; • risk management tools;

Source: Author based In the EU regulation

Current state and planned activities

The direct payments in Albania are so far implemented under national programme in accordance to yearly decision on implementation of Agricultural development plan ([Instruction, No. 6, Dated 7.3.2024, On The Criteria, Procedures And Manner Of Administration Of The Agriculture And Rural Development Program Fund](#)) are:

1. Payment per head of cow - milk; (min 10 head);
2. Payment per head - sheep/goat - milk; (min 100 head);
3. Payment for Beehives /beehive; (min 50 hives);
4. Payment per hectare in greenhouses; (min 1 ha);
5. Payment per hectare for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants; (min 1 ha);
6. Payment for Organic farms for the transition period;
7. Payment for Global GAP implementation and certification;
8. Direct support for Fuel (per hectare); (min 1 ha).

Under [IPARD III programme 2012-2027](#), Albania plans to implement area based **agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure (M4)** and Forestry measure (M11), which can be afterwards re-used also under CAP intervention programmes (Investments, ECO and ECM commitments schemes).

Process analysis:

The supports are implemented online through e-Albania, and assistance is available by officials at ARDA local offices (Agro-points). The application is available as digital service under e-Albania at [Application for the National Support Scheme for Farmers](#) and [Application for the fuel scheme for agriculture](#). The Single application is not aligned with (Art 3 of EU Reg. 1173/2022). For all of the support, the applications are pre-populated with information from basic registers (civil, business and tax register and the RUDA system). The data stored in

MARD/ARDA databases are not reused for pre-population of applications and need to be re-entered (such as bank accounts, certificates, certificates) even though have not changed.

Pre-established forms (as per Art. 5 of EU Reg. 1173/2022)

The application forms are pre-populated with the following data from official registers:

1. Application form for the relevant support measure (as selected by applicant);
2. Applicant's ID card details;
3. Document proving the applicant's status (farmer, natural/legal person, SHBB);
4. Confirmation that the applicants (partners, legal representative, members of the associations) are not debtors;
5. Document on "coherent settlement of social security";
6. Permit or license for the relevant measures, according to the legislation in force;
7. Electronic registry of livestock (RUDA) and beekeeping;
8. Registration document at the National Business Center.

Conditionality: GAEC and SMRs have so far not been compliant with EU Acquis, there are no controls so far applied with regard to GAEC and SMRs.

Applicant enters:

- Bank account
- Consent: The applicant agrees that his/her personal data will be used only for the purpose of this application. AZHBR guarantees the protection of the personal data of applicants according to the laws in force.
- Contact number

Data to be uploaded by the farmer/ scanned and sent by mail:

- In the case of applying as a group of farmers, there must be a consensus/union agreement of the members of the group of farmers (1,2,3,4,5)
- Bank account (The bank account data cannot be exchanged so far)
- Contracts and invoices for sale (animals and beehives 1,2,3)
- Documentation of layouts of cultivated areas, land ownership/lease (area-based measures:4,5)
- Documentation of land ownership/lease (8)
- Contracts with certifying organization (6, 7)

Recommendations:

Establishment of single aid application:

- **General:** It is advisable that the interventions need to be aligned with the CAP interventions, taking into account in particular:
 - budget lines compliant to different payments in order to plan structure of EAGF and EAFRD envelopes (for instance, separate budget line for de-coupled

- payments, coupled payments, additional payments for young farmers, direct payments with commitments, etc.)
- decisions regarding use of small farmers' payments (as per Art 28. 2115/2021) – Albania might opt for small farmer's payments, which would contribute to substantial simplification and reduced on-field controls
 - **GSA: to advance in development and use of single aid application**, with use of pre-filled data from the digital farm register (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (1); containing several payment claims as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art. 2 and 3 requirements for animal aid applications as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (5), requirements regarding content of aid application as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 6. 2 (a),(b),(c);) it is recommended to:
 - Establish the single yearly aid application, which would include several claims and is submitted yearly;
 - Include also the IPARD M4 and IPARD M11, possibly as pilot in order to strengthen single application system with use of GIS;
 - Include the GIS tool which would replace the paper-based documentation of layouts of cultivated areas and land ownership/lease (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (2)), with pre-populated data from the farm register;
 - Adjust the Single application to become Geospatial aid application (GSA) with use of LPIS parcels when LPIS is established
 - **Consent:** The applicant agrees that his/her personal data and documents provided can be used for the purpose of this and all other applications submitted by him/her and for purposes of registration in FADN, in order to avoid additional collection of those.
 - **Bank account data**
 - Include the bank data from the farm register as pre-populated, and confirm if there are no changes, or enter the new bank account data and update the farm register
 - **Contracts/memoranda with certifying organizations and technical bodies**
 - It is recommended that there are registers established for the certifying organizations to upload/link the contracts/certificates.
 - It is also recommended that those are linked to the Farm-ID (area) in the farm register and automatically pre-populated in the application.

CONTROL AND PENALTY SYSTEM

Current state

Risk analysis: 100% on-the-spot control is implemented on measures 4 and 5 and for the parcels over 2 ha in measure 8. The risk analysis covers at least 10% in case of measure 8 (under 2 ha); the sample structure is not clearly defined by the regulation.

On-the-spot control:

The on-the-spot control is implemented in IPARD-like manner consisting of group of controllers (at least 2), appointed and controlled by the supervisor. Digital support has so

far not been used, the measured areas are captured in vector format, which is not used in further processing and further re-use.

Recommendations:

- **Risk analysis** (the selection part) needs to be exactly regulated and implemented by the software in order to avoid human intervention.
- **Controls:** It is advisable to take into account simplified controls for small farmers < 5 ha, use of geo-tagged photos, and when established use of area monitoring system.
- **Control-report:** It is recommended that a control report is integrated with the application form including pre-populated data from the declaration, and the data on the conditionality to be controlled. The areas measured (polygons) can be automatically stored in the administrative system.
- It is recommended that the control report is considered signed with the use of e-identity.
- It is advisable that on-the-spot control for animal supports is implemented with animal register quality checks.

VINEYARD REGISTER

Institutions

Albania has established the Wine register with the [Law on Vineyards and wine 86/2022](#), and implementing **legislation on registration in the vineyards register and on declarations and information collection by the operator**. Establishment of Vineyard register is based on Art. 11 of the Law, which instructs registration of winegrowers, harvesters, producers, processors and bottlers in the vineyard register. Wine register is managed by the **Technology Transfer Center (QTTC), the objects are certified by the NFA**.

EU Requirements

Vineyard register: EU Reg. 1308/2013 Article 145 requires that the Member States shall maintain a vineyard register which shall contain updated information on the production potential. From 1 January 2016, this obligation shall only apply if Member States implement the scheme of authorizations for vine plantings referred to in Chapter III of Title I, or a national support programme obligation shall only apply if Member States implement the scheme of authorizations for vine plantings referred to in Chapter III of Title I, or a national support programme.

Olive groves and Olive oil: There is no specific EU requirement for the establishment of the Olive growers and olive oil producers register. However, the EU Farm to fork strategy, and the food quality schemes require that systems are established for food traceability and compliance with food safety requirements and for management of mechanisms for certification of food quality schemes. This includes information on zones, quantities of primarily production of agricultural products, capacities for their processing and production of olive oil and compliance with specifications published.

Interoperability:

The Vineyard register needs to be interoperable with Statistics ([EU Reg. 2115/2021](#) Art 143 (3)), FADN ([EU Reg. 2023/2674](#), Art.1, 4, 4a). The supports related to the Vineyard register need to be implemented through IACS ([EU Reg. 2116/2021](#) Art. 63), and interoperable with Farm register (EU Reg. 273/2018 Annex III). The same principle is applicable to all permanent crops and is mandatory if applying for PDO/PGI with their products (i.e., spirits from fruits, honey from beehives).

Current state and activities planned:

The EU progress reports for 2023 and 2024:

EU Report 2023: Legislation on vineyards and wines aligning with the EU acquis was adopted, including implementing **legislation setting rules for registration in the vineyards register and for declarations and information collection by operators**; EU Report 2024 establishes further progress in **inward and outward registers in the wine sector**, which are partially aligned with the acquis.

Under the “[Updating the Vineyard Cadastre](#)” Program, the database for vineyards, supported by Geographic Information System (GIS), in accordance with the rules of the European Commission, has been established. It was expected that by the end of 2024, there would be 29.754 registered vineyard units with an area of over 7.513 ha of vineyards nationwide in the system of this program.

The information about the register is not easily available on the web, nor is it available on the ASIG pages for viewing. There is no service which would provide simple access for owners of vineyards to registration.

Activities planned: [SARDF 2021-2027](#), related to establishment of operational Vineyard register, envisages strengthening administrative capacities in area of food quality schemes.

Table 17: Actions and indicators on Vineyard register under SARDF 2021-2027

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions and indicators
Strategic objective 3: Development of administrative and institutional capacities, cooperation of actors, innovation and digitalization, Specific Objective: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	Action 30: TA on food quality schemes: The number of trained MARD staff for determining the competencies of institutions and specialists involved in the PDO/PGI scheme, as well as for the control and verification procedures of PDO/PGI products will reach 10 by 2024 and 20 by 2027.

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- It is necessary that the areas under vineyards (and preferable other permanent crops) are interoperable with the farm register (i.e. part of the LPIS in the future in the form of agricultural plot with unique UD) , with particular link to particularities of describing the attributes of the Vineyard as required by the EU regulation (in particular EU [REU Reg. 273/2018](#)).

- It is necessary that the administrative procedure for initial registration of vineyards (and preferably other permanent crops) is digitized for faster access of farmers to registration in one place); The registration particularities need to be shown in the farm register, LPIS and interoperable with application forms.
- It is recommended that the Vineyards, Orchards and Olive groves are available in the form of GIS layers (via WMS services) including particularities of the plantations (location, delineation, number of plants, sorts).

QUALITY SCHEMES, PDO/PGI

Institutions

MARD is the competent authority for the definition and evaluation of quality schemes for agricultural and food products, and nominates the Quality Schemes committee and the operational structure.

EU Requirements:

The [EU Reg. 1308/2013](#) and [EU Reg. 1143/2024](#) define the rules and procedures for the determination of designations of origin and geographical indications for

- PDO/PGI schemes for wine, agricultural products, including foodstuffs, and geographical indications for spirit drinks, which are linked to demarcated geographical area which needs to be (as per The EU Reg. [34/2019](#) Article 6) defined in a precise way that presents no ambiguities, referring as far as possible to physical or administrative boundaries and
- traditional specialties guaranteed and optional quality terms.

Current situation

EU Report 2024: advises that the Legislation on quality policy should be further aligned with the EU acquis.

[Law on quality schemes for agricultural and food products \(8/2019\)](#) determines the criteria and controls particularly for traditional specialties guaranteed, which is not linked to geographic area, but defines the institutional setup and procedures.

In the Wine sector, Law on Wine (Article 10) defines that the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the Minister, based on the data of the study on "Wine grape cultivation areas", determines the zones. The zone has so far not been determined. The study on "Wine grape cultivation areas" is in the phase of procurement (QTTC Vlora, 8.2.2025).

Table 18: Actions and indicators on quality schemes

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions and indicators
Strategic objective 3: Development of administrative and institutional capacities, cooperation of actors, innovation and digitalization, Specific Objective: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	Action 30: TA on food quality schemes: The number of trained MADRD staff for determining the competencies of institutions and specialists involved in the PDO/PGI scheme, as well as for the control and verification procedures of PDO/PGI products will reach 10 by 2024 and 20 by 2027.

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- **Demarcation of geographical area needs to be digitized as** a separate GIS layer, which would serve as a control layer for determination of PDO/PGI compliance. It is advisable that a separate layer is needed for each of the sectors, in order to ensure that the layers are maintained by authorized bodies on adequate legal background.
- The same rule is applicable for other sectors (olives, meat, etc); therefore, it is proposed that layers are included in the same system–LPIS.
- The administrative procedures need to be digitized in order to provide simple access to producers to gain the recognition of designation, geographical indication and traditional food.

REGISTER OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Institution: MARD

EU Requirements

The register of organic producers as such has not been required by Acquis; however, the EU Reg. 834/2007, 2018/848 requires establishment of a control system which would ensure the use of the production method compliant with the EU rules, at all stages of production, preparation and distribution.

EU Report 2024: Regarding organic farming legislation aligning with the EU acquis, the [Law for organic production, labeling of organic products and their control](#) has been published in October 2024, and the [Detailed rules on organic livestock production, including rules for transition](#) in June 2025.

Recommendations:

- **Alignment with EU Acquis:** EU Establishment of the database in the MAFRD and service submission of organic certificates with delineation of areas with organic production (EU Reg. 834/2007, 2018/848), and their introduction as separate layer in LPIS.
- **Interoperability:** with Geo-spatial application in the form of pre-populated data and included in LPIS as separate layer for control purposes

REGISTER FOR TRADERS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

EU Requirements: Register for traders of fruits and vegetables (as required EU Reg. 543/2011, Article 10) is intended to collect prices from traders involved in the marketing of fruit and vegetables and reporting of those to EU Commission in line with notification requirements determined under EU Reg. 2019/1746.

Current situation

EU Report 2024: On the common market organization (CMO), implementing legislation was adopted on methods of analysis of olive oil and on rules on the inward and outward registers in the wine sector, which are partially aligned with the Acquis. Further efforts in this area are needed by strengthening the institutional capacity for implementation, which remains low.

Recommendations:

- **Alignment with EU Acquis** through the establishment of register for traders of fruits and vegetables (EU Reg. 543/2011, Article 10) after the adoption of relevant marketing standards.

Other relevant information systems and institutions

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA):

The NFA (<https://aku.gov.al/>), as responsible institution for the Food safety under the Ministry of Agriculture, carries out inspection, technical and scientific activities, in accordance with [Law No. 9863, dated 28.1.2008 "On Food"](#), as amended, and other laws on the safety and quality of food and feed, on animal health and welfare, on plant protection, as well as inspection legislation and sub-legal acts in their implementation. NFA is organized at the central level through the General Directorate and at the regional level through the Regional Directorates in 12 regions.

The Ministry of Agriculture establishes the register (Art. 19 of the Law) which needs to include:

- Establishments for the primary production of food;
- Establishments for the production, processing and storage of food;
- Establishments for the preparation, processing and handling of food, including mobile and/or temporary spaces.

The regional directorates of the NFA are assessing the compliance of establishments. NFA compiles applications and assessments, and the MARD registers the establishment. Each registered establishment gets a unique ID. Food business operators are obliged to indicate the registration number on the label and/or accompanying documentation for the food they produce.

EU Requirements regarding registration of establishment by Food business operators is determined by [EU Reg. 853/2004](#), Art.4. It has to be taken into account that the rules are not applicable to establishments related to Art. 1 (3). Some of the countries are establishing a

register of facilities and their characteristics and reusing them for quality schemes administration.

EU Report 2024: On general food safety, the legal framework is still not aligned with the General Food Law Regulation. The legal framework for official controls is not aligned with the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) in the areas falling under its scope. The National Food Authority (AKU) is revitalizing the AKU-net system (i.e., food business operator’s database) on inspection statistics, data management and transparency, but significant work is still needed to reduce the administrative burden for planning and reporting on risk-based official controls. The transparency principle should apply to official control systems in line with the OCR. Adequate financial resources should support the performance of official controls also by means of a transparent collection of fees. Albania does not have a multiannual national control plan in place.

The [control check-lists](#) are available on the web pages, but the register and details of Food establishments are not available. There are some services available through [e-Albania: NFA](#): label notification, and laboratory analysis report for food products. There is no service for the registration of food establishments.

Table 19: Planned Actions for Strengthening Food Establishment Registration and Digital Services under SARDF 2021–2027 and the Digital Agenda

SARDF 2021-2027	
Objectives and specific objectives	Actions and indicators
Strategic objective 3: Development of administrative and institutional capacities, cooperation of actors, innovation and digitalization, Specific Objective: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i>	TA projects for approximation of EU legislation in chapter 12: Impact indicator 1.1: The level of transposition and implementation of EU legislation by the MARD will be at 35 % by 2024 and at 100 % by 2027
Digital agenda action plan	
Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 2: Digital business: accessible, proactive services and business-ready actions	25 Improving the National Food Authority System

Source: Author

Recommendations:

- It would be advisable that the registers of food establishments are available to the public on the web page, including information on location and particularities of the establishment as recorded, and also available as API for interoperability.
- It would be advisable that the service for registration of food establishments is published under e-Albania.

- It is advisable that the register of establishment is shared also as service (WMS) and published at ASIG pages to be used by other GIS applications.

NATIONAL VETERINARY AND PLANT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

National Veterinary and Plant Protection Authority (AKVMB <https://akvmb.gov.al>) is structured as General Directorate and four regional directorates under its control; the Elbasan Regional Directorate of Veterinary and Plant Protection, the Vlora Regional Directorate of Veterinary and Plant Protection, the Shkodra Regional Directorate of Veterinary and Plant Protection, and the Tirana Regional Directorate of Veterinary and Plant Protection.

The Regional Directorates are responsible for protecting the health of animals, their identification and registration. The recording and reflection in “**RUDA**” of registrations and other veterinary measures are the duty of the four Regional Directorates. These four Directorates are also responsible for carrying out veterinary measures (vaccinations) on time and according to plan, tracking the spread of brucellosis and recording the epizootic situation.

RUDA system is integrated and interoperable with application system and the farm register.

Recommendation:

- It is recommended that the RUDA related APIs are upgraded to serve data exchange with FADN (requiring monthly average number of animals), and Statistics (number of animals per date agreed).
- It is recommended that further step in development of RUDA lead to GIS representation of movements of animals.

STATE INSTITUTE OF SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

Institutions

The State Seed and Seedlings Agency ([ESHFF](#)), headquartered in Tirana, is an institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with funding from the state budget and has as its object of work the implementation of the requirements of Law No. 10416, dated 7.4.2011, “On Plant Propagating and Propagating Material”, as well as the by-laws approved in its implementation.

- Follows procedures for all stages of production, reproduction, multiplication, processing and storage of plant planting and propagating material until its placement on the market
- Monitors the zonal network for comparative trials for testing new varieties produced locally or imported for reproduction, multiplication and marketing. Based on the results of comparative trials and laboratory methods, it evaluates and registers them in the National Catalogue (NC)=
- Performs laboratory analyses, in the Seed Testing Laboratory, for seed quality indicators, for all samples for certification purposes, to perform risk analyses for imported plant propagating material. Performs laboratory analyses for all samples received from the zonal testing points for those indicators being tested

Services available at [e-Albania](#)

- Application for special import authorizations
- Application for relabeling and repackaging
- Application for official certificate for "seeds"
- Application for official certificate for "seedlings"
- Registration of varieties in the national catalogue
- Testing of variety, species or hybrid

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the certificates are available in electronic form and linked to the farm register be re-used in the application process.

FORESTRY AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

The central institutions responsible for forests and pastures in Albania ([Law on pastures](#) with amendments 2007, [Law on Forest, 2020](#)) are Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Agency for Forests and National Agency for Protected Areas. The Municipalities are establishing the structure responsible for forest governance, which is responsible for preparation and implementation of local forestry plans.

Forests and pastures are managed by the same forest and pasture fund, covering about 1.595.900 ha land of those Forests 1.146.725 and pastures 449.175 ha. The forest and pasture fund are owned mostly by municipalities. About 2,5% of forests and 10% of pastures are privately owned.

Table 20: Structure of Forests and Pastures in Albania

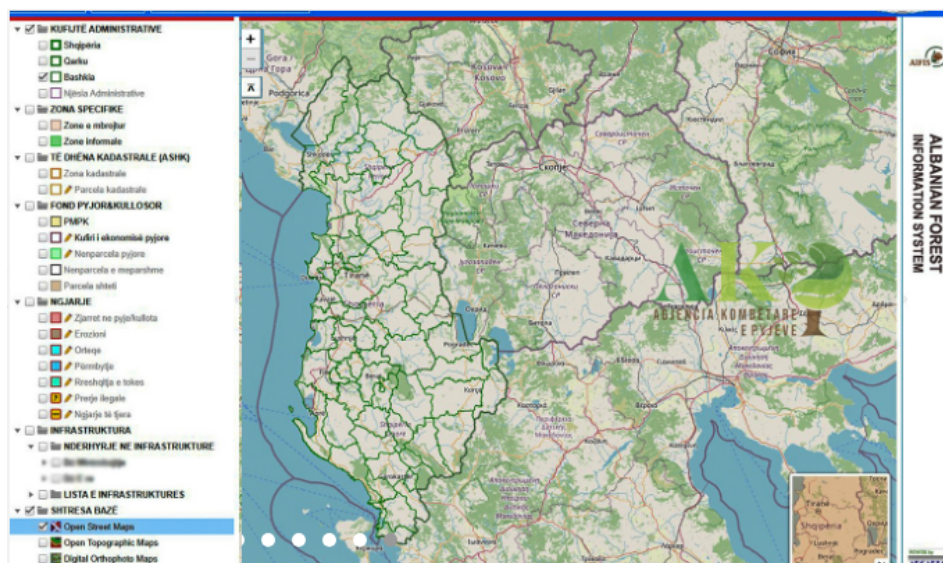
	Municipalities		Private		Total
Forests	1.117.945	97,49%	28.780	2,51%	1.146.725
Pastures	403.503	89,83%	45.672	10,17%	449.175
Total	1.521.448	95,33%	74.452	4,67%	1.595.900

Source: [INSTAT 2022](#)

The Albanian Forest Information System ([ALFIS](#)) is established within the framework of the World Bank [Environmental Services Project](#). This system was funded by the Swedish Government through the World Bank during the years 2019-2021.

ALFIS is a web-based server system hosted by the National Agency for the Information Society (AKSHI) and aims to manage geo-information and data information of the Forest and Pasture Fund, regardless of ownership.

Figure 5: Albanian Forest Information System



Source: AKSHI

The Forest and Pasture Data System is administered by the National Forest Agency and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The main users are municipalities, private owners, the National Agency for Protected Areas, the Faculty of Forest Sciences and other stakeholders interested in the field of forests.

The functional structure for use consists of 8 modules (“GIS DATA”, “BPM”, “DOKUMENT”, “FPMP PROJECT”, “CATALOGUE”, “REGISTRY”, “GIS PUBLISHER”, “USER MANAGER”), which are interconnected by exchanging information with each other. This means that for logical connections between modules, the data will be automatically reflected in all interconnected modules.

Pre-accession Rural development programme envisages, related to forest and pastures, implementation of M4 and M11, which would lead to post-accession ECO schemes, ECM commitments, and investments in forestry. IPARD III programme envisages the implementation of M11 Forestry measures, which can also be re-used afterwards under CAP (without any additional changes).

Recommendations:

It is advised that the ALFIS information system (as a central register for forest and pasture management) is used as a control layer with Agricultural GIS and later LPIS in order to:

- Be used for interlayer graphical control of borders of forests and pastures during creation of LPIS;
- Provide support for the description of investments under M11 Forestry measure, with re-use of data from forest and pasture management plans;
- Provide support in controls of pasture-related interventions (direct payments per hectare for permanent grassland).

The memoranda of understanding and data exchange need to be signed between ARDA and NFA.

WATER MANAGEMENT

A [National strategy for irrigation and drainage 2019 – 2031 and action plan](#) was completed and approved by the Council of Ministers on May 22, 2019. Prepared under the leadership of MARD, the strategy specifies the policy objectives and strategic measures for four subsectors (irrigation and drainage, dams, reservoirs, and flood protection) in line with the sector's mission, guiding principles, and goals as well as GoA's strategic objectives defined in the NSDI and ISARD. As part of the I&D strategy, an action plan specifies what should be done in each subsector, identifies the implementing institutions, estimates the costs of each action item in the implementation schedule, and describes the expected results. The strategy also has a dedicated section explaining how the main responsible parties will be held accountable for performing their tasks.²

Law number 111/2012 of 15/12/2012 "On Integrated Water Resources Management" is the basic water law for the country. Law No. 139/2015 "On local self-government" in Article 27 on "functions of municipalities in the area of agriculture, rural development, forestry and public pastures, nature and biodiversity," states that, "municipalities are responsible for carrying out such functions: Management, operation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, transferred in their ownership, in the manner prescribed by law."

The [Law no. 24/2017](#), "On the administration of irrigation and drainage", reflects changes in decentralization and governance reforms, specifically municipal functions for irrigation and drainage, and is in the study process from the MARD which presents criteria and rules made for the administration of irrigation and drainage infrastructures and flood protection.

[Instruction on Directorates for irrigation and drainage](#) established directorates for the management of water and drainage resources.

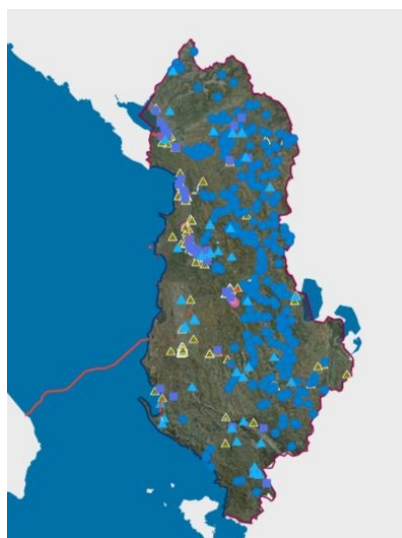
Irrigation and drainage management system (IDMIS), developed under Water Resources and Irrigation Project (World Bank [Project ID: P121186](#)) became the municipalities' main tool for Irrigation and drainage system management, measuring, and evaluation.

The IDMIS supports integrated management of data related to I&D infrastructure, facilitates communications among different entities, and provides access to irrigation and drainage system reporting. The project also financed a centralized GIS with irrigation and drainage spatial information installed in each municipality and uploaded into the IDMIS. Users receive training in operating the system and are able to manage and access the data.³

² See the [Albania Water Resources and Irrigation Project Document](#)

³ See more at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/369241646689313047/pdf/Albania-Water-Resources-and-Irrigation-Project.pdf>

Figure 6: Water Resources Management



Source: <https://geoportal.asig.gov.al/service/ambu/wms?request=getcapabilities>

The [Water Resources Management Agency](#) was established by the [Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 221 dated 26.4.2018](#) “On the organization and functioning of the Water Resources Management Agency”. The requests for water use required as the criteria for investment in irrigation under IPARD are available under e-Albania: [Application for water source use](#). Some spatial data on water permits are already available via WMS services available at [ASIG pages](#).

Table 21: Actions for Improving the Water Cadastre System

Digital agenda action plan	
	Actions
Objective 2: Digital business: accessible, proactive services and business-ready actions	26 Improving the Water Cadastre System

Source: Author based on Digital agenda action plan

Recommendations:

- The irrigation and drainage systems are an important part of investments in agriculture. With regards to e-Government and establishment of digital agricultural infrastructure, it is recommended that the GIS related to water objects, permits and irrigated and drainage systems (IDMIS) are available as a service and used in administrative systems for controls or updates.

[Assessment of rural development support programmes and e-Government](#)

Institutions: MARD, ARDA

Current state and planned activities

EU Report 2024: Implementation of the IPARD II programme continued. However, increased capacity building and oversight is needed to ensure completion of the IPARD II programme and to start the efficient implementation of the IPARD III in full compliance with the principles of sound financial management.

Digital agenda action plan actions related to administrative systems in agriculture:

Table 22: Administrative Systems in Agriculture (1)

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 2: Digital business: accessible, proactive services and business-ready actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program

Source: Author based on Digital agenda action plan

Agriculture and rural development interventions envisage the following actions related to administrative systems in agriculture:

Table 23: Administrative Systems in Agriculture (2)

Objectives and specific objectives	Actions
Objective 1: Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards approximation with the EU <i>acquis</i> : TA projects for approximation of EU legislation in chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The farm register will be 100% ready/completed by 2024 The number of new IPARD III measures accredited for implementation will reach 5 by 2024 and 9 by 2027.

Source: Author based on Digital Agenda Action Plan

Albania has been implementing IPARD-like and [IPARD II](#) pre-accession supports, financed under the Pre-accession Financial Instrument, implemented on the basis of Framework Agreement with EU and the Sectoral Agreement setting up provisions for management and implementation of the Rural Development Programme of IPA II. Albania has signed the Framework Agreement and the Sectoral Agreement and developed the [Rural development programme for the period 2021-2027](#). The programme has been approved by the EU commission on 9 March 2022.

Table 24: Measures under IPARD II programme in implementation, and IPARD III programme in development

IPARD II	IPARD I
M1 Investments in agricultural holdings M3 Investment in processing M7 Diversification	M1 Investments in agricultural holdings M3 Investment in processing M5 LEADER M6 Rural infrastructure M7 Diversification M8 Trainings M9 Technical assistance M10 Advisory M13 Innovation (not included in IPARD III)

Source: IPARD II and IPARD III programme

The [Ex-ante evaluation of the Albanian Rural development programme 2021-2027](#), indicated a number of problems and risks (on the basis of previous interventions), which can potentially affect the successful implementation of the IPARD programme and other support programmes in agriculture.

The Ex-ante evaluators have, in dialogue with MA, ARDA and stakeholders, indicated the following problems and risks to the efficient implementation of the programme, which were addressed by Albanian authorities:

- Incomplete applications and payment claims lead to relatively long processing times in ARDA
- Stakeholders experienced low effectiveness in ARDA in the processing of applications and payment claims
- Problems with the documentation of ownership of land and delayed approval processes
- Problems for applicants to get permits and authorizations for building constructions and environmental permits
- Stakeholders experienced a lack of transparency in the decisions about granting support to projects
- Risk of inflated invoices and payment claims
- Difficulties for beneficiaries to finance investment costs a priori and to wait to get reimbursed after the investment has been finalized
- Difficulties for beneficiaries to understand and live up to national minimum standards and EU standards

In majority, these findings were addressed by Albanian authorities. Still, processing of IPARD applications has not been fully digitized (IPARD information system has not been accredited).

Table 25: Opportunities for simplification and reduction of administrative burden in implementation of IPARD measures

Ex-ante evaluation	Addressed	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomplete applications and payment claims lead to relatively long processing times in ARDA. 	<p>Strengthening ARDA and advisory service</p> <p>Pre-population of application forms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplification of business plans for simple and small investments on the basis of FADN; Pre-population of application forms with data affecting the eligibility; GIS based application form (describing the investment with georeference) Use of geotagged photos
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders experienced low effectiveness in ARDA in processing applications and payment claims. 	<p>Under IPARD III, ARDA will increase effectiveness dynamically through training and recruitment of more staff</p>	<p>Reduction of administrative burden with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in IPARD programme which would make digital controls possible (such as simplified cost options, simplified business plans, etc); Using pre-populated data from existing sources (farm register, official interoperability or delegated); Changes in administrative processing based on changes in IPARD programme and digitalization; Use of integrated on-the-spot verification, geo-tagged photos, use on-the-spot verification for update of farm register.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with the documentation of ownership of land and delayed approval processes. 	<p>Under IPARD III it is envisaged that a new functional farm register and an updated animal register will eliminate the problem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Cadastral and Geo-spatial information on-line linked to the farm register; Mapping actually cultivated land by beneficiary and as found during on-the-spot verifications with use of GIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems for applicants to get permits and authorizations for building constructions and for environmental permits. 	<p>Technical bodies were identified, the contracts/memoranda signed (as per accreditation criteria)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of services and APIs available on e-Albania, or developed APIs based on memoranda of

		understanding with technical bodies and local authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders experienced a lack of transparency in the decisions about granting support to projects. 	Improvement of ARDA manuals, guidelines and establishment of Q/A on web-page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process supported with digital technologies (as per audit trail requirements), Automatized eligibility controls based on pre-defined business rules, resulting in automatic ranking and decisions. Use of e-Messaging system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of inflated invoices and payment claims. 	Price reference database has been established, and the plan for the update of the price reference database in ARDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of simplified cost options whenever possible Inclusion also the international market research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulties for beneficiaries to finance investment costs a priori and to wait to get reimbursed after the investment is finished. 	Rules applied for payment of installments and advanced payments (as per IPARD programme) envisage bank guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing information about farmer with banks, on the basis of farmer's consent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulties for beneficiaries to understand and live up to national minimum standards and EU standards. 	Development of supporting standards, codes and Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of minimum standards/GAEC and SMR requirements in the Farm register/application form with self-assessment checklist e-Learning platform which would lead the farmers to gain information Publication of supporting standards, codes and Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices in advisory portal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally: Small farmers have limited access to individual investments (in mechanization) 	The problem has been partially resolved with application as a group of farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice in Croatia and Slovenia was to separate the tenders for small investments Use of simplified business plans

Source: IPARD II measures

IPARD III envisages 6 new measures, of which M5, M8, and M10 are implemented with the use of fixed costs (as per Annex 4 of Sectoral Agreement) and in a similar way as M9.

Table 26: Measures under IPARD III

Expectations for IPARD III and CAP (after accession)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural infrastructure: The lack of staff and skills at the local level may cause problems in implementation of public procurement for investment in rural areas. • LEADER: The lack of staff and skills at the local level may cause problems in establishment of LAGs. • Measures 8, 10 and 13: lack of advisory staff will cause limited implementation of programme 	<p>Rural infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the level of digitalized support to conduct the PRAG rules for public procurement <p>LEADER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the level of digitalization (pre-filled forms) in establishment of LAG, including templates for local development strategies and cooperation arrangements • Standard (small) Investments in local free WiFis, refurbishments for digital hubs and purchase of office equipment to be used for trainings under M8 and M10 and availability of those to be used as digital offices for remote work <p>Measures 8, 10 and Knowledge exchange under CAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can be implemented by on-line tools (webinars, e-trainings) <p>Measure 13: the EIP initiatives can result in development of new innovative approaches which can be afterwards supported by M1 and M7</p>

Source: IPARD III measures

Opportunities for simplification and reducing administrative burden for small farmers under CAP

CAP provides a number of intervention modalities which simplify the access of small farmers to support and substantially reduce the administrative burden. It should be taken into account that the majority of farmers in Albania fall in the category of micro and small farmers when planning the architecture of supporting digital systems.

Payments for small farmers (EU Reg. 2115/2021 in Art 28): Member States may grant a payment to small farmers (with less than 5 ha of areas), by way of a lump sum or of amounts per hectare replacing direct payments. Member States shall design the corresponding intervention in the CAP Strategic Plan as optional for the farmers. The annual payment for each farmer shall not exceed EUR 1.250. Member States may decide to set different lump sums or amounts per hectare linked to different area thresholds.

The complementary income support for young farmers (EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 30), shall take the form either of an annual decoupled payment per eligible hectare or of a lump-sum payment per young farmer.

Simplified conditionality control system for small farmers (EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art 38): Member States applying Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 may set up a simplified control system:

- for beneficiaries receiving payments under Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115; or
- for small farmers, as determined by Member States pursuant to Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, not applying for such payments.

Where a Member State does not apply Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, it may set up a simplified control system for farmers with a maximum size of holding not exceeding 5 hectares of agricultural area (LPIS) declared in accordance with Article 69(1) of this Regulation.

When using the simplified control system, the member state can decide to exclude from the on-the-spot checks the verification of compliance with the obligations referred to in that point, where it can be demonstrated that cases of non-compliance by the beneficiaries concerned could not have significant consequences for the achievement of the objectives of the legal acts and standards concerned.

Use of simplified cost options:

The Member States in CAP strategic plans, whenever possible, use the simplified cost options (as per EU Reg. 2115/2021, Art 44, Art 83, Art 94, and IPARD III Sectoral agreement Art. 38(2))

- reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred by a beneficiary
- unit costs
- lump sums
- flat-rate financing

SWOT analysis and identification of needs

Table 27: SWOT analysis of e-Government systems and services in light of EU pre-accession

e-Government systems and services in light of EU pre-accession	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional setup for implementation of agri-policies (Operating structure) is well aligned and accredited for management of IPARD funds, with experienced staff • Farm register has been established and is interoperable with official registers; the data formats are also mapped to those with statistics • E-identity has been established with registration in the Tax register (NUIS) • Animal based direct payments are implemented without use of paper, interoperable with RUDA system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal background not aligned with CAP: Interventions – direct payments are not aligned with EU CAP requirements • Farm register - areas on disposal to farmers are not linked to the Farm register despite the cadastral parcels are available and geo-spatial background is updated • LPIS and LPIS quality management system doesn't exist • Area based aid applications are not implemented with use of GIS • Area monitoring system has not been in use

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small farmers can access the supports also if members of a group of farmers; • FADN methodology has been developed, and tested for compliance with RICA1; FADN information system is in development; • Statistical information system has been developed and in preparation for new Agri-census; • Vineyard register has been established; • Water management information system has been in place • Forestry and pasture management system is established and operational; • Policy management system has been established on the level of IPARD II reporting; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing open data as per IACS data free public sharing requirement (EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67, EU Reg. 138/2023), in accordance to open data directive (Directive (EU) 1024/2019, EU Reg. 128/2023), and FADN (EU Reg. 2115/2021, Art 143); • E-government systems in agriculture do not utilize published services, i.e. despite available services, the paper documentation is required. • The Register of organic production and CMEF-IT system have so far not been implemented • Vineyard register, register of orchards and olive groves have not been published as services on ASIG pages; • The water management and Forestry and pasture management systems have not have not been published as services on ASIG pages;
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Establish national data infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate and align IACS, FADN, Statistics, and PMEF systems which will provide coherent data for simplified digital access to supports and proof based policy management <p>Align information systems and their interoperability with CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align area based interventions, develop conditionality standards to be fully compliant with CAP • Strengthen Farm registration with use of existing cadastral GIS data on areas on disposal to farms, and ensure full compliance with FADN and Statistics; Collect data on bank account, family members, facilities and mechanization during registration; Use Statistical collections for pre-population of farm register during first registration; Establish e-service for farm registration under e-Albania. • Establish LPIS compliant with CAP requirements and develop LPIS quality management system; Establish e-service under e-Albania for changes in areas cultivated. • Develop Geo-spatial aid application pre-populated from the farm-register and LPIS and map plots with use of GIS; • Strengthen control and penalty system • Develop Area monitoring system 	<p>Systems not aligned with CAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At time of accession Albania will not have compliant CAP information systems and will not be able to use CAP funds • Non-interoperable systems will provide unreliable and non-coherent data

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust eligibility criteria and administrative processes to use as much as possible services published under e-Albania • Develop outstanding registers (i.e. Register of traders of fruits and vegetables and Register of organic production) • Establish OGC services for sharing of already established registers (Vineyards, Orchards, live Groves, Water management, Forestry & pastures) • Establish Open data platform which would support also data mining functionalities <p>Quality schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use digital demarcation for protection of origin in Vine and Olive sectors <p>Forestry (M11) and AECM (M4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement M4 with use of IACS (pilot) • Implement M11 Measure with use shared Forest and Pasture management GIS <p>Develop and certify information system of ARDA as per accreditation requirements</p>	
Simplification of access and reduce of administrative burden	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPARD III structure is well developed, accredited and well staffed • There are number of services available under e-Albania which can be used for simplification of processing of applications for IPARD III • There is Farm register established which can serve well in provision of pre-established forms for IPARD III applications • There is reference database established of prices and mechanisms for evaluation of viability of business plans • There has been FADN methodology developed which can be used for calculation of simplified business plans • There are spatial and cadastral data available electronically which can be used instead of paper documentation on land • There has been a pile documentation collected under so far which can be uploaded into farm register and re-used when farmers apply • There were 5 national investment measures designed as IPARD III – like measures implemented in 2024, with used of pre-populated data from the official registers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no information system for processing of IPARD supports yet established • IPARD Managing authority is lacking enough skilled staff which could efficiently adjust the IPARD measures to fit digital processing • There is no e-Learning platform which would support smooth implementation of training programmes under M8 and M10 with use of e-learning and Webinars
Opportunities	Threats

<p>Strengthen IPARD operational structure and IPARD programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Managing authority in development of CAP compliant interventions and establish system for monitoring and evaluation • Adapt standards, definitions and measures, under IPARD III for easy access and compliant to CAP interventions • Strengthen ARDA digital systems and staff in preparation for entrustment for budget management and implementation of IPARD III programme <p>Adjustment and simplification of interventions and access via e-Albania for better use of digital technologies by smallholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment of IPARD measures to be accessed easier by small farmers • Adjustment of IPARD measures for promotion of EIP (M8,10,13) and investment in innovative technologies under M1, 3 and 7 • Simplification of registration and application processes for direct payments and grants via e-Albania <p>Development of administrative system for processing of IPARD applications</p>	<p>IPARD III measures not adjusted to fit simplification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The simplification will not be sufficient and farmers will not apply for grants, and will not use the system • Development of interventions from scratch to be ready for CAP takes time
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Source: Author

Needs identified

- Need 1: Harmonization of legal background regarding IACS and upgrading and interconnecting existing information systems on the basis of interoperability and data re-use in line with EU Acquis
- Need 2: Develop/compile the National Digital platform in agriculture and rural development from already existing data collections and ensure interoperability and coherence throughout all of the interconnected systems and external sources; The National digital platform will include interoperable FADN, IACS, PMEF and Statistics.
- Need 3: Adjust legal background related to direct payments and adjust IPARD III (M4 and M11) measures to be reused under CAP after accession, taking into account simplification and reduction of administrative burden
- Need 4: Use the data collected and compiled under National Digital platform in agriculture and rural development for pre-population of requests in all of the administrative procedures related to agriculture and rural development, and ensure user's access with use of digital services via e-Albania
- Need 5: Adjust IPARD III measures to be reused under CAP after accession, taking into account simplification and reducing administrative burden

MAIN IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

E-Government systems and services

Path towards accession: Albania is strongly committed to accession to the EU and related legal and institutional alignment with Acquis. In the area of digitalization in agriculture and rural development, gaps must be addressed with actions which will lead to alignment of information systems requirements of CAP Acquis (Chapter 11), alignment of statistics in agriculture (Chapter 18) and alignment of requirements regarding Digital transformation and media (Chapter 10), and interoperability of registers under (Chapter 12).

Regarding legal and institutional alignment with Acquis, Albania has already addressed the problems in SARDF 2021-2027. The gap assessment shows that substantial work needs to be done in phased development and alignment of digital platforms towards full alignment to CAP. This transition requires activities to be conducted in parallel at several levels:

- Legal alignment in terms of development of sub-legal framework and standards (i.e., conditionality rules, alignment of interventions, etc.)
- Institutional strengthening in terms of human resources and acquisition of skills in areas of programming interventions, management of information systems and management of spatial data
- Transformation of digital platforms towards full compliance with CAP requirements, taking into account particularly the requirements regarding data keeping and sharing, and the requirements regarding interoperability, and data re-use

Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

Albania has adopted the Strategy for agriculture, rural development and fisheries 2021-2027 with objectives mapped to those under [Farm to Fork strategy](#) and the [Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the [Long-term Vision for the Rural Areas](#) (under the European Green Deal).

Albania has been implementing IPARD-like and [IPARD II](#) pre-accession supports, financed under Pre-accession Financial Instrument, implemented on the basis of Framework Agreement with EU and the Sectoral Agreement setting up provisions for management and implementation of Rural Development Programme of IPA II. Albania has signed the Framework agreement and the Sectoral Agreement and developed the [Rural Development Programme for the period 2021-2027](#). The programme has been approved by the EU Commission on 9 March 2022.

There are a number of opportunities with the use of digitalization, including the simplification and reduction of administrative burden in implementing IPARD III measures with the use of data infrastructure established by interoperable IACS, FADN and Statistics, and the re-use of IPARD III measures under CAP without additional need for accreditation.

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION LOGIC

Table 28: Description of Intervention Logic on national data infrastructure in agriculture in line EU CAP

Strengthening and integration of national data infrastructure in agriculture in line EU CAP
<p>Description: CAP framework 2023-2027, taken into account digitalization and data collections already established by member states years back, envisages new levels of design of agri-information systems, with enhanced integration, use of advanced monitoring technologies, data exchange, horizontal unification (such as unique Farm IDs throughout the system), and data re-use for better e-Government and Smart Villages (such as cooperation between farmers, and rural services). For this, the new CAP strategic plan regulation envisages single integrated programming framework for EAGF and EAFRD, and description of the strategy of digitalization for better implementation of interventions in food production and rural areas, and description of use of digital advisory services for farmer's support.</p> <p>EU requirements: The new CAP defines the number of mandatory information systems, their interconnectivity, data exchange and data re-use, where the single farm register plays a significant role of integration. Additionally, it envisages significant reduction of controls on-the-spot with use of on-going LPIS and GSA quality control and AMS:</p> <p><u>Key mandatory information systems:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular agri-statistical data collections (Statistical reg. EU Reg. 2116/2021) and Statistical compendium • Farm Accountancy Data Network (EU Reg. 1217/2009) • The information system for management of CAP-strategic plans (EU Reg. 2115/2021 Article 130, 132) • Paying agency reporting system managed by CAP Paying agencies (EU Reg. 1046/2018 Article 63, EU Reg. 2116/2021 Article 9(3)) • IACS (EU Reg. 2116/2021 Chapter II), integrating several subsystems and supporting data exchange and re-use: identification system for agricultural parcels (LPIS), system for the identification of beneficiaries of the interventions and measures (SIB), an area monitoring system, Geo-spatial aid application System (GSA), control and penalty system, Area monitoring system (AMS) and if applicable animal identification and registration system (AIR) and system for payment entitlements • Digital document and archives management (EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art. 67) integrated with all of the administrative and financial systems related to CAP support • Digitalization in accordance with accreditation requirements (EU Reg. 127/2022, Annex 1) • A single web page for publication of information relating to beneficiaries (EU. Reg. 2116/2021, Article 98) • Vineyard register (EU Reg. 1308/2013, Article 145) • Organic productions registers (EU Reg. 834/2007, 2018/848) • Register for traders of fruits and vegetables (EU Reg. 543/2011, Article 10) <p><u>Requirements supporting interoperability, data exchange simplification and reduction of administrative burden:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IACS data exchange and integration between the electronic databases and GIS (EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66) • IACS data public sharing requirement (EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67, EU Reg. 138/2023)

- and description of the strategy for the development of digital technologies in agriculture and rural areas and for the use of those technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAP Strategic Plan interventions (EU Reg. 2115/2025 Art 114)

Approach

Currently in the Farm register (established in 2022 and used in implementation of direct payments), there are around 140.000 Farms registered by Advisory service, and 92.000 with NUIS. The Farm register includes data partially aligned with the needs of Statistical reporting, and the needs for data exchange with FADN. This gives the opportunity for the Farm register to become central for compilation of National Digital infrastructure in agriculture (NDI-Agri).

As such, the digital Farm register can play a role in alignment of pre-accession agri-policies with Acquis in several opportunities such as:

- Central point for policy making, monitoring and promotion
- Updated administrative source for statistical databases related to the farm structure survey
- Updated source for pre-established forms of Integrated administration and control system for simplification of application, and control register for checking the eligibility criteria
- Central integration point data sets in agriculture, connecting farm holders with holdings, and holdings with their assets, production, output and geographical particularities
- Enabling environment for enhanced e-Government and Smart Villages

With its several roles, there is a need for careful design of structure which would support data integration with other systems (statistics, FADN/FSDN, LPIS, official resident's database) and re-use (the documents and certificates provided to be re-used in all of the connected systems, and providing also the data to services beyond e-government).

Needs addressed

Need 1: Harmonization of legal background regarding IACS and upgrading and interconnecting of existing information systems on basis of interoperability and data re-use in-line with EU Acquis;

Need.2: Develop/compile the National Digital platform in agriculture and rural development from already existing data collections and ensure interoperability and coherency throughout all of the interconnected systems and also with also with external sources; The National digital platform will include interoperable FADN, IACS, PMEF and Statistics.

Need 3: Adjust legal background related to direct payments and adjust IPARD III (M4 and M11) measures to be reused under CAP after accession taking into account simplification and reduce of administrative burden;

Need 4: Use the data collected and compiled under National Digital platform in agriculture and rural development for pre-population of requests in all of the administrative procedures related to agriculture and rural development and ensure user's access with use of digital services via e-Albania.

Intervention strategy

Performance indicators - results			
Number of interventions reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden and aligned with EU Acquis	0	5	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decoupled payment per hectare • Coupled payment per hectare and per head • Complementary income support for young farmers • M4 IPARD • M11 IPARD 			
IACS fully aligned with EU Acquis	10%	70%	100%

FSDN fully aligned with EU Acquis	0%	80%	100%
National Agri-platform fully interoperable	0	40%	100%
Number of services published: e-Farm register; e-Direct payments (GSA); e-FADN; e-Organic production; e-Open data; e-Statistics	0	3	5
Activities			
Alignment of GAEC and SMRs with EU Acquis	Number of GAEC and SMRs aligned with EU Acquis	SARDF 2021-2027 TA 28, TA 29 (simplified and full GAEC and SMRs TAIEX /IPA III, IPARD III TA/ Donors	
Adjustment of direct payments, M4 and M11 towards EU Acquis	Number direct payments and M4 and M11 interventions aligned with EU Acquis	SARDF 2021-2027 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation TAIEX /IPA III, IPARD III TA/ Donors	
Determination of small farmer’s payments (as per Art 28. 2115/2021)	Decision on small farmer’s payments determined		
Determination of ANC and AMR in accordance to EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72	Number of ANC and AMR determined		
Determination of the zones on the basis of study on "Wine grape cultivation areas (as per Law on Wine Art 10)	Number of Wine grape cultivation zones determined	National (ongoing)	
A1.1.2.1 Adjustment of Farm register			
Further Interoperability of farm register with official registers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Register of populationBusiness registerTax registerJuridical court registerCadastreRUDA (NVPPA)Food establishments (NFA)Family members (Register of population)	Share of FR data formats aligned with EU Acquis and exchanged with official registers	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes 28 Establishment of the farm register	
	Farm register data validated		
Simplification of submission of documentation not in official registers by uploading them in the farm register and re use in all applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bank accountsAuthorizationsContracts/leasesCertificates	Number of modules for uploading documentation related to farms and farmers		
Adjustment of data formats and development of exchange protocols	Farm register, FADN and Statistics interoperable as per		

<p>for interoperability of Farm register with FADN and Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Farm-ID, FSDN-ID, Statistical Farm-ID • Establishment of consent for data exchange/interoperability • Aligning code lists and linking datasets on animals, areas, farm members, labor force, mechanization, farm buildings and subsidies • Development of exchange APIs and exchange protocols 	<p>EU Reg. 2116/2021, Art. 67; EU Reg. 2623/2023, Art 1, Art 4, Art 4a; EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 143 (3)</p>	
<p>Integration of Farm register with administration of GIS sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEM (slope and elevation) • Ortho-imagery • Cadastral maps • Land use • Vineyards • Wine-zones • ALFIS (Forest and Pastures cadastres) • ANC and AMR areas • Water permits 	<p>Number of GIS layers integrated with Farm register, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66</p>	
<p>Integration of Farm register with additional GIS sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchards and Olive groves • Olive groves and olive oil zones (if applicable) • IDMIS (Irrigation and drainage systems) • Food establishments • Veterinary facilities • Farm buildings 	<p>Number of GIS sources established and shared</p>	
	<p>Number of additional GIS layers integrated with Farm register, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66</p>	
<p>Declaration of areas and plots with use of GIS tool (Proto-LPIS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of proto-LPIS digitizing tool for GIS declaration of areas in the farm register • GIS tool to be re-used for area related declarations 	<p>Proto-LPIS developed</p>	
<p>Establishment of digital services for registration and update of Farm register supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interoperability with official registers • Pre-population of data from Statistical databases in case of first registration if applicable 	<p>Digital service e-Farm register established under e-Albania</p>	

Upgrading Farm register for information with regards to ANC and conditionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">Whether the Farm is located in Areas with natural constraints (ANC)The GAEC and SMRs applicable to a farm (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 6(d))	Number of GIS sources ANC and AMR integrated with the Farm register	
	Number of information related to conditionality as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 6(d), available for farmers and pre-populated in aid application	
A1.1.2.2 Establishment of EU Compliant LPIS and LPIS quality management system		
LPIS Pilot		TA projects for approximation of EU legislation in chapter 11 Donors, IPA, TAIEX
Development of methodologies and definitions for LPIS (as per line Art 2. of EU Reg. 1172/2022) and LPIS quality management (as per Art. 3 of EU Reg. 1172/2022) and supporting manuals for digitalization and Quality management	Methodologies for LPIS and manuals for digitalization and quality management and update, developed	
	Definitions per Art 4. of EU Reg. 2115/2021 regarding agricultural land and reference parcel in accordance to 1172/2022 Art 2, determined	
Development/adjustments of proto-LPIS tool to full EU compliant LPIS digitalization tool with inclusion of necessary controls in line with EU Acquis and LPIS methodologies developed;	LPIS software adjusted and in-line EU Acquis and integrated with Farm register	
Development of business rules for inter-layer controls Forest and pasture management system (ALFIS), Vineyard register, Orchard register and Olive groves register, and other registers relevant to determination of LPIS parcels	Number of included controls with layers from other bodies included in LPIS	
LPIS - digitalization		
Digitalization of agriculture parcels and land use based on methodologies and manuals developed under LPIS Pilot project	Share of EU compliant agricultural parcels digitized , including permanent grassland	
Digitalization of Land-use, ANC and AMR EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72;	Number of Land-use, ANC, AMR layers digitized	
In office digitalization of (ex)EFA layer EU Reg. 1172/2022 7.d) and 7.e) in accordance to methodology developed under Pilot.	Number of EFA layers digitized	
Operationalization of LPIS quality management system (EU Reg. 1172/2021 Art 3), to be reused for on-the-spot controls and inclusion of LPIS quality management layer with controls	Number of LPIS quality management systems in place	
	Number of yearly LPIS quality reports produced	
A1.1.2.3 Strengthening of Single yearly application GSA		

Upgrade aid application for direct payments to single aid application, • with use of pre-filled data from the digital farm register (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (1), including also the surface and location of the declared areas and information on the conditionality (as per Art. 5 (3 (b) (c)));	Number of direct payment interventions, with pre-populated data on surface and location of the declared areas	Digital agenda 2021-2027: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
	Number CAP compliant interventions and M4 and M11 introduced with partial conditionality checks	
Enhancement of Application submission through e-Albania	Number of services published on e-Albania supporting application for direct payments	SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
Upgrading GSA for use with EU compliant LPIS in accordance to EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art. 69 and EU Reg. EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art. 8;	GSA compliant with CAP requirements established	
Development and implementation of GSA quality management system, as per 1172/2022 Art. 3	GSA quality management system established	
	Number of GSA quality reports submitted	
A1.1.2.4 Adjustments of control and penalty system for authorization of payments		
Establishment of process flow for administrative controls for eligibility checks	Number of interventions supported	Digital agenda 2021-2027: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
Development of Risk analysis module	Number or Risk analysis modules adjusted	
Strengthening digital data flow for On-the-spot control processes :	On-the-spot control processes aligned with accreditation criteria	
	On-the-spot control processes supported with use of geo-tagged photos	
	On-the-spot control report pre-populated from the application form and supporting import of results measured	
	Number of interventions supported – On-the-spot	
	On-the-spot control result interoperable with LPIS quality management	
Adjustment of system for calculations and penalties adjusted in accordance to EU Acquis	System for calculations and penalties harmonized with EU Acquis	
Integration of policy indicators in line with CAP EU Reg. 2115/2021 Annex 1, and EU Reg. Art. 66 (2)	Share of indicators integrated in IACS	
Development of module supporting IPARD M4 and M11 and CAP EMC programme commitment database	Number of modules for management of commitments, established	
	Number of documents	

Development of module supporting official communications to farmers on approval of supports - integration of governmental messaging service		regarding official communications to farmers	
		Number of means of communication used for transmission of official communications to farmers	
A1.1.2.5 Establishment and operationalization of AMS			SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
AMS Pilot			
AMS Pilot project for establishment of area monitoring system (AMS) in accordance to EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art.70 and EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art. 5, mandatory element of IACS and Development of quality management system in accordance to EU. Reg. 1173/2022 Art. 2	AMS methodology and AMS quality management process defined		
AMS operationalization			
Implementation of AMS with EU compliant LPIS, and adjustments of risk analysis methodology for on-the-spot control	AMS operational Number of yearly reports on AMS quality assessment, submitted		
Adjustment of Risk analysis module with use of AMS	Risk analysis updated on the basis of use of AMS		
Simplification of OTS in accordance to revised risk analysis with use of AMS	OTS controls fully compliant with CAP		
			SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA, Donors, National budget
Establishment of interoperability of FADN with Farm register	Share of APIs developed for repopulating FADN records from farm register developed		
Use of FADN calculations in development of standard simple business plans	Number of sectoral specific simple business plans prepared		
Establish Individual access to FADN for farmers via e-Albania	Number of FADN access services via e-Albania		
Upgrade of FADN to FSDN	FSDN aligned with CAP Acquis		
			Statistical programme 2022-2026 Source: National budget, Donors
Development of services for data exchange with Statistics (EU Reg. 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics in Art. 4)	Number of services for data exchange with Statistics developed		
			SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
Establishment of MARD Open data platform, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67), and Open data directive EU Directive (EU) 1024/2019 with EU Reg. 138/2023, with data mining support	Number of services developed for public data sharing Number of warehouses and data mining services developed for MARD policy analysis		
Establishment of central register of organic production (EU. Reg.			Digital agenda 2022-2026:
organic production (EU. Reg.	Register of organic production established		

848/2018, Art. 26) interoperable with Farm register and LPIS		23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program																			
Establishment of e-service for registration and transmission of organic certificates from control bodies	Digital service for registration of organic producers and transmission of organic certificate established	24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes																			
Development PMEF system with indicators as per EU Reg. 2115/2021, Art. 7 and Art. 130, and Annex 1	Number of indicators included in PMEF	SARDF 2021-2027: 25. TA for statistical data on basic sector indicators 26. TA for statistical data on basic environmental indicators Source: IPA. Donors																			
<p>Description: The actions under this objective encompass review and adjustment of policy interventions to be aligned with IPARD III programme, simplified processing of applications through e-Albania with re-use of data collected in National digital infrastructure for agriculture (NDI-AGR) . The actions will result in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplification of measures under IPARD II to be implemented under IPARD III with use of e-Albania services which will contribute to better access to supports for small farmers and reduced administrative burden (M1, M3, M7);• Review of IPARD III measures so far not implemented under IPARD II (M5, M6, M8, M10, M13) to be fit for simplification implementation via e-Albania, and their accreditation;• Re-use of IPARD measures CAP for after accession. <p>Needs addressed</p> <p>Need 4: Use the data collected and compiled under National Digital platform in agriculture and rural development for pre-population of requests in all of the administrative procedures related to agriculture and rural development and ensure user’s access with use of digital services via e-Albania.</p> <p>Need 5: Adjust IPARD III measures to be reused under CAP after accession taking into account simplification and reducing administrative burden;</p> <p>Intervention strategy</p> <table><tr><th colspan="4">Performance indicators - results</th></tr><tr><td>Number of interventions reviewed in context of simplification and reduction of administrative burden: IPARD measures: M1, M3, M5, M6, M7; M8, M9, M10, M13</td><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Number of pre-populated application forms</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Number of services published: e-Investment measures</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <p>Activities</p> <table><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			Performance indicators - results				Number of interventions reviewed in context of simplification and reduction of administrative burden: IPARD measures: M1, M3, M5, M6, M7; M8, M9, M10, M13	3	9	9	Number of pre-populated application forms	0	5	9	Number of services published: e-Investment measures	0	5	9			
Performance indicators - results																					
Number of interventions reviewed in context of simplification and reduction of administrative burden: IPARD measures: M1, M3, M5, M6, M7; M8, M9, M10, M13	3	9	9																		
Number of pre-populated application forms	0	5	9																		
Number of services published: e-Investment measures	0	5	9																		
Strengthening of IPARD MA for programming of IPARD III measures	Number of MARD/MA Staff trained in CAP-like programming	SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors																			
Review of IPARD III programme for simplification and reduction of administrative burden	Number of measures reviewed in IPARD III fit for digitalization																				

Strengthening of ARDA in management and accreditation of information system for IPARD III	Number of officials trained in management of information systems of IPARD Agency	Digital agenda 2021-2027: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
	IPARD/CAP PA IT system accredited	
Reviewing of currently operated measures under national rural development programme, in context of prevention of administrative burden and aligning with IPARD III	Number of IPARD measures reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden, compliant to EU Acquis	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
Simplification of IPARD measures with use of simplified cost options, pre-populated forms, use of existing e-Albania services and pre-calculated business plans to be re-used under CAP INVEST(73-74) for small investments	Number of IPARD III measures simplified	
A1.2.3.1 Application/payment claim submission		
Simplification of applications/payment claims with pre-population based on Farm register (including documents already uploaded in Farm register) and interoperability with other relevant registers	Number of pre-populated application/payment claims forms	Digital agenda 2021-2027: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
Application submission is possible via e-Albania	Number of services for application/payment claims via e-Albania published	
A1.2.3.2 Strengthening of Administrative controls		
Establishment of module for configuration of measures	Measure configuration system developed	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
Establishment of a system of automatic cross-controls with interoperable registers	Number of automatic controls integrated in business rules	
Use of simplified cost options whenever possible in calculation of maximum eligible standard costs	Number of measures with use of simplified cost options	
Use of drop-down pre-defined list of eligible costs	Number of lists of standard eligible costs (see Slovenia case)	
Use of simplified business plans based on standard calculations - for small investments	Number of measures with use of simplified business plans	
A1.2.3.3 Strengthening of On-the-spot control		

Development on-the-spot control support - pre-populated OTS reports from the application form	Number of pre-populated OTS reports aligned with IPARD III developed	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
Development on-the-spot control process module aligned with IPARD III/CAP requirements	On-the-spot control process module developed and aligned with IPARD III rules	
Electronic signing and submission of OTS reports	Electronic submission of OTS reports established	
A1.2.3.4 Ranking – selection of applications in case of limited funds		
Development of process supporting automatic ranking based on configured ranking criteria	Number of processes with automatic ranking supported	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
A1.2.3.5 Approval of application/payment claims		
Development of paperless official communication on approval/rejection/refusal of applications and claims; and for signature of commitments	Number of means of paperless communications established	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes
Development/upgrade of register of commitments/contracts (same as M4/M11)	Number of registers of commitments developed	
Development of the register of facilities and equipment supported, its interconnection with Farm register and LPIS	Number of registers of supported facilities and equipment developed	
	Number of LPIS layers established with facilities and equipment locations	
Development of support to budget planning	Budget planning system established and used in ranking support	Digital agenda 2022-2026: 23 Improving the Information Management System for the IPARD Program 24 Improving the Information Management System for National Schemes SARDF 2021-2027: Action 24. TA project for approximation of EU legislation Source: IPA. Donors
Development of payment approval system and its interoperability with e-Albania payment services	Payment authorization support established and interoperable with e-Albania payment services	
Development of accounting and debt management module interoperable with budget planning and payment module	Accounting and debt management supported by IT systems	
Development of reporting system in line accreditation criteria for IPARD/CAP agency	Reporting system for IPARD/CAP agency developed	

Source: Author

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Chapter 5 of this document provides an overview of key interventions that will achieve the objectives, as well as an overview of indicators on the basis of which the implementation will be monitored and evaluated. In order to monitor the progress of the implementation of this Programme, i.e., to be able to adjust it if needed, it is necessary to establish an effective system of monitoring and evaluation.

The implementation of the Programme and its Action Plan will be monitored by the Ministry in charge of agriculture and rural development and the results will be published in the form of an annual report prepared for adoption by the Government, after which they will be published on the website of MARD.

Monitoring

Monitoring is an activity that is performed by continuous tracking of the implementation of the Programme. The effectiveness of the implementation of the Programme will be monitored based on progress in achieving the baseline indicators in 2023, which are listed in the indicator table. Data will be submitted by all MARD directorates whose activities are included in this Programme and external institutions. For the indicators that are not measurable with indicated relevant sources (such as EU progress report) alternative monitoring methods will be implemented, as recommended in the EU Manuals for Monitoring and Evaluation. The commissioning of experts for the assessment of such indicators will be financed from the funds of the TA IPARD measure until accession. Based on the collected data, an annual report shall be prepared. This report, as a separate chapter, can be included in the Annual Report on the work of the MAFRD.

Monitoring Working Group

For the purpose of monitoring the implementation of this Programme, the Government of Albania will appoint members of the Working Group at the proposal of the MARD, who will discuss the Annual Report on the implementation of the Programme, before sending it to the Government for adoption.

When appointing, it is necessary to adhere to horizontal principles that will ensure a balanced representation of public authorities and intermediary bodies and representatives:

- (a) Relevant bodies at regional and local level, as well as other public authorities, including authorities responsible for digital society;
- (b) The economic and social partners, including representatives of the agricultural sector;
- (c) Relevant bodies representing civil society and, where relevant, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination.

This Working Group also consists of representatives of competent institutions, which were involved during the process of drafting the Programme with the Action Plan, through the participation of their representatives.

When selecting members of the Monitoring Working Group, gender equality rules need to be adhered to, among other things.

The work of the Working Group for Monitoring will be determined by the Rules of Procedure, which will determine the composition of the Board, obligations of members, deadlines, as well as other facts important for the normal functioning of the Working Group. The Monitoring Working Group meets at least once a year and reviews all issues that affect the progress in the implementation of the Strategy, based on the received materials prepared by the MARD.

In case of non-fulfilment of the achievements set in the Programme, and in accordance with the dynamics envisaged in the Action Plan, the members of the Monitoring Working Group may propose new dynamics and manner of implementation, so as not to jeopardize the fulfilment of set operational goals.

Evaluation

After the expiration of the period for which this Programme was drafted, and before the drafting of a new strategic document, an evaluation of the achievements set out in this Programme will be conducted in order to obtain concrete recommendations in the interest of further improving a particular segment. If necessary, especially given the progress of Albania towards the EU during the implementation of this Programme, it is possible to make an on-going evaluation, in order to further harmonize the accession activities, i.e. the implementation of activities that must be harmonized with the EU policies.

Budgetary Impact

Table 29: Budgetary impact

Component	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term	End	Description	EUR
Strengthening of GAEC and SMRs	Number of GAEC and SMRs aligned with EU Acquis	Minimal requirements	sGAEC	Full GAEC & SMR	5 international experts, 0,5 year	250.000
Determination of ANC and AMR in accordance to EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72.	Number of ANC and AMR determined and digitalized	0	2	2	2 international experts, 0,5 year Digitalization – in office – 10 Man months	60.000 10.000
Direct payments, M4 and M11 compliant to IPARD III/CAP programme requirements and reviewed in context of prevention of	Number of direct payments M4 and M11 interventions aligned with IPARD III/CAP and reviewed in context of prevention of	0	5	5	2 international experts, 0,5 year	60.000

administrative burden	administrative burden with use of IACS					
Indicative cost						380.000
A1.1.2.1 Adjustment of Farm register	FR software upgrade and integration with GIS	0	50%	100%	FR software upgrade	250.000
A1.1.3 Strengthening of FADN and transformation of FADN to FSDN and A1.1.4 Strengthening Interconnectivity with agri-statistics	Interoperability with FR	0	100%		Development of services for interoperability	1.000.000
	Service to FADN data access	0	100%			
	Interoperability with statistics	50%	100%			
A1.1.2.2 Establishment of EU Compliant LPIS and LPIS quality management system	LPIS aligned with EU Acquis	0	50%	100%	Pilot: Country wide: establishment	1.500.000
	Additional staff		6	6	12 yearly wages per 1500/month	216.000
A1.1.2.3 Strengthening of Single yearly application GSA and A1.1.2.4 Adjustments of control and penalty system for authorization of payments	GSA and Control&penalty system aligned with EU Acquis, OTS checks interoperable	20%	50%	100%		300.000
A1.1.2.5 Establishment and operationalization of AMS	AMS introduces and OTS risk analysis adjusted	0	0%	50%	Pilot: Country wide: establishment	150.000
A1.1.5 Open data platform with data mining	Open data platform established	0	50%	100%	Consolidation of data and develop public viewer	80.000
A1.1.6 Establishment of the Register of organic production	Register of organic production established and interoperable with FR	0	100%	100%	Development of register	80.000
Indicative cost						3.576.000

Strengthening of IPARD MA in programming of IPARD III measures and support for finalization go IPARD III programme	Number of officials trained in IPARD III programming	5			1 international expert 3 months	60.000
Strengthening of ARDA in accreditation of information system for IPARD III	Number of officials trained in management of information systems of IPARD Agency	0	2	4	1 international expert, 0,5 year + External independent institution, 0,5 year – certification	60.000 80.000
Indicative cost						200.000
Reviewing IPARD III programme in context of prevention of administrative burden and preparation of accreditation of measures so far not accredited	Number of IPARD measures reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden, compliant to EU Acquis	5	9		4 international experts, 0,5 year + External independent institution, 0,5 year	140.000 90.000
Indicative cost						230.000
Simplification of administrative processing: A1.2.3.1 , A1.2.3.2 , A1.2.3.3, A1.2.3.4, A1.2.3.5	Number of measures process with Information management systems for IPARD via e-Albania prepared for accreditation	0	5	9	Support to investment measures and technical assistance, configurable with use of pre-populated data from FR	400.000
	Services developed and published	0	1	1		20.000
Investments IPARD III SW						420.000
Total costs						850.000

Source: Author

ACTION PLAN

Table 30: Action plan on national data infrastructure in agriculture in line EU CAP

Strengthen and integrate national data infrastructure in agriculture in line EU CAP				
Results				
Number of interventions reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden and aligned with EU Acquis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decoupled payment per hectare• Coupled payment per hectare and per head• complementary income support for young farmers• M4 IPARD• M11 IPARD	0	5	5	
IACS fully aligned with EU Acquis	10%	70%	100%	
FSDN fully aligned with EU Acquis	0%	80%	100%	
National Agri-platform fully interoperable	30%	70%	100%	
Number of services published: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• e-Farm register• e-Direct payments (GSA)• e-FADN• e-Organic production• e-Open data• e-Statistics	0	3	5	
Activities				
Strengthening of GAEC and SMRs	Number of GAEC and SMRs aligned with EU Acquis	Minimal requirements	sGAEC	Full GAEC &SMR
Adjustment of direct payments, M4 and M11 towards EU Acquis	Number direct payments and M4 and M11 interventions aligned with EU Acquis		5	5
Determination of small farmer’s payments (as per Art 28. 2115/2021)	Decision on small farmer’s payments determined	1		
Determination of ANC and AMR in accordance to EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72.	Number of ANC and AMR determined		2	
Determination of the zones on the basis of study on "Wine grape cultivation areas (as per Law on Wine Art 10)	Number of Wine grape cultivation zones determined	1		
A1.1.2.1 Adjustment of Farm register				
Further Interoperability of farm register with official registers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Register of population• Business register• Tax register• Juridical court register• Cadastre	Share of FR data formats aligned with EU Acquis and exchanged with official registers	70%	100%	100%
	Farm register data validated		80%	100%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RUDA (NVPPA) • Food establishments (NFA) • Family members (Register of population) 				
Simplification of submission of documentation not in official registers by uploading them in the farm register and re-use in all applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank accounts • Authorizations • Contracts/leases • Certificates 	Number of modules for uploading documentation related to farms and farmers	1		
Adjustment of data formats and development of exchange protocols for interoperability of Farm register with FADN and Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Farm-ID, FSDN-ID, Statistical Farm-ID • Establishment of consent for data exchange/interoperability • Aligning code lists and linking datasets on animals, areas, farm members, labor force, mechanization, farm buildings and subsidies • Development of exchange APIs and exchange protocols 	Farm register, FADN and Statistics interoperable as per EU Reg. 2116/2021 , Art. 67; EU Reg. 2623/2023 , Art 1, Art 4, Art 4a; EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art 143 (3)		80%	100%
Integration of Farm register with administration of GIS sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEM (slope and elevation) • Ortho-imagery • Cadastral maps • Land use • Vineyards • Wine-zones • ALFIS (Forest and Pastures cadastres) • ANC and AMR areas • Water permits 	Number of GIS layers integrated with Farm register, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66	6	9	9
Integration of Farm register with additional GIS sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchards and Olive groves • Olive groves and olive oil zones (if applicable) • IDMIS (Irrigation and drainage systems) • Food establishments • Veterinary facilities • Farm buildings 	Number of GIS sources established and shared	5	1	
	Number of additional GIS layers integrated with Farm register, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 66	0	5	6
Declaration of areas and plots with use of GIS tool (Proto-LPIS):	Proto-LPIS developed	1		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of proto-LPIS digitizing tool for GIS declaration of areas in the farm register GIS tool to be re-used for area related declarations 				
Establishment of digital services for registration and update of Farm register supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interoperability with official registers Pre-population of data from Statistical databases in case of first registration if applicable 	Digital service e-Farm register established under e-Albania	1		
Upgrading Farm register for information with regards to ANC and conditionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether the Farm is located in Areas with natural constraints (ANC) The GAEC and SMRs applicable to a farm (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 6(d)) 	Number of GIS sources ANC and AMR integrated with the Farm register Share of information related to conditionality as per EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art 6(d), available for farmer and pre-populated in aid application	0 0	2 50%	 100%
A1.1.2.2 Establishment of EU Compliant LPIS and LPIS quality management system				
LPIS Pilot				
Development of methodologies and definitions for LPIS (as per line Art 2. of EU Reg. 1172/2022) and LPIS quality management (as per Art. 3 of EU Reg. 1172/2022) and supporting manuals for digitalization and Quality management	Methodologies for LPIS and manuals for digitalization and quality management and update, developed	100%		
	Definitions per Art 4. of EU Reg. 2115/2021 regarding agricultural land and reference parcel in accordance to 1172/2022 Art 2, determined	100%		
Development/adjustments of LPIS software the LPIS with inclusion of necessary controls in-line with EU Acquis and LPIS methodologies developed, with module for management of layers, interoperable with Farm register	LPIS software adjusted and in-line EU Acquis and integrated with Farm register	90%	95%	100%
Development of business rules for inter-layer controls Forest and pasture management system (ALFIS), Vineyard register, Orchard register and Olive groves register, and other registers relevant to determination of LPIS parcels	Number of included controls with layers from other bodies included in LPIS	0	2	6
LPIS Digitalization				
Digitalization of agriculture parcels and land use based on methodologies and manuals developed under LPIS Pilot project	Share of EU compliant agricultural parcels digitized, including permanent grassland		50%	100%

Digitalization of Land-use, ANC and AMR EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72;	Share of Land-use, ANC, AMR layers digitized		50%	100%
Establishment of (ex)EFA layer EU Reg. 1172/2022 7.d) and 7.e)	Number of EFA layers digitized		50%	100%
Development of LPIS quality management system (EU Reg. 1172/2021 Art 3), to be reused for on-the-spot controls and inclusion of LPIS quality management layer with controls	Number of LPIS quality management systems in place		1	
	Number of yearly LPIS quality reports produced			1
A1.1.2.3 Strengthening of Single yearly application GSA				
Upgrade aid application for direct payments to GIS based single aid application (without use of EU LPIS), • with use of pre-filled data from the digital farm register (as per EU Reg. 1173/2022, Art. 5 (1), including also the surface and location of the declared areas and information on the conditionality (as per Art. 5 (3 (b) (c)));	Number of direct payment interventions, with pre-populated data, implemented	1	3	3
	Number CAP compliant interventions and M4 and M11 introduced with partial conditionality checks		1	2
Enhancement of Application submission through e-Albania	Number of services published on e-Albania supporting application for direct payments	1		
Upgrading GSA for use with EU compliant LPIS in accordance to EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art. 69 and EU Reg. EU Reg. 1173/2022 Art. 8;	GSA compliant to CAP requirements established		80%	100%
Development and implementation of GSA quality management system, as per 1172/2022 Art. 3	GSA quality management system established	0	100%	
	Number of GSA quality reports submitted			1
A1.1.2.4 Adjustments of control and penalty system for authorization of payments				
Establishment of process flow for administrative controls for eligibility checks	Number of interventions supported	2	4	5
Development of Risk analysis module	Number or Risk analysis modules adjusted		1	
Strengthening digital data flow for On-the-spot control processes	On-the-spot control processes aligned with accreditation criteria		50%	100%
	On-the-spot control processes supported with use of geo-tagged photos		50%	100%
	On-the-spot control report pre-populated from the application form and supporting import of results measured		50%	100%
	Number of interventions supported – On-the-spot		4	5

	On-the-spot control result interoperable with LPIS quality management		50%	100%
Adjustment of system for calculations and penalties adjusted in accordance to interventions	System for calculations and penalties harmonized with EU Acquis		50%	100%
Integration of policy indicators in line with CAP EU Reg. 2115/2021 Annex 1, and EU Reg. Art. 66 (2)	Share of indicators integrated in IACS		50%	70%
Development of module supporting IPARD M4 and M11 and CAP EMC programme commitment database	Number of modules for management of commitments, established		1	
Development of module supporting official communications to farmers on approval of supports - integration of governmental messaging service	Number of documents regarding official communications to farmers		3	
	Number of means of communication used for transmission of official communications to farmers		2	
A1.1.2.5 Establishment and operationalization of AMS				
AMS pilot				
AMS Pilot project for establishment of area monitoring system (AMS) in accordance to EU Reg. 2116/2021 Art.70 and EU Reg. 1172/2022 Art. 5, mandatory element of IACS	AMS methodology and AMS quality management process defined		100%	
AMS operationalization				
Implementation of AMS with EU compliant LPIS, and adjustments of risk analysis methodology for on-the-spot control	AMS operational			100%
	Number of yearly reports on AMS quality assessment, submitted			1
Adjustment of Risk analysis module with use of AMS	Risk analysis updated on the basis of use of AMS		50%	100%
Simplification of OTS in accordance to revised risk analysis with use of AMS	OTS controls fully compliant with CAP		50%	100%
Establishment of interoperability of FADN with Farm register	Share of APIs developed for repopulating FADN records from farm register developed		50%	100%
Use of FADN calculations in development of standard simple business plans	Number of sectoral specific simple business plans prepared		1	
Establish Individual access to FADN for farmers via e-Albania	Number of FADN access services via e-Albania		1	
Upgrade of FADN to FSDN	FSDN aligned with CAP Acquis			50%
Development of services for data exchange with Statistics (EU Reg. 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics in Art. 4)	Number of services for data exchange developed	1		

Establishment of MARD Open data platform, as per EU Reg. 2116/2021, Article 67), and Open data directive EU Directive (EU) 1024/2019 with EU Reg. 138/2023, with data mining support	Number of services developed for public data sharing			1
	Number of warehouses and data mining services developed for MARD policy analysis			1
Establishment of central register of organic production (EU. Reg. 848/2018, Art. 26) interoperable with Farm register and LPIS	Register of organic production established			1
Establishment of e-service for registration and transmission of organic certificates from control bodies	Digital service for registration of organic producers and transmission of organic certificate established	1		
Development PMEF system with indicators as per EU Reg. 2115/2021, Art. 7 and Art. 130, and Annex 1	Number of indicators included in PMEF			1
Results				
Number of interventions reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden: IPARD measures: M1, M2, M3, M5, M6, M7; M8, M9, M10, M13	3	9		9
Number of pre-populated application forms	0	5		9
Number of services published: e-Grants	0	5		9
Activities				
Strengthening of IPARD MA in programming of IPARD III measures	Share of MARD/MA Staff trained in CAP-like programming	100%		
Review of IPARD III programme for simplification and reduction of administrative burden	Number of measures reviewed in IPARD III fit for digitalization	5	9	
Strengthening of ADA in management and accreditation of information system for IPARD III	Number of officials trained in management of information systems of IPARD Agency		8	
	IPARD/CAP PA IT system accredited		50%	100%
Reviewing of currently operated measures under national rural development programme, in context of prevention of administrative burden and aligning with IPARD III	Number of IPARD measures reviewed in context of prevention of administrative burden, compliant to EU Acquis	5	9	
Simplification of IPARD measures with use of simplified cost options, pre-	Number of IPARD measures simplified	5	7	9

populated forms and pre-calculated business plans to be re-used under CAP INVEST(73-74)				
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Source: Author

TIMING, ARCHITECTURE AND SAMPLES

Timing of activities

Phase 1:

- Farm register streamlined and adjusted to be interoperable with e-Government services, data formats and IDs aligned with FADN, Statistics, and animal register
- Areas captured with use of GIS an integrated with Farm register
- LPIS pilot project is launched
- Single application integrated with Farm register with no paper documentation needed
- Digital service for direct payments published under e-Albania (enhanced)

Phase 2:

- Farm register digital service for access through e-Albania (self-declaration of existing farmers)
- FVA registers and Statistics interoperable with Farm register through digital services and APIs
- EU LPIS software established, integrated with GSA, digital service for access to FR/LPIS published under e-Albania
- GSA – integration with LPIS, LPIS parcels fully digitized during application campaign;
- On-the-spot control strengthened and interoperable, use of geo-tagged photos
- FADN pre-filled from the Farm register data
- FADN access available through digital service via e-Albania

Phase 3:

- GSA: New interventions introduced, compliant with CAP
- AMS – pilot project
- On-the-spot control controls simplified with use of AMS and LPIS Q check

Table 31: Timing of activities

1.1	Strengthen and integrate national data infrastructure in agriculture in line EU CAP	2025				2026				2027			
		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
A1.1.1.1	Alignment of GAEC and SMRs												
A1.1.1.2	Adjustment of direct payments, M4 and M11 towards EU Acquis												
A1.1.1.3	Determination of small farmer's payments (as per Art 28. 2115/2021)												
A1.1.1.4	Determination of ANC and AMR (EU Reg. 2115/2021 Art. 71 and 72)												
A1.1.1.5	"Wine grape cultivation areas (as per Law on Wine Art 10)												
A1.1.2.1	Adjustment of farm register												
	Interoperability of Farm register with official registers												
	Simplification of submission of scanned documentation												
	Integration of Farm register with GIS sources												
	Declaration of areas and plots with use of GIS tool (Proto-LPIS):												
	Farm registration and update with use of e-Albania												
	Adjustment of data formats: Farm register with FADN and Statistics												
	Integration of Farm register with additional GIS sources:												
	Upgrading Farm register to ANC and conditionality information												
A1.1.2.2	Establishment of EU Compliant LPIS and LPIS quality management system												
	LPIS - development of methodologies and software under Pilot												
	Full digitalization of LPIS in line EU requirements												
	Digitalization in accordance to EU Reg. 1172/2022 7.d) and 7.e)												
A1.1.2.3	Strengthening Geospatial aid application and quality management												
	Simplified Geospatial aid application (sGSA)												
	Enhancement of Application submission through e-Albania												

	Geospatial application with use of EU compliant LPIS												
	Development and implementation of GSA quality management system												
A1.1.2.4	Adjustment of Control and penalty system												
	Establishment of process flow for administrative eligibility checks												
	Development of Risk analysis module												
	Strengthening digital data flow for On-the-spot control processes												
	Adjustment of system for calculations and penalties in-line EU CAP												
	Adjustment of Risk analysis and OTS checks with use of AMS											OTS controls simplified	
A1.1.3.5	Establishment and operationalization of AMS												
	Develop AMS methodology and the AMS quality system											AMS Pilot	
	Operationalization of AMS											AMS	
A1.1.4.6	Development and implementation of Quality management systems												
	LPIS, GSA, AMS Quality checks											L PI S S	G S A A
	LPIS update											LPIS U	
A1.1.3.1	Establish interoperability of FADN with Farm register												
A1.1.3.2	Use of FADN calculations in simplified business plans												
A1.1.3.3	Establish FADN digital service via e-Albania												
A1.1.3.4	Upgrade FADN to FSDN												
A1.1.4.1	Establishment of e-services for data exchange with Statistics												
A1.1.5.1	Digitalization of the MAFRD related to open-data policy												
A1.1.6.1	Establishment of register of organic production												
A1.1.6.2	Establishment of e-service for transmission of organic certificates												

A1.1.7.1	Digitalization of the MAFRD related to PMEF-IS												
1.2	Digitalize and simplify agricultural and rural development interventions	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
A1.2.1.1	Strengthening MA in programming and ARDA in IT accreditation												
A1.2.1.2	Adjustments of IPARD III measures for simplification												
A1.2.2.1	Design of simplified forms and integration with FR												
A1.2.2.2	Establishment of access to IPARD III measures under e-Albania												
A1.2.2.2	Simplification of administrative and on-the-spot checks												
A1.2.3.1	Support to budgeting function												
A1.2.3.2	Support to configuration of measures												
A1.2.3.3	Support to payments, accounting and debt management												
A1.2.3.4	Design of reporting system in line with EU Acquis												
A1.2.3.5	Accreditation of information system of IPARD agency												

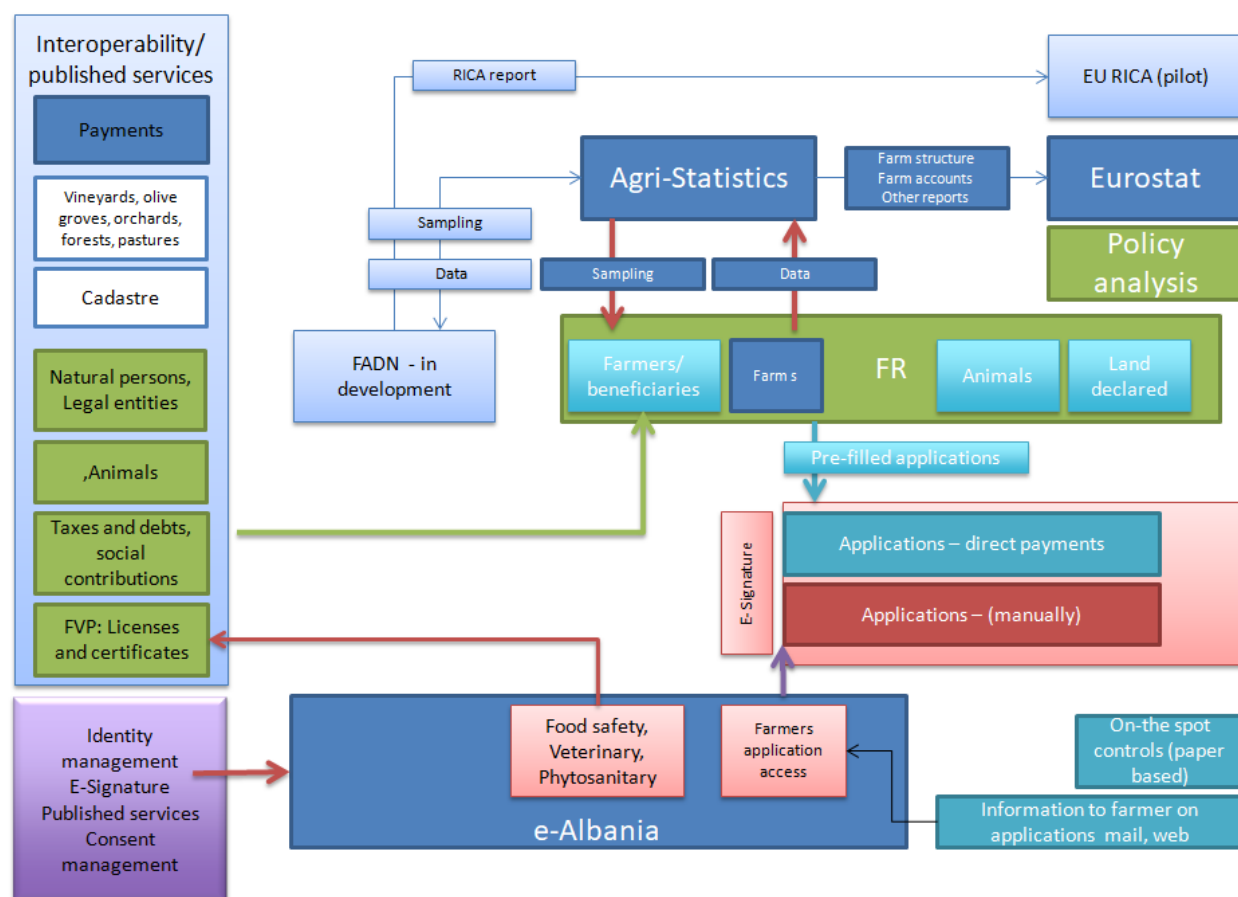
Source: Author

Architecture

Current state:

- **BB-Identity established:** (NUIS and Farm Card)
- **BB-Register:** Farm register established
- **BB-Register Animals** – integrated with Farm register and applications
- **BB-Registers** FADN and Statistics: FADN methodology developed, Statistics (Farm structure) in preparation
- **BB-Process:** Applications for direct payments implemented with use of pre-established data from official registers

Figure 7: Current state of the architecture

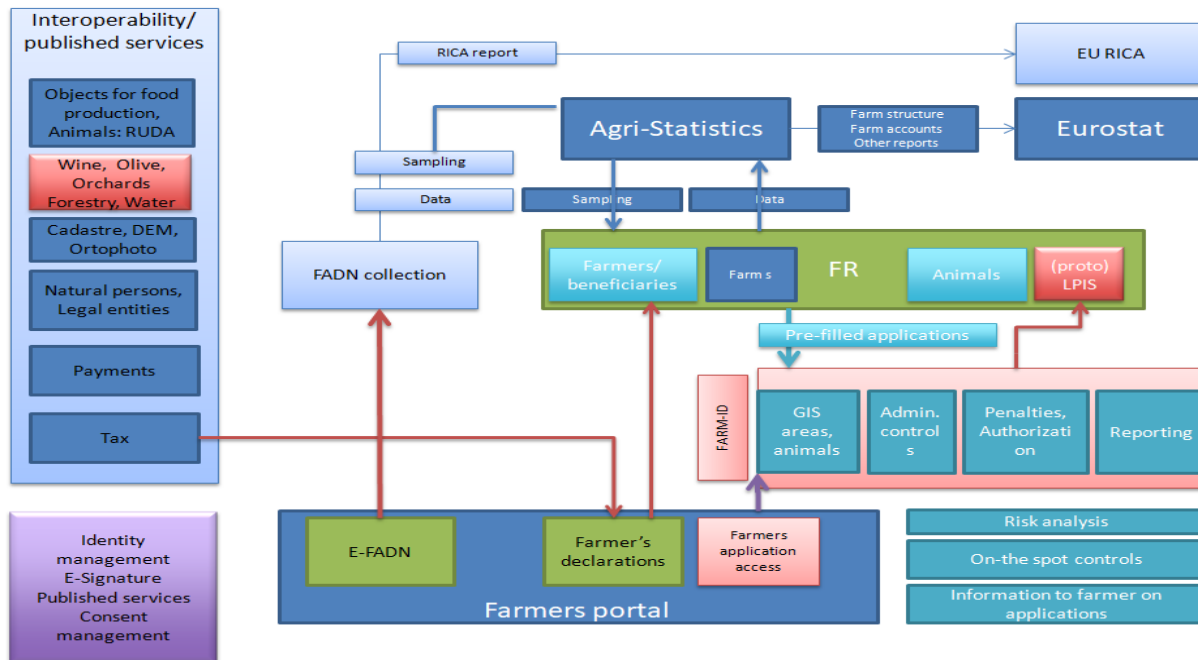


Source: Author

Phase 1 (2025):

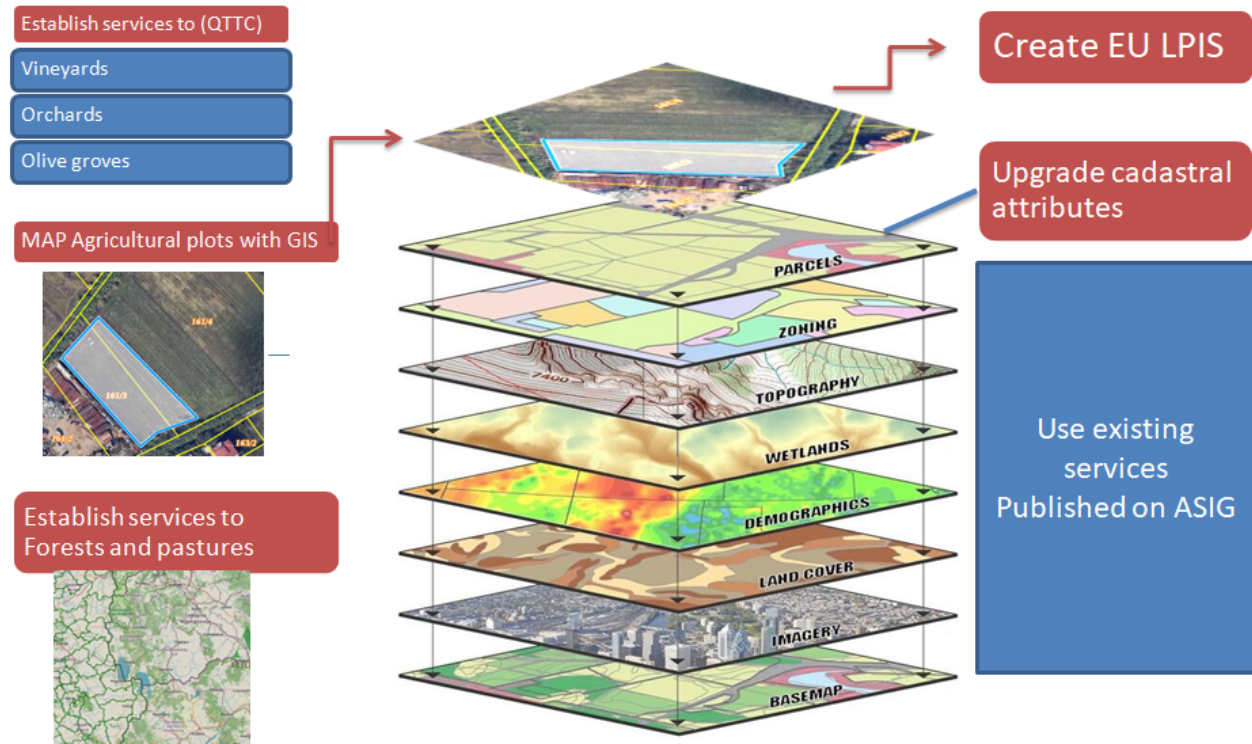
- **BB-Identity established:** (NUIIS and Farm Card)
- **BB-Register:** Farm register established
- **BB-Consent - Farmer**
- **BB-Register Animals** – integrated with Farm register and applications
- **BB-Registers FADN and Statistics:** FADN methodology developed, Statistics (Farm structure) in preparation
- **BB GIS: Use of GIS for declaration of areas in Farm register**
- **BB GIS: Integrate spatial data with Farm register**
- **BB-Process:** Applications for direct payments implemented with use of pre-established data from official registers
- **BB-GIS:** Declaration of areas with use of GIS tools (proto-LPIS) in the application form

Figure 8: Architecture under Phase 1 (1)



Source: Author

Figure 9: Architecture under Phase 1 (2)

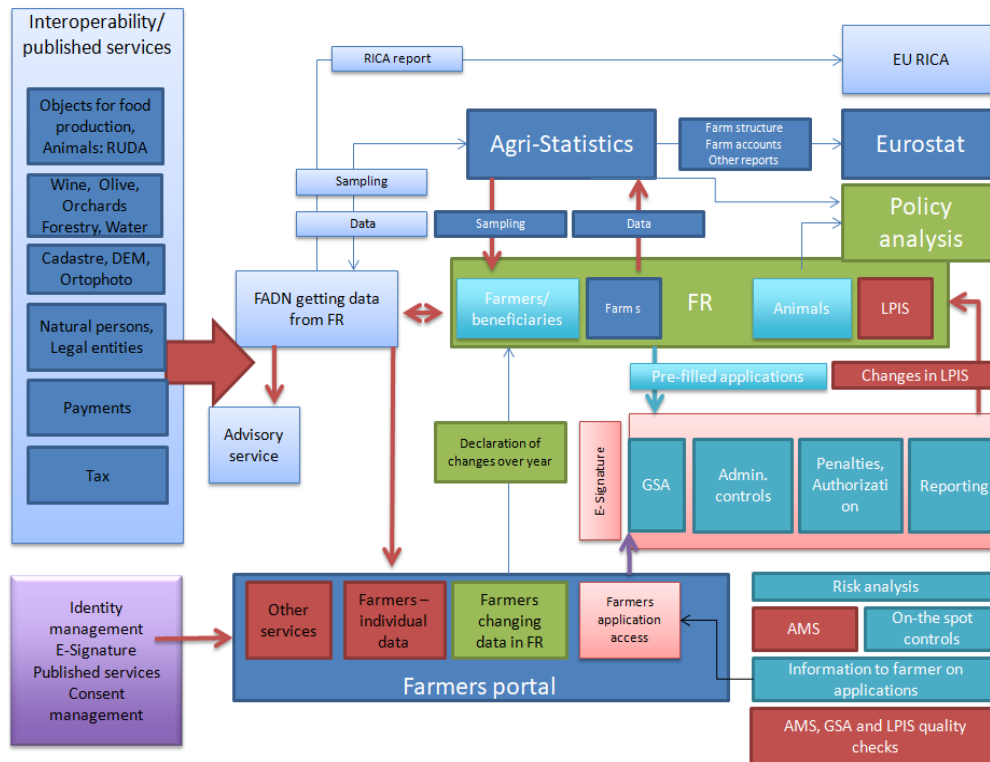


Source: Author

Phase 2 (2026):

- **BB-Identity established:** (NUIS and Farm Card)
- **BB-Register:** Farm register established
- **BB-Consent - Farmer**
- **BB-Register Animals** – integrated with Farm register and applications
- **BB-Registers FADN and Statistics:** FADN methodology developed, Statistics (Farm structure) in preparation
- **BB- Information mediation and BB consent for FADN, Statistics, IACS**
- **BB GIS: Use of GIS for declaration of areas in Farm register – EU LPIS**
- **BB GIS: Integrate spatial data with Farm register**
- **BB-Process: Applications** (GSA fully compliant with CAP) for direct payments implemented with use of pre-established data from official registers, on-the-spot control with re-use of application
- **BB-GIS: Declaration of areas with use of GIS tools (EU LPIS) in the application form**

Figure 10: Architecture under Phase 2

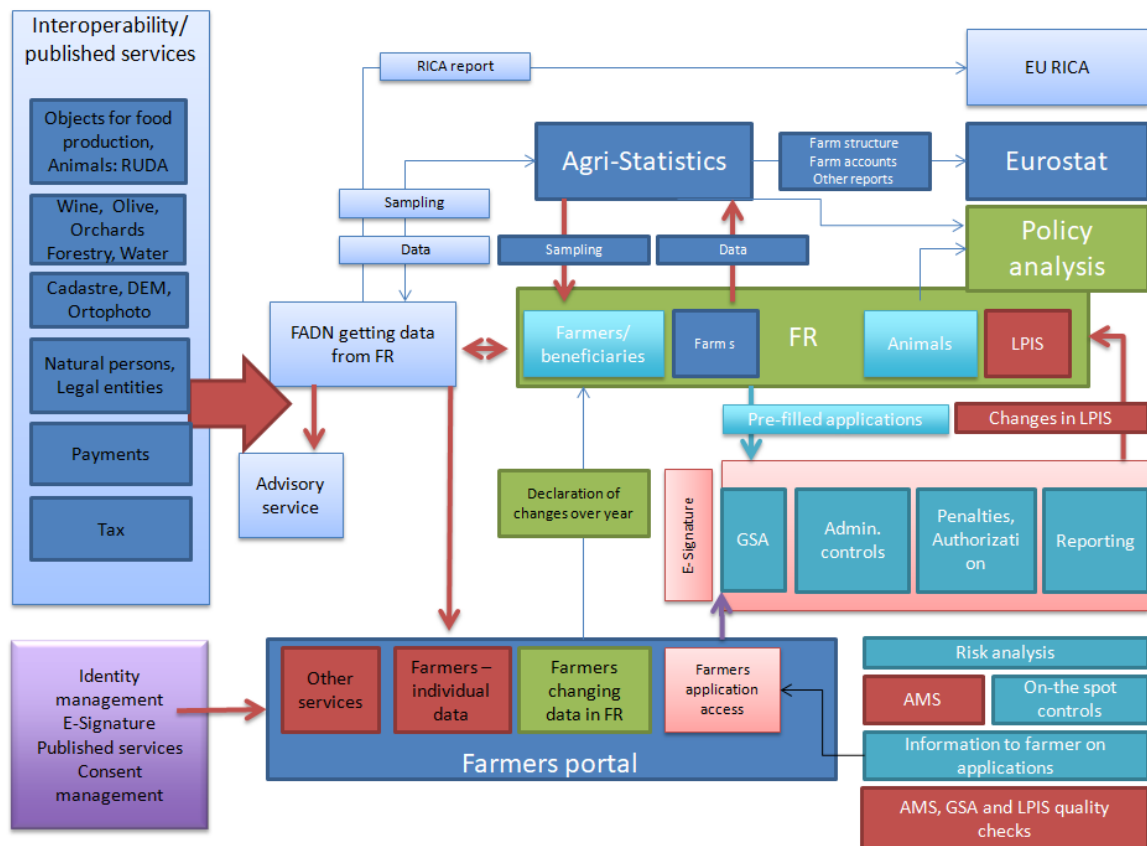


Source: Author

Phase 3 (2027):

- **BB-Identity established:** (NUIS and Farm Card)
- **BB-Register:** Farm register established
- **BB-Consent - Farmer**
- **BB-Register Animals** – integrated with Farm register and applications
- **BB-Registers FADN and Statistics:** FADN methodology developed, Statistics (Farm structure) in preparation
- **BB- Information mediation and BB consent for FADN, Statistics, IACS**
- **BB GIS: Use of GIS for declaration of areas in Farm register – EU LPIS**
- **BB GIS: Integrate spatial data with Farm register**
- **BB-Process: Applications** (GSA fully compliant with CAP) for direct payments implemented with use of pre-established data from official registers, on-the-spot control with re-use of application
- **BB-GIS: Declaration of areas with use of GIS tools (EU LPIS) in the application form**
- **BB-Process for IPARD measures interoperable with IACS**

Figure 11: Architecture under Phase 3 (1)



Source: Author

Examples

Table 32: Opportunities in simplification of IPARD III measures

Criteria	Opportunities in simplification
8.3.1.7.1. Type of eligible holdings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University degree or vocational qualification diploma in the agriculture related field (agricultural or veterinary sciences, agricultural economics) or • at least 3 years of work experience in agriculture production, processing or services related to agriculture. • A recipient that fails to meet the above skills and competences shall commit following training course with a minimum duration of at least 50 teaching hours in the relevant sector before applying for final payment, except the applicants, applying only for non-productive investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload the certificates in the farm register - anytime • Upload the certificates with application and import to Farm register • Import (link) the certificate with database of vocational trainings - to be seen in the farm register • Implement training course via e-Learning platform and import (link) the certificates to Farm register (use the same for M4) e-Albania education services
8.3.1.7.2. Economic viability of the recipient	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicants must present a simplified form of a business plan or a business plan proving the economic viability of the project investment at the end of the investment (see Annex 3) except the applicants, applying only for non-productive investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified form of business plan (as envisaged by IPARD III) can be standard supported by FADN (for small investments) • business plan proving the economic viability of the project investment at the end of the investment (inclusion in FADN and pre-populate the business plan)
8.3.1.7.3. National standards/EU standards	
For investment for on-farm-irrigation systems, before submission of claim for payment, the recipient has to prove the appropriate license, authorization, or concession for water use	e-Albania service: Application for water source use
If the investment is in animal breeding (milk or meat), the farmer must provide a copy of RUDA	Integrated in the farm register (at the moment of submission) - automatic
Fruits and/ or vegetable propagation material and/or seedlings and/or seeds must be certified according to the relevant national legislation in force.	Insert into farm register when received Import into (link) farm register from technical body (State Institute of Seeds and Seedlings), can be applied via e-Albania
Organic certificate	Develop central point for submission of organic certificates and agreements with certifying organizations (Part of Farm register)
8.3.1.7.4. Other eligibility criteria	

Licenses required under the legislation	List of licenses and definition of services
Construction permit	Link to relevant authority, or upload to FR and re-use for next time e-Albania Permits (to check)
The applicant must not be a debtor to the General Directorate of Taxes, according to the legislation in force	Check for debtor's status
The applicant must not have been convicted by a final decision for fraud, corruption or any other type of illegal activity	e-Albania - Juridical records certificate
Paid contributions	e-Albania – Contributions service
8.3.1.7.5. Non-productive investments	Use of simplified cost options wherever possible
8.3.1.8. Specific eligibility criteria (per sector)	
Milk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum 10 cows registered under the animal register • minimum 100 sheep and/or goats registered under the animal register Meat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 cattle registered under the animal register • 100 sheep and/or goats registered under the animal register • 1,000 heads of poultry (broilers and laying hens) • 10 breeding sows 	Import of data on animals from RUDA at time of application/end of investment/end of 5 year period
Fruit and open field vegetables sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum 0.5 ha of land cultivated with vegetables • or minimum 0.5 ha of land cultivated with fruit in one or several blocks. 	Fruits (if registered) Integrate the Orchard (link the OR as layer) in Farm registers GIS, implement cross layer control; Registration of Fruits and Vegetables Mapping the land with GIS integrated with Farm register; or Mapping the land during application and integrate in Farm register Declaration that those are vegetables or Attachment of geo-tagged photo
For Protected Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of 0.5 ha of protected area in a form of glasshouses/ greenhouses/or tunnels 	Mapping the land with GIS integrated with Farm register; Mapping the land during application and integrate in Farm register or Declaration of crops under cover Attachment of geo-tagged photo proving the crops
Vineyards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of 0.5 ha of vineyards 	Integrate the vineyard (link the VR as layer) in Farm registers GIS; and implement cross layer control
Olive's trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of 0.3 ha for individual/1 ha for group of farmers of Olive trees.. 	Integrate the Olive grove (link the OGR as layer) in Farm registers GIS, implement cross layer control

MAPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimum of 0.3 ha of MAPs 	Mapping the land with GIS integrated with Farm register; or Mapping the land during application and integrate in Farm register Declaration that those are MAPs or Attachment of geo-tagged photo
8.3.1.9. Eligible expenditure	
Equipment, machinery, investments in land and permanent crops	Develop detailed list of eligible expenditure Develop when possible max unit costs, for small investments
Construction and/or reconstruction of facilities and premises	Map buildings with geotagged photos and describe the use Map approved veterinary/Food safety facilities from Food safety and veterinarian agency
Measures M8, M10, LEADER, M4, M11	Fixed amounts as per SA Annex 4 (3)
8.3.1.10. Selection criteria (points)	Can be calculated automatically
The investment in mountain areas	Integrate DEM and calculate elevation – automatic calculation of points
8.3.1.14. Administrative procedure	
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of available from Farm register • Digitalization of mapping of investments • Use of geo-tags • Use of existing (linked) certificates or upload through application and integrate them with Farm register to be re-used next time
Administrative control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines: automatic (develop configuration system for measures) • Completeness (Y/N) - (develop configuration system for measures) • Calls for clarifications (requests to be sent via e-Messaging system and recorded in E-document management system)
Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify viability criteria for small investments
Reasonableness of the costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As much use of simplified cost options as possible
On-the-spot control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use geo-tagged photos and GIS capturing Art 12 (5) of SA • OTC control report interoperable with application - eligibility costs and quantities (develop configuration system for measures) • Only 1 OTS needed during project implementation (see art 12 of SA) • Develop risk analysis • Develop OTS controllers management utility (Art. 12 (4), Art. 14 (2) - ex-post)
Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic
Contracting	Develop Commitments register linked to accounting Communicate via e-Messaging module
Payment authorization	Develop debtor's checks Upload of invoices and payment proofs

Source: Author

Table 33: IT Opportunities in simplification of Measure 8

Current state	Opportunities for simplification
The applicant selects the “oil scheme” under e-Albania	The applicant selects the “oil scheme” under e-Albania
<p>The application forms are pre-populated with the following data from official registers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's ID card details • Document proving the applicant's status (farmer, natural/legal person, SHBB) • Confirmation that the applicant (partners, legal representative, members of the SHBB-sw) are not debtors to AZHBR, MARDHR or Taxes • Document on "coherent settlement of social security" • Registration document at the National Business Center 	<p>The application forms are pre-populated with the following data from official registers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's ID card details • Document proving the applicant's status (farmer, natural/legal person, SHBB) • Confirmation that the applicant (partners, legal representative, members of the SHBB-sw) are not debtors to AZHBR, MARDHR or Taxes • Document on "coherent settlement of social security" • Registration document at the National Business Center • Bank account from the farm register • Electronic consent is given to lead farmer (selection of lead farmer from drop down) - included in the electronic application
<p>Data are entered in the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-declaration of areas and crops • Bank account number 	<p>Data on areas and crops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are entered with use of GIS editor on the top of digital cadastral map—in the farm register—or from the last application • Is pre-populated in application form from the farm register • Are changed in the farm register during the year in case of changes <p>Data on bank account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is entered in the farm register from previous years • Is pre-populated in the application form from Farm register and changed if needed • Is changed in the farm register if changed during the year • Is checked wit bank for its validity (on the basis of agreement with banks)
<p>Documents are scanned and uploaded to the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract in case of several farmers • Data about land on disposal • Bank account scanned 	<p>Contract in case of several farmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is entered in the farm register from previous years (if not changed) • If changes, the agreement is entered in Farm register when changed and pre-populated in the application <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic consent is given to lead farmer (selection of lead farmer from drop down) - included in the electronic application

	Documents on areas on disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are entered (uploaded) first time in the farm register (together with GIS digitalization) • Are updated in the farm register when changed • Are re-used for all of the area based applications
Submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount claimed are calculated and • The applicant submits the application is gets the confirmation message 	
Administrative Control	
100 % administrative control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross checking the areas and crops declared with areas on disposal and the contracts • List of qualified beneficiaries is published • Deficiencies need to be adjusted in 20 days 	100% Administrative control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On land in disposal is implemented on farmers who changed the areas; • Consent is given electronically, the contracts are generated automatically;
On-the-spot control	
Risk analysis sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % control for declared areas over 10 ha and • Min. 10% by random selection for beneficiary entities with an area of up to 10 ha , selected according to the criteria of representative selection, taking into account the geographical distribution of the beneficiaries, the size of the beneficiary farm, the beneficiary agricultural crop and the planting season 	Risk analysis sampling needs to take into account the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • size of land and the cost of inspection; • The opportunities of use of geo-tagged photos; • The changes in land on disposal; • Use of satellite imagery to detect the land use changes where applicable (free of charge from Copernicus)
Implementation of field verification	
Preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of control group and notification of the beneficiary entity in advance Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking encompasses measuring, crop checks and documentary checks Control report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The verification report is signed by the beneficiary/its legal representative and the entire verification group • In case of not acceptance the findings, beneficiary comments and signs • In case of different opinions within control group, a team from the Control Directorate at AZHBR, re-verifies the case Submission of verification report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification report information is uploaded to the Agricultural Oil Management Information System according to system requirements 	In case of measuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re use of GIS application • Upload the measured polygons and calculation of differences Crop control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of geo-tagged photos • Use of satellite imagery for detection of crops; Control report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-use of data from application • Automatically insert calculations of differences and measured polygons; • Report deficiencies; • Propose changed in GIS area polygon; • Automatic generation of on-the-spot control report • Electronic signature with use of e-Identity (as per e-Albania)
Authorization and sanctions	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deviation of max 20% is allowed, takes into account both the difference in the area of crops, as well as the changes in the cultivated crops • In case a deviation greater than 20% is assessed (as defined in point 17 above) or incorrect declarations/documents are found, the beneficiary entity: • a) is excluded for 3 years from the right to benefit from support measures for agriculture and rural development, financed from the state budget; • b) is also declared a debtor for the value obtained unjustly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate penalties and apply reductions • Generate decision on support with findings • Send message on approval and findings • Update the GIS polygon in Farm register • Insert farmer into the “sanctioned” record • Update the status in the farm register • Update the status in the debtor’s ledger
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Source: Author