AREAS AND SUB-AREAS				
	STRATEGIC POLICY/ LEGISLATIVE/INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY	PERFORMANCE	
1. THE ELECTORAL PROC	ESS			
1.1 Free and fair elections Overall conduct of elections.	Legal framework addressing pending Constitutional Court decision and outstanding OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations through a wide cross-party consensus open and inclusive consultation process adopted within 2024 (in a timely manner), addressing among others: - the application of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment before the law, and professionalism of the electoral administration; -secure the de-politicisation of lower-level election commissions; -the voting of Albanian citizens with permanent residence outside the territory; -the allegations of vote-buying, of misuse and misappropriation of national and local administrative resources:	Increased capacities and resources of the CEC and other competent bodies to implement the revised legal framework and to cope with the needs to ensure proper overall conduct of elections in line with the adopted legislation within 2025, including, among others, implementation of the revised legal framework on the use of state resources in the context of elections. Digitising electoral administration processes and enable electronic voting on a larger scale to ensure meaningful public independent scrutiny of election technologies greater transparency and public scrutiny over elections within 2027 in line with European standards and Commission recommendations. Implement timely voter education programmes including voter education related to electronic voting tailored for different categories of voters, including in-person voter education programs for Roma, Egyptian, other vulnerable groups, and persons with disabilities throughout each election cycle starting from 2025. Local authorities ensure that all voters are informed in a timely manner about the place and time for voter list scrutiny and the location of their respective voting centres each election cycle starting from 2025. Timely voters' information on polling stations and electoral roll should happen before or in time for 2025 general elections.	Addressing the outstanding recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR reports of elections of 25 April 2021 and other elections, recommendations of Venice Commission and the implementation of Decision of Constitutional Court. nr.38, date 09.12.2022. Further progress on effective application in practice of the right to vote through the enforcement of revised legislation guaranteed by 2030. Transparency through digitalisation and enhanced procedures, improved within 2030. Equal treatment before the law and equal opportunity in the electoral process through enabling all citizens, including vulnerable groups to be informed on the process increasingly ensured within 2030.	

Criminal and civil aspects of defamation are fully aligned with European standards.

Preventive administrative measures are in place to secure citizens' personal data ensured including by the electoral administration and the political parties in each election cycle starting from the elections of 2025.

Binding bylaws brought in line with the adopted primary legislation enacted in a timely manner within 2025.

Albania remains fully committed to implement the outstanding recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR, especially in the regards of:

The outstanding decisions of the constitutional court on electoral matters implemented.

- Preventive administrative measures are in place to secure citizens' personal data ensured including by the electoral administration and the political parties in each election cycle starting from the elections of 2025.
- The suffrage rights of persons with disabilities are consistent with EU best practices and guaranteed from 2025 onwards.
- Increased capacities of the watchdog-institutions on monitoring the misuse of administrative resources during electoral campaigns from the elections of 2025.
- Continuous proactive investigations related to vote-buying conducted by the law enforcement and rule of law institutions.

1.2 Media in the election campaign

(other issues related to media freedom at large addressed within the Rule of Law Roadmap)

Among others, to consider: the importance of autonomous and pluralistic media, the crucial role of public-service broadcasters, the separation of political activities from the media interests of politicians who

Legislative amendments to the Electoral Code through a wide cross-party consensus and political will, and an open inclusive consultation process to:

- guarantee equal opportunities of all contesting parties to access the media, including addressing space and - limit the ready-made media campaign coverage provided by parties, including social media monitoring adopted within

Increase quantitative and qualitative monitoring and professionalism in the media reporting (including ready-made materials coming from political parties) of the media during the election campaign in each election cycle, as well as AMA capacities to conduct the monitoring in a proper manner, starting from the elections of 2025, through the implementation of the "Modernization of the monitoring studio" by AMA.

Capacities invested in targeting disinformation during the electoral processes in each election cycle, starting from the elections of 2025, including the relevant target groups

The monitoring of audiovisual media coverage is implemented by using the new monitoring studio by AMA ensuring an effective system of qualitative and quantitative media monitoring and politically *neutral media coverage provisions* throughout the elections is in place, and application of dissuasive sanctions by an independent body is in place and functional within 2030.

own media outlets, the protection of journalists' investigative rights and respect for their editorial independence, as well as the prevention against the potential use of public resources by governments and public institutions to influence media content.	2024, following a process of public consultation and in line with European standards and recommendations, including OSCE/ODHIR and Venice Commission. Legal changes to strengthen its efficiency, independence and autonomy of the regulator will be adopted in line with Council of Europe's standards and Venice Commission recommendations within 2026." Regulatory framework of the other bodies monitoring online media during elections will be approved beginning from 2026 onwards. AMA adopts the regulation regarding media ownership transparency, in compliance with the current legislation by 2024. The civil law provisions on fraudulent or inaccurate publications aligned with European Standards and recommendations. Information deadlines for access to information of public interest for journalists revised based on EU standards and best	Continuous implementation of robust monitoring mechanisms from CEC in collaboration with other related institutions enabled by Electoral Code amendments, that scrutinize digital campaigns for misinformation, manipulation, and foreign interference by deploying advanced technologies for real-time analysis, collaborating with social media platforms to detect and counteract disinformation, and fostering international cooperation to address cross-border threats Continuous All the relevant Albanian stakeholders get members of "No Hate Alliance" to properly address disinformation during election campaigns starting from 2025 onwards.	Risks of disinformation increasingly mitigated through targeted measures within 2030. Addressing the outstanding recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission reports of elections of 25 April 2021 and other elections. Progressively effectively address disinformation during election campaigns, in line with European standards and recommendations, including the Venice Commission.
	based on EU standards and best practices.	Ingressed human and financial conscition of the CEC to	Addressing the outstanding
1.3 Financing of political parties and election campaigns	Legislative amendments to the Electoral Code through a wide cross-party consensus and political will, and an open and	Increased human and financial capacities of the CEC to effectively enforce legal requirements concerning campaign finance oversight and monitoring within 2025.	Addressing the outstanding recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR reports of elections of 25 April 2021 and other elections.

Criteria for public & private funding of political parties; rules on private donations and expenditure linked to election campaigns; Transparency of accounts; mechanisms of supervision and independent monitoring, including meaningful effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for violations.

inclusive consultation process on the funding of political parties in line with the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations adopted within 2027, including, among others, the extension of the regulations and limits on donations and expenditures to third parties, as well as disclosure by contestants of their campaign incomes and expenditures before elections day.

Legal amendments on political party financing will be adopted by 2027.

Alignment of electoral code provisions with the provisions of law on political parties.

The funding process of political parties/online reporting of political parties, auditors and monitors increasingly digitised to enable the swift online reporting, and ensuring transparency in real time on income and expenses in each election cycle, starting from 2025.

The Digital Platform for Political Parties Financial Reporting will provide extended clarity by publishing automatically online financial reports aiming to increase and ensure intensive accuracy and open data formats guaranteed for user experience starting from 2025.

An easy-to-process reporting data will be offered by CEC to CSOs, media, and electoral researchers starting from 2025

Audit over the funding of political parties through the creation of the funding portal substantially strengthened within 2030.

Sanctions are effective deterrent and proportionate and systematically applied in cases of infringements of provisions on political party financing in each election cycle, starting from the elections of 2025.

Enhanced public focus to follow as political parties will increase accountability due to easy-to-process reporting data, offered by CEC to CSOs, media, and electoral researchers starting from 2025.

2. FUNCTIONING OF THE PARLIAMENT

The functioning of the Parliament needs to be based on the principle of transparency and accountability, integrity and effectiveness.

2.1 Transparency ¹and accountability

The degree of transparency of parliamentary work; horizontal (inter-institutional) and vertical (citizens) aspects

Amendment of the Code of Conduct of MPs, will be approved within 2024 in order to introduce the obligation that meetings of MPs and their staff with CSOs and lobbyists take place only with those whose are registered in the

Drafting the methodology for Post Legislation Scrutiny and training of the Assembly's staff for implementing it (Deadline: 2024-2025)

The capacities of the Parliament's staff will be strengthened to handle increased responsibilities for transparency, arising from the accession process.

Code of Conduct amended and implemented by MPs.

Rules of Procedure of the Assembly amended and implemented for the Post Legislation Scrutiny not only to the laws approximated with EU acquis but also to the normative acts having the force of law by 2024.

¹ In the parliament's official website (https://parlament.al) the https access/api issues with certificates are resolved. The site is properly configured with server certificates.

of the Parliament's accountability

Register of CSOs and the Register of Lobbyist established and updated by Parliament the in accordance with the provisions of the commissions' decisions of in January 31, 2018 on the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Commission, Article. 7 as well as the publication of the minutes of the meeting. Deadline: 2024

Amending the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly to extend the application of the Post Legislation Scrutiny not only to the laws approximated with EU acquis but also to the other acts such as normative acts having the force of law by 2024.

Strengthening the transparency and accountability of the Assembly.

By 2025, a Strategic Plan for the Assembly (2026-2030) will be approved, by focusing among other areas on the improvement of: i) the effectiveness of the exercise of representative, legislative and supervisory functions; ii) the role of the Parliament in integration processes and parliamentary diplomacy; iii) the transparency, participation and civic education in the activities of the Parliament; iv) the regulatory framework, human resources and infrastructure etc.

Strengthening the transparency and accountability of the Assembly through:

- a) More timely and user-friendly public availability of official parliamentary documentation to civil society, the media, other stakeholders, and the broader public by improving continuously the information published in the webpage of the parliament within 2028:
- b) The implementation of a transcription system for the parliamentary committee meetings and plenary sessions as quickly as possible (Deadline: 2024-2028)
- c) Real-time broadcasting and access to audio-video materials of parliamentary activity at any time by the public; (RTSH Assembly, Assembly Page and Social Networks of the Assembly) (Deadline: 2024)
- d) Drafting a working plan to achieve the transparency standards and indicators by 2025
- e) The full implementation of the E-Legislation system that will integrate the systems of all institutions involved in the law-making process as well as strengthening the administrative capacities of the Assembly through trainings to cope with the increased responsibilities for

Methodology for Post Legislation Scrutiny approved and the staff of the Assembly trained for implementing it by 2025.

Availability and accessibility of official parliamentary documentation to civil society, the media, other stakeholders, and the broader public in a timely and user-friendly manner including for people with disability.

The transcription system which will enable the clarification of the audio material for the parliamentary committee meetings and plenary sessions as quickly as possible is fully functioning effectively and with higher standards by the end of 2028.

Real-time broadcasting and access to audio-video materials of parliamentary activity at any time by the public.

Standards and indicators highlighted in the document on transparency fully implemented by 2028.

Swifter and effective legislative procedures enabled through digitalization and improved internal processes within 2029 and the administrative capacities Strengthened of the Assembly with the aim to cope with the increased responsibilities for transparency issues arising from the membership process within 2024 -2029.

E-legislation system fully implemented by 2028.

The involvement of wider stakeholders from civil society and interest groups in the work of the Assembly improved and strengthened within 2028.

Increased number of the draft laws consulted throughout the platform for the consultation of the project laws.

transparency issues arising from the membership process within 2024-2028.

Increasing the involvement of the CSOs and interest groups in the parliamentary committee meetings during the law-making and oversight process as well as while exercising the election function of the Assembly. (Deadline: 2024-onward).

- Increasing the number of draft laws consulted on the platform of draft laws in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly during the period 2024-2027 by improving the platform for the consultation of the draft laws, publishing user-friendly electronic guidelines and organising awareness campaign.

Increase of the involvement of the CSO and groups of interest in the meetings of National Council for European Integration by a transparent follow up of the recommendations and/or issues raised by the stakeholders in NCEI's meetings (Deadline: 2024-onwards)

Organization of the election/appointment processes of the chairs and members of independent institutions according to the legal deadlines and vacancies created, without delays and by ensuring the implementation of the principles of impartiality, independence and transparency. (Deadline: 2024-onwards.)

- The systematic exercise of the oversight function of the Assembly towards the activity of the government, related to the implementation of laws and policies, by increasing the use of control instruments by MPs (questions, interpellations, inquiry committees' hearings, motions, visits, etc.) and by organizing of periodic joint meetings between the Parliament,

Meaningful and systematic exchange with civil society representatives and interest groups during the meetings of NCEI while discussing various documents.

Election/Appointment of the chairs and members of independent institutions according to the legal deadlines and vacancies created.

A proactive and enhanced role for Assembly to control the work of the government, to monitor the independent institution and for oversighting the implementation level of independent institutions recommendations

Organizing information sessions with the new MPs for the control & monitoring instruments defined by the rules of Procedures of the Assembly and the law on the role of the parliament in EU integration process, as amended in exercising the oversight and monitoring role towards the government and independent institutions. 2025.

Ensure effective follow-up on recommendations of independent bodies from 2024 – onwards.

The Inter-institutional Online Platform fully operational and more understandable for users (user-friendly).

the Government and independent institutions to discuss and oversight the implementation level of recommendations given by the independent institutions towards the work of the government and its depending institutions (Deadline: 2024-onwards).

- -Strengthening the oversight towards the independent institutions through:
 - a) organization of hearings sessions in the parliamentary committees with independent institutions while disusing the reports sent by them on different issues (Deadline: 2024-onwards).
 - b) Review by the Assembly/Permanent Parliamentary Committees of the annual reports of independent institutions, applying the legal procedures and deadlines for reporting to the Assembly and adopting a resolution for each of them with specific recommendations to be followed and implemented for the year to come/ (Deadline: 2024-onwards);
 - c) establishment of a subcommittee for following up the audit reports of SAI within 2024
- d) the improvement/upgrade of the inter-institutional Online Platform by 2025
- e) Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations by the 6 (six) independent institutions towards third parties and organization of hearing sessions in responsible parliamentary committees /or subcommittees.

Appointment procedures streamlined to ensure timely appointment of independent institutions and authorities by the Assembly such as: Competition Authority, the Central Bank, the Ombudsperson from 2024 –onwards.

2.2 Integrity Codes of ethics; declaration of assets; regimes for the prevention of conflict of interest; limits to immunity from investigation, prosecution or adjudication of corruption offences to the degree necessary in a democratic society.	Ensure full alignment with international standards on combatting bribery of foreign public officials through the ratification of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of 17 December 1997 within 2027. Higher ethical standards of MPs in the Assembly while implementing the Code of Ethics for the MPs and in accordance with the good practices of the EU member states ensured by 2027.	Implementation of the Code of Conduct for MPs through the setting of disciplinary measures in cases of violation of the provisions of the Code in Committees and plenary sessions by: a) enhancing the transparency of decision-making bodies in deciding the disciplinary measures for the MPs through the publication in the webpage of the Assembly of: i) the decisions and ii) the minutes of the meeting and iii) also of periodic statistics about the implementation of the Code of Conduct of the MPs. Deadline 2024-2025 -b) Organizing the information sessions with young MPs on each new legislature on the implementation of the Code of Ethics or ethical issues in accordance with the best practices in area and by offering them continues advice for the conflict of interest issues during the exercise of their duties as MPs (Deadline: 2024-onwards) Finalizing the draft methodology for identifying risk for corruption in the law-making process developed and training of the Assembly staff for implementing it (Deadline: 2024-2026) Further strengthening of the administrative capacities of the Assembly for supporting the MPs in topics on conflict of interests, ethical issues, etc. by taking part to the trainings organized by the HIDAACI or other partners (Deadline 2024-onwards). The e-Legislation system that shall integrate the	Ratification of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of 17 December 1997 within 2027. Higher ethical and integrity standards of the Assembly proceedings progressively improved by 2028. Identifying risk for corruption in the law-making process as one of the elements of the legal service opinions to the MPs. (Deadline 2026 - ongoing) Administrative capacities of the Assembly strengthened for supporting the MPs in topics on conflict of interests, ethical issues, corruption proofing of legislation etc. (Deadline 2027).
2.3 Effectiveness	framework 1 year before	systems of all the institutions included in the	Albania and the European Parliament and the

organisation Overall business within Parliaments, and at how it is consistent with democratic norms and values. In particular, effective performance of legislative and scrutiny functions; the role of majority and the opposition; inclusiveness of law-making functions, including the role of concerned stakeholders.

accession to include concepts such as relations between the Assembly of Albania and the European Parliament, the subsidiarity principle in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

Amend the Constitution that guarantees the respect of the principle of the supremacy of the EU law over all the contrary provisions of the national law, by the democratic institutions, including the Parliament, the Government, as well as by the judicial authorities, including the Constitutional Court (Deadline: 6 months before accession).

Amend the Article 28 of law on the Ombudsman, for abolishing the obligation to publish the annual report of the Ombudsman only after the presentation of it in the Assembly within 2024.

law-making process implemented within 2024-2028.

Strengthened capacities of administrative & political staff of the Assembly in improving the quality of the services provided for the support of the MPs, in order to cope with the increased obligations stemming from the accession process within 2029.

Improving political dialogue in order to minimize the impact of political polarization on the effectiveness of the Assembly through the organization of periodic meetings between the Speaker of the Assembly and the heads of parliamentary groups, for the discussion of issues that require a broad consensus Deadline: 2024- onwards.

Improve the oversight role of the Assembly on the executive by increasing the use of control instruments by MPs (questions, interpellations, hearings at the parliamentary committees, motions, visits, inquiry committees etc.) and by increasing the activities of the parliamentary subcommittees. Deadline: 2024-owards.

Establish a parliamentary sub-committee dedicated to follow-up the recommendations of the audit reports of the State Audit Institution within 2024.

subsidiarity principle in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

The principle of the supremacy of the EU law is part of the provisions of the Constitution.

Swifter and effective legislative procedures enabled through digitalisation and improved internal processes within 2029.

Quality of services offered for the MPS by the administrative and political staff improved in order to cope with the increased obligations stemming from the accession process within 2029.

Political dialogue is improved by ensuring so the greater effectiveness in the work of the Assembly.

The Ombudsperson annual report is published before the Assembly holds a debate on it.

3. THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The national legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for NGOs to operate within (including conditions for registration, taxation, consultation mechanisms etc.) and the political context ensure an enabling environment for civil society.

3.1 General framework on civil society

Legislative framework on the National Council amended to improve its functioning, National Council is fully transparent functional and capacitated, including through allocation of

The work of the National Council for Civil Society strengthened and more transparent enabling to

Legal, policy and institutional framework, compliance with relevant international instruments and standards, public strategies to promote civic space and creating an enabling environment implementation and enforcement capacity, functioning and performance, challenges and gaps	composition and ensure greater involvement of both public institutions and civil society representatives to reflect changes in ministerial portfolios and representation in the Council will be approved by the Council of Ministers enter 2024 and by the Parliament in the first 6 months of 2025. Regular and effective Institutionalised cooperation between the Government and civil society and ensuring meaningful participation of CSOs in decision-making processes, including in the context of the EU accession negotiations, improved through the adoption and effective implementation monitoring of a new roadmap within 2024. Publication, consultation and adoption of the Monitoring assessment report for the roadmap 2019-2023 on creating an enabling environment for CSOs within 2024. Publication, consultation and adoption of the new Roadmap for enabling environment for CSOs 2024-2027 within 2024.	necessary financial resources and human capacities. Increase the capacities and resources of monitoring mechanism of the adopted roadmap on an enabling environment for the civil society within 2024. Administrative procedures of public funds and (public funds in general- not just the ones managed by the National Agency to Support Civil Society) the ASCS grant process improved within 2025 and public funding increased to enable CSOs to perform their roles of service providers. Full functionality of the online platform for grant process tracking enabled within 2025.	better voice the priorities of CSOs in policy-making processes. CSO receiving support through state funds enabled by swift and transparent procedures within 2025 and onwards.
3.2 National legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for civil society organisations (CSOs)	A swifter and more transparent electronic registration system for CSOs ensured by 2024. Analysis of legislation related to ensuring a more favourable tax	Ensure the effective operation of the digital system for the registration of CSOs within 2024, and address the capacities need of the High Judicial Council are in place	Greater transparency and public scrutiny ensured over the status and membership of CSOs within 2025. More favourable tax environment for CSOs including VAT exemption as provided in the Albanian Vat Law

environment both for corporate Interoperability of the digital system for the in force, and analysis on a review of "Sponsorship" This included conditions and individual donations to CSO registration of CSOs between HJC (The court of law related to tax incentives for donation by 2027. for registration, by 2025. general jurisdiction of Tirana), the General implementation of Directorate of Civil Status, the General Directorate freedom of The effective functioning of VAT of Taxes, and the National Business Centre and full association, mechanisms exemption for CSOs in line with access to CSOs register ensured by the National to prevent interferences revised VAT law ensured from Agency of the Information Society enter 2024. and undue pressure on 2024 - onward. CSOs' activities and Increase capacities of the Project Implementation members, conditions for Analysis of the necessity of Support sector in SASPAC in order to finalize the taxation and access to reviewing the Sponsorship law deliberation of certificates for CSOs benefiting by funding/resources, etc. related to tax incentives for VAT exemption from 2024 onward. implementation and donations in conformity with EU enforcement capacity, acquis, by 2027 Awareness campaigns organised by SASPAC with challenges and gaps. all the involved stakeholders related to the follow up procedures on VAT exemption from 2024 onward. Capacities of the tax authorities to cope with the procedures of exclusion of CSOs implementing the legal framework approved on January 2023, to be increased by 2025. Increase the capacities of tax authorities on effectively following up of legal entities (CSOs) excluded from VAT enter 2025. Increase the monitoring capacities of tax authorities in monitoring the register certified beneficiary CSO enter 2025 3.3 The wider context for Revised legal framework on Full implementation and monitoring of the revised The quality of consultations, transparency and public voluntarism adopted within framework on voluntarism within 2026. participation of CSOs in decision-making processes enabling environment 2025. improved be proactively steered and fully inclusive, Capacities of the line ministries to conduct proper extend to in all legislative and policy initiatives, and Legal, policy Methodology of acts subject to consultation enhanced within 2025. take place through effective institutional mechanisms and institutional framework, public consultations revised and and for a dialogue within 2025. compliance with relevant adopted within 2030 extending The Assembly improves the digital tools to ensure the scope of public consultation greater proper public consultation in place by Strengthened participatory culture of the public and international instruments stakeholders', and increased accountability of the and for government acts. 2026 and onwards. standards, implementation and institutions in decision-making through public

enforcement

capacity,

functioning and performance, challenges and gaps. This includes, how the system ensures effective participation in policy making for CSOs and citizens, public accountability, consultation mechanisms, cooperation between public authorities and, functioning of State-CSO dialogues structures/Councils.

Amendment in the law n.146/2014 "On public notification and consultation", and in the secondary legislation on public consultation progressively towards 2030.

Legal framework to be amended to provide to adjust the publication deadline for econsultation based on the complexity and relevance of complex policy initiatives.

All 33 European Integration Partnership Platforms (1 per each chapter) established ensuring full participation of civil society in the negotiation process by 2024.

Enhance public consultation reports' quality and complete the responsible structures with prepared and well-trained staff in order to expand, by 2030, the public consultation process to the secondary legislation of high public interest if the above conditions are met

Enhance capacities of all 33 EIPP discussion tables by 2025.

consultation that leads to better regulations within 2026

Public administration in the Centre of Government is capable of carrying out the process of public consultation based on the highest standards-Continuous

Publication deadline for e- consultation respected in at least 90 %

Civil society is fully consulted and participates transparently and in an inclusive manner in EU accession negotiation by 2025.