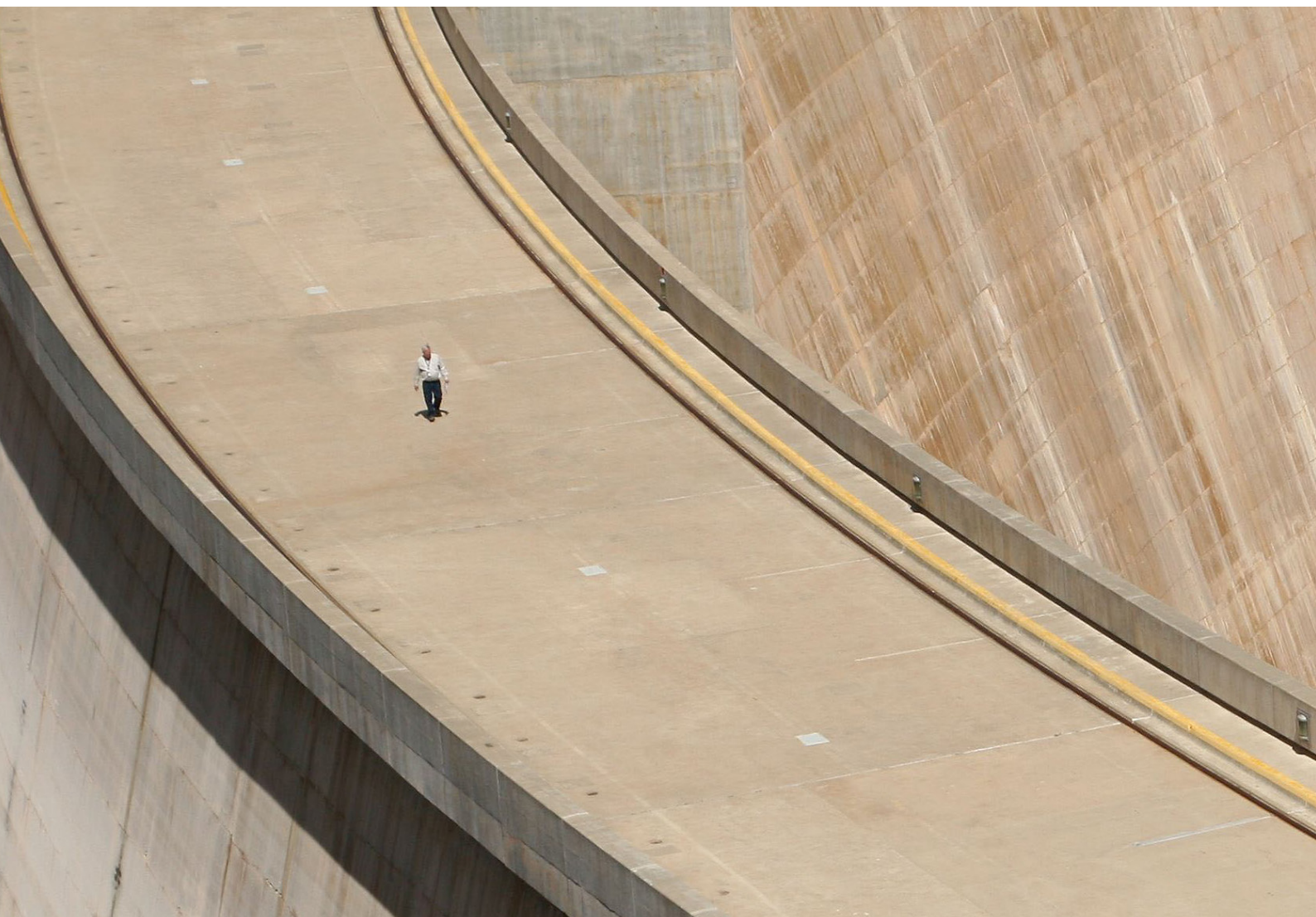


More from less — material resource efficiency in Europe

2015 overview of policies, instruments and targets in 32 countries



Albania 

May 2016

This country profile is based on information collected by the Eionet network in Albania. This document should not be seen as an official list of government priorities and is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all national material resource efficiency policies, objectives, targets or activities in place. The information is current as of June 2015.

This country profile was prepared as part of the 2015 EEA review of material resource efficiency policies, that aimed to collect, analyse and disseminate information about the development and implementation of material resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries. The work resulted in the following outcomes:



32 short country profiles (this document) – self assessments prepared by countries, describing the current status of material resource efficiency policies including key strategies and action plans, policy objectives, instruments, targets and indicators, and the institutional setup. Countries were also invited to share reflections on the future direction of resource efficiency policies.

EEA report *More From Less – material resource efficiency in Europe* – prepared by the EEA and ETC/WMGE, the report analyses trends, similarities and differences in policy responses, showcases selected policy initiatives from the countries, and offers some considerations for the development of future policies.

The EEA report *More from less – material resource efficiency in Europe* and the 32 country profiles are available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>



For information about trends and policies on municipal waste management in the participating countries, please visit: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-municipal-solid-waste>

Information about EU Member States' waste prevention programmes can be found at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2015>

For information on climate- and energy-related policies, including those on energy efficiency, in the participating countries, please visit: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/ghg-country-profiles>

Albania, facts and figures

Source: Eurostat

	GDP: EUR billion (% of EU-28 total in 2014)
	Per person GDP: EUR 8,300 (in purchasing power standard) (30 % of EU-28 average per person in 2014)
	Use of materials: Data not available
	Structure of the economy: agriculture: 22.6 % industry: 15.1 % services: 62.4 % (2014 est.)
	Surface area: 28,700 square kilometres (equivalent to 2.1 % of EU-28 total)
	Population: 2.9 million (equivalent to 0.6 % of EU-28 total)

Introduction

There is no dedicated national resource efficiency strategy or action plan in Albania.

Main policy relevant to resource efficiency is the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2011–2018 www.encharter.org

So far there is no clear distinction between energy efficiency and material efficiency.

Scope of material resource efficiency

The key terms are explicitly defined for the people involved in the field, government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), of energy and related fields, but further there is still work to do familiarizing the public with the terms.

Resources addressed include: charcoal, crude oil, oil by-products, natural gas, biomass, hydropower, electrical energy, etc.

Other than for construction and the timber industry, biomass is only used as a fuel wood for energy.

Driving forces of material resource efficiency

Main current factors:

- the development of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), which will be linked with the Trans Anatolian gas pipeline (TANAP). Work on this pipeline will start in May. The development of this project will create 2 000 jobs in Albania;
- revitalize the energy sector and make it profitable within the next 5 years;
- promoting renewable energy and the proposal of measures to increase its use in the energy cycle.

Main current concerns:

- the environmental impact of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline on the various environments through which it will pass;
- waste from different raw-material processes discharged into rivers and lakes without any treatment or recycling processes;
- no plant recycles waste or recovers resources and raw materials.

Priority material resources, sectors, and consumption categories

Priority materials

Priority materials include: crude oil, liquid natural gas, electric energy, fuel wood, minerals, (coal, chrome and copper) fuel wood, timber wood etc.

As regards waste-derived secondary materials, such as scrap metals, recyclable materials, construction and demolition materials, only the scrap-metal is currently collected – by private businesses, and not supported by government structures.

Large metal businesses do not show much interest in the recycling of scrap metals left over by industrial process, discharging them close to rivers where they impact the local flora and fauna. Other activities such as the collection of paper and plastic do not take place as organized and supported processes.

Priority industries and economic sectors

Priority industries and economic sectors prioritized include the energy sector, the iron industry, public services, transport, the residential sector, agriculture and, to a lesser degree in the last two years, the construction industry – a prime ministerial council decision stopped construction for two years, from 2014–2016, to allow the introduction of regulatory urban plans in the country.

All information can be found on the Energy Ministry's website: www.energija.gov.al

Energy sources in the industrial sector are 17 % electricity and petroleum products 11.9 %.

Government priorities after the 2013 election, modified resource efficiency strategies in line with new EU directives regarding the West Balkans, etc.

Priority consumption categories

The housing sector has been identified as the as a priority for material resource efficiency: around 47 % use of the electricity, 42 % fuel wood and about 10 % oil by-products.

The fashion industry, known as *Fason* in Albanian, that has bloomed in recent years, is a new energy consumer, using liquid petroleum, known GLN in Albanian.

Policy framework

There is only one strategy and/or strategies which include both material resources and raw materials, excluding laws and regulations designed by the Environment Ministry and occasionally other line ministries involved in the resource efficiency field.

So far strategies have not been adopted at regional and local levels; they are designed and applied at the national level. The national Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2011–2018 came into force in 2011. www.encharter.org

Resources for energy use are defined differently/separately to distinguish them from the broad scope of resource efficiency. In Albania, raw materials including minerals, charcoal, crude oil, oil by-products, natural gas, hydropower, timber wood, fuel wood, etc., were recognised earlier than resource efficiency and defined according to the nomenclature of the ex-regime and the post change regime in 1990s. Resource efficiency is a new concept in the Albanian context, and so far only the people involved in the field are up-to-date with these terms.

National strategies or action plans for material resource efficiency

There are no separate strategies in Albania differentiating between energy use and energy efficiency, so all the information is included in Energy Efficiency Action Plan – www.encharter.org/ summarizes the information.

National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2011-2018

National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2011–2018 (NEEAP) is based on the following European Union (EU) Directives: Directive 2006/32 / EC on Efficient use of energy to end-users and energy services; Directive 2002/91 / EC on the performance energy buildings (amended by 2010/31 / EP); and Directive 92/75 / EC (as amended by Directive 2010/30 / EP).

The Strategy has been adopted at the national level (www.encharter.org/).

The Inter-sectoral Environmental Strategy and the National Strategy of Integration and Development, introduced in November 2007 during the national conference, designed and published by the former Environment, Water Resource and Forest Ministry and the EU in the 2005 CARDS Programme Framework and ELPA assistance as well. This document can be found and downloaded (in Albanian) in the Environment Ministry website (www.mjedisi.gov.al).

This strategy is more specific regarding energy viewed in an environmental context. It has been updated and currently there is another strategy – the Intersectional Draft-Strategy of the Environment 2015–2020, which can be found at the new ministry website (www.mjedisi.gov.al)

The circular economy and closing material loops

Law no. 10463, dated 09.22.2011 ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT WASTE.

This law establishes general rules for the integrated management of waste, including preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of its creation and management, decreasing the use of resources and improving use efficiency.

There are other laws and regulations regarding the integrated management of municipal and industrial waste from diverse processes. So far, recycling businesses have rejected the idea of getting the waste derived from raw materials from inside country and imported it until this was banned.

So there is no active approach for closing material loops in the economy/circular economy.

General policy objectives for material resource efficiency

The NEEAP defined the following points:

- potential for improving efficiency in different sectors;
- the level of political interference in the field of energy efficiency in every sector;
- separation of individual sectors in the final consumption of energy;
- the concept of low cost energy efficiency for various sectors – the promotion of effective measures to lower costs.

Concrete goals, in all related fields, are set for 2018 – details are available at www.encharter.org.

Institutional setup and stakeholder involvement

Institutional set up for material resource efficiency policies

The following organizations and institutions are in charge of developing and implementing material resource efficiency policies at national and sub-national levels:

- the Ministry of Energy and Industry (<http://www.energija.gov.al/>);
- the Ministry of Environment (www.moe.gov.al);
- the Natural Resource Agency (known as AKBN in Albanian) <http://www.akbn.gov.al/>;
- the National Energy Agency <https://www.shqiperia.com>.

Apart from these bodies that are concerned with energy, there are many NGOs, both Albanian and foreign, which show interest in and design strategies for energy, mainly focused on the use of renewable energy and its environmental impact, including REC Albania, etc.

The coordination of work is done on legal bases as specifically defined in Albanian legislation on the scope and objectives of renewable energy and the environment.

Please check the websites above for a general view of their coordinating roles; information is available in Albanian and English.

Process to ensure stakeholder participation

The Ministry of Energy and Industry is the main body concerned with all the energy and resource efficiency stakeholders. These stakeholders are the iron industry, the fashion industry, HEC (the number of small hydropower plants increased during the previous government's time), and oil consortiums – government and private companies.

Non-governmental organisations, EU delegations and other international institutions have shown interest in and developed many strategies and technical assistance in support of the energy sector and improving material efficiency methods. It is not always possible to find common ground, given differences between government and the private sector, but the legislation is will improve and fill-in the existing gaps. Listening and taking some requests from the industrial sector into consideration will ensure more governmental support from stakeholders.

Suggestions for international support mechanisms to exchange experience

International Monetary Fund, known in Albania as FMN, is assisting the Albanian Government, and specifically its Ministries of Energy and Industry and the Environment as well as other institutions which are the most crucial in managing and contributing as the regulators of energy and material resource efficiency. European Union delegations, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Secretariat of Energy are also supporting government bodies in these crucial fields. So all above institutions are seen as useful for Albania.

Policy instruments

Policy instruments commonly used for material resource efficiency

- Law no. 138/2013 ON THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES *
- 20/11/2013
- Law no. 9072 date. 22.05.2003 - For the electricity sector
- 22/05/2003
- GO procedures and CGJ 22/05/2003
- Decision no. 38 date. 16.01.2003 - On approval rates terms and conditions of design and construction, production and storage of heat in buildings
- 16/01/2003
- Law no. 8987 date. 24.12.2002 - For the creation of facilitating conditions for the construction of new sources of electricity generation
- 24/12/2002
- Law no. 8937 dated 12.9.2002 - For storage of heat in buildings
- 12/09/2002
- DCM. 584 date. 11/02/2002 - For energy saving and conservation in buildings
- Law No.10113, dated 09.04.2009 "On information through labeling standards for appliances, which consume energy and other resources"
- Law on labeling of domestic appliances no.10113 dated 09.04.2009
- Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and the Protocol on Energy efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA) in 1997.

Other types of instrument, such as strategies, action plans, etc. are explained above.

Examples of good practice

Regarding a specific example, the initiative of Ministry of Environment “Let’s clean Albania in one day” can be a showcase for our country, which in one day of the year, usually in November, invites all people, administrations and NGOs to clean an area assigned to them. This tradition was established in autumn 2013 and will continue every year.

Targets and indicators

Targets for material resource efficiency

The National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency (www.encharter.org) defined:

Energy saving of 9 % for up to 9 years after the application of the Directive, savings which should be achieved through energy services or other measures to improve efficiency – savings will be measured from 1 January 2010 according to National Plan Of Action for 2011–2018.

Indicators to monitor use of materials and resource efficiency:

Albania’s Indicators of Energy Balance are determined according to Eurostat methodology, but in a synthesised form and not in detail.

The indicators are published mainly online but also as hard copy publications (such as the Renewable Energy brochure at www.instat.gov.al). They can be found at the Ministry of Energy and Industry, www.energija.gov.al; National Agency of Natural Resources, www.akbn.gov.al; the Ministry of the Environment, www.moe.gov.al; the Energy Charter Secretariat: www.encharter.org; and REC Albania, www.albania.rec.org

Check the above links for further information.

Optional questions

Recent policy developments concerning natural resources in the broader sense of the term

Recent policy developments are surprising due to the change of energy policy after the mid-year 2013 election, after which political change took place. The new government, with the support of International Monetary Fund, is focusing on energy and changed the legislation approving strict rules and the act regarding the energy policy –energy costs for private housing has been increased but decreased for bakeries and other small businesses.

The NGOs and other environmental organizations do not share the same opinions and strategies as government and while this is normal, they have to listen each other, and the special interest groups also should listen before acting and regulations enter in force. The quality of end-of-pipe treatment (e.g., filters used by the heavy industry), the accidental eruption of oil wells, small HEC building in protected areas, and the lack of recycling industry are the subject of clashes between environmental associations, government and foreign organizations.

Which way should resource efficiency go in the future?

Resource efficiency in the near and distant future needs to meet some objectives regarding the waste produced and its recycling in the energy-producing cycle. The waste produced by the iron industry will become a threat due to the storing of enormous volumes of waste on the river banks and open fields. The action plans and strategies include the recycling of waste left by natural resources industries, but considerable funds and human resources are needed as well as the necessary political. The potential of using the solar energy in Albania is very high, following the example of other Mediterranean countries.

Reflections on the country's trends in the use of materials and resource efficiency

The trends are moving in the right direction due to new government policies and close collaboration with international agencies that are supporting and facilitating the work, as well as is training and strengthening the necessary human capacity to manage resource efficiency, data collection and reporting to the relevant organizations. There is close collaboration between the relevant agencies regarding resource efficiency and EU organizations which monitor and collaborate with Albanian institutions.