A project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
in collaboration with the Institute of Statistics

STRONG ALBANIAN LOCAL STATISTICS | STATISTIKA TË FORTA VENDORE SHQIPTARE
- SALSTAT -

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The "Strong Albanian Local Statistics" project (SALSTAT II) is part of the "Bashki të Forta" initiative by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), taking place from October 2022 to September 2026.

Key stakeholders in the SALSTAT project include INSTAT, municipalities, and selected line ministries and government agencies—particularly those involved in statistical data collection and/or responsible for administrative data and registers.

In this new phase, SALSTAT II will deepen its collaboration with municipalities and other state agencies to foster trust in official statistics. It will also engage stakeholders on the importance of official statistics for democratic governance and informed decision-making—especially in supporting municipalities to fulfill their tasks, duties, and functions. and decision-making, particularly for municipalities to fulfil their tasks, duties and functions.

SALSTAT TEAM

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Content:

- Analyses of Census data for municipality;
- Dissemination of the Statistical Yearbook for Regions and Municipalities;
- Development of a digital dissemination tools for the publication of statistical data for regions and municipalities;
- Exchange of stakeholders in building trust in statistics at municipality level;
- Working group INSTAT/SALSTAT and State Ministry of Local Governance;
- Assessment for a possible population and household register and its use for statistical purposes;
- Albanian Statistical Register of Building and Dwelling;
- Continued Training and Data Collection for the 2024 Household Waste Survey;
- Web-Based Data Collection for Building Permits Statistics;
- Forestry statistics (a new field of statistics);
- INSTAT Staff Trained on R-Language for Sample Survey;
- Vital Statistics Training Boosts Data Quality in Albania;

Analyses of Census data for municipality

In June 2025, INSTAT distributed printed volumes of Census 2023 data to all 61 municipalities via postal mail. This initiative aimed to ensure that local government units have direct access to comprehensive demographic and socioeconomic statistics for planning and decision-making.
https://www.instat.gov.al/sq/temat/censet/censet-e-popullsise-dhe-banesave/publikimet-cesnsusi-i-popullsise-dhe-banesave/2023/publikimet-e-censit-te-popullsise-dhe-banesave-2023/

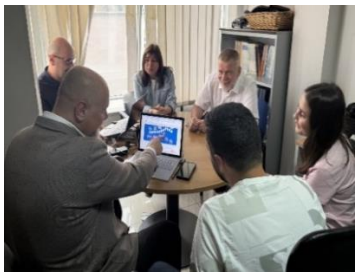


Dissemination of the Statistical Yearbook for Regions and Municipalities

During the reporting time period INSTAT has published Albanian and English version of the Regional Statistical Yearbook (RYB) 2024. Both links in Albanian and English language of the RYB were disseminated to all stakeholders.
vjetari-statistikor-rajonal-2024.pdf
regional-statistical-yearbook-2024-fin.pdf

Development of a digital dissemination tools for the publication of statistical data for regions and municipalities

INSTAT has been working closely with experts to develop a secure, web-based dashboard for publishing statistical data on regions and municipalities. This new platform is designed to offer a user-friendly experience and provide up-to-date access to Census 2023 data and other local statistics.
A seminar in May 2025 introduced the dashboard and the GeoData Hub Web GIS Story Maps, showcasing tools for quick visualization and storytelling. Municipal-level indicators from the Regional Statistical Yearbook were also presented.





INSTAT continues to populate the GeoData Hub with Census and Yearbook data, while optimizing the dashboard. The Geodata Hub, Web GIS, and Story Maps can be found in the following links:

INSTAT GeoData Hub
Web GIS | INSTAT GeoData Hub
100 years of Albanian Census

In the frame of the synergy between both projects, SALSTAT and HELVETAS, took place a meeting in August 2025. During this meeting was highlighted the dashboard's practical applications and its value for development efforts. The final version of the dashboard is expected to be on place by the end of the year 2025.




Exchange of stakeholders in building trust in statistics at municipality level

In July 2025, the SALSTAT project teamed up with a local expert to visit seven municipalities: Tropoja, Lezhë, Shkodër, Kavajë, Berat, Vlorë, and Himarë. The goal is to build trust in local statistics and explore new indicators, especially in the tourism sector, where public demand for data is growing.





Recommendations for Strengthening Tourism Statistics from the expert:

- Create Local Tourism Strategies that align with the national plan and include data goals
- Build Digital Platforms for collecting tourism data in real time
- Encourage Collaboration between municipalities, tourism businesses, and national agencies
- Offer Training for tourism staff on data tools and planning
- Tackle Informality in accommodations through smart regulations
- Invest in Infrastructure like roads, signage, and visitor centers

Working group INSTAT/SALSTAT and State Ministry of Local Governance

During the reporting period, INSTAT held regular working group meetings with the Agency for the Support of Local Governance to strengthen cooperation on municipal-level statistics.
This collaboration aims to ensure consistency in data collection practices and support municipalities in using standardized tools for improved statistical reporting.

Assessment for a possible population and household register and its use for statistical purposes

In May 2025, INSTAT organized a preparatory meeting to finalize the agenda for an international seminar focused on the feasibility and planning of a population and household register.
Held later in May, the seminar brought together experts and representatives from statistical offices in Croatia, Montenegro, Estonia, and the Netherlands. The event focused on the organization of censuses based on administrative records and explored:
• Differences between traditional fieldwork censuses and register-based or combined methods
• Use of administrative sources such as civil registries, tax records, education systems, and social security
• Country-specific approaches, challenges, and risks in implementing register-based censuses
The seminar highlighted that while a full register-based census may not be feasible for Albania by 2031, a combined register-based census is a realistic and strategic alternative.



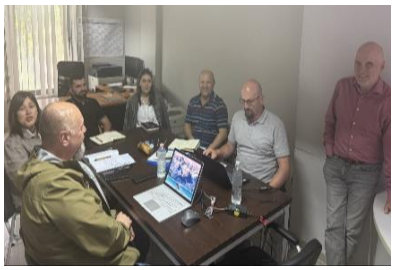


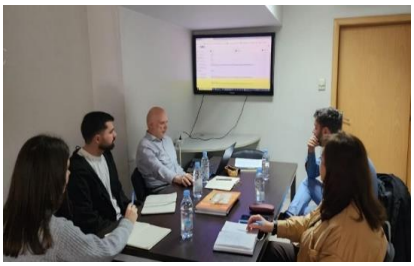
INSTAT held a workshop to prepare a strategic document for parliamentary review, outlining the concept and roadmap for the Population and Household Register. Regular meetings with INSTAT's legal, IT, and population departments supported the drafting process, with the final concept document expected in October 2025. This initiative marks a critical step in Albania's journey toward modernizing its population data systems and aligning with international best practices.




Albanian Statistical Register of Building and Dwelling

INSTAT, in collaboration with SALSTAT II, continued its work on the Albanian Statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings (ASRBD) through a series of technical missions and development activities in 2025.





A mid-year seminar was held to review progress on the development of the Albanian Statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings. The event brought together technical experts, INSTAT staff, and representatives from relevant institutions to discuss system architecture, data integration, and future implementation plans.

- Review of the register's IT structure and database functionalities
- Coordination across departments for data maintenance and dissemination
- Planning for future fieldwork and integration into broader statistical systems

INSTAT and SALSTAT plan to present the Albanian Statistical Register of Buildings and Dwellings (ASBDR)—including its IT architecture, functionalities, and database—at the upcoming Steering Group meeting in November 2025.




Continued Training and Data Collection for the 2024 Household Waste Survey

In February 2025, the Environment and Forestry Unit of INSTAT distributed the weblink for the 2024 Household Waste Survey to all 61 municipalities.
During April, with the site support of the staff of Regional Statistical Offices to ten municipalities staff (new staff) that faced difficulties to fill the weblink questionnaire for household waste, was completed the data collection for 61 municipalities.
INSTAT staff after preparation and the check the quality of the data received published them in September 2025.

https://www.instat.gov.al/media/hw2jnxtd/urban-solid-waste-esms_final.pdf

Web-Based Data Collection for Building Permits Statistics

In July 2025, INSTAT and SALSTAT continued their efforts to modernize statistical systems by training municipal staff on the new web-based platform for Building Permits Statistics.
The sessions focused on:

- The importance of building permit statistics and the legal framework
- Definitions of key indicators and data collection methodology
- Practical guidance for completing the online questionnaire

Training was delivered in small groups by experts from INSTAT's Directorate of Economic Statistics and IT Department. A total of 35 staff members from 23 municipalities participated, with women making up 54% of attendees. Most participants were responsible for building permit data collection at the municipal level. The online survey link was distributed to all municipalities in July, with data submission due by the end of the month. The results are published in August 2025. This initiative supports efficient, digital data collection and strengthens local capacity for producing reliable development indicators.




Forestry statistics (a new field of statistics)

INSTAT has launched a new initiative to develop forestry and pastures statistics at the municipal level. This effort marks a significant step toward strengthening environmental data collection and decentralizing statistical indicators.
In May 2025, INSTAT approved the final questionnaire and developed a web-based data collection link. A training manual was also prepared for municipal staff.




Coordination meetings were held with the SALSTAT project and the National Forestry Agency (NFA) to align on training content and implementation.

In June 2025, INSTAT conducted a training session in Tirana for 63 forestry staff from 42 municipalities, along with 12 heads of regional statistical offices. Topics included the legal framework, indicator definitions, the European Forest Accounts Handbook (2024), and practical use of the online questionnaire.
The online survey link was distributed to all municipalities in July 2025, with support provided by the Agricultural and Environment Directory and regional statistical offices.






In September, SALSTAT and NFA provided on-site support to Memaliaj, Delvinë, Himarë, Gramsh, Pogradec, Pustec, and Peqin.
Data from 61 municipalities has been collected and is currently undergoing quality checks. A decision on publication will follow.
This initiative represents a major advancement in Albania's environmental statistics, enabling more localized and actionable insights for sustainable forest and pasture management.





INSTAT Staff Trained on R-Language for Sample Survey

In September 2025, INSTAT successfully completed a training session focused on new methodologies for sample surveys, tailored for regional and local representatives. The training, held at INSTAT's headquarters, was led by an expert from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and centered on statistical analysis using R-language.
This initiative aimed to strengthen INSTAT's technical capacity in modern survey techniques and data processing, supporting more robust and reliable statistical outputs across Albania.



Vital Statistics Training Improvements Data Quality in Albania

As part of MoU between INSTAT and the General Directorate of Civil Status (GDCS), a vital statistics training was held in Berat, Vlora, and Elbasan prefectures. The initiative aimed to enhance the accuracy of birth, death, and marriage registrations and introduce ICD-10 coding standards.

- GDCS addressed legal challenges, personal data protection, and statelessness risks.
- Trainers analyzed 2024 vital statistics files and recommended ICD-10 code integration for death records.

Participants actively shared experiences, identified data issues, and committed to applying new practices. This two-day session reinforced the importance of reliable administrative data and marked a step forward in Albania's efforts to modernize its civil registration systems.

✓ June 2025: Berat Prefecture (Berat, Kuçovë, Poliçan, Skrapar, and Dimal)



✓ July 2025: Vlora Prefecture (Vlorë, Selenicë, Sarandë, Himarë, Finiq, Delvinë, and Konispol)



- ✓ September 2025: Elbasan prefecture (Elbasan, Peqin, Librazhd, Përrenjas, Gramsh, Belsh and Cërrik)





It is planned to organize the training for the remaining prefectures: Kukës, Dibër and Gjirokastër during October-December 2025.

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