

Country Profile: Albania

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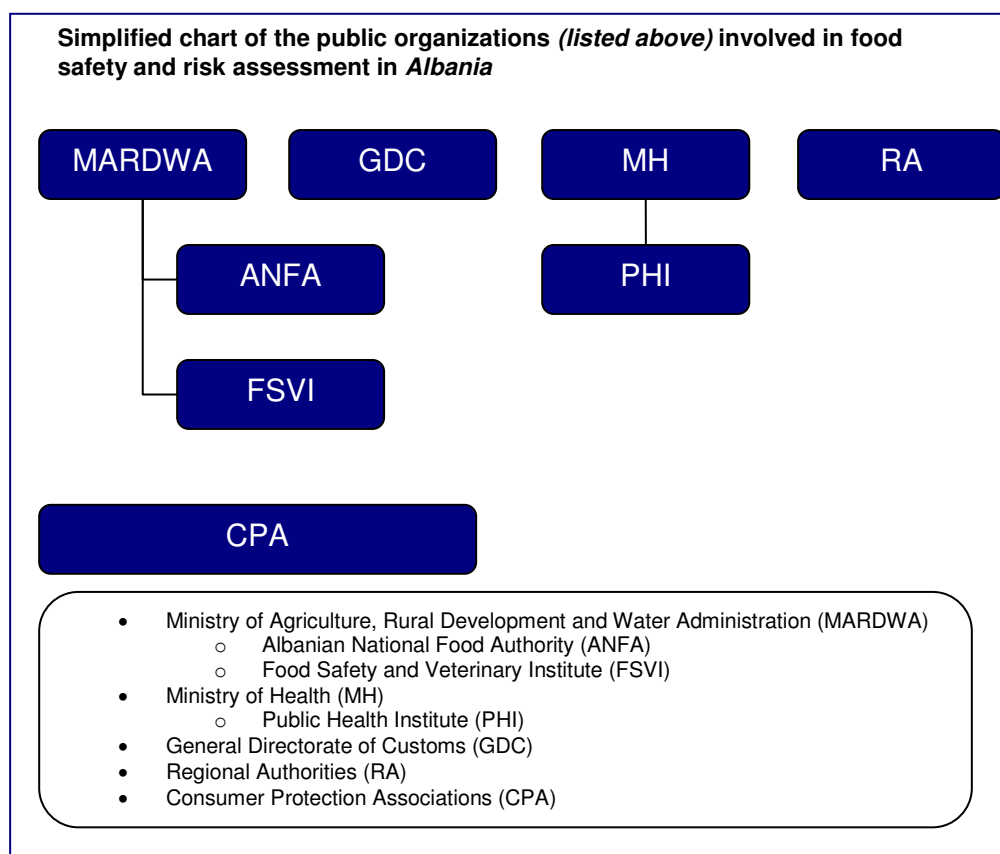
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Country Profile: Albaniaⁱ

I – Key priorities for risk assessment

- National establishment of high risk products
- International cooperation for risk assessment
- Emerging risks

II – Major public actors involved in food safety (including risk assessment, management and communication)



Main public organisations involved in food safety and roles – Albania

Organisation	Main areas of remit (in term of risk assessment/ management/ communication)	Risk assessment	Risk management	Risk communication
MARDWA – Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Administration and Water Administration	Plant health, animal health – incl. aquaculture, agricultural products, feed; overview of food issues	x	x	x
ANFA – Albanian National Food Authority	Food, food contact material, plant health and agricultural inputs, plant protection, inspection of non-animal origin products, inspection of animal origin products, veterinary medicines, foodstuff for particular use, laboratory coordination support	x	x	x
FSVI – Food Safety Veterinary Authority	Physic – chemical analyses, microbiological, diagnosis of diseases, residue analyses of medicals in animal origin products, pesticide residues in non-animal origin products	x		x
MH – Ministry of Health	Draft the legislation which determines the relations in the area of preserving and protecting human health.	x	x	x
PHI – Public Health Institution	Studies and monitors risk factors, laboratory reference and manages vaccination programs.	x		x
GDC – General Directorate of Customs				x
RA – Regional Authorities			x	x
CPA – Consumer Protection Associations				

Food safety legislation in Albania

The status food law in Albania

- Law No. 9863, dated 28.1.2008 "On Food";
- DCM No.1081, dated 21.10.2009 "On the organization and functioning of the National Food Authority".
- Law No. 9362, dated 24.3.2005, "For plant protection service";
- Law No.8691, dated 16.11.2000, "On production and trading of tobacco and cigarettes";

- Law No. 71/2013, dated 24.03.2005, "On some amendments and additions of the Law No. 9362, dated "On plant protection service" amended Law No. 10 433, dated 16.6.2011, "On inspection in the Republic of Albania";
- Law No. 9908, dated 24.4.2008, " On some amendments and additions of the Law No.. 9352, dated 24.3.2005 "For plant protection service";
- Law No. 10 465, dated 29.9.2011, "On veterinary service in the Republic of Albania";
- Law No. 10 465, dated 29.9.2011, "On veterinary service in the Republic of Albania"; (amended)"
- Law No.9441, dated 11.11.2005, "On production, collection, processing and trading of milk and its products";
- Law No. 8411, dated 1.10.1998, "On livestock feed";
- Law No. 10 137, dated 11.5.2009, "On some amendments in the legislation into force for licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania";
- Law No. 8443, dated 21.1.1999, "On vineyards, wine and other products deriving from grapes";

Veterinary Sector

- Law No. 9863, dated 28.1.2008 "On Food";
- Law No. 8411, dated 1.10.1998, "On livestock feed";
- Law No.7908 , dated 5.4.1995 "On fishery and aquaculture";
- Law No.10 433, dated 16.6.2011 "On inspection in the Republic of Albania";
- Law No. 10 465, dated 29.9.2011, "On veterinary service in the Republic of Albania";
- Law No. 9441, dated 11.11.2005, "On production, collection, processing and trading of milk and its products".
- Regulation No. 3 dated 17.03.2006 "On food hygiene";
- Normative act of CM No. 4, dated 16.8.2012 "On establishing rules for animal slaughtering and trading their meat".

Plant Protection Sector

- Law No. 8531, dated 23.9.1999 "On fertilizers control service";
- Law No. 10 416, dated 7.4.2011 "On planting material and herbal multiplier";
- Law No. 8880, dated 15.4.2002 "On the rights of plants' breeder";
- Law No. 10390, dated 3.3.2011 "On fertilizers used in vegetation";
- Law No. 8443, dated 21.1.1999 "On vineyards, wine and other products deriving from grapes";
- Law No. 9362; dated 24/03/2005 "On plant protection service".

Normative acts, regulations and decisions

- Law No. 87/2012 On approval of normative act with the power of law no. 4, dated 16.8.2012, of the Council of Ministers "On establishment of rules for animal slaughtering and trading their meat";
Act Agreement, dated 2.5.2006 "On increasing affectivity in animal, poultry, live fish, plants, other livestock import, and export and transit control. Also of other animal origin products and raw material for food industry".

On Aquaculture

- Regulation No.2 dated 17.05.2007 "On fish and aquaculture licensing";
- DCM No. 8763, dated 2.4.2001 "On an addition in Law No. 7908, dated 5.4.1995 "On fishery and aquaculture".

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MARDWA)

In terms of Food Safety, the strategic objective of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Management (MBZHRAU) is to guarantee the highest degree of Albanian citizens' health and perfection of the system of supervision and food safety. This system will serve to better protect the health of consumers from illnesses / injuries as a result of the consumption of food products of animal or plant origin. On the other hand and will guarantee a fair competition on the market of food business operators.

Vision, priorities and strategic goals aimed at strengthening a fully functioning system of food safety and consumer protection, from the farm to the table, covering the whole country and modern monitoring and control in accordance with EU standards. The importance of establishing food and nutrition policy as a key goal of development policy is a strategic objective and reflects global and local trends. Every single link in the chain must be very strong in the case of consumer health aims to be fully protected. This principle is valid regardless of whether foods produced or imported into Albania from other countries. For this reason the Albanian government will have in its attention to strengthening the control and monitoring of foodstuff sold in the Albanian market intended for human consumption and used for feed.

Website: www.bujqesia.gov.al

Albanian National Food Authority (ANFA)

History

National Food Authority (Autoritetit Kombëtar të Ushqimit, AKU, in Albanian) was established as an integrated part of the program to create and guarantee a food safety system in Albania.

ANFA, as an institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration provides a high level of protection for citizens and aims not only to build trust but also to guarantee it for the food products in our country.

ANFA was established with a Ministers Council Decision No. 1081 date 21. 10. 2009 and it was officially inaugurated from the Prime Minister, Mr. Berisha on 20 May 2010. This institution is set up with the assistance of international experts with EU funds since 2007, period which grounded the first steps for ANFA conception. Today the institution has 12 regional directorates all over Albania.

Tasks

- Leads the risk assessment process in food, feed and plant protection field. Plans, coordinates and realizes official controls of food and feed and plant protection.
- Ensures the official control practices unification for food, feed and plant protection at national level.
- Coordinates authorized laboratories activities in food, feed and plant protection official controls.
- Performs preliminary controls to prove if the technical-technological, hygiene-sanitation, phytosanitary and veterinary requirements are met and also to verify the necessary documentation for registering and licensing the food business operators and plant protection.
- Blocks temporarily or permanently the activity of food and feed business operators in stages of production, processing, delivery and marketing of food or feed when is proved that food or feed and respective business operators do not meet food safety standards, determined in the legislation into force.
- Carries out necessary scientific researches on risk assessment in the field of food and feed safety and plant protection.

- Provides technical, administrative and scientific support to enable the activity of scientific committee and scientific panels.
- Informs the public on food and feed safety and plant protection.

Website: www.aku.gov.al

Food Safety and Veterinary Institute (FSVI)

Tasks of FSVI

Food Safety and Veterinary Institute is the only of this kind in the territory of Albania and operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration. FSVI is a national reference center developing scientific research and application activities in areas of animal health and food quality, foodstuff residues and veterinary products registration and plant protection.

It serves as a reference center for:

- Confirmation of diagnosis performed in other laboratories;
- Conducting standardization of methods of analysis, in collaboration with national and /or international laboratories.
- Uses and disseminates official methods of analysis.
- Organizes training courses for specialists in other laboratories.
- Supplies other laboratories with new regulations and everything related to the field of research.
- Collaborates with reference centers of the European Community.
- Provides the Ministry of ARDWA with assistance and scientific laboratory information and suggests further measures to be taken in the field for issues that arise regarding the scope of FSVI.

Website: www.isuv.gov.al

Ministry of Health (MH)

Ministry of Health's mission is the implementation of health policies of Government programs. Ministry of Health compiles health policies at the national level and determines the development and planning of health services nationally and regionally.

The MH drafts legislation that defines the relationships in the conservation and protection of health and rigorously implements legislation in the field of health. It designs health development strategies and tactics in the implementation of Government programs.

The MH studies and designs investment programs for the infrastructure development of health services and performs operational management of the health services nationally and regionally. For the realization of its functions it operates under the organizational structure approved.

Website: www.shendetesia.gov.al

Public Health Institute (PHI)

Tasks

- In the food safety sector: Development and application of plans for the verification of food supply.
- In the nutritional sector (food): (i) Development and application of research plans in food sectors: macro- and micro-nutrients, (ii) Monitoring of nutrition of population.

Website: www.ishp.gov.al

General Directorate of Customs (GDC)

After the Clearance, the Control Directorate (retrospectively):

- Carries out documentary and physical checks, after the release of goods, order verification and control of all trade documentation and any other information related to import-export operations of EO and on all actions that have to further trade related to these goods. These checks will be made at the premises of economic operators and customs practices through a review of the premises of the customs branches.
- Carries out documentary and physical checks, after the release of goods, order verification and control of all trade documentation and any other information related to import-export operations of EO and on all actions that concern further trade related to these goods. These checks will be made at the premises of economic operators and customs practices through a review of the premises of the customs branches.
- Undertakes on their initiative or at the request of the economic operator to review and verify the accuracy of the data of the customs declaration. This review will be done on an occasional basis, or on a possible doubt for committing customs offenses.
- Prepares and analyzes reports on a statistical basis which will be used as criteria for preparing risk work plans and controls that will be performing.
- Processes and analyzes the data obtained through other structures of customs administration and customs through various bilateral agreements, signed by them.
- Coordinates and controls the work of post-clearance specialists who are near the customs branches.
- Cooperates with all other departments and branches of Customs, in order to fulfill effective controls.

Website: www.dogana.gov.al

Regional Authorities (RA)

They function under the General Directorate in different regions implementing the laws and regulations above mentioned and other sub-legal acts from the General Director.

Mainly their daily activity is in field inspections to verify and check compliance of the food business operators to the law and EU standards.

Regional NFAs are situated in 12 regions of the country, covering also the Border Inspection Points.

III – Food safety alerts management in Albania

1. Does the competent authority (or authorities) for food safety have an established mechanism to evaluate and react to food safety crises (crises management mechanism)?	Yes
2. If the reply to Q1 is yes, does this mechanism include a committee or a body with pre-determined representatives?	No (committee/committees are formed ad hoc, depending on the needs of the crises)
3. If there is an established mechanism for crisis management (the reply to Q1 is Yes):	
3a. Do actors with risk assessment capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes
3b. Do actors with risk management capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes
3c. Do actors with risk communication capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Rapid Alarm System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is a fast and effective tool for exchange of information between competent authorities, when risk is ascertained for human health along the food chain. This quick way of information sharing allows all member states to immediately verify the network if they are also affected by the problem. Although the product is still on the market and may not be consumed, the authorities have the position to take immediate action, including immediate provision to inform the public, if necessary. Rapid exchange of information about risk in food for human consumption and livestock feed, provides quick and safe measures from all members of the RASFF system. This is an important contribution to food security.

IV – Characteristics of the food sector in Albania

Number of enterprises¹: Total **22290**

% of the industrial sector: 18 % of the enterprises

% of the industrial workforce: Approximately 15 %

% of industrial turnover: N/A

Top subsectors (in terms of number of enterprises):

- Producers (A+B): 347
- Manufactures (A+B): 1028
- Distributors (A+B): 18527
- Plant Protection Products: 1803

(A+B) meaning animal and non-animal origin foodstuff

Top subsectors (in terms of turnover): N/A

¹ Albanian National Food Authority; AKU-net system; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration.

V – Civil Society Organisations

Consumer Protection Associations aim at protecting and promoting consumers rights.

Tasks:

- Protect the rights and interests of consumers through an administrative division at central and regional level and the compliance through statutes and laws.
- Influence the decision making process through information, counseling, negotiation to make it easier the problem solution of consumers' complaints.
- Educate consumers, essentially in comprehending and adapting laws.
- Solving requests and complaints in respective sectors.

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