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communities in WB and EU

Science and Research ecosystem in Albania. The role of NASRI

Kick off meeting
National Agency of Scientific Research
and Innovation

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Place: Tirana



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Presentation outline

I. Country context

II. Albania Science and Research System: Policies & Structures

II.1 Institutional framework

II.2 Role of NASRI

III. Financial instruments for supporting research and innovation

III.1 Role of NASRI

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I. Country context

- National Science and Research System
 - 1990-2007: Research performing institutions were divided in:
 - Scientific research developed through Academy of Sciences institutes (13 institutes);
 - Scientific research conducted at 14 public universities;
 - Research institutes attached to different line Ministries.



I. Country context

- 2007 reform:
 - Re-organization of Academy of Sciences (AS);
 - Applied science research institutes of AS became part of Public Higher Education Institutions;
 - 12 governmental agencies and research institutes were re-established;
 - 5 Centers for Agriculture Technology Transfer (CATT) were established in five main regions;
 - Non-public higher education institutions were created due to legislation change.



Current National Science and Research System

- Ministry of Education and Sport and line ministries: Policy making institutions in the area of scientific research;
- 15 public and 27 non public higher education institutions (HEIs);
- 20 in house research centers attached to line ministries;
- Non for profit sector (think tanks);
- Business.



Policies and Structures

- Stabilization and Association Agreement 2009:
 - Article 109 cooperation on Scientific research
 - Parties shall encourage cooperation in civil scientific research and technological cooperation;
 - Cooperation shall take due account of priority areas related to community acquis in the area of scientific research and technological development;
 - Cooperation shall be implemented according to specific arrangements to be concluded by each party.



Policies and Structures

- **Constitution of the Republic of Albania:**
 - Article 57: “The autonomy of higher education institutions and academic identity are guaranteed by law”.
 - Article 58: “Freedom of artistic creation and scientific research, use and benefit from their research are guaranteed for all.”

- **National Strategy for Development and European Integration 2021-2030, DCM No. 23, 03.01.2023 “On the Approval of the National Strategy for Development and European Integration”:**
 - Policy priority: Sustainable economic development Agenda Economic Development and Green Growth
 - Chapter: Enhancement of Scientific Research and Innovation :
 - Strategic Goals:
 - Improving the quality of Scientific Research in public sector.
 - Strengthening innovation and knowledge transfer in production sector.
 - Improvement of institutional capacities of research and innovation systems.



Policies and Structures

- Smart Specialization Strategy S3 2024-2030 (Work in progress)
 - Albania is under the process of designing and approving a National Smart Specialization Strategy (S3).
 - Finalized the first steps of context analysis through qualitative and quantitative mapping.
 - Domains: Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Manufacturing, Energy, Accommodation and Support, Service Activities, Information and Communication, Administrative and support service activities.
 - Cross sectorial identified areas: Blue economy; Health and Food; Renewable Energy; Extended BPOs.
 - Input from Entrepreneurial Discovery process will complete outcomes from the mapping phases and will be developed for approving the final S3.



Policies and Structures

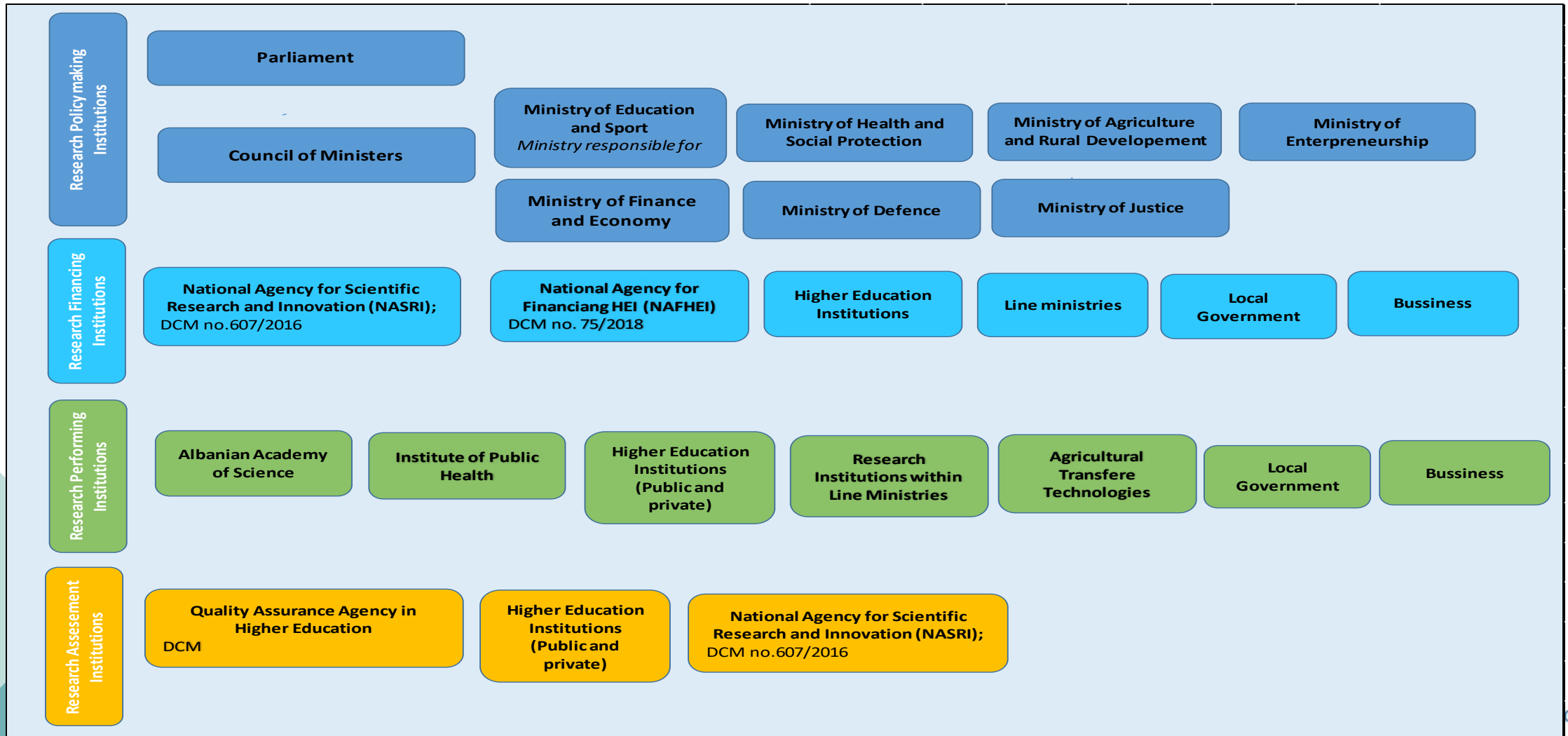
- Law No. 80/2015 dated 22.07.2015 “On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education institutions in the Republic of Albania” defines the rules for scientific research within HEI, including:
 - ensuring autonomy of research activity in HEIs (Article 3);
 - scientific research in HEIs (Articles 93 - 96).



Institutional Framework (grouped by roles)



Institutional Framework (institutions by roles) ...



Research funding institutions

- **NASRI**

- National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) - DCM 607 dated 31.08.2016 “On establishment, Composition, Organisation and Functioning of NASRI.
- allocates funds for scientific research programs (public/non-public HEIs and research institutions article 113, Law 80/2015);
- allocates funds for scientific infrastructure (public HEIs);
- approval of funds for doctoral study projects.

- **NAFHEI**

- National Agency for Funding the Higher Education Institutions (NAFHEI), DCM 397, dated 3.5.2017 “On establishment, composition, organisation and functioning of National Agency for Financing of Higher Education”.
- Allocates to public HEIs the lecturing grant.



Internationalization of Scientific Research

- Membership of Albania in international initiatives for Scientific Research Cooperation:
- **UNESCO:** Law No. 8157, dated 31.10.1996 “On the approval of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Republic of Albania and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- **Black Sea Convention on International Cooperation:** Law No. 7725 dated 23.6.1993 “On the ratification of the Black Sea Convention in the fields of Culture, Education Science and Information”.
- **CERN:** Decision of Council of Ministers No.798, dated 14.11.2014 “For the approval of the Cooperation Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) regarding technical and nuclear physics”.
- **WISE:** Law No. 16/2016, dated 10.3.2016 “For the ratification of the agreement on the establishment of the Center for Scientific Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans (WISE)”.
- **Horizon 2020** Agreement approved with Law No 132/2014 dated 02.10.2014 “On the ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the European Union for the participation of the Republic of Albania in the EU Framework Programme for Scientific Research Horizon 2020 - programme for scientific research and innovation 2014-2020.
- **Horizon Europe** Agreement approved with Law No 47/2022 dated 28.4.2022 “On the ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the European Union for the participation of the Republic of Albania in the EU Framework Programme for Scientific Research Horizon Europe - programme for scientific research and innovation 2021-2027.



National Financial Instruments/programs

Research budgeting programs

Key financial instruments for funding research activities

- **National R&D program, managed by NASRI following law and bylaws**
 - Law 80/2015 “On higher education and scientific research on higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania” in relation to funding
 - Article 12/1.
 - Article 113
 - DCM 75, dated 12.2.2018 “For the approval of the model of public funding of higher education and scientific research”: Defines the procedures for distribution of funds in public higher education institutions.
- **Bilateral Research Cooperation Program, based on signed Agreements with specific countries.**

National Financial Instruments/programs

Research budgeting programs

- **Research Infrastructure Program (NASRI)**
(launched for the first time in 2019)
 - Joint guidance of MES and MFE dated 20.9.2019 “For the scheme and implementation of the funding models of public higher education institutions and scientific research”.
- **University-Business Cooperation Program (NASRI)** (devoted program launched for the first time in April 2023)
- **International Research Programs:** Participation fee (MES)

National Financial Instruments/programs

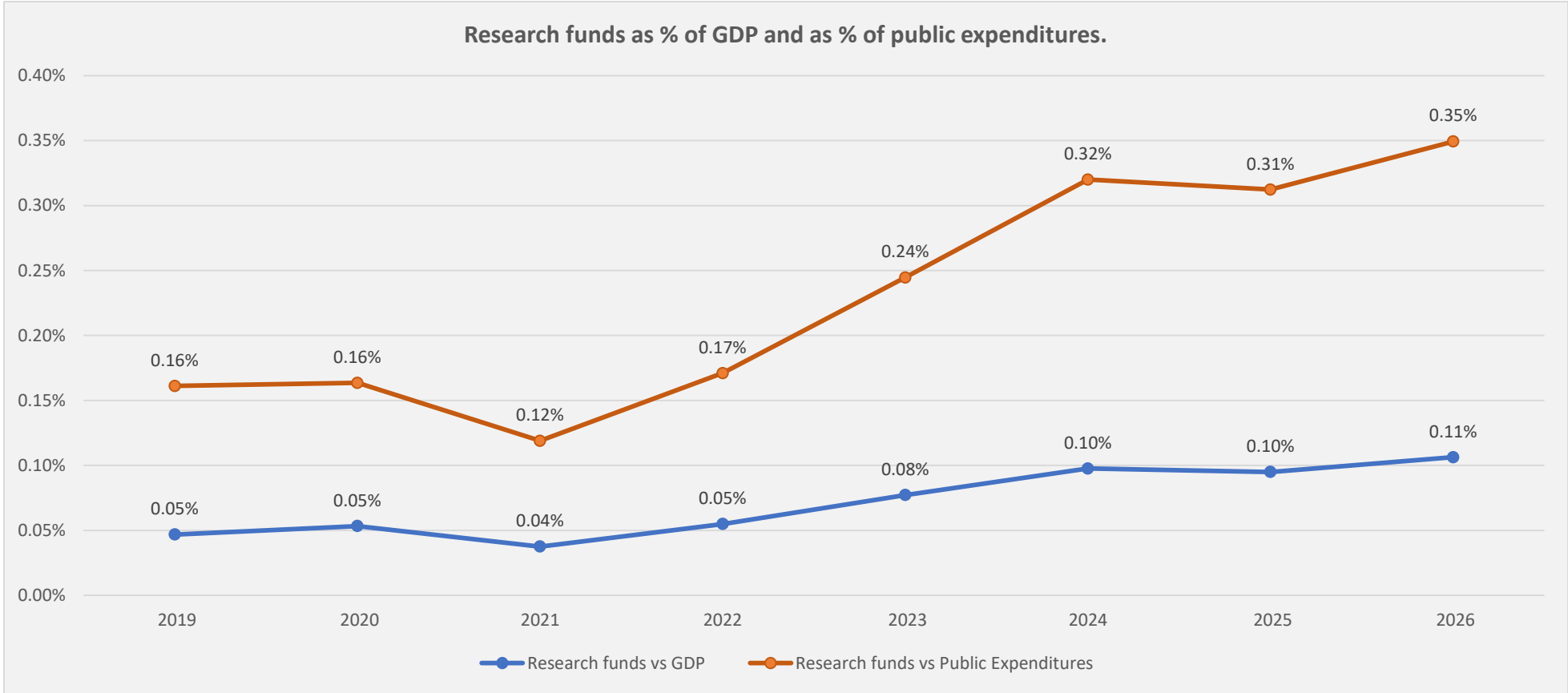
Research budgeting programs

- **Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance III**, which is just approved. Scientific research is placed under window III, “Competitiveness”.
- Projects on Scientific Research that relate to IPA:
 - **EU for innovation** which is a project directly implemented by the EU has started implementation of its second phase during 2023.
 - **IPA Twinning** on improving capacities of National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation has started implementation by NASRI in 2023.

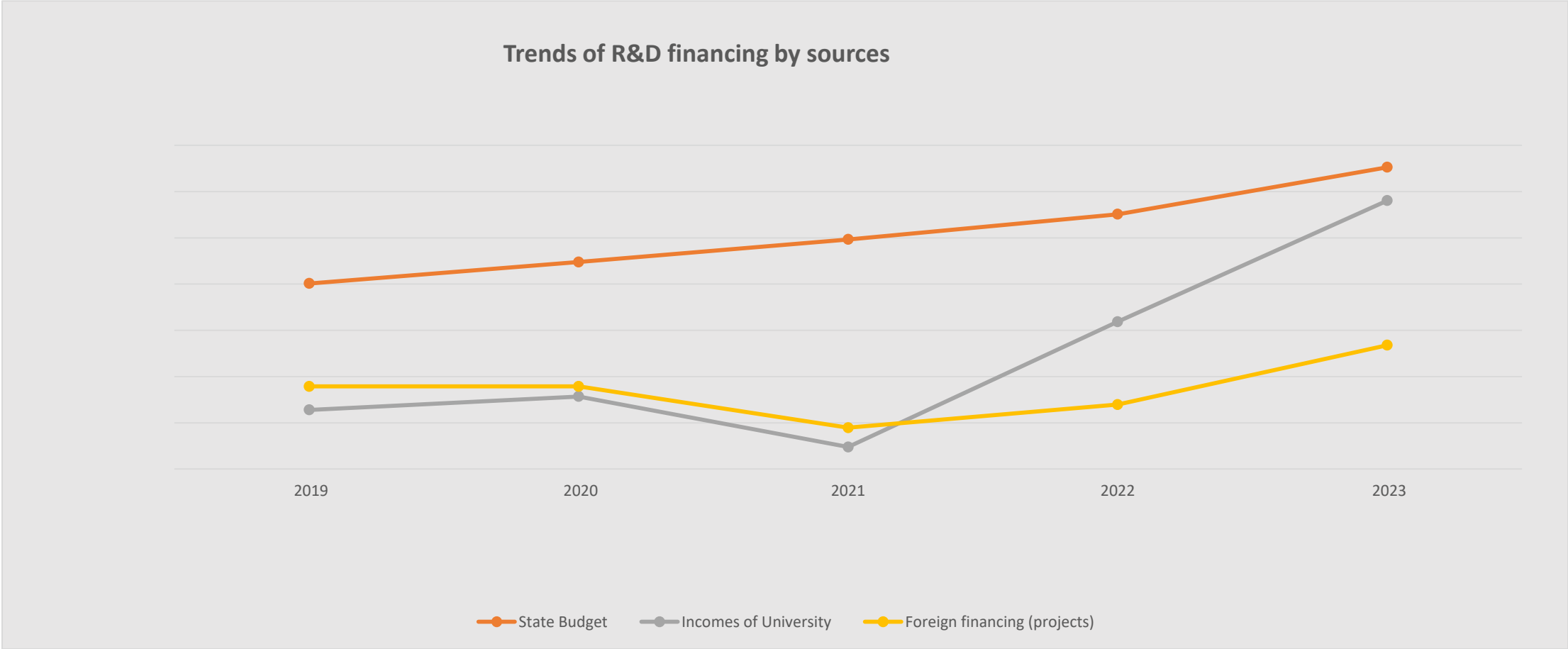
Facts and figures

| Funding of Scientific Research Programs 2019-2026, by programs in 000/Euro | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Budgeting Programs/Years | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| Administrative expenses for NASRI | 211 | 213 | 212 | 223 | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| Financing of R&D projects | 179 | 460 | 836 | 1,418 | 1,549 | 2,332 | 2,679 | 3,366 |
| University-Business Cooperation Budget | 324 | 588 | 349 | 346 | 735 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,579 |
| Participation fee in Framework programs | 1,662 | 1,876 | 59 | 3,204 | 2,232 | 2,232 | 2,232 | 2,232 |
| Research Infrastructure | 2,916 | 2,996 | 3,093 | 3,809 | 9,375 | 12,946 | 12,946 | 15,179 |
| Line ministries/Business | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | |
| TOTAL | 5,292 | 6,133 | 4,549 | 9,000 | 14,116 | 19,035 | 19,482 | 22,581 |
| Research funds vs GDP | 0.05% | 0.05% | 0.04% | 0.05% | 0.08% | 0.10% | 0.10% | 0.11% |
| Research funds vs Public Expenditures | 0.16% | 0.16% | 0.12% | 0.17% | 0.24% | 0.32% | 0.31% | 0.35% |

Research Funds as share of GDP



Trends by source



Future Plans

- Strategic and legal measures
- Approval of the Strategy on Scientific research, technology, and innovation, 2023-2030 (end of 2023):
- Draft and approval of the Code of Ethics of Scientific Researcher.
- Drafting of criteria and indicators for assessment of scientific research and HEI performance –based ranking in scientific research.
- Produce reliable statistics on Scientific Research in cooperation with INSTAT (2024).
- Approval of the Law on science in the Republic of Albania (end of 2023):
- Article 25 “Ethics in scientific research”.
- Article 33 “Steering bodies of scientific research and their tasks ”
- Institute Scientific Research Council.
- Complete the S3 strategy by June2024 as predicted in the National Plan for European Integration.



Future Plans

- Internationalization of Science & Research in Albania
- Deepen integration into EU related programs based on analysis of national resources and priorities
- Within the end of 2023 Albania will identify the key EU Joint Undertakings for future participation based on the national priorities and financial resources.
- Within 2024 Albania will analyze participation in ERIC as potential consortium member based on national needs, priorities, capacities and resources



Future Plans

- Budgeting of Research in Albania
 - By 2030 Albania will reach 1% of GDP the financing of scientific research.
- Performance of Albanian Institutions in Horizon Europe.
 - Through awareness rising campaigns, info days, capacity building of NCP network Increase:
 - The number of application;
 - Success rate;
 - Number of lead partners (coordinators) in consortiums.



Projects

- ELBASAN, is selected among the “Mission cities” to be climate neutral and smart by 2030
- A smart city roadmap
- Was organised an open workshops gathering input from more than 50 people from throughout Albania in summer last year;
- aims to change the perspective from a largely centralized, technology-driven, top-down approach, to a more collaborative approach where citizens, local institutions, civil society, businesses, the voluntary sector and academia are invited to take part in solving dilemmas and overcoming barriers;
- provides the municipality with a good starting point and a solid framework for developing their own smart city strategy.



Projects

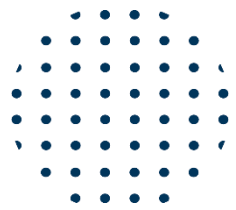
- Climate and environment plan 2030-The ambition is to reduce the emissions up to 80% and to create a city to become more attractive, inclusive, and sustainable - for living, working, tourism, and investments
- The entrepreneurial city has reinvented itself, from iron and steel industry in herring and sardines production;
- Elbasan has put inclusion on the top of their agenda:
- Youth emigration has become a growing challenge in recent years
- Elbasan is beginning a new approach where a stronger connecting between projects, strategies and plans across the various fields is a new way of thinking and implementing



Role in the project

- Expanding the knowledge received through project;
- Enhancing synergies between the public and private sectors for building safer and more resilient communities, understanding that land, tenure, housing, water and sanitation are critical components to foster climate resilience for financing research projects in the field of climate change;
- Fostering enabling governance and policy frameworks for supporting climate resilience as a national and local priority;





Thank you for your attention

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