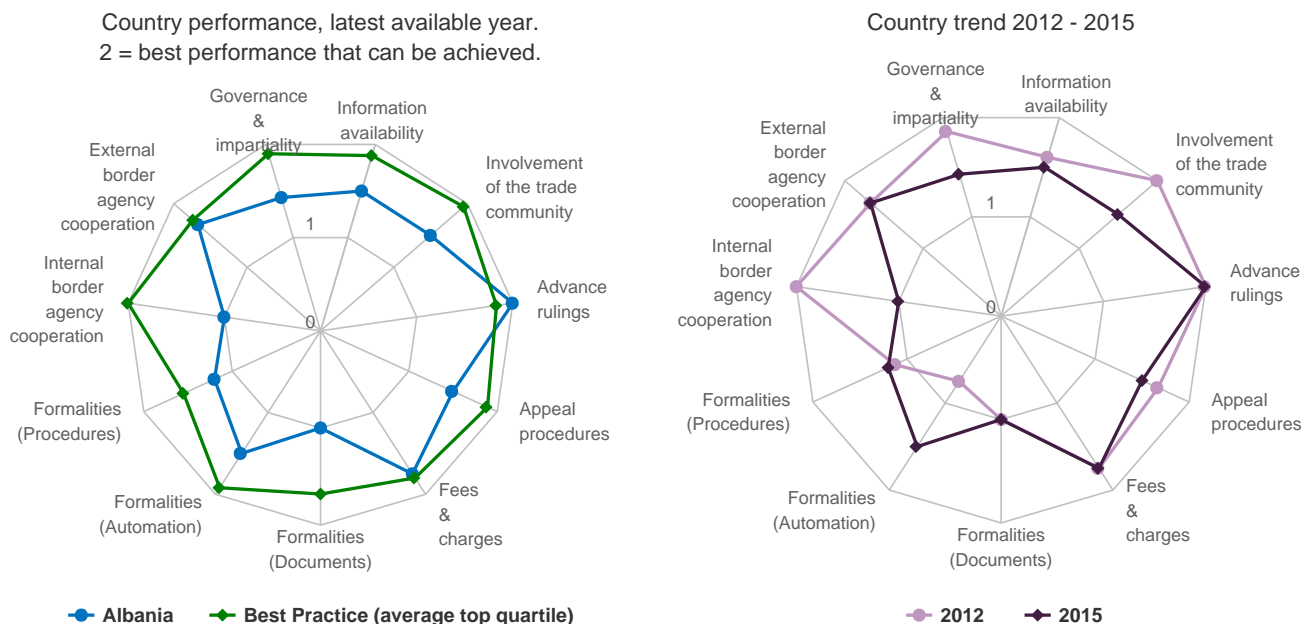


Trade Facilitation Indicators Country note - Albania

Trade facilitation performance

Albania matches or exceeds best performance across the sample as regards advance rulings, fees and charges and external border agency cooperation. Albania matches or exceeds the average performance of upper middle income countries in the areas of information availability, involvement of trade community, advance rulings, appeal procedures, fees and charges, automation, streamlining of procedures, external border agency cooperation and governance and impartiality. Performance has improved between 2012 and 2015 in the area of automation.

Performance in the other areas is stable, with the exception of information availability, involvement of trade community, appeal procedures, internal border agency cooperation and governance and impartiality, where some ground was lost. Performance in the areas of the information availability, involvement of trade community, appeal procedures, formalities (documents, automation and procedures), internal border agency cooperation and governance and impartiality is below best performance.



Areas for Action

For the group of upper middle income countries to which Albania belongs, the assessment of the impact of trade facilitation measures, both on bilateral trade flows and on trade costs, shows that reforms with the greatest benefit are in the areas of formalities (simplifying and harmonising documents, automation, and streamlining border procedures), governance and impartiality, and information availability. The indicators involvement of trade community, advance rulings and fees and charges also have a significant impact on trade flows.

Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted above and considering the areas where Albania has not yet reached best performance, Albania would benefit from continued improvements in the following:

Information availability:

Improve the operation of enquiry points

Make forms and documents required for border procedures available online

Provide necessary information to stakeholders about changes in policies and regulations affecting their activities

Involvement of trade community:

Improve the inclusiveness of consultations with the private sector

Formalities – documents:

Expand the acceptance of copies of documents

Pursue efforts in view of compliance with international standards conventions

Reduce the number of documents required for import and export and the time necessary to prepare such documents

Formalities – automation:

Improve the capacity of IT systems to exchange data electronically

Improve the quality of telecommunications and IT supporting the automation of border processes

Formalities – procedures:

Complete the development of the Single Window currently under elaboration

Reduce the average clearance time

Introduce pre-arrival processing of import documentation

Provide accelerated controls for perishable goods and preferential treatment concerning the separation of release from clearance

Further simplify procedures in terms of associated time and costs

Governance and impartiality:

Provide clear provisions for the financing of the Customs administration

Definitions for Trade Facilitation Indicators

Information availability: Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points

Involvement of the trade community: Consultations with traders

Advance rulings: Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements

Appeal procedures: The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies

Fees & charges: Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports

Formalities (Documents): Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management

Formalities (Automation): Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies

Formalities (Procedures): Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators

Internal border agency cooperation: Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to customs authorities

External border agency cooperation: Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries

Governance & impartiality: Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy