



Albania

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2023 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 134 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 58 variables.

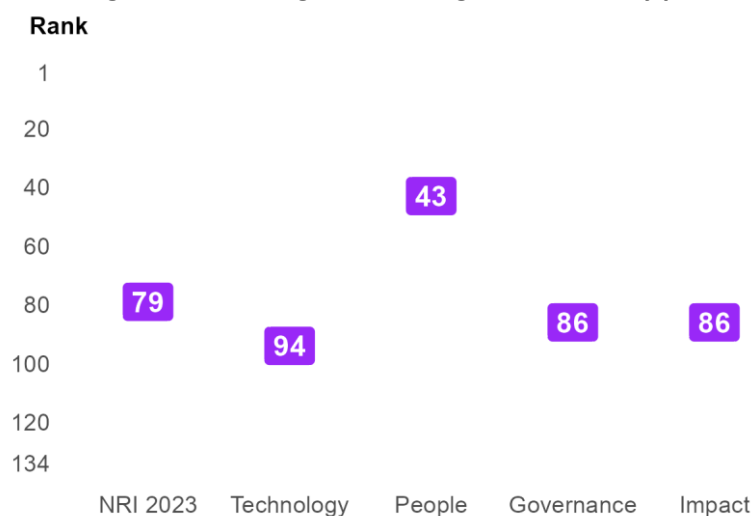
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Albania

Albania ranks 79th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology.

Figure 2: Albania global ranking, overall and by pillar



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Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Albania relate to Governments, Businesses and Quality of Life, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Inclusion, Economy and Future Technologies sub-pillars.

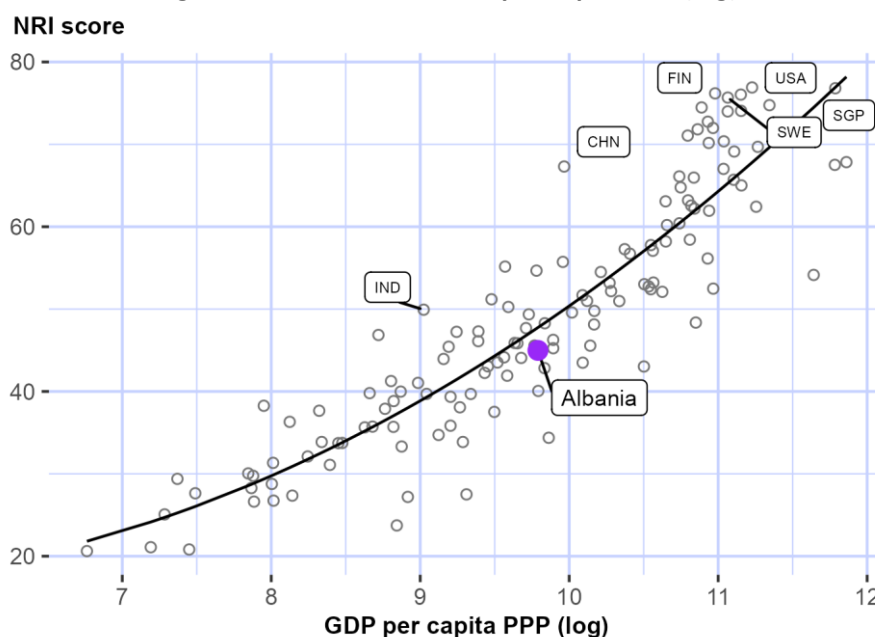
Table 1: Albania rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Governments	38	Trust	78
Businesses	49	Access	80
Quality of Life	52	Content	95
Individuals	65	Inclusion	104
Regulation	66	Economy	118
SDG Contribution	69	Future Technologies	121

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Albania in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Albania is well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)



Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Albania belongs to the group of upper-middle-income countries, where the best performer is China (CHN). The top performer of its region-Europe-is Finland (FIN).



Performance against its income group and region

Upper-middle-income countries

Albania is ranked 25th in the group of upper-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in one of the four pillars: People. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Businesses, Governments, Regulation and Quality of Life.

Europe

Albania is ranked 40th within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it trails the regional average in each of them.

Figure 4: Performance of Albania against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

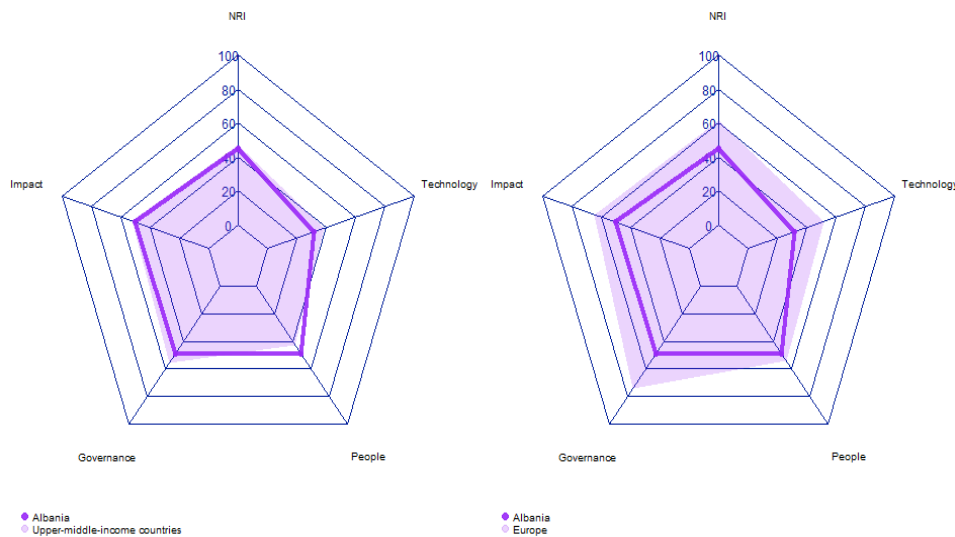


Table 2: Albania scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Albania	Upper-middle-income countries	Europe
NRI	44.98	47.35	61.25
Technology	31.64	38.48	51.90
People	49.33	42.59	54.16
Governance	48.85	55.90	74.33
Impact	50.11	52.43	64.61

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Albania performs particularly well include 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 4.2.3 Income inequality, and 3.3.1 E-Participation (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.1.2 High-tech exports, 3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments, and 3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Albania

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	17	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	99
4.2.3 Income inequality	19	1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	117
3.3.1 E-Participation	22	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	119
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	26	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	125
2.3.1 Government online services	33	4.1.2 High-tech exports	128
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	34		
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	36		
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	45		
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	47		
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	55		

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

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NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Albania

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Rank: 79 (out of 134)

Score: 44.98

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	94	31.64	C. Governance pillar	86	48.85
1st sub-pillar: Access	80	60.04	1st sub-pillar: Trust	78	36.45
2nd sub-pillar: Content	95	17.37	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	66	65.84
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	121	17.50	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	104	44.27
B. People pillar	43	49.33	D. Impact pillar	86	50.11
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	65	47.47	1st sub-pillar: Economy	118	14.36
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	49	51.78	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	52	73.00
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	38	48.72	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	69	62.98

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	94	31.64	C. Governance pillar	86	48.85
1st sub-pillar: Access	80	60.04	1st sub-pillar: Trust	78	36.45
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	88	49.09	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	66	54.14
1.1.2 Handset prices	67	46.46	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	87	63.69
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	62	29.72	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	113	8.62
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	57	99.67	3.1.4 Internet shopping	70	19.36
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	106	63.04	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	66	65.84
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	44	72.27	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	59	53.96
2nd sub-pillar: Content	95	17.37	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	45	87.06
1.2.1 GitHub commits	65	7.15	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	53	49.09
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	55	5.62	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	66.67
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	95	55.88	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	47	72.40
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	108	0.84	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	104	44.27
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	121	17.50	3.3.1 E-Participation	22	75.59
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	117	19.18	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	125	32.57
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	117	21.75	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	119	26.20

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	65	67.21
1.3.4 Computer software spending	86	11.57	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	119	19.80 ○
B. People pillar			D. Impact pillar		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>			<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	92	3.06	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	99	4.53 ○
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	NA	NA	4.1.2 High-tech exports	128	0.27 ○
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	84	52.49	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	64	3.15
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	57	36.45	4.1.4 Domestic market size	107	37.42
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	26	97.88 ●	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	100	26.74
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	4.1.6 ICT services exports	64	14.03
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.2.1 Firms with website	51	58.11	4.2.1 Happiness	88	53.19
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	NA	NA	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	69	71.18
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	76	25.43	4.2.3 Income inequality	19	84.42 ●
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	104	71.81	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	34	83.19 ●
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	NA	NA	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	93	55.55
2.3.1 Government online services	33	79.91 ●	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	53	34.98
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	49	33.82	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	36	87.61 ●
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	82	32.43	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	17	81.86 ●
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	NA	NA	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	83	54.88

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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