

**ALBANIAN NATIONAL
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

Annual Report 2023

*Institutional activity and
sporting achievements*

1 January to 31 December 2023

Albanian National Olympic Committee
Tirana, Albania

Message from the President

Fidel Ylli

President of the Albanian National Olympic Committee

As President of the Albanian National Olympic Committee (NOC Albania), I will undoubtedly focus on broadening our international relations, with successive memorandums standing as our connection bridges that reinforce cooperation, in order to promote and support Albanian sport at its best.

I would emphasize the cooperation memorandum with the Italian Committee, the Saudi Arabia, as well as with Kosovo. Sportive diplomacy is one of our priorities.

The consolidation of sport teams in schools, a major project of NOC Albania, is the biggest pride of our achievements. In the second edition of this project, which had great support by the Albanian government, we are taking a proud look at the first fruits of our work. More people, at younger ages, are embracing this project and many of them are excelling with talents, and also assisting professional volleyball and basketball teams. We are going to expand this project soon to other disciplines, which will attract the attention of young people and children for a healthier lifestyle, away from sedentary behavior, for a better quality of life, and providing this way a direct contribution to sport, as it brings to light the talents of the future.

I am happy to recall that we closed 2023 with a grand Gala, fully appreciating the achievement of our best athletes. As an elite event, fitting for Europe and World champions, these athletes fill us with pride through their remarkable achievements, echoing the Albanian national anthem in the most prestigious arenas across the globe. I am very proud for the great support that was given by Prime Minister Rama to this event, while I want to express my highest gratitude to President Capralos and Secretary General Pagnozzi. Different from the other Galas, the ALBANIAN NOC has established a new standard, not only for the selection and rewarding of the athletes, but also for the planning and branding of this event. The Gala will be the concluding activity of each calendar year for Albanian sports.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is the attention devoted to our elite athletes, ranging from the youngest recipients of Olympic scholarships from NOC Albania to those targeted for achieving the best results on the international stage. The support for Olympic sports, with the athletes that will represent us in Paris 2024, has been very important. The attention to them has been maximal and will continue to be so.

I am certain that this time we are not going to Paris only to be represented with dignity, but with the full trust to write history, looking forward to giving Albania the first Olympic medal. I wish success to our red and black athletes in Paris!

Source: President's Speech, Team Albania 2023-2024, printed pages 10-11 (PDF page 6). Original first-person text retained, with spacing normalised and a duplicated phrase corrected. References to Paris 2024 preserve the message's original publication context.

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Reporting framework

This activity report presents the Albanian National Olympic Committee's work and the sporting achievements recorded for 2023. It is intended for the Olympic community, national federations, public institutions and development partners. Committee programmes and representation are distinguished from competitions delivered by federations and results achieved by athletes and clubs.

The reporting period is the calendar year 2023. Programme descriptions extending towards Paris 2024 are identified as context or continuity. Proposed facilities and future events are presented as plans. This is a narrative activity report, separate from the Committee's annual financial statements.

References in square brackets identify sections of Team Albania, the Committee's official 2023-2024 publication. The reference guide gives both printed magazine pages and PDF page numbers so readers can locate the underlying material.

01 Executive overview

The Albanian National Olympic Committee's 2023 activity combined international representation, support for athlete preparation, the development of school sport and engagement with national and international partners. Competitive achievements were accompanied by investment in the people and programmes that support participation: coaches, physical education teachers, young athletes and sports administrators.

Sporting performance

Team Albania secured two gold medals at the European Games in Kraków, through Luiza Gega in athletics and Alvin Karaqi in karate. Alban Beqiri in boxing and Juirdo Cani in taekwondo each achieved fifth place. Youth representation included seven athletes across five sports at the summer European Youth Olympic Festival in Maribor, while four athletes competed at the Mediterranean Beach Games in Heraklion. [S4]

Qualification for Paris 2024 advanced through performances including those of Luiza Gega and wrestler Zelimkhan Abakarov. Abakarov won bronze at the 2023 Senior World Championships and secured Olympic qualification. These results formed part of a wider year of achievement across national federations, including football's qualification for UEFA EURO 2024, international medals in gymnastics and youth weightlifting, and world-level success in billiards. [S13-S16]

Participation and education

School sport remained a central institutional priority. The 2023 basketball coach development initiative, supported by FIBA Europe, delivered three intensive sessions for coaches associated with 137 school sports teams. The Albanian Olympic Academy trained 80 physical education teachers in 2023 and linked Olympic education with school activities, cultural expression and International Olympic Day. [S8, S10]

Inclusion and recognition

Special Olympics Albania participated in the Berlin World Games with ten athletes. Gersi Troka won swimming gold, while Adi Sula's medal performances were highlighted in the publication. The Committee also engaged in international discussions on inclusion and the institutional recognition of athletes with intellectual disabilities. The year closed with the Sport Stars Gala, bringing together more than 250 sporting figures and recognising athletes, coaches and sporting achievement. [S2, S5, S9]

Institutional development

International engagement addressed technical cooperation, coach education, sports medicine, school sport and future hosting opportunities. Tirana's designation as a European City of Sport provided a setting for major federation events and public participation. The Committee's continuing programmes connected the immediate requirements of international competition with longer-term objectives in youth development, education and organisational capacity. [S3, S6, S12]

02 Institutional leadership and priorities

Leadership and institutional direction

Under President Fidel Ylli and Secretary General Gerti Shima, the Albanian National Olympic Committee emphasised international relations, the expansion of school sport, support for elite athletes and recognition of sporting achievement. These themes provide the organising framework for the Committee's activity during the year. [S1]

The Committee's published values are integrity, education, innovation, solidarity and development. Across the activities described in this report, these values are reflected in support for Olympic education, access to sport, technical assistance, cooperation with federations and the development of new communication tools.

Relationship with national federations

National federations organised domestic competitions, selected and prepared athletes for their respective international events, and contributed to the development of coaches and officials. The Committee's reported contribution included material and financial support, access to Olympic Solidarity programmes, delegation support and coordination with international partners. Federation achievements therefore appear in a dedicated review, with delivery attributed to the relevant sporting bodies. [S11]

Cooperation with public institutions

The Committee worked within a network involving the Albanian Government, the Ministry of Education and Sports, local authorities, educational institutions and sporting organisations. School sport and the National Sports Conference provided prominent areas of cooperation. Government measures recognising successful athletes were discussed alongside investment in facilities and support for federations. [S6, S8]

Recognition of sporting contribution

The Sport Stars Gala at the end of 2023 brought together athletes, coaches, public representatives and international Olympic leaders. Prime Minister Edi Rama, European Olympic Committees President Spyros Capralos and Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi attended. National football coach Sylvinho received recognition, while the magazine's coverage also featured competitors from athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, gymnastics, karate, taekwondo, judo, billiards and Special Olympics. [S2]

The Gala provided a shared institutional setting in which achievements across different sports could be acknowledged. The President expressed the intention to make it an annual closing event for Albanian sport, giving recognition a continuing place in the Committee's programme.

03 International Games and Team Albania

Participation in international multi-sport events provided opportunities for senior performance, youth development and representation across a range of disciplines. The competitions below are reported separately because their delegation structures and sporting programmes differ. [S4]

European Games in Kraków

The European Games took place from 21 June to 2 July 2023. Albania won gold through Luiza Gega in athletics and Alvin Karaqi in karate. Alban Beqiri and Juirido Cani each finished fifth in their respective boxing and taekwondo competitions. The magazine's main delegation roster covers karate, taekwondo, fencing, teqball, shooting, boxing and padel; athletics is also documented in the federation review.

Alongside established medal contenders, the Games provided exposure for athletes in fencing, teqball and padel. The main delegation roster and the athletics team account describe distinct components of Albania's representation and are considered separately in this report.

Summer European Youth Olympic Festival

Seven athletes represented Albania across five sports in Maribor, Slovenia. The Committee supported participation in athletics, swimming, cycling, artistic gymnastics and judo. The event provided a multi-sport competition setting for young athletes and experience relevant to their longer-term development.

Athlete	Sport and event listed
Alesia Dauti	Athletics 400 metres
Kaltra Meca	Swimming 200 and 400 metres
Mikail Pali	Cycling road race
Gresa Dragani	Artistic gymnastics floor
Orkida Gjoka	Artistic gymnastics floor
Kasandra Kovaci	Judo 63 kg
Fjoralba Marku	Judo 57 kg

Winter festival and Mediterranean Beach Games

Albania was represented at the Winter European Youth Olympic Festival in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, held from 21 to 28 January 2023; the magazine features skier Lara Colturi and the Albanian delegation. At the Mediterranean Beach Games in Heraklion, four athletes represented Albania: two in finswimming, one in beach wrestling and one in the five-kilometre marathon swim.

04 Athlete preparation and development

Preparation for Paris 2024

Athlete preparation connected the 2023 competition calendar with the approaching Paris Olympic Games. The magazine records Olympic qualification by Luiza Gega and by Zelimkhan Abakarov, whose world championship bronze in September was a qualifying result. These achievements illustrate the relationship between international competition and Olympic preparation during the reporting year. [S13]

The Road to Paris 2024 programme describes grant support for ten athletes. Its stated purpose was to facilitate preparation, qualifying competition and participation. The roster below is the programme roster published in the magazine; it is not a list of ten athletes confirmed to have qualified for Paris or a statement of grants paid during 2023. [S11]

Athlete	Sport
Luiza Gega and Izmir Smajlaj	Athletics
Alban Beqiri	Boxing
Mikel Demiri	Cycling
Matvei Petrov	Artistic gymnastics
Indrit Cullhaj and Erisa Brahimaj	Judo
Kristina Anxhara	Shooting
Liridona Rexhaj	Table tennis
Zelimkhan Abakarov	Wrestling

Support for emerging athletes

The Young Talents scholarship programme is presented as a means of identifying and encouraging athletes with the potential to progress towards elite competition. It seeks to sustain their engagement in sport and provide recognition at an early stage. Its published roster names Alesia Dauti, Kejdi Kalaja, Ernest Merdanaj, Ertjan Kofsha, Enkileda Carja, Nelia Kabetaj, Gresi Bajri, Lara Colturi, Erisa Brahimaj and Fjoralb Curri. [S11]

The youth and Olympic scholarship programmes serve different stages of development. Their published rosters overlap and are presented as programme information rather than an aggregate beneficiary count.

Olympic Solidarity and technical support

The Committee describes Olympic Solidarity as a source of financial and technical support under the 2021-2024 plan. Support extended to federations and athletes, together with instruction for teachers, referees and sports administrators. This approach places athlete development within a wider system of technical expertise and institutional support. [S11]

Government recognition of elite athletes also formed part of the support environment. The magazine describes honorary Armed Forces recognition for Luiza Gega, Briken Calja, Erkand Qerimaj and Alban Beqiri. These measures are recorded as government recognition, separate from the Committee's scholarship programmes. [S5]

05 School sport and coach development

Programme purpose and delivery

Sport Teams in Schools was a central programme in the Committee's leadership agenda. Its objectives included wider access to organised physical activity, regular participation in school teams and the identification of young talent. Basketball and volleyball were the principal disciplines described. Government support, coordination with schools and the involvement of coaches were important elements of delivery. [S1, S8]

The programme's competition model progressed from city activities to district competition and national finals. School premises, outdoor areas and sports halls were used for training and events. This structure connected regular local participation with opportunities for teams to progress to a wider competitive setting.

Coach development in 2023

FIBA Europe and the Committee supported three intensive basketball training sessions in 2023 led by Nenad Trunić. Coaches associated with 137 school sports teams received theoretical and practical instruction. Participants were evaluated on their understanding and received certificates from the Secretary General and the course leader. [S8]

The publication also describes volleyball training delivered with the European Volleyball Confederation, involving 219 coaches and lecturers Kristof de Loose and Francois Wathiez. Topics included creative coaching, technique and tactics, and motivating children to learn motor skills. This complements the basketball development model, although the volleyball activity is not independently dated in the article.

Programme scale in the second edition

Published programme measure	Second edition figure
Children participating	More than 10,000
Districts represented	12
Teams	760
Coaches	389

The figures describe the second edition within the 2023-2024 programme context. They illustrate programme scale and continuity and should not be interpreted as calendar-year 2023 totals. [S8]

Participation and talent development

Student accounts describe regular training, encouragement from teachers and families, and interest in continuing sport alongside education. The magazine also reports coaches identifying pupils with potential for club teams. These accounts illustrate participant experience; they do not establish measured changes in health, academic attainment or athlete progression. Future evaluation would benefit from tracking retention and the transition from school teams into club sport.

06 Olympic education and the Albanian Olympic Academy

The Albanian Olympic Academy linked sport with education, cultural activity and the public understanding of Olympic values. Its thirtieth anniversary provided a setting for educational initiatives directed towards pupils, teachers, coaches and athletes. The programme placed fair play, respect, friendship and solidarity at the centre of participation. [S10]

Teacher development

In 2023, the Academy organised training for 80 physical education teachers, focusing on new Olympic Week projects. Teacher development supported the implementation of activities through schools and helped connect Olympic education with practical learning.

Olympic Week and participation

The Olympic Week at School initiative used the theme Let's Move. The magazine describes school activities including competitions, demonstrations of new sports, meetings with athletes, cultural exhibitions and children's artwork. Themes included gender equality, inclusion, solidarity, peace and fair play.

At Qemal Stafa High School in Tirana, 600 students created a white card covering 100 square metres to promote peace through sport. The activity combined a shared physical undertaking with a visible message about the social purpose of sporting participation.

Educational resources

Your Olympic Guide was translated into Albanian as part of the Academy's anniversary programme. The publication was presented as a resource for educators, coaches, athletes and students. Its author, Professor Maria Bulatova, visited Tirana for its promotion. Providing an Albanian-language resource expanded the material available for teaching Olympic principles.

Culture and Olympic Day

The exhibition Olympism through the Perspective of Children displayed fifty children's artworks from different regions of Albania at the COD centre at the Prime Minister's Office. It was linked to International Olympic Day on 23 June. This activity extended Olympic education beyond competition, enabling children to express their understanding through art.

Institutional contribution

The Academy's activities connected national-level resources with delivery in schools. Training teachers, providing educational material and involving pupils in cultural and sporting activities created complementary ways to communicate Olympic values. Attendance and activity counts demonstrate delivery; longer-term learning outcomes would require separate evaluation.

07 Inclusion and Special Olympics

International participation and achievement

Special Olympics Albania's participation in the 2023 World Games in Berlin was a significant part of the year's inclusive sporting activity. The magazine records a delegation of ten athletes, accompanied by eleven coaches and volunteer staff. It describes this as Albania's largest delegation to the event at that time. [S5]

Gersi Troka won gold in freestyle swimming. Adi Sula also achieved medal success: the dedicated Special Olympics review records two silver and two bronze medals, while the earlier Games summary refers more briefly to a silver medal. These are Special Olympics World Games achievements and are presented separately from Olympic Games results. [S5, S17]

Unified sport

The Special Olympics review also records participation in a FIBA event in Geneva with a unified team comprising three athletes and two partners. Tirana hosted a Western Balkans regional tournament in unified 3x3 basketball as part of its European City of Sport activity. Unified participation provided opportunities for athletes and partners to compete together and supported the visibility of inclusive sport. [S17]

International representation on inclusion

President Fidel Ylli and Secretary General Gerti Shima represented Special Olympics Albania at the Global Forum for Inclusion in Berlin. Discussions with Special Olympics representatives addressed the recognition of the organisation's mission and its place in Albania's sports framework. The magazine records an invitation to international Special Olympics leadership to visit Albania. [S3]

The Minister of Education and Sports also expressed support for incorporating Special Olympics into the sports legislation being prepared. This report records the policy discussion and expressed intention; it does not treat them as evidence that a legislative change had already taken effect. [S9]

Recognition and athlete voice

Gersi Troka's address at the Sport Stars Gala called for more opportunities to participate and for recognition of both athletes and coaches. His account placed the athlete's experience within the wider institutional discussion about access, support and reward. The Gala therefore served as a platform for inclusion as well as celebration. [S9]

The year's activity demonstrates the importance of connecting competitive opportunities with consistent coaching, family engagement and institutional support. Follow-up should preserve the distinction between participation, sporting results and changes in policy, so that each can be assessed on its own evidence.

08 International relations and sport diplomacy

International cooperation was a stated priority for the Committee in 2023. The magazine explicitly describes the year as a period of relationship-building with Olympic organisations, sports federations, diplomatic representatives and commercial partners. Meetings created opportunities to discuss expertise, programme support and future sporting initiatives. [S3]

European and Mediterranean engagement

European Olympic Committees President Spyros Capralos and Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi visited Tirana and were briefed on school sport, innovation and the Committee's development priorities. Their programme included meetings with the Government and Ministry of Education and Sports. The visit linked national programme delivery with dialogue at European Olympic level.

Tirana also hosted an Executive Committee meeting of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games. Discussions covered school sport, regional cooperation and Albania's support for the 2030 Mediterranean Games in Kosovo. On 10 June 2023, Gerti Shima was appointed to the Evaluation Commission for the 2027 Mediterranean Beach Games, providing a specific institutional milestone within the year. [S3]

Bilateral cooperation framework

The following table records the cooperation framework presented for 2023-2024. It identifies the intended areas of collaboration; individual agreements are not assigned to the 2023 calendar year unless separately dated.

Partner	Cooperation described
Kosovo	School sport, joint leagues and longer-term Olympic planning
Italy	Coach and specialist exchange, sports medicine and technical expertise
North Macedonia	Joint European and regional projects and mutual expertise
Montenegro	Swimming, water polo, volleyball, basketball and physical education
Croatia	Olympism, training, inclusion, media and marketing
Slovakia	Sports medicine, anti-doping cooperation, athlete training and school sport
Saudi Arabia	Olympic centre investment discussions and Vision 2030 cooperation
Austria	Winter sport expertise and technical and logistical assistance

Cooperation beyond bilateral agreements

The publication also describes Cooperation 5, connecting Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and France around exchange, Olympic education, anti-doping and event cooperation. The institutional value of these relationships depends on their translation into delivered activity. Agreements and meetings are therefore reported separately from completed training, investment or other implementation outcomes.

09 National cooperation and event hosting

National Sports Conference

The 2023 National Sports Conference, organised by the Ministry of Education and Sports with support from the Committee and Albanian Football Federation, examined the development of sport in Albania. Topics included sporting achievement, the policy framework, public investment, facilities, federation support and school sport. [S6]

The Committee's contribution emphasised Sport Teams in Schools as a means of widening participation and identifying talent. International Mediterranean Games representatives attended, connecting domestic policy discussion with the wider Olympic and Mediterranean sporting community.

Tirana as a European City of Sport

Tirana's European City of Sport designation in 2023 provided a common setting for competitions and participation events. The magazine highlights municipal support to federations and describes activity in stadiums, sports facilities and public spaces. The programme included the Tirana Marathon, Tirana Beach Volleyball, cycling activity and the school sports opening ceremony at Air Albania Stadium. [S6]

Federation delivery extended beyond the capital. The following examples illustrate the range of international events hosted in Albania during the year.

Sport	Event or activity
Wrestling	U17 European competition and U23 World Championships in Tirana
Weightlifting	Youth World Championships with participation from 61 countries
Basketball	FIBA U18 women's Division C championship in Durrës
Volleyball	Balkan youth competitions in Tirana and beach competition in Pogradec
Chess	European school and club competitions in Durrës
Tennis	Fifteen international tournaments within the federation's annual programme

The federation reviews provide additional detail. These events demonstrate hosting activity, but their wider economic effects are not expressed as quantified outcomes in this report. [S13-S19]

Sports for Development

The magazine describes a pilot at the new sports centre in Thumanë involving the Committee, ministries, the Albanian Development Fund, federations, Krujë Municipality and education authorities. Its objectives included developing teams in Krujë, Fushë Krujë and Thumanë and promoting Olympic principles through Olympic Days. The pilot is presented within the wider programme context, with expansion beyond its initial location described as a future objective. [S7]

10 Communication and institutional capacity

Public communication and sporting recognition

Communication linked international results, school participation, federation activity and the Committee's institutional agenda. Team Albania magazine brought these subjects together in one publication. The Sport Stars Gala offered a further platform for recognising achievement and presenting the contribution of athletes and coaches to a wider audience. [S1, S2]

The magazine identifies a communication, media and marketing function, with responsibilities spanning editorial work, content, innovation, production and coordination with federations. This reflects the organisational work required to collect and communicate activity across a diverse sporting community.

SportAlb and digital presentation

SportAlb is presented as the Committee's official streaming platform. The illustrated feature describes live streaming and on-demand coverage of sporting events and school-team activity, accessible through mobile devices, computers and tablets. The platform provides a channel through which events can reach audiences beyond the venue. [S12]

SportAlb is included as communication infrastructure within the publication's wider 2023-2024 programme context. Its live and on-demand formats complement event coverage and the continuing presentation of Albanian sport.

Exchange of digital expertise

At the European Sport Platform in Lisbon, held under the theme Digitalization and Partnerships, the Committee presented its digital work and development plans. President Fidel Ylli participated, and Ervin Habazaj presented the organisation's innovations and products. The publication also records Ornela Mahmutaj's participation in a regional seminar on digital communication and social media, covering Olympic digital strategies, productivity tools, data and content. [S12]

These professional exchanges form part of the wider institutional development programme described for 2023-2024, rather than a separately measured calendar-year output.

Sports administration

The Committee participated in S2ABC, a programme led by EOSE and funded through Erasmus+ Sport to develop the capacity of Western Balkan sports organisations and administrators. Its programme period ran from January 2023 to December 2024. The magazine records module completion by Gerti Shima, Ingrid Jegeni and Lunada Methasani. [S12]

The initiative is relevant to the institutional development agenda because effective programme delivery depends on administrative capability as well as technical coaching. The publication's completion statement relates to the programme as reported and is not treated as evidence of completion by 31 December 2023.

11 Infrastructure and programme continuity

Olympic centre development concept

The magazine presents a concept for a Tirana Olympic Centre intended to support training, competition and international hosting. The illustrated scheme includes an Olympic stadium, sports halls, an indoor swimming pool, athletics facilities, shooting, tennis, padel and supporting accommodation and services. [S20]

The concept lists a stadium capacity of 41,508 seats, a sports centre of 6,000 seats and an indoor pool with 2,000 seats. These are design figures presented in the publication. They do not represent facilities demonstrated to have been completed, funded or operational in 2023.

The institutional rationale is to improve access to specialised training environments and increase the ability to stage sporting events. Cooperation discussions concerning technical expertise and investment were relevant to this ambition. A concept, a financing commitment and a completed capital asset are separate stages and require separate reporting.

Equipment and school participation

The second edition of Sport Teams in Schools included a developed equipment package. The magazine describes district-based uniform colours, match kits, tracksuits, bags, footwear, balls and distinctive clothing for referees, volunteers and coordinators. These inputs supported programme identity and the practical organisation of participation. [S8]

The equipment package forms part of the second edition's programme provision and is presented here within that programme period.

Technology pilot

The Committee's collaboration with Accyourate is described as a smart-shirt initiative for pupils participating in school sport. The publication outlines textile sensors and a planned three-month period of monitoring. This is reported as a pilot concept and deployment description, without drawing conclusions about medical benefit or presenting results of an evaluation. [S20]

Continuity towards 2024

The magazine looks ahead to Paris 2024, additional sporting events and continued school participation. It also contains material explicitly dated to 2024. This report retains the forward programme context where it explains the Committee's direction, while the federation review prioritises achievements and activities associated with 2023.

The priorities emerging from this context are practical: sustain athlete preparation, maintain access to school sport, convert cooperation frameworks into scheduled activities and develop infrastructure proposals through documented planning and investment stages.

12 Federation review Athletics and combat sports

The following review records federation activity and athlete results reported for 2023. Results belong to the relevant competitors, teams and organising federations; inclusion here does not imply that the Committee directly delivered each competition.

Athletics

Luiza Gega's European Games gold was a leading achievement. The federation account records a 29-athlete team at the European Team Championships in Kraków and a ninth-place team finish. It also highlights Franko Burraj's national 200-metre record and performance in the 400 metres. Gega and Burraj represented Albania at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, where Gega reached the final and finished eighth. [S13]

Gega's year also included Balkan successes and a national-record performance at the Diamond League meeting in Switzerland. The magazine records her qualification for Paris 2024. These results show sustained international participation across championship and invitational competition, without combining medals from different competition classifications into a single total.

Wrestling

Zelimkhan Abakarov won silver at the European Senior Championships in Croatia and bronze at the Senior World Championships in Belgrade, securing Olympic qualification. Islam Dudaev also competed at the European Championships. The domestic hosting programme included the Muhamet Malo international tournament, the U17 European Championships and the U23 World Championships in Tirana from 23 to 29 October. [S13]

The federation's account identifies the U23 event as Albania's first hosting of a world wrestling championship. Hosting combined the demands of international event organisation with an opportunity to raise the visibility of wrestling in Albania.

Boxing

Alban Beqiri's fifth place at the European Games was accompanied by results across younger age groups. The magazine records a European junior silver for Ahmet Koci, a school-age European silver for Kristian Jubani and a junior world silver for Adam Maca. It also highlights Balkan titles for Amar Koci and Ahmed Koci, as named in the source, and fifth-place finishes for other Albanian boxers in international events. [S15]

Karate and taekwondo

Alvin Karaqi won European Games gold. Albania also hosted a Balkan karate championship in Tirana, with the federation reporting four Albanian medals. Amanda Dedej and Nevis Hasani achieved results in children's Balkan competition. In taekwondo, Juirido Cani finished fifth at the European Games, while Ernest Merdanaj won gold at the Multi European Games in Sarajevo and achieved further results in European junior and Balkan competition. [S15]

13 Federation review Team sports and gymnastics

Football

Albania qualified for the finals of UEFA EURO 2024 for the second time. Under coach Sylvinho, the national team finished first in its qualifying group with 15 points, from four wins, three draws and one defeat. The campaign produced twelve goals scored and four conceded. Notable results included the away draw with the Czech Republic and home victories over Poland and the Czech Republic. [S14]

Qualification was achieved in 2023; participation in the finals belonged to the following year's calendar. The national team's achievement was recognised at the Committee's Sport Stars Gala.

Volleyball

Partizani won the women's 2023 Super League, and Tirana won the men's competition. The men's Albanian Cup went to Tirana and the women's cup to Skënderbeu. Tirana and Skënderbeu also won their respective Federation Cups. [S14]

The federation hosted Balkan U17 and U19 competitions in Tirana and an U20 Balkan beach event in Pogradec. The women's U20 national team competed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cooperation with Kosovo continued through shared competitions, while a 2023 agreement with the Italian Volleyball Federation supported technical exchange and youth national-team coaching.

Basketball

Tirana Neptun won the men's 2022-2023 national championship and the 2023 Super Cup. Flamurtari won the women's national championship and Albanian Cup. Partizani won the women's Unique League and Super Cup, while Teuta won the men's Albanian Cup. [S14]

Durrës hosted the European U18 women's Division C championship, where Albania won silver. The federation also announced future hosting plans for 2024; those planned events are not included as achievements of the reporting year.

Gymnastics

Matvei Petrov won bronze at the World Cup in Baku and gold at World Challenge Cup events in Varna and Hungary. These results provided repeated international success during 2023. The magazine also records an Albanian team award for musical interpretation in the dance category at an international choreography competition in Pesaro. [S16]

Youth representation in artistic gymnastics was reflected in the participation of Gresa Dragani and Orkida Gjoka at the summer European Youth Olympic Festival. Senior results and youth participation are different indicators, but together they show activity at more than one stage of athlete development. [S4]

14 Federation review Strength and winter sports

Weightlifting

Albania hosted the 2023 Youth World Weightlifting Championships for the first time. The federation account reports approximately 500 athletes and coaches from 61 countries. Hosting this event placed organisational delivery alongside the federation's competition programme. [S16]

The magazine highlights Enkileda Carja's youth results, including three gold medals in the 59 kg category at the European U15-U17 Championships in Chisinau. It records lifts of 84 kg in the snatch and 100 kg in the clean and jerk, for a total of 184 kg, together with five European records and an U15 best-athlete distinction. Samoel Rrasa won a snatch bronze in the 67 kg category.

Ertjan Kofsha's results included a snatch gold in the 89 kg category at the world event in Guadalajara, with 159 kg in the snatch and a 345 kg total. His performance added to the results achieved by Albania's developing generation of weightlifters.

Weightlifting medal results distinguish individual lifts from the combined total. They should not be interpreted as three separate overall championship titles when an athlete receives medals for snatch, clean and jerk and total.

Skiing

Denni Xhepa achieved success in 2023 at the Balkan competition in Bansko, Bulgaria, where he won titles in both giant slalom and slalom. Albania's winter programme is also represented in the magazine's coverage of the Winter European Youth Olympic Festival. [S4, S16]

The ski federation article includes subsequent-season performances and material explicitly dated February 2024. Those later results are outside the 2023 annual achievement record. The continuing development of winter sport is also reflected in the published cooperation framework with Austria.

Bodybuilding and fitness

The federation reports 21 gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals across its 2023 international programme. Named achievements include European titles for Gentiana Beqa, Marjan Hoxhaj and Edmond Met'hasani, and world championship titles for Beqa and Hoxhaj. The magazine states that thirteen athletes represented Albania at the world championship. [S17]

These figures are presented as the federation's own reported annual results. They are not combined with other sports into a national medal total because disciplines, categories and counting conventions differ.

15 Federation review Cycling and racket sports

Cycling

The 80th Tour of Albania took place from 22 to 26 May 2023, with fifteen invited teams. The federation records Mikel Demiri in fourth place in the general classification, with 25 UCI points. The programme also included national races, cups and an XCO mountain-bike event involving fifteen Tirana schools and sporting clubs. [S18]

At the Balkan Championships in Larisa, Nelia Kabetaj won silver in junior women's road cycling and Olsian Veliaj won bronze in the elite category. Kabetaj also participated in international cyclocross. These activities connected a domestic race calendar with international competition and participation by younger athletes.

Tennis

The Albanian Tennis Federation reported 73 events in 2023, including fifteen international competitions. International tournaments were staged in Shkodra and Tirana, while national activity involved clubs in several cities. Albanian players also competed abroad in a range of tournaments and championships. [S19]

The federation received recognition from the International Tennis Federation for progress in tennis development at the annual meeting in Barcelona. The reported event count describes the federation's programme; it does not establish a count of unique participants or a direct measure of competitive improvement.

Table tennis

At the ProfitApp Podgorica Open 2023, the federation reported six gold, one silver and three bronze medals from five participating Albanian teams. Samanta Agolli won junior and senior titles. The review also highlights results for Ana Kokoneshi, Kejdi Kalaja, Etjen Qoshja and Marvi Gjata, together with further podium finishes across age groups. [S18]

Padel and teqball

Marco Montanaro and Fjoralb Curri represented Albania in padel at the European Games. Their participation extended Albania's representation to another discipline within the Games programme. Fransua Shabani represented Albania in teqball after gaining qualifying points at tour events in Madrid and Podgorica. The teqball federation also organised a national championship at Football Republic, where Klaudio Hoxha became the first adult national champion. [S4, S18]

Billiards and snooker

Eklent Kaçi won the world 10-ball title and the UK Open in 2023. Domestic events included Tirana Billiard Snooker, Golden Cue competitions and the Arena Cup. This combination of international achievement and a national event programme was a prominent feature of the federation's year. [S17]

16 Federation review Aquatic and outdoor sports

Swimming and finswimming

The swimming federation's programme included national competition and participation in European and world events across age groups. The magazine lists the Teuta Cup Open, European junior competition in Belgrade, the COMEN Cup, the World Championships in Fukuoka, European U23 competition in Dublin and the World Junior Championships in Netanya. [S18]

Albania's Mediterranean Beach Games delegation included a marathon swimmer and two finswimmers. The diving federation's account confirms participation by two competitors in finswimming. Their participation added underwater sport to Albania's representation in the Mediterranean competition programme. [S4, S19]

Water rescue

The national water rescue championship included mannequin-transport events and a relay. The magazine names Lucjano Marku, Lidio Alimeri and Gresi Koxhaku among the winners. The activity illustrates the development of a sporting programme connected with water-rescue skills. [S19]

Rafting

The Albanian Rafting Federation organised the national championship in Berat on 29 March 2023. The event used head-to-head and slalom formats and also provided a setting for technical and safety education. Support is attributed to the World Rafting Federation, Berat Municipality, the Ministry of Culture and the Albanian National Olympic Committee. [S18]

Mountaineering and sport climbing

The federation's 2023 programme included international climbing, a national youth championship in Elbasan, a national sport-climbing championship and the Albanian Cup. Luan Qosja, a blind climber, was among the participants highlighted in the international activity account. This provides an additional example of participation extending beyond conventional barriers to access. [S16]

Motorcycling

The motorcycling federation reported more than 600 competitors across its 2023 events. Its calendar included MotoRally rounds, SuperMoto rounds, Illyria Raid, Rally Albania, Albania Raid, Tirana24Hours and the Republic Cup. The Albanian Cup brought together Albanian-speaking participants from several neighbouring countries. The reported participation figure relates to the programme as described and is not treated as a verified count of unique individuals. [S18]

Together, these programmes illustrate activity across pools, rivers, mountains and other outdoor settings, with different requirements for technical organisation and participant support.

17 Federation review Emerging and wider sporting activity

Chess and dance sport

Durrës hosted the European Chess Club Cup competitions and European School Chess Championships in 2023. Ailin Ndreko won a school-championship bronze. Kler Caku won a European youth rapid title and finished second on tie-break in the blitz competition described in the magazine. The hosting programme brought major international club and school competitions to Albania alongside individual competitive success. [S19]

The dance sport federation reported 61 international activities and a return of nine gold, eight silver and six bronze medals. It also brought a European Standard championship to Albania during Tirana's year as a European City of Sport. [S18]

Judo and shooting

Indrit Cullhaj won bronze in the 73 kg category at the Balkan Championships in Peja. Veteran judo results included gold for Agron Kryekurti and bronze medals for Drin Shkreta and Ilir Tafa. The federation also reported a record level of female participation in its national championships. [S19]

The shooting federation reported nineteen national and international events in 2023. Six athletes participated in the world championship in Azerbaijan. Domestic activity included the national youth championship and an Independence Cup with 23 athletes from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia. [S18]

Kickboxing and mixed martial arts

The kick and Thai boxing federation reported first-place results for Rikard Lekaj and Edison Llazani at the Golden Glove in Italy and held its national championship in Fier. The mixed martial arts entry highlights participation in the 2023 international programme and Tirana's second place at the seventh Open Balkan MMA Championship. [S18, S19]

Rugby and esports

Rugby activity included friendly matches with Kosovo and Montenegro and a sevens competition in Tirana involving regional teams and a team from Great Britain. The esports association represented Albania at the European Games Esports Championships in Katowice and organised qualifying activity for the international federation's world competition. Esports participation is described separately from the European Games medal results. [S18, S19]

Other sporting activity

The radio-amateur federation's national team finished sixth overall at the 2023 high-speed telegraphy world championship in Bulgaria. The magazine also introduces fencing, triathlon and surfing. Fencing representation is recorded in the European Games roster; the general descriptions of triathlon and surfing are not treated as quantified annual achievements. [S4, S18, S19]

18 Institutional assessment and priorities for follow up

Assessment of the year

The 2023 record demonstrates activity at several levels of Albanian sport. Senior athletes achieved international results and Olympic qualification, younger athletes gained multi-sport experience, federations delivered domestic and international events, and education programmes engaged teachers and pupils. The Committee's role connected these activities through representation, support, partnerships and public recognition.

The strongest documented outputs are concrete: named competition results, specified delegations, delivered training, educational activities and hosted events. Broader claims about population health, tourism, lasting participation or organisational effectiveness require different evidence. Maintaining that distinction will make future annual reporting more useful to decision-makers.

Priorities for programme follow up

The following priorities are proposed for institutional consideration on the basis of the activity reviewed. They are not presented as formally adopted resolutions or funded commitments.

Area	Practical next step	Evidence to retain
Athlete support	Connect scholarship support with preparation and qualification plans	Beneficiary records, award periods and competition outcomes
School sport	Track sustained participation and progression into clubs	Unique enrolment, attendance, retention and referral records
Coach education	Follow training with practical support and evaluation	Course attendance, assessment and subsequent coaching activity
Inclusion	Maintain access to training, events and recognition	Participation, support provided and athlete feedback
International cooperation	Translate memorandums into dated delivery plans	Agreed actions, responsible partners and completed activities
Communication	Evaluate use of digital platforms and event coverage	Audience definitions, viewing data and content records
Infrastructure	Separate concept development from financing and construction	Approved plans, budgets, agreements and delivery milestones

Institutional accountability

Annual activity reporting should be read alongside the Committee's governance and financial reporting. For future editions, a common reporting return from federations and programme teams would support consistent dates, comparable measures and clearer attribution of results. It would also help distinguish planned activities, delivered outputs and longer-term outcomes.

The substantive priorities emerging from 2023 are the continuity of athlete preparation, wider and sustained access to sport, stronger coaching and administration, and the conversion of international cooperation into practical support for Albanian athletes and sporting organisations.

19 Reference guide

Primary publication

Team Albania 2023-2024, No 02, official publication of the Albanian National Olympic Committee, English edition. Supplied file: TEAM ALB (ENGLISH) EDICIONI Final 2.pdf. The PDF contains 95 pages, largely arranged as two-page magazine spreads. Printed pages and PDF pages therefore differ.

References identify the source of reported activities and results. They are not independent verification of every statement in the magazine. Repeated promotional passages, advertisements and historical biographies have not been treated as annual performance evidence.

Ref	Source subject	Printed pages	PDF pages
S1	Publication details, leadership and President's address	4-11	3-6
S2	Sport Stars Gala and recognition	12-25	7-13
S3	Cooperation, international relations, EOC and ICMG	26-57	14-29
S4	European Games, youth festivals and Beach Games	60-69	31-35
S5	Berlin Special Olympics and athlete recognition	70-75	36-38
S6	Tirana City of Sport and National Conference	76-83	39-42
S7	Sports for Development	84-87	43-44
S8	School sport, equipment and coach training	88-107	45-54
S9	Special Olympics inclusion and athlete voice	110-113	56-57
S10	Olympic Academy and education	114-119	58-60
S11	Paris scholarships, Young Talents and Solidarity	128-131	65-66
S12	SportAlb, digital activity and administration	6-7, 132-135	4, 67-68
S13	Athletics and wrestling	136-139	69-70
S14	Volleyball, football and basketball	142-145, 150-151	72-73, 76
S15	Boxing, karate and taekwondo	146-147, 152-155	74, 77-78
S16	Weightlifting, skiing, gymnastics and climbing	140-141, 148-149, 156-157	71, 75, 79
S17	Billiards, fitness and Special Olympics	158-161	80-81
S18	Cycling and wider federation activity	162-171	82-86
S19	Chess, tennis and other federation activity	172-179	87-90
S20	Olympic centre and smart shirts	120-127	61-64