The role of statistics for the World Bank program in Albania

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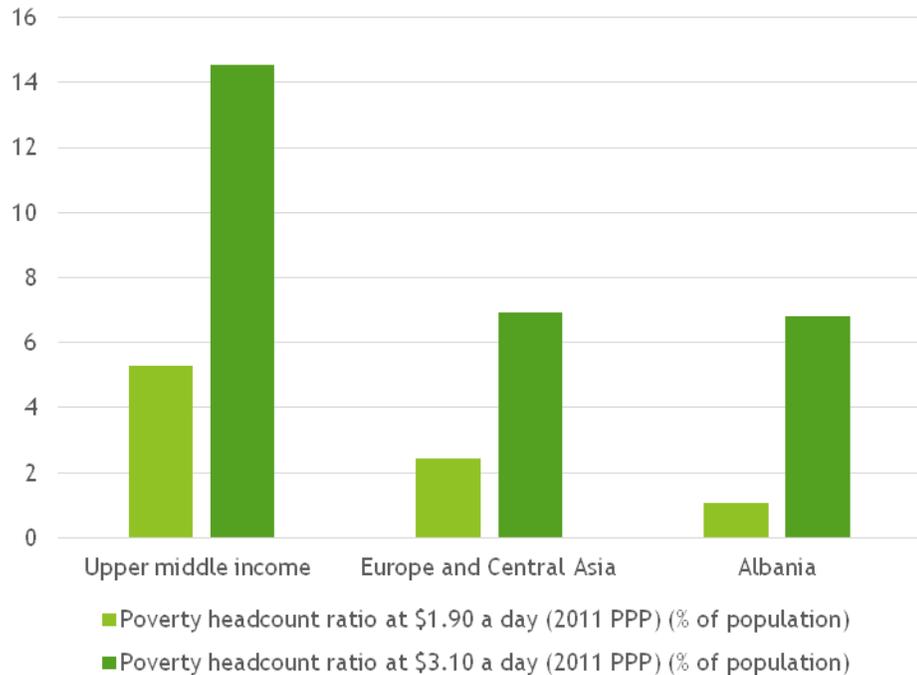
Overview:

- World Bank use of statistics: defining our goal and shaping our country engagement

- Use of statistics in our recent reports:

- Statistical Data initiatives within the World Bank Group
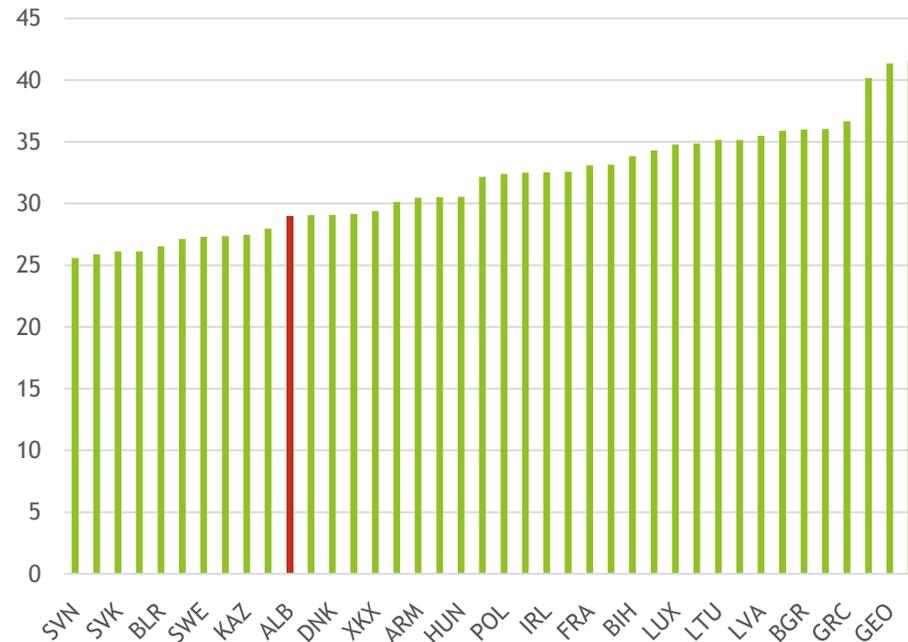
- Concluding remarks

The World Bank goals:

WBG twin goals: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity, measured as the income growth of the bottom 40 percent

Albania and other regions, extreme poverty

Gini Index
(2012)

Source: PovcalNet, World Bank,
http://data.worldbank.org/indicator
Albania indicators based on LSMS 2012.
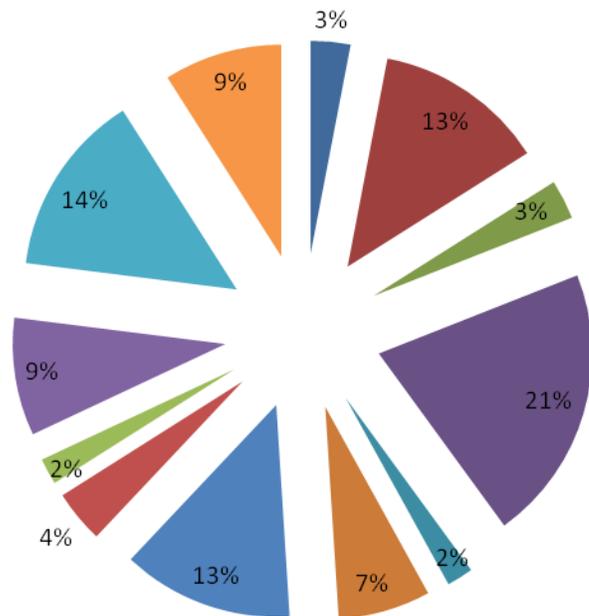
Millennium Development Goals

World Bank's current program is based on a Country Partnership Framework that covers the period 2015-2019, **which targets measurable results in the different areas of intervention**

WBG engagement in Albania since 1990 supporting investments across all sectors and providing technical support.

- Albania became member of the World Bank in 1991

- The Bank has financed around 83 projects in different sectors, totaling $2.2 billion

- In 2009 Albania graduated from an IDA to IBRD country – as a result of good economic growth and increase in per capita income

- World Bank's current program is based on a Country Partnership Framework that covers the period 2015-2019

- Existing World Bank portfolio has 9 projects amounting to $544 million

- IFC historic investment portfolio in Albania is $820.7 million in 26 projects across a variety of sectors including energy, infrastructure, banking, manufacturing, and trade

- IFC's current committed portfolio is about US$ 223.56 million, 46.40% of which is allocated in the general manufacturing sector, 50.10% in infrastructure, and 3.50% in financial sector

World Bank's over two decades support has contributed to Country Results

▶ Helped to repair or construct 1700 km of national and rural roads

▶ Rehabilitated and upgraded 335,000 ha of Albania's irrigation and drainage system, 100.000 families benefitted

▶ Land erosion reduced by 220.000 tons

▶ Enhanced productivity and incomes by improving natural resource management in about 210 communes

▶ Built or reconstructed more then 300 schools and 100.000 children benefitted; 2000 basic and secondary school have been equipped with computers; 700 chemistry and biology labs were provided to secondary schools

Lending during 24 years

- Water Supply
- Agriculture
- Education
- Energy
- Environment
- Financial Sector
- Governance/Public Sector
- Health
- Private Sector
- Social Protection
- Transport
- Urban Infrastructure

Our country engagement

- The 2015-2019 CPF based defined on Country's priorities assessment (SCD) and government reform agenda taking coordinating with other development partners.

- The Systematic Country Diagnosis (SCD, 2015) The SCD (2015) evidence-based, data-driven and consultative approach for **identifying the most critical** opportunities and challenges **for inclusive growth in Albania**

SCD Approach: How to accelerate economic growth in a sustainable manner in order to achieve progress in reducing poverty and promoting material goods?

- Conduct an analysis of the capacity of the Albanian economy to generate income and share prosperity.

- Identify obstacles and opportunities for an inclusive growth shared prosperity and poverty reduction in Albania.

- Defining **priority a**reas and **policy action** for **promoting** inclusive growth over the short-term and the medium-term

SCD : Defining **priority** areas and **policy action** for **promoting** inclusive growth over the short-term and the medium-term

I. THE MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND ITS INCLUSIVENESS

H1: The current growth model is largely based on domestic demand, but needs to generate a strong and balanced development, necessary for taking substantial steps towards reducing poverty and increasing shared prosperity.

II. ACCUMULATION AND EFFICIENCY OF USE OF ASSETS

H2: Families and businesses in Albania face constraints on the efficiency and/ or intensity of use of their assets, thus limiting their ability to benefit and contribute to economic growth.

III. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

H3: Provision and access to public services is inefficient to support the creation, productivity and the use of the country's assets.

IV. SUSTAINABILITY

H4: Albania faces and needs to fight a variety of risks in order to enable sustainable development and income generation to benefit the long-term welfare for its people.

World Bank Program Aligned Government Priorities/Country Diagnostics

CPF Focus Area (2015-2019)	Projects
1. *Restoring macroeconomic balances*	• Albania PBG (Macro Fiscal DPL) • Results-Based Roads Maintenance • Financial Sector Modernization (DPL)
2. *Creating conditions for accelerated private sector growth*	• Environmental Services • Water Resource and Irrigation • Power Sector Recovery • Dam Safety • Integrated Urban & Tourism Development • Competitiveness (DPL) • Water Resource & Irrigation AF
3. *Strengthening public sector management and service delivery*	• Water Sector Investment • Health System Improvement • Social Assistance Modernization • Citizen Centric Service Delivery

World Bank Contribution to More Recent Results

MACRO-FISCAL

Government clearance of accumulated arrears to the private sector, reducing government guarantees for the energy sector, improving public finance management

ENERGY

Distribution losses reduced to 31% (in 2015) versus 49% (in 2013), Collection rate increased to 98% (in 2015) versus 78% (in 2013), Komani and two other plants are being refurbished with electro-mechanical equipment, cascades are being renovated

PENSION

Approval of new pension law, nearly 2200 individuals who were not eligible for pensions have access to social pensions in 2016

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

24,000 needy families have benefited so far , roughly 9,000 families have been removed from the scheme that did not meet the criteria
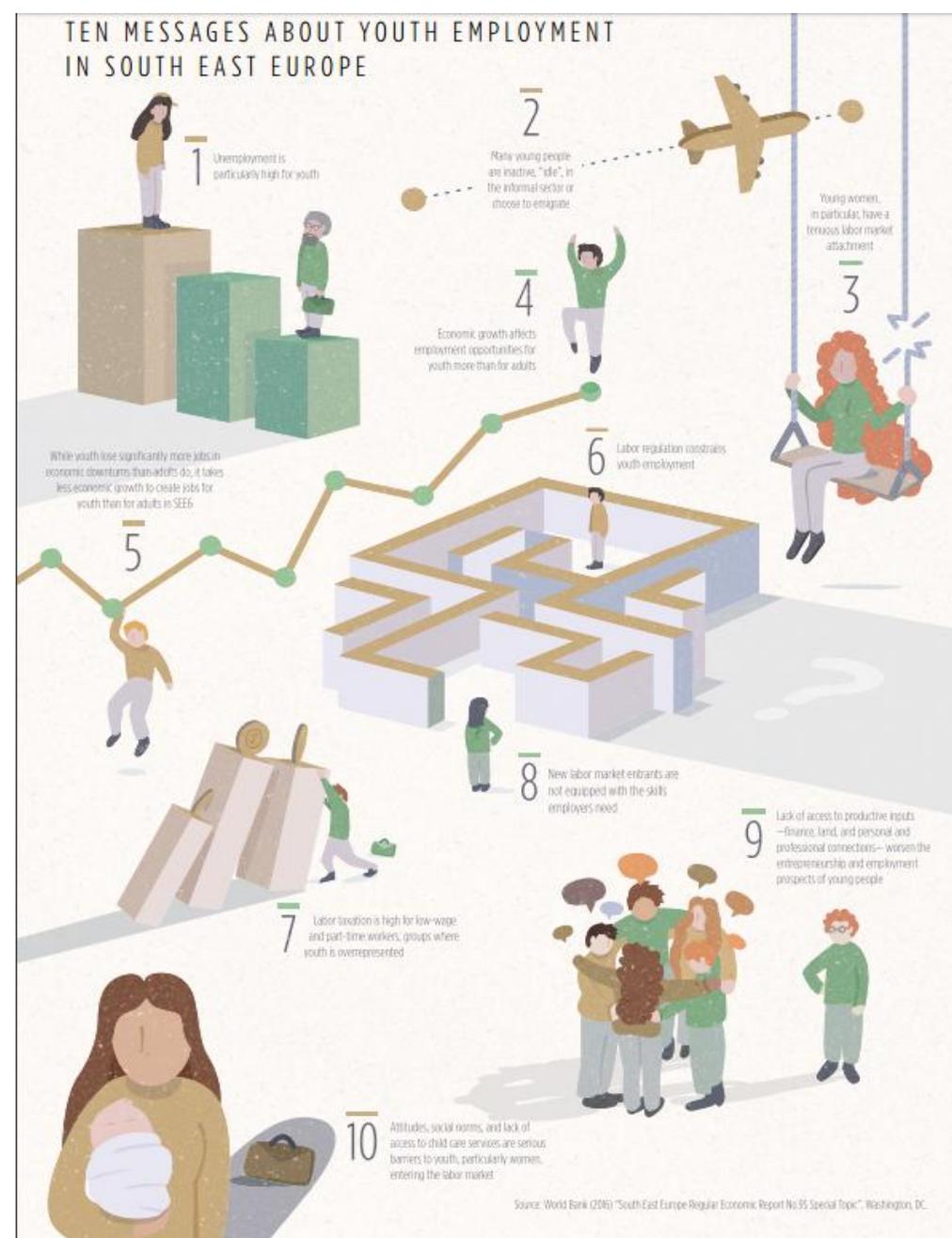
Some recent research and reports:

- Regular **Regional** Economic Report
- Youth Employment in South East Europe

- Poverty maps

Forthcomming:

- Productivity analysis
- Commitment to Equity Methodology:Assessing the impact of fiscal policy on poverty and inequality

As an integral part of the international community, the World Bank works closely with other international agencies, regional development banks, donors, and other partners to :

▶ Develop appropriate frameworks, guidance and standards of good practice for statistics.

▶ Build consensus and define internationally agreed indicators, such as indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

▶ Establish data exchange processes and methods.

▶ Help countries improve statistical capacity.

Data initiatives within the WBG:

► The Open Government Data Toolkit designed to help governments, and users understand the basic precepts of Open Data, then get "up to speed" in planning and implementing an open government data program, while avoiding common pitfalls.

► **Improving Statistical Capacity programs:**

  ► ECASTAT is a programmatic regional trust fund established for assisting countries to improve their statistical systems, increase their capacity to produce reliable, timely and accurate data in line with internationally accepted methodologies and best practices that meet user needs, and inform decision-making process within the government and community.

  ► Statistics for Results Facility is a multi-donor initiative, managed by the World Bank, to support statistical development in developing countries.

  ► Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) is a global grant facility focusing on improving countries' capacity in the production, analysis, dissemination and use of timely statistics.

Data initiatives within the WBG:

- **International Household Survey Network** (IHSN): seeks to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of survey data within developing countries, and to encourage the analysis and use of this data.

- **International Comparison Program and Purchasing Power Parity:** a worldwide statistical initiative—the largest in geographical scope, in implementation timeframe, and in institutional partnership. It estimates purchasing power parities (PPPs) for use as currency converters to compare the size and price levels of economies around the world. The 2011 ICP round covered 199 economies from eight regions.

- **External Debt Reporting System:** At the beginning of each fiscal year, the World Bank Development Data Group provides a status report on the external debt of each country that is an active borrower. The report includes an assessment of the adequacy of debt-reporting arrangements and the nature of any inadequacies (e.g., lack of staff, data problems, inadequate administrative arrangements, simple neglect).

- **Quarterly External Debt Statistics:** The Quarterly External Debt Database, jointly developed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, brings together detailed external debt data that are published individually by countries that subscribe to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).

- **The Joint External Debt Hub:** Jointly developed by the BIS, the IMF, the (OECD) and the World Bank, the Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH) brings together external debt data and selected foreign assets from international creditor/market and national debtor sources.

- **Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (**SDMX) -the electronic exchange of statistical information. Its goal is to explore e-standards that could allow us to gain efficiency and avoid duplication of effort in our own work and possibly in the work of others in the field of statistical information.The BIS, ECB, EUROSTAT, IMF, OECD, UN, and the World Bank have joined together to focus on business practices in the field of statistical information that would allow more efficient processes for exchange and sharing of data and metadata within the current scope of our collective activities.

  - The Sponsoring Institutions created common (SDMX) technical and statistical standards and guidelines, together with an IT architecture and IT tools, to be used for the efficient exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata.

  - Standardized file formats for data and metadata and standardized contents of these files are the pre-condition for the automated production, processing and exchange of SDMX data and metadata files between national and international statistical organisations.

In a globalized environment good quality data necessary to inform policy decisions and implementation assessment, businesses, markets

- ▶ Shaping policies and programs in support of the country's development relies on the the quality of the country's needs assessment and availability of data to monitor implementation

- ▶ The WBG makes use of a range of statistical indicators in its lending and advisory operations and is very active in promoting a healthy statistical system

- ▶ Existing data gaps need to be addressed according a strategic vision in statistics development in line with the country's higher ambitions and goals (EU integration, national and sectoral strategies)

- ▶ Important to implement and assure best standards in place

- ▶ Need to constantly innovate and improve means of collection and update methodologies.

- ▶ Important to monitor use of statistics; be part of data users network

THANK YOU!