INSTAT
Republika e Shqipërisë
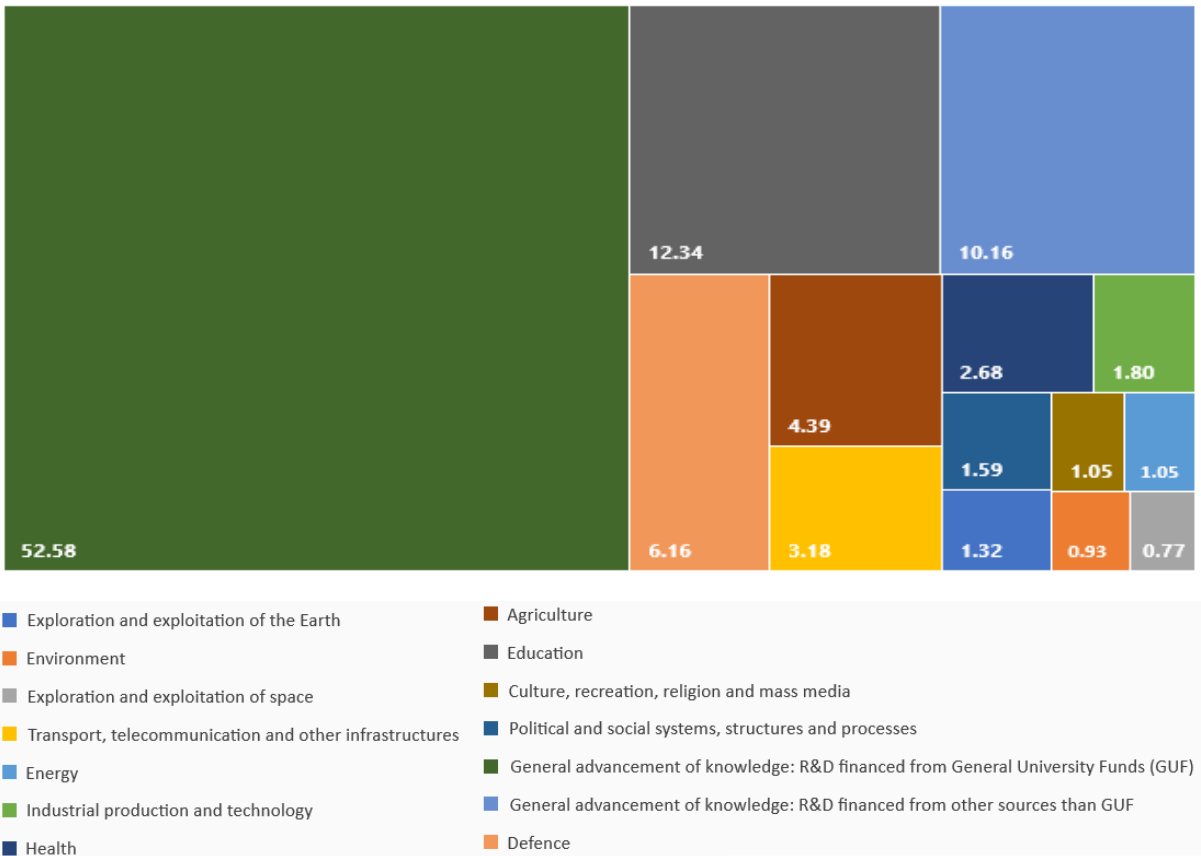Instituti i Statistikave

Research and Development, 2024

Tirana, 29 December 2025, The Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) releases, for the first time, statistics on Government budget allocations for R&D (GBARD). In 2024, government budget funds dedicated to scientific research and development activities in Albania accounted for 0.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The largest share of funding was allocated to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), which received 54.7 percent of the total allocated funds, followed by the government sector with 43.8 percent, and the private non-profit sector with 1.5 percent.

According to the Nomenclature for the Analysis and Comparison of Scientific Programmes and Budgets (NABS) classification of socio-economic objectives, in 2024 the largest share of allocated funds was directed toward the objective "General advancement of knowledge: Research and development financed from general university funds", which accounted for 52.6 percent of total funding.

Chart 1: Funds allocated by socio-economic objectives classification (NABS), 2024

- ■ Exploration and exploitation of the Earth
- ■ Environment
- ■ Exploration and exploitation of space
- ■ Transport, telecommunication and other infrastructures
- ■ Energy
- ■ Industrial production and technology
- ■ Health
- ■ Agriculture
- ■ Education
- ■ Culture, recreation, religion and mass media
- ■ Political and social systems, structures and processes
- ■ General advancement of knowledge: R&D financed from General University Funds (GUF)
- ■ General advancement of knowledge: R&D financed from other sources than GUF
- ■ Defence

GUF-General university founds

Methodology

This publication provides statistical information on Government budget allocations for Research and Development (R&D) activities (GBARD statistics), classified by socio-economic objectives, and also includes all funding allocated to international R&D programmes.

The collection and processing of GBARD data is carried out in accordance with the OECD Frascati Manual 2015 (Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development, The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities), which is the internationally recognized standard for the collection of R&D statistics.

GBARD statistics are collected and processed on an annual basis by government institutions and higher education institutions. All data are treated with full confidentiality and are published in aggregate form.

GBARD data are presented according to two main dimensions:

Socio-economic objectives – in accordance with the Nomenclature for the Analysis and Comparison of Scientific Programmes and Budgets (NABS 2007). This classification divides public R&D funding according to the main purposes of the expenditures.

Mode of funding – includes project-based funding and institutional funding (non-mandatory data).

Definitions of Key Variables

Research and Development (R&D) consists of creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge—covering knowledge of humanity, culture, and society—and to develop new applications based on the knowledge gained.

Scientific research includes creative and original investigation undertaken on a systematic basis to acquire new knowledge, including knowledge about humanity, culture, and society.

Statistics on funds allocated from the state budget for R&D (GBARD – Government Budget Allocations for R&D): All state budget allocations for Research and Development (R&D), including funding for the government sector, higher education, private non-profit businesses, etc. These data refer to budgetary allocations, not to actual expenditures at the end of the calendar year.

Project-based funding: Funds dedicated to a group or individual to carry out R&D activities limited in scope, time, and budget, usually based on a project proposal.

Institutional funding: Funds allocated directly to institutions.

Internationally coordinated programmes: Intergovernmental organizations or European Commission institutions conducting R&D with their own research facilities (e.g., CERN, EMBL, ESO).

Bilateral or multilateral public R&D programmes established by the governments of EU Member States (and candidate or EFTA countries) include initiatives funded by the European Commission and implemented by at least two member state governments. Although these programmes may include non-EU countries, they may or may not involve cross-border funding flows (outside EU borders).

Socio-economic objectives: Allocation of funds according to the main purposes of R&D expenditures, in accordance with NABS 2007, linking public funding to political and socio-economic priorities.

For data classification, the Nomenclature for the Analysis and Comparison of Scientific Programmes and Budgets (NABS 2007) is used.

NABS is a functional classification for the analysis of public R&D funding based on the socio-economic objectives pursued by central governments or declared by them in the design of their budgets and programmes, following the OECD Frascati Manual.

Chapter	NABS	NABS categories for the socio-economic objectives of R&D
1	NABS01	Exploration and exploitation of the earth
2	NABS02	Environment
3	NABS03	Exploration and exploitation of space
4	NABS04	Transport, telecommunication and other infrastructures
5	NABS05	Energy
6	NABS06	Industrial production and technology
7	NABS07	Health
8	NABS08	Agriculture
9	NABS09	Education
10	NABS10	Culture, recreation, religion and mass media
11	NABS11	Political and social systems, structures and processes
12	NABS12	General advancement of knowledge : R&D financed from General University Funds (GUF)
13	NABS13	General advancement of knowledge : K&ZH financed from other funding sources, excluding General University Funds (GUF)
14	NABS14	Defence