



BANCA D'ITALIA
EUROSISTEMA



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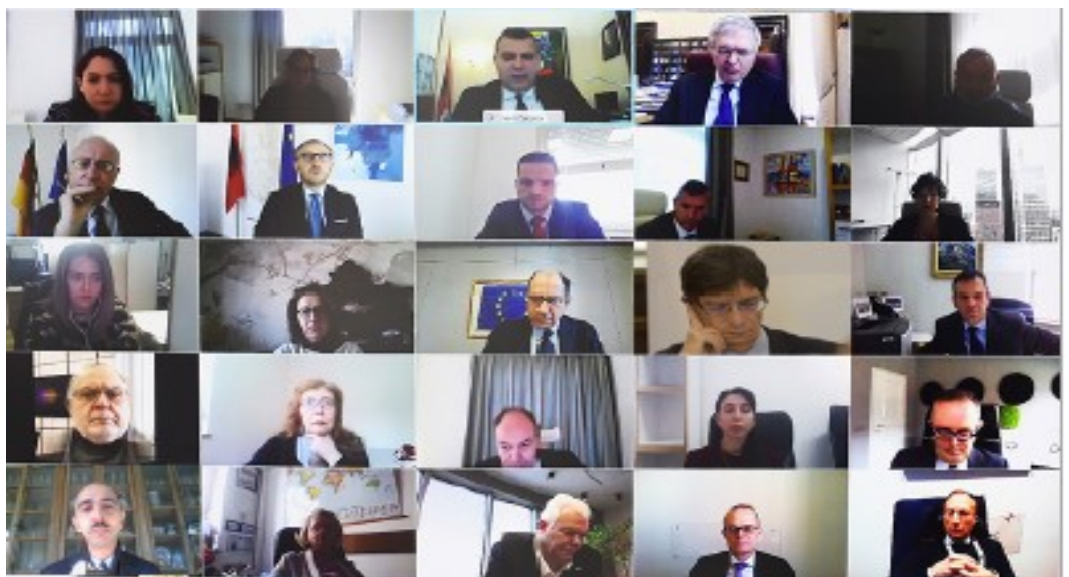


EU funded Twinning Project “Enhancing Bank of Albania’s alignment with EU Acquis” Closing ceremony

On 19 January, the Twinning project ‘**Enhancing Bank of Albania’s alignment with the EU Acquis**’ was concluded. The Twinning, **funded by the European Union (EU)**, was **led by Banca d’Italia** with the contribution of the **Deutsche Bundesbank** (Junior partner), **Banca Națională a României** and **Banque de France**.

During **12 months** of activity, more than **70 experts** from the four central banks carried out more than **100 on-the-job training, advice and assistance activities** in favour of their Albanian counterparts, with the aim **of facilitating the BoA’s convergence towards EU standards** across a wide spectrum of central bank functions:

- in the domain of **Supervisory and macroprudential regulation**, new provisions aligned with EU standards were introduced relating to capital adequacy. In addition, several recommendations issued by the European Systemic Risk Board were implemented;



Closing Ceremony of the Twinning Project, 18 January 2021

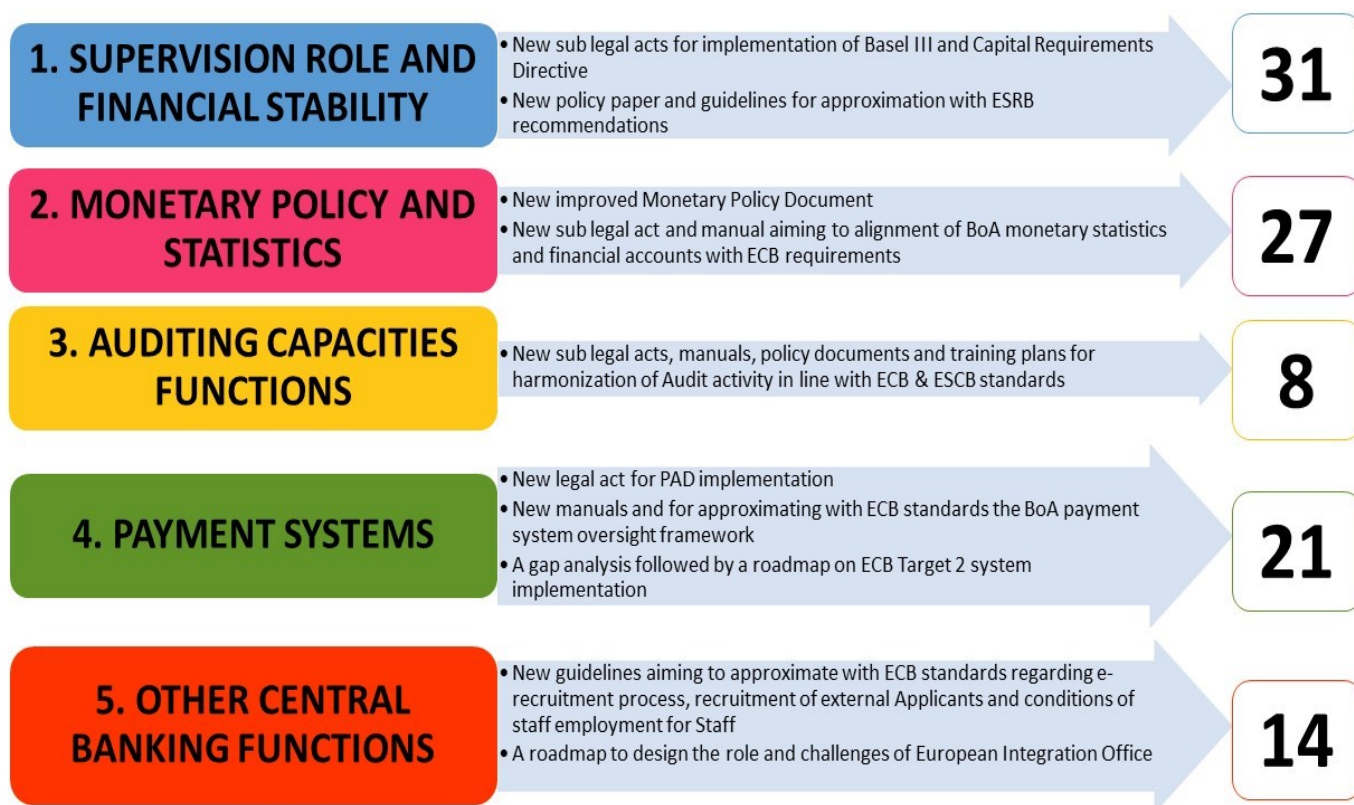
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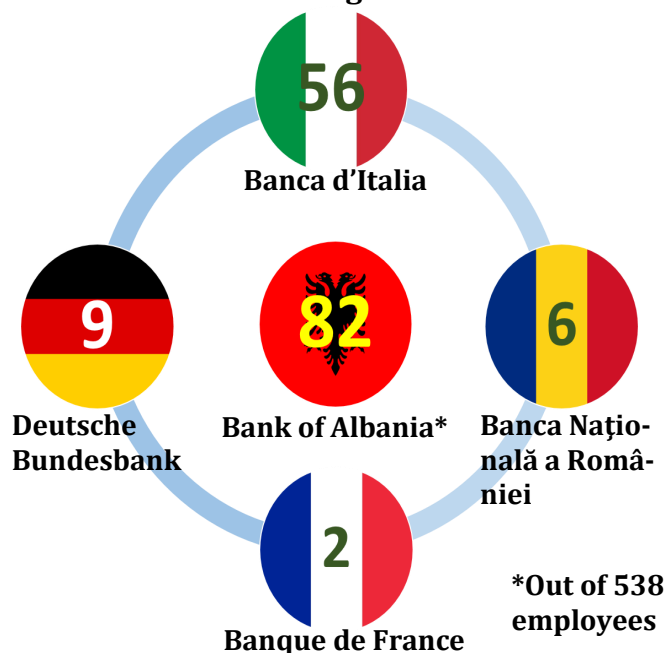
Total number of activities (on-site and on-line) performed per subject

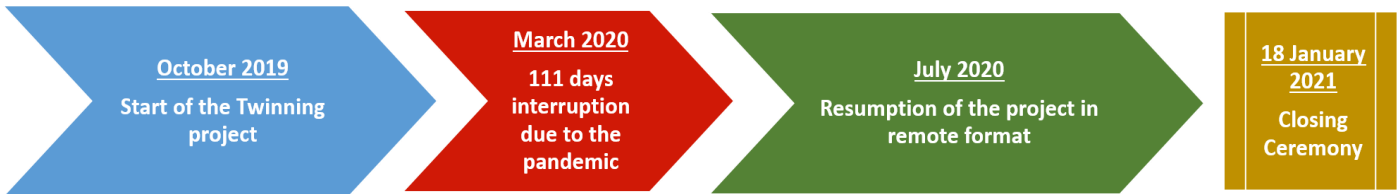


- a new version of the BoA's **Monetary Policy Report** and a statistical data warehouse for macroeconomic analysis and forecasting were also introduced. **Monetary and financial statistics** were refined and expanded, thanks to a more robust and efficient data management system;
- some of the provisions of the Payment Accounts Directive (PAD) were implemented, and significant progress was made towards the adoption of ECB standards in the domain of **payment system oversight** and in increasing awareness of cyber-risks in online payments. A roadmap was drawn up for adapting the Albanian payment system to the Eurosystem's **TARGET2** platform; indications were also provided about participation in an existing **IP system** such as TIPS, and on the attendant benefits from a cost and time-to-market standpoint;
- as regards the BoA's internal organization, the **human resources** and **internal audit** functions were strengthened to harmonize them with ECB/ESCB standards;
- a policy paper was drawn up with recommendations on the BoA's **European integration process**.

An *ad hoc* team was created within Banca d'Italia to follow all stages of the project, with the specific involvement of the International Technical Cooperation Sector. From the design to the management and implementation phases, Banca d'Italia's staff worked in close contact with the Twinning Project Leaders, the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA), the beneficiaries, and all the institutions involved.

Total number of experts involved in Twinning activities





The outbreak of the **Covid-19 pandemic** in March 2020 unexpectedly and suddenly changed the working plan, forcing Banca d'Italia to suspend the program for three months and to **re-design its implementation**: in doing so, we followed the flexibility arrangements promptly adopted by the EU Commission in consideration of the new context determined by the pandemic. **In July 2020, the project restarted with a new remote setting**: all missions and study visits were transformed into **videoconferences and remote background activities**, with the objective of obtaining the same results through the new functional setting.

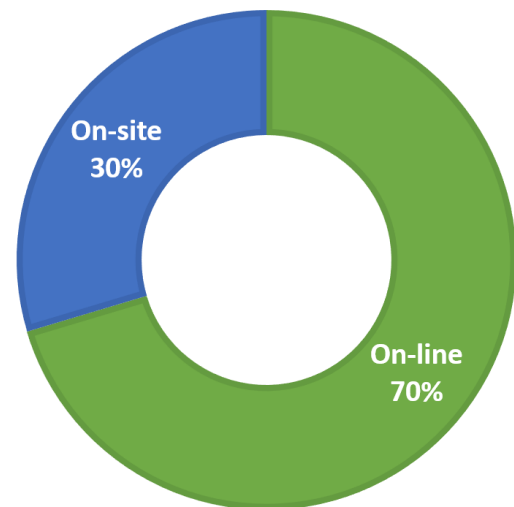
In some cases, the program's implementation – spanning from the transposition of very detailed and sophisticated regulations, to the design of market infrastructure, datasets, and econometric modelling –required considerable effort to fit these activities into the new 'remote' setting, which limits the possibility of direct personal interaction. These difficulties increased the complexity of the project but did not prevent it from achieving the planned results. Moreover, the virtual format made it possible to reach many more beneficiaries, as the Bank of Albania was able to involve a much broader pool of experts.

The **strong commitment of the Bank of Albania's staff** and the **spirit of cooperation of all the European partners** contributed to the success of the initiative, together with the constant and positive cooperation with the **Albanian Ministry of Finance**, which acted as Contracting Authority, and the support of the **EU Delegation in Tirana** and the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**.



The Project Resident Twinning Advisor, Mr Carlo Gola

On-site and on-line activities



Twinning Programs are a successful EU tool, designed to provide peer-to-peer assistance by Member States' institutions to EU candidate and potential candidate countries, in order to support the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation, thus ultimately strengthening capacity building.

Twinning activities aim to achieve **concrete mandatory operational results**. Activities are usually broken down into a number of components and include expert missions in addition to workshops, training sessions, study visits, internships and counselling. **Two Project Leaders** (one from the EU Member State leading the project, the other from the beneficiary administration) and a Resident Twinning Advisor (**RTA**) are the backbone of Twinning projects. The RTA is seconded to the beneficiary administration for the entire duration of the Twinning, in order to coordinate the project's activities.

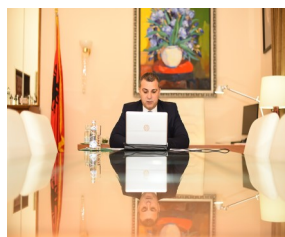
For more details please visit: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/twinning_en

During the **virtual closing ceremony**, held on 18 January, the **Albanian Governor, Mr Gent Sejko**, acknowledged the Bank of Italy for its long-term cooperation and support to the institutional strengthening of the Bank of Albania. The **EU Ambassador in Tirana, Mr Luigi Soreca**, welcomed and underlined the important contribution of this Twinning to Albania's path towards European integration. **Banca d'Italia's Senior Deputy Governor, Mr Daniele Franco**, stressed the significance of international technical cooperation as a means of strengthening the institutional capacity of beneficiaries, aligning candidate countries with EU standards and exchanging knowledge and experience in an increasingly integrated and challenging environment, where cooperation among countries is becoming ever more crucial. **The Project Leader, Mr Luca Zeloni**, the **Junior Partner Project Leader, Ms Andrea Mink**, and the **Resident Twinning Advisor, Mr Carlo Gola**, provided further details on the aims and results of the project, stressing that all the objectives were achieved thanks to the spirit of collaboration of all the parties involved and the constant commitment of the experts who participated.

For additional information:

[Banca d'Italia](#)
[Bank of Albania](#)
[European Union](#)

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"The impressive work done by the Italian experts deserves special credits, especially under the current unprecedented circumstances due to the pandemic."

Gent Sejko, Governor of Bank of Albania

"Sharing experiences, knowledge and approaches, working together and finding shared solutions cement existing relationships and create a common ground for future cooperation and mutual understanding."

Daniele Franco, Senior Deputy Governor of Banca d'Italia



"These are concrete, tangible results that will produce sustainable, long-term effects for this Institution. We trust we have provided a useful contribution to the Albanian EU integration process."

Luca Zeloni, Banca d'Italia, Twinning Project Leader

"Even though we were located physically far away from each other, we have impressively demonstrated what we can achieve together as a team."

Andrea Mink, Deutsche Bundesbank, Twinning Junior Project Leader



"Managing a multidimensional program, like a Twinning, requires strong commitment, high professionalism, flexibility and a fully cooperative attitude, as shown by Banca d'Italia's International Cooperation Team and all the project partners."

Giorgio Merlonghi, Banca d'Italia, Head of International Technical Cooperation and EU Neighbouring Economies Division

