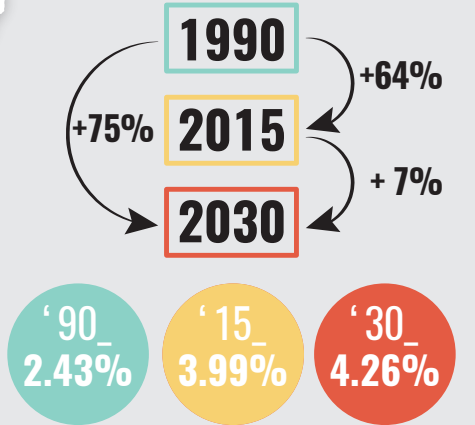


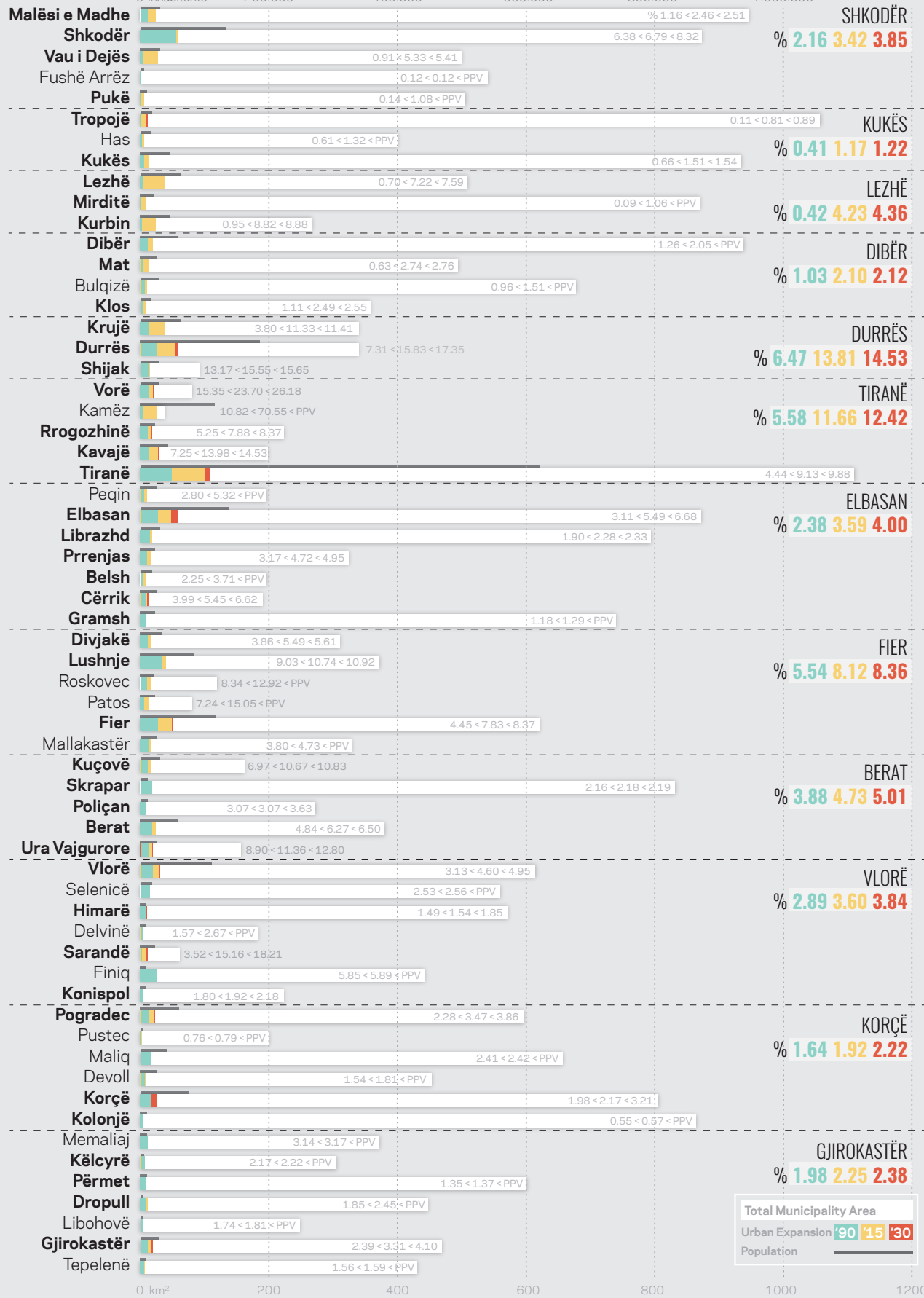
With a surface area of 28 748 km<sup>2</sup>, Albania has undergone radical territorial changes in the last 100 years. The changes began to leave traces in documents after the declaration of independence, marking the beginning of the territorial planning processes. The first efforts to recognize and plan the territory were made by the Austrian soldiers with the creation of topographic maps. Subsequently, Italian urbanists produced studies and regulatory plans, changing the appearance of several key settlements and serving as a roadmap for urban planning for post-war cities. Albania was completely transformed during the period of the totalitarian regime as a result of centralized planning. From a country with predominantly rural settlements, it turned into a country where life developed in cities and where the villages were upgraded into organisation centres. The regime change after 1991 immediately and directly affected the territory. Albania was completely transformed for the second time, but this time with a free and completely spontaneous initiative. The urbanization of agricultural and coastal land are the most visible signs of transformation. The movement of the population to large urban centres and coastal areas is a phenomenon that brought about a radical change in social and economic life of the country, as well as the environment. We can notice the significant changes that accompanied the transition period with the naked eye. The use of agricultural land, forests, free nature, coastal landscapes or elsewhere are the phenomena that the territory has faced within the last 27 years. The global trend of urbanization, the expectation that in 2030 more than 70% of the population will be located in cities, has naturally affected Albania, too. The policy-makers' endeavour is the readiness to lead the urbanization of society, learning from past mistakes.

Following a 4-year period of territorial planning and knowledge, we offer you a numerical overview and some questions to brainstorm.

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW THE TERRITORY?  
WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

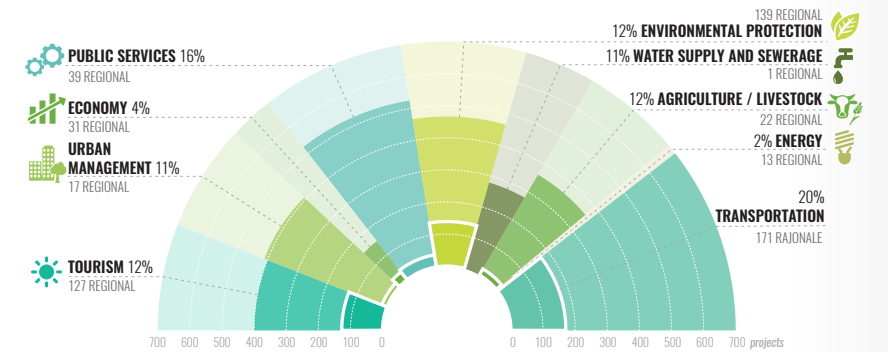


100% = 28,748 km<sup>2</sup>



### Toward 2030 - Priority projects implementing GLPs

The GLPs of 44 municipalities have identified the need for around 4430 priority and pilot projects in their action plans, of which approximately 13% are of a regional nature. The following chart shows the categories of projects, highlighting the need for investments in transport infrastructure, public services and environmental protection.



### The national territorial planning

The change in governance in 2013 and the 2014 territorial planning reform brought the first national post 90s territorial planning document, which was named as the General National Spatial Plan (GNSP), Albania 2030, approved by DCM No.881, dated 14/12/2016. In parallel with it, two integrated cross-sectoral plans for two of the most important regions of economic and social life were developed for the first time in compliance with the Law 107/2014 "On territorial planning and development", as amended: The shoreline and the area of Tirana-Durres. Following the territorial administrative reform in 2014, Albania went through another territorial administrative reform process, where the number of local government units became 61. As a result, we have larger municipalities, which have to manage very complex territories.

### Planning in the market economy

Territorial planning (with the term we use today) underwent radical changes after 1990, where new regimes of ownership and resource relations changed the planning approach.

The first reforms after 1990, in the planning sector were passed in 1993 and 1998 and the approach was a continuity of the urban mentality. Territorial planning was confined within "yellow lines", or in new areas of development, mainly of tourist and infrastructural character. The real sector reforms, which would detach the territorial planning from the previous urban planning, came in 2009 and were consolidated in 2014, where planning was conceived as integrated and inclusive and planning documents took under consideration all the territory.

Before the '90s, under the circumstances of centralized resources and public ownership of land, processes and works related to construction were known as city planning. City planning ended the economic and financial planning cycle. City planning was the translation onto the territory of the political and economic decisions of the government, which they pursued in a linear manner.<sup>1</sup>

City planning produced guidelines for the establishment of new settlements, labour/labourers towns, construction of industrial zones, construction of new residential quarters, construction of new farms, of seafront and mountain holiday areas. Also, city planning produced several regulatory documents of zoning character for larger territories, such as studies for defining the "yellow line", general regulatory plans, or regional sectoral (district) studies.

<sup>1</sup> Analysis of the Implementation of the Territorial Planning and Development Function - DRAFT Implemented in the Framework of the Decentralization Reform Process - June 2014 - prepared by Dritan Shitina and Rudina Toto



THE TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

