



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
BANK OF ALBANIA**



**Summary**

**Of the seventh Meeting of the National Payment System Committee (NPSC)**

Which was held

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, from 13:00 to 15.00 virtually organized

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the National Payment System Committee (NPSC) held its seventh meeting. Due to the situation caused by the COVID 19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of this Committee, Ms. Luljeta Minxhozi, First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Albania.

The meeting was attended by members of the National Payment System Committee, such as: Secretary of the Albanian Association of Banks and Chair of the Auxiliary Committee of Payments, Cards, Digitalization and Alternative Channels newly established by the Albanian Association of Banks in order to support the objectives of NPSC, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of Interior, the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority, the National Agency for Information Society (NAIS), Albanian Microfinance Association, as well as non-bank financial institutions, representatives of operators of national payment schemes.

Also, in order to fulfill the catalytic role of the Committee and the commitment to expand institutional capacity in the framework of fulfilling the National Retail Payments Strategy; a number of important actors were invited to the meeting in order to support the topics developed in it where the World Bank can be mentioned as one of them.

In her opening address, the Chair of NPSC, Ms. Minxhozi, thanked the participants for their active support in fulfilling the objectives of the National Retail Payments Strategy (2018-2023). Ms. Minxhozi emphasized that despite the fact that in terms of time we are still halfway on our journey, our joint efforts have reflected a very optimistic fulfillment of the set goals.

In addition, Ms. Minxhozi provided a summary of the measures implemented so far, focusing on legal and regulatory developments, such as: drafting bylaws in implementation of the law "On payment services", approval of the regulatory framework "On Direct Debit" and the drafting of the draft law "On payment account with basic services", as well as from the point of view of infrastructural developments. In this regard, Ms. Minxhozi pointed out to the project "For the settlement of payments in euro within the country" and which has already been finalized, both in terms of infrastructure and regulation, and in early 2022 will be functional and available to market stakeholders. The Chair closed her speech by emphasizing once more the importance of financial education for the most effective materialization of the measures taken so far and for the achievement of the following objectives.

The first session of the seventh meeting began with the analysis of the measures taken so far in the framework of drafting the National Strategy for Financial Education. In this regard important actors such as the Bank of Albania, represented by Mr. Altin Tanku, the Director of the Research Department, the Financial Supervision Authority, represented by Ms. Mimoza Kaci, Mr. Spiro Brumbulli, General Secretary of the Albanian Association of Banks and Mrs. Brunilda Isaj from the Albanian Microfinance Association, explained the measures taken by them and the views regarding the approach and objectives of the strategy and stressed the need to support such an initiative and their commitment to promoting this objective. This session concluded with a detailed presentation by the World Bank presented by Ms. Edlira Dashi, as the main international partner who is assisting Albanian actors in drafting the financial education strategy (2022-2027). The presentation focused on specific details of this strategy such as: mission, vision, needs and reasons of the strategy, actors, coordination and inter-institutional cooperation, as well as sources of funding for this strategy.

The meeting continued with a very important issue for the market, but also for the fulfillment of the National Retail Payments Strategy and related to the regulatory framework in implementation of the law "On payment services" which dictates the criteria and requirements that must complete both existing institutions and new market players. An issue of special interest was the regulation of communication on APIs (Application Program Interfaces) and the concept of open banking, and on strong customer authentication, elements that complement all the framework needed to promote innovation in the market. These developments were presented by Mr. Deniz Deralla, Director of the Supervision Department at the Bank of Albania. This session was of great interest to the participants where there were discussions with questions and answers regarding the fulfillment of conditions by licensing entities.

In continuation, Ms. Ledia Bregu, Head of Payment Systems, Accounting and Finance Department at the Bank of Albania, in relation to the National Retail Payments Strategy, focused on the so far achievements and the objectives to be met, mentioning here the infrastructural developments, specifically the operationalization of participation of non-bank financial institutions in the AECH system. Following were the achievements in the framework of the Direct Debit project (approval of the regulation "On direct debit" as a payment service instrument for consumers and micro-enterprises), as well as the AIPS EURO System for the settlement of payments in euro for interbank payments within the country.

#### *The recommendations of the seventh meeting of the NPSC.*

1. Continuation of the work for drafting bylaws on implementation of Law 55/2020 "On Payment Services" to include banks, not banks, NAIS and other interested actors.
2. Infrastructural developments related to the operationalization of the participation of non-bank financial institutions in the AECH system.
3. Completion of the drafting and consultation for the National Strategy for Financial Education, in order to publish it and take measures for the implementation of it.
4. Continuation of the work for the finalization of the Law "On Payment Account with basic services".

*Participation in the meeting.*

<b>Members and participants of NPSC on the seventh meeting.</b>			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Status on NPSC</b>	<b>Other representatives of the institution</b>
Bank of Albania	Ms. Luljeta Minxhozi, First Deputy Governor	Chair	
Albanian Association of Banks	Mr.Spiro Brumbulli	Secretariat	Ms.Eftali Peci
Ministry of Finance and Economy	Ms. Adela Xhemali Deputy Minister	Member	
National Agency for Information Society (NAIS)	Ms. Nevila Repishti Director, e- Albania	Member	Ms. Mirlinda Karcanaj
Ministry of the Interior	Ms. Lorena.Pullumbi	Member	
Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority (AFSA)	Ms, Mimoza Kaci	Member	
Bank of Albania	Ms. Ledia Bregu, Director, Departament of Payment Systems, Accounting and Finance	Member	Ms. Marsida Ganaj/Jubica
Bank of Albania	Mr. Deniz Deralla, Director, Supervision Departament	Member	
Bank of Albania	Mr. Donald Duraj, Chief of Cabinet	Member	
Bank of Albania	Mr. Indrit Xhemali Director of the Information and Technology Department	Member	
Bank of Albania	Mr. Altin Tanku Director of the Research Department	Member	
Paylink	Ms. Eneida Thomaj, CEO of Paylink	Member	Mr.Dritan Baholli
Financial Union of Tirana	Mr. Elton Çollaku, Ceo of UFT	Member	
EasyPay	Ms. Linda Shomo CEO of EasyPay	Member	
MPay	Mr. Ludovic Laventure, CEO of MPay	Member	Ms. Bora Ferri,
AK-Invest	Ms. Greis Ceku	Member	

Albanian Post	Mr. Taulant Piero	Member	
Paysera	Mr. Ildir Ahmati	Member	
Bank of Albania	Ms. Valentina Semi Deputy Director Department of Payment Systems, Accounting and Finance	Secretariat	
<b>Other participants</b>			
First Investment Bank	Ms.Elona Labinoti,		
National Commercial Bank	Mr.Kerem Pamuk,		
Credins Bank	Mr. Dimitri Toslluku,		
OTP Bank Albania	Ms. Irida Huta		
Raiffeisen Bank	Mr. Resmi Hibraj		
United Bank of Albania	Mr. Adrian Guza,		
Alpha Bank	Mr. Dritan Gucaj		
Tirana Bank	Ms. Aida Gjoni		
Intesa Sanpaolo Bank	Ms. Xhilda Shehu		
American Bank of Investments	Ms. Odeta Paloka		
Union Bank	Ms. Fatbardha Rino		
Procredit Bank	Ms. Aneda Smoqi		
Albanian Microfinance Association	Ms. Brunilda Isaj		