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Albania

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Abbreviations

AMA	Audiovisual Media Authority
PSA	Police Surveillance Agency
PA	People's Advocate / Ombudsman
GBV	Gender-based violence
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Albania
CC	Criminal Code
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CPD	Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination
LGBTI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Intersex+
MEFA	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NHRI	National human rights institutions
ILO	International Labor Organization
NPO	Non-profit organization
UNO	Organization of the United Nations
SDG	Sustainable Development Objectives
PD	People with disabilities
RA	Republic of Albania
SPAK	Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime
UPR	Universal Periodical Review
CoMD	The Council of Ministers Decision

I. General

1. The Republic of Albania (RA) presents the developments in the field of human rights, and the fulfillment of the recommendations addressed in the last report of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) presented in 2019.
2. Albania appreciates the preparation for the UPR as a valuable exercise to assess the state and progress of commitments in the field of human rights. It remains fully committed to the protection and promotion of all human rights.

II. Methodology of the report

3. Order of the Prime Minister no. 112/2014 set up the Inter-institutional Working Group for drafting and participating in the review of national reports within the framework of international human rights conventions to which Albania is a party, which includes state administration institutions, independent, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), the Assembly, the judiciary and local government. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) coordinated the process by identifying the institutions whose field of responsibilities includes the issues addressed in the report, collecting contributions and consulting the report with them.
4. Institutions, including NHRIs, which contributed with comments, include: the Assembly, the Audiovisual Media Authority, the People's Advocate/Ombudsman, the Agency for the Support of Local Self-Government, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, MEFA, Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP), General Prosecutor's Office, INSTAT, Department of Public Administration, General Directorate of Anticorruption, General Directorate of Prisons.
5. The report consulted with civil society in the country. Non-profit organizations (NPOs) and experts that contributed comments are: Albanian Women in Audiovisual, "Help for Children" Foundation, Monika Kocaqi, independent expert, Open Mind Spectrum Albania, "Streha" Center, Vatra Psycho-Social Center, Albanian Center for Population and Development, "Human Rights in Democracy" Center, Gender Alliance Center for Development, Albanian National Association of Deaf People, Women Peace Security Association, and 'Different and Equal'.

III. International norms (Recommendation 95.2, 95.3, 95.1)

6. Albania has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, while it remains committed to human rights. Albania, as a member of NATO, has not signed the Arms Ban Treaty¹. It has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, but has undertaken a series of legal, programmatic measures and projects in the field of culture, artistic-cultural education, heritage art, innovation, and group support marginalized, national minorities, children and gender equality approach.
7. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" is in progress.
8. In 2020, the Instrument of Amendments to the ILO Constitution, 1986 was ratified² and in 2022 Convention no. 190 of the ILO "On violence and harassment" in the world of work, 2019.³

Cooperation with treaty bodies (Recommendation 95.5)

9. Vacancies in the treaty bodies have been publicly announced on the official website of the MEFA and the calls have included meritocratic selection criteria. The country has used social networks for the widest possible distribution of such announcements.⁴

IV. Promoting and protecting human rights: Developments, achievements and challenges since the last cycle of reporting

A. Constitutional and legal framework (Recommendation 95.14, 95.15)

10. Albania is a party to international human rights instruments and remains engaged in harmonizing the national regulatory framework with international obligations in the field of human rights. With the law no. 13/2022 it ratified the ILO Convention no. 190 "On Violence and Harassment," 2019, applicable to all work sectors, private or public, in the formal and informal economy, in urban or rural areas.⁵

Human rights policies (Recommendation 95.16, 95.13)

11. Albania intensively pursued efforts to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the adopted policies and programs. The National Strategy for European Development and Integration 2022-2030, which defines policy priorities for all sectoral/cross-sectoral strategies, has a vision of respecting and guaranteeing fundamental human rights and freedoms, in accordance with the Constitution and international instruments, ensuring an equal participation and without discrimination in all spheres of life, access to justice and due process of law. Cross-Sectoral Justice Strategy 2021-2025 and its Action Plan, Cross-Sectoral Juvenile Justice Strategy 2022-2026 and its Action Plan, Cross-Sectoral Strategy for the Protection of Crime Victims and Action Plan 2024-2030, National Plan for European Integration 2023-2025, Roadmap for the Rule of Law, National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking 2024-2025, National Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2029; The National Social Protection Strategy 2024-2030 and its Action Plan,⁶ National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2030 and Action Plan, Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025, The National Political Document on Ageing 2020-2024 and its Action Plan,⁷ National Action Plan for Equality, 2021,⁸ National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021-2026,⁹ National Action Plan for LGBTI persons, 2021-2027,¹⁰ or the Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on "Women, Peace and Security", 2023-2027,¹¹ include key areas or objectives for human rights.

12. Albania has completed the legal and sub-legal framework that provides for policies in support of various groups by adopting a new bio-psycho-social assessment scheme for persons with disabilities (PD), 200% monthly disability payment for persons with disabilities that attend a licensed or accredited qualification course, 0% interest loan for securing a shelter, support in case of illness or unemployment payments, or allowances for travel to the place of work, including for the members of the Armed Forces,¹² and employees of law enforcement agencies, such as the state police,¹³ prison police¹⁴, or even by strengthening the protection for the state police,¹⁵ amended the law on social housing in 2023, increased access to housing for 50% of families in disadvantaged positions, young families and young people with housing¹⁶.

13. Information and awareness campaigns have been developed for human rights in general, and for more marginalized categories in particular. Throughout the year, various activities with various themes related to the rights of women, children, Roma, LGBTI persons, and persons with disabilities take place. Every year, activities are held within the framework of international days, such as the 16 days of activism against violence against women.

14. The legal framework is supplemented by a series of laws that address human rights issues.¹⁷ Examples of such laws are: in 2020, a new law was adopted that respects international standards for the rights and treatment of prisoners and detainees;¹⁸ the

amendment of the law on audiovisual media and the approval of the new Code for Audiovisual Broadcasts, the new law on electronic communications, or the drafting of the new draft law on the protection of personal data.

Structure of the human rights machinery (Recommendation 95.12)

15. The national human rights machinery is complete and constitutional and legal institutions continues to be strengthened. The regulatory framework guarantees the necessary independence of the Ombudsman (PA), the Commissioner for the Right to Information and the Protection of Personal Data, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD).

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) (Recommendation 95.6, 95.7, 95.8, 95.9, 95.10, 95.11)

16. The Constitution, amended in 2016, recognized every commissioner created by law the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court for the protection of guaranteed fundamental rights and freedoms. Previously, it was known only to the Ombudsman.¹⁹

17. The constitutional and legal framework in Albania guarantees the independence of the PA as a key body for human rights. In the service of strengthening this institution, the budget support has increased from year to year (8.57%, from 2021 to 2022, 6.81% from 2022 to 2023, and by 29% from 2023 to 2024); the staff has increased by 7 people in 2024; The salary of civil servants for all independent human rights institutions has increased by up to 40%. The annual budget of the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination has increased from year to year, from 50,960.00 (in thousands of ALL) for 2020, to 58,815.96 (in thousands of ALL) for 2021, 56,661.36 (in thousands of ALL) for 2022 and 67,523.48 (in thousand ALL) for 2023²⁰.

18. The CPD office was supported with additional personnel during the reporting period, increasing to 34 personnel from 2022 onwards.²¹ The legal changes of 2020 clarified and strengthened the rules for protection against discrimination, increased the role of CPD and facilitated procedures for victims of discrimination; new forms of discrimination, structural discrimination/due to multiple affiliation and multiple were provided for in the law.²²

Good governance (Recommendation 95.53, 95.52, 95.51, 95.55)

19. Since 2015, Albania implements a strategic framework in the fight against corruption. The new draft 2024-2030 Strategy in the fight against corruption is in the process of consultation.²³ Albania has adopted several strategies such as: Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2021-2025, Cross-Sector Strategy of Justice 2021-2025; Intersectoral Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance 2023-2030; Cross-Sectoral Strategy "Digital Agenda of Albania 2022-2026", etc. From January 2024, the new position of Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption has been created, strengthening the direction and political support for the Reform in Public Administration.²⁴

20. Appointments to the Constitutional Court have been completed and all nine judges are in office, eight of whom have a full nine-year term. The Special Structure against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK) has achieved further results. In December 2022, a new Chief Special Prosecutor was elected. To fill vacancies in the judicial system, 40 magistrates were sworn in October 2023.

21. In 2022, 186 people were convicted for corruption in the public sector and 7 for high-level corruption, while 298 new cases were sent to court for the public sector and none for high-level corruption, 18 people were convicted for corruption in the system judicial.

22. The vetting process for judges and prosecutors continued: in 2023, 57% of them were dismissed, resigned or completed their mandate. The Special Court of First Instance against Corruption and Organized Crime sentenced the former head of the Constitutional Court to 6 months in prison for false declaration and concealment during the vetting process. Albania reflects a systematic approach to criminal proceedings against judges and prosecutors.

23. Changes in the special law for the transitional process of evaluation of police officers in 2022 and 2023²⁵ brought improvements. The External Evaluation Commission of police

officers completed the inventory and submitted the documentation to the Police Oversight Agency (AMP) as the responsible authority to assess, address integrity and high corruption risks and complete the process.²⁶

24. The Assembly set up the Special Parliamentary Committee "For the deepening of reforms for good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption for Albania 2030 in the European Union". In the field of the rule of law, a subgroup/subfield "On human rights" has been created.²⁷

25. CoMD no. 736 dated 13.12.2023 "On the approval of the guidelines for the rule of law" provided for measures to ensure the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

Budget and resources (for the implementation of human rights) (Recommendation 95.42)

26. Budgeting for the realization of human rights is a direct and indirect item in the budget at the central level and local government units. In addition to the donor budget and the contribution of civil society, the state budget for human rights has increased. The budget of NHRIs for the promotion and monitoring of rights has seen an increase.

27. During the year 2024, about 9.3% of general public expenditures are dedicated to gender-based public policies, which aim to reduce the gaps. Albania is a model in the Western Balkans region for gender budgeting.

28. In the 2024 budget, 3% of gross domestic product is planned for health, 2% for the justice and public order sector, 3.2% for education, and 0.2% for entertainment, culture and religious affairs.²⁸

29. Since 2019, the Social Fund has been established and operates, through which in 2022, 40 services were established in 27 municipalities and 6 counties for 5,644 beneficiaries, and currently 73 social care services have been established, from which 51 municipalities and 8 counties have benefited, in total 32,869 individuals.²⁹

30. Participatory budgeting enables the forecasting of the budget for the realization of the rights of different groups. Each strategy has its own budget. In the budgeting of strategies, the budget gap cannot be more than 25%. Budgeting guidelines have been approved for social groups such as for Roma and Egyptians at the local level.³⁰

31. The total cost for the implementation of the Interinstitutional Justice Strategy 2021-2025 is 33,777,408 Euros,³¹ for the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2021-2023 is 3,300,419 Euros,³² of the Intersectoral Strategy against Corruption, 2015-2023 is 12,362,337.93 Euros,³³ Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crime, 2021-2025 and of the Action Plan is 159,576,154 Euros³⁴.

32. The vetting process for the judiciary and the prosecution had the necessary budgetary support. The 2024 budget foresees about 26.2 billion ALL for justice, or 13.5 billion ALL more than the 2016 budget, or doubling after the start of the justice reform, and an increase of nearly 40 million Euros compared to 2023, which includes vetting institutions, SPAK, the High Council of Justice, the reform of the institutions of the prosecution system and the judicial system, the High Inspectorate of Justice, the School of Magistrates, as well as the reform of other institutions under the Ministry of Justice.³⁵

B. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination (Recommendation 95.23, 95.25, 95.22, 95.24, 95.26)

33. There is continued attention to equality and non-discrimination. The change in the law on protection from discrimination brought significant changes as in the addition of the causes that prohibit discrimination, the forms of discrimination, the strengthening of sanctions for severe forms of discrimination, the strengthening of the competences of the CPD in examining complaints, monitoring the implementation of the law "On gender equality in society", "shifting the burden of proof" to the subject who is alleged to have committed discriminatory behavior, etc.

34. In 2019, a joint study of the AP and CPD, "Violence against women in politics" was published.³⁶ The annual conference of the Ombudsman was held on "Freedom without hate, Freedom of expression in front of other human rights", and the "Alliance against Hate Speech" was created, as an initiative of PA, CPD, AMA and the Albanian Media Council to fight the phenomenon of "hate speech" in all dimensions.

35. In 2021, PA organized discussion forums on the role of the media in addressing hate speech and promoting the rights of the LBGTIQ community. During the reporting period, PA dealt with 78 cases of national minority communities. Anti-gypsyism was in the center of the institution's attention.

36. A study on hate speech was conducted by CPD in 2021.³⁷

37. In 2022, the Action Plan for LGBTI+, 2021-2027 was approved. Every year, the Pride Parade is organized as part of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

38. Gender equality, social inclusion and diversity are three fundamental principles of the Curricular Framework of pre-university education, including issues related to LGBTI+. The Quality Assurance Agency for Pre-University Education (ASCAP) in 2022 drafted a guide for teachers on the inclusion of gender equality principles in the implementation of the pre-university education curriculum and with models of learning activities for integration. Health education activities have been carried out.³⁸

39. The law on sports prohibits discrimination in sports activities for reasons such as "political or religious beliefs, race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, economic or social status".

40. Several structures have been created and operate to provide multi-disciplinary services for at-risk categories, such as: the "Streha" Center is the only one in the country and the Western Balkans that offers multi-disciplinary and emergency housing services for LGBTI+ youth; The LILIUM center for the treatment of sexual assaults, as well as two new centers with a target group of sexually abused children; the national shelters for dealing with cases of domestic violence in Kamëz and the Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking in Linza.

41. In 2021, the National Asylum Reception Center in Babrru was renovated with 250 beds and a family-friendly space.³⁹ In 2023, a new Temporary Accommodation Center for Irregular Migrants was opened in Qafë Botë with 570 beds. In 2021, the National Contingency Plan was updated with the aim of guaranteeing respect for the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers in Albania, through the improvement of capacities for the identification, processing and provision of services for migrants and asylum seekers on a large scale.

42. Some guidelines have been adopted for the police⁴⁰ with the aim of respecting the rights of national communities/minorities, preventing and eliminating discriminatory behaviors/attitudes that violate their dignity, which also focuses on the Roma minority.

43. The work for housing the Roma continues. Good steps have been taken for the inclusion of Roma in school, although the quality of learning still remains a problem.

44. The 2023 amendments to the citizenship law provide rights and guarantees even for foreign children who are born on the territory of Albania, taking into consideration the protection of the child's best interest.

The right to development (Recommendation 95.31)

45. Albania has embraced the Global Partnership, designed to make a strong contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and is fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the National Strategy for Development and Integration and the European Integration process. Albania confirmed high-level engagement in the World Accelerator.⁴¹

46. Assembly has established the Subcommittee for Sustainable Development, in the composition of the permanent Parliamentary Committee for Economy and Finance and takes

care that in each draft-act of the Assembly, a column be dedicated to the link with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁴²

47. Currently, INSTAT produces 61 statistical indicators that contain the SDGs with 17 goals, where the definitions, direction, alignment with the UN standards and the source of information for the production of the indicator are presented. In 2022, the report on "Sustainable Development Goals, Albania 2022" was published.⁴³

48. Albania, through INSTAT, since November 2019 is a member of the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB). This group is composed of the Member States of the UN, including regional and international agencies as observers, and since November 2020, the Director General of INSTAT, has been appointed co-chair of this group.⁴⁴

Human rights and climate change (Recommendation 95.30, 95.29, 95.28)

49. The political and legal framework improved. In 2019, the Strategic Document and National Plans for mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change were approved with the objective of reducing emissions and greenhouse gases by 20.9% by 2030.⁴⁵

50. In 2020, the climate change law was passed⁴⁶ and in the updated Intended National Contribution Report which also includes young women/men.⁴⁷ At COP 28, for the first time, Albania included in its delegation two young people engaged in the field of climate. The government, in cooperation with UNICEF and schools, has started activities to train young people in the action and monitoring of climate action policies at the local level during 2024–2025.

51. In 2019, the law on civil protection was adopted⁴⁸ and its by-laws as well as Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023-2030 together with the Action Plan⁴⁹ which focuses on strengthening all appropriate measures at the local and national level as well as National Plan for Civil Emergencies⁵⁰. Civil Emergency Plans are being worked on at the regional and local level, and the pilot Civil Emergency Plan has been implemented in the municipalities of Lezha and Fier. The Municipality of Durrës, supported by UN Women, is the first in the country to integrate the gender perspective in issues related to disaster risk management in its Local Action Plan for Gender Equality 2023-2025.⁵¹ In 2023 it was approved Disaster Risk Assessment at the central level.⁵²

52. The PRO NEWS Program (2017-2020) is being implemented in the country to improve the national system of warning early detection and prevention of floods in Albania and a series of projects to address the problems caused by climate change⁵³.

Human rights and counter-terrorism (Recommendation 95.32)

53. From 2018 onwards, Albania has increased its efforts to prevent and fight radicalism and violent extremism. A complete regulatory framework has been approved that includes the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania⁵⁴, the cross-sectoral strategy of the fight against terrorism, 2021–2025, and the action plan 2021–2023⁵⁵, the cross-sectoral strategy for the prevention of violent extremism and the fight against terrorism 2023–2025 and the Action Plan 2023-2025⁵⁶, Cross-sectoral Community Safety Strategy (SNSK) 2021-2026 and action plan 2021–2023,⁵⁷ and a series of by-laws.⁵⁸

54. The National Referral Mechanism for the Prevention of Radicalism and Fight Anti Violent Extremism is established. The mechanism consists in the establishment of 12 Regional Committees, under the direction of the District Prefects and the coordination of the Coordination Center against Violent Extremism throughout the country.⁵⁹ A number of measures have been taken to comply with international resolutions against terrorism and to prevent recruitment terrorist fighters who travel abroad to join organizations in conflict zones, such as Syria. The Coordination Center against Violent Extremism is committed to coordinating a smooth integration program for returnees from conflict zones.

55. Local Public Safety Councils have been established at the local level.

C. Civil and political rights

The right to life (Recommendation 95.45, 95.44, 95.43)

56. The Criminal Code (CC) sentences with no less than 30 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment authors of murder for blood feud.⁶⁰ For criminal offenses "Serious threat to be locked up at home"⁶¹ and "Incitement to blood feud",⁶² the Criminal Code stipulates an imprisonment sentence of up to three years.

57. The 2005 law "On the creation and functioning of the Coordinating Council in the fight against blood feud" is in force.⁶³

Prohibition of torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (Recommendation 95.40)

58. The constitutional, legal and institutional framework in Albania guarantees the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In 2020, the Law on the Execution of Criminal Decisions and the Law on the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners and Detainees were approved.⁶⁴ In 2023 unapproved law for the control of trade in products which may be used for capital punishment, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.⁶⁵

59. The Ombudsman, through the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, oversees the implementation of laws on rights and treatment in police stations, detention centers and prisons. The Commission for the Execution of Criminal Decisions, the advisory body under the Ministry of Justice, started functioning in 2022 and monitors the respect of the rights of persons during the execution of criminal decisions.

60. Proceedings for the criminal offense "Committing arbitrary actions"⁶⁶ were 36 in 2019, 36 in 2020, 29 in 2021, 33 in 2022 and 28 in 2023, while for the cases of Article 314 of the Criminal Code "Use of violence during investigations", there was 1 proceeding in 2021, 1 in 2022 and none in 2023.

61. The General Director of the State Police has taken administrative measures in order to respect and guarantee the rights and freedoms of persons arrested/detained⁶⁷ and for the prevention of torture by approving in 2023 the standard procedures for the treatment and security of persons arrested/detained in the premises of the State Police, the identification and resolution of their requests/complaints⁶⁸.

62. Investments were made for the reconstruction and construction of local police premises in several cities (Tirana, Shkodra, Dibra), work continues on the construction of security rooms for the arrested/detained in several police stations (Saranda, Elbasan and Berat), as well as monitoring systems with cameras were installed in the premises of the police stations, in compliance with the law on the protection of personal data. PSA, the heads of the police unit, and the prosecutor's office have the right to start ex officio the criminal investigation in cases of ascertainment of physical injuries of the arrested/detained.

63. In 2021, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Justice signed a Cooperation Agreement "On the treatment of persons with mental health disorders with medical measures" and approved the "Joint Action Plan for the Improvement of the Conditions and Treatment of Persons with Disorders of Mental Health with Medical Measures". The Institute of Public Health and local health care units provide prisoners with laboratory examinations, epidemiological screenings and diagnostic assistance. The multidisciplinary approach in carrying out rehabilitative activities has been strengthened, including modules of some programs and modules of the basic curriculum in prisons.

64. The subcommittee for human rights in the Assembly has planned a work program dedicated to mental health in 2024.

Prohibition conditions (Recommendation 95.41, 95.39, 95.38)

65. In 2022, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health and Social Protection signed a joint action memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the

recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ECtHR judgments on forensic psychiatric patients and prisoners with mental disorders presented in 2021. No cases of ill-treatment in prisons or detention facilities are reported.

66. The prison of Zaharia that did not meet the conditions was closed in 2022. Patients with poor health conditions were transferred from the detention center of Kruja and Zaharia to the renovated prison of Lezha. Albania remains committed to improving psychiatric forensic conditions in prisons. Prisons remain overcrowded: currently 89% of capacity is occupied.

67. The National Preventive Mechanism carries out inspections and follows the implementation of recommendations. Albania offers a good model of the implementation of alternative punishment measures. In 2022, 6,688 people were placed in alternative detention by court decision, with an increase of 18% compared to 2020.

68. Convicted women have been placed in a new institution for the execution of criminal decisions (Pogradec) which offers fairly good infrastructural conditions and suitable for treatment according to standards of the international law.

69. Regarding the reintegration of prisoners, the procedures for the notification of the State Police, the protocol of the referral mechanism for women, minors and young people (18-21 years old) have been approved. Also, training curricula on reintegration issues have been approved and staff have been trained.

Prohibition of slavery, trafficking (Recommendation 95.65, 95.77, 95.74, 95.75, 95.76, 95.80, 95.154, 95.79, 95.70, 95.81, 95.67, 95.68, 95.71, 95.72, 95.66, 95.69, 95.73, 95.78, 95.82)

70. In November 2021, the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking 2021-2023 was approved. National Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2021-2025, approved by CoMD no. 1140, dated 24.12.2020, also deals with trafficking issues.

71. In February 2023, Albania deployed a second liaison officer to Europol and recognized an increase in police operations carried out in cooperation with international partners in the field of illegal trafficking, with 19 in 2022 from 14 in 2021. Albania continued to participate in Joint Days of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Action Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) to promote cooperation against firearms trafficking, migrant smuggling and drug trafficking, vehicle crime and human trafficking and document fraud. Cooperation with Interpol continues and is yielding positive results.

72. In 2024, the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking 2024-2025 was approved as a continuation of the anti-trafficking objectives of the Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2021-2025 and the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking 2021-2023.⁶⁹ The civil society carried out studies on the state of trafficking in the country.⁷⁰

73. The General Prosecutor's Office concluded a series of agreements against illegal traffic during 2020–2022⁷¹ and in 2023, a cooperation agreement was signed between public institutions and civil society organizations for identification, referral and protection, individual support and benefit from services, social and economic support, criminal justice for victims and potential victims of trafficking in Albania.⁷²

74. For the trafficking of adults, 19 criminal proceedings were registered during 2019, 23 in 2020, 8 in 2021, 7 in 2022, and 6 in 2023, while for the trafficking of minors, 5 were registered in 2019, 2 in 2021, and 8 in 2023.

Gender-based violence and domestic violence (Recommendation 95.142, 95.152, 95.141, 95.150 and Recommendation 95.146, 95.143, 95.134, 95.131, 95.132, 95.133, 95.126, 95.130, 95.136, 95.149, 95.145, 95.135, 95.151, 95.144, 95.147, 95.156, 95.155, 95.148)

75. There is continued attention to gender-based violence and discrimination. In 2019, the joint study of AP and CPD "Violence against women in politics" was published.⁷³

76. The law on sports prohibits discrimination in sports activities for reasons such as "political or religious beliefs, race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, economic or social status", while there is a need to deepen this aspect and better regulate gender-based and language-based violence of gender hatred in sporting events.

77. The LILIUM center, established based on the standards of the Istanbul Convention and operational since 2019, offers services for the treatment of sexual assaults. The national shelters for the treatment of cases of domestic violence in Kamza and the Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking in Linza are functional.

78. Intersectoral strategy for the protection of victims of criminal offenses 2024–2030⁷⁴ foresees the gender perspective in legal and institutional measures for strengthening access to justice centered on the victim of criminal offenses, as well as the creation of a state scheme for compensation of crime victims.

79. Laws that provide for victims of gender-based violence as special beneficiary categories are: law no. 15/2019 "On promoting employment"; law no. 22/2018 "On social housing"; law no. 57/2019 "On social assistance in the Republic of Albania"; Law no. 111/2017 "On legal aid guaranteed by the state"; law no. 121/2016 "On social care services in the Republic of Albania"; law no. 65/2016 "On social enterprises in the Republic of Albania", as well as other laws mentioned in this report.

80. The New Audiovisual Broadcasting Code prohibits the representation of gender-based violence or its victims in audiovisual broadcasts.⁷⁵

81. At the local level, the creation of referral mechanisms for cases of gender-based violence has been approved in the country's 61 municipalities, but there is still a need to improve infrastructure and human financial resources. In 2022, 916 victims of domestic violence provided with a protection order benefited from economic assistance to an extent 3 times higher than in 2021, from around 300 Euro to around 900 Euros.⁷⁶ Vatra Psycho-Social Center assisted 1572 victims of gender-based violence and 414 abused children with residential, rehabilitation and re-integration services during 2019–2023. The Albanian Center for Population and Development signed memorandums with the National Referral Mechanism and religious organizations to report cases of gender-based violence in the cities of Vlora and Pogradec. In 2023, several new emergency shelter centers were opened for victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

82. The Minister of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council have defined rules for the creation of a special database for domestic violence cases in the courts and the unification of their registration.⁷⁷

83. During 2020, in response to the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the increase in cases of domestic violence as a result of measures to restrict the movement of citizens, several protocols, instructions and special normative acts were approved.⁷⁸

84. In 2020, the Prosecutor General adopted a special guideline for the investigation and prosecution of violence against women, domestic violence and hate-based violence.⁷⁹ In 2023, the Prosecutor's Office registered 1,396 criminal proceedings with 1,078 defendants of the criminal offense "Domestic Violence" (Article 130/a, CC), sent 996 proceedings with 1,048 defendants for trial, in 89.04% of cases requested security measure with arrest, in 61.93% were requested the imposition of a prison sentence and in 38.07% of the proceedings were requested alternative punishments. In 2023, INSTAT records 1911 cases of this criminal offense or 1.3% more than in 2022.⁸⁰

85. In 2020, Albania adopted the document on policies and procedures for the elimination of violence, sexual harassment in the working environment of the structures of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces.⁸¹ In 2022, Albania ratified Convention no. 190 of the ILO

on Violence and Harassment, 2019. In 2023, a dedicated study was conducted on femicide in the country.⁸² Among the most recent initiatives, 2024, is that of the Ombudsman to establish an "Observatory of Femicide", for the collection and analysis of data for the improvement of policies and mechanisms for the prevention of the killing of women and girls.

86. Center "Human Rights in Democracy" has developed trainings with the police officers of the police stations of Tirana for the legal changes on measures against violence in family relationships.⁸³

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Recommendation 95.60, 95.61, 95.62, 95.63, 95.122)

87. The principles of religious pluralism are guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and in the supporting legislation in this area. Article 10 of the Constitution of Albania, as amended, guarantees the right to freedom of belief and ensures the separation and independence of the state from religion.

88. According to the law, any community/community/group that wants to exercise religious activity in the Republic of Albania must be registered in court and after registration, they are legally recognized to exercise their activity of a religious nature.⁸⁴ The Albanian government's agreements with religious communities do not determine their legal recognition as religious communities. Even the religious communities that have an agreement with the government are registered in court according to the rules provided by the law. The agreements with the five religious communities are bilateral and deal with issues of mutual interest.

89. The new AMA Audiovisual Broadcasting Code, 2023, also provides for freedom of religious belief.

Freedom of thought and expression (Recommendation 95.58, 95.57, 95.59)

90. The Constitution of Albania guarantees freedom of expression and the media.⁸⁵ The Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), as amended, provides that for the criminal offense of defamation or insult,⁸⁶ the accusing victim injured by criminal offenses has the right to submit a request directly to the court and participate in the trial as a party to prove the accusation and request compensation for the damage.⁸⁷

91. The prosecutor's office has followed and follows with priority the cases of criminal reports or referrals from the journalists themselves for their injuries. There are no cases of arrest or imprisonment of journalists due to duty by the general jurisdiction prosecutors. 3 criminal charges were registered by journalists due to the performance of their duties in 2022 and 5 in 2023. In 2 cases, the prosecution decided not to initiate criminal proceedings, in one case the case was dismissed, while the investigation continues for the others. In 2023, a gun was fired at the building of a national television and as a result of the shooting, the security guard of the television lost his life. Intensive investigations are continuing to investigate the motives of this event.

92. The Ombudsman registered in 2023 the case of a media worker who claims that his rights as a professional journalist were violated by SPAK and the Special Court of First Instance against Corruption and Organized Crime,⁸⁸ as well as presented recommendations which were respected. Ombudsman continues to attend this case. Likewise, there are several other cases of aggression against journalists.

93. Standard procedures have been approved for the planning of police services during gatherings for the treatment of media workers present at gatherings or other activities of this nature while exercising their profession and reporting events.⁸⁹ As it was emphasized above, a close cooperation with the media has been built in the framework of the "Alliance against hate speech" established in cooperation among PA, CPD, AMA, and the "Albanian Media Council" Association.

Rights related to name, identity, nationality (Recommendation 95.197)

94. According to the 2023 census, 205 stateless persons or 0.00853% of the population were registered.⁹⁰

95. In 2021, the law on foreigners was adopted⁹¹ as well as an instruction for the implementation and regulation of the statelessness determination procedure.⁹² The new citizenship law adopted in 2020, amended in 2023, enables children born in the territory 'who remain stateless' to acquire Albanian citizenship.⁹³ Children born to Albanian citizens abroad acquire Albanian citizenship.

96. Work is underway to register children, mainly Roma and Egyptians. Civil society organizations are contributing to this process.⁹⁴

The right to participate in public life and the right to vote (Recommendation 95.64)

97. The Central Election Commission (CEC) has approved the action plans for the elections,⁹⁵ the necessary by-laws, including for the secrecy of the vote, the voter education program for the non-election and election year, with a focus on women, and has organized continuous meetings throughout Albania.⁹⁶

98. Periodic trainings for the administration of the CEC and financiers of political parties have been organized and are organized regularly.

99. The 2020 legal amendments to the election law provided that the media prepare news in full editorial freedom. The CEC approved the media monitoring methodology according to OSCE/ODIHR standards.

100. The CEC approved the instruction for the facilitation of persons with disabilities.⁹⁷

101. The Assembly approved the legal changes to guarantee the vote of the diaspora in July 2024.⁹⁸

Rights related to marriage and family (Recommendation 95.83)

102. The Family Code guarantees the rights related to marriage and family.

103. Although there have been initiatives to recognize cohabitation between persons of the same sex, they are still not recognized.

104. Social administrators and local social services should know better the situation of families, mainly Roma, in order to prevent early marriages of girls.

D. Economic, social and cultural rights**Economic, social & cultural rights – general (Recommendation 95.93, 95.96, 95.90, 95.91, 95.92, 95.94, 95.86, 95.95)**

105. The Albanian constitution guarantees the freedom of artistic creation and scientific research and includes in the social objectives the protection of the national cultural heritage and special care for the Albanian language as an international asset⁹⁹. The National Strategy for Culture (SKK) 2019-2025 has been approved.

106. At the legal level, Albania adopted a series of legal measures amended law no. 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums", law no. 35/2016 "On copyright", aligning with the European Union Directive no. 2017/1564, and the revision of law no. 9616, dated 27.9.2006 "On the book" for the financial treatment of employees who have worked in public institutions of art and culture, law no. 8096, dated 21.03.1996 "On cinematography" as amended, as well as the law "For cultural heritage and museums". During the year 2024, it is planned to continue completing the sub-legal framework according to Law 27/2018 "On cultural heritage and museums", completing all the acts approved so far.¹⁰⁰

107. Law 55/2015 "On strategic investments in the Republic of Albania" has been amended several times in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2024, while the cases of limiting expropriations for public interest remain to be strengthened.¹⁰¹

108. Currently, the working group has been set up to revise the law no. 9970, dated 24.7.2008 "On Gender Equality in Society".

109. The RA approved two by-laws within the framework of law no. 96/2017 "On the protection of national minorities in the Republic of Albania".¹⁰²

110. Within the framework of the law no. 22/2018 "On social housing", a number of by-laws were approved.¹⁰³ The challenge remains the emergency and long-term housing of victims of domestic violence and their economic empowerment.

111. Albania continues to support with programs and investments at the central and local level and projects, such as: construction projects for art buildings, the School as a Community Center program which promotes pro-social cultural/community orientation in children and teenagers, transforming schools into centers of life in the community outside school hours (although more serious implementation is needed for this), education programs through culture, Pact for the University of 2021, etc.

112. A series of projects aimed at respecting and integrating human rights, including minorities in the country, persons with disabilities, children, etc., also through information technology.¹⁰⁴

113. CPD has carried out a total of 22 reports in the media to promote the fight against discrimination and human rights.

114. Legal and by-law framework for dealing with property rights and compensation recognized improvements. The law no. 20/2020 "On the completion of transitional ownership processes in the Republic of Albania". In 2022, the law no. 133/2015, "On the treatment of property and the completion of the property compensation process" was amended¹⁰⁵ and in 2023 the acts were approved by-laws on property compensation, aiming at fair and proportional guarantee of property compensation to expropriated subjects,¹⁰⁶ to the extent of at least 10% of the value according to the current cadastral item, in accordance with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and those of the Constitutional Court.¹⁰⁷

115. From the entry into force of Law 133/2015 until the end of the evaluation process, the Agency for the Treatment of Properties, has carried out administrative financial evaluation procedures for 26,092 final compensation decisions from 1993 to 2013. All updates have been made public in the Bulletin of Official Notices. The Property Treatment Agency has ascertained 3758 decisions with the right to compensation that are affected by the legal changes, whose financial bill amounts to around 162,562,064.59 USD).¹⁰⁸

116. Progress was noted with the implementation of the Law on Cadastre and the Law on Completion of Ownership Processes. In 2022, 270 cadastral areas have not yet completed the initial registration process. By April 2023, about 40% of property titles had been digitized.¹⁰⁹

The right to social security (Recommendation 95.89)

117. The law on the collection of compulsory social and health insurance contributions and the law on compulsory health care insurance in the Republic of Albania define the rules for the collection of compulsory social insurance contributions and mandatory health insurance contributions, establishment and implementation of the mandatory health care insurance scheme, etc. International agreements on social security have been ratified with Montenegro and Italy.

118. Social Security Law, as amended¹¹⁰ provides for additional income for care for the needy and disabled. As an illustrative example, when the beneficiary of a full invalidity pension becomes disabled and needs continuous care from another person, he is given an additional payment of 15% of the net assessable base.

Human rights and poverty (Recommendation 95.88, 95.87)

119. INSTAT's 2021 Sustainable Development Goals report shows that 22% of the population is at risk of being poor.¹¹¹ The 2022 results of the Income and Standard of Living Survey show that the indicator of the risk of being poor in Albania in 2022 is 20.6%.¹¹²

120. Albania has not yet determined the vital minimum, while the initiative of 20,000 voters and a group of deputies to determine it has been filed.

Human rights and drinking water and hygiene (Recommendation 95.97)

121. Infrastructure of sewage and wastewater treatment was improved.¹¹³ A Task Force has been created and the function to control the management of polluted waters in the coastal tourism sector.¹¹⁴

122. In order to guarantee the population with the necessary access, the National Strategy of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector 2023-2030 has been approved¹¹⁵, national policies for the reorganization of the Water Supply and Wastewater Removal, Treatment and Processing sector¹¹⁶ as well as technical design and construction for water supply and sewage.¹¹⁷

The right to enjoy health – General (Recommendation 95.98, 95.105, 95.101, 95.99, 95.102, 95.106, 95.104, 95.103)

123. A number of strategic acts were approved, including the National Health Strategy 2021-2030¹¹⁸, strategy of the Development of Primary Health Care Services in Albania 2020-2025¹¹⁹, the National Hospital Plan 2023-2030¹²⁰, the Program for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2021-2030 in Albania¹²¹, Health Promotion Action Plan 2022-2030.¹²²

124. Policies and strategies for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with mental health disorders have seen progress. Mental health issues are addressed in a dedicated manner in the Mental Health Action Plan 2023-2026¹²³ as well as in other strategic documents in the field of health.

125. According to INSTAT 2021, 83% of the population over 16 years of age perceives the general state of health as very good or good. Men are more satisfied than women about the general state of health.¹²⁴ The Check Up program is implemented in the country.¹²⁵

126. Civil society conducts studies on the state of health.¹²⁶

127. Qualified health personnel assisted 99.97% of births during 2022. The percentage of the population vaccinated by all vaccines included in the country's national program at the end of 2021 results: 21% vaccine coverage for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping good cough; 95% vaccine coverage for pneumococcus; and 89.2% measles vaccine coverage.¹²⁷

128. Albania implements the new National Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2022-2030. The indicator of people affected by HIV in Albania is decreasing. In 2019, the government made the decision to create the first national organized cervical cancer screening program for women aged 40–50. The overall prevalence of high-risk HPV papillomavirus among program participants was 6.1% in 2021. During the February-June 2019 period, 538 health professionals from about 400 health centers in the country were trained to implement the national screening program.¹²⁸

The right to education – General (Recommendation 95.107, 95.120, 95.121, 95.110, 95.108, 95.114, 95.109, 95.111, 95.112, 95.113, 95.115, 95.116, 95.117, 95.118, 95.119)

129. Albania follows the approach for an inclusive education, increasing the number of children with disabilities in public and private educational institutions: in 2023 this number was 4748. In 2023 the number of assistant teachers for students with disabilities in the pre-university public education system increased by 13% compared to a year ago, while there are still deficiencies.

130. The net enrollment rate in primary education in 2020–2021 was 90.5%, while in 2021–2022 it was 88.3%. In the school year 2023–2024, 533,711 pupils and students were registered in official education. According to educational levels, the structure of participation in formal education is almost the same during the last three school/academic years.

131. In the academic year 2022–2023, the level of gross participation in compulsory education was 96.9% for boys and 90.4% for girls.¹²⁹ 24.7% of the population aged 16–74 in

2023, increased by +6.0% compared to 2022, have skills in information and communication technology.¹³⁰

E. Rights of particular persons or groups

Advancement of women (Recommendation 95.84)

132. According to the 2023 population census, the gender ratio is 98.2 men per 100 women. Five out of six centenarians in Albania are women.¹³¹

133. The legal framework has progressed significantly for the advancement of women. A number of laws have been adopted that include the gender dimension.¹³²

134. The number of graduates in higher education in the academic year 2022–23 was approximately 28,000 students, among whom girls accounted for 65.2%.¹³³

135. The employment rate for the population aged 15–64 is 71.3% for men and 58.9% for women in this age group.¹³⁴ A free hotline, 08001818, has been established by Center Gender Alliance for Development for supporting women at work.

136. In 2022, the participation rate of women in the Parliament of Albania was 35.7%. Among the eight parliamentary committees, the largest participation of women is in the "Commission for work, social issues and health" and the "Commission for education and means of public information", respectively 61.9% and 57.9%.¹³⁵ In 2023, 75% of the government cabinet consisted of women (12 out of 16 in total, including the deputy/Prime Minister, ministers and the Chief Negotiator for European Integration).¹³⁶ The Constitutional Court has been headed by a woman since 2019.¹³⁷ In the Supreme Court, 15.4% of the members are women, while in the appeal courts 39.7% and in the administrative courts 66.7%.¹³⁸ The percentage of women working in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is currently 56.5% of its employees as a whole. In the diplomatic service, INSTAT reported that there were 30.8% Ambassadors, 66.7% Plenipotentiary Ministers, and 46.2% Advisory Ministers in 2021.¹³⁹

137. From the local elections of 2019, 13% of mayors are women, or 8 female mayors from 61 municipalities in total, this figure increased by 3.2% compared to 2016. Women are about 44% of the total number of councilors/ councilors in the Municipal Councils.

138. In 2022 and following, the structure of the Ombudsman had 3 women commissioners elected by the Assembly and the leader is a woman.

139. Albania approved two Action Plans for the implementation of the "Women, Peace, Security" Agenda.¹⁴⁰ The first Action Plan was approved with the great support of civil society, mainly the Women Peace Security Coalition.¹⁴¹

140. Until 2020, the Ministry of Defense was headed by a woman minister.¹⁴² The first woman general holds the position of Deputy. The Chairman of the Armed Forces of Albania. The Parliament of Albania is headed by a woman, 5 out of 8 parliamentary committees are headed by women, including the Security Committee.¹⁴³

141. A new initiative has been launched to increase the participation of women in the technology and engineering sector. The trend of internet usage by women has improved. By 2022, 81.5% of women aged 16–74 had used the internet "in the past three months" marking an increase compared to 2021,¹⁴⁴ and during the year 2023, 81.7% of women in the age group of 16–74 years are Internet users "during the last 3 months".¹⁴⁵

Discrimination against women (Recommendation 95.124, 95.85) and Violence against women (Recommendation 95.127, 95.129, 95.140, 95.139, 95.137, 95.128, 95.128, 95.125)

142. The law on measures against domestic violence, as amended, underwent changes in 2018 and 2020¹⁴⁶ strengthening the protection of victims of domestic violence, eased reporting procedures, increased protective measures for victims, and provided for the establishment of programs for the treatment of abusers.¹⁴⁷ In 2020, the Criminal Code was also amended regarding the criminal offense of domestic violence¹⁴⁸ strengthening the

punishment and clearly predicting psychological violence. In 2022, the Parliament ratified the ILO Convention no. 190 "Convention on Violence and Harassment"¹⁴⁹ as well as the law on the "National Registry of Convicted Sexual Crimes"¹⁵⁰.

143. CPD carried out the studies "Violence against women in Politics" (this as a joint study with AP) as well as "Gender Equality and Discrimination in the appointed local government bodies"¹⁵¹ that point out the obstacles of women in politics and have suggested changing the law for gender equality. The latter is in the process of change.

144. The Ombudsman has pointed out the need to include in the legislation all forms of gender-based violence such as harassment, sexual violence, stalking, forced marriages, following rehabilitation programs by perpetrators, increasing women's access to property rights, referring mainly to the benefit from the reconstruction programs of houses damaged by the 2019 earthquake. The government is committed to addressing these issues.

145. During 2023, an issue that received attention was the use of sexist language in the media. In April 2023, the Assembly changed and included the definition of sexism in the law on audiovisual media,¹⁵² in implementation of the recommendation of the People's Advocate. The Audiovisual Media Authority included it in the Audiovisual Media Broadcasting Code.¹⁵³

146. In 2021, with the support of UNDP, the Guide "On the Prevention and Addressing of Violence, Harassment and Sexual Harassment in the Work Environment in State Administration Institutions" was drafted.

147. In 2023, a new program was implemented to support victims of gender-based violence, which includes a dedicated hotline and a mobile phone application for emergency assistance.

Children: definition; general principles; protection / family environment and alternative care / protection against exploitation / Juvenile Justice (Recommendation 95.157, 95.159, 95.161, 95.162, 95.166, 95.174, 95.176, 95.163, 95.178, 95.171, 95.175, 95.164, 95.165, 95.177, 95.179 .50, 95.167, 95.168, 95.172, 95.173, 95.160, 95.158, 95.169, 95.170, 95.56)

148. The Constitution of the Republic of Albania provides that children, young people, pregnant women and new mothers enjoy special protection from the state.¹⁵⁴ The Intersectoral Juvenile Justice Strategy 2022-2026 and the Action Plan aimed at access to child-friendly justice, and taking measures for monitoring and reporting the implementation every 6 months.¹⁵⁵ The Minister of State for Youth and Children monitors the situation of children and young people in the country.¹⁵⁶

149. Despite the progress made, early marriages remain a concern, even though there are no complete data. The prevention of early marriages is a special objective of the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021-2026.

150. De-institutionalization remains a priority. The national de-institutionalization plan 2021-2023 contains an economic reform program with a financial package to develop alternative child care services. Development Centers for people with disabilities still need to be transformed. There is still no framework law for custody of children without parental care.

151. The General Prosecutor approved rules for the investigation, criminal prosecution for minor criminal offenses in conflict with the law, victims and/or witnesses and for the collection, processing and publication of data also for minor victims of criminal offences.¹⁵⁷ The Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court interpreted with a comprehensive decision the meaning, forms and distinction of the criminal offenses of trafficking of minors, including exploitation of prostitution and mistreatment of minors.¹⁵⁸

152. Corporal punishment is prohibited in education and in general.

153. The New Audiovisual Broadcasting Code of 2023 provides that audio and audiovisual broadcasts for children are guided by the best interests of the child.¹⁵⁹

Persons with disabilities (Recommendation 95.189, 95.190, 95.195, 95.4, 95.194, 95.191, 95.192, 95.193)

154. Improving services for people with disabilities is a priority. The legal and sub-legal framework has undergone positive changes. It is approved National Plan for Persons with Disabilities, 2021-2025.¹⁶⁰

155. By-laws have been approved for the provision of persons with disabilities services,¹⁶¹ although they still need to be provided in sign language.

156. Reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of fuels and lubricating oils for persons with disabilities and compensation of expenses for urban and interurban transportation of disabled workers and persons who benefit from the status of the blind have been approved. Pursuant to the recommendation of the People's Advocate, the exemption from the online application on the e-Albania platform has been made possible for the elderly, persons with disabilities in movement and vision, for the biometric passport device.¹⁶²

157. The Central Election Commission approved the facilities for the voting of persons with disabilities in the polling stations.¹⁶³

158. Mental Health Action Plan 2023-2026¹⁶⁴ adopted in implementation of the strategic forecasts of the National Health Strategy 2021-2030 is based on the principles of universal health coverage, human rights and inclusiveness. The law on mental health was amended in order to strengthen the legal protection and rights of persons with mental health disorders.¹⁶⁵ The challenge remains the establishment of specialized centers for the treatment of people with mental health problems near every city.

159. NGOs address persons with disabilities and carry out studies for them.¹⁶⁶

Minorities (Recommendation 95.181, 95.182, 95.183, 95.184, 95.185, 95.188, 95.187, 95.100, 95.180, 95.186)

160. The new National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians for the years 2021-2025 was approved.¹⁶⁷ The amended Anti-Discrimination Act was amended in 2020.

161. The State Guaranteed Legal Aid Law of 2018 guarantees free legal aid. 20 state centers throughout Albania provide primary legal assistance for civil and administrative matters and criminal and 15 non-profit organizations are authorized by the state to provide free legal aid.

162. Albania has adopted by-laws within the framework of law no. 96/2017 "On the protection of national minorities in the Republic of Albania", although not all.

163. Measures have been taken for financial quotas for food in canteens and dormitories and scholarships for children from Roma and Egyptian minorities.¹⁶⁸ Albania collects data on minority children in order to improve policies and provide services.

164. The Albanian law on pre-university education guarantees that persons, who belong to national minorities, are given the opportunity to learn and be taught in their mother tongue, to learn their history and culture, according to the plans and curricula.¹⁶⁹ In order to improve the education of national minorities, three CoMDs and other by-laws were approved for the reporting period.¹⁷⁰ In each instruction of the new school year, the educational institutions where students of national minorities learn are oriented to support these students for the pursuit and completion of education.

165. Local offices of pre-university education give priority to the registration of children of national minorities, their education and the organization of activities that promote the language, culture and traditions of the minorities. In 2019, importance was given to the educational institutions where they learn pupils of national minorities, while created for the first time in the areas where students of the Greek national minority study a Local Education Office (Finiq-Dropull) which is headed by a representative of this national minority.¹⁷¹

166. About 70% of the teaching subjects for students of the Greek and Macedonian minorities in basic education are taught in their mother tongue and about 30% are taught in the Albanian language. All students of national minorities are provided with free textbooks

from the state budget. Regardless of the number of students per class, in classes 1–9 of national minorities, learning takes place in separate classes.

167. The government pays special attention to the professional development of teachers of national minorities. National minority teachers are trained at least three days each year by the Pre-University Education Quality Assurance Agency to teach competency-based curricula.

Migrants (Recommendation 95.196)

168. Albania implemented the National Migration Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2022 in 55%, with around 72 measures fully implemented. In 2024 the new National Migration Strategy 2024-2030 and Action Plan 2024-2026 was approved in accordance with the Global Compact on Migration and the European Union.¹⁷²

169. In 2020, the law on citizenship was adopted,¹⁷³ in 2021 the law on foreigners¹⁷⁴ as well as for asylum,¹⁷⁵ and in 2024 the civil status law was changed.¹⁷⁶ 30 of the 32 bylaws of the law on foreigners have been approved.¹⁷⁷

170. The Closed Reception Center in Karreç supports the implementation of return procedures, based on bilateral agreements between Albania and the countries of origin/transit. The Albanian and Italian governments ratified an agreement to strengthen cooperation in the field of migration between the two countries.

Human rights and counter-terrorism (Recommendation 95.33, 95.37, 95.34, 95.35, 95.36)

171. In March 2022, the government adopted a new cross-sectoral strategy for 2023–2025 and two action plans to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism, which followed the cross-sectoral national counter-terrorism strategy 2020 and the 2015 national counter-extremism strategy violent and their respective action plans.

172. Albania is a party to a bilateral agreement with the European Union for the practical implementation of the Joint Action Plan against Terrorism for the Western Balkans, which was revised in 2022.

173. The leading body against terrorism is the Anti-Terrorism Directorate of the State Police, under the jurisdiction of the Special Prosecutor's Office and special courts. The budget of this directorate was increased in 2023. The Counter Violent Extremism Coordination Center is responsible for capacity building and coordinating activities against violent extremism. In 2023, regional committees were established for the prevention of radicalism and the fight against violent extremism.¹⁷⁸

V. Conclusions

174. The UPR Report of the 4th Cycle of the Republic of Albania highlights the important progress made in the field of protection and promotion of human rights.

175. Albania remains determined to continue efforts to protect human rights and committed to the advancement of human rights in the country.

Notes

¹ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_146954.htm; https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_180087.htm.

² Law no. 6/2020 "On the ratification of the "Instrument of Amendments to the Constitution of the ILO", approved in Geneva, on June 4, 1986".

³ Law no. 13/2022 "On the ratification of the Convention of the International Labor Organization no. 190 "On violence and harassment in employment".

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/AlbanianMEFA/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AlbanianMEFA/posts/pfbid02zqg8m9sJ5eZpRpHRc5umgkWUu3oNSXyXomHkGL9T4ATG1kFo5GkKpQ5Rbh2fCGNZl>, or

<https://www.facebook.com/AlbanianMEFA/posts/pfbid0ySXtonzujggd4RCHdnDFcEp9vwtURkxbFHCa46kEkCRo7SntjLRJBw5V9tmGwBsol>.

- ⁵ Law no. 13/2022, dated 3.2.2022 "On the ratification of Convention 190 "Convention on Violence and Harassment" of the ILO, 1986.<https://qbz.gov.al/eli/fz/2022/30/38f028cc-c3bc-4956-96cf-dc221db20efe>.
- ⁶ <http://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2024/03/13/152>.
- ⁷ CoMD no. 864, dated 24.12.2019,<https://www.sherbimisocial.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/vendim-2019-12-24-864.pdf>.
- ⁸ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/al/46eb57a0095aac6d46fe42b6cfb302f66368453e0c284a07c0c7c9fd8d43760b.pdf>.
- ⁹ CoMD no. 659, dated 03.11.2021,https://femijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AKDF-2021-2026_ALB_FINAL-WEB.pdf.
- ¹⁰ CoMD No. 700, dated 18.11.2021 (<https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/LGBTI-NAP-2021-2027-AL-final.pdf>).
- ¹¹ CoMD 732 dated 13.12.2023 (<https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2023/12/13/732/b95f4c2c-f7b3-46f9-954d-de698e280380;q=Plani%20i%20Vepimit%20per%20zatimin%20e%20Resolutions%201325%20to%20the%20UN%20Security%20Council%20for%20Women,%20Peace%20and%20Security>).

¹² Pursuant to:

- CoMD no. 468, dated 26.07.2023 "On the treatment of employees in the Public Administration with facilitated loans", and no. 469, dated 26.07.2023 "On the approval of the general quotas of new loans for the priority categories of beneficiary employees in the Public Administration", instruction of the Ministry of Interior no. 6/2022, dated 12.12.2022, "On the procedures for providing immediate financial assistance ", and for the families of military personnel in case of illness/death or major damage to property, as a result of a natural disaster.
- CoMD no. 269, dated 28.4.2005 "On the criteria and measure of financial coverage of health care for the military of the Armed Forces", amended as well as the protocol between the Council of Ministers of RSH and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for training and cooperation in the field of health military", dated 24.3.2021;
- CoMD no. 600, dated 14.9.2022, "On handling and covering the financial expenses of the military and civilian personnel of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, during the time they are appointed on duty abroad" and
- CoMD no. 854/2004, amended, which supports active military personnel with unemployment benefits in cases of his/her appointment to duty outside his/her permanent residence, inside and outside the country when, as a result, his/her spouse loses his/her job.

Also, the soldier is compensated for the expenses incurred for travel and transportation of household materials, referring to Article 25 of the status of the soldier.

- ¹³ The new law on the state police was approved in July 2024 in the Assembly.
- ¹⁴ Law no. 39/2023.
- ¹⁵ In July 2024, a new law on the state police was approved in the Parliament.
- ¹⁶ Law 48/2023, "On some additions and changes to Law no. 22/2018, "On social housing".
- ¹⁷ For illustration, during 2024, the following laws were approved:
- Law no. 14/2024 "For the approval of the national security strategy of the Republic of Albania "
 - Law no. 15/2024 "On the marine environment protection strategy of the Republic of Albania".
 - Law no. 20/2024 "On the ratification of the protocol between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the government of the Italian Republic for strengthening cooperation in the field of migration".
 - Law no. 25/2024 "On cyber security".
 - Law no. 29/2024 "On water resources".
 - Law no. 30/2024 "On some changes and additions to the law no. 93/2015 "On tourism", amended".
 - Law no. 32/2024 "For some additions to the law no. 15/2017 "on education and professional training in the Republic of Albania".
- Also, during 2020, the following laws were approved:
- Law no. 18/2020 "For the approval of the normative act, with the force of law, no. 1, dated 31.1.2020, of the Council of Ministers, "On preventive measures in the framework of strengthening the fight against terrorism, organized crime, serious crimes and the consolidation of public security order".
 - Law no. 20/2020 "For the completion of transitional ownership processes in the Republic of Albania".
 - Law no. 43/2020 "On Maritime Tourism activities".
 - Law no. 53/2020 "For some changes in the law no. 10 431, dated 9.6.2011, "On environmental protection", as amended".
 - Law no. 54/2020 "On some changes and additions to law no. 7643, dated 2.12.1992, "for sanitary

- inspection", amended".
- Law no.57/2020 "For forests".
 - Law no. 56/2020 "On collective investment enterprises".
 - Law no. 55/2020 "For payment services".
 - Law no. 79/2020 "On the execution of criminal decisions".
 - Law no. /2020 "For the prison police".
 - Law no. 81/2020 "On the rights and treatment of those sentenced to imprisonment and pre-trial detainees".
 - Law no. 83/2020 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Amended Convention of the European Satellite Telecommunications Organization (EUTELSAT)".
 - Law no. 85/2020 "On some amendments and additions to law no. 10 192, dated 3.12.2009, "On preventing and combating organized crime, trafficking, corruption and other crimes through preventive measures against wealth", as amended".
 - Law no. 91/2020 "For some changes in the law no. 90/2019 "On the revaluation of real estate".
 - Law no. 96/2020 "Air Code of the Republic of Albania".
 - Law no. 112/2020 "On the register of beneficial owners".
 - Law no. 113/2020 "On citizenship".
 - Law no. 115/2020 "For some changes in the law no. 8417, dated 21.10.1998, "Constitution of the Republic of Albania", amended".
 - Law no. 116/2020 "For the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, acceded to by law no. 9334, dated 16.12.2004.
 - Law no. 125/2020 "On some additions and changes to law no. 9669, dated 18.12.2006 "for measures against violence in family relationships", amended".
 - Law no. 124/2020 "On some additions and changes to law no. 10221, dated 4.2.2010 "On protection against discrimination".
 - Law no. 140/2020 "On the population and housing census".
 - Law no. 146/2020 "On some additions and changes to law no. 7895, dated 27.1.1995, "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", amended".
 - Law no. 147/2020 "For an addition and some changes to the law no. 7905, dated 21.3.1995, "Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Albania", amended".
 - Law no. 148/2020 "For some additions to law no. 97/2016 "On the organization and functioning of the Prosecutor's Office in the Republic of Albania"".
 - Law no. 149/2020 "For an addition to law no. 96/2016 "On the status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania", as amended".
 - Law no. 150/2020 "For some additions to law no. 60/2016 "On reporting and protection of whistleblowers".
 - Law no. 152/2020 "On some changes and additions to law no. 74/2014 "On weapons"".
 - Law no. 153/2020 "On the fiscal regime in the hydrocarbon sector".
 - Law no. 155/2020 "For climate change".
 - Law no. 165/2020 "On some changes and additions to law no. 9179, dated 29.1.2004, "for a special treatment of employees who have worked in some enterprises of the military industry", as amended".
 - Law no. 166/2020 "On some changes and additions to the law no. 8097, dated 21.3.1996, "On supplementary state pensions of persons performing constitutional functions and of state employees", amended".
- ¹⁸ Law no. 81/2020 "On the rights and treatment of prisoners and detainees".
- ¹⁹ Law no. 76/2016, "On some additions and changes to Law No. 8417, dated 21.10.1998, "Constitution of the Republic of Albania", amended".
- ²⁰ According to the exchange rate 1 USD: 92.399 Lek (Albanian currency).
- ²¹ See the CPD reports for the years 2021 and 2022 at:
- <https://www.kmd.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Raporti-KMD-2021-versioni-perfundimtar.pdf>.
 - https://www.kmd.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Raporti-KMD-2022_compressed.pdf.
- ²² Law no. 124/2020 for some additions and changes to law no. 10221, dated 4.2.2010, "On protection against discrimination".<http://qbz.gov.al/eli/ligj/2020/10/15/124>.
- ²³ <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/draft-koncept-dokumenti-strategjik-strategjia-ndersektoriale-kunder-korrupcionit-2023-2030> and is in public consultation, at: [https://konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/765- Draft Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2024-2030](https://konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/765-Draft%20Intersectoral%20Strategy%20Against%20Corruption%202024-2030).
- ²⁴ CoMD No. 29, dated 17.01.2024, of the Council of Ministers, "On determining the scope of responsibility of the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption" responsible for:
- guaranteeing the principles of good governance.

- directing and coordinating the work for the proposal of acts and policies for the management and energization of human resources of the public administration,
 - modernization of institutions, and
 - training and professional development of public administration employees.
- ²⁵ Law no. 12/2018 "On the transitory and periodic evaluation of employees of the State Police, the Guard of the Republic and the Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints", amended.
- ²⁶ A number of acts were passed to regulate the process:
- Instruction no. 07, dated 17.01.2023 "On the procedures and methods of drawing lots for assessment bodies and assessment subjects of law no. 12/2018 "On the transitory and periodic assessment of employees of the State Police, the Guard of the Republic and the Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints", amended.
 - Instruction no. 06, dated 17.01.2023 "For the approval of the declaration forms for the control of the figure and the evaluation of professional skills for the transitory and periodic evaluation, as well as the way of completing them in accordance with the law no. 12/2018 "On the transitory and periodic evaluation of employees of the State Police, the Guard of the Republic and the Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints", amended.
- Also, 8 Internal Regulations have been approved by order of the General Director of AMP:
- Order no. 194, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "On the standardization of the assessment of professional skills";
 - Order no. 195, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "On the protection, processing, storage and security of personal data by assessment bodies";
 - Order no. 196, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation on the Standardization of Figure Control";
 - Order no. 197, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "On Unified Procedural Steps";
 - Order no. 198, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "On Media Relations";
 - Order no. 199, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation on the Standardization of property valuation";
 - Order no. 200, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "Ethical Code of Conduct of Evaluation Bodies";
 - Order no. 201, dated 23.02.2023 "On the approval of the Regulation "On the organization and functioning of assessment bodies".
- ²⁷ The subgroup of experts that will analyze this field (human rights) will prepare an Analytical Document with the findings, evaluations, analyzes based on which the National Action Plan will be drawn up and draft laws and institutional changes will be proposed (if necessary).
- ²⁸ There is an increase in breast cancer screening services through mobile mammography for women and girls from 5,450 women to 5,550 for the years 2024-2026 at a cost of 12,500,000 ALL, with the aim of preventing cases by increasing breast cancer screening. against the total number of women (age group 50-60 years) from 15.2% in 2023 to 30.3% in 2026. Free textbooks are provided for 252 thousand students attending basic education from the first grade to the ninth grade, financial scholarships or food/financial quota for 3,600 students with special needs, free textbooks for secondary education, including girls who come from families in need and/or victims of trafficking, transportation service is provided for 36,000 girls and boys (44% are girls) who have their place of residence more than 2 km from the school, as well as for about 12 thousand teachers who work more than 5 km from the place of residence/permanent work center at the school, and financial support for about 26 sports federations out of 44 federations in total . Free legal aid is for about 5,000 individuals in total who meet the conditions under the law for free legal aid, of which 3,000 or 59% are women and girls. Also, the budget support for activities in the field of cultural heritage increases from 107 activities during the years 2023-2024 to 110 activities in the years 2025-2026. The rent bonus is offered to about 1,128 beneficiary families with a fund of 163.6 million ALL, while the cost of social housing for 850 abused women and girls or one-parent families is 47,562,600 ALL. See:<https://arkiva.financa.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Buxheti-p%C3%ABr-Cytetar%C3%ABt-Ministria-e-Financave-dhe-Ekonomis%C3%AB.pdf>.
- ²⁹ Pursuant to Law 121/2026 "On social care services".
- ³⁰ Guidelines for Municipalities "Responsible Budgeting for Roma and Egyptian Minorities at Local Level in Albania", ROMACTED Program, 2020.
- ³¹ https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/VKM-Nr.823-dat%C3%AB-24.12.2021-e-bashkuar_compressed.pdf.
- ³² <https://tdh-albania.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Plani%20Kombetar%20i%20Veprimit%20web%29.pdf>.
- ³³ CoMD No. 247, dated 20.3.2015 "On the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy against corruption, 2015-2023", amended.

- ³⁴ CoMD no. 1140, dated 24.12.2020 "On the approval of the strategy against organized crime and serious crimes, 2021-2025, and the action plan 2021-2022".
- ³⁵ <https://financa.gov.al/newsroom/ministeri-mete-prezaton-projektbuxhetin-2024-ne-komisionin-perchestjet-ligjore-administraten-publike-dhe-te-drejtat-e-njeriut/>.
- ³⁶ <https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/sq/articles-layout-1/home/news/this-article-is-available-only-in-albanian-768/>.
<https://www.undp.org/albania/publications/violence-against-women-politics>
- ³⁷ "Beyond definitions calls against hate speech. A comprehensive study", November 2021.
<https://www.kmd.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Manual-shqip.pdf>.
- ³⁸ ASCAP in collaboration with MAS and UNFPA, during 2022-2026, has undertaken a series of activities such as: the inclusion and implementation of health education with a focus on "Sexual Education as Life Skills" in a safe school environment; designing the training program "Health education with a focus on sexual education as a life skill in a safe school environment"; designing training modules "Health education with a focus on sexual education as a life skill in a safe school environment"; raising awareness and preparing national and local capacities for the implementation of the "Sexual Abuse" training package at school; preparation of awareness-raising materials with a focus on sexual abuse as well as on-line access; identification of schools that will serve as coordinating centers for the continuation of the program "Sexual education as skills for life" and putting them into operation; implementation and monitoring of the curriculum package "Health education with a focus on sexual education as life skills" in schools where the staff have been trained for the development of the health education program.
- ³⁹ The center was created according to CoMD no. 262. 23.04.2004 "On the transfer of administrative responsibility of the National Reception Center for Asylum Seekers, in Babrru, Tirana.<https://www.qendraeprijtesperazil.com/>.
- ⁴⁰ Letter – Order no. 5126/2, dated 15.08.2019 "On respecting the rights of national communities/minorities, preventing and eliminating discriminatory behaviors/attitudes that violate their dignity".
- ⁴¹ <https://unglobalaccelerator.org/pathfinder-countries/albania>.
- ⁴² Assembly decision no. 34/2022 dated 14.4.2022. The area of responsibility of this subcommittee is economic and social development, sustainable economic growth, the realization of the objectives of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda of the UN. The subcommittee has approved indicators for each field and institution.
- ⁴³ <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/11279/sdg-2022-shqip.pdf>.
- ⁴⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/members>.
- ⁴⁵ CoMD no. 466, dated 3.7.2019.
- ⁴⁶ Law no. 155-2020 "On climate change".
- ⁴⁷ <https://turizmi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/3.-Kontributi-Komb%C3%ABtar-i-Percaktuar-KKP-i-rishikuar-p%C3%ABr-Shqip%C3%ABrin%C3%AB-1.pdf>.
- ⁴⁸ Law no. 45/2019 "On Civil Protection".
- ⁴⁹ CoMD no. 94, dated 22.02.2023 "For the approval of the national strategy for disaster risk reduction 2023-2030 and the action plan".
- ⁵⁰ CoMD no. 807, dated 28.12.2023 "On the approval of the national plan for civil emergencies".
- ⁵¹ <https://durrës.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Vendimi-nr.151-date-22.12.2022.pdf>.
- ⁵² CoMD no. 168, dated 24.3.2023 "On the approval of disaster risk assessment at the central level".
- ⁵³ Some projects can be mentioned such as: building the regenerative capacities of the Kune-Vain Lagoon through ecosystem-based adaptation (QbE) This is a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (2016-2020)l TRATOLOW (October 2020- July 2024) (Transition to low emissions and climate resilient economy in the Western Balkans and Turkey); "NDC ASSIST II" (2020- onwards) supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), or "Advancement of Albania's medium and long-term adaptation planning through the development of a national adaptation planning process" funded from the Green Climate Fund – GCF as part of the Readiness Support Programme.
- ⁵⁴ Law no. 14/2024 "On the approval of the national security strategy of the Republic of Albania".
- ⁵⁵ CoMD no. 1137, dated 16.12.2020 "On the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy of the fight against terrorism, 2021-2025, and the action plan 2021-2023".
- ⁵⁶ CoMD No. 81, dated 14.2.2023 "For the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy for the prevention of violent extremism and the fight against terrorism 2023-2025 and the action plans 2023-2025".
- ⁵⁷ CoMD No. 1139, dated 24.12.2020, <https://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2020/12/24/1139/ee9ac734-a09b-4eee-bf81-1a09d73a001d>.
- ⁵⁸ CoMD no. 1137, dated 16.12.2020 "For the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy of the fight against terrorism, 2021-2025, and the action plan 2021-2023; CoMD no. 81, dated 14.2.2023 "For the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy for the prevention of violent extremism and the fight against

- terrorism 2023-2025 and action plans 2023-2025; CoMD no. 1084, dated 24.12.2020 "On the approval of the national strategy for cyber security and the 2020-2025 action plan; CoMD no. 237, dated 20.4.2022 "For some changes and additions to Decision no. 737, dated 13.12.2017, of the Council of Ministers, "On the establishment of the coordination center against violent extremism (QKEDH)".
- ⁵⁹ Created by Prime Minister's Order, No. 185, dated 31.10.2023 "On the establishment and functioning of the Regional Committees for the Prevention of Radicalism and the War against Violent Extremism".
- ⁶⁰ Article 78 of the Criminal Code, as amended.
- ⁶¹ Article 83 of the Criminal Code, as amended.
- ⁶² Article 83/bi of the Criminal Code, as amended.
- ⁶³ Law no. 9389, dated 04.05.2005 "On the creation and functioning of the Coordinating Council in the fight against blood feud".
- ⁶⁴ Law no. 79/2020 "On the execution of criminal decisions" and law no. 81/2020, "On the rights and treatment of prisoners and detainees".
- ⁶⁵ Law no. 27/2023 "On the control of the trading of products that can be used for death sentences, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments or treatments".
- ⁶⁶ Article 250 of the Criminal Code.
- ⁶⁷ Such include: Order letter no. 6104/3, dated 02.09.2019 "On the recognition and implementation of the recommendations of the European Committee against Torture, on respecting and guaranteeing the rights of persons deprived of their liberty in the premises of the State Police" (recommendations made after the visit to our country in November 2018); Order letter no. 7701, dated 12.10.2022 "On respecting and guaranteeing in practice the right to medical treatment of arrested/detained persons"; Attention no. 567, dated 16.01.2024 "On the fulfillment of responsibilities and duties by the State Police structures in accordance with the Constitution, international acts and legal acts of the country, respecting and guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of persons".
- ⁶⁸ <https://www.publeaks.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/1408.pdf>. Order of the General Director of Police no. 1720, dated 20.11.2023.
- ⁶⁹ Approved by CoMD no. 458, dated 10.07.2024. The National Action Plan (NAP) for the Fight against Human Trafficking 2024-2025 is the most important national political document that coordinates state actors, international organizations and civil society in joint efforts to combat human trafficking. The plan is a clear expression of the will of the Albanian Government to take all the necessary institutional, legal and budgetary measures to respond in a coordinated manner to human trafficking. The bases of interventions and actions defined in the National Action Plan remain prevention, investigation and follow-up, protection and social and economic reintegration of the victim/potential victim of trafficking. This document is a continuation of the anti-trafficking objectives foreseen in the Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2021-2025 and the National Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons 2021-2023, but adapted to the dynamics of trafficking, the new governing vision in the approach to the phenomenon of trafficking to create a well-oriented platform of goals and strategic objectives in accordance with other national strategic documents, as well as the recommendations of international partners.
- ⁷⁰ <http://differentandequal.org/sq/study-report-on-the-need-of-drafting-a-special-law-for-the-protection-of-victims-of-trafficking-in-albania/>.
- ⁷¹ On 22.12.2020 with the United States of America, in 2022 with the European Public Prosecutor based in Luxembourg and with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP).
- ⁷² <https://mb.gov.al/ep-content/uploads/2024/01/Arveshja-e-Bashkepunimit-MKR-scan.pdf>.
- ⁷³ <https://www.avokatipoullit.gov.al/media/manager/website/reports/VIOLENCE%20AGAINST%20=OMAN%20IN%20POLITIC.pdf>.
<https://www.undp.org/albania/publications/violence-against-omen-politics>.
- ⁷⁴ Decision no. 729, dated 13.12.2023 "For the approval of the cross-sectoral strategy for the protection of crime victims 2024-2030, its action plan and the passport of indicators".
- ⁷⁵ Approved by Decision of the Audiovisual Media Authority no. 60, dated 10.07.2023. <https://ama.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AMA-Kodi-I-Transmetimit.pdf>.
- ⁷⁶ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ea0a4b05-683f-4b9c-b7ff-4615a5fffd0b_en?filename=SWD_2023_690%20Albania%20report.pdf.
- ⁷⁷ Joint Instruction of the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council No. 9, dated 17.06.2020 "On determining the rules for the creation of a special database for domestic violence cases in the courts and the unification of their registration".
- ⁷⁸ Such are:
- MoHSP protocol no. 254, dated April 10, 2020 "On the operation of public and non-public residential centers that provide housing services for victims/survivors of domestic violence and for victims/survivors of trafficking in the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic".

- MoHSP Instruction No. 253, dated April 10, 2020 for the management of cases involving children in need of protection during the COVID-19 emergency.
 - Normative Act of the Council of Ministers No. 9, dated March 25, 2020 "On taking special measures in the field of judicial activity, during the duration of the epidemic caused by COVID-19".
- 79 Instruction no. 17, dated 23.17.2020.
https://www.pp.gov.al/Legjislacioni/Akte_Nenligjore/Udhezime_te_Prokurorit_te_Pergjithshem/?ser=1183&rpp=4&msv=
- 80 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/13231/statistikat-e-krimeve-dhe-drejt%C3%ABsis%C3%AB-penale-2023.pdf>.
- 81 Order of the Minister of Defense no. 391, dated 31.03.2020 "For the approval of the document on Policies and procedures for the elimination of violence, sexual harassment in the working environment of the structures of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces".
- 82 Anastasia. A., Enter, V., Bozo, Vora, E., Killings of women (femicide) and attempted femicide in Albania (2017-2020), Publication of the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, FamPlatz, UN Women, March 2023.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370832986_vrasjet_e_grave_femicidi_dhe_tentativa_per_femicid_ne_shqiperi_2017-2020.
- 83 QDNJD (2022), Report on the training of Tirana Police Stations on "The role of the state police in handling and addressing issues of gender-based violence and domestic violence based on recent changes in legislation".
- 84 Law no. 80/2021 "On the registration of non-profit organizations".
- 85 Article 22, points 2 and 3 of the Constitution.
- 86 Articles 119 and 120 of the Criminal Code, as amended.
- 87 Article 59, CPC.
- 88 Special Report regarding the respect of constitutional and legal rights, as well as the highest standards of human rights of the parties in the criminal process,
https://www.avokatipoullit.gov.al/media/manager/website/reports/DRAFT%20per%20CONSULTIMI%20PUBLIK%20.%20Raporti_drejtuar_SPAK_etj_per_Elton_Qyno.pdf.
- 89 Order no. 1180, dated 16.08.2023 of the General Director of the State Police "On the approval of standard procedures "On the planning of police services during gatherings".
- 90 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/13581/cens-i-populise-2023.pdf>.
- 91 <https://qbz.gov.al/eli/fz/2021/162/8f6d9e67-0996-44faadb4a32b30e7fad;qeligj%20per%20te%20hajt>.
- 92 Instruction of the Minister of the Interior no. 87 dated 21.06.2023 "On the documentation and procedure for the application, assessment, approval and rejection of the request for the declaration of statelessness".
- 93 <http://qbz.gov.al/eli/ligj/2020/07/29/113>.
- 94 Information from the "Help for Children" Foundation, a local NGO, during the consultation of this report.
- 95 <https://kqz.gov.al/akte-te-kqz-2/>.
- 96 For example, based on the work plan for electoral education, the campaign is continuous and intensified with the release of the election decree. CEC decision no. 220, dated 7.12.2022, CEC Strategic Plan 2022-2025 / electoral education. CEC decision no. 221, dated 7.12.2022. CEC decision no. 222, dated 7.12.2022.
- 97 Instruction no. 1, dated 5.12.2020, of the Regulatory Commission, CEC "Determining the rules for setting up, assigning and announcing the location of voting centers, and preparing the map of the local self-government unit for the elections".
- 98 Law no. 81/2024 "On some additions and changes to law no. 10 019, dated 29.12.2008, Electoral Code of RSH", decreed by the President of the Republic with Decree no. 274, dated 30.07.2024.
- 99 Article 58 and 59, Constitution.
- 100 Such include:
- CoMD no. 199, dated 31.3.2021 "On the special conditions of licensing, accompanying documents, procedures for reviewing or revoking the license, application fees and annual quotation for the exercise of the commercial activity of cultural assets";
 - CoMD no. 220, dated 7.4.2021 "On the special conditions for issuing the permit, accompanying documents, as well as the procedures for reviewing or revoking the permit for conducting archaeological research";
 - CoMD no. 146 dated 10.03.2021 "On the Creation, Organization, and Operation of the Korça Education Museum"
 - CoMD no. 583, dated 6.10.2021 "On procedures for the creation and administration of the database of stolen cultural assets";

- CoMD no. 725, dated 24.11.2021 "On the operation, organization and way of developing the activity of the National Museum of Independence".

¹⁰¹ See the changes at: <http://qbz.gov.al/eli/ligj/2015/05/28/55>.

¹⁰² The by-laws approved within the law include:

- CoMD no. 462, dated 3.7.2019 "On taking the necessary measures and policies to ensure the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public, cultural, social and economic life in the Republic of Albania";
- CoMD no. 463, dated 3.7.2019, "On determining the directions for the adoption of strategies, programs and action plans for the promotion and creation of the necessary conditions for persons belonging to national minorities to use and develop the basic elements of the identity of national minorities. , including their language".

The draft decisions are in the process of approval:

- For determining the necessary measures and policies to ensure the participation of national minorities in their public, cultural, social and economic life in the Republic of Albania,
- For defining strategies, programs and action plans to create the necessary conditions for national minorities to maintain and develop their distinct identity in the Republic of Albania, in order to complete the legal framework for national minorities.

¹⁰³ Such are:

- CoMD no. 754, dated 30.11.2019 "On the way of organizing the temporary accommodation of those injured due to the natural disaster in Durrës, Tirana and Lezha counties, in the accommodation structures";
- DCMno. 823, dated 18.12.2019 "On the procedure for the purchase of housing in the free market, which are added to the public fund of social housing for rent";
- CoMD no. 522, dated 25.7.2019 "On the method of calculating the amount of rent for social housing for rent";
- CoMD no. 459, dated 3.7.2019 "On the rules for the administration of the requests of local self-government units for funds from the state budget for subsidizing rent or usufruct, the method of financing the subsidy, monitoring and cooperation between local self-government units and the ministry responsible for housing";
- CoMD no. 458, dated 3.7.2019 "On the procedure for the return to the housing fund, for the purpose of housing, of state-owned buildings, which are adapted by local self-government units with competitive grants from the state budget";
- CoMD no. 453, dated 3.7.2019 "On the amount of the loan interest subsidy and the procedure for granting it to families that benefit from low-cost housing, with loans facilitated by the state";
- CoMD no. 454, dated 3.7.2019 "On the criteria and procedures for the benefit of awarding competitive grants for improving the conditions of existing facilities and housing";
- CoMD no. 384, dated 12.6.2019 "On determining the documentation to benefit from housing according to any social housing program and the deadlines and procedures for approval by local self-government bodies";
- CoMD no. 362, dated 29.5.2019 "On the criteria for granting the rent subsidy for the categories that enjoy priority in the rent subsidy in the free market, through the state budget, and the method of its calculation";
- CoMD no. 11 and CoMD no. 179, dated 26.2.2020 "On the rules, conditions and procedures of the privatization of dwellings that have been subject to law no. 7652, dated 23.12.1992, "On the privatization of state housing", and law no. 9321, dated 25.11.2004, "On the privatization of apartments and buildings converted into apartments, built with the funds of companies and state enterprises";
- CoMD no. 300, dated 15.4.2020 "On determining the procedure for the exchange of a low-cost apartment";
- CoMD no. 301, dated 15.4.2020 "On housing rates, as well as conditions and standards for social housing for rent that are purchased on the market and low-cost housing.";
- CoMD no. 496, dated 24.6.2020 "On the organization, functioning, criteria and selection procedures of members of the national housing council, as well as relations with other state institutions operating in this field.";
- CoMD no. 555, dated 15.7.2020 "On the procedures, criteria and priorities for awarding the immediate grant for low-cost housing from the state budget";
- CoMD no. 579, dated 22.7.2020 "On the determination of the public institutions that administer shelters, the criteria, procedures and sufficient capacities to manage social, financial and technical issues, as well as the procedures for the administration and maintenance of temporary shelters, the competences of responsible entities and cooperation between them.";

- DoCM no. 580, dated 22.7.2020 "On the market purchase, evaluation and sale procedures, as well as the criteria for determining the sale price of land for families that benefit from low-cost housing, depending on their income level" ;
- DoCM no. 873 dated 11.11.2020 "On determining the cases and manner of cooperation between the central government and local self-government units, for the creation or addition of the public social housing fund.";
- DoCM no. 898, dated 18.11.2020 "On the rules, conditions, criteria and procedures for the privatization of housing and buildings returned to the non-privatized housing fund.";
- DoCM no. 142, dated 10.3.2021 "On determining the criteria for the beneficiaries of the program for the development of the area, for the purpose of housing, the way of ensuring their housing during the construction period, the form of transfer of ownership for quotas determined for social housing by builders or the owners, for housing the beneficiaries who have been displaced by them.";
- DoCM no. 441, dated 22.7.2021 "On selection procedures, contracting methods, forms and general conditions of the contract for the construction of housing in areas developed for the purpose of housing.

¹⁰⁴ Programs:

- Pact per University qefrom 2021;
- The School as a Community Center Program, which encourages pro-social cultural/community orientation in children and teenagers, transforming schools into centers of community life outside of school hours;
- the program "Education through culture", under the direction of the National Theater of Opera, Ballet and Popular Ensemble, the National Experimental Theater Kujtim Spahivogli, as well as the National Circus;
- The "Arts, Crafts and Sports" program that has been implemented since 2023, which also includes the "Arts and Crafts in the Pre-University Curriculum" program, etc.

Projects:

- 137 projects and activities and jobs dedicated to students, years 2021 to 2023;
- "Come sing with us" in implementation since 2015 for the age group 10-18 years old, the promotion for children during the months of January-May of each calendar year of reading in the National Library for children 7-18 years old,
- performances for children aged 7-18 at the National Experimental Theater Kujtim Spahivogli,
- The inclusion of children of the 9-year cycle, 7-15 years old, in seven main profiles of the Circus,
- competitions like the one for Young Composers "Česk Zadeja", which aims to encourage new creativity of original musical works by composers aged 20-30.
- The TEA digital application which displays artistic calendars implemented in the country
- The Gjirokastra National Folk Festival is the most important event in the field of cultural heritage, which includes artistic forces and folk artists in all 12 regions of the country with representatives from the Republic of Kosovo, representative groups of Albanians from the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro , Diaspora, artistic groups invited from the Balkans, Europe, etc., and encourages the active participation of members of minority communities and is based on the promotion of tourism and sustainable development of the country
- During 2023, in the field of handicrafts, 42 projects were developed in total, which included both women and girls as well as men and boys.
- During 2020-2021, the Ombudsman organized with the support of UNICEF 14 working tables/monitoring activities with representatives of public authorities at the local level (including second-level municipalities), responsible for the social protection of children, part of the integrated protection system of the child, in the municipalities of Dropull, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Përmet, Përrenjas, Cërrik, Gramsh, Pogradec, Shkodra, Lezha, Durrës, Kavajë, Elbasan, Librazhd.

Projects that aim inclusion of national minorities:

- Multicultural Festival 2019.
- Folklore Festival of the Macedonian Minority in Albania, Macedonian Association "Ilinden".
- Hand in hand Dance Generations, Multifunctional Association for Culture, Education and Development, Gjirokastër.
- Millennium of Roma: Fair of Roma culture and tradition in Korça District, non-profit organization "DISUTNI ALBANIA".
- International Roma Language Day, 2020, in cooperation with Albanian Public Radio and Television.
- Journey in the footsteps of tradition, (Sewing traditional costumes of women of the Greek community, Livadhja, Finiq), "Saint Kosmai" association, 2021-2023.
- Promotion through digital applications of cult objects in the territory of Dropull Municipality, Multifunctional Association for Culture, Education and Development, 2021.

- Folklore Festival of the Macedonian Minority in the Republic of Albania, "Ilinden" Association, 2022.
 - "Macedonian Cultural Summer 2022 (15th anniversary), 'Edmond Sotir' Association. Dropull "International Film Festival "Friendship Bridge", 2022, Kostaq Zhonga.
 - Papuski Gili (Grandfather's Song)", performed by the Romano Kham Association, 2023, etc.
- Projects for the inclusion of persons with disabilities:
- Art without Barriers, realized by the Edu Innovation association, 2021.
 - Promotion of the Cultural and Historical Heritage of our country adapted for children with different abilities through digital technology in culture", realized by the Institute of Psychological Services for the Community.
 - Comprehensive Orchestra Rreze Shprese", performed by "Rreze Shprese" Association. t of them by fostering the talent and discovering the inclinations they have.
 - Inclusive Band, National Club of Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, 2022.
 - National Club of Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders with the project title "Rin Fest 2023 (Inclusive National Festival)".
 - Association "Syri Blu" with project title "Sing together", 2023, etc.
- 105 Law no. 77/2022, dated 17.11.2022 "On some additions and changes to law no. 133/2015, "On the treatment of property and completion of the property compensation process".
- 106 CoMD no. 312, dated 24.05.2023 and CoMD no. 313, dated 24.05.2023 amended CoMD no. 222 and CoMD no. 223 of 2016.
- 107 Decision of the Constitutional Court no. 4, dated 15.02.2021 and the Decision of the European Court of Human Rights, Beshiri, etc. against Albania (appeal no. 7352/03).
- 108 Property Handling Agency. 2023 Annual Report.
- 109 https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ea0a4b05-683f-4b9c-b7ff-4615a5ffffd0b_en?filename=SWD_2023_690%20Albania%20report.pdf, p. 36.
- 110 Law no. 7703, dated 11.05.1993 "On social security in the Republic of Albania", amended.
- 111 <https://www.instat.gov.al/al/publikime/librat/2023/objektivat-e-zhvillimit-t%C3%AB-q%C3%ABndruesh%C3%ABm-shqip%C3%ABria-2022/>.
- 112 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/13063/anketa-et%C3%AB-ardhurave-dhe-nivelit-t%C3%AB-jetes%C3%ABs-n%C3%AB-shqip%C3%ABri-silc2022.pdf>.
- 113 Some realized projects include: "Municipal Infrastructure 5" (KFW), supports the cities of Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë, for the increase of sewage coverage and the construction of Plants for the treatment of polluted water; "Water supply of the city of Durrës" (AFD); "National Program for the Modernization of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector in Albania" (World Bank).
- 114 By order of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, as well as the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.
- 115 CoMD no. 448, dated 26.7.2023 "On the approval of the National Strategy of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector 2023-2030".
- 116 CoMD no. 302, dated 11.5.2022 "On national policies for the reorganization of the Water Supply and Wastewater Removal, Treatment and Processing sector.
- 117 CoMD no. 83, dated 10.2.2021 "On the approval of technical design and construction rules for water supply and sewage".
- 118 CoMD No. 210, dated 6.4.2022 "On the approval of the national health strategy 2021-2030".
- 119 CoMD no. 405, dated 20.5.2020 "On the approval of the Strategy for the Development of Primary Health Care Services in Albania 2020-2025".
- 120 CoMD No. 118, dated 1.3.2023 "For the approval of the national hospital plan 2023-2030.
- 121 https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Programi-Kombetar-i-SJT-2021-2025_compressed.pdf.
- 122 https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Plani-i-Kombetar-i-Promocionit-Shendetesor_compressed.pdf.
- 123 <https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Plani-i-Veprimit-per-Shendetin-Mendor-2023-2026.pdf>.
- 124 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/12598/burra-dhe-gra-2023.pdf>, p. 129.
- 125 <https://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/5BulletinDraftcheckup-final-2018.pdf>.
- 126 <https://www.co-plan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Manaxhimi-i-mundjeve-jo-te-mettouvale-ne-kushtet-e-emergjencash-shendetesore.pdf>.
- 127 <https://www.ishp.gov.al/raporte/>.
- 128 <https://www.ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/3Raporti-vleresimi-kolposkopi-programi-depistimit-ca-cervix-Mars-2021.pdf>.
- 129 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/12598/burra-dhe-gra-2023.pdf>.
- 130 <https://www.instat.gov.al/media/11279/sdg-2022-shqip.pdf>.
- 131 <https://www.instat.gov.al/al/cens-2023/>.

¹³² Such are:

- Law no. 57/2019 "On social assistance in the Republic of Albania".
- Law no. 15/2019 "For promoting employment".
- CoMD no. 380, dated 05.06.2015 "On the approval of the political document "Disability assessment reform in the social protection system and the 2019-2024 action plan for its implementation".
- CoMD no. 866, dated 24.12.2019 "On the approval of the National Social Protection Strategy 2020-2023 and the action plan for its implementation".
- CoMD no. 864, dated 24.12.2019 "On the approval of the National Political Document on Aging, 2020-2024, and the Action Plan for its implementation".
- CoMD no. 659, dated 10.10.2019 "On the approval of the National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2019 - 2022".
- CoMD no. 400, dated 30.06.2021 "On the approval of the National Gender Equality Strategy".
- Law no. 62/2022 "On the National Register of Convicted Sexual Crimes".
<https://www.instat.gov.al/media/12598/burra-dhe-gra-2023.pdf>.

¹³³ https://www.instat.gov.al/media/13332/statistika-te-diplomimeme_2022-23-update-2024.pdf.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ See the composition of the government at: <https://kryeministria.al/qeveria/>.

¹³⁷ <https://www.gjk.gov.al/>.

¹³⁸ <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/11027/burra-dhe-gra-2022.pdf>, page 115.

¹³⁹ <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/11027/burra-dhe-gra-2022.pdf>, page 113.

¹⁴⁰ CoMD no. 732, dated 13.12.2023 "On the approval of the Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations Organization "On women, peace and security" 2023-2027, in the Republic of Albania".

¹⁴¹ The process was mainly supported by the Peace and Security Women Association and various international actors, mainly UN Women.

¹⁴² <https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/ministry>.

¹⁴³ <https://www.parlament.al/>.

¹⁴⁴ INSTAT (2023). Survey on 'Use of information and communication technology (ICT) in households and by individuals' in 2022. See: https://www.instat.gov.al/media/11157/ict-2022_shqip.pdf.

¹⁴⁵ https://www.instat.gov.al/media/12854/ict-2023_shqip.pdf.

¹⁴⁶ Law no. 9669/2006 "On measures against violence in family relationships".

¹⁴⁷ The establishment of programs is foreseen in the National Strategy for Gender Equality and is currently offered only by some NGOs in Tirana, Shkodër, Vlorë and Elbasan.

¹⁴⁸ Law no. 35/2020 "On some additions and changes to law no. 7895, dated 7.1.1995, "Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania", amended".

¹⁴⁹ Law no. 13/2022 "On the ratification of Convention 190 of the International Labor Organization "Convention on Violence and Harassment".

¹⁵⁰ Law no. 62/2022 "On the National Register of Convicted Sexual Crimes".

¹⁵¹ <https://www.kmd.al>.

¹⁵² Law no. 30/2023 "On some changes and additions to the law no. 97/2013, "On audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania", amended.

¹⁵³ Decision no. 60, dated 10.07.2023 of the Audiovisual Media Authority for the approval of the Audiovisual Media Transmission Code.

¹⁵⁴ Article 54 of the Constitution of Albania, amended.

¹⁵⁵ The first report in the framework of the implementation of the Cross-sectoral Juvenile Justice Strategy 2022-2026, for the period January June 2023, which has been published for transparency on the official website of the Ministry of Justice: <https://drejtesia.gov.al/raportet-e-monitorimit-shqip/>.

¹⁵⁶ CoMD no. 524, dated 22.09.2021 "On Determining the Field of State Responsibility of the Minister of State for Youth and Children".

¹⁵⁷ Instruction of the Prosecutor General no. 8/2021 "On the investigation and effective criminal prosecution for criminal offenses involving minors in conflict with the law, victims and/or witnesses", as well as the Order of the Prosecutor General no. 87/2021 "On the approval of the rules for using the integrated juvenile criminal justice data system".

¹⁵⁸ Decision of the Criminal College, Supreme Court no. 00-20122 (217), dated 27.07.2022.

¹⁵⁹ Decision of the Administrative Council of the Social Insurance Institute, "On the criteria, documentation and evaluation procedures of the requests of the disabled for reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of fuels and lubricating oils".

¹⁶⁰ https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Plani-Kombetar-PAK-_2021-2025_AL.pdf.

¹⁶¹ CoMD no. 470 dated 6.07.2022 "On determining the rules, procedures and criteria for the provision of supported decision-making services for persons with disabilities" and CoMD no. 436 dated 22.06.2022 "On the approval of the rules, procedures and criteria for the provision of services for

- independent living for persons with disabilities".
- ¹⁶² Order of the Director General of the State Police no. 488 dated 28.05.2021 "On the implementation of the Instruction of the Minister of the Interior no. 289 dated 02.09.2020 "On determining the procedure for equipping Albanian citizens with a biometric passport".
- ¹⁶³ The CEC amended Instruction No. 1 dated 05.12.2020, "Determining the rules for setting up, assigning and announcing the location of voting centers and preparing the map of the local self-government unit for the elections".
- ¹⁶⁴ Order no. 580, dated 08.09.2023 of the Minister of Health "Action Plan for Mental Health 2023-2026".
- ¹⁶⁵ Law no. 20/2021 "On some additions and changes to law no. 44/2012".
- ¹⁶⁶ ADRF can be mentioned as one such example:<https://adrf.al/index.php/en/>.
- ¹⁶⁷ <https://shendetesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PLANI-KOMB%C3%8BTAR-I-VEPRIMIT-P%C3%8BR-BARAZI.pdf>.
- ¹⁶⁸ CoMD no. 511, dated 28.07.2022, "For some changes and additions to the CoMD no. 666, dated 10.10.2019, "On the financials quotas for food in canteens and dormitories and the determination of criteria for the benefit of scholarships and payments for students of pre-university education in public educational institutions", as well as CoMD no. 666, dated 10.10.2019, "On financial quotas for food in canteens and dormitories and the determination of criteria for the benefit of scholarships and payments for students of pre-university education in public educational institutions".
- ¹⁶⁹ Article 10 of law no. 69/2012 "On the pre-university education system in the Republic of Albania", as amended.
- ¹⁷⁰ Such are:
- CoMD no. 227, dated 17.4.2019, "On the preparation, printing, publication and distribution of basic education textbooks for students of public pre-university institutions where students of national minorities learn";
 - CoMD no. 463, dated 03.07.2019, "On determining the directions for the adoption of strategies, programs and action plans for the promotion and creation of the necessary conditions for persons belonging to national minorities to use and develop the essential elements of the identity of national minorities, including their language";
 - CoMD no. 1155, dated 24.12.2020 "On the criteria for determining the unit of local self-government, the essential number and the sufficient demand of persons of national minorities to be educated in the language of the national minority";
 - Instruction no. 22, dated 27.02.2022 "For the 2022-2023 school year in the pre-university education system";
 - Instruction no. 20, dated 19.07.2022 "On the determination of the subjects taught in the Albanian language and in the mother tongue by students of national minorities in basic education in Albania";
 - Order no. 531, dated 9.09.2022 "On determining the curriculum for national minorities in basic education";
 - Instruction no. 14, dated 10.7.2023 "On the number of students per class and the teaching load of educational workers in pre-university education institutions".
- ¹⁷¹ In order to support pre-university educational institutions where students of the Greek national minority study, a Local Education Office (Finiq-Dropull) has been created for the first time, which is headed by a representative of this national minority. Now, the educational institutions where students of the Greek national minority study are supported by Local office of the pre-university education Finiq-Dropull, Gjirokastër-Libohovo, Sarandë-Delvinë-Konispol, while students of the Macedonian national minority learn are supported by the Local office of the pre-university education Korça-Pustec.
- ¹⁷² CoMD no. 271, dated 2.5.2024 "On the approval of the new National Strategy for Migration (SKM) 2024-2030 and its Action Plan 2024-2026".
- ¹⁷³ Law No. 113/2020 "On citizenship".
- ¹⁷⁴ Law 79/2021 "For foreigners".
- ¹⁷⁵ Law no. 10/2021 "On asylum in the republic of Albania".
- ¹⁷⁶ Law 56/2024 "On some amendments to the civil status law, amended".
- ¹⁷⁷ Among the main acts are the CoMD for determining the criteria and documentation for visa and residence/single permit, the two instructions related to air return operations, as well as the approved instruction for the procedures for dealing with foreigners with irregular stay in the territory of of the Republic of Albania", which brings clear procedures related to the process of identifying foreigners at the border and territory, as well as cooperation between the responsible structures of the United Kingdom, approved by Instruction of the Minister of the Interior no. 174, dated 12.09.2022 " On the procedures for dealing with foreigners with irregular stay in the territory of the Republic of Albania".
- ¹⁷⁸ Order of the Prime Minister no. 185 date 31, 10. 2023 "On the establishment and operation of regional committees for the prevention of radicalism and the fight against violent extremism".