

# Country Profile

## Albania

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This profile was prepared and updated by Blerina Berberi and Kevin Tummers.

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# 1. Cultural policy system

## 1.1. Objectives, main features and background

### Antiquity

Albania's heritage is rich and diverse from Paleolithic and Mesolithic traces to Neolithic dwellings and burial sites such as a farming settlement preserved beneath Lake Ohrid that was recently carbon dated as being 8,000 years old<sup>[1]</sup>. There are larger remains from the antiquity of the Illyrian tribes and the first Illyrian state of King Syrra in the 5th century BC. Aristotle (384-322 BC) mentioned that Epidamnus (Durrës) was run by a magistrate, while tradesmen and craftsmen were excluded from political power, and individual trading with the local Illyrians was forbidden. Illyrian traditions and pagan cult rituals related to the Moon, Sun, Snakes, Fairies, Vidas- God of livestock, Iris- Goddess of Agriculture, Tana- Goddess of Birth, Tades- God of Light, Meduar- God of War, Shurdhi- God of Thunder, and others for which later sanctuaries were built and Priests would preach the morals and politics of the state and society of the time<sup>[2]</sup>. The diversity of Albania's heritage includes cultural exchanges with the Greeks, Romans, Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman Empires, and many others.

### Byzantine and Ottoman

Throughout history, numerous foreign occupiers seized control of Albanian territory, including Byzantine, Bulgarian, Serbian, Angevin, Venetian, Sicilian and more. In many cases the new rulers weakened or destroyed the previous rulers' cultural influences. Christianity remained the main religion during this period, and foreign commerce led to prosperity and the development of arts and education, while various foreign languages were used in literature, administration and religion. Out of these periods of foreign rule grew a western style feudalism that led to a sort of state union amongst Albanian clans working together against the imminent Ottoman advancement.

Very briefly, after a period of Albanian unity and resistance from Ottoman invasions in the 14th-15th century, the next centuries marked a period of Islamification in Albania. The Empire was more concerned about taxes being paid and less about cultural assimilation. Compared to western nations of the time, the Ottoman Empire took a more tolerant approach to diversity and differences. This allowed Albanians and others to preserve their language and much of their traditions and culture, although non-Muslims did not always receive the same political rights or career opportunities as Muslims, leading much of Albania to convert to Islam. This period saw the construction of today's UNESCO recognized heritage sites of Gjirokastra and Berat and other important religious and military structures.

### Independence

After centuries under the Ottoman administration, the modern Albanian state began its rise to independence through the Albanian National Renaissance movement emphasizing the importance of Albanian language and history. These early efforts of Albanian nationalism emerged in the 1820s-40s in part by Albanians publishing from abroad and emphasizing an Albanian consciousness with a European culture and identity. This evolved into revolts and political movements and would become a key factor in the declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the first Albanian government in 1912<sup>[3]</sup>. The early government

did not have a Culture Ministry but education was given a priority for the following years until the first Minister of Education and Culture was named in 1953.

## Monarchy

During World Wars and occupations, the country had unstable governance yet most, including King Zog's government, tried to modernize the society and emancipate women. The first National Library opened in 1922 and King Zog's government destroyed several mosques to open the way for infrastructure developments. By 1932, Miss Tirana and Miss Albania competitions and the first artisan exhibition took place, and a new law in 1937 made it a punishable offence for women to conceal their faces.

## Communism

In 1941, the Communist Party of Albania was established, renamed in 1948 as the Labour Party, and it formed the government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania which led the country from 1945 until 1992. During this time, the socialist realism dominated, promoting working women and men. Building of the new country began with cultural monuments to the war heroes, the establishment of the first Albanian Art School in 1946, National Arts Gallery in 1954, National Opera and Ballet in 1953, University of Tirana in 1957, and so on.

A proclamation of national atheism in 1967 outlawed and destroyed religious objects, especially those that were part of the public domain. "Albanianism" was the new religion. Until 1968, Albania was in line with Russian arts and culture visual representations until it left the Warsaw pact, and was aligned mainly with China in promoting the "New Men and Women" including examples of Chinese pioneers, proud villagers and intellectuals as testimony of their alliance.

The film industry, as well as monuments to remember war heroes, flourished. Artistic freedom, however, was kept within the confines of what was deemed acceptable by the party, often with guidance from its leader Enver Hoxha. Works could be rejected and destroyed, and artists punished by imprisonment, forced labour or worse.

From 1971-1976, the Labour Party conducted their 5th five-year plan and documents from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Council of Ministers contained wording like "reduced creative authorship of writers and artists" and "reduced schedules and creative permissions for writers and artists".

A series of monumental sculptures were installed in the city in the 1970s representing wars and heroes. The female representation was of a strong woman celebrating socialism, the party, the revolution, planting trees, strongly reflecting the party's ideals.

The 11th Festival of Songs in 1972 featured modern elements that were not accepted by the political leader, and in 1973 at the Assembly of the Labour Party, Hoxha stated that the country should deepen the ideological war against foreign influences and the liberal attitude towards them, leading to clashes, and a new shift in censorship from the Party's Committee, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the League of Artists and Writers. Any form of artistic freedom at this point disappeared and unaccepted works were considered "bourgeois-revisionary". A series of purges punished many artists and organizers of the 11th Festival of Songs that were deemed too western or decadent, or those who did not keep in line with current standards. A 1974 speech from Enver Hoxha entitled "Writers and Artists are Aids of the Party for the Communist Education of our Men and Women" included the line "They [artists and writers] should struggle to always play the role of auxiliary

of the party in moulding the new man”.

Law Nr. 5506, date 28.12.1976 / Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Article 35 “the state protects people’s cultural heritage and develops the national social culture...the state supports development of socialist realism art that represents socialism and communism ideals and national and folk elements”; and Article 37 “The state does not recognize any religions and it supports and develops the atheist propaganda to ground the people in the understanding of scientific material.”

Deteriorating relations with China by 1978 had led Albania to effectively cut all ties abroad leaving society with little to no foreign influence and a cultural policy of “Albanian Values” was in full effect with a focus on folk culture. The new constitution of 1978 classified duties to society as of greater importance than freedom of speech. Hoxha proclaimed “literature and arts should be increasingly more militant, pure and clear, free from any alien, liberal and conservative influence, so that they will worthily respond to the revolutionary reality of our times, as well as to the spiritual requirements of our people”. The strategy was to have art that was clear, and that could communicate without vulgarities, and encouraged the emergence of heroes from a struggle, who everyone could emulate. This was and had long been used to create a shared experience for all Albanians, an Albanian mindset free of influences from abroad.

#### The rise for Democracy

After Hoxha’s death, the new leader Ramiz Alia in 1989 acknowledged that changes were necessary for the economic system, and this was followed by student protests in the coming months. On June 13, 1990, the fall of the Berlin Wall and poor economic conditions led to more civil unrest. Individuals, groups and families began storming foreign embassies, beginning a massive series of emigration to European countries and other parts of the world. At the same time, Western culture became widely accessible without any government restrictions and artists were finally free to express themselves in many forms and expressions that had not allowed for about 45 years.

The first democratic elections were held in March, 1991, and the collapse of communist ideology was replaced by the market economy and consumption. Even though the new Constitution was not approved until 1998, changes were made to invalidate the previous one from 1976, which had banned religions in the country, allowing groups to revive or introduce new religious institutions. Symbols from the previous communist period, like the star on the national flag and in the mosaic at the National History Museum, were removed. Men were also now free to have long hairstyles, people listened to European and American music, and rock, disco, and every style were closely reproduced based mainly on international films shown on TV stations. Young people embraced jeans, t-shirts of rock, metal and other bands, while politicians wore long jackets, etc. Libraries acquired new materials and information. There was a destruction of the communist heritage, and promotion of democratic values and remembrance of those persecuted by communism.

In 1991, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) was decreed by the new President of the Republic, and its aims were to bring Albanian culture and sport institutions in line with European standards. A new Albanian Constitution was adopted in 1998, which gave clear protections such as article 20 on Freedom of Expression, article 58 on Freedom of Artistic Creation, and chapter 5 on Social Objectives, giving some frameworks on shaping the free new society. Also, although there were many cultural groups and associations throughout Albania, with only eight recorded in the 1998 catalogue of the Albanian Foundation of Civil Society.

In 2000, a Guide to the Cultural Policy of the Albanian state was produced by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (MTCYS) to set new goals for the country, a national cultural policy in Albania based on European standards and models focusing on the promotion of identity and diversity, support of creativity and participation in cultural life. The underlying goal of such a cultural policy was to "bring down the walls that isolated Albania from the rest of the world, especially the West". Culture and the arts, in this sense, are considered to be tools that will help to bring democratic development to the country and re-assert its cultural identity within the region and as an integral part of European cultural identity. According to the document, the implementation of the Strategy will increase the autonomy, competition and multi-dimensional role of arts and culture institutions in the country's civil, democratic and economic life.

*A Law on the Organisation and Functions of Local Government* was adopted by the Parliament on 31 July 2000. The main principle of this Law was the autonomy of local government, the process of decentralising power unlike before when local governments had little political autonomy and high levels of social and economic responsibility.

After the political government election in 2005, changes were made to the title and functions of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, which resulted in the formation of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. Tourism was set as a priority to brand, as a way to promote the country, its culture and heritage, and to increase visitors to the country and improve the infrastructure. Following the 2002-2012 Strategy for Tourism Development and the 2006 Strategy and Action Plan for Development of Natural and Environmental Tourism, the Sectoral Strategy for Tourism 2007-2013<sup>[4]</sup> was prepared. Also a National Youth Strategy and Plan of Action 2007-2013 was approved by the Albanian government on 18 March 2007.

In 2009 the Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development (CHSED) Programme was launched in Albania jointly by UNESCO and UNDP, in close partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme also worked with the Ministry of Education, the Institute of Cultural Monuments, the National Tourism Agency, local and regional governments, universities and civil society organizations, to support the Government of Albania to leverage the potential of Albania's cultural heritage. By 2010, the CHSED 'Culture Marketing Strategy for Albania'<sup>[5]</sup> was being prepared as a One Year Action Plan and Marketing Tools to help make Albanian culture accessible to target clients abroad and support local stakeholders such as the Ministry for Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and its subordinate institutions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Tourism Agency and other relevant cultural institutions and destinations. The CHSED also included a 'Cultural Diplomacy component', to support the design of a cultural diplomacy policy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2010, an open forum on "Culture Policies and the Culture Strategy of Albania"<sup>[6]</sup> was organized by the society "Friends of Music" (Miqtë e Muzikës) and supported by SOROS- Open Society Foundation Albania (OSFA) with the participation of representatives from state culture institutions. These institutions include the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, National Theatre, Opera, National Art Gallery, professionals and civil society. This forum highlighted the importance of such strategic documents, including an action plan, and encouraged the work to progress. However, it was also noted that as Albania did not have a Memorandum of Understanding for Culture with the European Union, Albanian organisations were not able to compete for grants from the General Directory for Education and Culture at the European Commission.

As of 2013, Tourism, Youth and Sports were part of other ministries and the institution was named the Ministry of Culture, which under the development of cultural tourism during the period 2014 – 2018, implemented the programmes "Heritage - Development Engine", "Routes of Faith" and "Routes of Memory."

The commitment towards a strategic document for a National Culture Policy was progressed by the Albanian Ministry of Culture with the support of UNESCO and experts in 2016, emphasizing educational programmes, and later a guiding document was prepared titled "A culture strategy for Albania: Implementing the Cultural Bug<sup>[7]</sup>" in March 2018 by KEA European Affairs after many consultations with various stakeholders.

Finally, for the first time since 1990, Albania has a National Strategy on Culture<sup>[8]</sup> (NSC) 2019-2025, which was prepared by the Ministry of Culture, and is the most recent step taken to structure objectives for the development of the sector. The strategic document NSC 2019-2025 is in line with the "Government's major programme implementation for urban regeneration and rural development, as well as sustainable development goals 2030", addressed to central and local public institutions, independent cultural operators, NGOs, the private sector and other actors operating in the field of culture and cultural heritage. Strengthening the cultural sector continues to be one of the objectives of the midterm and long-term governance plans 2017-2021.

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://exploproject.eu/news/underwater-investigations-at-lin-3-lake-ohrid-albania/>

<sup>[2]</sup> Public Arts Tirana, Artistic Expressions of Past and Present, Blerina Berberi & Kevin Tummers, 2018  
[https://www.academia.edu/38120149/Public\\_Arts\\_Tirana\\_Artistic\\_Expressions\\_of\\_Past\\_and\\_Present](https://www.academia.edu/38120149/Public_Arts_Tirana_Artistic_Expressions_of_Past_and_Present)

<sup>[3]</sup> History of the Albanian Governments, ShtetiWeb, Albania  
<https://shtetiweb.org/category/historia-e-shtetit-shqiptar2/qeverite-e-shtetit-shqiptar/page/5/>

<sup>[4]</sup> Sectoral Tourism Strategy 2007-2013, Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports  
<https://vdocuments.net/strategjia-sektoriale-e-turizmit-2007-2013.html>

<sup>[5]</sup> Culture Marketing Strategy for Albania 2010.  
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/Final%20CULTURE%20MARKETING%20STRATEGY-July1.pdf>

<sup>[6]</sup> Policies and Culture Strategy, Gazeta Metropol Newspaper, May 13, 2010  
<http://www.arkivalajmeve.com/Politikat-dhe-strategjia-e-kultures.1046865760/>

<sup>[7]</sup> A Cultural Strategy for Albania, Implanting the Cultural Bug, March 2018, Philippe Kern, KEA European Affairs,  
<https://rm.coe.int/a-cultural-strategy-for-albania-implanting-the-cultural-bug/1680794665>

<sup>[8]</sup> National Strategy for Culture 2019-2025, page 5, Albanian Ministry of Culture, 2019,  
<http://kultura.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/finale-Strategjia-Kombe%CC%88tare-pe%CC%88r-Kulture%CC%88n-2019-2025-ne-Anglisht.pdf>



## 1.2. Domestic governance system

### 1.2.1. ORGANISATIONAL ORGANIGRAM

Levels of public cultural policy (structures, competencies)	National Government level	Districts	Municipal level
Bodies/ Institutions and self-coordination procedures	The Albanian Parliament- Commission of Culture and Media Council of Ministers Ministry of Culture and subordinate institutions Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Diaspora Ministry of Tourism Ministry for the Protection of Entrepreneurship National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) Ministry of Education and Sports Ministry of Youth and Children Ministry of Finance <sup>[1]</sup> Authority of Audiovisual Media (AMA) Academy of Albanological Studies and Research Institutes Albanian Academy of Sciences Academy of Anthropological Studies, National Chamber of Craft Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA)	12 Counties with Representative and Executive Council: Berat, Dibër, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastrë, Korçë, Kukës, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tirana, Vlorë	61 Municipalities & 381 Administrative Units <sup>[2]</sup> Municipal Councils for Culture, Culture Departments for Events and Promotion, Rural Councillors, Neighbourhood administrators
Competencies	Legislation for Taxation, laws in arts, copyrights, creative industries, pensions, statuses, Strategic Development, Education, Funding, Culture Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Research and Statistics	Law Nr. 139/2015 for local governance <sup>[3]</sup> to set and implement regional policies, their harmonisation with state policies, and other functions as given by law	Law Nr. 139/2015 for local governance <sup>[4]</sup> to create administrative structures, boards, public management of public assets, Administration Libraries & Culture spaces, Funding for activities and infrastructure, Strategic planning and Policies, Regulations, permits for activities, etc.
Joint institutions and cooperative arrangements	Inter-ministerial, inter- country cooperation, agreements and funding, i.e: Regional Cooperation Council, South East European Council, Cultural Agreement with several countries, etc.	Society of the Councillors of the Districts of Albania. Development programmes with support from Austrian Development Cooperation, Albanian Development Fund, Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development, Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA) etc.	Association of Municipalities of Albania, European Capital of Culture programme eligibility, NALAS- Society of Local Authorities in South East Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and more <sup>[5]</sup>
(Co) ownership and Funding of cultural activities, facilities, programmes	Funding and co-funding of culture institutions, national and international activities, Development programmes, civil society organisations, businesses, etc.	Co-funding of cultural activities, research programmes	Funding and co-funding of community, national and international events, administrative cultural buildings, culture programmes, civil society and businesses.

<sup>[1]</sup> Ministers of the Albanian Government, The Primeministry, September 2021, <https://kryeministria.al/en/>

<sup>[2]</sup> Organisation of Local Self-Governing Units, Local Portal, Albania  
<https://portavendore.al/dhomaeligjit/planimetri-vendore/organizimi-i-njesive-te-vv/>

<sup>[3]</sup> Ligi Nr. 139-2015, date 17 December 2015 for Local Governance  
[https://www.erru.al/doc/Ligj\\_nr.139-2015\\_date\\_17.12.2015\\_Per\\_vetqeverisjen\\_vendore.pdf](https://www.erru.al/doc/Ligj_nr.139-2015_date_17.12.2015_Per_vetqeverisjen_vendore.pdf)

<sup>[4]</sup> Ligi Nr. 139-2015, date 17 December 2015 for Local Governance

[https://www.erru.al/doc/Ligj\\_nr.139-2015\\_date\\_17.12.2015\\_Per\\_vetqeverisjen\\_vendore.pdf](https://www.erru.al/doc/Ligj_nr.139-2015_date_17.12.2015_Per_vetqeverisjen_vendore.pdf)

<sup>[5]</sup> Partners of Society of Albanian Municipalities <https://aam.org.al/partneret-2/>

## 1.2.2. NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

National authorities

*See also 1.2.1 for Organisational Organigram*

The Albanian Parliament- Commission of Culture and Media

Council of Ministers

Ministry of Culture and subordinate institutions\*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Diaspora

Ministry of Tourism

Ministry for the Protection of Entrepreneurship

National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

Ministry of Education and Sports

Ministry of Youth and Children

Ministry of Finance<sup>21</sup>

Authority of Audiovisual Media (AMA)

Academy of Albanological Studies and Research Institutes

Albanian Academy of Sciences

Academy of Anthropological Studies

National Chamber of Crafts

Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA)

The main role in cultural development closest to the public and the creative sector is the Albanian Ministry of Culture. It's organigram has adapted to the needs in the sector and currently includes a General Directory for Development of Policies and Culture, including sectors on statistics, visibility, programme development, etc.; a General Directory for Regulations with sectors work for laws, regulatory acts, contracts, agreements, etc; a Directory of Authors' Rights, etc.<sup>22</sup>

*The Subordinate Public Institutions<sup>23</sup> of the Ministry of Culture are:*

1. National Theatre of Opera, Ballet and Folk Ensemble: [www.tkob.gov.al](http://www.tkob.gov.al)
2. National Theatre [www.teatrikombetar.gov.al](http://www.teatrikombetar.gov.al)
3. National Experimental Theatre "Kujtim Spahivogli" [www.tkeks.gov.al](http://www.tkeks.gov.al)
4. National Art Gallery [www.galeriakombetare.gov.al](http://www.galeriakombetare.gov.al) (Pursuant to the new law nr. 27/2018 On Cultural Heritage and Museums, it is named the "National Museum of Fine Arts" )

5. National Library [www.bksh.al](http://www.bksh.al)
6. National Culture Centre for Children [www.qkkf.gov.al](http://www.qkkf.gov.al)
7. National State Film Archive [www.aqshf.gov.al](http://www.aqshf.gov.al)
8. National Circus [www.cirkukombetar.gov.al](http://www.cirkukombetar.gov.al)
9. National Centre for Books and Reading <https://qkll.gov.al>
10. National Centre of Cinematography <http://nationalfilmcenter.gov.al/>
11. National History Museum [www.mhk.gov.al](http://www.mhk.gov.al)
12. National Museum of Surveillance "House of Leaves" [www.muzeugjethi.gov.al](http://www.muzeugjethi.gov.al)
13. National Institute of Cultural Heritage (IKTK) [www.iktk.gov.al](http://www.iktk.gov.al)
14. National Parc of Butrint [www.butrint.al](http://www.butrint.al)
15. National Museum "Skënderbeu" and Ethnographic Museum, Krujë [www.muzeumetkruje.gov.al](http://www.muzeumetkruje.gov.al)
16. National Iconography and Ethnography Museum, Berat [www.muzeumetberat.gov.al](http://www.muzeumetberat.gov.al)
17. National Museum of Medieval Art [www.muzeumesjetar.gov.al](http://www.muzeumesjetar.gov.al)
18. National Photography Museum "Marubi" – Shkodër [www.marubi.gov.al](http://www.marubi.gov.al)
19. Independence Museum Vlorë [www.muzeupavaresia.gov.al](http://www.muzeupavaresia.gov.al)
20. Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage [www.qkipk.gov.al](http://www.qkipk.gov.al)
21. National Centre of Folklore Activities (QKVF) [www.qkvfolk.gov.al](http://www.qkvfolk.gov.al)
22. Administration and Coordination Office for the Archaeological Parks of Apoloni and Bylis
23. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Gjirokastër
24. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Berat
25. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Tiranë [www.drkkdurre.gov.al](http://www.drkkdurre.gov.al)
26. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Shkodër
27. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Vlorë [www.drkkvlore.gov.al](http://www.drkkvlore.gov.al)
28. Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Korçë [www.drkkkorce.gov.al](http://www.drkkkorce.gov.al)

### 1.2.3. REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

#### Regional authorities

The South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) launched in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1996 with the participation of southeast European countries, 13 participants from the SEE region, for regional cooperation to create trust, stability and good neighbouring relations<sup>24</sup>. The *Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in SEE*<sup>25</sup>, adopted in Bucharest in 2000, represents the essential document of the SEECP.

The EU funded Tourism Development & Promotion Project (EUR 5 million) and RCC implemented Tourism Development & Promotion project works to create joint and internationally competitive cultural and adventure tourism offers in the six Western Balkans (WB6) economies which will attract more tourists to the region, lengthen their stay, increase revenues and contribute to growth and employment. On 6 April 2021, the Tirana Declaration endorsement marked the finalisation of RCC's Tourism Development and Promotion project<sup>26</sup>.

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), an all-inclusive, regionally owned and led cooperation framework with 46 participants, is financed by the European Union and its SEE and other Board participants, and it functions within the framework of the general political guidelines set by the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP). RCC serves regional cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to spark development in the region to the benefit of its people<sup>27</sup>. Majlinda Bregu, Minister of European Integration of Albania from 2007 to 2013, became Secretary General on 1 January 2019, appointed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) at a meeting held on 23 April in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia.

The Western Balkan Fund, founded by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from WB6 in 2017, has impacted the lives of 10,000 people and supported 3,400 civil society organisations<sup>28</sup> with annual grants up to 250,000 euro in the past four years.

### 1.2.4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

#### Local authorities

*See 1.2.1 for Organisational Organigram*

### 1.2.5. MAIN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS

#### Main non-governmental actors

*See 1.2.6 and 2.1*

National Conference of Civil Society in Albania 2020-Summary Document<sup>29</sup>

Agency for the Support of Civil Society (AMSHC)<sup>30</sup>

National Council for Civil Society<sup>31</sup>

Independent Culture Scene<sup>32</sup>

## 1.2.6. TRANSVERSAL CO-OPERATION

### Transversal co-operation

The Albanian National Commission for UNESCO is situated within the Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, actively cooperating with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Tourism & Environment, the Ministry of Education, the Institute of Cultural Monuments, the National Tourism Agency, local and regional governments, universities and civil society organizations.

Inter-ministerial coordination for culture is conducted by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Culture, for which The Directorate of Cultural Development Policies and Strategies acts as Secretary. Certain issues like heritage see cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry of Education, and the Police and Customs.

Co-operation examples include a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Sport to promote cultural awareness, expression, creativity and diversity, to promote a comprehensive and sustainable cultural education in Albania. Likewise, the Border and Migration Police cooperate with the Ministry of Culture to prevent the illicit trafficking of art and heritage objects.

Following a damaging earthquake in 2019, the government created a new Ministry of Reconstruction stating that "a special place is needed at the Council of Ministers to coordinate the domestic and international institutions". This Ministry coordinates funding distribution for restoration including for cultural heritage sites affected by the earthquake.

## 1.3. Cultural institutions

### 1.3.1. OVERVIEW OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

#### Overview of cultural institutions

In a period of five years, three new museums were established in Albania, the National Museum of Photography "MARUBI", in Shkodra, the National Museum "GJETHI", in Tirana and the Museum "Gjon Mili", in Korca.

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the Minister of State for Diaspora, the Academy of Albanological Studies and Research Institutes, the Albanian Academy of Sciences, the university system, the Academy of Anthropological Studies, the National Chamber of Crafts, INSTAT, etc.

In 2021, a new agency was created, tasked with centralizing all government information and public relations, as well as monitoring interactions with the media and social media<sup>33</sup>.

### 1.3.2. DATA ON SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

#### Data on selected public and private cultural institutions

Table 1: Cultural institutions, by sector and domain

Domain	Cultural Institutions (subdomains)	Public Sector		Private Sector	
		Number (year)	Trend last 5 years (In %)	Number (year)	Trend last 5 years (In %)
Cultural heritage	Regional directories, administration, and coordination under the Ministry of Culture  Cultural Monuments	7 (2021) 2028			
	Archaeological sites (under the Ministry of Culture)	9 (2020)			
Museums	Museum institutions (under the Ministry of Culture)	12 (2020)			
Archives	Archive institutions National Film Archive National Library Central State Archive	3			
Visual arts	Public art galleries/exhibition halls (institutions under the Ministry of Culture) National Art Gallery National History Museum	2			
Performing arts	Performance and stable spaces for theatre (institutions under the Ministry of Culture) National Experimental Theatre National Opera and Ballet National Puppet Theatre Ar Turbina National Circus	4			
	Concert Houses				
	Theatre companies				
	Dance and ballet companies				
	Symphonic orchestras				
Libraries	Libraries National Library in Tirana and other municipal ones				
Audiovisual	Cinemas				
	Broadcasting organisations				
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses				
Other (please explain)	(institutions under the Ministry of Culture) National Culture Centre for Children National Centre of Folklore Activities (QKVF)	2			

Source(s): Culture Statistics, INSTAT, Albania, June 24, 2021<sup>34</sup>

### 1.3.3. PUBLIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: TRENDS AND STRATEGIES

Public cultural institutions: trends and strategies

Heads of Government at the Central European Initiative met in Tirana on 23 November 2006 and approved the *Plan of Action for 2007-2009*, which includes cultural cooperation. Since 1995, Albania is one of the members of this inter-regional initiative which aims to promote regional cooperation. The key elements of CEI cultural cooperation in the next years will be the development of projects related to intercultural dialogue and the preservation of cultural diversity in Central Europe, as well as the promotion of activities aiming at the conservation of cultural heritage, jointly with the transfer of know-how in cultural management. Additional activities aimed at advancing the ability of governments and civil society as a whole in the preparation, financing and implementation of cultural projects could be implemented, especially in the following areas: support to cultural policies as a contribution to socio-economic development (cultural industries' development; cultural tourism; sponsorship and donations to the arts), sponsoring cross-border cooperation in the field of arts, including the mobility of individuals and groups.

The Mosaic Programme<sup>35</sup> (2010) of the Council of Europe helped in the process of formulating principles for national cultural strategies.

## 1.4. International cooperation

### 1.4.1. PUBLIC ACTORS AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

#### International cooperation

Albania has a long history of sheltering asylum seekers, also through a concept known as “Besa”, or “keep the promise”. A few examples of this include the sheltering of hundreds of Jews during WWII, hundreds of thousands of Kosovo refugees in 1999 (the city of Kukes was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for this effort), accepting 3,000 members of the People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran in 2014, continuous offers to shelter tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and most recently to serve as a transit nation for Afghan refugees in 2021.

Albania was granted EU Candidate Status in June 2014, and Albanian citizens can travel to 98 countries without an advance Visa, including the Schengen Area. In 2021 Albanians can travel visa-free (or visa on arrival) to 115 countries. While not a visa, Albanians will be required to apply for the new European travel permit ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System), to visit Schengen countries once it is introduced by the end of 2022.

In October 2011, Albania and Qatar signed a cultural cooperation agreement on cooperation, exchange, translation and youth activities. In November 2012, Azerbaijan and Albania signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in the fields of culture and tourism.

On 28 August 2014, on the 100th anniversary of WWI outbreak, the German chancellor Angela Merkel initiated the Berlin Process<sup>36</sup>, a diplomatic initiative for EU Enlargement, at the “Conference of Western Balkan States”, with the participation of the EU Commission, some EU countries and Six Western Balkan (WB6) countries that are candidates for EU membership - Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania<sup>37</sup> and potential candidates, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. At the conference, a 4 year plan was presented for the path to the future of Europe including intensifying regional cooperation as an essential basis, strengthening good governance, and increasing prosperity via sustainable economic growth. The Berlin Process was followed by annual Summits -

2015 Vienna, 2016 Paris, 2017 Trieste, 2018 London, 2019 Poznań, and November 10, 2020 in Sofia where the plan was agreed to create a Common Regional Market<sup>38</sup>, with national authorities taking action by 2024 on the free movement of goods, capital, services and people.

There is no reference to culture, art or heritage in the Berlin Summits, but the Action Plan 2021-2024<sup>39</sup> coordinated and monitored by the Regional Cooperation Council, refers to, in the section about innovation, "Support the implementation of different actions streaming from the *Agenda for the Western Balkans on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport* which the European Commission is planning to adopt during the first semester of 2021". The priorities of the Action Plan include: Enhancing the quality of education and training, Boosting human capital development, Reducing the gender and digital divide; Improving mobility and connectivity; and Fostering cultural and regional cooperation<sup>40</sup>.

ORI- Observatory of Regional Integration<sup>41</sup>, a platform for collection of empirical data and analysis in the framework of cross-border, transnational and interregional integration of Albania, supported by the AMSHC-Agency for the Support of Civil Society and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Foundation), has a database of 443 projects since 2006, and the main donors by number of projects are: EU IPA Multibeneficiary: 148; EU IPA CBC: 217; Italy: 25; Germany: 24; Switzerland: 17; Visegrad+: 8; and Sweden: 4. Examples of the biggest initiatives supported through IPA Multi-Beneficiary include Erasmus Mundus and Youth in Action for EUR 12 Mio each per year, same as Civil Society Facility for 2010. In the last 10 years, Albanian partners have cooperated with Montenegro on 257 projects, North Macedonia 237, Croatia 235, Bosnia Herzegovina 232, Kosovo 184, Italy 126 and Greece 94.

In June 2016, the Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania continued for the period 2016-2019 and has been ongoing since 1996.

On July 4, 2016 the WB6 Prime Ministers, at the Summit held in Paris, signed the Agreement on the Establishment of Regional Youth Cooperation Office<sup>42</sup> (RYCO) an independently functioning institutional mechanism, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programmes. The RYCO organizes several cultural activities, competitions, and other events, also through open calls, for Youth in WB.

In January 2017, Japan opened an Embassy in Tirana and began offering development assistance grants, loans and technical assistance, as well as small scale cultural exchange.

In February 2017, The Ministry of Culture of Albania, at the third Ministerial Conference "Promotion of Culture for Sustainable Development", signed the first agreement for cultural cooperation with Serbia to support exchange of ideas and policies in art, culture and heritage, in accordance with the standards of the European Union and UNESCO.

Also in February 2017, Albania and Iran signed an agreement to boost exchanges in trade, tourism and culture.

In March 2017, Albania and Macedonia signed an agreement for Cultural Cooperation Programme 2015-2020, including development of joint projects funded by the EU IPA.

In May 2018, a summit gathered the Western Balkans Country Leaders and European Leaders in relation to



enlargement policy, which led to the Sofia Declaration<sup>43</sup>, which aims to also establish connections and opportunities within the region and with the EU to enhance political, stability, economic prosperity, as well as cultural and social development. On November 10, 2020 the leaders of the WB, under the framework of the Berlin Process, acknowledged the European Green Deal as the new growth strategy<sup>44</sup>. Even though it intends to "Prioritise energy efficiency and improve it in all sectors", there is no reference to arts and culture, and innovation to energy efficiency such as in events, shows, concerts, etc.

Albania participates in EU programmes including EU4Culture, Creative Europe, I-portunus, Perform EUrope, Interreg IPA (*Italy-Montenegro-Albania & Greece-Albania*), *Council of Europe and others*.

Various stakeholders including UNOPS in Albania, the EU and the Government of Albania continue to work on restoration of cultural sites affected by the 2019 earthquake. Some 27 sites are currently part of the EUR 40 million EU4Culture funded interventions.

In June 2018, The Theatre of Opera and Ballet and the Popular Ensemble of Albania signed the protocol of cooperation with the National Theatre in Belgrade in June 2018<sup>45</sup>.

In March 2019, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia agreed to establish Cultural and Information Centres in the Republic of Albania and in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Also in March 2019, an Agreement entered into force between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of Albania on cultural cooperation, after being provisionally applied since November 2015.

In October 2019, as part of the 70th anniversary diplomatic ties between China and Albania, The Albanian Radio Television and China's National Radio and Television Administration signed an agreement on the broadcasting of Chinese government television programmes. Within the framework of the agreement, the two institutions will also cooperate on the exchange of television productions, documentaries and cartoons, as well as staff training.

On August 23, 2021, in Tiranë, – The United States and Albania signed a "Bilateral Agreement for Cultural Assets" aimed at preventing the illegal trade of cultural objects between the two countries, in accordance with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Wealth.

In July 2021, Albanian and North Macedonian Ministers of Culture signed a joint agreement to preserve Lake Ohrid, at the border between two countries, to work together to preserve the area as a site of natural and cultural significance and a UNESCO site.

In July 2021, a delegation from the International Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Dubai signed agreements with the Albanian Institute for International studies and Albania's Interreligious Institute to strengthen relations on interfaith dialogue, knowledge exchange and cultural cooperation.

In March 2021, a cooperation agreement in the fields of art, archaeology, museology and copyright protection was signed between the Ministry of Culture of Albania and Turkey, and also covering other fields of art such as cinematography, publications, translations and cultural exchanges. The two countries have maintained a Cultural Cooperation Agreement since February 1989.

In October 2020, Albania and Kosovo signed two agreements concerning setting up a joint programme between the Kosovar and Albanian Ministries of Culture and to encourage co-productions between Albania and Kosovo.

In March 2021, a project agreement between the governments of Switzerland and Albania was signed by the Albanian Minister of Finance and the Economy with the Swiss Ambassador to improve the system of intellectual property rights in Albania, including processing of patents, public services and inter-institutional collaboration in implementing intellectual property rights. The programme will work with the General Directorate of Industrial Property (under the Ministry of Finance and the Economy) and the Copyright Directorate (under the Ministry of Culture) to improve the administration and use of intellectual property rights.

Also in March 2021, the US Cultural Property Advisory Committee reviewed a request by the Government of Albania seeking US import restrictions on certain archaeological and ethnological material pursuant to Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (The 1970 UNESCO Convention), as well as a proposal to extend and amend the cultural property agreement between US and Egypt<sup>46</sup>.

#### Public actors and cultural diplomacy

Albania participates in many international cultural activities, including some of the largest such as the Venice Biennale, World Fairs, book fairs, Eurovision song contests and much more.

The diaspora is a major contributor to Albanian cultural diplomacy worldwide through societies, associations and organizations, which exist in most large cities and countries in Europe and North America. Since 2016 the Canadian Province of Ontario has recognized November as Albanian Heritage Month in recognition of Albanians' contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario<sup>47</sup>. In 2020, an initiative of the Albanian Embassy in Ottawa led to the Niagara Falls in Canada being lit to display the red and black colours of the Albanian Flag on the occasion of the anniversary of Albanian independence in 1912.

The book "National Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2024" was published in 2020, as a summary document of the work done by the institutions responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan of the National Strategy for the Diaspora 2018-2024. It includes quarterly newsletters related to institutional activities in the field of relations with the Albanian diaspora. In 2020 The Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy of the Albanian Diaspora and the Action Plan 2021–2025<sup>48</sup>. The new documents promote the development of state policies for the inclusion and contribution of Albanian communities abroad and to strengthen Albania's relations with the Diaspora. Strand 3 of 5 focuses on "Diaspora Capital, Community, and Culture Programmes" with aims at engaging the diaspora, -promoting "open invitations" for projects within the diaspora to increase human, social and cultural capital, preservation of the cultural, linguistic and national identity, and the establishment of Albanian Cultural Centres in host countries around the world with close cooperation from Kosovo.

The CHSED also included a 'Cultural Diplomacy component' in 2010, to support the design of a cultural diplomacy policy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>49</sup>.

### 1.4.2. EUROPEAN / INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND PROGRAMMES

#### European / international actors and programmes

Albania is part of the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage of Southeast Europe (2003)<sup>50</sup>, a joint programme between the EU and the Council of Europe. It aims to enhance cooperation among nine countries of the region in the area of preservation and rehabilitation of cultural and natural heritage by promoting sustainable development. The programme is composed of 3 Strands (A, B, C) and the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport participates through the Institute of Cultural Monuments in the first two components. Strand A is related to Institutional Capacity Building (ICBP) and is focused on increasing management skills to run projects or design strategies and policies on further development of cultural heritage. Furthermore, Strand B implies the Integrated Rehabilitation of Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP-SAAH), where the main aim is to fund the rescue of certain archaeological and architectural sites in Albania. This project is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, through former president Romano Prodi in the framework of CULTURE 2000.

Albania signed the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions on 24 September 2006.

Albania is a full member of the Council of Europe and UNESCO, while, as a candidate country, it has been benefiting from EU programmes. The Ministry of Culture signed the Creative Europe Agreement<sup>51</sup> on March 22, 2016 with a maximum amount of the grant contribution to the programme of 48,00.61 euro.

Albania is also a country member of the Francophonie Community, benefiting from direct and indirect support from the French government.

### 1.4.3. NGO'S AND DIRECT PROFESSIONAL COOPERATION

NGO's and direct professional cooperation

*See also 2.5.1. Sources include:*

National Conference of Civil Society in Albania 2020-Summary Document<sup>52</sup>

Agency for the Support of Civil Society (AMSHC)<sup>53</sup>

National Council for Civil Society<sup>54</sup>

Independent Culture Scene<sup>55</sup>

## 2. Current cultural affairs

### 2.1. Key developments

#### Key developments

The Government's culture department has stabilised since 2013 as the Ministry of Culture, (no longer covering sport/tourism/youth) and has remained in the same location with just 2 ministers holding office, compared to the period from 2000-2010 in which the office relocated three times and changed ministers 9 times.

Albania was granted EU Candidate Status in 2014 and Albanian citizens opening travel to 98 countries without an advance Visa, including the Schengen Area since 2010. In 2021 Albanians can travel visa-free (or visa on arrival) to 115 countries. Albanians will be required to apply for the new European travel permit, ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System), to visit Schengen countries once it is introduced by the end of 2022.

Albania regularly participates in international activities like Art Biennale and the Venice Architecture Biennale, book fairs in Leipzig, Turin and other important international activities and the 2017-2021 Governing Programme<sup>56</sup> once again outlined the "European Albania" identity.

The period of 2019-2021 saw significant disruptions to cultural activity caused by a large earthquake in 2019 that saw damage to 14,000 buildings, including historic fortifications and other national monuments, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021.

The Governance Programme 2017-2021<sup>57</sup> prepared by the Socialist Party for "The Albania that we Love" (Shqipërinë që Duam), a European Albania, expresses the vision of "Albanian Renaissance" (Rilindje për Shqipërinë) and the building of "Albania of the New Generation" (Shqipëria e Gjeneratës Tjetër). This document outlines the improvements in well-being, public services, competitive entrepreneurship, justice reforms, etc. The priority for culture<sup>58</sup> includes: improving quality standards for culture products, intensification of investments in the sector, independence of the cultural sector from the public institutions by increasing sources of funding and through public-private partnership, and the use of culture as an economic and tourism source. Among the major projects mentioned in the document, several have been completed or are close to completion like the restoration of the Theatre of Ballet and Opera, multi-functional art centre Turbina, requalification and re-conceptualisation of the National History Museum, reconstruction of the National Library, and rehabilitation of the National Arts Gallery. There have been no developments in relation to the new Museum of Contemporary Arts.

Education is also a focus to be achieved in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, rehabilitation of heritage and tourism development through itineraries like Via Egnatia Streets of Memories, restoration of historic centres in villages, etc. The 2017-2021 Governance Plan also refers to "the Construction of the New National Theatre", which is currently underway.

Albania has joined several of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes such as the Olive Tree Route, Aeneas Route

and ATRIUM Route.

The Transparency Programme - Based on article 7 of law nr. 119/2014 - "On the right to information" states that the Public Authority should publish easily understandable and accessible information on websites, including the organizational structure, functions and duties of the public authority, conventions, laws and bylaws, codes of conduct, policy documents and so on. The Transparency Programme was approved by the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data.

Capital investments include ArTurbina in Tirana, Migjeni Theater in Shkodra, Çajupi Theater in Korça, AirAlbania Stadium in Tirana and the new National Theatre

Applications of technology in the culture and heritage field include the establishment of the WebGIS platform for the management of archaeological activity in the field, of the Archaeological Service Agency (ASA)<sup>15</sup> for the period 2008-2015; building a WebGIS application for mapping and inventory of objects designated as cultural monuments; digitalization of National Library funds; and digitization of the photo library for the Marubi Museum.

## 2.2. Cultural rights and ethics

Cultural rights and ethics

The basic framework of cultural rights and ethics in Albania is the Constitution (*see 4.1.1*). Albania has signed the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions but has not signed the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

## 2.3. Role of artists and cultural professionals

Role of artists and cultural professionals

Albania has ratified international conventions affirming the importance of arts and culture (UNESCO, European Council, etc.) and has updated national policies of inclusion, diversity, etc. Cultural professionals and artists have essential roles in exemplifying and improving these standards. This also includes striving to create better conditions, opportunities, encouraging talent, addressing inequalities, and increasing the visibility of arts and culture locally and internationally.

## 2.4. Digital policy and developments

Digital policy and developments

Mass digital broadcasting began with the approval of Prime Ministerial Order No 7 of 2.06.2009 "On the establishment of an ad hoc Committee for the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting". This was followed by the approval of the transition strategy by the Council of Ministers Decision Nr. 292/2012 "On approval of a strategy of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting". Law nr. 97/2013 "On audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania" was approved in March 2013, with Article 136 covering the full

transition to digital broadcasting. The entire television sector has now been switched over to digital TV.

Digital technology in education was covered in the National Strategy for Education 2014-2020 where it was planned that by 2018, high schools would be equipped with the functional infrastructure needed to make use of digital content in teaching; and by 2018, digital school mapping would become operational, providing a virtual network for high schools.

The Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration have prepared the strategy Digital Agenda of Albania 2015-2020<sup>59</sup>. Ongoing digitalization of Albanian culture can be seen in the increasing content of material available online, the increase of digital software and information in the Albanian language, as well as the increase of technology in the country. The population has dramatically embraced the internet, and new innovations are occurring as is support for new inventors.

Government documents and strategies are now readily available online. The data from the National Library and Ministry of Culture show that the number of digitized pages increased by 18% from 5,884 pages to 107,704 pages between 2013-2015 and publications and translations supported by the Ministry of Culture had quadrupled in that time.

Archaeology is also benefiting from new innovations, such as 3D imaging technology for scanning and mapping underwater heritage, as The Albanian National Coastline Agency and the non-profit RPM Nautical Foundation had by 2017 mapped about one-third of Albania's coast, scanning 38 shipwrecks in the Ionian Sea, six of them more than 2,000 years old. Other 3D mapping of land heritage has been completed by the Construction Technologies Institute of the National Research Council of Italy with the Institute of Monuments of Culture of Albania.

The Ministry of Culture signed a Memorandum of Understanding, with the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF), to establish the Digital Platform for the Cultural Heritage Sector (or Digitalization Centre) as a unit of the Institute of Cultural Monuments. This follows the 650,000 USD project "Empowering museums through technology" funded by AADF for the National Museum of Medieval Art in Korça and the National Museum of Iconography ONUFRI in Berat. In 2019, the Ministry of Culture started the establishment of the National Digitalization Centre to make Albanian cultural assets accessible and available to research worldwide.

Likewise, various archives are quickly digitizing their collections, from the Marubi photographs dating as far back as 1858, to the feature films and animations from decades ago being digitally re-mastered. The Institute of Monuments of Culture has published a 200 page magazine twice a year since 1971 called *Revista "Monumentet"*, all of which are now available in digital format on the IMK website<sup>60</sup>.

All of these efforts were accelerated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic with the need to offer access to culture through various online tools and platforms, such as an online 3D version of the National Gallery of Arts. In 2020, Kosovo and Albania agreed to jointly create a Pristina-Tirana "digital 5G corridor". The memorandum laid out plans for the countries to cooperate in drafting policies for the development of the 5G network. As of July 1, 2021 roaming charges across Western Balkan countries were abolished<sup>61</sup>.

## 2.5. Cultural and social diversity

### 2.5.1. NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

#### National / international intercultural dialogue

Through the arts, religion, academia, diaspora, tourism, government events, embassies and civil society, Albania has invested increasingly in diverse intercultural dialogue, beginning with the change of the political regime in 1990. There are ongoing regional Balkan youth initiatives on reconciliation and collaboration using intercultural learning and non-violent communication approaches.

2008 was the European Union Designated Year for Intercultural Dialogue. A 2009 National Strategy on Intercultural, Interfaith and Interethnic Dialogue<sup>62</sup> was prepared, following up on Albania's membership in the Group of Friends to the Alliance of Civilizations and the recommendations by the High-Level Group of the General Secretary of the UN in 2006. The strategy was based on documents like the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, AoC documents as well and a commitment of the Government of Albania to achieve the standards of the framework of the Euro-Atlantic integration, and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions<sup>63</sup> in areas including education, youth, emigration and media.

The Institute for Romani Culture in Albania<sup>64</sup> (IRCA), established in 2011, is a Roma NGO that stands for a multi-ethnic and inclusive society, and is very active in activities about intercultural understanding, reconciliation and acceptance.

Further steps were taken with the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) on July 4, 2016, an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded by the Western Balkans 6 Prime Ministers and participants (WB 6), an initiative of the Berlin Process<sup>65</sup>: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia aim to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programmes. NGOs like International Voluntary Projects (Projekte Vullnetare Nderkombetare<sup>66</sup>), International Co-operative Centre (ICC), Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Institute for Activism and Social Change (IANS) and others also do important work in intercultural dialogue. Universities, programmes like Erasmus + and other academic exchanges, including religious institutions, also play a role.

Nationally, there are ongoing efforts to increase awareness of the Roma language and Culture at all education levels and recognize Roma culture as part of Albania's cultural heritage, as well as the importance of Roma youth participation in decision-making, public life, and the importance of professional qualifications.

### 2.5.2. DIVERSITY EDUCATION

#### Education

The fields of study commonly regarded as cultural education in Albania are Arts, Humanities and Languages, Journalism and Information, and Architecture and Construction. In the academic year 2020-21<sup>67</sup>, -17,954 post-secondary students were enrolled in fields of study related to culture, marking 14.5% of the total, with a slight

decrease from the previous academic year. For 2020-2021, Languages and Architecture and Construction are the most preferred fields of study representing 39.9% and 29.4% of the total number of students enrolled in fields related to culture. Specialisations within the field of cultural education include tourism, culture, languages, heritage, music, film/tv, dance, fine arts, sculpture, etc.

All educational institutions in Albania operate under the jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education, Sports & Youth. The Council of Europe documents on [Language education policy profile 2015-2017](#)<sup>68</sup> and [Country Report 2016](#)<sup>69</sup> provide detailed information on this topic.

The UNESCO Student Mobility Number for Albania in 2018 was 17,448 post-secondary students studying abroad, representing 13.5% of all students in 2018, of which 60% were studying in Italy.

According to the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) the number of degrees received in Arts and Humanities for 2017-2018 were 3,512, with an increase to 3,746 for 2018-2019 and a decrease to 3,578 in 2019-2020<sup>70</sup>. However, the registration statistics in education shows that for Arts and Humanities there was a steady decrease in registrations, with 14,348 registrations in 2018-2019, 12,537 in 2019-2020, and 10,972 in 2020-2021<sup>71</sup>

### 2.5.3. MEDIA PLURALISM AND CONTENT DIVERSITY

Media pluralism and content diversity

The Ethical Code of the Albanian Media Institute<sup>72</sup>, created in 1996 and revised in 2006, states that journalists "have the right to obtain information, to publish, and to criticise. Information should be truthful, balanced and verified". According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), journalism in Albania is in a "problematic state"<sup>73</sup>. A joint research project between Reporters Without Borders and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Albania revealed that Albanian media is mostly controlled by a few major owners with strong political affiliations, which control more than half of the audience share and nearly 90% of the market share and the top four owners in Albania's Television market reach an audience of between 48.93% to 58,60%<sup>74</sup>. Across all media sectors the top eight owners reach an audience of 72,1% to 80.1%.

The International Press Institute has highlighted challenges including physical attacks and smear campaigns against the press that are critical of the government. The Freedom House 2021 country report gives 2/4 points - "Are there free and independent media?" - The Freedom House rating for Independent Media rating declined from 3.75 to 3.50 out of 7, reflecting the legal and verbal harassment of independent journalists by politicians and power brokers, along with intimidation and prosecution of journalists for allegedly spreading panic.

In 2018 the Government set to amend the laws 97/2013 and later 9918/2020 in what was known as "the anti-defamation package". The Albanian government continued to push for the amendments despite criticisms from civil society, the OSCE and the Venice Commission Opinion Nr. 980/2020 of 19 June 2020. The new provisions aim to grant the Albanian Media Authority the power to adopt restrictive measures, including the forced removal of content.

Difficulties have also arisen during the Covid pandemic, with measures of allowing only 2 people in a studio at one time. A Reporters Without Borders<sup>75</sup> (RSF) report stated that "At the start of the coronavirus crisis, Prime Minister Edi Rama urged the public to "protect themselves against the media" and refused to help when the pandemic exacerbated the media's financial problems to the point that newspapers stopped producing print



editions for about six weeks". This period, in addition to overall decline in print media sales, has driven media salaries down, discouraging independent reporting.

#### 2.5.4. LANGUAGE

##### Language

Albanian is an Indo-European language, a single branch in the Indo-European tree. The *Gheg* dialect is spoken in Northern Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, while *Tosk* has been the basis for the official dialect of standard Albanian, recognised officially in 1972.

Article 14 of the Albanian Constitution states "The official language in the Republic of Albania is Albanian"; nonetheless, many Albanians speak multiple languages fluently and the country has a long history of inter-cultural exchange through the use of many languages.

For the 2020-2021 academic year among post-secondary students enrolled in fields of study relating to culture, 39.9% were studying languages, with women representing the majority<sup>76</sup>. Among foreign languages learned by pupils in schools, English is by far the most common followed by French, Italian, German and others. Cooperation agreements have allowed certain Albanian schools to offer language study and examinations that are recognized for post-secondary admissions abroad.

Albania has been a full member of the International Organization of La Francophonie since 1999. Through the Ministry of Education and the Embassy of France, work in pre-university education has helped align Albanian education with European standards and the promotion of the French language.

The country has a wide diaspora throughout the world and in 2010, the Ministry of Education designed and approved "The Integrated Programme for the Teaching of the Albanian Language in the Diaspora", to support and maintain the language and culture by providing complementary teaching to the children of emigrants living in other countries. Textbooks were published in 2011-2012 and distributed free of charge to schools that requested them. In 2015, The Ministry of Education of Albania and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo signed the agreement "On the joint organization of the teaching of the Albanian language and culture in the diaspora and migration", with the view that the diaspora benefits from a joint approach to the teaching of the Albanian language and culture abroad.

The Albanian government officially recognized the Albanian Sign Language in 2012 by the Council of Ministers Decision Nr. 837, based on article 102 of the Constitution and Law Nr. 69/2012 "On Pre-university Education in the Republic of Albania", where article 63 stipulates: "People who do not hear and speak are entitled to the right of communication in sign language." Albanian Braille is the braille alphabet for writing the Albanian language and is based on international braille.

With the mission to preserve, promote and support the Albanian language, the Centre for Diaspora Publications at the Ministry of Diaspora for the school year 2019-2020, distributed 12,000 educational books in Albanian language in 19 different countries<sup>77</sup>.

## 2.5.5. GENDER

### Gender

Albania has been actively working towards gender equality including a balanced participation of women and men in decision-making processes and a reduction in discrimination and gender-based violence, among many issues.

The current State Cabinet in 2021 has a majority of women, with females as 12 of 17 cabinet ministers and Albania ranks first according to the United Nations' general classification for the number of women in the government, up from 5th with the previous government. Women represent over 50 percent of the Albanian government and 30 percent of Parliament. Also, 50 percent of senior management positions in public administration are held by women.

The UN Women's Global SDG Database<sup>78</sup> gives Albania a score of 90.9 percent for overall legislative frameworks on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (GEEW); 91.7 percent for overall legislative frameworks on Gender-Based Violence (GBV); 70 percent for overall legislative frameworks on Employment and Economic empowerment; and 90.9 percent for overall legislative frameworks on Marriage and Families. All the while, violence against women / gender-based violence remains widespread and the U.N. reports that this is an issue for more than 50 percent of women in Albania.

Albania has ratified Protocol Nr. 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and was a signatory to the 2007 UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

In 2008 Albania passed Law Nr. 9970/2008 on "Gender Equality in Albania" and Law Nr. 10221/2010 "For the Protection from Discrimination" in 2010. By order of the Council of Ministers Nr. 537/2011, Albania adopted its first "National Strategy for Gender Equality, Reduction of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, 2011-2015".

The Council of Europe "Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" (*Istanbul Convention*) was ratified by Albanian Law Nr. 104/2012, entering into force in 2014.

In their 2012 report, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) stated that of the 1300 Albanians employed as artisans, 78% of those were women.

In June 2016, the government passed the National Action Plan for LGBTI that would address bullying and LGBT discrimination in primary and secondary education with lectures and other activities. This was implemented and received some pushback from parents and teachers.

Women represent about 66% of total enrolment in post-secondary cultural fields of study in 2020, while the majority of employed workers in cultural fields are men, constituting nearly 57% in 2020<sup>79</sup>.

A National Strategy "On the establishment and functioning of the inter-institutional working group for drafting the gender equality strategic document for 2016-2020"<sup>80</sup> was prepared by The Inter-institutional Working Group by the Order of the Prime Minister Nr. 15/2016. Direct preparation of the strategy included a representative of

the Ministry of Culture as well as the Ministry being included in consultations during the drafting of the strategy.

## 2.5.6. DISABILITY

### Disability

In February 2013, Albania ratified the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides that State Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to participate in equal terms with others in cultural life.

*The Constitution of the Republic of Albania states:*

- Article 18: All are equal before the law. No one shall be unjustly discriminated against for reasons such as gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political, religious or philosophical beliefs, economic, educational, social or parental affiliation.
- Article 18 guarantees this right also for persons with disabilities who, although not directly mentioned, are included in Constitutional Court decisions.
- Article 58: Freedom of artistic creation and of scientific research, putting into use and the benefit of their achievements are guaranteed to all.

The Law on the Inclusion and Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities stipulates that all public or private institutions have the obligation to ensure accessibility for all types of disabilities in accessing these areas: housing, transport, health, social care, education, employment and other services and opportunities through participation in all spheres of life, including family, community and civic life (including cultural life). For the detailed duties and responsibilities of these institutions, the law requires the adoption of a decision approved by the Council of Ministers Nr. 1074/2015 "On the Determination of Measures to Eliminate Communication and Infrastructure Disadvantages in the Provision of Public Services for Persons with Disabilities".

## 2.6. Culture and social inclusion

### Culture and social inclusion

The Social Inclusion Strategy was approved in 2008 by the Council of Ministers. The Inter-sectoral Strategy on Social Inclusion (2007–2013), also referred to as the National Strategy on Social Inclusion (NSSI), is a policy document under the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI).

The UNDP in Albania has supported projects focussed on the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptian communities as well as Persons with Disabilities, among other development projects. UNDP Albania also works on building capacities of institutions at central and local levels to enhance participation of civil society and citizens as rights holders in the national social inclusion processes. They have supported the development of the "Policy Document for Social Inclusion 2016 – 2020"<sup>81</sup> including a set of national indicators on social inclusion based on qualitative analysis on the most vulnerable categories of the population; "National Social Housing Strategy 2016 - 2025"; and "Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities (2016 – 2020)"<sup>82</sup>. These and other issues are key to EU accession related commitments.

In 2015, The Albanian Government committed to the UN Agenda 2030, and began implementing policies to achieve Millennium Development goals including reducing poverty, improving social inclusion, empowering women and improving education, as part of 140 SDG targets<sup>83</sup>. A key Millennium Development Goal was to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce the risk of social exclusion. Programmes were implemented to encourage the use of cultural heritage to create jobs for poor communities, strengthen national identity and attract investments and tourism. In 2018, people "At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion" was estimated at 49.0 %, down from 51.8 % in 2017. The number of those with dependent children was 27.0% compared to 15.2% without dependent children.

In 2017 The HARP Project led by the NGO Ekphrasis Studio, with funding from UNESCO IFCD, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Municipality of Tirana to develop Albania's first policy recommendations and action plan<sup>84</sup> on accessible arts in public spaces, focused on social inclusion and participation in the cultural use and development of public spaces using a bottom-up approach. It was presented in 2019 and made publicly available.

The law Nr. 102/2020 for Regional Development and Cohesion outlines "Cohesion" as the interaction of the economic, environmental, social and cultural levels between and within different regions of development, with a goal to eliminate inequalities between them. It specifically mentions the inclusion of art, culture, creative industries and cultural heritage actors, agencies and institutions in regional development.

The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities to the Council of Europe, pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2 of 2021, recommends that the Ministry of Culture allocates 5% of grants for individuals who have applied and belong to national minorities in open calls for grants.

## 2.7. Societal impact of arts

### Societal impacts of arts

Old and new traditions, amateur and professional creative practices and arts education contribute to the social cohesion of the country. A well maintained oral history of cultural heritage has kept many figures, stories, symbols and traditions active in various art forms. A major part of Albanian tourism campaigns are focussed on cultural heritage, and the development of heritage sites including workshops, marketplaces, guesthouses and more offering increasing economic benefits and has played a role in preserving traditional knowledge and skills while also helping lift people out of poverty<sup>85</sup>.

A strong sense of national identity exists and many symbols are regularly depicted in art, such as the eagle and the national flag, however many have explored innovative and creative international approaches to their artistic creation with a wider world view.

National reading campaigns and book fairs contribute to the literacy of the population, the development of local authors and access to diverse information.

## 2.8. Cultural sustainability

### Cultural sustainability

In 2020, there were 19,004 individuals employed in a cultural activity or occupation, representing 1.5% of total employment. Nearly 57% of those were male, and the number of females employed in the field is increasing. While young people aged 15-29 account for only 21.9% of total employment in the country, their share of employment in culture is higher, at 34.0% in 2020.

In 2020, public expenditures in this field are 6,842 million ALL. These expenditures account for 1.3 % of total public expenditures for 2020 and account for 0.4 % of total GDP. Compared to 2019, public expenditures on Entertainment, Culture and Religious Affairs expressed as a percentage of GDP have not changed, while public expenditures expressed as a percentage of total public expenditures have decreased slightly<sup>86</sup>.

## 2.9. Other main cultural policy issues

### Other main cultural policy issues

Sources of further information:

- Albania Covid-19 and Culture Report 2019-2021, Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends<sup>87</sup>
- Socio-economic impact assessment of Covid-19 on cultural and creative sectors in Albania, Commissioned by UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Albania, 2020<sup>88</sup>

## 3. Cultural and creative sectors

### 3.1. Heritage

#### Heritage

Albania has a total of 2028 cultural monuments<sup>89</sup>, including mosques, Muslim quarters, Orthodox and Catholic churches, convents, Shia Tekke, Byzantine walls, Roman, Illyrian and other remains, representing a coexistence of peoples for over three millennia. Certain caves also fall under the jurisdiction of the Institute of Cultural Monuments, based on the Council of Ministers' decision Nr. 451/1993.

The Regional Programme on Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe of the Council of Europe in 2003 had 3 components: The Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, Ljubljana Process: rehabilitating our common heritage and Local Development Pilot Projects (LDPP)<sup>90</sup>.

The Cultural Heritage Act Nr. 9048 approved on 7/04/2003 was the legal framework covering all activities in relation to preserving, promoting and managing the Albanian national heritage. On 27/07/2006 certain amendments were made by Act Nr. 9592, which introduced the National Committee of National Heritage as an advisory body. The Committee consisted of senior officials directly responsible for the promotion of cultural heritage in Albania. Article 17 provides for the establishment of a National Council for Restorations to grant permission for restoration of cultural heritage buildings and monuments.

After successes with the National Park of Butrinti, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport established seven more Archaeological Parks in Albania to further promote the historical and cultural heritage and provide sustainable development for the local economies concerned.

In 2005, the government approved the Strategy and Action Plan for the Development of Tourism based on Cultural and Environmental Tourism, aiming to rediscover Albania's cultural and historical identity and to take action to better protect, manage and promote its national patrimony. It is based upon the UNESCO report on "Cultural Patrimony in South - Eastern Europe: Albania" (No:3 : May 2004). The strategy was supported by UNDP's Support to Eco and Cultural Tourism Development Programme (2006-2009), UNESCO's Centre for Restoration of Monuments in Tirana (June 2005 -November 2009) and other initiatives related to the further safeguarding and promotion of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Albania.

After 4 years of major restorations were completed in 2015, the Archaeology Museum in Durrës re-opened, and the national Programme for Cultural Heritage 2013-2017<sup>91</sup> outlined 16 points, including building a plan for the restoration and revitalization of some important monuments of late historical heritage such as the National Theatre, which was later demolished by the government in 2020.

The Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums 27/2018, among others, sets up rules on the trade of cultural assets and free movement.

In 2019, the Institute of Monuments "Gani Strazimiri" and the Agency of Archeological Services merged

to form the National Institute of Cultural Heritage<sup>92</sup> based on the Decision by Council of Ministers Nr. 364, date 29.05.2019 "For the Functioning and the Activities of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage. Based on its status<sup>93</sup>, the Institute's main focus is tangible heritage research, preservation, promotion and also rescue and prevention activities for cultural heritage. The Institute also sets the criteria for archaeological research, reviews the technical documents in relation to the process and supervises and monitors the development of projects, depending also on the decisions of the decision making bodies. The National Institute of Cultural Heritage also maps, updates and publishes the Digital Platform for Archaeological Activities in the Republic of Albania. The Regional Centre for Conservation and Restoration functions at the Institute and its main activities are: informing and updating restorers and licensed subjects, drafting and implementation of qualification programmes for specialists in the field of tangible culture heritage.

Also, in 2019 the Albanian Ministry of Culture, with the support of the Albanian American Development Fund, prepared the National Park of Butrint- Integrated Management Plan (2020-2030)<sup>94</sup>.

Open source databases have been created including "Preserving Tirana", "The Albanian House" and "Preserving the Western Balkans". Often the reason for the degradation and demolition of these homes is that the inheritors do not have the wealth or status of their ancestors along with factors of multiple ownership and migration leaving them neglected and unrestored. There is also a difference between the assessments of institutions and the community on heritage that has led to conflicts<sup>95</sup>. The case of the National Theatre clearly showed this difference, leading to the country's longest-running civil society protest lasting over 2 years, until the theatre's ultimate demolition in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. This came despite being listed by Europa Nostra among the seven most endangered monuments in Europe. Its demolition was first suggested in 2002 by then Mayor Edi Rama, but was overturned through petitions submitted by artists and intellectuals to the Prime Minister of the time.

The Legal Regulatory Framework<sup>96</sup> for cultural heritage is based on Decisions by the Council of Ministers, the Code of Behaviour, National Legislation, International Legislation (for the accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage revised and in the Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage), Manuals and Policy Documents, Strategy, and other legal acts.

The Annual Report 2020<sup>97</sup> from the National Institute of Cultural Heritage outlines the developments for legal acts, approved and in process, European and National projects for cultural heritage such as EU4Culture, Interreg IPA CBC Italy- Albania- Montenegro 2014-2020, Programme of 100 Villages, Balkan Mediterranean 2014-2020, IPA 2017 Action Programme for Albania, Integrated Urban and Tourism Development Programme, Educational Programmes, etc. Collaborators and supporters for 2020 include the European Union - Office of European Delegation in Albania, UNOPS- The United Nations Office for Project Services, UNESCO- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, AADF- Albanian American Development Fund, CHWB- Cultural Heritage without Borders, TIKA- Turkish Agency for Collaboration and Coordination, KOASH- Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania, TAP- Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG, FSHZH- Albanian Fund for Development, AKPT- National Agency for Territorial Planning, and FAU- Faculty of Architecture and Urban Development.

A 213,260 Euro project supported by UNESCO was approved in 2019 to be implemented by the Ministry of Culture over 26 months by conducting a community-based inventory of intangible cultural heritage in Albania<sup>98</sup>. The National project has since formally recognized traditional dances, livestock migrations and craftwork in the

national inventory. This came after the 2018 UNESCO inscription of “Singing to the accompaniment of the Gusle” as Serbian intangible cultural heritage, led many in Albania to point to their own tradition of singing epics to the *Lahuta* not being recognized.

Based on the Annual Report 2020<sup>99</sup>, *the main challenges* for the National Institute of Culture Heritage in 2021 are the lack of legal acts in accordance with law nr. 27/2018 “For Culture Heritage and Museums”. This has disrupted the normal activities at the institution, such as a lack of Decisions by the Council of Ministers for the procedure of declaration of cultural interest and public competition. Also, there is a lack of legal basis for the relevant fees for project applications, licenses, archaeological monitoring, project drafting, observation, etc. Regarding the budget, there is a lack of funds for implementing the drafted projects for the 2021-2023 Project Budget: culture heritage endangered by outdoor climate, strengthening of the human resources in the field and financing of the IPA projects.

In 2020, the Authority of Audiovisual Media (AMA) and the Ministry of Culture signed an agreement for funding, about 60,000 euros, for audiovisual projects promoting Albanian culture heritage.<sup>100</sup>

While heritage development has generally been good for tourism and economic activity, there are concerning issues such as ongoing construction of a bypass road in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Gjirokastra, despite a call in June 2021 from UNESCO<sup>101</sup> for its urgent suspension to assess the risk to the city. At its 44th session in China in July, the World Heritage Committee said it “urgently requests the State Party [Albania] to halt construction” until a monitoring mission is able to visit and assess whether the project has or will cause any damage to the city’s “Outstanding Universal Value”.

In September 2021, archaeological work began in Durres to study the Roman period and locate the ancient hippodrome from 1600 years ago, after approval from the Institute of Archaeology and the Ministry of Culture, with volunteers and students of the “Aleksandër Moisiu” University in Durrës invited to join the excavation. Reconstruction work in Durres has come under fire at times for not respecting legal procedures, as Albanian law requires that construction in archaeologically rich areas be monitored by professional archaeologists.

## 3.2. Archives and libraries

### Archives and libraries

The Albano-Balkanological collection of the Albanian Literature Commission began as a joint Albanian and Austrian institution established in Shkodra in 1917<sup>102</sup>. The National Library in Tirana was the country’s first public and non-religious state institution, founded in 1920. After WWII, public libraries opened in smaller urban centres. The first documented effort to create a Central Archive is the decision dated 02.01.1932 of the High State Council, to review the draft-regulation for the registration of important events.

Private collections from this period<sup>103</sup> and earlier were mostly destroyed by circumstances or confiscated by the government by 1950.

In 1947, the Documentary Archive of the Institute was created at the Institute of Studies, followed by The Central State Archive (AQSH) in 1949, established as a central body under the Institute of Studies, by the Council of Ministers Order Nr. 21/ 08.06.1949. The Central State Film Archive was founded on 10 April 1947. In 1948 the



decree was passed whereby copies of all books published in Albania were obligatorily sent to the National Library, making it also the archive of all publications in the country. This has been amended several times and exists today as the Law on the Compulsory Donation of Books, approved in 1992 and ensuring 5 copies of each title printed are given to the National Library. By 1957 the first University Libraries were opened.

The first 2-year part-time training course was opened in the National Library in 1969, and continues to attract new librarians today. In addition to providing the basic skills to future librarians, the course publishes and distributes various training handbooks, classification tables, and other professional materials, including the journal Library Bulletin (Buletini i Bibliotekave) which is published twice a year.

There is a Parliament archive from 1991, which currently includes all acts, laws online<sup>104</sup>, a Presidential archive from 1993, the Centre of Official Publications<sup>105</sup> - the largest online archive for all government documents, and several ministries and other public institutions have digitized archives, increasing access to information.

The Library Act Nr. 8576, approved on 3/02/2000, provides the legislative and the institutional framework relating to the funding and management of public libraries in Albania. The Law provides for the functioning of libraries as a unique national network and also considers them to be an integral part of the national system of information. The Law recognises the particular responsibility and role of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, at the time, to provide strategies and policies for the development of the national system of libraries, regardless of which other authority or agency is responsible for them.

According to Library Act Nr. 8576 03/02/2000, Article 14, amended on 8 April, 2004 by Act Nr. 9217, Article 5, provides for the establishment of the National Council of Libraries as the advisory body to the Minister. It provides advice and recommendations related to the training of librarians, infrastructure needs of public libraries, as well as setting the norms and rules regarding the standardisation of library services in Albania. The National Council of Libraries assists the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to draft and implement strategies and policies, as well as to follow the activities of the libraries nationally.

The National Library<sup>106</sup> in Tirana, which celebrated its 100th anniversary, has increased its online digital collection, and the National Film Archive<sup>107</sup>, established in 2006, also a subordinate of the Ministry of Culture, has successfully restored several films and improved digitization, cataloguing and promotion of Albanian films.

There are municipal libraries, university libraries, and others at The Centre for Openness and Dialogue at the Prime Ministry, the Academy of Sciences, while the Arts University Library contains 35,000 volumes. In 2019, Tirana municipality operated 8 libraries, but not all municipal units were administering a library. From 2017-2019, seven of the eight libraries were updated.

The INSTAT 2020 Business registry lists 37 companies under "libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities".

Based on the proposal from the Minister of Culture, the Council of Ministers decided<sup>108</sup> to establish the National Book and Reading Centre in 2019, which previously was a department within the Ministry of Culture.

Also, the Centre for Diaspora Publications at the Ministry of Diaspora for the school year 2019-2020, distributed 12,000 educational books in the Albanian language in 19 different countries<sup>109</sup>.

In 2020, the e-Albanica Digital Library contained 154 books (1873- 1944); 127 collections of Albanian retrospective magazines, mainly of cultural character (1883-1944); 123 antiques (1473-1800); 178 manuscripts (1106-1945); 78 maps (1560-1800)<sup>110</sup>.

### 3.3. Performing arts

#### Performing arts

The performing art in Albania are also known as “scenic/stage” or “interpretive” arts. From 1960-1996 “The People's Artist” was an honorary title for outstanding art performers, created “in order to encourage the creativity of artists for the further development of our art by creating works of high artistic value, which reflect the heroic past of our people, its historic victories, its glorious work in building socialism as well as helping the communist education of the working masses”, affirmed by Law Nr. 3171, Dated 26.10.1960. The Merited Artist was a second-level award. Neither were awarded after 1991, but replaced in 1996 with “Grand Master of Work”, and again as “Grand Master” after a 2001 amendment of the 1996 law.

A new Law of Theatre was created in 2000, replaced by Law Nr. 9631/2006 on Performing Arts, and then both replaced by a new Law on Arts and Culture, Nr. 10352/2010<sup>111</sup>. In covering performing arts, music and circus, it outlined the following institutions: National Theatre; National Theatre of Opera, Ballet and Folk Ensemble; National Cultural Centre for Children and Puppet Theatre; National Centre of Art and Culture; National Gallery of Arts; National Circus; and National Comedy Theatre. In 2014 the National Centre of Art and Culture dissolved into the administration of the Ministry of Culture. Also that year, the National Comedy Theatre was closed and reopened as the National Experimental Theatre.

There have been many concerns from performers regarding their pensions, and the Ministry of Culture has drafted a bill for changes to the “Pensions of some complex artist professions” 2017<sup>112</sup>, specifically for state but also private employed performers of ballet, circus, opera, musical theatre, state ensembles, wind instrument orchestras, choirs, etc.

The Albanian Arts University, founded in 1966 as an Academy, has a Department of Music and stage Arts, and there is a public School of Ballet (Shkolla e Baletit), however there has been a continuous increase in private schools, businesses and not for profit organisations that preserve and promote diverse genres of performances.

The largest quadrennial performing event in the country is the Gjirokastra Festival which began in 1968, and it promotes mainly traditional dance, music, costumography etc., and takes place in the heritage castle of Gjirokastra.

The Albanian Dance Theatre Company was the first independent contemporary dance company in Albania founded in March 2000. Since its establishment, the company has had at least one new production every year. The National Centre of Mediterranean Theatre has contributed to Albanian theatre for over 20 years through international events such as the International Theatre Festival in Butrint and recently promoted their documentary “Future Begins Today” supported also by the Western Balkans Fund. Many performances are often held at heritage sites including the ancient theatres of Butrint, Apollonia and Bylis and castles of Gjirokastra and Shkodra. Since 2017, Reja (Cloud) Fest has hosted hundreds of performers in music, dance and other activities

as well as training sessions and lectures, at the Cloud installation in the centre of Tirana. Other civil society organisations active in the performing arts are the Albanian Association of Contemporary Theatre, MAM Foundation for Contemporary Arts, DoArt, etc. Tirana has also restored the communist era amphitheatre by the artificial lake for various singing, dancing, theatre and other performances administered by the Agency of Parks and Recreation of Tirana Municipality.

A new multifunctional centre ArTurbina, a revitalization project, opened on July 2th, 2018. ArTurbina is a modern, multifunctional art centre. Its name is related to the origin of this building as a Hydro Turbine Laboratory during the communist regime. The new theatre has two stages, one with 400 seats and another with 150 seats, both with the latest technology.

In April 2020, Europa Nostra placed the National Theatre in Tirana on the top 7 list of most endangered heritage sites<sup>113</sup>, and in May 2020 the building was demolished after a two-year debate and protests to conserve and protect it, and Europa Nostra condemned the brutal demolitions. Many are looking forward to the new theatre. Another new building opened in 2019 in Tirana, Air Albania Stadium, rebuilt on the same site after demolition of Dinamo-Qemal Stafa Stadium, and available for various performances.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, even though the re-opening at reduced capacity of theatres and cinema, etc. was good news, the private sector considered this an unfair situation in relation to publicly funded institutions, like The National Theatre of Opera, Ballet and Folk Ensemble which receives the largest budget from the Albanian Ministry of Culture. Compared to other subordinate institutions, the private sector depends heavily on audience ticket sales. Throughout the summer of 2020, fall and winter, the artists, institutions, and organizations of cultural events continued online. The Albanian Ministry of Culture and its institutions organized several online events in opera, music and theatre. On February 10, 2021 the Online International Theatre began, with 20 participating teams and the support of the Ministry of Culture, National Theatre, Tirana Municipality, and Raiffeisen Bank.

## 3.4. Visual arts and crafts

### Visual arts and crafts

In law nr. 70/2016 on Craft<sup>114</sup> in the Republic of Albania, chapter 1 regulates the exercise of handicraft activity, the professional qualification in this field, as well as the organization of handicraft subjects through the establishment of the National Chamber of Handicrafts and apprenticeship schemes to ensure the development of handicrafts through the protection of the interests of artisans and consumers. Chapter 2 stipulates that products of traditional handicraft styles strictly respect the models registered as assets of Albanian cultural heritage and that the reproduction of these models is done according to the procedure defined in the legislation in force for cultural heritage. It also prohibits the sale of imported cultural-artistic objects in areas declared historic or archaeological.

The National Centre for Inventory of Cultural Heritage<sup>115</sup>, established in 1995, has continually updated its archive to adapt to digital innovation, and has raised awareness and signed collaborative agreements against the illicit traffic of works of art.

On May 9, 2016, the Marubi National Museum of Photography in Shkodra was inaugurated with the addition of

the Marubi Photography collection. The year 2018 marked the 23rd and final Onufri International Exhibition and Prize at the National Art Gallery and later that year it was terminated by the Ministry of Culture. In 2020 it was revived at the National Gallery of Kosovo as ONUFRI REMADE<sup>116</sup>.

Since 2000, there have been many international graffiti artists in Albania, and more Albanian artists and activists found new ways of expression. Among many other events, MurAL fest began in Tirana in 2018 with the painting of large artistic murals throughout the city, as an extension of the Dekor Agency of Tirana Municipality and with international and local artists. Dekor has also painted hundreds of power boxes throughout Tirana, and all public arts were added to the HARP map of public arts in Tirana<sup>117</sup> as part of the project “Engaging Tirana’s Communities in Public Arts and Policy” supported by UNESCO IFCD. The painting of murals has proven an effective way to liven and colour the city’s concrete surfaces and similar interventions have occurred throughout the country.

Most visual arts organizations operate as not-for-profits, however a few run as businesses, and both provide exhibition and sales opportunities while others also offer training and lectures.

The National Strategy on Culture 2019-2015 lists Policy Goal 4 as supporting the creativity of Albanian artists and increasing cultural and artistic activities. Albania has regularly hosted a pavilion at the Venice Biennale since 1999, and the 2021 pavilion is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Tirana and with collaboration from the National Film Archive of Albania, National Centre of Cinematography, Audio-Visual Authors Protection Forum.

The National Art Gallery has organized many international exhibitions and events, discontenting at the same time many Albanian artists in need of the space and audiences. Gallery FAB at the Arts University is among the most active galleries in the country with a wide variety of exhibitions.

#### General legislation

- Law Nr. 9807, date 20.9.2007 for some changes to Law Nr. 7892, date 21.12.1994 “For Sponsorship”
- Public Institution budgets are created and administered based on the Law and Decision by Council of Ministers Nr. 432, date 28.06.2006 “For creation and administration of income, generated by budgeting institutions” and other guidelines by the Minister of Heritage and Finance.
- Law nr. 7961, date 12.07.1995 “Working Code of the Republic of Albania”, changed
- Law nr. 90/2012 “On the organisation and function of state administration”
- Law nr. 87/2016, “On accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Landscape Convention”
- Law nr. 8561, date 22.12.1999, “On expropriation and taking for temporary use of the private property for public interest”;
- Law nr. 102/2014, “Customs code in the Republic of Albania”, changed
- Law nr. 9154, date 6.11.2003, “On Archives”
- Law nr. 9632, date 30.10.2006, “On the system of local taxes”, changed

#### Cultural arts and creative industries

The creative economy in Albania has seen steady growth over the last decade and foundations are continuously being built. The introduction to the definition of creative industries in Albania began in 2005, when a group of Albanian participants took part in a creative industries conference in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In 2006, Albania ratified

the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to develop cultural and creative industries by supporting and promoting inclusivity, collaboration, access and dissemination through several programs and projects.

The first publication referring to creative industries in the country was prepared by British Council Albania, "Mapping of Creative Industries in Albania", reporting that 515 or 0.57% of businesses were categorized as creative industries, with 38.2% of creative industry businesses, 197 of 515, being located in the Tirana-Durres region (British Council Albania, 2007, p.23).

Understanding the necessity and importance of creative industries for Albania, workshops, reports, strategies and action plans have been designed and implemented in Albania to support their growth, such as the establishment of the Albanian Information Technology Association in 2007, reformatting of existing office to General Directorate for Intellectual Property in 2008, law on Industrial Patents and Trademarks in 2008, 2010 adherence to European Convention of Patents, establishment of Adriapol Institute with a focus on creative economy in 2014, publication of a National Strategy for Intellectual and Industrial Property for 2010-2015, Copyright Law in 2016, and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) adopted a regional action plan for culture and creative industries in 2015. After several drafts, consultations and more concrete recommendations, such as "A Cultural Strategy for Albania- Implementing the Cultural Bug" (Kern, P. 2018,) the first Albanian National Culture Strategy for 2019- 2025, since the 90's, was published, referring to creative industries based on UNESCO's definition "activities whose principal purpose is production or reproduction, promotion, distribution or commercialization of goods, services and activities of a cultural, artistic or heritage-related nature." (Ministry of Culture, 2020, p.20).

#### Laws:

- Law Nr. 144/ 02/05/2012 addressed violations of industrial property rights with regards to the Criminal Code. Two special articles have entered into force (149/a and 149/b) that open the way to the State Police (Directorate of Economic Crime) to perform procedural actions on their own initiative in attacking criminal activities in violation of industrial property rights.

#### Documents:

- Technology and Innovation Strategy (STI) 2009-2015 prepared by the Ministry of Education and Science, UNESCO and coordinated by the Council of Ministers for Science
- National Strategy for Intellectual and Industrial Property 2010-2015 by the General Directorate for Patents and Trademarks
- The Business Innovation and Technology Strategy 2011-2016 (BITS) has a goal to increase the competitiveness of Albanian enterprises by encouraging and supporting innovation and technological development through financial, technical, informational, infrastructural and other types of support, improving framework conditions, creating a favourable environment to business innovation and strengthening the National Innovation System.
- National Strategy for converting from analogue to digital communication/ transmission 2012
- Business and Investment Development Strategy (BIDS) 2014-2020
- Digital Agenda of Albania 2015-2020 by the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration

## Agreements:

- General Directorate of Industrial Property cooperation agreement with the EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office), signed July 2015.
- Cooperation agreement with WIPO
- National Strategy for Intellectual Property 2016- 2020. In July 2016, the Albanian General Directorate for Industrial Property has made its trade mark and design data available to the TMview

According to the European Commission Staff working document on Albania 2020 Report: "...the General Directorate of Intellectual Property has prepared a draft Law on trade secrets in order to align with the EU acquis. The number of applications to register industrial property continued to rise with 2,654 new applications (including 1,475 trademarks and 1158 for patents) in the reporting period. The GDIP participated in 17 court proceedings. The SIMS Copyright Division of the State Inspectorate for Market Surveillance (SIMS) carried out 496 inspections resulting in 48 administrative measures. The activities of the SIMS Industrial Property Division took 74 administrative measures (69 warnings and five fines). The customs administration suspended the release of 23,440 products suspected of infringing IPR. The high number of counterfeit products in the country remains a cause for concern."<sup>118</sup>

## 3.5. Cultural arts and creative industries

### 3.5.1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### General developments

Among the main developments in the cultural arts and creative industries has been the incorporation and use of new technology, data collection and statistics. The National Strategy for Culture 2019-2024, mentions the establishment of a Centre for Research of the Cultural and Creative Industries. Its purpose is to centrally organize training and research, fundraise for the implementation of local and international projects, create a central statistical system for data on the culture and creative industries in Albania, collect and publish cultural data from all public and private actors, create promotional platforms for cultural tourism, etc.

### 3.5.2. BOOKS AND PRESS

#### Books and press

The Business Registry 2019 from INSTAT<sup>119</sup> lists 276 active in publishing activities, an increase from the previous two years. The number of actual companies publishing books is higher due to small scale, mixed activity printing companies. According to artists, there is a lack of research and publications for the arts as of 2021<sup>120</sup>.

There is a 20% VAT on printing, where in Europe the rate fluctuates between 4 and 6%. There is 0% tax on book sales. Sales of books have shown decline in Albania during economic or political crises. The rise of e-books and technologies has also presented challenges to publishing houses.

In 2020, the highest increase in prices for cultural goods and services was 'Books' by 2.1%, according to INSTAT 2020 Culture Statistics.

The Tirana International Book Fair takes place every year in November with participants from around the world, presenting the latest publications in Albania and translation from Albanian into other languages. Books in all genres from around the world are translated and published in Albanian.

### 3.5.3. AUDIOVISUAL AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

#### Audiovisual and interactive media

The Cinematography Act Nr. 8096<sup>121</sup>, approved on 21/03/1996, was a challenge to the existing system of the state-owned film industry, and encouraged prospects for the development of this industry in Albania. The Law provided that one per cent of the income resulting from the selling of tickets must be invested to support Albanian films produced by the National Centre of Cinematography (NCC). Film producers were expected to direct 20% of their income from selling films to cinemas or TV companies to the NCC. This commitment was not always realised by the film producers due to certain reasons.

In 2007 the Albanian Audiovisual Media Authority was created and was authorized to control content, issue fines and suspensions. In 2013 the law Nr. 97/2013 on “Audio visual media in the Republic of Albania” came into effect. By 2018 the Government set out to amend the laws 97/2013 and later 9918/2020<sup>122</sup> in what was known as “the anti-defamation package”. The Albanian government continued to push for the amendments despite criticisms from civil society, the OSCE and the Venice Commission Opinion Nr. 980/2020 of 19 June 2020. The new provisions aimed to grant the Albanian Media Authority the power to adopt restrictive measures, including the forced removal of content. In 2021 the ruling Socialist party was accused of filling the Media Authority with party loyalists<sup>123</sup>, and The Delegation of the European Union in Tirana requested the postponement of the election of the President of the Audiovisual Media Authority.

The INSTAT 2020 Business Register lists 266 companies involved in motion picture, video & television, sound recording and music production, 202 companies involved in printing and reproduction of recorded media, and 187 companies in programming and broadcasting.

In 2020, from the age group 16 - 74 years, 72.2% of the population use the Internet, of which 88.2% use it every day. From this age group, 98.8% of individuals access the internet through mobile/ smart phones. While 24.4% and 7.2% of the target population uses the internet through laptops and tablets. 93.9% of individuals that have interacted with public authorities through the internet are satisfied with the services offered.

### 3.5.4. MUSIC

#### Music

With original elements, Albanian music is a fusion of Southeastern European music including heavy eastern influences from the Ottoman Empire. Under Hoxha's regime, music emphasized patriotic devotion to the party, and since the 1990s has looked increasingly outward for international influences. Albania has a classical music tradition and several well-known operatic singers with world fame, while modern pop, hip-hop and rock music feature common elements found in mainstream music, and electronic music is very popular as well.

Epic poetry through song is characteristic of Northern traditions with lyrics often carrying moral and social values, often accompanied by the lahuta and çifteli, one and two stringed instruments, as well as woodwinds like

the clarinet. Softer polyphonic sounds are characteristic of the south, while violins and guitars are more common. Folk iso-polyphony was inscribed in 2008 on the UNESCO list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2005).

Since 1990, the diversity of music genres and private businesses in music production and promotion has increased in the country. Besides regular complaints from the artists for not receiving support from the public institutions, the sector has had large support from private businesses and the media.

The Albanian Ministry of Culture and its subordinate institutions support several traditional, classical, instrumental and contemporary music events and festivals and has signed cultural agreements with other countries in order to organize collaborative and exchange events. Also, the Arts University and the Musical Professional High School (Liceu Artistic) organize and host many musical events.

Some popular music events in the country with or without public institution support are: UNUM, Turtle Fest, Mik Fest, Kala Fest, Guitar Festival, etc.

### 3.5.5. DESIGN AND CREATIVE SERVICES

Design and creative services

Since 2013, Tirana Architecture / Design Weeks (TA/DW), organized by Polis University, work to promote the exchange of knowledge between professionals at both the national and international level in order to increase the public's interest in architecture, art, and design as disciplines that are closely connected to the contemporary development of cities.

In 2016 the Albanian Ministry of Culture began the Artistic Competition "*The storytelling of legends through graphic novels*" which has continued under different themes for several editions, increasing the diversity of social groups involved and the promotion of new artistic genres.

Small businesses are active in providing diverse design and creative services.

### 3.5.6. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE TOURISM

Cultural and creative tourism

Albania has a total of 2028 cultural monuments, preserved heritage sites and monuments, diverse cultural influences, along with the ability of many locals to communicate in several languages, making cultural tourism a good fit. According to the National Institute of Statistics, Culture statistics data<sup>124</sup>, the number of visitors to monuments of culture, castles, museums, archaeological parks, and other sites in 2016 increased by 17.5 percent from 2015. Visitors to museums, castles, monuments and archaeological parks had surpassed 1,000,000 visitors in 2019 with about 55% of those being foreign visitors, dropping to about 10% in 2020.

IntoAlbania is a tourism development project funded by USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and The Embassy of Sweden in Albania. IntoAlbania.com has strategic partners including the Ministry of Culture of Albania and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania. The 3-year programme, which started in 2017, aimed to generate an economic benefit of \$16.3 Million, an increase of over 60.000



visitors and create 670 new jobs<sup>125</sup>. It combines an Internet Platform and Smartphone Application, Modern Digital Technology on Key National Museums and a Character Hospitality Model with Selected Hospitality Providers.

On 22 December 2018, the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), the Albanian Ministry of Culture and the municipality of Korça inaugurated the new Gjon Mili Museum, occupying the Romanian Building, one of the most iconic buildings in Korça. The investment of 425,000 Euro was part of TAP's social and environmental investment (SEI) programme. Gjon Mili (1904-1984) was a pioneer in the use of stroboscopic instruments to capture a sequence of actions in one photograph. He is most famous for his images that captured Picasso drawing with light.

There have been and still are many grants supporting tourism and development promotion in Albania from the European Union implemented also by Regional Cooperation Council, including several routes such as Routes of the Olive Tree<sup>126</sup>.

As can be seen from the Table below, the 2021 net income for travel and tourism in Albania for the first 6 months of the year was 3 times higher compared to 2020, since the expenses decreased compared to previous years.



Table: Net income for Travel and Tourism in million EUR according to the National Bank of Albania<sup>127</sup>, 2014-2021

## 4. Law and legislation

### 4.1. General legislation

#### 4.1.1. CONSTITUTION

##### Constitution

Constitution of the Republic of Albania<sup>128</sup>:

##### Article 10

1. In the Republic of Albania there is no official religion.
2. The state is neutral in questions of belief and conscience, and also, it guarantees the freedom of their expression in public life.
3. The state recognizes the equality of religious communities.

##### Article 14

1. The official language in the Republic of Albania is Albanian.
2. The national flag is red with a two-headed black eagle in the centre.
3. The seal of the Republic of Albania presents a red shield with a black, two-headed eagle in the centre. At the top of the shield, in gold colour, is the helmet of Skanderbeg.
4. The national anthem is "United Around Our Flag."
5. The National Holiday of the Republic of Albania is the Flag Day, November 28.
6. The capital city of the Republic of Albania is Tirana.
7. The form and dimensions of the national symbols, the content of the text of the national anthem, and their use shall be regulated by law.

##### Article 20

1. Persons who belong to national minorities exercise in full equality before the law their human rights and freedoms.
2. They have the right to freely express, without prohibition or compulsion, their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic belonging. They have the right to preserve and develop it, to study and to be taught in their mother tongue, as well as unite in organizations and associations for the protection of their interests and identity.

##### Article 22

1. Freedom of expression is guaranteed.
2. The freedom of the press, radio and television is guaranteed.
3. Prior censorship of a means of communication is prohibited.
4. The law may require the granting of authorization for the operation of radio or television stations.

## Article 47

1. Freedom and unarmed participation in peaceful gatherings is guaranteed.
2. Peaceful gatherings in public squares and places are held in conformity with the law.

## Article 49

1. Everyone has the right to earn the means of living by lawful work chosen or accepted by himself. He is free to choose his profession, place of work, as well as his own system of professional qualification.

## Article 58

1. Freedom of artistic creation and scientific research, the use and profits deriving from them are guaranteed for all.
2. Copyright is protected by law.

### 4.1.2. ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

#### Allocation of public funds

Public Institution budgets are created and administered based on the Law and Decision by the Council of Ministers Nr. 432, date 28.06.2006 "For creation and administration of income, generated by budgeting institutions" and other guidelines by the Minister of Heritage and Finance.

### 4.1.3. SOCIAL SECURITY FRAMEWORKS

#### Social security frameworks

The Social Insurance Institute<sup>129</sup> is the main institution for the administration of social insurance in general, and of pension policies in particular. Largely beginning in 2015-2016, social security agreements have been made with Belgium, Luxemburg, North Macedonia, Turkey, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Canada (2019), with more expected to be completed soon with Bulgaria, Croatia, USA, Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands and France.

### 4.1.4. TAX LAWS

#### Tax laws<sup>130</sup>

- Law nr. 87/2014 "On some changes in law no. 9136, dated 11.9.2003, "On the collection of compulsory social and health insurance contributions in the Republic of Albania", as amended
- Law nr. 86/2014 "On some changes and additions to law no. 9975, dated 28.7.2008, "On National Taxes", as amended
- Law no. 85/2014 "On some changes in law no. 9632, dated 30.10.2006, "On the Local Tax System", as amended
- Law no. 84/2014 "On some changes in the law no. 9920, dated 19.5.2008, "On Tax Procedures in the Republic of Albania", as amended

- Law no. 83/2014 "On some changes in law no. 8438, dated 28.12.1998, "On Income Tax", as amended "
- Law no.52, dated 22.05.2014 "On Insurance and Reinsurance Activity"
- Law no.53, dated 22.05.2014 "On Deposit Insurance"
- Law no. 142/2014 "On some changes in law no. 61/2012 "On excises in the Republic of Albania", as amended

#### 4.1.5. LABOUR LAWS

##### Labour laws

According to article 18 of the Republic of Albania's Constitution, everyone is equal before the law. No one can be discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or educational, economic, or social status. No one can be discriminated against except for instances where there is a legal or objective reason for not getting a job.

During hiring and after employment, an Albanian employer may not discriminate amongst employees, must allow them the right to unions, protect them from corruption, and follow laws regarding the minimum age of employees.

Other items are covered in the Labour Code, which is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, respects the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Albania and is based on the generally recognized norms of International Law.

The Labour Code Health and Safety rules must be followed at work. Pregnant women must be protected; employers must follow minimum wage rules, overtime limits, and laws on annual holidays and paid leave to ensure the protection of all those working in Albania.

Article 104 of the Labour Code states that pregnant women must take maternity leave 35 days before, and 63 days after, giving birth. In the case of multiple births this is extended to 60 days before giving birth. Article 27 of the Social Security Law states that for a period of 365 days pregnant women will receive a maternity leave payment from the social security contribution scheme. They will also receive this payment on the 35 to 60 days off from work before and after giving birth. According to article 96.3 of the Labour Code, a father who is a spouse or partner of a pregnant woman can take paid leave of three days. If the father or adoptive male parent is insured, he is entitled to a period of 63 days off from work after the baby is born. However, this can only happen if the child's mother does not fulfil the insurance requirement or wishes to go back to work during this time.

#### 4.1.6. COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

##### Copyright provisions

Until 1993, there were no author's rights and related royalties as the works belonged to the government regime of 1945-1990, and in 1994 Albania signed the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. On February 19, 2007 Albania ratified the Hague Agreement of 1960 and on March 23, 2000 ratified the 1999 Geneva Act on the international registration of industrial designs.

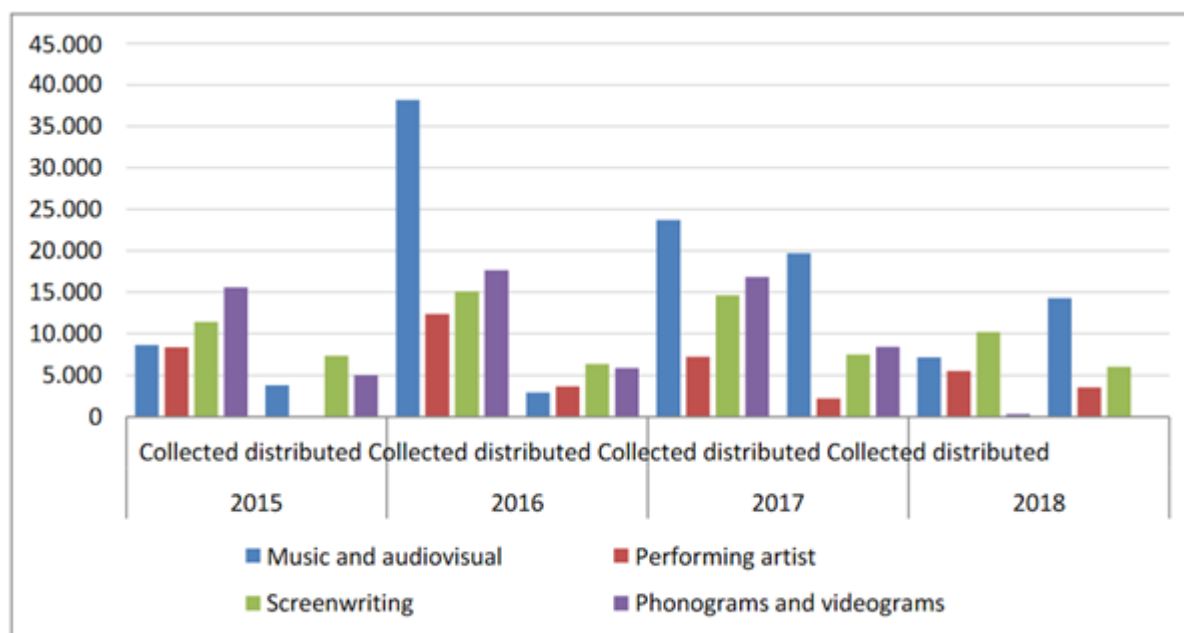
In April 2005, the Albanian Parliament passed *Law Nr. 9380 on Copyright and other related rights* which abolished all previous parliament and government acts dating since 1992. The Albanian Copyright Office (ACO) was established for authors' rights for collective works and required all parties to certify their contracts. The office collaborated on musician's rights with the "Albautor" Association, FMMA for the copyright protection of audiovisual works, AKDIE and AML.

The European IPA funds in 2008 supported activities for the empowerment of the Albanian Copyright Office and its partners, and capacity building to draft the new copyright law.

With an increased awareness on copyright, in April 2006, the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRT) signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Film Centre (NCC) aimed at fighting piracy and *Copyright Law*.

In order to improve information and awareness the Albanian Copyright Office and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed a Memorandum of Collaboration to also exchange information on February 18, 2011.

After many consultations, drafts and expertise on Copyright legislation, laws and standards in the European Union, including WIPO and other institutions, the Law Nr. 35/2016 "On Copyright and Other Related Rights" was approved on intellectual property and creativity in Albania. In 2017, the Albanian Copyright Office became the Directorate for Copyright and other related Rights remaining under the administration of the Ministry of Culture. This directorate monitors the copyright sector, and a new collective agency was established, the Unique Administrative Portal of Author's Rights (SUADA- Sporteli Unik i Administrimit të të Drejtave të Autorit), as a specialized body for determining remuneration tariffs to users of artistic property in the Albanian market. The trend of liabilities collected and distributed to copyright holders and other related rights by collective management agencies during the period 2015- 2018 is shown in Chart 6<sup>131</sup>.



Graph 6 (,000 lek)

In September, 2021 the National Book and Reading Centre and the Inspectorate for Market Oversight signed a memorandum of collaboration against piracy in the country<sup>132</sup> to protect intellectual property, organise collaborative projects and activities to raise awareness and information, etc. Also, in March 2021, a project agreement between the governments of Switzerland and Albania was signed by the Albanian

Minister of Finance and the Economy with the Swiss Ambassador to improve the system of intellectual property rights in Albania including processing on patents, public services and inter-institutional collaboration in implementing intellectual property rights. The programme will work with the General Directorate of Industrial Property (under the Ministry of Finance and the Economy) and the Copyright Directorate (under the Ministry of Culture) to improve the administration and use of intellectual property rights. A month later, in April 2021, the Albanian Ministry of Culture signed the Albania-Turkey agreement for strengthening and promoting further cooperation in the fields of protection of copyright, art, archaeology and museology, in the fight against illegal trafficking of heritage objects, etc.

There have been many consultation meetings with artists, the Ministry of Culture, the National Centre of Cinematography and other stakeholders on the issues related to authors' rights, royalties, etc. Several creatives claim to receive little to no royalties, highlighting the lack of implementation of laws and regulations by the private and the public sectors. The cinematographer Mevlan Shanaj states that authors' rights are not being respected in the production of Albanian films and "...laws are done to serve the European tables, not to be implemented"<sup>133</sup>.

*Some documents*<sup>134</sup>:

- Law Nr.35 Dt 31/3/2016 "On Authors' Rights and other related Rights"<sup>135</sup>
- Bill 2020 for some additions and changes to law Nr.. 35, 2016 "On Authors' Rights and other related Rights"<sup>136</sup>
- Regulation for the National Council for Copyright<sup>137</sup>
- Decision of the Council of Minister VKM Nr.527 Dt 20/7/2016 "On the Approval of the National Strategy for Intellectual Property 2016–2020"<sup>138</sup>
- 2017 Council of Ministers' Decision Nr.33, "On the approval of the tariffs applicable to the services offered by the Copyright Directorate" ("CMD Nr.33"),
- 2017, Council of Ministers' Decision Nr.34, "On the procedures of registration, organization and classification of the copyrighted works" ("CMD Nr.34")
- 2017, Council of Ministers' Decision Nr.35, "On the functioning, organization and compensation of the National Council of Copyright (NCC)" ("CMD Nr.35)

### *Intellectual Property*

The General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) has signed cooperation agreements with the EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office), WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation), prepared a National Strategy for Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights 2016- 2020, and offers online registration of industrial property rights through e-albania. Also, the General Directory for Industrial Property and the Albanian Ministry of Finance and Economy and have promoted the protection of industrial property rights through online registration, including the promotion of products Made in Albania, such as Tradita Popullore (Folk Tradition) – Edlira and ONUS & VIP TIE 3D.

Based on the Annual Report 2020 from GDIP<sup>139</sup>, there was an increase in applications for registration of national patents, 5 in 2019 and 12 in 2020, yet a decrease in the number of registered national patents from 3 in 2019 to 2 in 2020. Also, the number of patents registered decreased in these two years, from 927 to 843. The request for patent renewals increased from 3690 in 2019 to 4562 in 2020, as did the number of renewed patents from 3543

in 2019 to 3944 in 2020. Due to ease of online applications, the number of documents filed for patents increased from 4952 in 2020 to 6525 in 2020, as did the number of documents issued by GDIP from 5143 in 2019 to 7239 in 2020.

At a meeting with businesses, the Minister of Finance Ibrahimaj<sup>140</sup> mentioned that during the period January-October 2021, 2,335 trademark applications were filed with DPPI, of which 727 of them were from Albanian applicants, compared to 566 applications by Albanians in 2020. Based on law 9947 "For Intellectual Property" during the period January-October 2021, 313 inspections were conducted on authors' rights and other related rights and 57 administrative penalties were issued. Also, 20 complaints for threats to market brands were filed, and 6 administrative penalties were issued.

#### 4.1.7. DATA PROTECTION LAWS

Data protection laws

Law Nr. 9887, date 10.03.2008 "On protection of personal data", changed by Law Nr. 48/2012 "On some additions and changes to Law Nr. 9887/2008 "On the protection of personal data", changed to Law Nr. 120/2014 "On some additions and changes to Law Nr. 9887/2008" On the protection of personal data"<sup>141</sup>.

The Constitution of the Albanian Republic and Law Nr.119/2014 "For the right to information"<sup>142</sup> are directly related to the right to information encouraging integrity, transparency and responsibility of public authorities.

The Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data<sup>143</sup> is the authority in charge of supervising and monitoring the protection of personal data and the right to information by respecting and guaranteeing the fundamental human rights and freedoms in compliance with the law.

Also, the Ombudsman<sup>144</sup> (People's Advocate) whose role is observation and implementation of civil rights has the competencies in reference to Law Nr.119/2014 "For the right to information".

*Constitution of the Republic of Albania: Article 35*

1. No one may be obliged, except when the law requires it, to make public the data connected with his person.
2. The collection, use and making public of data about a person is done with his consent, except for the cases provided by law
3. Everyone has the right to become acquainted with data collected about him, except for the cases provided by law.
4. Everyone has the right to request the correction or expunging of untrue or incomplete data or data collected in violation of law.

#### 4.1.8. LANGUAGE LAWS

Language laws

The Albanian government officially recognized the Albanian Sign Language in 2012 by the Council of Ministers Decision Nr. 837, based on article 102 of the Constitution and Law Nr. 69/2012 "On Pre-university Education in

the Republic of Albania”, where article 63 stipulates: “People who do not hear and speak are entitled to the right of communication in sign language.”

Law Nr. 96/2017 “On the Protection of National Minorities”<sup>145</sup> including article 13 on “The Right to Education in the Language of the Minority”.

*Constitution of the Republic of Albania:*

- Article 14 states that "The official language in the Republic of Albania is Albanian".
- Article 20, point 2 states ‘They (persons) have the right to freely express, without prohibition or compulsion, their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic belonging. They have the right to preserve and develop it, to study and to be taught in their mother tongue, as well as unite in organizations and associations for the protection of their interests and identity’.

#### 4.1.9. OTHER AREAS OF GENERAL LEGISLATION

Other areas of general legislation

No legal actions regarding intellectual property rights and royalties.

No status for artists based on the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist<sup>146</sup>

## 4.2. Legislation on culture

### 4.2.1. GENERAL LEGISLATION ON CULTURE

General legislation on culture

Following the objectives of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Ministry of Culture approved the Strategy for Culture 2019-2025 in 2019, providing directions and measures regarding the creative industries, culture in economic development, digitalization of cultural expressions, promotion of new artistic expressions, intensifying cultural exchanges, the inclusion of civil society and youth in cultural policy and legal framework debates, etc.

Participation in international activities and promotion of Albanian culture are priorities and Law Nr. 27/2018 on Cultural Heritage and Museums sets rules on the trade and movement of cultural assets. Other important laws are: The Law on the Protection of National Minorities is in line with the 2005 Convention as well. Law Nr. 25/2014 For some changes and additions to Law Nr. 10 352/2010, Art and Culture; Law Nr. 70/2016 on Craft in the Republic of Albania; Law Nr. 8576/2000 on Libraries in the Republic of Albania; Law no.9217/2004 “On some additions and changes to the previous law; Law Nr. 9154/2003 on Archives; Law Nr. 8096/1996 on Cinematography (amended by Law no. 9353/2005 for some additions and changes to the previous law); Law Nr. 9616/2006 on Books; Law Nr. 10238/2010 for some changes and additions to Law no. 9616/2006.

*Table 2: International legal instruments implemented by Albania in the cultural field*

All ratified conventions are part of the internal judicial system after being published in the Official Journal of the



Title of the act
<p><i>UNESCO Conventions ratified by Albania:</i>  Protection of underwater cultural heritage (2008)  Protection of intangible culture heritage (2006)  Protection and development of expressions of Cultural Diversity (2007)  Tools of prevention and stopping of import and export of illegal transfer of cultural heritage property (2002)  Convention for the Protection of Culture Heritage and World Nature (1989)</p> <p><i>Other:</i>  European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (2007)  The Valletta Treaty (formally the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), also known as the Malta Convention), a multilateral treaty of the Council of Europe " For the Protection of archaeological heritage (2002)  ROME CONVENTION, 1961, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERFORMERS, PRODUCERS OF PHONOGRAMS AND BROADCASTING ORGANISATIONS  Bern Convention for the protection of Literary and Artistic Works  Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)</p>
<p>Draft bills. Short description of progress.  Bill for "For some changes and additions to Law nr. 7892, date 21.12.1994 "Sponsorship" 04.02.2020  Bill for some additions and changes to law Nr. 35, 2016 "For Authors' Rights and other related Rights"<sup>147</sup> 2020  Bill on Arts and Culture, "For some additions and changes to Law No. 10352, DATE 18.11.2010, "FOR ART AND CULTURE" May 30, 2018<sup>148</sup>  Bill for the Pensions of some Complex Artists' Professions<sup>149</sup> on Dec. 7, 2016</p>

#### 4.2.2. LEGISLATION ON CULTURE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

##### Legislation on culture and natural heritage

- Law nr. 9048, date 7.4.2003, "For Culture Heritage" and Law nr. 9386, date 4.5.2005, "For Museums" replaced by
- Law Nr. 125/ 2013 on "Concessions and Public Private Partnership"
- Law nr.10081, date 23.2.2009, "For licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania" amended

Law Nr. 27/2018 on Cultural Heritage and Museums set changes in the management of cultural heritage and museums, decentralization of administration and financing in order to protect and preserve the national cultural heritage, as well as a substantial change in society's approach to cultural assets. One of the new concepts as a result of the law, among others, is the strategic partnership with natural and legal persons who, from their experience in the field, value the quality of sponsorship, cooperation agreements, exchange of intellectual values and human and financial resources.

The UNESCO Convention for the Protection of World Culture and Nature Heritage, 1975, was ratified in Albania on July 10, 1989 and implemented in October 10, 1989<sup>150</sup>.

- Law nr. 27/2018, 17.05.2018, "On Cultural Heritage and Museums"<sup>151</sup>. This law has been partially approximated to Directive 2014/60/EU of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, dated 15 May 2004, "On the return of cultural heritage that illegally left the territory of a member state" and amends Regulation (EU) nr. 1024/2012. Celex: 32014L0060; Official Journal of the European Union, L. 159, dated 28.5.2014 f. 1–10. And Regulation 116/2009/EU of the Council of Europe, dated 18 December 2008, "On the export of cultural products", Celex 3A32009R0116, Official Journal of European Union, serie L. 139/1, date 10.2.2009 f. 1–7.

Since the year 2000, the Council of Ministers has taken 33<sup>152</sup> decisions in relation to cultural heritage, such as on the organization and functioning of the Agency for Archaeology Service, National Archaeology Council, protection of natural areas, functioning of the State Museums Commission, declaration of cultural heritage for castles, declaration of classification of archaeology areas, founding of the Chinese Cultural Centre, functioning of the National Centre of Traditional Activities, etc.

*International Conventions Ratified by the Republic of Albania on Cultural Heritage:*

- Law nr. 9490, date 13.3.2006 "On the Ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Intangible Heritage" Paris 2003
- Law nr 9806, date 17.9.2007 On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Convention "On the Protection of Archaeological Heritage"
- Law nr.10027, date 11.12.2008 "On the Accession of the Republic of Albanian to the Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage", Paris 2001

Cultural Heritage as part of the National Strategy for Culture 2019- 2025<sup>153</sup> Project on Council of Ministers Decision for "Licensing of Archaeological Activities" 2018

#### 4.2.3. LEGISLATION ON PERFORMANCE AND CELEBRATION

Legislation on performance and celebration

- Rome 1961, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERFORMERS, PRODUCERS OF PHONOGRAMS AND BROADCASTING ORGANISATIONS<sup>154</sup>
- Law nr. 97/ 2013 on "Audiovisual media in the Republic of Albania"

#### 4.2.4. LEGISLATION ON VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

Legislation on visual arts and crafts

- Bern Convention on the protection of Literary and Artistic Works<sup>155</sup>
- Bill on Arts and Culture, May 30, 2018<sup>156</sup>
- Bill on the Pensions of some Complex Artists' Professions<sup>157</sup> on Dec 7 2016
- Council of Ministers Decision, nr. 246, date 9.5.2018 "On the approval of the National Plan for the European 2018–2020, Chapter 26- Education and Culture
- Law nr. 10352, date 18.11.2010, "On Art and Culture"<sup>158</sup>
- Law nr. 25/2014 On some changes and additions to Law Nr. 10 352, date 18.11.2010, "On Art and Culture"<sup>159</sup>
- Law nr. 9154, date 6.11.2003 "On Archives"<sup>160</sup>
- Law nr. 8096, date 21.3.1996 "On Cinematography" changed with Law nr. 9353, date 3.3.2005 on some changes and additions to Law nr. 8096, date 21.3.1996, "On Cinematography"<sup>161</sup>

#### 4.2.5. LEGISLATION ON BOOKS AND PRESS

Legislation on books and press

- Law nr. 8576, date 3.2.2000 “On Libraries in the Republic of Albania”<sup>162</sup>
- Law nr. 9217, date 8.4.2004 “On some changes and additions to Law Nr. 8576, date 3.2.2000 “For the Libraries in the Republic of Albania”<sup>163</sup>
- Law nr. 9616, date 27.9.2006 “ On the Book in the Republic of Albania”<sup>164</sup>
- Law Nr. 10238, date 18.2.2010 “On some changes and additions to Law Nr. 9616, date 27.9.2006 “On the Book in the Republic of Albania”<sup>165</sup>

#### 4.2.6. LEGISLATION ON AUDIOVISUAL AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Legislation on audiovisual and interactive media

- Law Nr. 91/2019 On some changes and additions to Law Nr. 97/2013 on Audiovisual Media<sup>166</sup>
- Law Nr. 9918/20 on Electronic Communications
- [2021 Impact of online media regulation on Albania’s EU accession bid, Civil Rights’ Defenders](#)<sup>167</sup>

#### 4.2.7. LEGISLATION ON DESIGN AND CREATIVE SERVICES

Legislation on design and creative service

- Law Nr.55/ 2014 on “Amendments and additions to Law Nr.9947”, dated 07/07/2008 “On Industrial Property”
- Law Nr. 66/ 26/06/2014 on “Additions and amendments to law Nr. 8488” dated 13/5/1999 “On the protection of the topography of semi-conductor products” approximated to the legislation of the EU.
- Law Nr. 6/ 2015 on “amendments and additions to law Nr. 10081” dated 23/02/2009 “for licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania”
- Law Nr. 17/ 25/03/2017 on "Amendments and additions to the Law Nr. 9947, dated 7/7/2008" On Industrial Property". This law was drafted by the Directorate General of Patents and Trademarks with the support of the Economy Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship and is also based on consultation and cooperation closely with experts from the international organizations focussing on intellectual property such as the World Organization for Intellectual Property, European Patent Office and the European Union Office for Intellectual Property.

## 5. Arts and cultural education

### 5.1. Policy and institutional overview

#### Policy and institutional overview

Following the signing of the Bologna Declaration, the Parliament passed *Law Nr. 9741 on Higher Education* in May 2007 and amended it with *Law Nr. 9832* in 2010; the *Law on Higher Education* was amended again, with *Law Nr. 10307*, sanctioning that all four-year university diplomas issued up to 2009 would, by default, be re-evaluated into scientific master's degrees. Those interested could apply for a one-year programme to obtain a professional master's degree, while universities would continue to offer three-year bachelors and two-year masters programmes for all students admitted from 2009.

The Ministry of Culture launched in 2014 the programme "Education through Culture" when the first educational projects were initiated in cooperation with subordinated cultural institutions, mainly in Tirana. This form of approach to increasing the knowledge and awareness of generations about the importance and benefit of art, culture and cultural heritage has seen great interest from participants of different age groups. During 2018 the programme achieved the inclusion of a record number of 55,000 students of different ages from about 500 schools across the country, participating in about 700 activities organized by subordinate cultural institutions.

Specialised vocational training such as Skills for Employability of Tomorrow has led to certification of skilled craftspeople by the National Institute of Culture Heritage.

### 5.2. Arts in schools

#### Arts in schools

Since 2009, arts are considered one of the nine areas of high school education, with the other eight being sports, foreign languages, the Albanian language and literature, mathematics, technology, natural sciences, social sciences and training for life and careers. High school students must make their choice of two subjects out of a total of six comprising: music, dance, theatre, visual arts, history of art and history of world art. Before graduation, each student must have taken at least 105 hours of arts lessons.

Arts have their share also in the part of the curricula based on student's choice. Those who wish to major in the arts can take an additional 105 hours in two subjects of their choice, but different from the two they have already chosen as part of their mandatory curricula.

Also, since 2006, Albanian cultural heritage is one of the four mandatory high school diploma exams, no matter what their major field is.

Since 1946, the Artistic School Jordan Misja in Tirana has provided art education to Albanians aged 6-18 and most Albanian professional artists are alumni. The building underwent a full reconstruction in 2016, including a new concert hall in 2017. There are other specialized art schools<sup>168169</sup> serving young students in provincial regions such as Prenkë Jakova in Shkodra, Jan Kukuzeli in Durrës, Onufri in Elbasan, and Jakov Xoxa in Fier, to

name a few. Private schools also offer music, fine arts and dance, beginning in the preschool system.

Retired National Circus professionals<sup>170</sup> have called for an educational institution for teaching and exchanging with international professionals.

## 5.3. Higher arts and cultural education

### Higher arts and cultural education

Following the signing of the Bologna Declaration, the Parliament passed Law no. 9741 on Higher Education in May 2007 and amended it with Law nr. 9832 six months later. Nevertheless, the implementation of the Bologna Declaration turned out to be a hard task, especially with regard to higher arts education. The amendment suggested the creation of a two-level system for master's degrees, namely the scientific masters and professional masters, each obtainable after a full academic year. Finally, in 2010, the Law on Higher Education was amended again, with the Law nr.10307, sanctioning that all four-year university diplomas issued up to 2009 would, by default, be re-evaluated into scientific master's degrees and those interested could now apply for a one-year programme to obtain a professional masters degree, while universities would continue to offer three-year bachelor's and two-year masters programmes for all students admitted from 2009.

The Academy of Arts had to face the additional challenge that there were no formally qualified professors for Master of Arts programmes and even the most outstanding artists and long-time professors of the Academy of Arts did not have a degree. The Centre for Arts Studies of the Academy of Sciences had a formally qualified body of professors and could offer both masters and PhD programmes that could produce PhD graduates to be hired as professors for Arts Academy masters programmes.

Until 2009, the Academy of Arts in Tirana was the only higher education institution dedicated to the arts. The Academy was established and located at its current site in 1966, under the name of the "High Institute of Arts", by the fusion of the "Alexander Moissi" School of Drama, the State Conservatory of Music and the Fine Arts School. In 2004, a new department, dedicated to film and television, was added to the School of Performing Arts.

Renamed in 2011 with a decision by the Council of Ministers nr. 234/2011, the University of Arts was established on the foundations of the Academy of Arts, with three faculties: Faculty of Music, Faculty of Fine Arts, and Faculty of Performing Arts. The University of Arts offers Bachelor Degrees, "Master of Science", "Master of Art", "Professional Masters Degree", "Integrated Masters Degree", and courses in Music, Fine Arts, and Scenic Art. The School of Performing Arts offers degrees in directing for film & TV, directing for theatre, stage and costume design, choreography and acting for theatre. The School of Fine Arts offers degrees in painting, monumental painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and fashion, graphics, and multimedia. The School of Music offers degrees in musicology, composition, conducting, piano, violin, violoncello, viola, tube, bass, flute, clarinet, oboe, horn, fagot, trombone, canto, and classical guitar.

In 2009, the private Kristal University launched its School of Arts in 2009, offering degrees in classical string and brass instruments, canto, composition and conducting, and also textiles and fashion design, with plans to offer programmes in theatre arts by 2011. By 2014, the Albanian Council of Ministers approved the decision to revoke the licenses to 18 higher education institutions suspected of selling fake diplomas, including Kristal. Suspension

of activities and legal action against another 13 universities was also ordered. This stemmed from a scandal uncovered in 2012 where Kristal University had issued a false degree to an Italian citizen<sup>171</sup>.

The One UN Joint Programme on Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development supported a new Cultural and Resource Management Masters course at the University of Tirana and fully accredited within the public higher education system as of October 2010.

The first film-school in Albania was founded in Tirana in October 2004 by the OraFilm Production Company, with the support of the Albanian Filmmakers Association Lumière, and operates in accordance with the Law on Cinematography Nr. 8096/1996, revised with the Law Nr. 9353/2005. The Academy of Film and Multimedia Marubi is a non-public institution of higher education recognized by the Albanian Government as the Academy of Film & Multimedia Marubi with Special Status, according to the Decision of Council of Ministers Nr.229/2018 and accredited by the Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education with decisions Nr.227/2008, Nr.111/2017, and recently decision nr.2/2020 lasting until 2025. The Marubi Academy of Film and Multimedia offers three-year programmes in directing for film and TV, editing, cinematography and scriptwriting. Since 2008, AFMM is a full member of CILECT (Centre de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et Télévision) after a process of recognition and professional inspections. Lessons are held in Albanian mainly, as well as in English, German, French and Italian.

The Adriapol Institute at Marin Barleti University hosts the Albanian International Forum to promote the Creative Economy and Smart Development. The Forum is attended and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism, Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and holds collaboration between Albania, Italy, Greece, North Macedonia and Kosovo.

In June 2005, between the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Albania (of that time) and UNESCO Director of Division of Cooperation, it was decided to undertake the project *"Organization of the Centre for restoration and conservation of the monuments in the framework of capacity building in the field of preservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Albania"*. The Regional Centre for Conservation and Restoration for South-East Europe<sup>172</sup> was created in order to fulfil the emergent need for raising professional capacities of the cultural heritage institutions in Albania and extended its status to the region of South East Europe. The Ministry of Culture has followed a clear methodology to create this centre based on an agreement with UNESCO, with the main aim to follow the recommendations and guidelines of UNESCO and to fulfil the needs and challenges presented to the South East Europe Region in the field of cultural heritage. During the period 2007-2018, it has organized and implemented 13 short / medium and long term training courses in the above mentioned modules. About 150 young professionals from the Region of South East Europe have been trained on these courses. Nearly all of these courses have been certified by UNESCO.

On 24.1.2018, the Council of Ministers made Decision nr.41, On the Elements of the Study Programmes offered by the higher education institutions<sup>173</sup>

According to the 2020-2021 report by the National Institute of Statistics on the number of students enrolled in college, university, and vocational courses during the last 3 years, there has been a steady decrease in enrollment for Arts and Humanities, from 14,348 in 2018-2019, to 12,537 in 2019-2020 and 10,277 students enrolled for 2020-2021. (see table below)

**Tab. 5 Students enrolled in tertiary education, by fields of study**

Level of education	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Education	10,062	9,062	8,367
Arts and humanities	14,348	12,537	10,972
Social sciences, journalism and information	14,086	11,397	10,277
Business, administration and law	33,447	32,732	31,173
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	7,060	5,962	4,924
Information and communication technologies	10,016	8,883	8,341
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	20,019	20,775	20,537
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	4,999	4,158	3,458
Health and welfare	20,727	20,199	21,195
Services	4,279	4,559	4,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,043</b>	<b>130,264</b>	<b>123,797</b>

Source: National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), Enrolment Statistics, 2020-2021, page 6. Retrieved from <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/8187/press-release-enrollments-statistics-2020-21eng.pdf>

Also, in another report on Graduation Statistics for 2019-2020 by the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), as in the table below, the number of women graduated in Arts and Humanities had an increase in 2018-2019 to 2930 from 2606 in 2017-2018, as also did increase the total number of graduates in same year, but a decrease to 2,783 graduate women in 2019-2020, as did the total number of graduates decrease the same year, yet the total number of graduates in 2019-2020 is higher than 2017-2018.

**Tab. 3 Students graduated in tertiary education, by fields of study**

Academic year	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Education	2,597	746	3,343	3,029	694	3,723	2,697	556	3,253
Arts and humanities	2,606	906	3,512	2,930	816	3,746	2,783	795	3,578
Social sciences, journalism and information	2,577	946	3,523	2,758	909	3,667	2,623	779	3,402
Business, administration and law	5,949	3,788	9,737	6,271	3,424	9,695	6,109	3338	9,447
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	1,032	445	1,477	1,085	343	1,428	933	319	1,252
Information and communication technologies	1,014	1,306	2,320	852	1,013	1,865	731	1,056	1,787
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1,258	2,027	3,285	1,225	2,049	3,274	1,292	2,283	3,575
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	632	743	1,375	503	617	1,120	487	593	1,080
Health and welfare	3,806	1,016	4,822	4,242	1,142	5,384	3,509	1,047	4,556
Services	272	665	937	282	707	989	317	642	959
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,743</b>	<b>12,588</b>	<b>34,331</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>11,714</b>	<b>34,891</b>	<b>21,481</b>	<b>11,408</b>	<b>32,889</b>

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Report on Graduation Statistics 2019-2020, page 4. Retrieved from [http://www.instat.gov.al/media/8335/graduation-statistics-2019-2020\\_juna-formatim.pdf](http://www.instat.gov.al/media/8335/graduation-statistics-2019-2020_juna-formatim.pdf)

## 5.4. Out-of-school arts and cultural education

### Out-of-school arts and cultural education

Multi-arts centres had offered art classes until 1991 and amateur arts ensembles among working collectives and schools of all levels were common. Since the 2000's new cultural, multi-disciplinary centres emerged and some parents were able to pay for private lessons for their children, often in music, painting or dance.

Most of the cultural centres are located in Tirana. Also in Tirana, The Italian Institute of Culture, the British Council, the Alliance Française, the Goethe Institute and USIS have opened reading rooms.

Folk groups are active in all Albanian towns and several music associations have been established. The Ministry of Culture finances a nation-wide folk festival in Gjirokastra, in which minority groups can also participate.

In 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Sport to promote cultural awareness, expression, creativity and diversity, particularly to the young generation for a comprehensive and sustainable cultural education in Albania. As part of "Education Through Culture"<sup>174</sup>, the National Art Gallery inaugurated the "Children's Education Atelier" project, the National Experimental Theatre delivered artistic events for children each weekend and other public institutions of culture looked to play an educational role for youth. The Ministry of Culture also organised a reading campaign in 2016, including various literary activities with cooperation from the Ministry of Education and Sport, Tirana Municipality, other cultural institutions, the foreign embassies, as well as University of Tirana's Department of Literature.

The European Heritage Days programme is annually held in September, connecting Albanian students and citizens with heritage, nature, education, inclusion and more through diverse themes and activities about heritage each year.

Other opportunities are created through the funding of civil society organizations' projects that often include non-formal educational components such as workshops and training sessions.

Cultural Heritage without Borders project "DON'T GET MAD" is a collection of games adapted to the education of the local cultural heritage for the cities of Albania and is ongoing.

## 5.5. Vocational and professional training

### Vocational and professional training

In 2002, Law Nr. 8872/2002 on Vocational Education and Training in the Republic of Albania was passed and amended in 2008 and again in 2011 with Law Nr. 10434/2011. The National strategy for employment and Skills, 2014-2020 (NESS) came into force through approval by a Decision of the Council of Ministers Nr. 818/2014. The NESS focussed on four sub-strategies: Foster decent job opportunities through effective labour market policies; Offer quality vocational education and training to youth and adults; Promote social inclusion and territorial cohesion; and strengthen the governance of the labour market and qualification system<sup>175</sup>.



In 2015 Albania became a member of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, and as an EU Candidate Country committed to the goals of the RIga Conclusions<sup>176</sup>.

In 2016, Cultural Heritage Without Borders implemented a programme called “Skills for employment” funded by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Government of Sweden. This was in response to the issue of non-qualification of skills of former workers of “conservation ateliers” in the communist era. The skills of experienced craftspeople were not formally recognized after the 1990s leaving these workers out of the labour force, or working below their abilities. The programme consisted of 5 training modules in the main historical cities of Albania (Durrës, Gjirokastra, Berat and Korça) and by 2020 had certified 230 people (18 master craftspeople and 212 apprentices). Included in the programme were the Institute of Monuments of Culture, the Regional Directorates for National Culture in Gjirokastra, Berat and Korça; the National Directorates of Public Vocational Training in Gjirokastra and Korça and “Stiliano Bandilli” High School, Berat, as well as technical support from domestic and international experts.

Tourism is also a focus of several different vocational training programmes.

In 2017 a new Law on Vocational Education and Training in Albania was passed, and soon after the National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020 was extended to 2022.

## 6. Cultural participation and consumption

### 6.1. Policies and programmes

#### Policies and programmes

The National Plan for European Integration 2015-2020<sup>177</sup>, Chapter 26 on Culture and Education, is relevant to this chapter.

Since 2018, the Ministry of Culture is the National Coordinator of the Europe for Citizens Programme, starting with the training of independent operators to apply for the components: Civil Society Projects, Urban Twinning and Networking of Cities. The Ministry, through the EU IPA programme, has become part of several projects, which are implemented by the Ministry departments, as well as by subordinate institutions in partnership with regional and international organizations.

### 6.2. Trends and figures in cultural participation

#### Trends and figures in cultural participation

*Table 3: People who participated in or attended a certain cultural activity during the last 12 months in Albania (in % of the population, over 3 available years)*

	Year 1 2018	Year 2 2019	Year 3 2020
Activities heavily subsidised by the state total / (%)			
<i>Theatre</i>			
National Theatre	39503 (1.38%)	34790 (1.2%)	5252 (0.18%)
National Experimental Theatre	65989 (2.3%)	64684 (2.25%)	16044 (0.56%)
National Theatre of Opera, Ballet and Ensemble	54438(1.9%)	70674 (2.46%)	7476 (0.26%)
National Centre for Children's Culture	34968 (1.2%)	31795 (1.1%)	6274 (0.22%)
National Circus	22051 (0.77%)	21698 (0.75%)	3286 (0.11%)
Open Performances			
Zarzuela			
Archaeology Parks (9 state)		424,860 (14.8%)	78,552 (2.7%)
Dance			
Concerts of classic music			
Libraries (1)	82,414	132,462	30,002
Museums (2)		317,826 (11.1%)	49,288 (1.7%)
Monuments and Castles (7)		322,395 (11.2%)	62,627 (2.2%)
Monuments and Castles (7)	19,776	16,473	2,645
Cultural centres			
National Art Gallery			

Sources for the data are from the National Institute of Statistics, INSTAT, Culture Statistics, 2021 and the Albanian Ministry of Culture<sup>178</sup>

## 6.3. Trends and figures in household expenditure

### Trends and figures in household expenditure

According to the Family Budget Survey in 2019 by INSTAT, The National Institute of Statistics, the 2018 monthly expenditure per family for Entertainment and Culture was 2,038 leke (17 euro) or 2.6% of total monthly expenses<sup>179</sup>. In 2019, monthly spending was 3143 leke (26 euro) or 3.8% of total expenses, representing a 54.3% increase.

## 6.4. Culture and civil society

### Culture and civil society

While just eight cultural organizations were recorded in the 1998 catalogue of the Albanian Foundation of Civil Society, things have vastly grown and cultural organizations today range from performance, education, advocacy, activism, conservation, policy development and more. Funding has always been a concern and while grants and other financing are available, the most successful organizations often have a business element like a bar/cafe to support activities. Other organizations are known to be politically affiliated but, nonetheless, continue to provide cultural opportunities to audiences. Civil Society has benefited from numerous European grants to qualified organizations.

National Conference of Civil Society in Albania 2020-Summary Document<sup>180</sup>

## 7. Financing and support

### 7.1. Public funding

#### 7.1.1. INDICATORS

##### Public funding

Budgets from the Albanian Ministry of Culture<sup>181</sup> including donations from mainly international organisations and programs:

Year	State Budget in Lek	State Budget in Euro	Donors Total in Lek	Donors Total in Euro
2014	360,120,000	2,971,867	424,963,000	3,507,000
2015	545,689,000	4,503,703	1,370,575,000	11,312,262
2016	409,515,000	3,379,826	570,250,000	4,706,650
2017	545,689,000	4,503,703	1,370,575,000	11,312,262
2018	851,794,000	7,030,061	341,727,000	2,820,499
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,712,807,000</b>	<b>22,389,160</b>	<b>4,078,090,000</b>	<b>33,658,673</b>

Year	State budget	Donors	Total
2014	360.120	424.963	785.083
2015	545.689	1,370,575	1,916,264
2016	409.515	570.250	979.765
2017	545.689	1,370,575	1,916,264
2018	851.794	341.727	1,193,521
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,712,807</b>	<b>4,078,090</b>	<b>6,790,897</b>

Table 2 Investments from the State budget and donors 2014 - 2018

Year	Visitors/ Spectators		Income			
	Art	Heritage	Art in Lek	Art in Euro	Heritage in Lek	Heritage in Euro
2013	39,248	325,805	9,349,000	77,157	52,719,000	435,079
2014	66,517	404,244	18,957,000	156,451	77,499,000	639,584
2015	149,586	460,744	18,957,000	156,451	98,953,000	816,639
2016	178,396	549,697	22,087,000	182,283	118,347,000	976,694
2017	387,356	669,110	15,127,000	124,840	141,574,000	1,168,364
2018	377,977	998,441	21,266,000	175,503	195,931,000	1,616,955

### Visitors/Spectators Income (,000)

Year	ART	HERITAGE	ART	HERITAGE
2013	39.248	325.805	9.349	52.719
2014	66.517	404.244	18.957	77.499
2015	149.586	460.744	18.597	98.953
2016	178.396	549.697	22.087	118.347
2017	387.356	669.110	15.127	141.574
2018	377.977	998.441	21.266	195.931

	Call for Proposals			Internal Projects		
Year	Number	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro	Number	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro
2014	104	51,035,000	421,196	38	54,236,000	447,624
2015	82	39,813,000	328,580	47	119,046,000	982,520
2016	93	47,309,000	390,446	71	102,443,000	845,490
2017	123	45,868,000	378,553	40	102,866,000	848,955
2018	117	49,566,000	409,073	45	90,707,000	748,607

Year	Call for proposals projects		Internal projects		Projects in total	
	Number	Budget (,000 lek)	Number	Budget (,000 lek)	Number	Budget (,000 lek)
2014	104	51.035	38	54.236	142	105.271
2015	82	39.813	47	119.046	129	158.859
2016	93	47.309	71	102.443	164	149.752
2017	123	45.868	40	102.866	163	148.734
2018	117	49.566	45	90.707	162	140.273
<b>Amount</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>233.591</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>469.298</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>702.889</b>

Albanian Ministry of Culture

Ongoing Expenses + Capital Investments for years 2018-2021

	Planning/ Management/ Administration				Culture Heritage and Museums				Arts and Culture			
Year	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro	Factual Budget in Lek	Factual Budget in Euro	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro	Factual Budget in Lek	Factual Budget in Euro	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro	Factual Budget in Lek	Factual Budget in Euro
2018	158,677,988	1,304,856	157,306,898	1,293,382	658,676,032	5,415,489	650,355,969	5,347,084	1,464,798,451	12,042,958	1,449,824,111	11,919,845
2019	160,929,970	1,323,375	147,270,328	1,210,861	569,757,000	4,684,417	522,928,011	4,299,399	1,515,000,000	12,455,694	1,458,502,487	11,991,195
2020	151,400,000	1,244,973	139,650,177	1,148,208	896,108,069	7,367,603	795,898,179	6,543,700	1,298,500,000	10,675,722	1,212,255,314	9,966,654
2021	160,400,000	1,318,981	87,917,243	722,858	580,485,422	4,772,623	297,303,100	2,444,361	2,174,400,000	17,877,004	393,005,069	3,231,123
<b>Total</b>	<b>631,407,958</b>	<b>5,192,185</b>	<b>532,144,646</b>	<b>4,375,309</b>	<b>2,705,026,523</b>	<b>22,240,133</b>	<b>2,266,485,260</b>	<b>18,634,543</b>	<b>6,452,698,451</b>	<b>53,051,377</b>	<b>4,513,586,982</b>	<b>37,108,816</b>

Ministry of Culture, Total Budget for Ongoing Expenses and Capital Investments

Total				
Year	Budget in Lek	Budget in Euro	Factual Budget in Lek	Factual Budget in Euro
2018	2,282,152,471	18,763,219	2,257,486,978	18,561,058
2019	2,245,686,970	18,463,409	2,128,700,826	17,502,178
2020	2,346,008,069	19,288,221	2,147,803,670	17,659,242
2021	2,915,285,422	23,968,660	778,225,412	6,398,569
<b>Totali</b>	9,789,132,932	80,483,510	7,312,216,887	60,121,047

#### Indicators

The Ministry of Culture<sup>182</sup> in 2014 initiated participation in international programmes such as Creative Europe and Traduki<sup>183</sup>. TRADUKI is a European network that connects Southeast European countries with each other and with the German-speaking world through the means of literature, namely books, translations, festivals, workshops and residency programmes for authors and translators, enabling independent operators and dependent institutions to apply with projects on the same platforms as their counterparts in western states. The total funds absorbed in the last 5 years by independent operators from these two programmes, is € 1,618,425.

Year	TRADUKI	Creative Europe
2014	€ 38.400	€ 207.739
2015	€ 38.700	€ 308.743
2016	€ 36.500	€ 878.879
2017	30,500 €	54,458 €
2018	36,000 €	168,606 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180,100 €</b>	<b>1,618,425 €</b>

The European Commission, based on the Albania- EU agreement, decided in 2014 that Albania's artists, culture and creative organisations could participate in the Creative Europe programme, Culture and Media subprogrammes. Since 2015, the Albanian Ministry of Culture has paid its yearly membership of 55,000 Euros for the Culture subprogramme and 95,000 euros for the Media subprogramme. The EU has reimbursed this amount by giving 80% of the annual fees until 2020, and for the European Cooperative projects a total of 940,000 euros by supporting 12 literary translation projects with 660,000 euros, and another 280,000 euros to 1 project leader and 3 partners<sup>184</sup>

## 7.1.2. EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT LEVEL

### Expenditure on government level

Table 6. Public cultural expenditure by level of government in 2020

Level of government	Total expenditure in national currency in 1000 Leke	Total expenditure in EUR*	% share of total government budget for 2020 (4.5 billion euro)
Based on Law nr. 88 18.12.2019 For the Budget of 2020, Ministry of Finance: Expenses on the functions of the Government for Arts, Culture and Religious Affairs (Total budget: 549,374,174,000 leke, about 4.5 billion euro)	3,419,124 <sup>185</sup>	28 million	6.2%
Ministry of Culture	1,488,881 <sup>186</sup>	12.2 million	2.7%
Tirana Municipality (total budget 24,464,470)			
Investments from the state's budget: Programme for Culture Heritage, Arts Activities, Events	33,495 <sup>187</sup>	274,525	0.13% of the total Municipal budget
Expenses according to programmes from all sources of financing: Programme for Culture Heritage, Arts Activities, Events	446,282	3.6 million	1.82% of the total Municipal budget

## 7.1.3. EXPENDITURE PER SECTOR

### Expenditure per sector

Table 7: Direct state cultural expenditure and transfers (central level)\*: by sector in 2020, in 1000 of national currency

Based on Law nr. 88 18.12.2019, On the Budget of 2020, the Albanian Ministry of Finance on Table 5<sup>188</sup>, expenses according to institutions are:

Culture expenses for government institutions in 2020	in 1000 in Albanian leke	in Euro	% of Total Government Budget in 2020 4.5 billion Euro (549,374,174,000 leke)
Culture Heritage and Museums	511,641	4.2 million	0.93
Arts and Culture	1,321,191	10.8 million	2.4
International film or artistic activities	60,000	491,760	0.1
Symphony Orchestra of Albanian Radio Television and Cinematography	54,000	442,584	0.9
Project 100 Villages	200,000	1.6 million	0.36
Support to Cinematography Activities	157,120	1.3 million	0.28
Support for religions	131,400	1.1 million	0.24

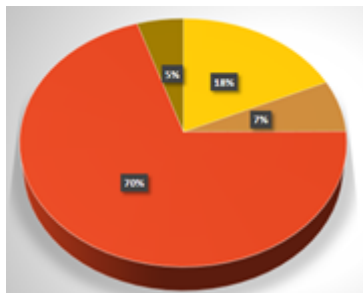
Ministry of Culture, detailed budget for 2020<sup>189</sup>:

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<b>Institution/ Activity</b>	<b>Budget in 1000 Leke</b>	<b>in Euro</b>	<b>% of total budget of Ministry of Culture 2020 1,488,881,000 Leke (12.2 million euro)</b>
National Opera and Ballet	295,398	2.4 million	19.84
Regional Directories for Cultural Heritage, Tirana, Durres, Gjirokaster, Korce, Shkoder, Vlore	175,786	1.44 million	11.8
Approved legal acts	115,276	944,802	7.74
National Library	98,608	6.5 million	6.62
National Theatre	96,454	790,536	6.47
National Institute of Cultural Heritage	85,950	704,446	5.77
Project and programmes in support of civil society, independent	78,231	641,181	5.25
Activities for intangible heritage	70,517	577,957	4.73
National History Museum	59,052	483,990	3.96
Staff training	49,724	407,537	3.33
National Circus	45,800	375,376	3
National Cultural Centre for Children	41,450	339,724	2.78
National Art Gallery	40,047	328, 225	2.68
National Experimental Theatre	32,450	265,960	2.17
National Book and Reading Centre	25,050	205,309	1.68
Administration of Archaeological Parks, Apollonia and Bylis	25,044	205,260	1.68
Iconography Museum Onufri and Ethnographic Museum Berat	19,530	160,067	1.31
Museum Centre Durres	19,396	158,969	1.3
National Photography Museum Marubi	17,993	147,470	1.2
National Museum of Medieval Arts	17,450	143,020	1.17
National Museum Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg and Ethnographic Museum Kruje	16,254	133,217	1.09
Central Film Archive	14,512	118,940	0.97
Surveillance Museum House of Leaves	13,123	107,556	0.88
National Centre of Folklore Activities	11,160	91,467	0.74
Administration Office Butrint	10,403	85,262	0.69
National Centre for Registration of Culture Heritage	9,846	80,697	0.66
National Museum of Independence	4,376	35,865	0.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,488,881</b>	<b>12.2 million</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Planning Management Administrim</b>	<b>Culture Heritage and Museum</b>	<b>Art and Culture</b>	<b>Total in Leke</b>	<b>Total in Euro</b>
<b>2018</b>	157,306,898	650,355,969	1,449,824,111	<b>2,257,486,978</b>	<b>18,509,135</b>
<b>2019</b>	147,270,328	522,928,011	1,458,502,487	<b>2,128,700,826</b>	<b>1,745,534,678</b>
<b>2020</b>	139,650,177	795,898,179	1,212,255,314	<b>2,147,803,670</b>	<b>1,761,199,010</b>
<b>Total in leke</b>	<b>444,227,403</b>	<b>1,969,182,159</b>	<b>4,120,581,913</b>	<b>6,533,991,475</b>	<b>5,357,873,009</b>
<b>Total in Euro</b>	<b>364,266,470.13</b>	<b>1,614,729,370.65</b>	<b>3,378,877,168.46</b>	<b>5,357,873,009.24</b>	





The National Institute of Cultural Heritage 2020 Budget from the Annual Report 2020<sup>190</sup>:

Total: 271,353,764 lekë, 12.2 million euro

18% for wages and insurance, 7% for operative funds, funds for IPA projects, membership and support, 5% restoration and project implementation, 70% for project drafting.

During the period 2014 - 2018, over 68 million leke, about 1.6 million euro, have been invested in the preservation and restoration of 689 monuments as well as the revitalization of historic centres<sup>191</sup>.

## 7.2. Support programmes

### 7.2.1. STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES AND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

Strategies, programmes and other forms of support

Albania has participated in the “Culture programme 2000 – 2006”, “Culture programme 2007-2013”, and “Creative Europe 2014-2020”.

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) to the EU replaced a series of European Union programmes and financial instruments for candidate countries or potential candidate countries, namely PHARE, PHARE CBC, ISPA, SAPARD, and CARDS<sup>192</sup>, funding various cross-border themes, the environment, tourism, culture heritage, accessibility, etc.

IPA I (2007- 2013) included the Greece-Albania IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 (The total budget of the Programme for the period 2007-2011 was approximately € 18.8 million, with Community assistance amounting to some €15 million. Community assistance was supplemented by about € 3.8 million of national funding from the two participating countries) and the Adriatic IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 (Total value EUR 298million).

IPA II ( 2014-2020) included the IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme Greece - Albania (about € 45 million) and the IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme Italy – Albania - Montenegro (Total €25 million for Tourism and Culture Heritage).

In IPA III (2021–2027), 14.2 billion euro of pre-accession financial assistance in favour of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Turkey will be allocated to support the conducting of necessary political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms in order to comply with EU values and to progressively align themselves with EU rules, standards, policies and practices<sup>193</sup>. Starting retroactively from 1 January

2021, support will be divided according to thematic priorities rather than into country envelopes.

In 2020, following a devastating earthquake months earlier, The European Union hosted in Brussels the donors' conference Together4Albania with a record pledge of EUR 1.15 billion. The European Commission donated 115 million euros in direct grants divided between EU4Culture with 40 million euros for rehabilitating culture and heritage as well as EU4Schools with 75 million euros for the repair and reconstruction of schools over the next four years in coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and other stakeholders.

The Ministry of Culture in cooperation with Albanian American Development Foundation undertook and finalized the project in 2019 for e-ticketing at 107 cultural heritage institutions in Albania and the platform for their promotion and online ticket sales. The AADF has actively financed and supported other cultural-economic projects as well.

## 7.2.2. ARTIST'S FUNDS

Artist's funds

For more information see:

- Ministry of Culture <http://kultura.gov.al>
- National Opera and Ballet, Folk Ensemble <http://tkob.gov.al/?lang=en>
- Leviz Albania Swiss Cultural Fund <https://levizalbania.al/en> <https://swissculturalfund.al/mission/>
- Italian Institute of Culture in Albania [https://iicitirana.esteri.it/iic\\_tirana/it/](https://iicitirana.esteri.it/iic_tirana/it/)
- German Cooperation <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/294.html>
- Swiss Cooperation <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/albania/en/home/international-cooperation/strategy.html>
- Goethe Institut <https://www.goethe.al/sq/>
- British Council Albania <https://www.britishcouncil.al/en>
- Institut Français <https://www.institutfrancais.com/en>

## 7.2.3. GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants, awards, scholarships

For more information see:

- Western Balkan Fund <http://westernbalkansfund.org/>
- European Funding Instruments/ Interreg- IPA, CBC [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/)
- Creative Europe for Culture and Media [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/about\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/about_en)
- Marubi Film and MultiMedia Academy <https://afmm.edu.al/>
- Erasmus+, K2 [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about_en)
- Erasmus 2020 <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>
- UNDP Albania <https://www.al.undp.org/>
- Albanian American Foundation <http://aadf.org/>
- USAID Albania <https://www.usaid.gov/albania>

- Open Doors NGO <http://www.opendoors-albania.org/>
- Tirana Art Lab <http://www.tiranaartlab.org/en>
- ArtKontakt NGO <http://www.artkontakt.al/en/>
- Argjiro NGO <https://argjiro.org/>
- Gjirokastra Foundation [https://www.gjirokastra.org/gjirokastra-foundation/?page\\_id=2249](https://www.gjirokastra.org/gjirokastra-foundation/?page_id=2249)
- APR- Parks and Recreation Agency <https://aprtirana.al/rreth-nesh/>
- Anna Lindh Foundation <https://www.annalindhfoundation.org>
- UNESCO International Fund for Culture Diversity <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>
- Alliance Française de Tirana <https://www.facebook.com/AleancaFrancezeETiranes/>

#### 7.2.4. SUPPORT TO PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS' ASSOCIATIONS OR UNIONS

Support to professional artists'

- National Center of Mediterranean Theatre  
<https://butrinti2000.com/2016/04/29/the-national-center-mediterranean-theatre/>
- National Experimental Theatre <https://www.facebook.com/tkeksperimental/>
- Metropol Theatre & Culture Centre Tirana <http://teatrimetropol.al/>
- Albanian Dance Theatre Company <https://www.dancealbifest.com/sponsor.htm>
- EDS Foundation <https://www.eds-foundation.org/en/about-us/history/>
- Association "Culture, Media, Arts" <http://operafestalbania.com/association-culture-media-arts>

### 7.3. Private funding

Private funding

- Albanian American Development Foundation <https://www.aadf.org>
- American Bank of Investments <https://www.abi.al/eng/c/90/sponsorship-application>
- Raiffeisen Bank Albania <https://www.raiffeisen.al/alb/about/pages/art-dhe-kulture/>

Sources and links

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- Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA) <https://www.aida.gov.al/en/>
- Albanian American Development Foundation <https://www.aadf.org>
- UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>
- Western Balkan Fund <http://westernbalkansfund.org/>
- European Funding Instruments/ Interreg- IPA, CBC [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/)
- Leviz Albania Swiss Cultural Fund <https://levizalbania.al/en>
- National Institute of Statistics <http://www.instat.gov.al>
- Local Portal, Albania <https://portavendore.al/>
- The Economic Bulletin <https://www.buletiniekonomik.com>
- Public Arts Tirana, Artistic Expressions of Past and Present, Blerina Berberi & Kevin Tummers, 2018  
[https://www.academia.edu/38120149/Public\\_Arts\\_Tirana\\_Artistic\\_Expressions\\_of\\_Past\\_and\\_Present](https://www.academia.edu/38120149/Public_Arts_Tirana_Artistic_Expressions_of_Past_and_Present)
- ShtetiWeb, Albania <https://shtetiweb.org>

- United Nations Development Programme <http://www.undp.org>
- The Prime Ministry, Albania, <https://kryeministria.al/en/>
- Regional Cooperation Council <https://www.rcc.in>
- Creative Europe <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe>
- Council of Europe <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents>, <https://www.coe.int/en>
- Institut Français <https://www.institutfrancais.com/en>
- Berlin Process <https://berlinprocess.info>
- Observatory of Regional Integration-  
ORI [https://cdinstitute.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/ORI\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://cdinstitute.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/ORI_Factsheet.pdf)
- RYCO *Regional Youth Cooperation Office* [https://www.rycowb.org/?page\\_id=152](https://www.rycowb.org/?page_id=152)
- Ministry of Albanian Diaspora <https://diaspora.gov.al>
- Prime Ministry of Albania <https://kryeministria.al/>
- National Institute of Cultural Heritage <http://iktk.gov.al/>
- Balkan Insight <https://balkaninsight.com>
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe <https://www.osce.org>
- Reporters without Borders. <https://rsf.org/en/albania>
- UNWomen <https://www2.unwomen.org>
- Authority of Audiovisual Media, Albania <http://ama.gov.al>
- Centre of Official Publications, Albania <https://qbz.gov.al/search>
- National Library, Tirana, Albania <https://www.bksh.al/>
- Albanian National Film Archive <http://www.aqshf.gov.al/kontakte.html>
- Europa Nostra <https://www.europanostra.org>
- National Chamber of Handicrafts, <https://dhkz.org.al>
- European Commission <https://ec.europa.eu/>
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment <http://turizmi.gov.al>
- Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania, <http://www.gjk.gov.al/>
- Social Insurance Institute, Albania, <http://www.issh.gov.al>
- Ministry of Finance, Albania <https://www.financa.gov.al>
- National Book and Reading Centre <https://qkll.gov.al/>
- Ombudsman (Advocate of the People) <https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/>
- Ministry of Education and Sport, Albania <https://ascap.edu.al/> \_
- Open Data Tirana, Albania <https://opendata.tirana.al/>
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), Council of  
Europe, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/ipa/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/ipa/)
- Traduki Network, <https://traduki.eu>
- Agency for the Support of Civil Society (AMSHC), Albania <http://www.amshc.gov.al/>
- National Council for Civil Society Albania <http://www.amshc.gov.al/kkshc/>
- Independent Culture Scene Albania <https://www.spk.al/>
- National Theatre of Opera, Ballet and Folk Ensemble: [www.tkob.gov.al](http://www.tkob.gov.al)
- National Theatre [www.teatrikombetar.gov.al](http://www.teatrikombetar.gov.al)
- National Experimental Theatre "Kujtim Spahivogli" [www.tkeks.gov.al](http://www.tkeks.gov.al)
- National Art Gallery [www.galeriakombetare.gov.al](http://www.galeriakombetare.gov.al) (Pursuant to the new law nr. 27/2018 For Cultural  
Heritage and Museums is named the "National Museum of Fine Arts" )
- National Library [www.bksh.al](http://www.bksh.al)
- National Culture Centre for Children [www.qkkf.gov.al](http://www.qkkf.gov.al)

- National State Film Archive [www.aqshf.gov.al](http://www.aqshf.gov.al)
- National Circus [www.cirkukombetar.gov.al](http://www.cirkukombetar.gov.al)
- National Centre for Books and Reading <https://qkll.gov.al>
- National Centre of Cinematography <http://nationalfilmcenter.gov.al/>
- National History Museum [www.mhk.gov.al](http://www.mhk.gov.al)
- National Museum of Surveillance “House of Leaves” [www.muzeugjethi.gov.al](http://www.muzeugjethi.gov.al)
- National Institute of Culture Heritage (IKTK) [www.iktk.gov.al](http://www.iktk.gov.al)
- National Park of Butrint [www.butrint.al](http://www.butrint.al)
- National Museum “Skënderbeu” and Ethnographic Museum, Krujë [www.muzeumetkruje.gov.al](http://www.muzeumetkruje.gov.al)
- National Iconography and Ethnography Museum, Berat [www.muzeumetberat.gov.al](http://www.muzeumetberat.gov.al)
- National Museum of Medieval Art [www.muzeumesjetar.gov.al](http://www.muzeumesjetar.gov.al)
- National Photography Museum “Marubi” – Shkodër [www.marubi.gov.al](http://www.marubi.gov.al)
- Independence Museum Vlorë [www.muzeupavaresia.gov.al](http://www.muzeupavaresia.gov.al)
- Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage [www.qkipk.gov.al](http://www.qkipk.gov.al)
- National Centre of Folklore Activities (QKVF) [www.qkvfolk.gov.al](http://www.qkvfolk.gov.al)
- Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Tiranë [www.drkkdurre.gov.al](http://www.drkkdurre.gov.al)
- Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Vlorë [www.drkkvlore.gov.al](http://www.drkkvlore.gov.al)
- Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage Korçë [www.drkkkorce.gov.al](http://www.drkkkorce.gov.al)

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Blerina Berberi is the co-founder of Ekphrasis Studio, a NGO in arts management and creative industries, which was granted the first UNESCO International Fund for Culture Diversity. She has work experience in the Netherlands, Albania and Canada with communities, artists, art galleries, art and antiques fairs, curating, managing European projects, consulting for cultural policies with UNESCO, research author for the Council of Europe and other creative industries reports for public institutions. Blerina is also a member of Cultural Policy Designers Network.

[More information »](#)

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