

Albania

Ethnicity in Albania

Group selection

The following ethnic groups are politically relevant: **Albanians, Greeks, and Macedonians**. The size for the Greek minority is disputed: estimates of the Greek population range from 1% (official Albanian statistics) to 12% (from a Greek organization) ⁽¹³⁾.

¹³ [CIA, 2010]

The group sizes are from the 1989 (Communist) census because the 2001 census did not collect data on ethnicity. In 2011, the Albanian government conducted a census to clarify the ethnic composition of the population. At the 2011 census however, 14% of the population did not declare their nationality, while another 1.6% considered the nationality as ‘not relevant’ ⁽¹⁴⁾

¹⁴ [Albanian Institute of Statistics, 2012]

Power Relations

1946-1989

Under communist rule, religious and ethnic identities were irrelevant ^(15, 233). Religion was forbidden.

¹⁵ [Barjarba, 2004]

1990-2017

After communism, Albanians continue to hold a monopoly over political power. Although other ethnic groups are now officially recognized, the Albanians do not include them in the government ⁽¹⁶⁾. Since the regime change after the end of communism, the law permits official minority status for national groups and separately for ethno-linguistic groups. The government defined Greeks and Macedonians as national groups.

¹⁶ [Schmidt-Neke, 2010]

The Greek minority is represented by the Party Omonia, that won 5 parliament seats in 1992. As a response to this success the Albanian Parliament passed an act forbidding the establishment of ethnically based parties. Therefore the Omonia party was renamed the Human Rights Union Party (Partia Bashkimi per Drejtat e Njeriut) representing all minorities. It still has seats in the parliament but the Greek minority is not exclusively voting for this party anymore but supports the Socialist Party as well ^(17, 235; 18, 1018). Greeks are still politically marginalized ⁽¹⁹⁾. The main issues of concern to the Greek minority are education in the mother tongue; the option to use the Greek language in public life; the absence of Greek members in public services, despite their consistent parliamentary

¹⁷ [Barjarba, 2004]

¹⁸ [Schmidt-Neke, 2010]

¹⁹ [Minority Rights Group International, 2013]

representation; and respect for their property rights ⁽²⁰⁾.

The Macedonians are politically represented by the BPAMA (Bratska Political Association of Macedonians in Albania) and other organizations ⁽²¹⁾. In addition, the *Macedonian Alliance for European Integration* also is a political party representing the Macedonians, which was established in 2005. The party is not included politically on the national level. It holds the position of mayor in Pustec since 2007, but no power on the municipality/district level ⁽²²⁾.

Aromanians (Vlachs) and Roma are ethno-linguistic minority groups ⁽²³⁾, but they remain politically irrelevant.

The Roma minorities often experience societal and economic discrimination ⁽²⁴⁾. In 2013, Amnesty International reported that Roma families were continually forcibly evicted from their homes in Tirana ⁽²⁵⁾. However, the Roma enjoy political rights and *de jure* equal opportunities as the rest of the Albanian population ⁽²⁶⁾.

²⁰ [Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2010]

²¹ [Macedonian, Alliance 2010]

²² [Central Election Commission, 2016]

²³ [U.S. State Department, 2009]

²⁴ [Open Society Foundations, 2015]

²⁵ [Amnesty International, 2013]

²⁶ [ERRC, 2010]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Albania

From 1946 until 1989

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Albanians | 0.95 | IRRELEVANT |
| Greeks | 0.03 | IRRELEVANT |
| Macedonians | 0.01 | IRRELEVANT |

From 1990 until 2017

| Group name | Proportional size | Political status |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Albanians | 0.82 | MONOPOLY |
| Greeks | 0.08 | POWERLESS |
| Macedonians | 0.02 | POWERLESS |



Figure 12: Political status of ethnic groups in Albania during 1946-1989.



Figure 13: Political status of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Albania

From 1990 until 2017



Figure 14: Map of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2017.

| | Group name | Area in km ² | Type |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| ■ | Albanians | 27 617 | Statewide |
| ■ | Greeks | 1825 | Regionally based |
| ■ | Macedonians | 1012 | Regionally based |

Table 6: List of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2017.

Conflicts in Albania

Starting on 1946-10-21

| Side A | Side B | Group name | Start | Claim | Recruitment | Support |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-------|-------------|---------|
| Government of Albania | Government of United Kingdom | | 1946-10-21 | | | |