

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]

Bibliography

- [Albanian Institute of Statistics, 2012] Albanian Institute of Statistics. (2012). Quarterly Statistical Bulletin. Retrieved on 29.4.2014 from: http://www.instat.gov.al/media/195035/statistika_4_2012_.pdf
- [Amnesty International, 2013] Amnesty International. (2013). Albania: Further Information: Roma families forcibly evicted. Retrieved on 29.4.2014 from: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR11/003/2013/en>
- [Barjarba, 2004] Barjarba, Kosta. (2004). Migration and ethnicity in Albania: synergies and interdependencies. *Brown J. World Aff.* 11: 231-246.
- [Central Election Commission, 2016] Central Election Commission. (2016). Local Elections 2015. Retrieved on 15.8.2017 from: <http://results.cec.org.al/Results/LocalAssembly?cs=en-US&r=r&rd=r2&eu=All&m=All&ps=All&vc=All>
- [CIA, 2010] CIA World Fact Book. 2010.
- [ERRC, 2010] Basic Facts on Roma - Albania. Retrieved on 15.8.2017 from: <http://www.errc.org/article/basic-facts-on-roma--albania/3622>
- [Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2014] Hellenic Republic. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2014). Greek National Minority in Albania. Retrieved on 29.4.2014 from: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/greek-national-minority-in-albania/>
- [Macedonian, Alliance 2010] Macedonian Alliance. (2010). A Party of the Macedonians in Albania. Retrieved on 15.8.2017 from: www.macedoniansinalbania.org
- [Minority Rights Group International, 2013] Minority Rights Group International. (2013). Albania Overview. Retrieved on 29.4.2014 from: <http://www.minorityrights.org/1376/albania/albania-overview.html>
- [Open Society Foundations, 2015] Open Society Foundations. (2015). I Am Roma, I Am an Albanian Citizen. Retrieved on 15.8.2017 from: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/i-am-roma-i-am-albanian-citizen>

- [Reuters, 2013] Reuters. (2013). Albanians hand Socialists a landslide, wait on PM to concede. Retrieved on 29.4.2014 from: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-albania-election-idUSBRE95010E20130625>
- [Reuters, 2017] Reuters. (2017). Albanian Socialists to get parliamentary majority: partial vote count. Retrieved on 15.8.2017 from: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-albania-election-result-idUSKBN19H18L>
- [Schmidt-Neke, 2010] Schmidt-Neke, Michael. (2010). Das politische System Albaniens. In: Ismayer, Wolfgang, Richter, Solveig Soldner, Markus (eds.). (2010). Die politischen Systeme Osteuropas. Wiesbaden: Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- [U.S. State Department, 2009] United States Government State Department. (2009). Country Report Albania. Retrieved on 2.2.2015 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

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

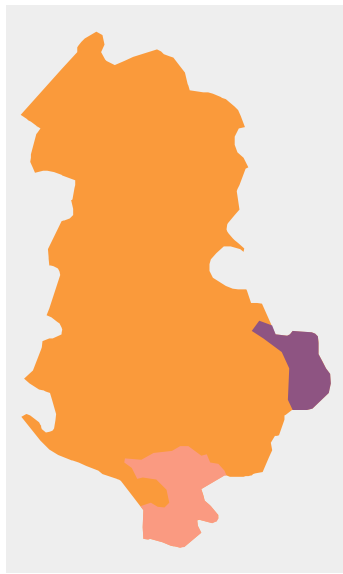


Figure 14: Map of ethnic groups in Albania during 1990-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Albanians	28 215	Statewide
■	Greeks	1827	Regionally based
■	Macedonians	1013	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			