



# ALBANIA

# GENDER

# EQUALITY

# FACTSHEET

Sources:

[data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org), [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org), [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org), [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org), [www.instat.gov.al/](http://www.instat.gov.al/).

<http://www.cp-project.al/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Baseline-Study-Report-on-DV-and-ASP.pdf>, [www.instat.gov.al](http://www.instat.gov.al).



# I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This document is aimed at presenting briefly the gender profile of Albania. The following areas will be examined: gender-related national machinery, family structure and domestic violence, health care, human trafficking, education, economic situation and work force and participation of women in decision-making.

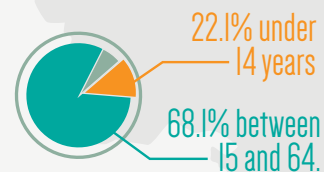
Albania is classified by the World Bank as a 'Middle income' country, with a Gross Domestic Product of \$12.65 billion (2012).



Albania counts a total population of 2.821 million people (2011) among which 49.9% are women



Its population is relatively young; in 2011, 22.1% of the population was under the age of 14 and 68.1% between 15 and 64.



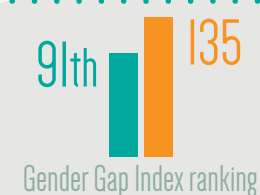
Life expectancy at birth is quite high and is of 79.6 years for women and 77.3 for men (2012)<sup>1</sup>.



The 2013 Human Development Index score for the country is 0.749, placing it in the 70th place (out of 187)<sup>2</sup>.



The Gender Inequality Index score is 0.251 (41st) and the Gender Gap Index is 0.6655 placing it in 91st place (out of 135)<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> Women and Men in Albania, INSTAT 2013

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, Human Development Report 2013, [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/14/hdr2013\\_en\\_complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/14/hdr2013_en_complete.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> World Economic Forum, The Global Gender Gap Report 2013, [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GenderGap\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf)



## II. GENDER-RELATED NATIONAL MACHINERY

### Gender-related legislative and policy framework:

- **Gender Equality in Society Law**, No.9970, 24.07.2008, contained contemporary definitions of gender equality elements and mandated establishment of the national gender machinery.

**Law on Protection from Discrimination**, No. 10 221, 04.02.2010 provided for establishment of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, a public oversight mechanism for different grounds of discrimination, including sex, gender identity, pregnancy, parental responsibility, etc.

**The Family Code of Albania** (2003), announced equality of spouses in relation to each-other and in relation to their children.

**Law “On Reproductive Health”**, stipulates that every woman shall decide on her own free will and without any form of discrimination, pressure, or violence all issues related to her own sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. No. 8876, 04/03/2002.

Similarly, the Civil Code, the Labour Code, the Criminal Code etc. although still in need of continuous improvement to fully reflect international and regional standards of equality and non-discrimination, represent solid bases for further guaranteeing gender equality.

In addition to more general, gender equality and non-discrimination laws, Albanian legislation has increasingly improved its domestic and gender-based violence response and treatment.

**The Law “On measures against violence in family relations”**, No. 9669, 18.12.2006, included solid definitions of domestic violence and family members. It mandated a series of public authorities with competences and duties to respond to cases as well as provided for the issuance of court protection (stay-away) orders against perpetrators.

Further amendments to the **Criminal Code** of 1995 have introduced specific offences with increased sanctions against trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, stalking, marital rape, violation of protection orders, child abuse and neglect, etc.

- Based on improved anti-violence laws, the Council of Ministers issued in 2011 a decree to mandate inter-disciplinary and inter-agency coordination and referral of domestic violence cases in every local government unit.

- Laws are further detailed with policy objectives and action points contained in the cross-cutting **National Strategy on Gender Equality and Eradication of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (2011 – 2015)** a revised and improved version of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Eradication of Domestic Violence (2007 - 2010); Sectoral strategies and policy documents of different ministries, such as the Strategy on Property Rights of the Ministry of Justice, Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health, etc. seek to address women’s rights and respond to inequalities.

### Gender Quotas:

- First introduced by the Gender Equality in Society Law (2008) the no less than 30% representation objective was taken by the **Electoral Code** as well, followed by (mild) sanctions for non-compliance imposed on political parties. The Electoral Code requires balanced representation of men and women at the electoral management bodies, at the candidates and multi-name lists:
- For each electoral zone, at least 30% of the multi-name list and one of the first three names on the multi-name list must be from each gender.
- In case of **violation** of this provision: political parties shall pay a fine of 1 000 000 Albanian Lek (approx. 10 thousand US dollars) for parliamentary elections and 50 000ALL (approx. 500US\$) for local elections.
- **Result** in practice: Thanks to the introduction of these quotas, representation of women at the national parliament arise from 7% in 2005 to 20% in 2013<sup>4</sup>. However the objective of 30% of women is far from being completed, both at the parliamentary and at local government level.

<sup>4</sup> The Parliament of Albania at [http://www.parlament.al/web/Deputetet\\_sipas\\_qarqeve\\_10029\\_1.php](http://www.parlament.al/web/Deputetet_sipas_qarqeve_10029_1.php) last checked on 24 March 2014



## Gender-related institutions:

- **The Council of Ministers** is viewed as the most central body approving National Strategies on Gender Equality and ensuring gender mainstreaming in legislation;
- **The National Council of Gender Equality** is an inter-ministerial advisory body that also comprises representatives of civil society;
- **A minister** that specifically has gender equality as part of their portfolio. Under this minister's administration a specialised **Gender Equality Unit** aids the Minister in ensuring gender mainstreaming, providing expertise and coordinating with other public authorities on gender equality issues;
- **Gender Equality Employees** who, per the Gender Equality in Society Law, must be appointed in each Ministry;
- **Local government units** also have duties stipulated in the Gender Equality in Society Law and appoint **Local Gender Equality Employees**.

## III. FAMILY STRUCTURE

### A. Marriages and Divorces

The average age at marriage is:



The divorce rate increased from 9.6 per 100 marriages in 2001, to 15.6 in 2012.



- Use of own money (83%). By comparison only 50% of men decide jointly with their wife on how to spend their own cash earnings;
- Own health care;
- Household purchases; and
- Visits to her family or relatives

**30% of women and 36% of men believe a husband is justified to beat up his wife in certain circumstances<sup>7</sup>**

### B. Decision-making inside the family and gender stereotypes

Families in Albania are still built on the traditional **patriarchal** organization and a **stereotypical** understanding of gender roles.

In the vast majority of the cases, women decide jointly with their husband regarding their :

### C. Domestic Violence

A recent survey conducted by INSTAT and UNDP found that 59.4% of women have experienced some form of domestic violence in their lifetime, with 53% currently leaving in a violent relationship. It represents an increase of 3.4 percentage points from 2007, although sexual and physical violence have noted a slight decline. Rural women, those with only basic education, women who did not work outside the home and married women were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse. In particular 3 out of 4 women who were currently on maternity leave were more likely to ever and currently being subjected to domestic violence.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Women and Men in Albania, INSTAT 2013

<sup>6</sup> Women and Men in Albania, INSTAT 2013

<sup>7</sup> Demographic and Health survey, INSTAT and Institute of Public Health (2009)

<sup>8</sup> Domestic Violence in Albania. A national population-based survey, INSTAT and UNDP (2013)



**Initiatives** have been launched in Albania to prevent and fight against such form of violence, ranging from better laws and policy frameworks to extensive capacity-building investments, increased responsibility of perpetrators, development in some areas of inter-disciplinary response and referral mechanisms, opening of the first National Shelter for Survivors, improvement of data collection systems and so on. In addition, constant public awareness activities, particularly around the 16 days of activism against violence against women are helping to change societal attitudes regarding violence against women. With UN support, the Government of Albania is finalising an Action Plan for Involvement of Men and Boys, starting to dedicate more attention to prevention.

Many **UPR recommendations** address domestic violence:

- Domestic Violence is considered as not being enough prevented, regulated and punished; and
- Call for a better support for victims.

While some recommendations are in the process of being implemented, added focus and resources need to be channelled to prevention, responsibility of perpetrators, victim assistance for shorter and longer term needs and particularly to strengthen implementation and accountability of public authorities.

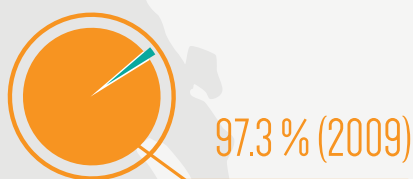
## IV. HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

### A. Pregnancy and Maternity Health Care

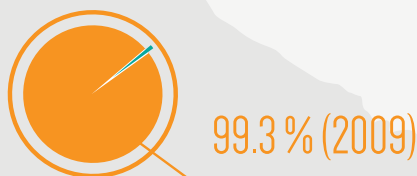
The **fertility rate** (births per woman) is 1.78 (2012). Youth maternity rates are relatively low: 2.8% of women aged 15-19 have had a child and/or were currently pregnant (2010). Mothers of 19 years old or younger account for 7.9% of all live births (2012)<sup>8</sup>.

The **maternal health care** provided has a good coverage of the population:

- Pregnant women receiving prenatal care (%):



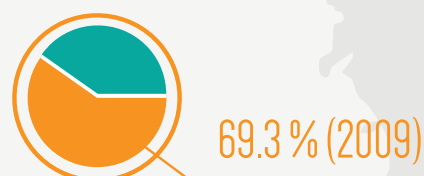
- Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total births):



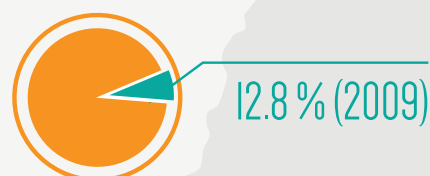
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (modelled estim. mate. per 100 000 live births): 5.8 (2011)<sup>9</sup>.

As to the **contraception**:

Contraceptive prevalence (% of women aged 15-49 who are practicing or whose sexual partners are practicing any form of contraception):



Unmet needs for contraception (% of fertile married women of reproductive age who do not want to become pregnant and are not using contraception):



<sup>8</sup> Women and Men in Albania, INSTAT (2013)

<sup>9</sup> Source: Ministry of Health of Albania, maternal mortality indicators published at: <http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/publikime/statistika/dokumenta-statistiko-re-mbi-shendetesine>, last visited on 25 March 2014

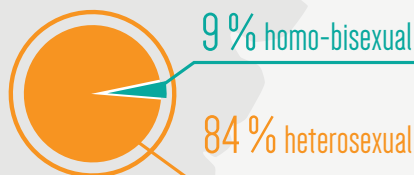


## B. HIV and AIDS

Albania is a low HIV prevalence country. Nevertheless, the trend of HIV infection is going up and estimates show a high number of undiagnosed cases.

As of November 2013, a total of 671 cases of HIV/AIDS have been Identified, with 96 new cases (of which 33 women)<sup>10</sup> identified during 2013 (identification of new cases shows an increasing trend):

- 93 % of these infections is due to sexual contact (84% heterosexual and 9% homo-bisexual),



- 5 new cases were due to mother-to-child-transmission, bringing the total figure to 25 infected children. 4% of cases are due to this vertical transmission



- 30% of HIV infected were women.



Although men constitute the majority of HIV infected, the rate of infected women is also growing since 2000<sup>11</sup>.

The response to HIV/AIDS had been focused on **prevention**, and includes measures of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.

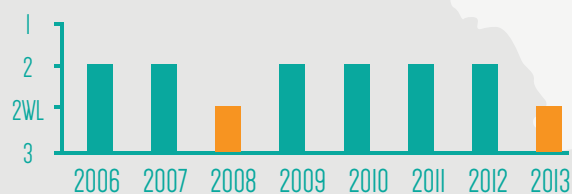
A large proportion of measures for HIV/AIDS prevention are based on health education in the general sense, especially focusing on populations with high-risk behaviour, with the goal of changing such behaviour.

**HIV infected people have a right to privacy, normal education, health care, housing and non-discriminating relations in all aspects of their life.**

## V. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking of men, women and children continues to occur in Albania. The U.S State Department 2013 Report on Trafficking in Persons<sup>12</sup> put Albania back to Tier 2, Watch List category after consistent progress and improvement in the past years:

### ALBANIA TIER RANKING BY YEAR



- Who? Especially trafficking in women and girls,
- What? Victims are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

Albania is not yet fully complying with the international standards in relation to trafficking. In particular, CEDAW, UPR and other representatives of the international community in Albania have recommended stronger inter-agency collaboration to address human trafficking, a non-punitive but rather supportive attitude towards victims of trafficking and of prostitution, increased perpetrator accountability and increased funding for NGOs to provide services to victims of trafficking and their families.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Albanian Institute of Public Health

<sup>11</sup> Source: Ministry of Health of Albania, Situation of Health and Health Care Report (2010), published at: [http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/files/userfiles/Rapor-time/3\\_3.pdf](http://www.shendetesia.gov.al/files/userfiles/Rapor-time/3_3.pdf), last checked on 25 March 2014

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210738.pdf>



## VI. EDUCATION

Education is a field in which good achievements have been attained in terms of equal access for both males and females.

Girls are reported to account for 48.8% of those who completed elementary education (nine-year schools).

48.8%



They constituted 51% of the secondary school graduates

51%



and 64% of university graduates<sup>13</sup>.

64%



Primary school enrolment:

80%  
of girls



80%  
of boys

(2012)

Secondary school enrolment:

73%  
of women



78%  
of men

(2012)

Tertiary school enrolment:

22%  
of women



14%  
of men

(2012)

The literacy rate is almost universal:



95.9%



99.1% female



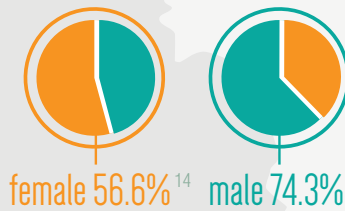
98.5% male



# VII. ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORK FORCE

Efforts need to be pursued for a better inclusion of women in the work force.

The labour force participation rate is:

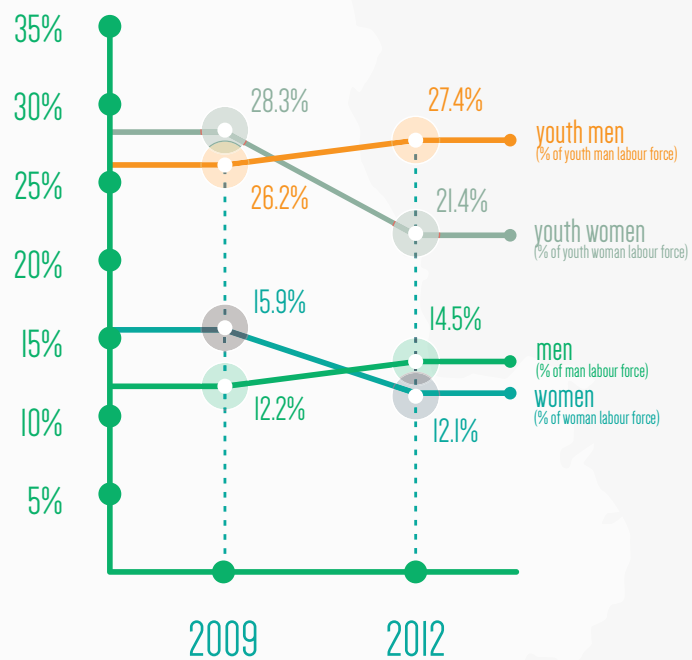


• Employment rate:

Women constitute 43.9% of the total number of those employed. The female to male employment ratio is thus 0.78 (2012). Working age women employment rate is 49.5 per cent, whereas for men this indicator is 63.2 per cent.

## The rates for unemployment are: (2009-2012)<sup>15</sup>

Unemployment rate is more pronounced in the 15-29 age group



The situation is more favourable in the **public** administration sector where 56% of the employees are women.

• The employment of Albanian women is **limited** by a number of factors, including:

- The women to men **wage gap** was 19.15% in 2009, While the 2012 Global Gender Gap report reveals a wider gap, 28%.

Obligation and responsibility for bringing up children and doing household chores,

And their limited access to vocational training, property and credit opportunities



<sup>14</sup> Women and Men in Albania, 2013 INSTAT  
<sup>15</sup> Women and Men in Albania, 2013 INSTAT





# VIII. DECISION-MAKING

## A. Public Sector

The representation of women in the decision-making at the public sector shows some signs of improvement:

- National Parliament: While in 2005 women held a mere 7% of seats, introduction of quota requirements in Albanian legislation in 2008 almost tripled their representation in 2013 (20%).



- The Council of Ministers in 2005 only had one woman Minister out of 14 (7.1%) and 6 Deputy Ministers out of 32 (18.8%). In 2013 women held 30% of ministerial positions and constituted 34.7% of Deputy Ministers<sup>16</sup>.
- Local Governments bodies: 0% regional council chair, 16.6% of the municipal council chairs and 1.9% of the commune chairs are held by women. Women hold only 12.2% of seats in local government councils and head 7 out of 384 local government units (constituting only 1.82% of mayors) (2010)<sup>17</sup>.
- Judicial system: 22.2% of the Constitutional Court members<sup>18</sup>, 30.7% of the Supreme Court<sup>19</sup> but zero women in the High Council of Justice.

The rate of female employment in the public administration is encouraging (58.7%), but the level of women's participation in leadership positions hardly reflects a balanced participation (24.3% of the highest managerial positions).

One might also pinpoint the poor level of women's participation to political parties:

At the leadership positions in political parties,

And in political activities.

Women in the leading structures of the two major political parties in Albania:

- a) Democratic Party – 8 women out of 25 members (32%)<sup>19</sup>



- b) Socialist Party - 5 women of 16 members (31.3%)<sup>20</sup>



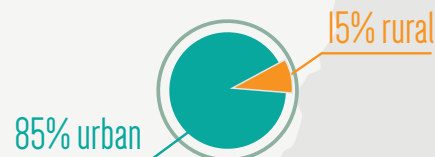
## B. Private sector

The representation of women in leadership positions is very poor:

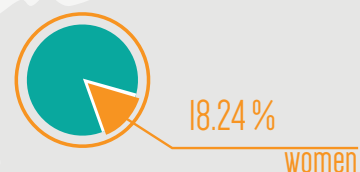
- Only 17% of leaderships positions are held by women,



- 85% of the businesses run by women are located in urban areas,
- 15% in the rural areas.



- 18.24% of the non-profit organizations are run by women.



<sup>16</sup> Source: the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, <http://www.keshilliministrave.al/>

<sup>17</sup> Source: Central Elections Commission, <http://www.cec.org.al/>

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.gjk.gov.al/web/Perberja\\_90\\_1.php](http://www.gjk.gov.al/web/Perberja_90_1.php)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.gjykataelarte.gov.al/>

<sup>20</sup> Source: daily media at [www.balkanweb.com/m/kryesore/kryesia-e-pd-shpall-25-anetaret-e-rinj-basha-me-i-votuari-33393.html](http://www.balkanweb.com/m/kryesore/kryesia-e-pd-shpall-25-anetaret-e-rinj-basha-me-i-votuari-33393.html), last visited on 11 October 2013

Source: Socialist Party website ([www.ps.al](http://www.ps.al)) last visited on 10 October 2013



## IX. CONCLUSION

- Perpetration of gender stereotypes when it comes to the role of women in society and decision-making.
- Feminization of poverty, Why?
  - High unemployment rate,
  - Doing unqualified jobs,
  - Lack of training opportunities,
  - Poor access to and lack of choice in the use of family planning methods,
  - Being subject to violence, abuse or arbitrary actions inside the family,
  - And poor representation in public leadership and political structures

Empowered women - A stronger and more resilient Albania !

# ALBANIA GENDER EQUALITY FACTSHEET