

# Albania

## Basic principles

Self-employed people are covered by the general scheme. However, self-employed people do not receive the same benefits as employed people. Employees receive benefits commensurate with the level of contributions they have paid, whereas self-employed persons receive benefits at minimum level because they paid contributions at the minimum level. Self-employed persons are compulsorily covered by the following general schemes:

- | maternity,
- | old-age,
- | invalidity, and
- | survivors.

The Council of Ministers may decide on other areas of protection and create exceptions for self-employed people in agriculture.

Self-employed persons may, under the conditions specified by SII regulations, conclude voluntary social insurance contracts. These contract will enable self-employed persons to:

- | receive higher benefits from the general scheme in exchange for the payment of higher contributions, and/or
- | enter schemes which are not compulsory for them join i.e. those for sickness cash benefits and employment accidents/occupational diseases.

## Financing

Self-employed persons shall be liable to pay monthly contributions in respect of maternity and pensions at a flat-rate level. The monthly minimum wage is used as the flat-rate level for the calculation of contributions this wage and this is 16120 leks. Self-employed persons in agriculture shall be liable to pay contributions in respect of maternity and pensions. The amounts and criteria are determined by Council of Ministers. They pay flat-rate contributions at the same rate paid by other self-employed persons and at least 2 times per year, according to a Council of Ministers' Decision. The contribution of self-employed people in agriculture shall be implemented gradually at the rates to be decided by Council of Ministers the proposal of SII. The contributions of self-employed persons in agriculture is currently 14400 leks per year for some districts and 9360 leks per year for others. The difference in contribution levels for self-employed people who work in agriculture and those who do not is determined by the Council of Ministers and this is because of differences which exist between rural area (hills, fields, mountains).

## Maternity Benefit

The amount of maternity benefit for economically active women shall equal the base flat-rate old-age pension.

## Basic Pension for old age, invalidity and survivors

Self-employed people receive a pension increment (like employees). The basic pension amount, awarded to all insured persons, shall at least provide for a minimum standard of living and it must be annually indexed with regard to price index development of selected commodities.

The amount of basic pension for self-employed persons in urban areas is 10276 leks per month.

The amount of basic pension for self employed persons in rural areas is 6344 leks per month.