



ALBANIA: BEST PRACTICES

DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

A BRIEF PRESENTATION



REPUBLIKA E ALBANIËS
MINISTRIA E ARSIMIT
DHE SPORTIT

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



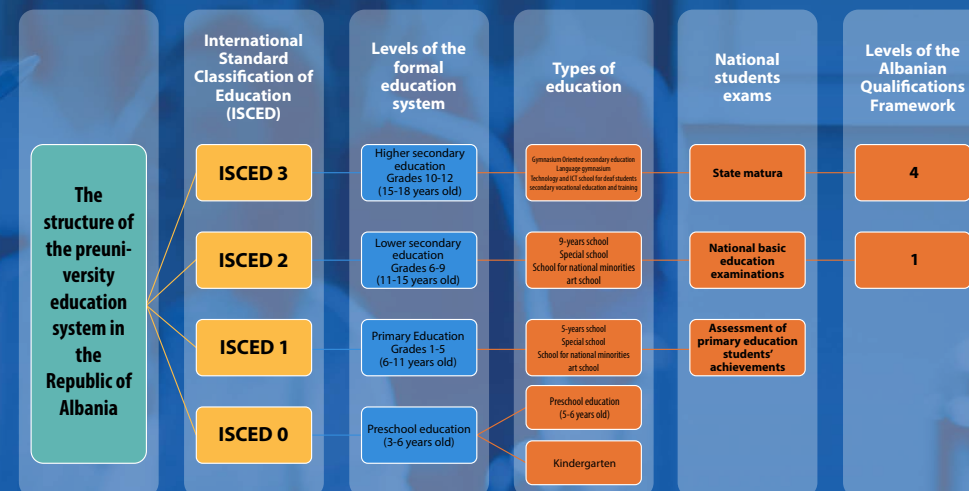
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



CHALLENGES OF QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TOWARDS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



The structure of the preuniversity education system in the Republic of Albania



ALBANIA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Albania joined the Council of Europe on 13 July 1995. Albania is a signatory of the Council of Europe's Charter on Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. Albania has committed itself to the promotion of democratic citizenship and human rights education in international and regional declarations.

ALBANIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Albania aspires accession to the European Union and on 25 March 2020 the European Union decided to open accession talks with Albania. Currently, Albania is working to undertake reforms required in the education sector for its European Union path.

DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP IN FORMAL EDUCATION IN ALBANIA

Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) is an essential part of educational policy in Albania, pursuing its basic goal in the direction of creating a democratic culture and equipping individuals with competencies for life.

Competences for democratic culture, part of the Council of Europe's Reference Framework, underpin the whole curricula of Citizenship education, which is part of the official curricula

of pre-university education for grades 1-10 and are the basis for building the content of the Citizenship subject. They are explicitly stated and implied in the areas, dimensions, ideas, concepts, objectives etc., of this curriculum which are horizontally and vertically aligned as well with the Council of Europe standards and practices.



THE NATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY 2021-2026*

■ The National Education Strategy 2021-2026 is designed based on Council of Europe's values with a vision for education, that aims to achieve "A quality education system based on the principles of inclusion and lifelong learning, which enables all individuals to reach their full potential thus contributing to their personal well-being, as well as to the strengthening of democracy and the country's integration into the European Union."

CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

■ The curriculum of the social subjects: Citizenship, Sociology, Philosophy comply and are in line with the Council of Europe standards, concepts, practices and expectations of EDC/HRE, as they include concepts enshrined in the Council of Europe Charter.

The curriculum of Citizenship subjects integrates information, phenomena, problems, challenges, not only related to the Albanian reality, but of the social, economic, political, cultural problems and challenges of Europe and of the wider world addressed from the national perspective and from the perspective of engagement of the country for the integration and its future membership in European Union.

SYLLABUSES AND TEXTBOOKS

■ In Albania, the textbook is the main source for the learning process, at school and other learning environments. A reform on textbooks was undertaken in order to increase textbook quality. The participation of an extended list of actors in the production increased competition and the responsibility of authors to publish high quality textbooks on the subject of "Citizenship".

The reform also helped teachers to become more aware of the curricula, in order to creatively master and use the textbooks and bring the fast changing local and global reality into the classroom and enrich the whole process of learning that aim the education of an Albanian and global citizen.

TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ The new curriculum requires responsible and creative teachers to organise the teaching and learning process in an interactive way and to integrate as many teaching topics of different subjects as possible, especially in primary education classes.

Continuous training of teachers of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) subjects has been a priority for the education system. The support provided by the Council of Europe in this regard, aimed to provide teachers with competence based and oriented teaching and learning also promoting a culture of lifelong learning for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) as well as sustainable models of thinking and acting, as part of the cognitive scheme of the learner.

*<https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/en/2021/draft-strategija-komb%C3%ABtare-e-arsimit-2021-2026-7176>

PUBLICATIONS

■ The implementation of the Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) curriculum in Albania is greatly supported by a great number of policy documents of the CoE as well as teacher training materials produced in the framework of the Council of Europe projects. For more, please check the project website.



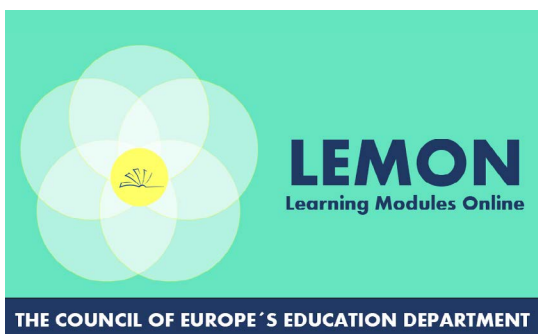
TEACHERNET

■ The network of professional teachers (TeacherNet) was established in 2021 and currently is expanded up to 375 active members as Teacher's Peer Learning activities continued to shape the efforts for consolidating this initiative.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE ONLINE LEMON PLATFORM

■ Jointly with the Council of Europe, we have accredited six training modules of the Council of Europe online learning platform LEMON, that are a useful tool for all Albanian educators in pre-university education system, 4 training modules are accessible already in the Albanian language in the Council of Europe LEMON platform. They focus on competence-based learning and teaching techniques while promoting a culture of lifelong learning for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE).



DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS NETWORK

■ 75 schools throughout Albania are supported to develop and implement democratic governance policies and practices in order to create a more inclusive and enabling learning environment for all children.



STUDENT LED-INITIATIVES

■ 75 schools with 36,437 students have been supported to organise student led initiatives to promote human rights in schools and communities.



DEMOCRATIC CULTURE LABS

■ Democratic Culture Labs in Albanian schools serve as incubators of democratic culture competencies for in and out of schools. These creative spaces/labs will increase the possibility of using Online Council of Europe education resources, will enhance the capability of students and teachers to use media and information literacy and become real digital citizens in the new digital area. It will enhance a sustainable way to design and implement democratic governance practices, encouraging a quality learning environment for all students, thus, further promoting democracy and democratic values through it.



“Strengthening Democratic Citizenship Education in Albania” is a project implemented by the Council of Europe and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The project is carried out over a period of four years starting in December 2019 and has a total budget of 1,385,600 Euros.

The project aims to improve the quality of education in Albania by strengthening the capacity of the pre-university education system to develop schoolchildren's competences for democratic culture, in line with national policy objectives and Council of Europe instruments and approaches.

Strengthening Democratic Citizenship Education in Albania



www.coe.int/en/web/education



www.coe.int/en/web/tirana

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

2023

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.



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