



The Higher Education System of Albania

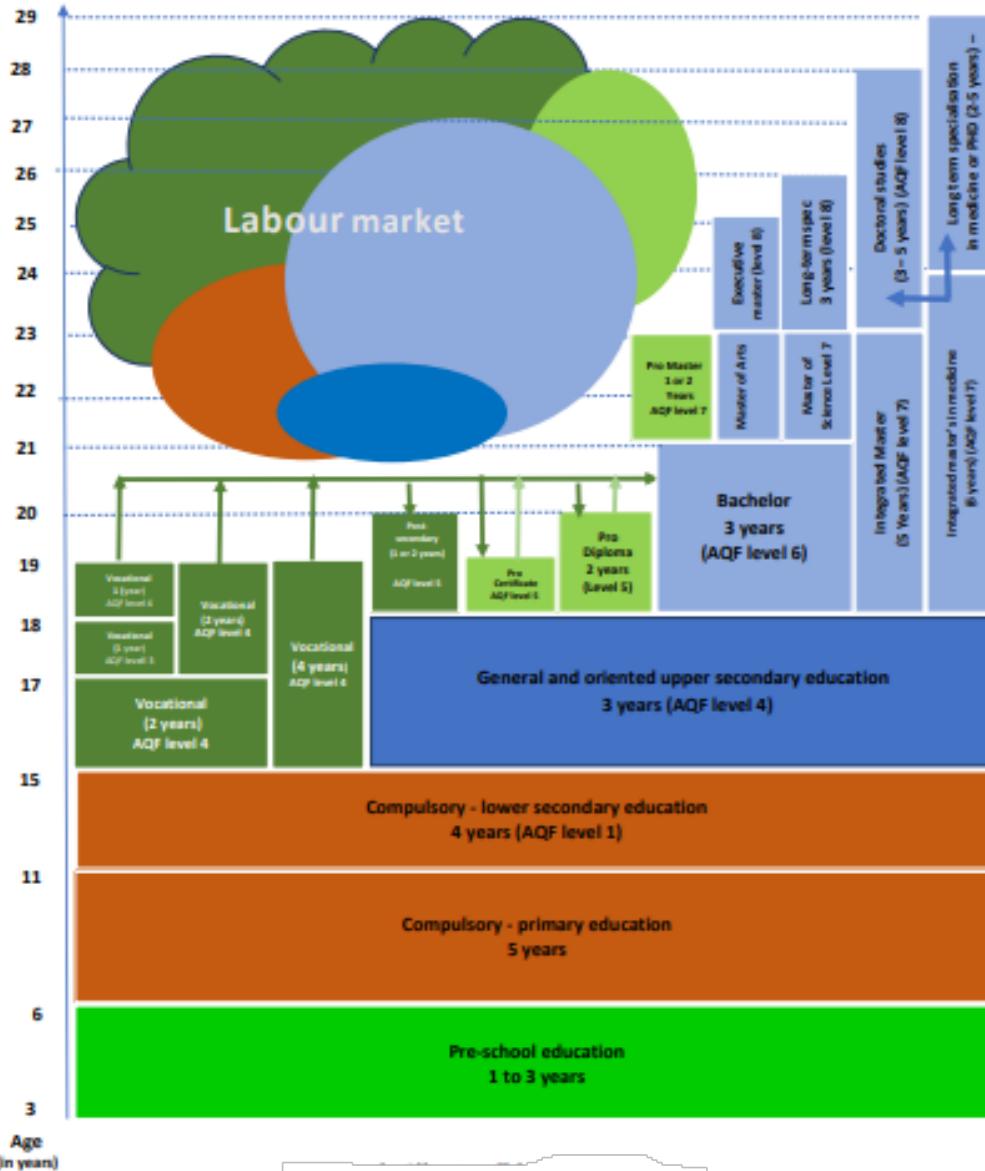
XCII BFUG Board meeting

3rd of September 2024

Hosted by Iceland in Reykjavik



Albanian Educational System Map and Albanian Qualification Framework



Approved in 2010,
amended in 2018 and
referenced to
EQF in 2022.

LEVEL 5: Fifth level: Short Cycle in HE: Professional Certificate (1 year - 60 ECTS) : Professional Diploma (2 years - 120 ECTS)

LEVEL 6: First HE level: Bachelor Diploma (at least 3 years – at least 180 ECTS)

LEVEL 7: Second HE level: Professional Master – (1 year - 60 ECTS or 2 years -120 ECTS); Master of Sciences or Master of Arts (2 years – 120 ECTS) Integrated Master (5-6 years – 300-360 ECTS)

LEVEL 8: Third HE level: Executive Master (1 year - 60 ECTS or 2 years - 120 ECTS); (Long-term specializations (at least 2 years – at least 120 ECTS); (Doctoral Degree – (3 years up to 5 years)

LEVELS 5, 7 AND 8: Lifelong learning qualifications.



Albanian HE System

Higher education system in Albania is based on the constitution and the Law 80/2015 of higher education and scientific research in the higher education institutions, in which higher education is defined as a ***good and public responsibility***.

HE system has the mission:

- a) to create, develop, transmit and protect knowledge*** through teaching, research, as well as to promote and develop the arts, physical education and sports;
- b) to train senior specialists and prepare young scientists***, in accordance with the development priorities of the country;
- c) to provide equal opportunities*** to benefit from higher education and lifelong learning;
- d) to contribute*** to the economic, social, national security and cultural development at ***national and regional levels***;
- e) to support the strategic priorities*** and development interests of the country;
- f) to integrate teaching with scientific research;***
- g) to promote international cooperation*** in the field of higher education.



Albanian HE System

The authorities/bodies in the higher education system in Republic of Albania are:

- Ministry responsible for the higher education – ***Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)***;
- AQAHE (***Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education***) and BA (***Board of Accreditation***);
- NASRI (***National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation***);
- CES (***Centre for Educational Services***);
- NAFHE (***National Agency for Financing the Higher Education***).



Albanian HE System

The legal framework of the HE area is based on the following principles:

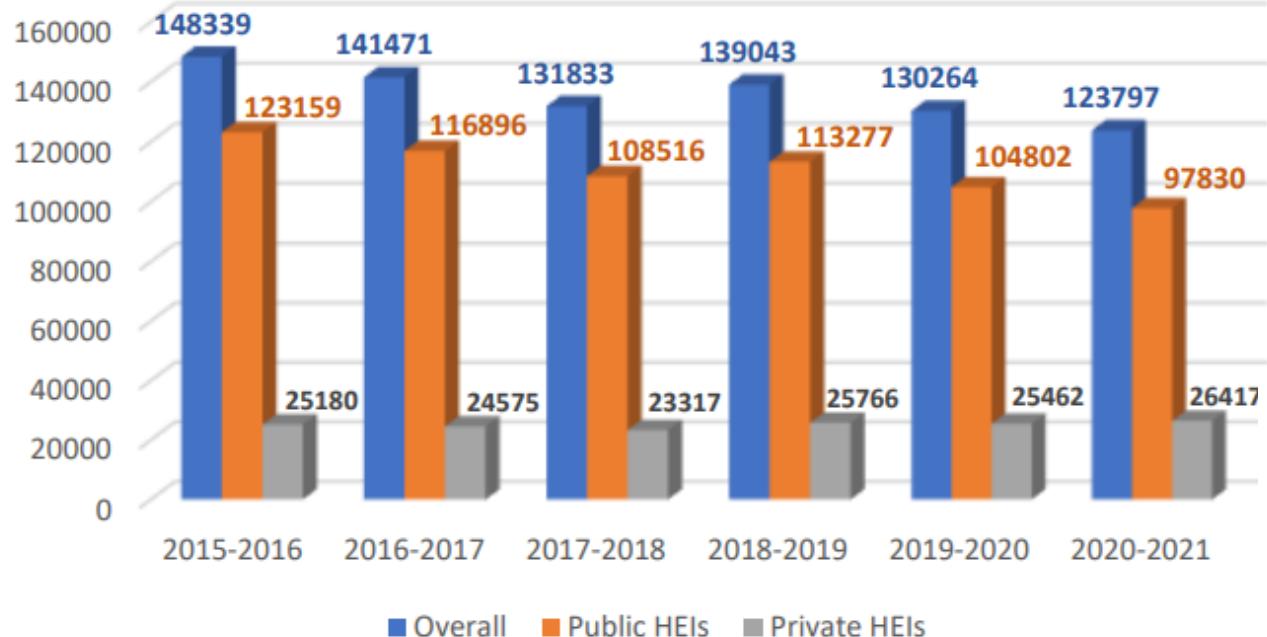
- I. academic freedom;*
- II. HEIs autonomy;*
- III. equality of chances;*
- IV. equal standards for all HEIs;*
- V. social inclusion;*
- VI. fostering the symbiosis of HE and R&D;*
- VII. quality assurance of the higher education offers.*



Albanian HE System

Some figures of HE system in Albania

Evolution of the number of students in the Albanian HE system



According to the data of the academic year 2023-2024 on HE, **the total number of HEIs** in Albania is **40**, of which **25** (62.5%) are non-public (private), while **15** (37.5 %) are public. There are 123 797 students enrolling HE study programmes, 97 830 (79%) in the public HEIs and 26 417 (21%) in the non-public (private) ones.

Albanian professorship figures in the HE system

Public HEIs			Non-public HEIs		
	Professors	Associate Professors	Lector	Professors	Associate Professors
Full-time	482	661	1371	166	212
Part-time	224	195	715	107	163
Total	706	856	2086	273	375
Academic staff teaching in public HEIs	6692¹⁷		In the non-public HEIs	3068¹⁸	



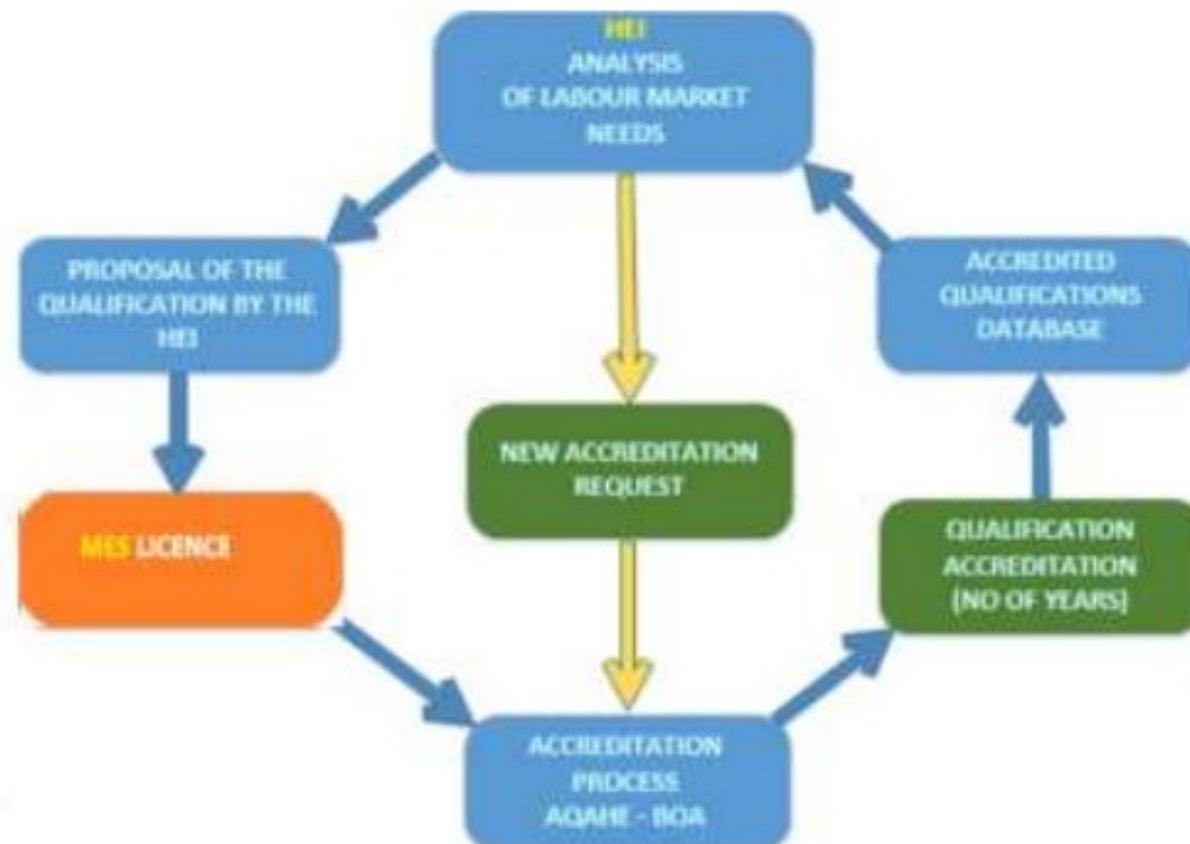
In Albania, there are two types of HEIs, **public** and **non-public** (private) ones. Their typology is presented here-below:

- **University** is an integrated structure consisting of main units (faculties), basic units (departments) and other units, as defined in their statute. A university consists of, at least, three main units offering study programmes in the levels 5 to 8 of the AQF.
- **University college** is an integrated structure consisting of, at least two main units offering study programmes in the levels 5 to 7 of the AQF.
- **Academia** is an integrated structure consisting of, at least, one main unit offering study programmes in the levels 5 to 8 of the AQF.
- **Higher professional college** is an integrated structure consisting of, at least, two basic units (departments) offering study programmes in the level 5 of the AQF



Albanian HE System

In Albania, the QA is led by MoES, AQAHE and BA in a 5 check& balance schema as shows :





HE SYSTEM - MORE QUALITY - ADAPTABILITY - INNOVATION

1 *Development of research capacities*
(measurable ratio scientific research / teaching);

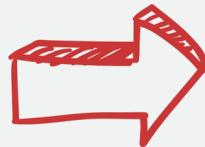
2 Financing *SMART Universities* / Absorption of EU funds and programs;

3 *Periodic measurement* of the effectiveness and ratio of the use of financial and human resources;

4 Fostering the *international cooperation*;

5 *Absorption of local and foreign students / joint degrees*;

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Purpose 1

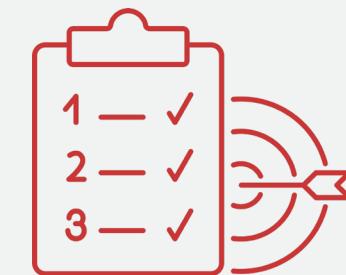
Higher education as an important factor for the development of the country's human, social and economic capital, to provide a new academic offer, to adapt to the dynamic demands of the labor market, equipping students with the skills of the future and increasing productivity;

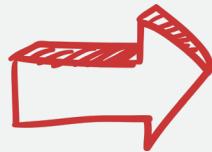
Strategic objective 1.1:
Improving the academic offer
aimed at strengthening
human capital

Specific objective 1.1.1: Creating an attractive environment for students through the diversification of the academic offer that provides knowledge, practice and employment.

Specific objective 1.1.2: Revision of HEI funding formula based on performance and quality.

Specific objective 1.1.3: Reorganization of the legal framework to enable adaptability to the labor market.





Purpose 2

The complete integration of Albanian higher education in the European Area of Education and Scientific Research, through the strengthening of financing and quality assurance mechanisms as well as the internationalization and specialization of higher education.

Strategic objective 2.1:
Increasing the quality of teaching and scientific research through internationalization, sustainable funding and innovation

Specific objective 2.1.1: Strengthen scientific research in HEI through increased funding, inclusiveness, internationalization and open science.

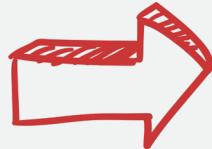
Specific objective 2.1.2: Strengthening quality standards in teaching through their continuous measurement and evaluation.

Specific objective 2.1.3: Performance measurement in scientific research and projects, as a basis for sustainable funding.





Albanian HE policy 2024-2030 : PURPOSE II



Purpose 2

The complete integration of Albanian higher education in the European Area of Education and Scientific Research, through the strengthening of financing and quality assurance mechanisms as well as the internationalization and specialization of higher education.

Strategic objective 2.2:
Strengthening higher education as a catalyst for social, economic and digital development towards EU integration

Specific objective 2.2.1: Digitization of academic and research processes in HEI towards university 4.0

Specific objective 2.2.2: Ensuring the independence of ASCAL in accordance with the guidelines and European quality standards (ESG)

Specific objective 2.2.3: Creation of quality control mechanisms for study programs





BFUG BOARD Meeting

The BFUG Board Meeting in Albania by January 2025; so far there are two proposals :

- **1: Tuesday, 7th of January 2025**, whole day (beginning with handover and dinner on the 6th of January).
- **2: Thursday, 9th of January 2025**, whole day (beginning with dinner on the 8th of January).

The concrete place of the meeting TBC.





Thank You