



Quick Facts

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Immigration detainees (2019) | Not Available |
| Detained minors (2017) | 6 |
| International migrants (2019) | 49,160 |
| New asylum applications (2019) | 66 |

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/albania>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

| | | Observation Date | | | Observation Date |
|---|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Total number of immigration detainees by year | Not Available | 2019 | Total number of detained minors | 6 | 2017 |
| | | | | 16 | 2016 |
| | | | | 8 | 2015 |
| Criminal prison population | 5,564 | 2017 | Percentage of foreign prisoners | 1.4 | 2017 |
| | 5,201 | 2013 | | 1.5 | 2012 |
| Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population) | 193 | 2017 | | | |
| | 181 | 2013 | | | |

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

| | | Observation Date | | | Observation Date |
|--|-----------|------------------|---|--------|------------------|
| Population | 2,900,000 | 2020 | International migrants | 49,160 | 2019 |
| | 2,873,460 | 2017 | | 52,000 | 2017 |
| | 2,897,000 | 2015 | | 57,600 | 2015 |
| International migrants as a percentage of the population | 1.8 | 2017 | Refugees | 120 | 2019 |
| | 2 | 2015 | | 131 | 2018 |
| | | | | 119 | 2017 |
| | | | | 111 | 2016 |
| | | | | 104 | 2015 |
| | | | | 104 | 2014 |
| Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants | 0.05 | 2016 | Total number of new asylum applications | 66 | 2019 |
| | 0.04 | 2014 | | 2,161 | 2016 |
| | | | | 427 | 2014 |
| Stateless persons | 4,160 | 2018 | | | |
| | 4,460 | 2017 | | | |
| | 4,921 | 2016 | | | |
| | 7,443 | 2015 | | | |

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

| Legal tradition | Name | Observation Date |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|
| | Civil law | 2017 |

| LAWS AND REGULATIONS | | | | |
|--|---|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| Core pieces of national legislation | Name | | Year Adopted | Last Year Amended |
| | Law on Asylum in the Republic of Albania. Law No. 8432. 1998. | | 1998 | |
| VULNERABLE PERSONS | | | | |
| Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice? | Name | In Law | In Practice | Observation Date |
| | Asylum seekers | Provided | Yes | 2015 |
| | Unaccompanied minors | Provided | | 2015 |
| COVID-19 UPDATES | | | | |
| Latest Update | Update Status | | | Observation Date |
| | The numbers of migrants and refugees in Albania have risen in recent years. According to the Department of Border and Migration, 11,344 people were detained at the border between January 2019 and February 2020. The Euro-Med Monitor called on the government of Albania “to immediately undertake necessary measures to provide adequate housing and sufficient food supplies to refugees and migrants in its custody, in addition to ensuring their safety from gang violence.” The imposition of a curfew on 16 March has impacted undocumented migrants across the country. Refugee centres have been closed, and migrants and asylum seekers left outside, looking for food. There were 876 confirmed cases of Covid-19 as of 13 May in the country. On 4 March, the Albanian government announced the temporary release of around 600 prisoners for 3 months. This measure concerns inmates held for minor offences, as well as the elderly and individuals suffering from chronic diseases. There is an estimate of 5,500 prisoners in Albania, whose penitentiaries are overcrowded. On 10 April, a group of more than 30 human rights organisations issued an open letter to the government protesting a plan to imprison individuals who disobey quarantine orders. The penal code was indeed amended on 16 April to impose two to eight years of jail time for rule-breakers. 19 inmates tested positive to Covid-19 on 20 April, and were isolated immediately. The Tirana penitentiary hospital had been dedicated exclusively to inmates who tested positive to the coronavirus. | | | 2020 |

INTERNATIONAL LAW

| Relevant international treaties and date of ratification | | |
|--|--|-------------------|
| International treaties | Name | Ratification Year |
| | OP CRC Communications Procedure | 2013 |
| | CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | 2013 |
| | ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | 2007 |
| | ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | 2007 |
| | OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | 2003 |
| | CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons | 2003 |
| | CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children | 2002 |
| | CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime | 2002 |
| | ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | 1994 |
| | CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | 1994 |
| | CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | 1994 |
| | CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child | 1992 |
| | CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees | 1992 |
| | PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees | 1992 |
| | ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | 1991 |
| | ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | 1991 |
| | VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations | 1991 |
| Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified | 17/19 | |
| Relevant international treaties and date of ratification | | |
| Individual complaints procedure | Name | Acceptance Year |
| | ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 | 2007 |
| | CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999 | 2003 |
| | ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, declaration under article 31 | 2007 |
| | CRC, [Third] Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishing a communications procedure, 2011 | 2013 |
| Relevant international treaties and date of ratification | | |
| Ratio of complaints procedures accepted | Number | Observation Date |
| | 4/9 | 2017 |

| Relevant international treaties and date of ratification | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies | Name | Recommendation Excerpt | Recommendation Year |
| | Human Rights Committee | 13. The Committee is concerned that the automatic detention until deportation of all persons entering the country irregularly, including minors, and the lack of adequate information and referral of asylum seekers among such persons to the asylum procedure, exposes persons in need of international protection to a high risk of refoulement. The Committee is also concerned at the poor living conditions in transit reception facilities for asylum seekers and refugees (arts. 6, 7, 9 and 10). The State party should ensure proper implementation of pre-screening procedures at the border and inside the country in order to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and referred to the asylum procedure, regardless of whether or not they entered the country in an irregular manner. It should refrain from detaining asylum seekers on the basis of the manner of entry into the country. It should improve living conditions in transit reception facilities. | 2013 |
| Regional treaties, regulations, and directives | | | |
| Regional legal instruments | Name | | Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation) |
| | CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings | | 2007 |
| | CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse | | 2009 |
| | ECHRP7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11) | | 1996 |
| | ECHRP12, Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights | | 2004 |
| | ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment | | 1996 |
| | ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights) | | 1996 |
| | ECHRP1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11) | | 1996 |

| Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions | | | |
|--|--|---------------|------------------|
| Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission | Name | Year in Force | Observation Date |
| | Austria | 2007 | 2017 |
| | Germany | 2003 | 2017 |
| | Belgium | 2008 | 2017 |
| | Bulgaria | 2003 | 2017 |
| | Denmark | 2008 | 2017 |
| | Greece | 1995 | 2017 |
| | Italy | 2008 | 2017 |
| | Hungary | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Luxembourg | 2008 | 2017 |
| | Malta | 2011 | 2017 |
| | Romania | 2005 | 2017 |
| | Spain | 2011 | 2017 |
| | Norway | 2009 | 2017 |
| | Slovakia | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Slovenia | 2011 | 2017 |
| | Netherlands | 2008 | 2017 |
| | United Kingdom | 2005 | 2017 |
| | Iceland | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Switzerland | 2003 | 2017 |
| | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Croatia | 2005 | 2017 |
| | Macedonia | 2005 | 2017 |
| | Kosovo | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Moldova | 2013 | 2017 |
| | Montenegro | 2011 | 2017 |
| | Serbia | 2011 | 2017 |
| | Albania (EU agreement) | 2006 | 2006 |
| Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms | | | |
| Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council | Name | Year of Visit | Observation Date |
| | Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants | 2011 | 2011 |
| Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms | | | |
| Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review | Recomendation Issued | Year Issued | Observation Date |
| | No | 2010 | 2017 |
| | Yes | 2014 | 2017 |

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

| Institutions responsible for immigration detention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Apprehending authorities | Name | | Agency | | Ministry | | Observation Date | | | | | | | | |
| | Border Patrol | | | | | | 2015 | | | | | | | | |
| | Police | | | | | | 2014 | | | | | | | | |
| Institutions responsible for immigration detention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Types of detention facilities used in practice | Immigration detention centre (Administrative) | Immigration field office (Administrative) | Transit centre (Administrative) | Reception centre (Administrative) | Offshore detention centre (Administrative) | Hospital (Administrative) | Border guard (Administrative) | Police station (Criminal) | National penitentiary (Criminal) | Local prison (Criminal) | Juvenile detention centre (Criminal) | Informal camp (Ad hoc) | Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc) | Surge facility (Ad hoc) | Observation Date |
| | Yes | | | | | | Yes | | | | | | | | 2015 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Authorized monitoring institutions | Institution | | | | Institution Type | | | | Observation Date | | | | | | |
| | Office of the People's Advocate (Avokati i Popullit) | | | | National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI) | | | | 2016 | | | | | | |
| | Office of the People's Advocate (Avokati i Popullit) | | | | OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) | | | | 2016 | | | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent? | Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions? | | | | | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | 2016 | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does NHRI carry out visits? | Does NHRI carry out visits in practice? | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | 2016 | | | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints? | Does NHRI have capacity to receive complaints? | | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | | 2016 | | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention? | Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention? | | | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | | | 2015 | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does national preventive mechanism (NPM) carry out visits? | Does NPM carry out visits in practice? | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | 2015 | | | | | | |
| Detention monitoring institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention? | Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention? | | | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | | | 2015 | | | | |
| Foreign sources of funding for detention operations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does the country receive external sources of funding? | Benefitted from non-state funding sources? | | | | | | | | | Observation Date | | | | | |
| | Yes | | | | | | | | | 2010 | | | | | |

Foreign sources of funding for detention operations

| | Description of non-state assistance | Observation Date |
|--|---|------------------|
| Description of foreign assistance | <p>According to a EU Parliament question to the EU Commission (March 2013): During his visit to Albania in December 2011, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants expressed his concern about the closed detention centre in Kareç. The Kareç closed detention centre, which opened in 2010, was constructed primarily with funding from the European Union. The issues of accessibility, detention conditions, legal safeguards in law and practice and the treatment of detainees, which are explicitly mentioned in the UN Special Rapporteur's report, are therefore particularly worrying. The report mentions, in particular: the 'bad road conditions, which seriously obstruct the enjoyment of detainees' right to legal defence and independent monitoring by national and international bodies'; the centre's infrastructure and organisation; the poor living and hygienic conditions, such as cold and humidity and the lack of outdoor facilities or activities, which recall those of 'a mid- to high-security prison'; the internal regulations, which contain provisions allowing the presence of 'minors' in the centre; and the lack of adequate information in a language commonly spoken by detainees about their rights and the reasons for their detention. Taking into account the readmission agreement between Albania and the EU, which entered into force on 1 May 2006 and presupposes full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, on what basis was this detention centre funded by the EU? Did the Commission have any say in the architectural planning and internal regulation of the centre? Is the Commission aware of the situation described above? If so, what steps has it taken to remedy the situation? If not, what concrete steps will it take now?</p> | 2013 |

More information about immigration detention in Albania is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)