



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

“Building peace in the minds
of men and women”

*“Since wars begin in the
minds of men and women,
it is in the minds of men and
women that the defences of
peace must be constructed.”*

Preambul of UNESCO Constitution



UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) was born on 16 November 1945. UNESCO's mission is to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

UNESCO'S HISTORY

As early as 1942, in wartime, the governments of the European countries, which were confronting Nazi Germany and its allies, met in the United Kingdom for the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME). The Second World War was far from over, yet those countries were looking for ways and means to reconstruct their systems of education once peace was restored. Very quickly, the project gained momentum and soon took on a universal note. New governments, including that of the United States, decided to join in. Upon the proposal of CAME, a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization (ECO/CONF) was convened in London from 1 to 16 November 1945. Scarcely had the war ended when the conference opened. It gathered together the representatives of forty-four countries who decided to create an organization that would embody a genuine culture of peace. In their eyes, the new organization must establish the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" and, in so doing, prevent the outbreak of another world war. Currently, UNESCO includes 195 Member States and 10 Associate Members and is structured around five regional groups: Africa, the Arab countries, Asia and Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean.

VISION

Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.

In this spirit, UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education. By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

UNESCO's founding vision was born in response to a world war that was marked by racist and anti-Semitic violence. Seventy years on and many liberation struggles later, UNESCO's mandate is as relevant as ever. Cultural diversity is under attack and new forms of intolerance, rejection of scientific facts and threats to freedom of expression challenge peace and human rights. In response, UNESCO's duty remains

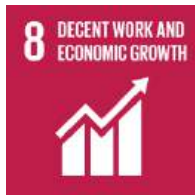


to reaffirm the humanist missions of education, science and culture.
UNESCO has a unique role to play in strengthening the foundations of lasting peace and equitable and sustainable development. Advancing cooperation in

education, the sciences, culture, communication and information holds strategic stakes at a time when societies across the world face the rising pressures of change and the international community faces new challenges.



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The Cooperation between Albania and UNESCO

The cooperation between Albania and UNESCO is multisectoral and coherent with national development priorities as well as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2006-2010. One of the aspects of cooperation is the UNESCO's assistance to Albania in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the Sustainable Development Objectives as well as respecting international commitments. In this context, the country's priorities reflected in the National Strategy on Economic and Social Development and the action plans that have been implemented on Albania's EU membership process are taken into account.

The relations of Albania with UNESCO are long-lasting and productive. Since the Albanian membership in this organization on October 16, 1958, the spirit of cooperation has been constant and focused in all four areas of the Organization's activity, namely education, science, culture and communication. Although the cooperation with UNESCO during the communist regime in Albania was influenced by the limitations of the system, still a great impact of UNESCO can be noticed during the period 1960-1970. Our cooperation with the

Organization marks a real revival after the 90s. The Albanian government required to re-establish cooperation at a new stage, particularly with regard to gaining expertise in identifying and protecting the rich cultural heritage of the country. In 1992, Butrint was the first Albanian site to be included in the World Heritage List. This is an important first step in re-evaluating our national heritage in the light of sustainable development and the promotion of cultural heritage.

In **1995**, Mr. Federico Major, the former UNESCO General Director, visited Albania for the first time. In **2000**, with the opening of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to UNESCO, the appointment of an Ambassador, as well as the establishment of the structure of the UNESCO National Commission, was an activation of the agendas and exchanges with the Organization in all its areas of activity.

On 17-19 September 2001, another General Director of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, visits Albania. The visit of Mr. Matsuura to our country, Honorary Citizen of the City of Gjirokastra since 2000, served to strengthen the cooperation between UNESCO and Albania, as well as regional cooperation in

the areas covered by this Organization. On the occasion of the visit of Mr. Matsuura, the National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the House of Books and Communication, organized the Conference “Albania - Challenges of Integration”, where widely Albanian intellectuals participated. In **October 2001**, the delegation of our country was led to the proceedings of the 31st Session of the General Conference, by the Foreign Minister of that time, Ms. Arta Dade. During this Session, Albania was elected a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for Social Transformation Program, increasing its representation in the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committees.

Whereas in **April 2002**, the former Foreign Minister, Ms. Arta Dade, attended the High Level Conference on Strengthening UNESCO’s co-operation with Southeast European Countries. In order to foster the cooperation, this conference set out a number of priority areas of cooperation, supported by a fund of 6.5 million USD, which was allocated in areas such as:

- education of human rights and democracy;
- improving the scientific network;
- promoting cultural diversity;
- access to new information technologies;

In **2003**, Albania was strongly engaged in the dialogue of civilizations and cultures, a serious commitment of UNESCO to bring closer different countries and regions of the world under the motto “Unity in Diversity”. In this context, Albania’s concrete contribution was the organization at the end of 2003 in Tirana of the International Conference on Interreligious Dialogue, “Religions and Civilizations in the New Millennium - Albania Case” under the patronage of the former President

of the Republic of Albania, Z Alfred Moisiu and the General Director of UNESCO, Mr. Matsuura. As an example of further care for material and cultural heritage of Albania, UNESCO drew attention to the preparation and publication of the Catalogue “Kodikwt e Shqipwrisw”. It was later recorded in the “Memory of Humanity”. During 2003, Albania was elected for the first time as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Physical Education and Sports (CIGEPS).

In **October 2004**, the former President of the Republic, Mr. Alfred Moisiu held an official visit to UNESCO, during which an exhibition was opened in the context of awareness rising for the Gjirokastra inclusion on the World Heritage List.

During **2004-2006**, Albania supported several important UNESCO Conventions and Declarations such as the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage the International International Declaration on Human Genetic Data. It was politically involved in major debates on some of the key issues, namely the need for a Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the fight against doping in sports, the quality of education, information society, etc.

The **33rd session** of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in October 2005, marked another step forward in cooperation of Albania with UNESCO. This session was preceded by a series of important achievements for our country, such as:

- June 2005: Registration of Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae in the Memory of the World Register
- July 2005: Withdrawal of Butrint from the List of World Heritage in Danger July 2005: Inclusion of the Historic Centre of Gjirokastra in “World

Heritage List”;

- November 2005: the Albanian Iso-Polyphony was proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity W.

In the **34th Session** of the UNESCO General Conference, Albania was elected for the first time as a member of the Executive Council, the highest decision-making body of the Organization. The performance within the UNESCO Executive Council not only left its footprint as a valuable experience in drafting and implementing the Organizations’ policies, but also in fostering cooperation between Albania and UNESCO itself. At the 35th session of the General Conference of the Organization, held in October 2009, Albania was elected member of two important Committees: the Intergovernmental

Committee of the International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC), as well as in the Governance of Social Transformation (MOST). In **2008**, “The Albanian Folk Iso-Polyphony” file is registered on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, thus becoming the first Albanian element in this list. In the same year, Berat was registered on the World Heritage List. This was a great achievement for our country, as it marks the third site entry on this very prestigious UNESCO list.

During 10-13 June 2014, in Jönköping, Sweden, the UNESCO International Coordination Council for the Man and Biosphere Program approved the inclusion of the Prespa-Ohrid Basin in the biosphere reserve network. Our country is preparing another biographical folder for cross-border biosphere



reserve, in cooperation with Montenegro, that of “Lake of Shkodra”.

Increasing the capacity, increasing Albania’s engagements and contributions to UNESCO’s policies, its involvement in a number of Albanian sites in the UNESCO World Cultural, Spiritual and Natural Heritage, enables to Albania to be elected for the second time as a member of UNESCO Executive Council for the period 2013-2017. And Albania’s success and commitment to UNESCO’s policies is repeated in 2017, with a re-election, in a second term, at the UNESCO’s highest decision-making body, at its Executive Council for the period 2017 -2021.

Also in **2017**, Albania was elected a member state of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the representative of the State Party for this Committee held the presidency for the period 2017-2018.

Our Representative in UNESCO is also elected Vice-President of the Culture Commission of the General Conference (2017-2019); President of the Special Committee of the Executive Council; as

well as become part of the Bureau of the Executive Council. Our country is also a member of the Group of Friends #Unite4Heritage.for gender equality, prevention of violent extremism through education and the safety of journalists.

In **2018** UNESCO supports the new Albanian Media Council and the project “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe”. Officially registered in December 2015, the Albanian Media Council is the newest self-regulatory body in South East Europe. The signing of a partnership with UNESCO in summer 2017, enabled the setting up of its office in September 2017 and the organization of its first board meeting in October 2017.

The Project Building Trust in Media in South East Europe aims to support freedom of expression, access to information and free, independent and pluralistic media by reinforcing national media accountability mechanisms, increasing media internal governance and strengthening media and information literacy.

On the eve of its 60th Anniversary of membership, Albania is committed to continue its contribution to the implementation of sustainable development policies in the field of education, culture, science, communication, preservation and promotion of cultural, spiritual and natural heritage.

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Communiqué de Presse No. 1818
Paris, le 17 Octobre 1958

L'ALBANIE, 81^{ème} ETAT MEMBRE DE L'UNESCO

Le Représentant de l'Albanie a signé hier, 16 Octobre, à Londres, au nom de son Gouvernement, l'Acte constitutif de l'Unesco, déposé au Foreign Office.

L'Albanie devient ainsi le 81^{ème} Etat-membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Education, la Science et la Culture.



Constitution of the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
The signature of the Representative of Albania, H.E.Mr. Dhimitwr Lamani

L'Albanie organise actuellement un service chargé de la coopération avec l'Unesco, qui sera le moyen de la coopération internationale.

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Albania - Promoting and applying UNESCO's Standard-Setting Instruments

A set of conventions has been established to ensure the protection and safeguarding of humanity's shared heritage in both its tangible and intangible forms. UNESCO has been working to support the efforts of the Government of Albania to meet its International commitments to the conventions adopted, namely:

- Universal Copyright Convention with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI (1952);
- First Protocol to the Universal Copyright Convention Concerning the Application of this Convention to Stateless Persons and Refugees, done at Geneva on 6 September 1952;
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol (1954);
- Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.
- Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960);
- International Convention for the Protection of Producers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (1961);
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against the women (1979);
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971);
- Universal Copyright Convention, as revised on 24 July 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI (1971); ...
- Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms (1971);
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);
- Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in the European Region (1997);
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);
- Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005);
- International Convention Against Doping in Sports (2005).

CULTURE

“Culture, cultural diversity and cultural heritage have an important contribution to sustainable social and economic development of contemporary societies and to the quality of peoples’ lives, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

*Tirana Declaration, 2017
Third Ministerial Conference of the Council of
Ministers of Culture of South East Europe
Enhancing Culture for Sustainable
Development*



For years, Albanian culture remained the last secret to be discovered in Europe. For more than 30 years after the membership in UNESCO, due to the country's political isolation, the cooperation of Albania with UNESCO in the field of culture has been formal.

After the 1990s, the culture has been the core of the relationship between Albania and UNESCO, consisting mainly in:

- assistance in drafting strategic and programming documents ;
- multilateral cooperation with various institutions
- support in implementation of projects
- support in capacity building in the field of cultural heritage

A number of significant national initiatives and projects in the field of cultural heritage have been implemented thanks to the assistance and support of UNESCO.

UNESCO has been the main supporter in the conservation of the outstanding universal value of Cultural World Heritage sites in Albania. The significant technical and international assistance of 1997, 2002, 2006, 2008 have been crucial to the Albanian state in the nomination process and the efforts for protection and conservation of Butrint and historic centers of Gjirokastra and Berat. The EU-UNESCO Project

“Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region” can be referred to as the most recent successful cooperation in this field. It is designed to support the governments of Albania and Macedonia in their efforts to protect the Ohrid Lake area. This project supports the preparation of the nomination file for extension of the world heritage site “Natural and cultural heritage of Ohrid region”.

UNESCO has also supported the efforts of the Government of Albania in strengthening the potential of Albania's cultural heritage in the framework of different programs such as the Joint Programme: “Culture and Heritage for Social and Economic Development”, funded under the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund (2007).

One of the main priorities of the Ministry of Culture policy is the capacity building in the field of cultural heritage which has been developed thanks to the continuous cooperation and technical assistance of UNESCO. In that framework, the regional centers of excellence which were established through the support of UNESCO within the framework of the Annual Ministerial Conferences on Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, are key partners for the enhancement of regional cooperation

and the development of institutional and professional capacities in the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

The Regional Centre on the Restoration of Cultural Heritage in Tirana, is one of the four centers established within this cooperation framework. The establishment of the Centre was based on the agreement signed in 2005 between UNESCO and the Council of Ministers of Albania. It began to function in 2007, thanks to a project managed by the UNESCO Venice Office and financed by the Italian Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Italian Development Cooperation). It currently operates under the authority of the Institute for Cultural Monuments and provides short, medium and long-term training courses for young professionals in the field of restoration and conservation of cultural heritage.

The Ministry of Culture is currently considering new legal and administrative measures for the further enhancement of the Centre, based on the provision of the Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums.

During the period 2007 - 2018 the Centre has organized and implemented 12 training courses (short, medium and long-term) in cooperation with UNESCO by providing certificates for the participants of these trainings.

Capacity building activities during the last

five years (2014 - 2018)

- Regional training course on conservation of ceramic artifacts implemented in coordination with and financial support of UNESCO (2014).
- 3D archaeological reconstruction of the Roman Theatre in the ancient city of Butrint implemented in the framework of the Participation Program 2014 - 2015.
- National training workshop “Building capacities for the Convention of 2003 of UNESCO” (2015) - in cooperation with Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- National training workshop on the development of monitoring indicators for the World Heritage property “Historic Centers of Gjirokastra and Berat (2016).
- National training course “Structural Analysis and Reinforcement Methods and Techniques of Historic Masonry Buildings” implemented in the framework of the Participation Programme 2016-2017.
- National training workshop “Building capacities and promoting the digitized inventory of cultural properties and the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property” implemented in the framework of the Participation Programme 2016-2017.
- Regional training course “Emergency Response to Cultural Heritage at Risk” (2018).

- Management planning workshops and capacity building activities implemented in the framework of EU-UNESCO project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” (2014-2017).

The Albanian Government, and particularly the Ministry of Culture of Albania, adhering to recommendations of UNESCO’s programs for Albania (Country Programming Documents for Albania) and UNESCO’s strategic documents in the field of culture, has undertaken a number of national initiatives, the most important of which can be mentioned as below:

1. Drafting, preparation and adoption of the Law on Cultural Heritage and Museums. The new Law 27/2018 “On Cultural Heritage and Museums” is in line with UNESCO conventions in the field of culture and aims to preserve, protect, evaluate and manage the national cultural heritage, including museums. The law contributes to the preservation of the national memory and to the promotion of the cultural development in the territory of the Republic of Albania. It is an important legal tool for the conservation,

protection, evaluation and management of national cultural landscapes in relation to the aspects and characteristics that constitute a tangible and visible representation of the national identity.

This law also determines the relationship and rules for the establishment, accreditation, operation and organization of public and private museums in the Republic of Albania. It also constitutes a step forward towards the preservation, protection, administration and exhibition of museum artefacts and collections.

2. During the last years, Albania has recognized the importance of the role of museums in the society and has undertaken projects for building and reconstructing different national museums, namely the Archaeological Museum of Durrës, the National Museum of Photography “Marubi”, the National Museum of Medieval Art, Korça, and the Museum of Secret Surveillance “House of Leaves”, Tirana. Furthermore, the revitalization and empowerment of national museums through the enrichment of collections is a direct contribution to the strengthening of national identity and promotion of cultural heritage values.

The Project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region”

The Government of Albania (represented by the Ministry for Tourism and Environment) and Ministry of Culture) is actively engaged in the nomination process for a site included on Albania’s Tentative List for World Heritage: “*Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region*”, which has been selected as a Pilot Upstream project for a proposed transboundary extension to the existing World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The integrity of this World Heritage property would be significantly reinforced by extending it to the remaining one-third of Lake Ohrid located in Albania.

Designed to support both countries in their efforts to protect the Ohrid Lake area, the project EU-UNESCO Transboundary Project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” which was supported by ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN besides supporting the preparation of the nomination dossier for this extension was focused on the protection of culture as well as nature, recognising their multiple values, addressing the main threats and harnessing opportunities through a sustainable development approach.



ALBANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UNESCO'S LISTS

As member state in several UNESCO's Standard-Setting Instruments Albania's cultural heritage is represented in some of the most important internationally well recognized Lists and Programs of UNESCO.

Albanian cultural sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List

- Butrint (1992)
- Historic Centres of Gjirokastra and Berat (2005, 2008)

Butrint

Butrint, located in the south of Albania approximately 20 km from the city of Saranda, has a special atmosphere created by a rare combination of archaeology, monuments and natural beauty.

The ancient city of Butrint was first proclaimed cultural monument in 1948. Due to its importance for the preservation of archaeological and historical heritage, Butrint was designated in 1992 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site under criterion iii as a unique and exceptional testimony of a cultural tradition and civilization that disappeared.

The world heritage property is a microcosm of Mediterranean history, with occupation dating from 50.000 BC, at its earliest evidence, up to the 19th century AD.

Being inhabited since prehistoric times, the site has hosted a Chaonian Greek city, a Roman Colony, and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area.

The site contains a variety of monuments representing each period in the city's development.

The authenticity of the World Heritage property of Butrint is related to its excellent preservation on a site where the changing human interaction with the environment can be observed in the surviving monuments, the below-ground archaeology and the surrounding landscape.





Situated within Butrint National Park, and accessible by only one road and the channel ferry, the outstanding universal values of the site have escaped the kind of aggressive urban development that has threatened or destroyed many other historic landscapes in the Mediterranean region. Following decades of archaeological excavations and projects implemented, the world heritage site and its natural beauty is an exceptionally attractive place to visit.

Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra

Berat and Gjirokastra are listed as World Heritage Site in 2005 and extended in 2008 to include the Historic Centre of Berat as series properties. Berat and Gjirokastra are rare examples of an architectural character typical of the Ottoman period and for their outstanding historic and cultural value were proclaimed as “museum-cities”, in 1961. These two fortified historic centres have been continuously inhabited from ancient times down to the present day. Situated in the Balkans, in Southern Albania, and close to each other, they bear witness to the wealth and diversity of the urban and architectural heritage of this region. Berat and Gjirokastra are testimony to a way of life which has been influenced over a long period by the traditions of Islam during the Ottoman period, while at the same time

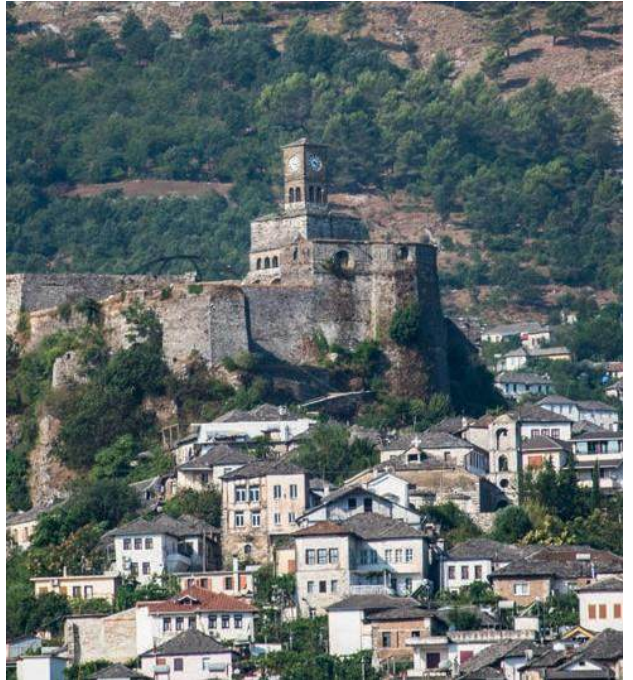
incorporating more ancient influences. This way of life has respected Orthodox Christian traditions which have thus been able to continue their spiritual and cultural development, particularly at Berat.

Gjirokastra is located in the Drinos river valley in southern Albania. Gjirokastra was built by major landowners. Around the ancient 13th century citadel, the town has houses with turrets (the Turkish “kule”) which are characteristic of the Balkans region. Gjirokastra contains several remarkable examples of houses of this type, which date from the 17th century, but also more elaborate examples dating from the early 19th century. The town also retains a bazaar, an 18th-century mosque and two churches of the same period.

Located in central Albania, Berat bears wit-











ness to the coexistence of various religious and cultural communities down the centuries. It features a castle, locally known as the “Kala”, most of which was built in the 13th century, although its origins date back to the 4th century BC. The citadel area numbers many Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built under the Ottoman era which began in 1417. Berat is testimony of a town which was fortified but open, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban centre reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and the 19th centuries.

Albanian folk iso-polyphony:



Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2005). Traditional Albanian polyphonic music can be divided into two major stylistic groups performed by the Ghegs of northern Albania and the Tosks and Labs of Labëria living in the southern part of the country. The term “iso” is related to the “ison” of Byzantine church music and refers to the drone accompanying polyphonic singing., this music traditionally accompanies a wide range of social events, such as weddings, funerals,

harvest feasts, religious celebrations and festivals, supported by Ministry of Culture, such as the well-known National Folk Festival in Gjirokastra, which takes place every five years, the National Folk Typological Festival of Iso- polyphony, which takes place every 2 years in the city of Vlora, the Festival of Saze in Korca, the “BylisFonia” Festival, and many local activities. Albanian iso-polyphony is characterized by songs consisting of two solo parts, a melody and a countermelody with a choral drone.

From the geographic point of view, the Iso-polyphony covers in broad terms the Southern Albania. It is practiced in the regions of Vlora, Tepelena, Gjirokastra (World Heritage Centre), Gjirokastra, Saranda, Mallakstra, Fier, and in the regions of Berat, Permet, Leskovik, Korce, Devoll, Skrapar, Myzeqe etj.

Two-voice iso-polyphony represents the simplest form of Albanian polyphony. Iso-polyphony is practiced mainly by men, but there are a number of female singers,



as well. Many foreign authors have mentioned this element in their works, such as George Gordon Byron in his work “Child Harold’s Pilgrimage”, Marie Montag in “Letters and Works”, F.C Poqueville in his “Voyage en

Moree, a Costandinople en Albanie”, etc. Painters also have depicted this in some of their works such as: Alexander Decamps in his painting “Albanian Dancers” or Leon Gerome and K. Udvil in their paintings titled “Albanians’ singing”.

Codex Beratinus Purpureus and Codex Aureus Anthimi

Codex Beratinus Purpureus Phi (also known as Codex of Berat number 1, Gregory-Aland no. 043), is a manuscript that was copied in the 6th century A.D. in an imperial scriptorium in Constantinople or in Asia Minor. It contains the gospels of Matthew and Mark written in Greek, in two columns, 17 lines per column, with silver and gold letters on purple parchment. The manuscript was present in Berat, south-central Albania, from the year 1356. Nowadays is preserved



at the Central State Archive, Tirana, Albania. It is one of the 5 purple manuscripts that date on the 6th century.

Codex Aureus Anthimi (or Codex of Berat number 2, Gregory-Aland no. 1143), is a Byzantine manuscript from the 9th century A.D., containing the four Gospels. It is written on purple parchment (the color has now been deteriorated into yellowish-green) in Greek minuscule letters, in golden ink, in one column, with 17 lines to the page. The manuscript has four gold miniatures of the four Evangelists, making it a unique surviving piece of its time worldwide. The manuscript was copied in an imperial scriptorium in Constantinople or in Asia Minor during the period known as the Macedonian Renaissance. The manuscript was present in Berat, south-central Albania, since the middle of the 19th century. Nowadays is preserved at the Central State Archive, Tirana, Albania.



ALBANIAN CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE TENTATIVE LIST

The National Tentative List of Albania consists of five properties having cultural and/or natural heritage values, namely:

The Amphitheatre of Durrës (inscribed on the Tentative List in 1996)

The Amphitheatre of Durrës is one of the largest in the Balkans, which contains remarkable functional and constructive architectural values, the only one of its kind discovered in Albania. The size and the technical realization of this amphitheatre testify to a blooming of the ancient city of Durres during the first centuries AD.

Used for performances until the 4th Century AD, the monument was later the site of an early Christian chapel, beautifully decorated with mosaics and frescoes, and a 13th Century medieval chapel.

The amphitheater was discovered in the 1960s and excavated to its current state in the 1980s. Situated nearby the archaeological museum of Durrës it is nowadays one of the most visited cultural destination of Albania.







Royal Tombs of Lower Selca (inscribed on the Tentative List in 1996)

On the banks of the Shkumbin river near the Pogradec city, lie the ruins of the ancient city of Pelion and its necropolis. Situated along the ancient road connecting coastal Albania to Macedonia, this settlement was an important trading center and the residence of 4th and 3rd Century Illyrian kings.

The royal tombs are carved into the rock around and underneath the acropolis, some with distinctive Ionic columns. Archaeologists have discovered a number of artifacts, including weapons, bronze vessels, ceramics and gold jewelry. The city began to decline after the ancient Via Egnatia bypassed its location, and was eventually destroyed by the Slavs. Illyrian Royal Tombs is a site of great mystical beauty, one of the many Albanian hidden gems worth a drive off the beaten tracks.



Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region

(inscribed on the Tentative List in 2011)

The Lake Ohrid region is home to one of the world's oldest lakes. The surrounding region is also significant for its cultural heritage within and linked to the natural setting. The area lying within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was inscribed as one of the first mixed World Heritage properties under the name '*Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region*'. In 2009 it was proposed that the property might be usefully extended to include the Albanian side, as this would significantly reinforce the integrity of the property and its values.

The Albanian Authorities (represented by the Ministry for Tourism and Environment) and Ministry of Culture) within the framework of the EU-UNESCO '*Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region*' is currently engaged in the nomination process for a transboundary extension to the existing World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The proposed extension encompasses the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid region including the Lin Peninsula and the northern coastal strip to the Macedonian border and the Dylon springs and the watercourses linking them to the World Heritage Property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia including both the cultural and natural components.



The Ancient city of Apollonia (inscribed on the Tentative List in 2014)

The ancient city of Apollonia situated in southwestern Albania, approximately 13 miles from the city of Fier lies in a rolling Mediterranean landscape. The sprawling archaeological site covers an area 800 ha and visitors can roam around a variety of impressive monuments. The fascinating landscape of the archeological park is preserved intact..

The city foundation took place immediately after the foundation of Epidamnus - Dyrrachium in the lands of the Illyrian TaulantTribe and it quickly became one of the most eminent cities of the Adriatic basin.

What really makes the Apollonia site a significant resource are the high cultural, historical, and architectural values arising from the fact that the site includes an associated group of buildings with original remains from various civilisations of Illyrian, ancient Greek, Roman and Medieval periods.

At the heart of the site stands the Monastery of St. Mary, dated back to 13th -14th centuries AD. The Monastery of St. Mary represents the medieval period and is composed of the Church and Refectory. The church, built in about 1220, is unique in Albania owing to the unusual configuration of its cruciform shape and was built in part from spolia from the ancient theatre.





The Castle of Bashtova:

The Castle of Bashtova was nationally designated in 1948. Located in the central part of Albania, the Castle has been considered as a very strategic point at the time of its construction. It controlled a very large area to the Adriatic coast to the west, and the same area to the valley from the east.

According to the Turkish traveler Evliya Çelebi, the castle was founded by the Venetians and was conquered by the Ottoman Empire at the time Fatih Sultan was directed toward Shkodra. Bashtova Village was known as a centre for the export of grains until the late 14th century.; time when the cereal commencing passed from Ragusians to the Venetians. For the first time, Bashtova appears in a map as a castle (not only as a trading village) on 1521, in the Piri Reiz's map, as part of a manual which serving to seafarers for practical needs.





EDUCATION

“Education is a fundamental human right and an enabling right which contributes significantly to the realization of other rights. It is a public good, of which the state is the duty bearer. Education is also a foundation for human fulfilment, peace, sustainable development, economic growth, decent work, gender equality and responsible global citizenship.”



- I. UNESCO presence and contribution in Albania in the field of education, culture and beyond is evident in various aspects:
 1. UNESCO strategic and programmatic documents in the field of education have been leading and guiding the policy making process in this field.
 2. UNESCO has been present with its representative offices and multilateral cooperation in numerous institutions.
 3. UNESCO has also been present in long-term projects in the field of education.

- II. UNESCO contribution in Albania in the field of education and culture has been spread in time and different levels:
 1. Contribution in strategic level in analyzing the education system and offering suggestions and recommendations for the long-term strategic development in the field.
 - Contribution in developing long term policies in Pre University Education
 - Contribution in developing policies in vocational education.

(SDG4-Education 2030 and the Education Policy Review)

The Education Policy Review started in 2015 in Republic of Albania having as the main focus to support the country vision for the education reform and its national, regional and international aspiration. Sustainable relationships of Albania

with UNESCO, as a key international partner for development, constitute an ideal example for technical cooperation of EPR. Having based on UNESCO expertise, the report of EPR, presents a fact-based analysis for the harmonization of the continuous efforts for the national reforms and the commitment of Albania in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially in the field of education. Aiming for equal, inclusive and quality education as well as supporting the life long learning opportunities, Albania is fostering the way for long-term reforms towards EU integration and alignment with SDG4-Education 2030.

- III. Contribution at central level by assisting professionally and financially in designing programmatic documents which have supported the education institutions to develop curricula, train and evaluate teachers.

UNESCO programs in Albania:

- a. Albania Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programs (2006)
- b. Project: Encouraging and developing intercultural and inter-religious understanding through education in Albania
- c. Program: Intercultural and Interreligious Perspectives in History and Geography Textbooks -UNESCO & IED (Institute of Education Development) Cooperation, 2010-2011
- d. World Data on Education, Albania (April 2007)

Science

CO-OPERATION OF ALBANIA WITH UNESCO IN SCIENCE

- Special importance, supported by UNESCO, has been paid to the international cooperation in the field of science becoming in this way an element of the scientific diplomacy.
- Since the creation of the World Science Day for Peace and Development on November 10th 2001 by UNESCO, a series of activities promoting the role of women in science and fostering their participation in scientific research organized have been organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture, based in Venice, Italy (UNESCO Venice Office)
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- UNESCO has paid special interest in preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Albania by supporting a number of initiatives to help in the academic development of researchers in the field of history, archeology and architecture. On the other hand, a number of UNESCO- natural disaster prevention projects, in particular in Shkodra region, have encouraged the participation of scientific research capacities other re-

search structures that deal with water management.

- Through the so-called Venice Process, since 2001, where the meeting of Southeast European science ministers in Sarajevo met for the first time, UNESCO has encouraged the ministries of science and education of the region, including Albania to have an agenda in the field of science.
- UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture, based in Venice, Italy, supported the above mentioned approach through the Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Education and Science assembled in Tirana focused on two main directions, such as supporting the policy in the field of science and strengthening the research capacities in science.
- The National Strategy for Science, Technology 2009-2015 and the project with INSTAT for the national research statistics were funded through UNESCO Regional Office in Venice - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE) in the framework of the initiatives to support the scientific policies.
- The Southeast European Astronomi-



cal Research Network was created.

- UNESCO has also supported the creation of the Human Genetics and Biotechnology Network. A number of Sub-Regional Networks in the field of scientific research were also part of these initiatives, from which Albanian scientists, also benefited. In this context, Albania also participated in the European Network in Phytochemistry

and Chemistry of the Natural Products for Sustainable Growth and Green-SEE-Phyto-ChemNet, the Sub regional Euro-Atlantic Committee of Australia - SREAC. w

- The first Western Balkans Regional Research and Development [Strategy for Innovation was endorsed in Zagreb, Croatia, on 25 October 2013](#) by the ministers of science from the Region.

ENVIRONMENT



Cooperation with UNESCO in the field of environment

The history of cooperation with UNESCO on the environment sector dates back nearly two decades ago.



Ohrid-Prepa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, adopted in June 2014, was the result of a long-lasting process started in 1996 and 10 years of work, towards the integration of the Ohrid and Prespa Lakes into the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Ohrid-Prepa TBR is since part of World Network of Biosphere, following its designation as site by the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, at its 26th session in Jönköping (Sweden) and in the East Vättern Landscape biosphere reserve. With this new inscription, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The landscape of the TBR is a balanced combination of water bodies, and surrounding mountains bordered by flat areas on its external boundaries. Covering an area of 446,244 hectares TBR includes part of Lake Ohrid and its surroundings in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which are inscribed on the World Heritage

List, as well as part of Lake Ohrid in Albania. The entire area of the TBR is rich in biodiversity with worldwide rare and endangered species. Due to the historical genesis of the two lakes, numerous endemic species which



Primeval beech forests

The first two Albanian natural sites have received UNESCO protection as an extension of the World Heritage site of the Primeval Beech Forests, in July 2017.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has inscribed Albania's Gashi River and Rajce, two locally protected areas, on the World Heritage List as an extension of the World Heritage site of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany. The decision was made

at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland.

The protected area now stretches over 12 countries including Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine.

Since the end of the last Ice Age, European beech spread from mountain refuges systems.

the Alps, Carpathians, Mediterranean and Pyrenees over a short period of a few thousand years in a process that is still ongoing. This successful expansion is related to the tree's flexibility and tolerance of different climatic, geographical and physical conditions.

Albanian experts who worked on the UNESCO application had described the newly inscribed areas as the last 'islands' of virgin woods remaining in Albania where 10-year wood cutting moratorium has been in place since 2016 in bid to protect remaining woods after decades of illegal logging and clearing for agriculture. The Gashi River is located in northeastern Albania in the border zone with Montenegro and Kosovo in the area of the European Green Belt.

The integrity of the Gashi river is expressed by the structure of the forests (old trees and high deadwood share and by the occurrence of the primeval forest indicator lichen *Lobaria pulmonata*, which is growing on the stems of old beech trees.



Rrajca forest (Photo: Fatmir Brazhda)

Rrajca is located in the upper Bustrica valley within the borders of Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park in the north-eastern part of Librazhd in the Elbasan region, central Albania.

The average stand age of the Rrajca component part is 180 years. On steep slopes in remote areas primary forest remnants survived serving as authenticity.

Experts says the area of Rrajca with its primary forest complexes has been conserved due to its isolation under communism "in the former border zone of the iron curtain and due to its remoteness with very difficult access." The area is also an important habitat for the endangered Balkan Lynx.

These inscriptions, Albania's first natural sites to get UNESCO protection, also serve the country's emerging tourism industry and efforts to develop sustainable tourism. Albania already boasts three UNESCO World Heritage sites, intangible heritage such as iso-polyphony music and material

cultural heritage dating back ancient times. The Butrint archaeological park and the historic towns of Gjirokastra and Berat, in southern Albania unveil the rich cultural heritage in Albania, a gateway to the Mediterranean boasting a mix of Illyrian, Roman, Greek and Ottoman civilizations.

View of Ohrid lake region

The country is currently working to include Albania's part of Lake Ohrid, join that of neighboring FYROM, as a UNESCO World Heritage mixed natural and cultural property.

Since 2014, Albania has been part of an EU-funded project with Macedonia aimed at improving the trans-boundary cooperation and management effectiveness for the protection of the natural and cultural heritage in Lake Ohrid.

The entire Albanian part of the prospective World Heritage property and the buffer zone around coincides with the territory of the Pogradec Protected Landscape and is entirely within the boundaries of Pogradec Municipality. The proposed extension includes the whole of the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid, Lin Peninsula, the coastal strip north to the Macedonian border, and Drimon Springs with the watercourses linking them to Lake Ohrid, covering 11,378.6 ha in total. The proposed extension also includes a

buffer zone comprising 15,944.4 ha. The Nomination File was completed and handed over to WHC of UNESCO on the 1st February 2018. The assessment is on-going for the site, which is expected to be discussed in June 2019 at the UNESCO Committee annual meeting.



A glance of Ohrid Lake



The Ohrid trout (*Salmo letnica*) is an endemic species of trout in Lake Ohrid and in its tributaries and outlet, the Black Drin river, in the FYROM and Albania in the Balkans.

Albanian stamps dedicated to UNESCO

The Albanian Post has selected a set of postage Albanian stamps dedicated to UNESCO and the cultural heritage of Albania, part of the list in UNESCO. These series depict Butrint, Berat and Gjirokastra, Codex Purpureus Beratinus, the Albanians Iso - Polyphony, etc. as well as other sites of Albanian cultural heritage, candidates for being part of the UNESCO lists.

"The Week of the Monuments", the year of issue -1959 (dedicated to Butrint)
 " UNESCO 20-years ". The year of issue -1966



The ancient Illyrian cities. The year of issue 1983 (dedicated to Butrint, Apollonia, the Amphitheatre of Durrës).

The Amphitheatre of Durrës

Apollonia

Butrint



Codex Purpureus. The year of issue 1996

Codex Purpureus. The year of issue 1998



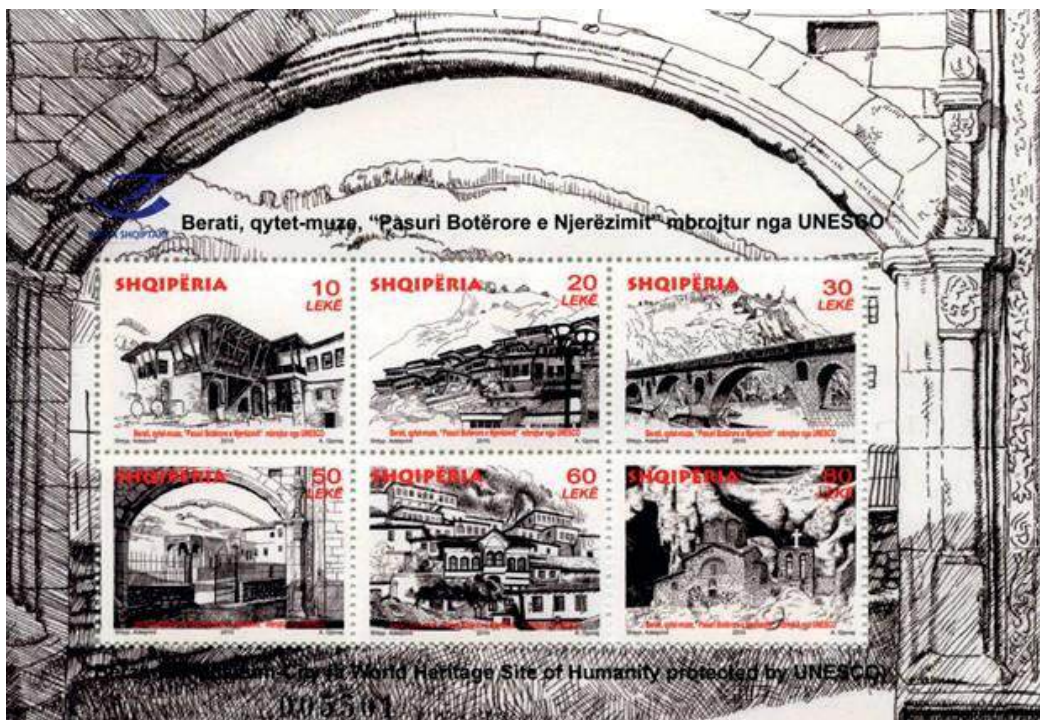
Gjirokastra a city - museum in UNESCO. The year of issue 2007



Albanian iso-polyphony "A masterpiece of oral and spiritual heritage of humanity". UNESCO, November 25th, 2005. The year of issue 2009



Berat a city - museum, protected by UNESCO. The year of issue 2010



Activities on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the membership of Albania to UNESCO

organized by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture of Albania:

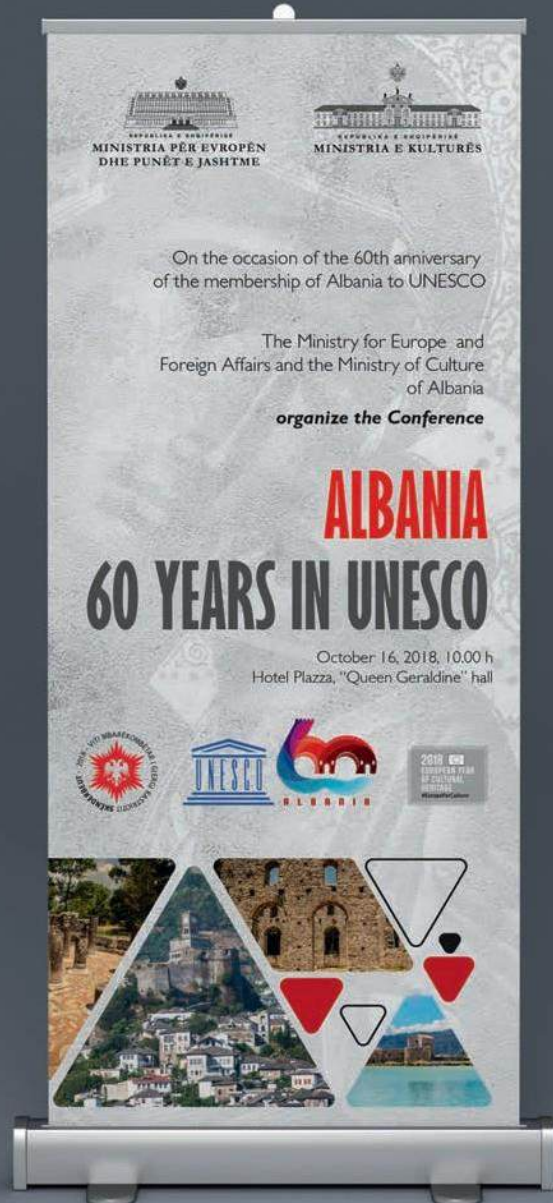
1. Meeting with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Albania

07 June 2018

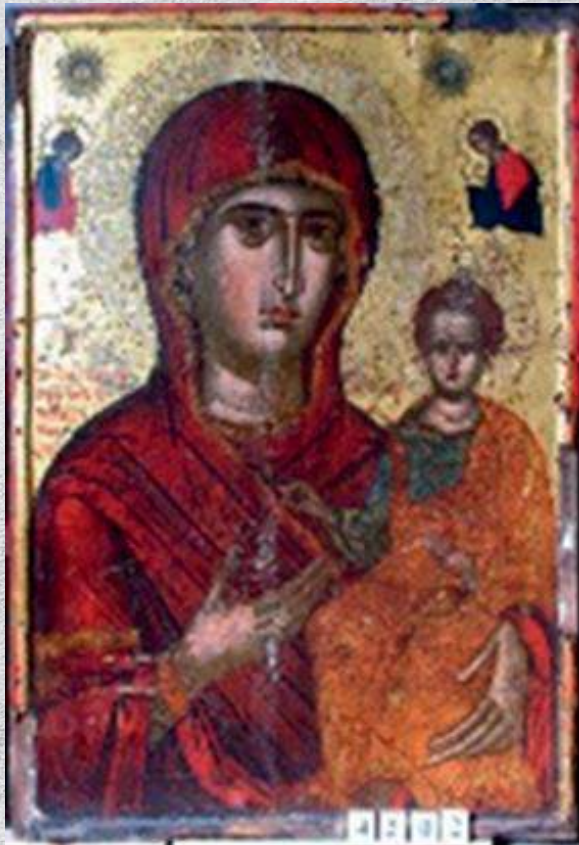
On 7 June, UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, met with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Albania, Mirela Kumbaro, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.



2. The National Conference: “Albania, 60 years in UNESCO” on October 16, 2018, at Hotel Piazza, Tirana.



3. The Exhibition “Window in medieval Albanian art” with 20 masterpieces of Albanian iconography, from 19th to 23th November 2018. The inauguration of the exhibition on November 19, 2018, at the Salles Mirò, Maison de l’UNESCO, 125 Avenue de Suffren, Paris 7e.



The Saint Mary
All Saints



The Saint Mary
All Saints



Sanctuary doors

UNESCO AND ALBANIA: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 16 October 1958.
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** yes (2013-2021)
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.**
Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (term expires in 2021)
4. **The former Director-General's visits to Albania:** 1
 - 28-30 March 2014: official visit
5. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - H.E. Mr Ferit Hoxha, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate since 6 April 2018
 - Ms Eriona Haxhia, Second Secretary
 - Ms Ermira Godo, Executive Assistant
 - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Ms Venera Domi (June 2016 - March 2018)Albania is covered by the UNESCO Venice Office.
6. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
 - Date of establishment: 1959
 - Chairperson: Ms Lindita Nikolla, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports
 - Secretary-General: Mr Sokol Gjoka
7. **UNESCO Chairs:** 1
 - UNESCO Chair on Multiculturalism, Intercultural Dialogue and Human Rights in the Balkans, Marin Barleti University (2016)
8. **Associated Schools:** 20 (1 nursery and pre-school, 2 primary, 16 secondary schools, and 1 teacher-training institution). Albania joined the ASP Network in 1990.
9. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
10. **National Commission for UNESCO**

