

	State	Republic of Albania
General information	Status EU membership	Candidate country (since June 2014), since 2020 accession negotiations opened, Contracting Party of the Energy Community Treaty ¹
	Population	2.9 million (2020) ²
	Land area (km²)	28,750 km ²³
	Urban population (%)	61.23% (2019) ⁴
Socio-economic situation	GDP (current US\$ billion)	15.3 (2020) ⁵
	GDP per capita (EURO)	4,610 (2020) ⁶
	Annual net earnings (Single person without children earning 100% of average earning (EURO))	n.a.
	Median hourly earnings (EURO)	1.73 (2018) ⁷
	World Bank economic classification (2021)	Upper-middle-income country ⁸
	Unemployment (% of total labor force)	11.7% (2020) ⁹
Energy situation in general	Current energy sources	Total energy supply in 2019: Oil (50%), Renewables (43%), Coal (4%), Natural gas (3%) ¹⁰ From the 43% renewable energy supply in 2019 61% were from hydro, 36% from bioenergy and 2% from solar ¹¹ Electricity generation in 2020 consisted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-renewable 0 GWh (0%) ○ Renewable 5 313 GWh (100%), of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hydro: 5 281 GWh (99%) ● Solar: 32 GWh (1%) ● Wind: 0 GWh ● Bioenergy: 0 GWh ● Geothermal: 0 GWh¹² Most of the hydropower is coming from large hydropower plants >10 MW ¹³ *An Overview of Albania's energy system by fuel and sector is available in the International Energy Agency Albania 2022 Energy Policy Review 2020. ¹⁴
	Climate protection targets	INDC: reduce CO ₂ emissions until 2030 by 11.5% compared to baseline (708kT CO ₂ reduction) ¹⁵
	Renewable energy targets	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) states that 7 MW hydropower, 490 MW of solar PV and 50 MW of wind and 41 MW of waste-to-power by 2020 shall be added (has not been reached) ¹⁶ NREAP goal by 2020 production of 38% of total gross energy consumption from renewable sources ¹⁷

	<p>Renewable energy potential Abundant solar and wind resources, so far mostly untapped¹⁸</p> <p>The distribution of Solar and Wind and Biomass potential are visualized in the IRENA Country Profile Albania.¹⁹</p> <hr/> <p>Renewable energy support regime Small hydropower plants (below 15 MW), solar plants up to 2 MW, and wind plants up to 3 MW benefit from 15-year Power-Purchase-Agreement and feed-in-tariffs (FiTs) via obligatory purchase of energy by the distribution system operator (DSO)^{20 21}</p> <p>Net-metering for small to medium-size solar and wind systems up to 500 kW²²</p>
Legal and political framework for citizen energy	<p>Relevant laws, policies, and plans²³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) under development²⁴ but analyses of the draft plan show need for improvement (e.g. operationalization of policy measures missing, concerns about social and environmental issues and public involvement in decision making)²⁵ - Albania First Solar PV Auction (July 2018)²⁶ - National Energy Sector Strategy (2018) - Albania National Action Plan on Renewable Energy 2018-2020 (published 2018)²⁷, also National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) - National Action Plan for Renewable Energy Resources in Albania 2015-2020 (passed 2016) - National Energy Policy 2013 - Law on creating facilitating conditions for the construction of new sources of electricity generation (Law No. 8987) - Law No. 24/2023 on "Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources" (adopted April 14, 2023), outlines FiTs (compare above), FiTs given to small-scale renewable energy projects²⁸ <p>A comprehensive overview of the legal regulations is been provided by the 2021 report by Milieukontakt.²⁹</p> <p>Regulatory framework for citizen energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Renewable Energy Directive has been partially transposed by Albanian government via the Law on Renewable Energy Sources (Law no.7/2017) - Net metering is allowed for small/medium enterprises and individual consumers, allows to install up to 500kW for RE production for own use, surplus can be fed into the grid
	<p>Evaluation of the legal framework</p> <p>Rather hindering legal framework, main issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept of "energy communities" is currently missing in national legislation (Vaso 2021) - no financial incentives or regulations to support energy communities (Vaso 2021); no tax incentives - lack of a "energy community strategy"³⁰ <p>*Energy Community provides an assessment of implementation performance and key energy sector data, including in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency³¹.</p>
Existing citizen	<p>Citizen energy projects Village of Kutë</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Solar in Kutë' campaign³², initiative of EcoAlbania, EuroNatur and Riverwatch – protecting the Vjosa River and its capacity to

	<p>produce solar energy on the roofs of buildings without the need to destroy the Vjosa river (threat of Poçem hydropower plant to be build)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim to make the community energy self-sufficient - Collecting funds via crowdfunding (Go Fund Me platform and at the EcoAlbania website) - Have produced campaign-videos available on youtube
	<p>Municipality of Tirana – Directorate of Co-owned Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects in format of a Community Fund Initiative; mostly energy conservation and thermal insulation/renovation projects
Research and capacity building activities	<p>EUKI-project: “EUCENA – European Citizen Energy Academy”³³ (10/2020-09/2022), Albania, Germany, Greece; partner: REScoop.eu, Women Engage for a Common Future e.V. (WECF), Bündnis Bürgerenergie e.V., ELECTRA Energy – Social Cooperative, Milieukontakt Albania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on knowledge creation and transfer - Workshops and coaching sessions in Albania, Germany, Greece - 2 summer schools – fostering cooperation between Southeast Europe and Central Europe <p>Report published from the project: “Regulatory framework citizens energy community in Albania”:³⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emphasizing concept of energy community not well-known in Albania - concept of “energy communities” is currently missing in national legislation - energy sector legislation does know the concept of “prosumers” - no financial incentives or regulations to support energy communities <p>Summary steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a community energy cooperatives (CEC) NGO Forum in Albania to design platform for CE projects - Draft a policy paper – directions of work for the future: include CEC in legal and regulatory documents; create business plans and funds for CEC start-ups etc. - Create a list of contacts - Develop a CEC Academy – conduct summer schools and develop curricula for technical schools³⁵ <p>The project included a presentation at a national meeting on June 9, 2021, with several stakeholders from Albania participating (e.g., representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, the National Agency for Natural Resources, the Energy Efficiency Agency, representatives of the municipality of Tirana and Shkodra, NGOs and experts)³⁶</p>
Relevant actors and NGOs	<p>Milieukontakt Albania³⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 2000 - goal “develop a strong and democratically organized environmental NGO movement”

- Partner in EUKI-funded project “EUCENA – European Citizen Energy Academy”

Center for Protection of the Natural Ecosystems in Albania
(EcoAlbania)³⁸

- non-profit, non-governmental organization created in 2014
- work is mainly focused within the Albanian territory, but it can be expanded in the neighboring countries to implement cross-bordering projects
- ‘Solar in Kutë’ campaign, initiative of EcoAlbania, EuroNatur and Riverwatch – protecting the Vjosa River and its capacity to produce solar energy on the roofs of buildings without the need to destroy the Vjosa river (threat of Poçem hydropower plant to be build)

Regional Education and Information Centre for Sustainable Development in SEE (REIC)³⁹

- non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 2005, located in Sarajevo
- its operational span covers region of Southeast Europe – SEE (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia)
- main objective is to identify environmental problems and needs, along with enhancement of educational initiatives
- co-author of Position Paper „Energy and Climate Planning Albania 2030”⁴⁰

Governmental bodies	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE)
	Albanian Energy Regulatory Authority (ERE)
	Energy Efficiency Agency (EEA)
Local governments	Municipality of Tirana, Directorate of Co-owned Buildings
	Municipality of Shkodra
	Village of Kutë
Private actors	ELECTRA Energy – Social Cooperative ⁴¹
	- Greece cooperative supporting community energy projects in Greece and Europe
International/ supra-national actors	Heinrich Böll Stiftung Regionalbüro Sarajevo
	- Position Paper „Energy and Climate Planning Albania 2030” ⁴² published in 2020
Academia	University “Ismail Qemali” Vlore
Others	Albanian Centre for Energy Regulation and Conservation (ACERC) ⁴³
	Albanian Renewable Energy Association (AREA)

Summarizing evaluation

Fields of Action	<p>The conclusions are mainly build upon the analysis by Milieukontakt⁴⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete transposition of EU legal framework for community energy in national laws is needed - implement measures to improve knowledge on the concept of community energy options in the country, e.g. create a community energy cooperatives (CEC) NGO Forum in Albania, organize summer schools and a CEC Academy - addressing perceived negative connotations of cooperatives, no strong tradition of social enterprises and community ownership - organize stakeholder forums and/or focus group meetings
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- evaluate potential of community energy to provide for just transition
- strengthen capacity building on community energy and cooperate with other countries
- provide local authorities with knowledge around community energy; staff needs to be literate around challenges and chances of community energy
- promote and replicate successful community energy initiatives; raise project's visibility
- evaluate the reasons of people and communities not participating in energy community projects
- simplify permitting procedures for community energy projects
- develop business models for community energy projects

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¹ <https://www.energy-community.org/aboutus/whoweare.html>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/overview#1>

³ <https://www.worlddata.info/europe/albania/index.php>

⁴ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/444566/urbanization-in-albania/>

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/overview#1>

⁶ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=nama_10_pc&lang=en

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/earn_ses_pub2s/default/table?lang=en

⁸ <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS>

¹⁰ https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Europe/Albania_Europe_RE_SP.pdf

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Europe/Albania_Europe_RE_SP.pdf

¹³ <https://www.energy-community.org/implementation/report/Albania.html>

¹⁴ https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Europe/Albania_Europe_RE_SP.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Albania%20First/Albania%20First.pdf>

¹⁶ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/UNECE-RE_Uptake_Factsheet_Albania.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC181524/>

¹⁸ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/UNECE-RE_Uptake_Factsheet_Albania.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Europe/Albania_Europe_RE_SP.pdf

²⁰ Enerdata: Energy Report 2021, Albania

²¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/UNECE-RE_Uptake_Factsheet_Albania.pdf

²² Ibid.

²³ Good overview provided in: Heinrich Böll Stiftung Sarajevo (hg.) 2021: POSITION PAPER ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLANNING ALBANIA 2030. <https://ba.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Position-paper.pdf>

²⁴ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/UNECE-RE_Uptake_Factsheet_Albania.pdf

²⁵ <https://caneurope.org/wb-necp-report-2022/>

²⁶ <https://www.iea.org/countries/Albania>

²⁷ <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ALB181524.pdf>

²⁸ <https://repositum.tuwien.at/bitstream/20.500.12708/187246/1/Tutner%20Anna%20Maria%20-%202023%20-%20The%20Authorization%20Procedures%20for%20Large-Scale%20Solar...pdf>

²⁹ <https://milieukontakt.org/project/eucena-european-citizen-energy-academy/?lang=en>

³⁰ <https://milieukontakt.org/project/eucena-european-citizen-energy-academy/?lang=en>

³¹ <https://www.energy-community.org/implementation/report/Albania.html>

³² <https://www.ecoalbania.org/en/solar-in-kute/>

³³ <https://milieukontakt.org/project/eucena-european-citizen-energy-academy/?lang=en>

³⁴ https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/EUCENA_CEC_Study.pdf

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ <https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/pioneering-community-energy-in-albania>

³⁷ <https://milieukontakt.org/?lang=en>

³⁸ <https://www.ecoalbania.org/en/profile/>

³⁹ <http://www.reic.org.ba/>

⁴⁰ <https://ba.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Position-paper.pdf>

⁴¹ <http://electraenergy.coop/>

⁴² <https://ba.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Position-paper.pdf>

⁴³ <http://albaniaenergy.org/acerc%20english-2/Presentation/ACERC%20Secretariat/index.html>

⁴⁴ <https://milieukontakt.org/project/eucena-european-citizen-energy-academy/?lang=en>