



EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

The right to education index findings for Albania 2018

What is RTEI?

The Right to Education Index (RTEI) is a global accountability initiative designed to ensure that all people, no matter where they live, enjoy their right to a quality education. It reveals key areas in need of improvement, offers country-to-country comparisons, and tracks progress over time.

Through the use of the questionnaire the index provides results on five key themes

- Governance
- Availability
- Accessibility;
- Acceptability;
- Adaptability



RTEI will be produced on a biannual basis to track such progress, identify trends and support efforts towards the right to education.

RTEI and the case of Albania

For the first time Albania through the Albanian Coalition for Education, volunteered to become part of the Right to Education Index 2018. Overall, Albania received a satisfying index score of 86% by evidencing areas of strength as national law (100%), plan of action, monitoring and reporting (100%) and aims of education (100%).

The disaggregated data reveal that Albania received no scores in availability and in subthemes such as financing (45%), textbooks (insufficient data), and teachers (insufficient data) children with disabilities (67%)

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Issue Area 1: Education Financing

Albania, in comparison to other countries in Europe, spends less on education and the state budget funds all the pre-university schools in the country. Despite the fact that Education is considered as a public good, the share of the spending for education is 2.9% of GDP, vs. a 4.5% average in EU countries.

The low budget allocated to the education sector is reflected in the quality of the education, in the provision with free textbooks, restricted access to education for disable children, lack of well trained teachers and inadequate learning environments. The policy of minimal education spending reduces the value of human capital and affects the quality of education.



6% FOR EDUCATION

1 IN 3 CHILDREN IN ALBANIA ARE AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL!

The Government and the Parliament must keep their promises to raise the Budget for Education. Citizens must hold them to account to ensure that SDG4 is met! More than 100 thousand children are at risk of dropping out of school.

ACE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SDG4 & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION KEEP YOUR PROMISES

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR **EDUCATION**
www.campaignforeducation.org

#KeepYourPromises #ACEalbania #GCE #GAWE

Issue Area 2: Availability

It is broadly agreed that countries with more financial resources are more likely to have low pupil-per-teacher ratios, adequate sanitation as well greater access to textbooks.

Albania did not receive an index score regarding Availability. To understand the reason of such a figure, it is helpful to evidence that over the last 22 years, the reform of the education system has focused, among other things, on the reforming of the teaching profession and there is a gap in the legislation on competencies and professional standards of teachers. The state is still heavily involved in the system of teacher evaluation process. The level of funds available for teacher training in all fields of education is insufficient, actually teachers in Albania pay for their continuous training.

With regard to the subtheme Textbooks, Albania received no index score (insufficient data); this refers to the fact that Albania does not have established a minimum standard for the number of pupils per available textbooks, pupil-textbook ratio.

Despite the fact that the law 69/2012 “On Pre-university education system in Albania” (revised), article 5 “The right to education” states that the public compulsory education and the secondary high education are free of charge, in reality children and families have to buy the textbooks themselves. During this academic year 2018-2019 only children of classes 1-4 of primary education received the textbooks free.

Issue area 3. Learning Environment

Albania received an overall score of 50%, which means that children in Albania encounter violence and abuse in schools. The presence of bullying and violence is present in Albanian schools and a mechanism where pupils can report it even the law on pre-university education system in Albania needs to be improved. Despite that, domestic law prohibits the corporal punishment; various reports evidence that

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children in Albania report a high degree physical and emotional violence. Girls reported a higher degree of violence compared to boys (70%) meanwhile boys' report (67%).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue Area 1 recommendations

- Albanian Government must increase by at least 5% the share of GDP spent on education;
- The education budget must contain specific budget lines dedicated to the education of disabled children; Every school must be accessible and adequately equipped for disabled students; Every disabled child who attends the public pre-university education in Albania should have a supporting teacher during their school attendance;
- The Albanian government should target Roma children, especially girls and those with disabilities, to enroll in primary education by providing an incentive to their families, as well provide free meals for every child in compulsory education.

Issue Area 2 recommendations

- The law 69/2012 “On Pre-university education system in Albania” (revised), article 5 “The right to education” states that the public compulsory education and the secondary high education are free of charge, based in this the Albanian Government must take every measure to provide free textbooks for every marginalised, disabled, Roma and Egyptian boys and girls.
- The quality of education needs to be raised at all levels, to better equip people with skills that the labour market needs;
- The creation of the National Council on Teaching Quality as an independent body should foster reforming of the teaching profession, help draft policies on teacher professional development, and give advice to the Ministry of Education and Sports on ways and methods to improve the quality of teaching .

Issue Area 3 recommendations

- Children have the right to education in safe schools and not to experience any form of violence in school environments, including physical and psychological ones. Based on this the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth must address the issue of violence, bullying and discrimination in all education institutions and must develop within 2018 the National Action Plan for the Elimination and Report of cases of violence, discrimination in education institution;
- The ministry of Education, Sports and Youth must take all measures to implement the national program “Safe and 0 Violence Schools for all”. Every education system must establish the Commission for the Prevention of Violence, which aims to verify, analyse and treat all cases of violence, discrimination and bullying reported

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