

An Overview of Child Rights Curricula & Instruction in Albania Since the 1990s

Erleta Çelmeta (MATO)^a, Konstantinos GIAKOUMIS^b

^a LOGOS University College, Albania, erleta2009@hotmail.com

^b LOGOS University College, Albania, konstantinos.giakoumis@kulogos.edu.al

Since the early 1990s, Albania has undergone a breakthrough transformation in its educational and institutional approach to children's rights, following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992. This paper examines the evolution of child rights education in Albania, mapping developments across both pre-university and higher education settings. The post-communist period ushered in the depoliticisation of curricula, the elimination of ideological content, and the introduction of human rights education with increasing alignment to international standards. While primary and secondary education integrated children's rights more rapidly – supported by international donors and national reform bodies – higher education institutions adopted these changes more gradually due to structural inertia and the persistence of ideologically shaped academic cultures. Since the early 2000s, universities such as the University of Tirana, Shkodra, Elbasan, and Vlora progressively embedded children's rights within study programmes in Social Work, Law, Education, and Psychology, often through modules rather than standalone courses. Despite notable progress, challenges persist, including limited access to contemporary Albanian-language resources, lack of pedagogical training among staff, and a gap between theory and practical application. This survey paper shall conclude by highlighting both the strengths and shortcomings of current curricula, and propose strategic recommendations at academic, institutional, and policy levels to strengthen child rights education, also by leveraging the potential of digital tools in the promotion of child rights as a civic and professional imperative in Albania's ongoing democratic development, as has been experienced in the context of the ERASMUS+ CBHE *Homo Digitalis* project No. 101129182 by the use of such tools in humanities and educational media. In this context, the paper also presents the first formative efforts to establish a Child Rights Centre at LOGOS University College, the first of its kind in Albania.

Presentation language: English v

References (up to 5) using APA style (7th edition)

- Hyseni, Halim, et al. 2004. *Child rights. Kosova Education Center*. (Manual on Human and Child Rights). KEC: Prishtina.
- Mato, Erleta, Danari, Violeta, Hsimja. 2003. *Intercultural and Human Rights Education in School*. Tirana: MAS & UNESCO.
- Mato, Erleta, Gjedia, Robert, Dautaj, Astrit. 2005. *Citizenship in the 21st Century (for students and teachers of civic education)*. Tirana: IKS (Institute for Curricula and Standards).
- Mato, Erleta, Sina, Edlira, Kamani, Vera. 2014. *Different and similar. Guide for teachers of Preschool Education and preparatory classes*. Tirana, AES & UNICEF.
- n.a. 2001. *The Human Rights at school*. Tirana: Albanian Center for Human Rights.
- n.a. 2021. *National Agenda for Children's Rights 2021–2026*. Tirana: Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

Short CVs (max 70 words)

Erleta Çelmeta (MATO)

Erleta Mato is professor of Sciences of Education at LOGOS University College, where she also serves as Chair of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology in Faculty of Human Sciences and Language Communication. She is the first Chair of a Child Rights Centre operating in a HEI in Albania, fruit of an agreement with UNICEF, Albania.

Konstantinos GIAKOUMIS

Konstantinos Giakoumis is professor of History, Visual Arts and their Didactics at the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, LOGOS University College, Tirana, Albania, where he also serves as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Linguistic Communication. He is a founding member of LOGOS' Child Rights Centre. Beyond his research agenda, he is active in EU developmental actions having been coordinated in three ERASMUS+ CBHE projects.