

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

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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.

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Short CVs (max 70 words)

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