



FACT SHEET

1. Country Information

The Republic of Albania, situated in Southeast Europe's Balkan Peninsula, boasts a strategic location along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas within the Mediterranean region. It shares borders with Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, North Macedonia to the east, and Greece to the south. With a population of approximately 2,812,000 people, Albania's official language is Albanian. The capital and largest city of the country is Tirana.

2. History

Scouting in Albania dates back to the 1920s. Albania was a member of WOSM from 1922 until the National Scout Organization (NSO) dissolved in 1939 due to political events on the eve of the Second World War. After the Second World War, Scouting continued to be banned in the newly established Socialist People's Republic of Albania. After communism collapsed in the country, Scouting was re-established in May 1991.

In July 1999, WOSM accepted Albania again as a member. The membership of the Besa Skaut Albania was terminated by the World Scout Committee on 19 April 2005. On 5 September 2005, WOSM granted membership to Organizata Skautiste Shqiptare Beslidhja Skaut Albania. In November 2014, WOSM terminated membership in Beslidhja Skaut Albania.

In 2019, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) – The European Scout Region decided to support the development of Scouting in Albania with a strategic and sustainable growth approach, leading to a unified, co-educational, multi-ethnic and interreligious movement that has a clear perspective to achieve and sustain a full membership status within the WOSM by 2024. The current support is based on the learnings from the past ensuring strong local grass roots Scouting and strong leadership led according to the GSAT dimensions.

3. Legal Registration

The 'Scouts of Albania' ('Skautët Shqiptarë') was legally registered in the Court of Tirana on September 22, 2023, in the Republic of Albania. It is a non-political and non-profit organization. In addition to the full name, the abbreviation SOA is also used.

4. Objectives

The objectives of the Scouts of Albania are as follows:

- To contribute to the development of young people, enabling them to achieve their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual potentials as individuals, responsible citizens, and members of their local, national, and international communities.
- To ensure that all children, youth, and young persons have a positive and pleasant experience in Scouting within a safe environment. Children and youth must be protected when participating in any scouting activities, irrespective of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, etc.



The European Support Centre has been instrumental in supporting the NSO in developing a Safe from Harm policy. This support will continue to ensure the policy's implementation and its dissemination at the local level.

5. Membership

Scouts of Albania currently has 358 members divided into four age sections and adult leaders as shown below:

- Cub Scouts (7-10 years old) = 15 members
- Scouts (11-14 years old) = 55 members
- Venture Scouts (15-18 years old) = 137 members
- Rovers (18+ years old) = 75 members
- Adult Leaders (18+ years old) = 76 members

To build on the continuous growth of the NSO, the World Scout Bureau will facilitate the membership expansion by working closely with the NSO to support their growth plans, develop a comprehensive Growth Strategy, and offer Scouting to more young people, becoming present in new areas and communities.

Specific emphasis will be placed on membership recruitment campaigns, further development of the adult recruitment models, and enhancement of the NSO's capacities in managing the Adults in Scouting cycle.

6. Education

The educational approach of Scouts of Albania is based on the Scout method. The current Youth Programme of the Scouts of Albania is the result of a two-years process which involved internal consultations and inspiration from the programme documents of NSOs in the region and it complies with all WOSM requirements as part of the European Scout Region's NEXUS project. Some of the current projects and activities include:

- Community services and environmental actions in Tropojë (10 activities), Shkodër (8 activities), and Tirana (three activities). These activities involve collecting food and clothes for the needy, planting trees, and organizing activities with children and youth in need, such as refugees, orphans, and children under the custody of the State.
- Mini jamboree with 120 Scouts during the National Scout Day as part of the Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 programme.
- Plant a Tree Campaign on Dajti Mountain.
- Environmental activities for cleaning areas in the Valbona National Park Valley.
- At the local level, several Scout units have developed partnerships with international or local NGOs. In Shkodër, the Taraboshi Scouts developed a partnership with an international NGO to support non-formal education activities in favour of Afghan refugee children and youth.
- Partnership opportunities and engagement within national-level youth structures within the government (National Youth Agency Albania) and civil society (observer at the National Youth Kongress Albania).

7. Finances

Scouts of Albania have appropriate accounting, financial management, and reporting procedures. The balance sheet is approved by the General Assembly by 31 March of the following year, and the net income is used entirely for the development and expansion of the organization. The current pillars for funds in Scouts of Albania are:

- Membership fees (introduced in 2024)
- Local project fundraising and partnerships
- International projects: SYSPUC, UNDP, EU projects, Terres des Hommes



The local Scout groups are not financially autonomous, and financial operations are managed at the national level. At this point in development, this seems to be the most efficient and relevant way to deal with financial resources, and it also contributes to mutual trust between the association, groups, and leaders. In the past three years, the budget of the NSO amounted to EUR 25,000 (roughly USD 27,088) (2021), EUR 77,000 (USD 83,432) (2022), and EUR 75,000 (USD 81,265) (2023). The NSO plans to be financially independent by 2026, with the majority of funding being covered by fees and a more stable internal funding.

8. Organisation

The Constitution of Scouts of Albania regulates provisions pertaining to the organization's name, seat, scope of activities, internal organization, and other important matters. The decision-making bodies of the SOA are the General Assembly and the National Board. The highest governing body is the General Assembly. The National Board acts on behalf of the General Assembly between its meetings and oversees the day-to-day management of Scouts of Albania

Scouts of Albania Organisational Chart

