

ALBANIAN EU INTEGRATION PROCESS AT A GLANCE

ALBANIA

It is a state with 65 cities and a population of 2,893,005 inhabitants with 5 communities/different ethnic minorities (Greeks, Egyptians, Roma, Macedonians, Montenegrins).

In **2003** Directives for the negotiation of a SAA with Albania were adopted

In **2010** European Commission proposed visa free travel for Albania

In **1992** a Trade and Co-operation Agreement between the EU and Albania was signed, and Albania became eligible for funding under the EU Phare programme

In **2009** Albanian government submits its application for EU Membership

In **2014** Council of the European Union agreed to grant Albania candidate status

In **2009**, Albania became a NATO member

Total Population

2,893,005

Tirana inhabitants

800,986

77% of Albanians are of the opinion that the EU integration of Albania is very important, 18% think it is important but not a priority and only 4% express that it is not important at all

If a referendum for the EU membership of Albania would take place tomorrow 91% of Albanians would vote for the membership, 5% would vote against it, 3% would not cast a ballot at all and 1% does not know

53% of Albanians think the country is ready to join the EU, 43% think it is not and 4% do not know

96% of Albanians do trust the EU and 49% do trust the Albanian government

96%

69% of Albanians think that the EU should accept the country as a member even if Albania is not ready yet, 27% think the EU should not, and 4% do not know

67% of Albanian citizens think that online social networks are a good way to have their say on political issues

To 72% of Albanians the EU means freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU, to 60% it means democracy, to 60% it means economic prosperity and to 59% it means peace

The main problems Albanian people are facing at the moment are; Unemployment (45%), Crime (31%) and; the economic situation in the country (30%)

63% of Albanians would consider working in an EU member state in next 2 to 5 years, with 81% of them seeking a better salary, 41% seeking professional development opportunities and 35% of them not able to find a job in Albania

87% of Albanians think that the EU membership of Albania would be a good thing and 92% think that Albania would benefit from being a member of the EU