

1945 - 1988
11,800 people fled Albania

1944 - 1989
Emigration banned and internal migration tightly regulated. Exit barriers to leaving Albania and prison sentences for those caught trying

1944
Establishment of Communist Regime

1944 - 1989
Labour Party of Albania is the only ruling party of the country

1985-1990
Six brothers and sisters of the Popa family enter the Italian embassy and live there for 5 years

1985-1990
Communist leader Hoxha dies and is replaced by Ramiz Alia

1990
The government rescinded several criminal laws used for political persecution. The crime of unauthorised flight from Albania was downgraded from treason to 'illegal border trespassing'
By late 1990 passports for foreign travel were being made available to ordinary citizens for the first time
Albanians granted right to travel abroad
Ismail Kadare sought political refuge in France

— The Popa family is allowed to leave Albania to Italy
— Mass departures of Albanians across the Otranto Strait to southern Italy and over the southern mountains to Greece

1991
An estimated 20,000 Albanians took every boat in Durres, Vlore and Shengjin harbours and sailed to Italy
Estimated 45,000 Albanians entered Italy

1991 - 1992
First peak in emigration

1990s
Lack of reliable or appropriate information on migration procedures

1989
Communist rule in Eastern Europe collapses:
• Fall of Berlin Wall
• Execution of Romania Communist leader Ceausescu and his wife

Albania Foreign minister Malile addressed the UN General Assembly and stressed the country's commitment to "the process of Balkan cooperation" to forge closer ties with its neighbours

Albania hosted a meeting of deputy foreign ministers of Balkan nations

After having virtually no contact with the rest of the world for years, Albania begins to develop limited commercial links with Austria, Italy, West Germany and the UK

Albania invited heads of several UN agencies to visit the country

early 1990
Political and economic instability

1990
UN General Secretary visits Albania
The first Roman Catholic mass was celebrated in November, before an estimated 40,000 people
The crime of religious propaganda was rescinded
The number of crimes punishable by the death penalty was reduced from 34 to 11, and the death penalty was abolished for women and for juveniles under the age of 18

1992
IOM began operating in Albania
Ratification of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 UN Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
Ratification of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

1995
Human trafficking became a criminal act

1991 - 1993
Estimated 200,000 - 300,000 Albanians entered Greece

1993
Terre des Hommes started work in Albania

1995
Albania becomes part of Council of Europe

1998
Unrest in Kosovo sends refugees into Albania
Kosovo - Albanians begin seeking asylum in EU countries

1997-1998
An estimated 150,000 Albanians emigrated after the collapse of the pyramid investment scheme

1997
Second peak in emigration
30,000 left Albania for Italy and 40,000 to Greece [IOM, n.d.]

1996
IOM shelter database of 'Victims of Trafficking' or 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' set up

1996-1997
Transition of power / civil uprising due to financial crisis - Anarchy!

1999
Third peak in emigration

1989 - 2001
Estimated that twice as many people migrated internationally than over internally across district borders

1999 - 2004
IOM supports the opening of Reception and Reintegration Centres for Albanian 'victims' of trafficking and irregular migrants stranded in Albania

2001
Human trafficking becomes a criminal act
National Strategy against Human Trafficking 2001-2004 is approved
Vatra is registered in Vloa

1999
Vatra started to function

1991 - 2005
Albania changes government cabinet 15 times

1997
Pyramid investment scheme collapses and triggers anti-government protests

1999
Unrest in Kosovo

1945

1985

1990

1995

2000

2002
Albania ratifies the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol
IOM opens a reintegration Centre for Albanian Victims of Trafficking
Tjeter Vision is registered in Elbasan
An amendment to the Strategy against Trafficking is made through DCM No.361, dated 18 July 2002

2004
Amendments to Criminal Code (7-15 year sentences introduced)
Change from 'trafficking of people' to 'trafficking of persons' for three categories: adult persons; adult females; and children
Different & Equal is registered in Tirana

2003
The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking funded by the government and starts assisting people

2005
National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator appointed
National Strategy on Migration and National Action Plan on Migration (2005-2010) drafted
Albanian government approves Cooperation Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism
Ratification of ILO Migrant Workers Convention

2006
IOM, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and UODC establish first toll-free National Helpline on safe migration and counter trafficking
Law No.9642 dated 20 November 2016: On the ratification of the Convention of Council of Europe Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings

2008 - 2010
National Albanian Strategy of the Fight Against Human Trafficking

2007
Human Beings National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters established
Highest sum of remittances - \$1,295 million (King and Vullnetari, 2011)
Ratification of the UN Migrant Workers Convention

2010
National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters report published

2007 - 2009
IOM support implementation of National Action Plan on Migration and the National Action Plan on Remittances

2008 - 2009
120,000 returnees to Albania

2011
Standard Operating Procedures are compiled and approved

2008 - 2011
IOM supports elaboration of the Standard Operating Procedures for Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and Potential Victims of Trafficking

2012
Signed revised version of NRM Cooperation Agreement for the functioning of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Persons between: Ministry of Interior Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Education and Science Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities General Prosecution Office International Organization for Migration (IOM), Tirana International organization:
World Vision Non profit organization: ARSIS, Tirana Nonprofit organization: Different & Equal, Tirana National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking, Tirana Nonprofit organization: Psycho Social Center, VATRA, Vloa Nonprofit organization: TjetEr Vizion, Elbasan

2014
Albania ratifies Council of Europe Convention on trafficking of organs

2016
IOM joins the UN during the New York summit for refugees and migrants, as the 'UN migration agency'

2015
Government financing for shelters

13 Mar 2016
Vloa Municipality signed Action Plan for Children in Street Situations

2017
The Law on the Rights and Protection of Children

2002
Foundation of Tjeter Vizion Organisation (TVO)

2004
Approval Anti-mafia legislation

2005
The establishment of the Office of the National Anti Trafficking Coordinator

2005
ARSIS was established in Albania

2006
The Responsible Authority for the Identification and Referral of 'Victims of Trafficking' and 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' established
Law 9669 on Measures against Violence in Family Relations

2007
National Coalition of Anti Trafficking Shelters (NCATS) established

2010 onwards
Young people ANOMIE lack of hope for the future

2011
Multidisciplinary group on Victims of Domestic Violence - agreement signed
State finances the services of NGOs (food) for 'Victims of Trafficking'

2012
Agreement for the Functioning of the Referral Mechanism

2012
SIVET system - database for Victims of Trafficking' and 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' set up

2014
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UK on intensification of cooperation in the fight against Trafficking in Persons
Enlargement of Responsible Authority with members from the Ministry of Education and Science (MAS) and Ministry of Health (MSH)
Additional Protocol with Montenegro
26 November 2014 - Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM 814) Approval of the Strategy and Action Plan for the fight against Trafficking in Persons

2016
Signed SOPs between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro on the Identification, Referral and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking
Laws approved on:
• Social Care services
• Rights and Protection of Children

May 2016
Signing of Internal Inter-Institutional Order on Cooperation Framework of the Action Plan for Children in Street Situations

18 Oct 2016
Anti-Trafficking month events on International Anti-trafficking Day.

2009
Albania joins NATO and applies for membership of the EU

2010
EU rejects Albania's application for EU membership, but eases visa requirements for Albanians

2013
Socialist Party wins general election

2014
EU recommends Albania as candidate for EU membership

2016
Albanian women as a 'particular social group' within the terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention

2017
Socialist Party wins general election

13 Oct 2017
Roma population officially recognised as a national minority according to Law No. 96/2017 on the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Albania, adopted by the Albanian Parliament

2000

2005

2010

2015