



The Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASA)



Address

Academy of Sciences of Albania
Sheshi "Fan Noli" 7, Tirane, Albania
Office +355 4 2230305

Contacts

1. President of the Academy of Sciences of Albania

Academician Muzafer Korkuti

e-mail muzafer1936@gmail.com

Office Tel +355 4 2256777

Telefax +355 4 2227476

mobile +355 682017735

2. Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Albania

Academician Gudar Beqiraj

e-mail gudar.beqiraj@yahoo.com

Office +355 4 2271822

mobile +355 682016630;

3. Scientific Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of Albania

Academician Vasil S. Tole as

e-mail vasiltole@hotmail.com; v.s.tole@acad.edu.al

Office +355 4 2259657

mobile +355 692055551

4. Chair of the Section of Sciences of Albanology

Academician Ethem Lika

e-mail e.likaj@yahoo.com

Office +355 4 2228365

Mobile +355 682278959

5. Chair of the Section of Natural and Technical Sciences

Academician Salvatore Bushati

e-mail sbushati@yahoo.com

Office +355 4 2250368

Mobile +355 682055393

6. **Mr. Edmond Cane**

Specialist, Office of Public & Foreign Relations

e-mail ecane@acad.edu.al; ecane2000@yahoo.com

Office +355 4 2230305

Mobile +355 676096771

The Academy of Sciences of Albania (ASA)

The Academy of Sciences of Albania is the most important science institution in the country, an autonomous body with its own legal personality. It was founded in 1972, but earlier academy origin dates back to 1750. It has 29 Regular Members, 11 Associated Academician Members and 26 Honorary Members. The ASA includes the most outstanding scientists – academicians – who work in research institute or centers, or other science organizations at home or abroad.

After the 2006-2007 reform, the ASA was restructured as an institution that functions through a community of selected scientists (a learned society), reduced in its earlier role as the national institution of science. The research institutes which were under the ASA until 2007, were attached to universities or the incumbent ministries, whereas several other joined together to establish the Inter-University Center of Albanology Studies, *with the status of a higher education institution*.

The ASA functions as provided by the Law no. 9655, of 11.12.2006 “On the Academy of Sciences”, amended).

Main responsibilities:

- Collaborating with research and higher education institutes, to carry out research in various fields;
- Introducing new initiatives or areas of research, in view of the current needs of the country;
- Providing assistance and expertise to state institutions and government, concerning solutions to crucial issues for the development of the country;
- Organization of conferences and congresses, on a wide range of science and research topics, both at a national and international level;
- Organization of competitions and awards/prizes for outstanding achievement in the area of research and science etc.

Mission & Strategic Goals

The Academy’s mission is to promote the development of sciences, in a knowledge society, with democratic and civic values. There are two major directions: (i) the development of the humanities and albanology sciences, in view of the human and national values and the social & spiritual cohesion of the nation, and (ii) the development of the natural and technical sciences, to provide for an economy developing at high steady rates, in compliance with the environmental requirements and values.

The main objectives are:

- Developing policies for the highest levels of research, broader interdisciplinary spectre and competitive environment;
- Providing expertise to policy-making bodies;

- cooperation with government institutions to identify problems and provide solutions to the fulfillment of the government's program and objectives, with the participation in the councils, ad-hoc groups, boarding groups, etc
- contributing to the establishment an effective and favourable infrastructure for the conduct of research;
- fostering partnership and cooperation with partner academies and regional and international research institutions;
- improving the legal and institutional infrastructure relating to research;
- promoting the albanology studies, to safeguard and develop cultural heritage, as Albanian contribution to the European cultural diversity;
- enhancing and supporting research in fundamental as well as applied sciences, to adapt and apply new technologies in the economic structures and processes, and to develop new products and services;
- developing research relating to the sustainable development and the rational efficient use of natural resources;
- propose new areas of research so as to serve the needs and demands for the social economic development of the country;
- making efforts for a better understanding and public awareness of sciences and research, and better acceptability of new technologies and approaches;

The official strategies have identified 7 priority fields:

- food and agriculture;
- Information technology and communication;
- Public health;
- Albanology studies and humanities;
- Natural resources;
- Biotechnology and biodiversity;
- Defence and security

History

The origins of the Academy of Sciences of Albania date back to the “New Academy” inaugurated in Voskopoja in 1750 serving as a high school and cultural center of a remarkable reputation in and outside the country. Great efforts were made to foster intellectual pursuits. Progress was significant in

- *Humanities* (philosophy, history, literature, theology, folklore); Dhimitër Frëngu (1443-1525); Gjon Buzuku (XVI century); Marin Barleti (approximately 1460-1512); Pjetër Budi (1566-1623); Frang Bardhi (1606-1643); Pjetër Bogdani (1625-1689) etc.;
- *Fine arts* (music, painting and sculpture); Jan Kukuzeli (1010-1075) – the most prominent personality in the area of music; Onufri (XVI century), the most

prominent painter; painters of XVIII century, David Selenicasi and Konstandin Shpataraku etc.;

- *Science*, scholars such as Gjon Gazulli (1400-1465), astronomer and [mathematician](#); Leonik Tomeu (1456-1531), astronomer, philosopher and professor of Nikola Kopernik in the University of Padua etc.

National Renaissance (second half of the XIX century), and efforts for freedom and independence were of a precious contribution to national awareness. The 19th century marked an increasing level in the area of Albanology studies, which is further evidence that the efforts made by foreign albanologists such as F. Nopça (Nopcsa), H. Lui (Louis), F. Markgraf, E. Dèrham (Durham), L. Rej (Rey), L. Ugolini, Z.Valentini etc. were undoubtedly valuable.

After Independence Proclamation in 1912, many cultural centers and clubs for studying purposes were set up in different cities. Veterinary or Epidemiological Service (1928), the Xhafzotaj farm etc, served as research centers.

The Academy official foundation date is 10 October 1972. Professor Aleks Buda was elected President of the Albanian Academy of Sciences. Eqrem Çabej, Mahir Domi, Petrit Radovicka, Kolë Popa etc., some of the most eminent science personalities stand on the top list of the names of its founders. Only 17 regular fellows and 5 correspondent fellows firstly sat on the fellowship board of the Academy. The Academy was composed of the following institutions:

- i) Social Sciences Institutions,
- ii) Albanology Studies Institutions and,

Natural Technical Sciences Institutions.

Until the end of 1980-s, the scientific activity was heavily affected by various restrictions of ideological and political character. As a consequence of the political climate and country isolation, foreign relations of Albanian scientists, their involvement in international activities, and exchanges of scientific and academic experiences were severely limited. Scientific investigations carried out by the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of Albania were of a great contribution to the solutions of many problems related to the history of Albania, its language and culture, nature evolution and history of natural resources, introduction of new techniques and technologies in industry and agriculture, improvement of public health, environmental protection, etc.

After the 2007 reform and restructuring, the Academy was converted into a learned society of prominent scientists reduced in its role as the main national science institution, that it used to be until 2007. The research institutes, that used to be under its authority until 2007, were either attached universities or incumbent ministries, and some of them, joined to establish the Inter-university Center of Albanology Studies, as a higher education institution.

Organization & Governance:

1. Assembly

The Assembly is the supreme governing authority. It consists of the Regular Members, Permanent Members and Associated Members who are entitled to vote. Other guests can attend the meetings held by the Assembly, unless the Statute rules differently. The Assembly elects the new regular, permanent and associated fellows and honorary members as well. It elects the President of the Academy. The Assembly elects the President and the Vice-President for a four-year term and the General Scientific Secretary and the Heads of the Sections for a five-year term.

The Assembly approves the Statute, defines the basic trends in scientific activities of the Academy and defines the main priorities. It is the main decision-making body. The Assembly approves the reports on science activities of ASA submitted by the Presidency.

2. The Executive Council

The Executive Council is composed of five members: the President, Vice-President, General Scientific Secretary and the two Heads of the Sections. The Executive Council implements the decisions taken by the Assembly, analyses important topics of scientific organizational character and takes related decisions. It prepares reports on different activities to be considered by the Assembly.

3. Presidency of the Academy

The President, the Vice-President and the General Scientific Secretary constitute the Presidency of the Academy. The Presidency organizes, oversees and coordinates the activities of the Academy; initiates and formalizes cooperation agreements with Albanian and foreign institutions; approves budget quotas in line with activities covering all the science areas.

Structure

The Academy has 2 sections:

- i) the Section of Social Albanology Sciences and
- ii) the Section of Natural Technical Sciences;

In addition, it has: *the Research Projects Unit, the Office of Public and Foreign Relations, the Scientific Library and Publications Office*

Flow chart of the ASA after the 2007 Reform

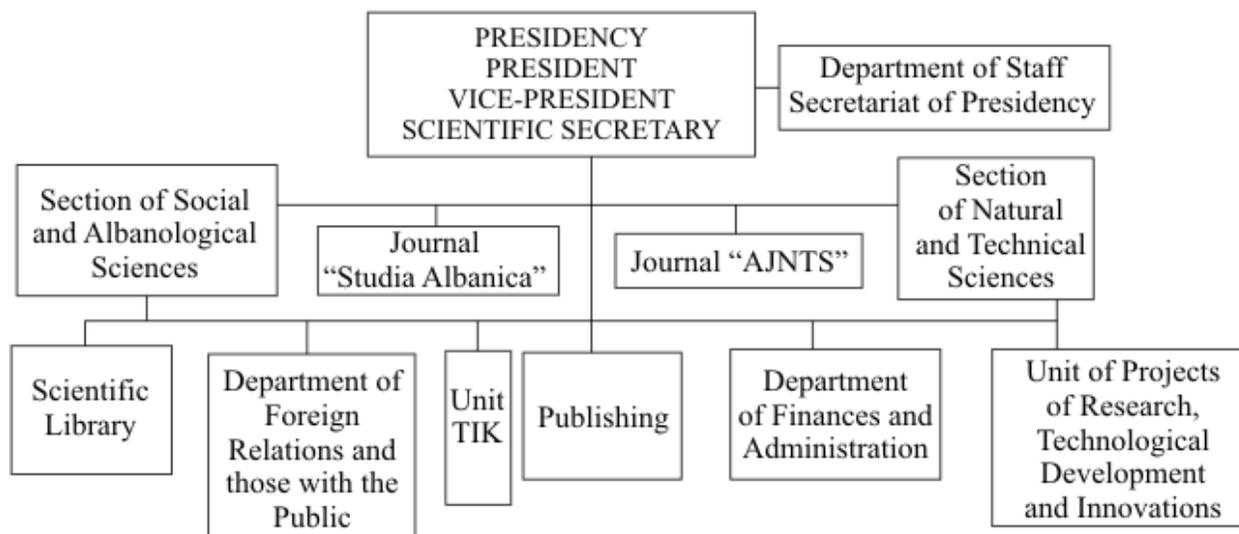


Fig. 1. Flow chart of the ASA after reformation

International Cooperation

The ASA represents the Albanian science in various science and research international organizations and networks like:

- the federation of All European Academies (ALLEA);
- the global network of science academies (IAP);
- The International Council for Science (ICSU)
- the Inter-Academy Council for South East Europe (IAC SEE),
- Association Internationale d'Etudes du Sud-Est Europeen. (A.I.E.S.E.E),
- The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS),
- National Academies of Sciences of the Black Sea Countries
- International Union of Academies
- Euro Mediterranean Academy Network (EMAN);
- European Academy of Sciences and Arts;
- The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies;

The ASA has established cooperation with a number of national academies. There are joint activities, projects or other forms of scientific exchange, formalized through agreements, protocols of cooperation, memorandum of understanding, etc.:

Cooperation Agreement and Partnership

- The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Academy of Sciences and Arts of Macedonia
- The Turkish Academy of Sciences
- The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts
- The European Academy of Sciences and Arts
- The Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova;

- The Academy of Sciences of Austria
- The Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- The Russian Academy of Sciences
- The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche d'Italia
- The Polish Academy of Sciences
- The British Academy
- The Chinese Academy of Sciences
- The Romanian Academy of Sciences