

Unofficial Translation

Human Rights Education

The Education system aims simultaneously to achieve and guarantee the promotion and protection of Human Rights as well as their education.

Ensuring and respecting Human Rights in the Education System

The legal framework of the Republic of Albania which protects and promotes the Human Rights, includes in itself the following legal instruments:

- The Constitution of Albania
- The Law on Pre-University Educational System
- The Law on the Higher Education in Albania
- The Law on Vocational Education and Training
- The Law on Gender Balance

The basic legal framework is designed to abolish any discrimination, based on race, ethnicity and religion. Besides the above-mentioned documents, the work of MES in the field of safeguarding and respecting human rights is guided by multi-sectional strategies and national education strategies

The Albanian Ministry of Education has enacted different bylaws to guide her subordinate institutions in defining and realizing educational policies to support the education of marginalized groups of children (*Roma, Egyptian, disabled and isolated children*) and to provide special training for teachers working with students of these layers.

The Albanian Ministry of Education has facilitated the registration of Roma children in schools, in connection with the necessary documentation for their enrolment in educational institutions. Particular attention is paid to education agendas for the Roma community, through the planning of specific quotas for their enrolment in Higher Education Institutions.

In this vein, Albania has shown special care for the continuous education of national minorities, while considering their right to education in their native language, as one of the basic elements of their national identity.

Pursuant to the Law on University Education, Article 10, the national minorities school-children (Greek, and Macedonian) do follow the school programs/curricula's (*history and culture*) in their own language.

The above mentioned curricula's and education-programs are developed and approved by the Albanian Ministry of Education. In concrete terms, this curricula's have been developed by teachers and experts who belong to national minorities. The school books are free of charge for the minority students.

For that category of children, which represent a vulnerable group with certain and special needs, the right to education is not only being seen as a priority and guaranteed, but even offered free of charge. The parent's desire and willingness has to be respected in this regard.

In this vein, special classes and special institutions are being set up where specialized treatment is free of charge.

Vocational training is provided for students with disabilities. Specialized centres have been organized in order to provide courses, where young people with physical disabilities have been involved in training and after have found an employment in professional activities which are appropriate for them.

The right to education was offered to all citizens who are kept as detainees in prison /detention based on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice signed on 5th December 2008.

The Article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and the Law 7952 of the 21.6.1995 support the signing of this Memorandum.

The Education of foreign citizens children in our country is guaranteed by Article 11, section 11.2 of the Law 7952 dated June 21, 1995. "Pre-university Education System", amended by Law Nr.8387, dated July 30, 1998, which stipulates: "The right of foreigners to be admitted to the public educational institutions of the Republic of Albania is determined by normative acts of the Education Ministry".

The Constitution of the Republic of Albania and all the national legislation which regulates the issue of education and training, provide for the right application of the principle of equality in a legal, ethnic, racial and religious context

All entities affected by the legal framework, are treated equally and without distinction. Also, the legal framework in the field of education, provides the possibility of lifelong learning by providing resources and equal opportunities for all, provides opportunities for free movement, and even opportunities for recognition of the study programmes carried out throughout Europe.

The right to education known as a universal right and the possibility of the equal access to education and training, is the in the focus of policy making in terms of education development agendas, which were made in accordance with international educational trends and developments as well as considering national, socio-economic and demographic features of Albania.

II. Human Rights Education

- Human Rights as part of the pre-university curricula's

Human rights and the issue of fundamental freedoms of the individual are being taught in the pre-university education within the framework of the Civic Education classes, which is part of the basic school programmes in the high school as well as in higher education.

The Human Rights promotion and their implementing is also a kind of approach which has been reflected in the teaching and training methodology. The Civic Education classes are being taught from the first to the ninth grade.

In lower secondary education, Human Rights issues are part of the Civic Education classes and in concrete terms, the 10th and 11th grades. They are also part of the school core curricula's as regards the basic education levels as well the high school level.

The main purpose of the subject is to help them understand the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a democratic society in the context of the overall progress of democracy in the country. Understanding the volume of their rights and responsibilities enables the preparation of citizens, to participate actively in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country.

The subject of Civic Education is organized into four main aspects which match with the dimensions of Human Rights: the political, economic, social and cultural aspect.

In thematic terms, the topic "The individual and society", addresses the rights and obligations, and this constitutes one of the main topics of the subject. This program runs from the first grade to the ninth one.

The main concepts, which are being addressed are: the universality, the indivisible character, the inalienable rights and freedoms, the international standards of human rights and freedoms, the institutions and procedures for the development and protection of human rights.

In upper secondary education, the subject of Civic Education/Civic Citizen, students mainly learn the legal aspects of Human Rights, in the context of their international level, European level as well as their meaning in the national framework.

The development of certain skills namely the aspect of critical thinking, creative one and the ability to solve problems are methods which help the school-children to learn better the importance of human rights promotion and protection.

In this vein, some specific skills such as the ability to cooperate, the communication's skills, the ability to resolve conflicts, as well as to negotiate and debate, are being seen as essential to help the children to better understand and respect Human Rights.

Concerning the methodological aspects, several new teaching methods are designed in such a way that help stimulating the interaction between the children and create

a democratic environment in the classroom, where all learn to respect their respective rights.

b. Human Rights in the higher education curricula's

The Curricula of the public higher education are always designed based, in the National Strategy for Development and Integration and the legal framework which contains the essential normative acts for the protection of Human Rights.

In this vein, the respective data of last year are being seen as a clear indication of the promotion of democratic standards through the better understanding and education of the protection and respect for the human rights of every citizen.

This academic year, 2011-2012, is worth mentioning the first cycle of programs for studies "Bachelor" (full time) and part as: "Children and Family issues", "Administration of Social Affairs." "Civic Education" or the "Administration and Social Work", programs which help prepare students for a better future in the professional life. These programmes are focused on services for citizens, or they address the different social problematic, but in their essence they all are linked with the topic of the protection and promotion of Human Rights.

It is worth mentioning here, the new teaching programmes as professional master in the subject of "History" or in "Geography", which naturally contain certain elements of the Human Rights education.

It has been noted an added number of students who are interested in the human rights education, and especially in the study of social services and family issues.

Several public consultation meetings and information meetings have been organised from some public universities concerning the share of the information as regards the abovementioned study programmes.

In the framework of the National Strategy for Development and Integration, these quantitative and qualitative indicators, have enabled the realization of the political program of the Government and the Ministry of Education and Science, which is a priority and namely the education of citizens for a better promotion and protection of Human Rights.