



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTER OF STATE
FOR DIASPORA



AGJENCIA
KOMBËTARE
E DIASPORËS

DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL

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Introduction

The Diaspora Coordination Council is a structure that operates for the first time in history of the Albanian state. It is established and operates on the basis of Law no. 16/2018 “On Diaspora”.

The mission of the Diaspora Coordination Council is to protect and strengthen relations with the Albanian Diaspora. The Diaspora Coordination Council is the representative body for the relations of the Albanian Diaspora with the Albanian state institutions. Its regular meetings are attended by the highest representatives of state institutions.

The Council is composed of 15 representatives of the Diaspora, prominent in the fields of education, science, culture and other fields as well as with a continuous contribution to the promotion of the interests of the Albanian nation and especially to the issues of the Albanian Diaspora. Members of the Diaspora Coordination Council are elected based on an approved procedure and are entitled to a special status.

Members of the Council, in the framework of the performance of their duties, have the right to request information in the areas of responsibility of the responsible state institutions, to propose administrative acts, to attend hearings in the State Committee on Diaspora or the committees of the Parliament of Albania on issues regarding the interests of the Albanian Diaspora and its cooperation and contribution to the development of the country.

This document is an informative summary of the legal basis and of the members of the Diaspora Coordination Council.

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
THE PARLIAMENT

LAW

No. 16/2018

ON DIASPORA

Based on Articles 78 and 83, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, with proposal of the
Council of Ministers,

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

DECIDED:

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Scope

The object of this law is to define the rules on:

- a) powers of the state authorities responsible for relations with Diaspora;
- b) method for preserving, strengthening and enabling links between Diaspora and the country of origin;
- c) establishment of the Diaspora Coordination Council;
- d) granting of national awards for contributions in relations between the country of origin and Diaspora;
- e) preservation and cultivation of national, linguistic, cultural and educational identity of members of Diaspora, and their relationship with the state institutions in the country of origin.

Article 2
Definitions

In this law, the following terms have these meanings:

- 1. “The National Agency for Diaspora”, hereinafter called “The Agency”, is the responsible government body for matters related to Diaspora.
- 2. “Diaspora” includes:
 - a) Early Albanian communities in the world;

- b) any individual born in Albania, who currently lives abroad;
- c) any individual of Albanian origin that was born outside of Albania's borders, who continuously preserves linguistic, cultural and heritage relationships and is willing to preserve ties with Albania.
- 3. "Responsible Minister" shall mean the Minister responsible for covering state activities related to Diaspora.
- 4. "Country of Origin" shall mean the Republic of Albania.
- 5. The "CCD" shall mean a cultural centre of Diaspora, established in countries of interest to Diaspora and the Republic of Albania.
- 6. The "Diaspora Coordination Council" (The Council) is the representative and coordination body for the relations with Diaspora.**
- 7. The "Diaspora Organization" is a voluntary organization of members of Diaspora.

CHAPTER II STATE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA

Article 3 State bodies responsible for Diaspora

State bodies responsible for relations with Diaspora are as follows:

- 1. Council of Ministers.
- 2. State Committee for Diaspora.
- 3. Responsible Minister for Diaspora
- 4. Diaspora Coordination Council.**
- 5. National Agency for Diaspora.
- 6. Cultural Centres for Diaspora.
- 7. Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development.
- 8. Publishing Centre for Diaspora.
- 9. Other state authorities in line with their area of activity.

Article 4 Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers defines:

- a) the policies of the country of origin on Diaspora that are to be implemented by the responsible state bodies for relations with Diaspora;
- b) the method and policies of registration of Albanian citizens living outside the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Article 5 Responsible Minister for Diaspora

The responsible Minister for Diaspora has the following competencies:

- a) proposes to the Council of Ministers the adoption of regulatory acts and other measures for the implementation of state policy on relations with Diaspora.

- b) supervises and coordinates implementation of the National Strategy on Relations with Diaspora;
- c) maintains and monitors relations with Diaspora;
- ç) creates and systematically updates data on its organization in forums;
- d) cooperates with responsible ministries, based on areas of activity, for the establishment of cultural and information centres in countries where Diaspora lives.
- Dh) proposes to the Prime Minister awarding prizes for special contributions in preserving and strengthening ties between the country of origin and Diaspora, as well as for special contributions in promoting Albania to the world;
- e) establishes relationships and promotes affiliation and collaboration with respective embassies in countries where Diaspora lives;
- ë) exercises other competencies according to the legislation in force.

Article 6 Cultural Centres for Diaspora

1. CCDs are established with the purpose of safeguarding and cultivating the national, linguistic, cultural and educational identity of Diaspora and strengthening of ties with the institutions of the Republic of Albania.
2. CCDs exercise their activities in countries of interest to the Diaspora of the Republic of Albania and are established in agreement with such countries.
3. The head of CCD is nominated and dismissed by the order of the responsible Minister of Foreign Affairs upon the proposal of the responsible Minister of Diaspora. The head of CCD has a diplomatic status for the period of engagement and is issued a diplomatic passport.
4. The CCD is subordinate to the head of the diplomatic mission accredited in the country where it functions, pursuant to obligations arising from this law, and other obligations arising from the legislation in force.
5. The work relations for CCD employees are regulated in accordance with Labour Code provisions in force. The detailed rules for the recruitment of employees are determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers, upon the proposal of the responsible Minister of Diaspora and the responsible Minister of Foreign Affairs.
6. Establishment, organization, method of functioning and remuneration level for CCD are approved by the Council of Ministers.
7. Line and staff organization of the CCD are approved by order of the Prime Minister.
8. The National Agency for Diaspora cooperates and coordinates activities with CCDs.

Article 7 CCD's responsibility

1. CCD is responsible to:
 - a) promote Albania;
 - b) encourage and develop knowledge of language, culture and cultural heritage of Albania;
 - c) encourage scientific, technical, technological, sports and economic cooperation between Albania and the Diaspora;
 - ç) provide information on investments in Albania, tax relief, organization of cultural and educational activities, meetings with fellow countrymen and state institutions in Albania;
 - d) support and organize cultural, educational and sports activities;
 - dh) perform other duties as provided by the legislation in force.

2. The Head of CCD receives instructions from the responsible Minister of Diaspora through the head of the diplomatic mission in the country where it is accredited and informs them on a regular basis about its activity.

Article 8 CCD's financing

Financing for CCD activities is provided by:

- a) The state budget;
- b) The income generated from projects, donations and other legitimate sources.

CHAPTER III PRESERVATION, STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TIES BETWEEN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND DIASPORA

Article 9 Ties between the country of origin and Diaspora

Preservation, strengthening and implementation of relations between the country of origin and Diaspora are accomplished through:

- a) improvement of the position of members of Diaspora and the protection of their rights and interests through international bilateral or multilateral agreements, in accordance with the best international standards;
- b) use and teaching of Albanian language, as well as preservation of cultural, ethnic, and linguistic identity;
- c) promotion of economic cooperation, and fiscal relief between the country of origin and Diaspora;
- ç) **provision of conditions for the functioning of the Diaspora Coordination Council;**
- d) awarding national prizes for special contributions in preservation and strengthening of ties between the country of origin and Diaspora, promotion of Albania to the world and support of its interests.

Article 10 Support for learning and advancement of Albanian language

- 1. The Council of Ministers, through the Minister responsible, helps to create conditions for the preservation and learning of the Albanian language.
- 2. The Minister responsible, along with the Ministry in charge of Education, assist and support development of Albanian language teaching process based on the curriculum, in places where there are large numbers of Diaspora, where they are more compact, and places of special interest to the state.
- 3. The Minister responsible for Diaspora and the Minister responsible for Education sign bilateral agreements with counterpart state institutions for the organization of the teaching process of Albanian language and cultural knowledge for the Republic of Albania, in countries where members of Diaspora live.
- 4. Organization of teaching process and selection of teachers in respective countries where Diaspora lives and operates is regulated by a decision of the Council of Ministers, with the proposal of the responsible Minister for Diaspora and the responsible

Minister for Education, by complying with the international agreements that were signed and that are in force.

5 The responsible Minister for Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for Education, assist in the distribution of textbooks and tailored for learning and advancement of Albanian language and cultural knowledge on the Republic of Albania in the countries where the Diaspora lives and is active.

6 The responsible Minister for Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for Education, drafts and implements educational programmes for teaching Albanian language in distance learning mode, via Internet (cell phone or tablet programmes), and electronic networks and channels of mass communication, teaching Albanian history and culture, by organizing training seminars for teachers; promotes and adopts various measures to encourage complementary learning for Diaspora members.

Article 11

Cultural cooperation and promotion of Albanian cultural heritage

1. The responsible Minister for Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for Culture, support cultural activities of the Diaspora members with the aim of preserving and developing the national identity, the cultural heritage and their promotion and extension.

2. A special pavilion for Diaspora shall be established at the National History Museum.

3. The responsible Minister for Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for Culture, support Albanian communities in different countries where they live, and assist, encourage and develop inter-cultural relations between the Republic of Albania and respective countries, in compliance with this law and other by-laws.

4. The responsible Minister of Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry of Culture, help the youth to promote, preserve and cultivate cultural and linguistic identity, cultural heritage in the interest of historical memory of the country of origin through special public calls for concrete co-operation and by publishing calendars of possible cooperation events between the country of origin and the Diaspora.

Article 12

Cooperation in the field of sports

The responsible Minister for Diaspora, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for Sports, support sports activities of the Diaspora members with the aim of preserving and developing the national identity, the cultural heritage and their promotion and extension.

Article 13

Information

1. The Albanian Radio-Television shall provide a broadcasting channel with radio and television programs for Diaspora. Expenditures to produce programs dedicated to Diaspora and their broadcasting shall be covered by the state budget.

2. The National Library, in cooperation with the responsible Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture, shall provide free access to on-line books dedicated to the education and literature that will serve the interests of Diaspora.

3. The Council of Ministers will encourage and promote media activities of the Albanian Diaspora, based on the efficiency of their activity.

Article 14 Economy and Science

1. The responsible Minister for Diaspora pays special attention to the empowerment of economic ties, cooperation in the field of science and development of new technologies between Diaspora and the institutions of the Republic of Albania, through economic cooperation and various measures of economic policies, according to the legislation in force in the Republic of Albania.

2. The responsible Minister for Diaspora, along with relevant state institutions, supports cooperation with prominent figures in science, members of Diaspora, in institutional research projects.

Article 15 Diaspora Annual Award

1. The “Ambassador of the Nation” award shall be awarded to successful Diaspora members.
2. The criteria and the way of awarding the prize shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 16 Financial Resources

Funds for the preservation and strengthening of ties between the country of origin and Diaspora shall be provided by:

- a) The state budget;
- b) The income generated from projects, donations and other legitimate sources.

CHAPTER IV ORGANIZATION OF DIASPORA

Article 17 Diaspora Organization

1. The Diaspora Organization is a voluntary non-profit organization of Diaspora which acts in compliance with the laws of the foreign country where they live.
2. Diaspora Organization aims to promote Albania and support its state interests; maintain and encourage cultural, educational, scientific, humanitarian and sports relations with the country of origin.

Article 18 Diaspora Coordination Council

- 1. The Diaspora Coordination Council (The Council) represents and coordinates relations with the Diaspora.**

2. The Council has the following competencies:

- a) identifies Diaspora problems, proposes to the Minister of Diaspora actions to be taken for their resolution, sets out guidelines for drafting the Strategy for Diaspora;**
- b) approves rules of procedure for the accomplishment of its activity and rules for the decision-making procedure.**

3. Professional responsibilities in the use of funds and administrative responsibilities of the Council fall under the responsibility of the National Agency for Diaspora.

4. The National Agency for Diaspora carries out the functions of the Technical Secretariat.

Article 19

Council Composition

1. The Council consists of 15 members, which are representatives of the Diaspora.

2. The activities of the Council are attended by the Prime Minister, the responsible Ministers of Diaspora, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Finance and Economy, Education, Culture, the Academy of Sciences, the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Albanian Radio-Television, the National Agency of Diaspora as well as representatives of Cultural Centres for Diaspora.

3. The President of the Republic, upon his request and in coordination with the Prime Minister and the responsible State Minister of Diaspora, shall chair special meetings of the Coordination Council of Diaspora.

Article 20

Criteria for Electing the Council

1. The representatives of the Diaspora, who shall be members of the Council, must have the following qualities:

- a) have a high integrity and reputation in the community where they live in;**
- b) have the capacity to perform the duties of maintaining and strengthening the relations between the country of origin and the Diaspora.**

2. Representatives of Diaspora are elected according to this classification:

- a) three representatives from the Diaspora in the United States of America;**
- b) two representatives from the Diaspora in Canada;**
- c) six representatives from the Diaspora in Europe;**
- ç) one representative from the Diaspora in Turkey;**
- d) one representative from the Diaspora in Australia;**
- dh) two representatives from the Diaspora in the United Kingdom.**

3. The detailed rules on the conditions and method of election of representatives are set out by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

4. The country of origin will not exercise any influence on the procedures and conditions of the election of representatives in the Council.

5. The decision of the election of representatives shall be notified to the responsible Minister for Diaspora at least 30 days before the set date for the meeting of the Council.

Article 21

Meeting of the Council

- 1. The Council will meet, as a rule, on the National Day of Diaspora.**
- 2. The Council may meet in an extraordinary session upon request of at least one third of representatives, or upon the request of the responsible Minister for Diaspora, with a programme determined in advance.**
- 3. The Council may, as appropriate, set up working groups to deal with technical, economic, statutory, cultural, scientific, and sports matters. The number of members and the method of organization and operation of the working groups is determined by a decision of the Diaspora Coordination Council.**

Article 22

Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development

1. The Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development will have the mission of ensuring and distributing financial resources in the framework of encouraging socio-economic and cultural development, based on specific strategies of priority for the Diaspora, and within the country, through promoting, encouraging and directing philanthropic trends and Diaspora investments in support of development in the Republic of Albania and abroad.
2. The Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development shall serve as a mechanism recognized by law for directing philanthropic trends/donations and investments of the members of Diaspora in its efforts for socio-economic and cultural development in the Republic of Albania and abroad.
3. Rules of activity, organization and functioning of the Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development will be defined by a special legislation.

CHAPTER V

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 23

Publishing Centre for Diaspora

1. The publication of special texts which will serve the Diaspora will be carried out through the Publishing Centre for Diaspora, which will be financed from the state budget. The Centre will be organized and will function under the dependency of the responsible Minister for Diaspora.
2. The establishment, organization and functioning of the Publishing Centre for Diaspora will be regulated by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 24

Relations with the Parliament of Albania

In order to follow up and supervise the implementation of this law a Sub-commission “For Diaspora and Migration” shall be established as part of the Permanent Committee on Foreign Policy of the Albanian Parliament. The Sub-commission will be organized and will function according to legal provisions for subcommittees of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania.

Article 25

The Day of Diaspora

December 18 has been designated as the National Day of Diaspora.

Article 26

The Albanian Fund for Diaspora Development, the Diaspora Coordination Council, the Cultural Centres for Diaspora, and the Publication Centre for Diaspora have their own logos. The model of the logos will comply with the format of annexes attached to this law.

Article 27

By-laws

The Council of Ministers is responsible for passing by-laws pursuant to Articles 4; 6, Point 5 and 6; Article 10, Point 4; Article 15, Point 2; Article 20, Point 3; and Article 23, Point 2, of this law.

Article 28

Entry into force

This law enters into force 15 days after its publication in the “Official Gazette”.

SPEAKER

Gramoz RUÇI

Approved on 05.04.2018



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

DECISION

No. 340, dated 6.6.2018

ON

**DETERMINATION OF DETAILED RULES ABOUT
THE CONDITIONS AND METHOD OF ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, and Article 20(3) of Law No.16/2018, “On Diaspora”, upon the proposal of the State Minister of Diaspora, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. Defining detailed rules about the conditions and method of election of 15 representatives to the Diaspora Coordination Council.
2. Representatives of the Diaspora, member candidates for the Diaspora Coordination Council, in addition to the criteria set forth in Law No. 16/2018, “On Diaspora”, must also meet the following criteria:
 - a) Be prominent persons in the field of education, science, technology, culture, sports, etc., or successful in the field of business;
 - b) Be prominent persons in the field of philanthropy and have contributed on issues related to Diaspora or the country of origin;
 - c) Play an active role in Diaspora organizational forums in host countries.
3. The provisions of the legislation in force for the prevention of conflicts of interest in exercising public offices must be applied to the procedure of proposal and election.
4. The proposed number of candidates must not be less than twice the number of representations, as referred to the order defined in Article 20(2) of Law No. 16/2018, “On Diaspora”,

5. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of the Republic of Albania, accredited abroad, through the responsible Minister of Foreign Affairs, propose to the responsible Minister of Diaspora the candidates for the Diaspora Coordination Council.
6. Ambassadors collaborate with Diaspora organizations, known and registered according to the legislation of the host country, in finding candidacies.
7. In special cases or in the absence of proposed candidacies, the proposals for the election of members to the Diaspora Coordination Council (no more than 3 proposals) can be made directly by the responsible Minister for Diaspora.
8. Proposals should be accompanied by necessary CV's and documents, qualifications and evaluations of activities of the proposed candidate.
9. Following the proposals received, the responsible Minister for Diaspora selects 15 candidates for members of the Diaspora Coordination Council and forwards them for approval to the Council of Ministers.
10. At least 30 percent of the membership must be represented by women.
11. Representatives of the Diaspora Coordination Council are elected for a period of 4 years, entitled to the right to re-election, but no more than twice.
12. A member of the Diaspora Coordination Council is dismissed before the expiration of a 4-year mandate, in following cases:
 - a) resignation, upon individual request;
 - b) exercises activity in conditions of conflict of interest;
 - c) is dismissed for other reasons.
13. A member of the Diaspora Coordination Council is discharged before the expiration of a 4-year mandate, in following cases:
 - a) neglects the performance of duties and regular attendance at the meetings of the Steering Council;
 - b) does not perform the functions provided by Law No. 16/2018, "On the Diaspora", and this decision;
 - c) is absent, without justification, in meetings more than 2 times consecutively;
 - d) becomes incapable of performing the functions charged due to physical or mental illness;
 - e) when during execution of functions acts against the interests of the Diaspora Coordination Council.
14. The responsible Minister for Diaspora, no later than 30 working days before the next meeting of the Diaspora Coordination Council, proposes to the Council of Ministers the new candidates to replace the dismissed or discharged member. The mandate of the new member is considered as complete as of the day of appointment.
15. Except for the first elections, proposals must be submitted before the end of August

2018.

16. The State Minister for Diaspora, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the National Agency for Diaspora are responsible for implementing this decision.

This decision enters into force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER

EDI RAMA

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

DECISION

No. 195, Dated 05. 04. 2019

ON

APPROVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and Article 19(1), Article 20 of the Law no. 16/2018, dated 05.04.2018 “On Diaspora”, and point 9, of Decision no. 340, dated 6.6.2018 of the Council of Ministers “On the determination of detailed rules, conditions and method of selection of representatives of the Diaspora Coordination Council”, upon proposal of the State Minister of Diaspora, the Council of Ministers,

DECIDED:

1. The approval of the Diaspora Coordination Council composition from the selected members following the order herein:
 - Mr. Mark Gjonaj - representative from the Diaspora in the United States of America;
 - Mr. Visar Tasimi - representative from the Diaspora in the United States of America;
 - Mrs. Esmeralda Mosko - representative from the Diaspora in the United States of America;
 - Mrs. Adriana Fishta Bejko - representative from the Diaspora in Canada
 - Mr. Ardian Radovicka - representative from the Diaspora in Canada;
 - Mr. Lazim Destani - representative from the Diaspora in Germany;
 - Mr. Sokrat Sinaj - representative from the Diaspora in Switzerland;
 - Mr. Ardian Lekaj - representative from the Diaspora in Netherlands;
 - Mr. Rosario Peta - representative from the Diaspora in Italy;
 - Mrs. Anila Hyka Smorgrav - representative from the Diaspora in France;
 - Mr. Gazmend Kapllani - representative from the Diaspora in Greece;
 - Mr. Namik Shabi - representative from the Diaspora in Turkey;
 - Mr. Bashkim Bekiri - representative from the Diaspora in Australia;
 - Mrs. Brikena Muharremi – representative from the Diaspora in the United Kingdom;
 - Mr. Endri Hatillari – representative from the Diaspora in the United Kingdom;
2. The first meeting of the Diaspora Coordination Council will be held on the National Day of Diaspora, on December 18th, 2019.

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3. The Minister of Diaspora, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the National Agency of Diaspora are responsible for the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters into force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER

EDI RAMA

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

DECISION

No.320, dated. 15.05/2019

ON

THE STATUS OF MEMBERS OF THE DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, and Article 5(a) of Law No.16/2018, “On Diaspora”, upon the proposal of the State Minister of Diaspora, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. Members of the Diaspora Coordination Council, during their mandate and exercise of their activities, are entitled to a special status in accordance with the provisions of this decision.
2. Members of the Diaspora Coordination Council, in the function of fulfilling their duties to protect and strengthen the relationships between the country of origin and Diaspora, are entitled to:
 - a) search for relevant information in the area of responsibility covered by the responsible state institutions;
 - b) make proposal for administrative acts to state institutions regarding the interests of Albanian community in Diaspora;
 - c) attend hearings in the Diaspora State Committee or the committees of the Parliament of Albania on matters regarding the interests of the Albanian Diaspora;
 - d) be provided with an official domain address @diaspora.gov.al.
3. Members of the Diaspora Coordination Council are entitled to be treated with immediate and direct priority by the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassadors of Albania as well as by the heads of diplomatic missions in their respective countries whenever necessary for the smooth running of the process.
4. Professional responsibilities in the use of funds and administrative responsibilities of the Council fall under the responsibility of the National Agency for Diaspora.
5. The National Agency for Diaspora performs the functions of the technical secretariat of the Albanian Diaspora Coordination Council.

6. The expenses for travel, accommodation and *per diem* allowances for the official meetings of the members of the Diaspora Coordination Council shall be covered by the approved budget by the Diaspora National Agency, in accordance with the legislation in force.
7. The Minister of State for Diaspora, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the National Agency for Diaspora are responsible for implementing this decision.

This decision enters into force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER

EDI RAMA

Acting under delegated authority

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

ERION BRAÇE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DIASPORA

PANDELI MAJKO

MEMBERS OF THE DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL

	Adriana Fishta-Bejko	
	Anila Hyka Smorgrav	
	Ardian Lekaj	
	Ardian Radovicka	
	Bashkim Bekiri	
	Brikena Muharremaj	
	Endri Hatillari	
	Esmeralda Mosko	
	Gazmend Kapllani	
	Lazim Destani	
	Mark Gjonaj	
	Namik Shabi	
	Rosario Petta	
	Sokrat Sinaj	
	Visar Tasimi	

CVs OF MEMBERS OF THE DIASPORA COORDINATION COUNCIL



Canada – Adriana Fishta-Bejko

Doctor of Science in Psychiatry with a focus on foreign language acquisition. Mrs. Fishta-Bejko is an academic known as a science professor, author and researcher. During the course of 42 years as an educator she has managed to establish relationships with leaders in the field of education, parents and students, having a positive influence in different countries of the world by teaching in several continents and many countries. For her achievements in the field of education, she was awarded in 2002 the "who's who" award for the American continent and the second "Immigrant of Achievement" award, Calgary, Alberta. In May 2018 she was elected chairwoman of the “Foleja e Shqiponjave” school board in Calgary, Alberta.

Email: Adriana.Bejko@diaspora.gov.al



France – Anila Hyka Smorgrav

IT and telecom professional. She completed her studies with excellent results the master's degrees in Oslo for IT and started working as a lecturer at this institution. She completed her MBA at ESCP Europe, one of Europe's most prestigious business schools. At the same time, she runs projects and is an important business consultant throughout Europe. Activist of Albanian organizations on migration, leader of the Franco-Albanian association “Albania” in Paris.

Email: Anila.Smorgrav@diaspora.gov.al



Netherlands– Ardian Lekaj

Lekaj is a success story in the field of business in Europe and beyond. He completed his studies in economics at the University of Tirana and his master's degree in social security in the Netherlands. He has been living in the Netherlands since 1991 and has been in charge of a series of infrastructure projects throughout Europe. He is an important financial expert running businesses and projects with significant financial value. Mr. Lekaj is an activist and supporter of Albanian communities abroad.

Email: Ardian.Lekaj@diaspora.gov.al



Canada – Ardian Radovicka

An engineer by profession and very keen on paintings, he emigrated to Canada in 2006, where he organises various artistic and cultural activities. Mr. Radovicka provides invaluable help especially in educating and advising the career of Albanian youth in Canada by targeting the Canadian labour market. In 2016 he is elected a member of the Don Valley Art Club.

Email: Ardian.Radovicka@diaspora.gov.al



Australia – Bashkim Bekiri

Bekiri is the President of the Albanian-Australian Community Association. He has special merit in organizing the Albanian community in Australia while maintaining ties with their homeland. Has initiated a series of activities dedicated to Albanian culture and tradition, being the protagonist of the Albanian community in Australia.

Email: Bashkim.Bekiri@diaspora.gov.al



Great Britain – Brikena Muharremaj

The first Albanian female lawyer in the UK since 2005. Mrs. Brikena holds a Bachelor of Laws from Westminster University in London. For 5 years, she has been the President of the Albanian Lawyers Association in United Kingdom (BALA). She is currently licensed in London as a Barrister, a lawyer with full rights of audience to appear in all courts in England and Wales. A well-known activist in the Albanian community in the UK.

Email: Brikena.Muharremaj@diaspora.gov.al



Great Britain – Endri Hatillari

Mr. Hatillari was born in Tirana and has been living in the UK for more than ten years, where he completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in "Development Management", completing a "Master of Science". His professional experience consists of many managerial positions working for a variety of international corporations, including in the telecommunication and banking sectors, as well as in international non-governmental organizations, local authorities in London, and university education system. Currently, Mr. Hatillari works in the City of Brent, north-western London, in the Department of Housing, which enables daily contact with the Albanian community in Britain. He was selected as a candidate in the 2018 local elections for Harrow City Hall in north London and for many years plays a very active role in consolidating and promoting the values of the Albanian-speaking community in the UK.

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USA – Esmeralda Mosko

Advisor to the board of the New York-based Albanian-American “Motrat Qirjazi” Organization, with headquarters in New York. Founder of the Global Albanians Foundation. Her interests are focused on children's rights, education advocacy and human rights. She initially worked at the US Embassy in Tirana where she was awarded the Meritorious Honor Award by the US State Department.

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Greece – Gazmend Kapllani

Gazmend Kapllani completed his doctoral studies in Law and Philosophy in Athens. He has been a university professor for many years and has authored several political, literary publications in the Greek language and has conducted several scientific researches. He has provided an active contribution to political life in the Greek state as well as active participation in several international conferences. Currently he is a successful writer, playwright, journalist and defender of the rights of Albanian migrants in Greece.

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Germany – Lazim Destani

Born in Tetova, he emigrated to Germany at an early age for economic reasons. In 1987 he founded the first shipping business, Sharri Tours. It has followed the Albanian cause in the region concerned about unemployment and the economic situation. He considers it a humanitarian and patriotic duty to provide continuous and progressive support in education, sport and culture. He has received several honorary titles from the highest Albanian authorities: "Doctor Honoris Causa" at the University of Tetova, Medal of Merit by the President of the Republic of Kosovo and the title "Nation's Honour Order" by the President of the Republic of Albania in 2012.

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USA - Mark Gjonaj

Councilor in the City of New York, where he represents the Bronx District. Graduated from Saint John's University, Mr. Mark Gjonaj is the first Albanian-American elected in New York City since 2017, while in 2012-2017 he was a member of the New York State Assembly. Early activist on the issue of the Albanian Diaspora in philanthropic services making a continuous contribution to the Albanian cause.

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Turkey – Namik Shabi

President of the association "Vatra" in Turkey with important activity in promoting Albanians in the Turkish society, as well as lobbying for foreign investment in Albanian lands. Mr. Shabi has contributed to the establishment of Albanian cultural centres and the recovery of Albanian associations in Turkey. Mr. Shabi has organised a series of events with wide participation of the Albanian community in Turkey.

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Italy – Rosario Petta

Mayor of Piana dei Albanesi, Arbëresh municipality in Italy. As mayor and member of the municipal council for years, he has made a valuable contribution to preserving the Arbëresh language and traditions as well as cultural organizations. Mr. Petta is a distinguished activist and coordinator in activities organized by the Arbëresh community, especially in relation to the country of origin.

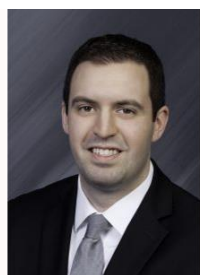
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Switzerland – Sokrat Sinaj

Born in November 1956, Sokrat Sinaj studied agricultural sciences at the Higher Agricultural Institute in Kamza, Tirana. In 1993 he obtained a PhD in Agricultural Sciences with top results at the National Polytechnic Institute of Lorraine, Nancy, France. Upon completing the PhD, for two years he undertook a postdoctoral residency at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Nancy, France. From 1995, he worked for 12 years as an Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy of the Federal Polytechnic University of Zurich in Switzerland and since 2007 he is responsible for scientific research in the field of nutrition of agricultural plants, at the National Institute of Agricultural Research, Switzerland. In 2005 he was certified a University Professor by the French Ministry of Education and Science and a Professor of the Republic of Albania by the Albanian Ministry of Education and Science. Sinaj has coordinated numerous scientific projects with international impact and has published more than 150 articles in the most prestigious scientific journals in the field. He is a member of the scientific committees for several international journals and actively supports the interests of the Albanian community abroad.

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USA – Visar Tasimi

Founder of the Albanian school in Waterbury in 2011, co-founder of the annual Albanian Community Scholarship and director of the Albanian Art Festival in Waterbury. He has ongoing cooperation with the US Senate and has been invited several times to the Connecticut Assembly for the protection of Albanian language teaching and recognition of driving licenses in the US.

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