

Ethnologue: Languages of Albania

Twenty-sixth edition data

David M. Eberhard, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, Editors

Based on information from the *Ethnologue*, 26th edition:

Eberhard, David M., Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2023.
Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty-sixth edition. Dallas, Texas:
SIL International. Online: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

For personal use only

Permission to distribute or reuse this work (in whole or in part)
may be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center at
<http://www.copyright.com>.

Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	10
Language Map	14
Languages by Population	15
Languages by Status	17
Languages by County	19
Languages by Family	20
Language Code Index	21
Language Name Index	22
Bibliography	24

Copyright © 2023 by SIL International

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, redistributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of SIL International, with the exception of brief excerpts in articles or reviews.

List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
FCPNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
IMB	International Mission Board
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Albania that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides detailed information on the 12 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Albania. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. Macrolanguage member languages. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 14) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the

Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by County” (page 19) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Albania and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 20) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 21) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 22) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 46 unique names are associated with the 12 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 24). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

The preferred method of submitting corrections and additions is to join our Contributor Program by applying at <http://www.ethnologue.com/contributor-program>. With a contributor account you will be entitled to complimentary access to the website and will be able to use the Contribute tab on the page for a language or country in order to propose corrections and additions. The advantage of giving feedback in this way is that it becomes part of the public record on the website. You will also be automatically notified of the editorial action.

Alternatively, you may submit corrections and additions by e-mail to:

Ethnologue_Editor@sil.org

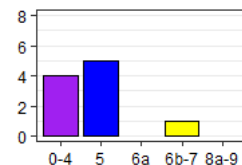
Or by post to:

Editor, Ethnologue
SIL International
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, TX 75236, U.S.A.

Country Overview

Name of country	Albania
Other names	Republic of Albania
Population	2,873,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal language	Tosk Albanian
Literacy rate	98% (2018 World Bank)
Deaf population	204,570 (1998)
International conventions	CDE (1963), CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2006), FCPNM (1999), ICCPR (1991), UNCRPD (2013), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Campbell and King 2011, Comrie 1987, Vidoeski 1983, Messing 1980, Newmark et al 1982

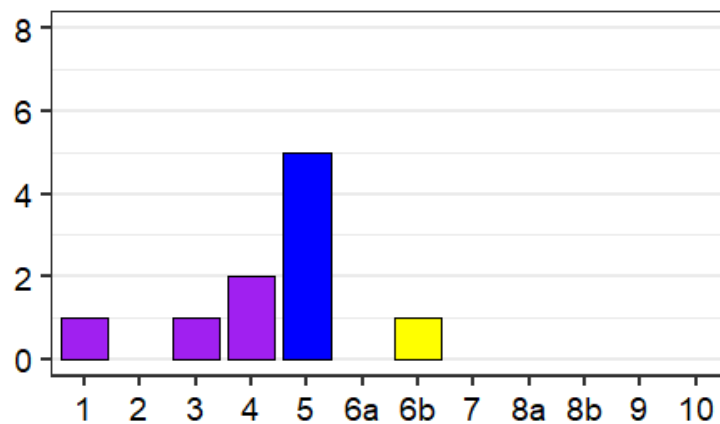
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Albania is 10. All are living languages. Of these, 5 are indigenous and 5 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 4 are institutional, 5 are developing, and 1 is in trouble. Also listed is 1 unestablished language and 1 macrolanguage.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Albania with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Albania. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Albania and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Albania by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 15) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	2	20.0	20.0%	2,770,000	97.03718	97.03718%
10,000 to 99,999	2	20.0	40.0%	65,200	2.28405	99.32123%
1,000 to 9,999	4	40.0	80.0%	19,310	0.67646	99.99769%
10 to 99	1	10.0	90.0%	66	0.00231	100.00000%
Unknown	1	10.0	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0		2,854,576	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Albania by their status in

terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Albania. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	10.0	10.0%	1,570,000	54.9994	54.9994%	1,570,000	1,570,000
3	1	10.0	20.0%	15,200	0.5325	55.5319%	15,200	15,200
4	2	20.0	40.0%	1,200,000	42.0378	97.5697%	600,000	1,200,000
5	5	50.0	90.0%	19,376	0.6788	98.2484%	3,875	4,000
6b	1	10.0	100.0%	50,000	1.7516	100.0000%	50,000	50,000
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0		2,854,576	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 2 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>	
Indo-European	9	90.0	2,851,576	99.9	316,842	11,535	
Sign language	1	10.0	3,000	0.1	3,000	3,000	
<i>Totals</i>	10	100.0	2,854,576	100.0			

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Albanian [sqi]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 6,307,880. *DLS*: .

Other: Includes: Arbëreshë Albanian [aae] (Italy), Arvanitika Albanian [aat] (Greece), Gheg Albanian [aln], Tosk Albanian [als]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,307,880.

Albanian Sign Language [sqk] (AlbSL, Gjuha Shenjave e Shqip, Gjuha Shqiq e Shenjave, Gjuha e Shenjave Shqipe). *Users*: 3,000 (Hoyer 2007). 15,000 deaf in Albania, 24,100 worldwide (2014 IMB). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Historically strong influence from spoken Albanian [sqi] with initialized signs and heavy use of fingerspelling, as well as gestures borrowed from hearing people. Has developed rapidly since the end of Communist control in 1990, with lexical borrowing from International Sign [ils] and other sign languages (Hoyer 2007; 2008 K. Hoyer). Not similar to any other sign languages in the Balkan area. Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Residential deaf school in Tirana established 1963 with an oralist philosophy, but deaf people did not gather on a regular basis until Communism collapsed in 1990 (Hoyer 2007). Sign language began to be taught in 2005. Deaf associations. Used by all. Also use English [eng], especially among youth in school and on the internet (Dimoshi 2013). *Lg Dev*: TV. Theater. Videos. Dictionary. Agency: Albanian National Association of the Deaf (ANAD). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: L2 teaching materials being developed. Muslim, Christian.

Albanian, Gheg [aln] (Geg, Gegnisht-Shqyp, Gheg, Guegue, Shopni, Shqip, Shqyp). Autonym: Gegnisht. *Users*: 1,200,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread north of the Shkumbin river. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Albanian, Gheg. A member of macrolanguage Albanian [sqi]. *Dialects*: Northwest Gheg, Northeast Gheg, Central Gheg, Southern Gheg, Elbasan. Elbasan is the transitional dialect between Gheg Albanian and Tosk Albanian [als], located on the Shkumbin river. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article affix; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 29 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Also use Tosk Albanian [als]. Used as L2 by Vlax Romani [rmy]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary and secondary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1869–1990. *DLS*: Ascending (0.17). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 14:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,239,280. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Romania, Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Albanian, Tosk [als] (Arnaut, Shqip, Skchip, Tosk, Zhgabe). Autonym: Shqip. *Users*: 1,570,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Location*: Berat, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokastër, Korçë, and Vlorë counties. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1998, Constitution, Article 14(1)). *Class*: Indo-European,

Albanian, Tosk. A member of macrolanguage Albanian [sqi]. *Dialects*: Northern Tosk, Lab Tosk (Labërisht), Cham Tosk (Çam). Not intelligible with Arbëreshë [aae] of Italy. The basis of official standard Albanian since 1952. There is a transitional dialect zone which is neither Gheg [aln] nor Tosk. It is spoken in a few towns and villages around the Shkumbin river such as Shpat and Sulovë. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article affix; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 29 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. NT: 1827–2007. *DLS*: Vital (0.79). *Writing*: Elbasan script, no longer in use. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 14:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,924,600 (as L1: 1,918,600; as L2: 6,000). Also indigenous in: Greece. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Aromanian [rup] (Armani, Armina, Armini, Aromunian, Arumanian, Arumanisht, Arumenian, Arumun, Macedo Romanian, Macedo-Rumanian, Vlach). Autonym: Armani. *Users*: 50,000 in Albania (2018 N. Balamaci). *Location*: Fier County: Mbrostar commune; Gjirokastër and Korçë counties: far southeast; Tiranë area. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Dialects*: Many linguists consider Aromanian to be a dialect of Romanian [ron] (2020 O. Ciobanu). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1889–2014. *Writing*: Greek script. Latin script, primary usage. *Map*: 14:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 210,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Greece, North Macedonia. Also established in: Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 2,900 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Albanian Sign Language [sqk]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 168 other countries and unestablished in 15 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 29,700 in Albania (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite

articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Taught in some tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Albania is a member of OIF (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 15,200 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 24,200 (2012 census). *Location*: Gjirokastër, Korçë, and Vlorë counties. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto provincial working language in Gjirokaster, Sarande, and Delvina provinces in south. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Map*: 14:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 7,870 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 35 more.

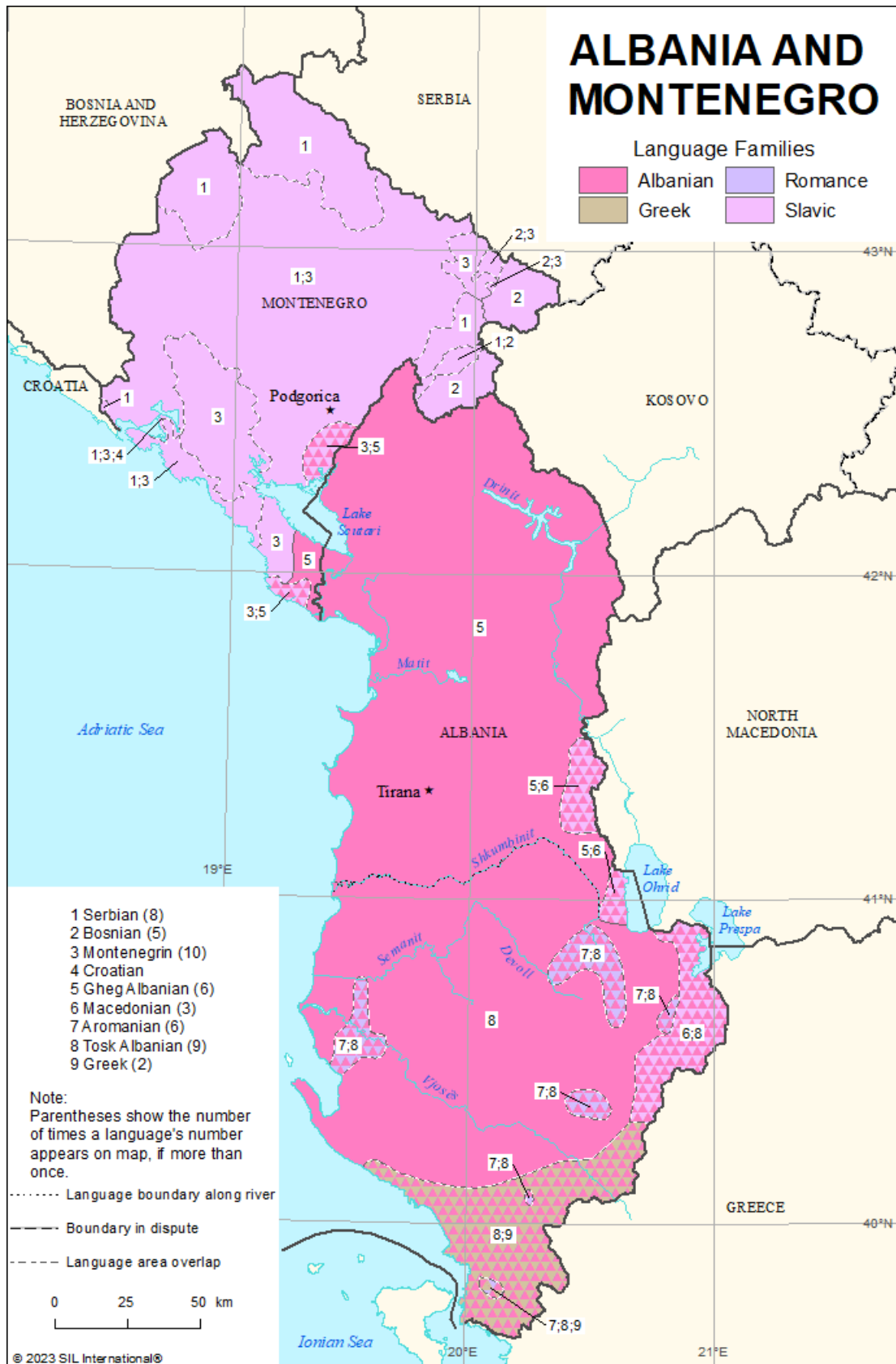
Macedonian [mkd] (Macedonian Slavic). *Users*: 4,440 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 5,510 (2012 census). *Location*: Korçë county: scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article suffix; verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, middle, passive); 26 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on antepenultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1990–2006. *Writing*: Cyrillic script,

used since 1944. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 14:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Greece (Slavic), North Macedonia. Also established in: Romania. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, United States.

Romani, Vlax [rmy] (Rom). Autonym: Romani. *Users*: 4,000 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 8,300 (2012 census). *Location*: Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Korçë, Lezhë, Shkodër, Tiranë, and Vlorë counties. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Vlax. *Dialects*: South Albanian (Fieri, Korça), North Albanian, Gurbet. *Lg Use*: Also use Gheg Albanian [aln]. Also use Tosk Albanian [als]. *Lg Dev*: Printed or pre-recorded Romani language materials may not be understandable outside the country (or context of surrounding languages) in which they were produced. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Ethnic groups are Çergar, Herli, Kurtof, and Meçkar. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 551,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Romania. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 10 more.

Serbian [srp] (Serbo-Croatian). *Users*: 66 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 370 (2012 census). *Location*: Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Korçë, Shkodër, and Tiranë counties. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; comparatives; 25 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes, the ‘r’ also functioning as a vocalic (or syllabic) consonant; nontonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1804–1868. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Libya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Zambia.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Albania are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Albanian, Tosk [[als](#)] *Users:* 1,570,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1998, Constitution, Article 14(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,924,600 (as L1: 1,918,600; as L2: 6,000).

Albanian, Gheg [[aln](#)] *Users:* 1,200,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

10,000 to 99,999

Aromanian [[rup](#)] *Users:* 50,000 in Albania (2018 N. Balamaci). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 210,000.

Greek [[ell](#)] *Users:* 15,200 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 24,200 (2012 census). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto provincial working language in Gjirokastr, Sarande, and Delvina provinces in south. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Italian [[ita](#)] *Users:* 7,870 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Macedonian [[mkd](#)] *Users:* 4,440 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 5,510 (2012 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500).

Romani, Vlax [[rmy](#)] *Users:* 4,000 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 8,300 (2012 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Albanian Sign Language [[sqk](#)] *Users:* 3,000 (Hoyer 2007). 15,000 deaf in Albania, 24,100 worldwide (2014 IMB). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 2,900 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

10 to 99

Serbian [[srp](#)] *Users:* 66 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 370 (2012 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

Unknown

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* L2 users: 29,700 in Albania (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Albania are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Albanian, Tosk [als] *Users:* 1,570,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (1998, Constitution, Article 14(1)). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. NT: 1827–2007. *Writing:* Elbasan script, no longer in use. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,924,600 (as L1: 1,918,600; as L2: 6,000).

3 (Wider communication)

Greek [ell] *Users:* 15,200 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 24,200 (2012 census). *Status:* De facto provincial working language in Gjirokaster, Sarande, and Delvina provinces in south. *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

4 (Educational)

Albanian, Gheg [aln] *Users:* 1,200,000 in Albania (2012 UNSD). Ethnic population: 2,310,000 ethnic Albanians (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Also use Tosk Albanian [als]. Used as L2 by Vlax Romani [rmy]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1869–1990. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

French [fra] *Users:* 29,700 in Albania (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Writing:* Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

5 (Developing)

Albanian Sign Language [sqk] *Users:* 3,000 (Hoyer 2007). 15,000 deaf in Albania, 24,100 worldwide (2014 IMB). *Lg Use:* Residential deaf school in Tirana established 1963 with an oralist philosophy, but deaf people did not gather on a regular basis until Communism collapsed in 1990 (Hoyer 2007). Sign language began to be taught in 2005. Deaf associations. Used by all. Also use English [eng], especially among youth in school and on the internet (Dimoshi 2013). *Lg Dev:* TV. Theater. Videos. Dictionary.

5 (Dispersed)

Italian [ita] *Users:* 7,870 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Macedonian [mkd] *Users:* 4,440 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 5,510 (2012 census). *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used since 1944. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,738,250 (as L1: 1,732,750; as L2: 5,500).

Romani, Vlax [rmy] *Users:* 4,000 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 8,300 (2012 census). *Lg Use:* Also use Gheg Albanian [aln]. Also use Tosk Albanian [als]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Serbian [srp] *Users:* 66 in Albania (2012 census). Ethnic population: 370 (2012 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

6b (Threatened)

Aromanian [rup] *Users:* 50,000 in Albania (2018 N. Balamaci). *Writing:* Greek script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 210,000.

Unestablished

English [eng] *Users:* 2,900 in Albania (2017 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Albanian Sign Language [sqk]. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Languages by County

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Albania. Under the name of each county is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Berat

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Durrës

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Elbasan

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Fier

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Gjirokastrë

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Greek [ell], [12](#)

Korçë

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Greek [ell], [12](#)

Macedonian [mkd], [12](#)

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Lezhë

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Shkodër

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Tiranë

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Vlorë

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Greek [ell], [12](#)

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Albania. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Indo-European, Albanian, Gheg

Albanian, Gheg [aln], [10](#)

Indo-European, Albanian, Tosk

Albanian, Tosk [als], [10](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern

Macedonian [mkd], [12](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

Indo-European, Greek, Attic

Greek [ell], [12](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Vlax

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [13](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern

Aromanian [rup], [11](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian

Italian [ita], [12](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French

French [fra], [11](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Albanian Sign Language [sqk], [10](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 12 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

aln	Albanian, Gheg, 10	mkd	Macedonian, 12
als	Albanian, Tosk, 10	rmy	Romani, Vlax, 13
ell	Greek, 12	rup	Aromanian, 11
eng	English, 11	sqi	Albanian, 10
fra	French, 11	sqk	Albanian Sign Language, 10
ita	Italian, 12	srp	Serbian, 13

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Albanian Sign Language** [sqk], 10, 0
- Albanian, Gheg** [aln], 10, 14
see Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Albanian, Tosk** [als], 10, 14
see Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- AlbSL**, *alt.* Albanian Sign Language [sqk], 10
- Armani**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Armina**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Armini**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Arnaut**, *alt.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Aromanian** [rup], 11, 14
- Aromunian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Arumanian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Arumanisht**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Arumenian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Arumun**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Çam**, *alt. dial.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Central Gheg**, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Cham Tosk**, *dial.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Elbasan**, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Fieri**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13
- French** [fra], 11
- Geg**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gegnisht**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gegnisht-Shqyp**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gheg**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gjuha e Shenjave Shqipe**, *alt.* Albanian Sign Language [sqk], 10
- Gjuha Shenjave e Shqip**, *alt.* Albanian Sign Language [sqk], 10
- Gjuha Shqip e Shenjave**, *alt.* Albanian Sign Language [sqk], 10
- Greek** [ell], 12, 14
- Guegue**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gurbet**, *dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13
- Italian** [ita], 12
- Korça**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13
- Lab Tosk**, *dial.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Labërisht**, *alt. dial.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Macedo Romanian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- Macedonian** [mkd], 12, 14
- Macedonian Slavic**, *alt.* Macedonian [mkd], 12
- Macedo-Rumanian**, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11
- North Albanian**, *dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13
- Northeast Gheg**, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Northern Tosk**, *dial.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10
- Northwest Gheg**, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Rom**, *alt.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13
- Romani, Vlax** [rmy], 13
see Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13

Serbian [srp], 13

Serbo-Croatian, *alt.* Serbian [srp], 13

Shkip, *alt.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10

Shopni, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10

Shqip, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10

alt. Albanian, Tosk [als], 10

Shqyp, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10

Skchip, *alt.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10

South Albanian, *dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 13

Southern Gheg, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10

Tosk, *alt.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10

Vlach, *alt.* Aromanian [rup], 11

Zhgabe, *alt.* Albanian, Tosk [als], 10

Bibliography

- Campbell, G. L. and G. King. 2011. *The concise compendium of the world's languages, 2nd ed.* New York: Routledge.
- Comrie, B. (ed.). 1987. *The world's major languages.* London: Routledge.
- Dimoshi, H. 2013. *A language learning tool - English2AlbSL (English to Albanian Sign Language).* Paper presented at the 13th "See and RE" Workshop, August 26–31, 2013. Bansko, Bulgaria.
- Hoyer, K. 2007. Albanian Sign Language: Language contact, international sign, and gesture. In D. Quinto-Pozos (ed.), *Sign languages in contact*, pp. 195–234. Washington, D. C.: Gallaudet University Press.
- Lewis, M. P. and G. F. Simons. 2010. Assessing endangerment: Expanding Fishman's GIDS. *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* 55(2):103–120. http://www.lingv.ro/RRL_2_2010_art01Lewis.pdf. Accessed 11 January 2011.
- Marcoux, R., L. Richard and A. Wolff. 2022. *Estimation des francophones dans le monde en 2022: Sources et démarches méthodologiques.* Note de recherche de l'ODSEF, Québec, Mars 2022. Quebec: Université Laval, Observatoire démographique et statistique de l'espace francophone.
- Messing, G. M. 1980. Politics and national language in Albania. In V. Coetsem and L. R. Waugh (eds.), *Contributions to historical linguistics, vol. 3*, pp. 270–280. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Newmark, L., P. Hubbard, and P. Prifti. 1982. *Standard Albanian: A reference grammar for students.* Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.
- Vidoeski, B. 1983. Dialects of the Macedonian language. In B. Koneski, *A historical phonology of the Macedonian language.* Heidelberg: C. Winter, Universitätsverlag.