

Albanian

Gjuha shqipe

Spoken in: Albania, Serbia and Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, and Italy.

Region: Eastern Europe

Total speakers: about 6,169,000

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Albanian

Official language of: Albania, Serbia and Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia

Albanian is a language spoken by more than six million inhabitants of the western Balkan Peninsula (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Greece) in southeastern Europe (Albanians) and in numerous villages in southern Italy and on the island of Sicily.

There are two main dialects of Albanian: Gegë, which is spoken in northern Albania, in the regions of Former Yugoslavia that are populated by Albanians and in northern and western Macedonia, and Toskë, which is spoken in southern Albania, as well as in Greece (Toskë/Arvanitika) and in Albanian language isles in Sicily and Calabria (Italy; Toskë/Arbëresh).

The language is written with the Latin alphabet and contains 36 letters. 7 vocals and 29 consonants.

Albanian alphabet:

A B C Ç D Dh E Ë F G Gj H I J K L Ll M N Nj O P Q R Rr S Sh T Th U V X Xh Y Z Zh

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 5 sessional Albanian interpreters.