

Free movement in the Schengen countries

Countries in which Albanian citizens' travel without visa

States in which no visa is required: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Lihteshtein, San Marino.

There are excluded the United Kingdom and Ireland which are outside of the Schengen area. Therefore new rules do not apply in these states. For information on entering requirements in these two countries, the citizens should contact the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Tirana and the Embassy of Ireland in Greece.

The Calculating time for citizens to stay in the Schengen area

Albanian citizens with biometric passports can stay in the Schengen area, of the maximum 90 days from the date of entry, within a period of six months (180 days).

How is calculated the six months period of movement in the Schengen area?

The calculation of the days of stay starts from the moment when for the first time, entered in the Schengen area. For example, if the first entry into the Schengen area is made on January 10, the first six-month period ended July 10 and the next period starts on 11 July. If this first period will begin at a later date, such as February 15, the next six months would start on August 16.

The interpretation of the last day of the first 6 month period is very important for every citizen, and the citizen's stay during this period is only a week or two. So, where shall the last day of the 6 months period find the citizen?

In any case, the citizen who fills the time of 90 days stay in the Schengen area and the last day of the six-month period is February 15, within 24.00 of this date should be returned to Albania.

The period of six months that is estimated to count 90 days is not a calendar period. So if you enter for the first time in the Schengen area on December 5, six-month period ending on June 5 next year.

If a citizen travels several times in the Schengen area, and during the six-month total he stayed 45 days, this does not mean that the other 45 days that are not used, will be transferred to the next (or second) six-month period.

If, for various reasons there are made several short stays in the Schengen area, it is provided throughout the duration of travel, it shall not exceed 90 days within a period of six months (180 days).

The disrespect of the days of stay (90 days) constitutes a violation of the Schengen legislation and border police of this area can apply penalties fines up to 600 Euros per person. This fine is required to be paid within a certain time, if not; other penalties are applied to ban the entry up to 5-10 years.

Is it possible to use free movement in the Schengen area to live and work?

Free movement in the Schengen area does not give the right to the Albanian citizens to stay more than three months and no right to be employed, or to seek asylum in these countries. The citizens who are employed or intend to study for a period exceeding 90 days, must first apply for long term visa or residence permit at the embassy or consulate of the country where they want to go.

☒ Claims for Albanian citizens to travel freely to the Schengen space

- a) To be equipped with a biometric passport.
- b) To declare the purpose of travel and submit, before the border control officers, the documents justifying the purpose and conditions of stay.
 - When it is declared at the border for tourism travel, holiday, independent of expectation or accompanying another person, citizen or resident in that country etc., should appear a hotel reservation, return tickets (if traveling by plane or means of water transport) and financial income that he has with him.
 - When is declared that the travel is to a different activities, it is needed to be presented the documentation on the activity for which the person is invited.
 - When is declared that travel is for a health reasons, is needed a recommendation of the Albanian health institution and confirmation of the medical institution where the person is going.
 - When is declared that the travel is going to be, to visit a relative, it should be given information about the receiving person, his address, phone number, etc..

There are places where a persuasive document for the border authorities is also an invitation from the host family which can be signed by the municipal authorities. This is mainly required in those cases where the visitor raise doubts about the purpose of the trip.

• In all cases, the citizen should have:

- health insurance (for the period of stay)
- the necessary documentation of driving, if traveling by car (the international driver's license, international patent and international insurance green card of car).
- Means of travel (plane tickets, ferry, etc..)

Living means during the stay in the Schengen area

☒ Citizen should have adequate means of livelihood, for the period of intended stay and for the return to the country of origin or transit to a third country, in which he issue will be accepted, or is able to obtain funds such legally. But how much is it? Various countries have set different amounts. Approximately this amount does not exceed 50 euros the day, when the citizen has a hotel reservation.

c) The citizen should not be on the lists of persons who pose a threat to public order, public health or internal security.

d) The name of this person should not be on one of the names of persons to whom it is given if the entry prohibition measures in one of the concerned countries.

If for any of the citizen is taken a decision by the judicial or administrative border of even one of the Schengen countries to prevent his/her entry into the country, and this information is entered into the SIS system, this person cannot and will not be allowed to enter in any of these countries; so he will be stopped, upon his first arrival at the point of crossing the Schengen country. These decisions to deny the entry are the purview of these authorities.

These decisions are made for cases, which has set the Schengen Code, that are:

- When a person is convicted of an offense for which the Criminal Code provides a sentence of minimum 1 year prison.
- The person has been the subject of a removal order, forced removal (deportation, return or expulsion), which mainly apply to cases of illegal residence.
- When there is evidence that the person is involved in criminal activity or evidence that is intended to do so.

Such decisions, in all cases will be in writing communication to the interested part.

And this measure is not removed automatically at the expiration of this period. Whenever, any citizen, finishes this period of penalties, for several years, on the basis of the given decision must ask with the help of a lawyer to the relevant state authorities the removal of SIS system of detention.

In special cases, when are found administrative delays and documentation of the citizen is regular, through MFA , the diplomatic representative can request information by the competent authorities of the concerned country, to clarify and facilitate the situation of the Albanian citizens.

e) For minors, if they are not accompanied by both parents, are required to be respected the terms of movement based on national and international legislation.

Reminder:

Every traveler should be aware of:

Border authorities of Schengen member states have the right to refuse the entry to the persons who do not meet these requirements and ultimately decide whether to allow the entry of these people into the Schengen area.

What happens if you break the rules of stay for the Albanian citizen?

At entry and during their stay in the EU countries, the Albanian citizens need to follow some requirements and rules.

If you violate these rules, you will be a subject of removal or force deportation, an action that is always accompanied with a prohibition of entry for 1-5 years.

For a category of violations of the rules of residence, the EU member states will apply measures of administrative fines, which range from 600 to 3000 Euros. If these cases that these amounts are not paid, the person fined will not be allowed to enter in that country, which has set the fine, until the person pays it with interest of the delay.

It is important to know what these rules the Albanian citizens should not violate:

- First, you must not violate the allowed period of stay that is 90 days within 180 days.
- Second, there should not be violated the local legislation, mainly on employment. So, if caught working without regular documentation you become subject to removal and prohibition of entry.
- Third, you should not become a problem for the public safety, or be involved in criminal activities.
- Fourth, you should not become a public charge (person who does not have to provide shelter, food or other vital needs).

All the above mentioned requirements on entry and stay in the Schengen area are conditions that apply to all foreigners in the EU.