



**Democratic Party**  
of Albania



# THE BOOK

## OF GOOD DEEDS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Guide for Democrats and Albanians

SUMMARY

# INSPIRATION

Without memory, there is no identity  
Without identity, there is no strength  
Without strength, there is no fight against evil.

Adherents of the **Democratic Party** should be proud of their history; this pride conveys to them and all the Albanians strength, faith, and hope for a better future.

The greatest asset of the **Democratic Party** is the hearts of the people who make it up. Only their union around the past and the present can produce the tomorrow we dream of.

# METHODOLOGY

This document has been prepared based on one of the Brain Gain Department's fundamental principles, the **Link between Generations**. For too long, an artificial generational clash existed in the Democratic Party. This clash is to be understood, and this collision must be fought.

The members of the Brain Gain Department, excellent Albanian students or former students worldwide, **have closely cooperated with personalities** who have exercised high political and executive duties during DP governments over the years and have responded to their invitation.

This balance is presented in simplified language and does not intend to be exhaustive regarding the achievements of the Democratic Party in fulfilling its political and moral responsibility towards Albania and the nation.

**It comes as a missing stone in our shared home** today and deals only with selected issues that the authors deem most salient.

# NOTE

## FOR THE READER

The voice of reason penetrates hard in a society ruled by propaganda and patronage.

The latter tend to impose a blaming, humiliating, and profoundly contradictory narrative where on the one hand, it is claimed that the democrats have done nothing. On the other hand, the same democrats are expected to apologize that every wrongdoing has come from them constantly.

The democrats and Albanians must get out of this closed circle. For this, we must rely on clear facts and simple logic.

A balance sheet is to be evaluated in two ways:

### 1. Self-assessment

It should be known if the good things brought by the Democratic Party are more than the problems or failures.

### 2. Evaluation in front of the opponent

It should be known if the good things brought by the Democratic Party are more than the good things brought by the political opponents.

The answer to these questions based on facts away from the passion of political communication is YES!

100 times YES!

KEY

# DATES

**DECEMBER 8**

**1990**

Student protests

**11 DECEMBER**

**1990**

Creation of the Democratic Party

**31 MARCH**

**1991**

The first pluralist elections

**22 MARCH**

**1992**

Victory of the parliamentary elections

**OCTOBER**

**1992**

Free trade agreement with the EU

**13 JULY**

**1995**

Membership in the Council of Europe

**3 JULY**

**2005**

Victory in the general elections

**JUNE**

**2006**

Association Stabilization Agreement

**10 JUNE**

**2007**

President Bush visits Albania

**17 FEBRUARY**

**2008**

Independence of Kosovo

**APRIL**

**2009**

NATO membership

**DECEMBER**

**2010**

Free movement in the EU

# 1

## GUARANTEE OF LOST FREEDOMS

### FACT

The focus of public discourse around “the fall of communism” has made it abstract for Albanians. With time, the memory has faded. During the communist regime, Albanian citizens did not even enjoy the most basic freedoms of a human being, which today are taken for granted, forgetting who provided them for the Albanians.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1 Albanians can **freely express their opinions** in their private circle or public space. They can praise or criticize anyone.
- 2 DP repealed the appalling law declaring Albania the only atheist state in the world. Anyone can **practice the religion they want freely**, follow the rites, or celebrate the holy days of their faith.
- 3 DP abolished the communist obligation to live and die in the country where you were born. Albanians can **freely choose their place of residence** within Albania or travel abroad.
- 4 Citizens can give life to their dreams and ideas by **creating enterprises** or investing in different projects.
- 5 **Media freedom was guaranteed**, often in opposition to the government, where Albanian citizens could freely choose where and how they wanted to be informed.

# 2

## BUILDING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

### FACT

The Democratic Party founded Albania in 1991 with institutions that served as an instrument for controlling individuals and maintaining power by force. DP built a new institutional system based on democratic models combining different influences.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1 Representative democratic institutions** such as the Assembly or the President of the Republic were established, which existed in a different form to oppress individuals.
- 2 The economic/financial administrations** without which the state could not operate, such as the tax administration, customs, the Institute of Statistics, etc., were built with great difficulty for the time.
- 3 DP helped build an entirely new judicial system**, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, the National School of Magistrates, and the Administrative Courts. Judges no longer had to be party members.
- 4 DP established the system of free professions** as a quality guarantee for citizens such as Advocacy, Notary, Enforcement, Dentists, and Accountants.
- 5 Independent supervisory authorities and agencies** were implemented, such as the Supreme State Audit, the People's Advocate, the National School of Administration, and the National Agency of the Information Society.

# 3

## THE FACILITATION OF DAILY LIFE

### FACT

Communism left Albania in the “rationing” and “long milk queues system.” Medical equipment was lacking, road infrastructure was poor, and energy was limited. Movements abroad were difficult or impossible even to visit sick relatives. Socialists did very little to ease the lives of Albanians, dealing more with painting palaces than with fundamental reforms.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1** The food shelves were no longer empty. Albanians could choose between a variety of products and **eat healthily**.
- 2** **More than 11,000 km of roads** were built/reconstructed throughout the country, some of which are historical, such as Rruga e Kombit or Elbasani highway, enabling ease of movement.
- 3** DP policies on security brought forth new identity cards and biometric passports, which opened the way for the liberalization of visas and the **free movement** of Albanians worldwide.
- 4** DP governments built seven hundred twenty water supply systems, ten sewage treatment plants, **400 health centers**, hospitals, and hundreds of km of irrigation canals.



# 4

## STRENGTHENING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY

### FACT

The communist and socialist governments left Albania fragile in the face of external risks, whether military (lack of a functional army or alliances with essential countries, abandonment of the Kosovo issue), food (dependence on foreign products), or even energy (6 up to 10 hours a day energy supply came by private generators, which caused stress and cost).

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1** DP followed the vision of strategic cooperation with significant allies up to **the NATO integration**, which sealed Albania's defense against military risks and its place among free nations.
- 2** Albania left the 'regime of energy supply generators' and entered **the power of safe and renewable energy** by licensing over 400 hydropower plants.
- 3** All milestones that mark the path of our **country's strategic relations** with the United States of America were celebrated, culminating with the visit of President Bush or Secretaries of State Baker and Clinton.
- 4** Domestic agricultural products covered 80% of the domestic market, and **export increased by over 20%** thanks to supportive policies. Millions of olive trees, apples, walnuts, vines, and other fruit trees were planted.
- 5** Albania accompanied and supported **Kosovo's independence** by ensuring international mediation or with diplomatic principles recognized worldwide, such as "Conditional Independence" and "Albania is not an actor but is active."

# 5

## PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS

### FACT

During the communist regime and Socialist governments, Albanian citizens were defenseless against the state, poverty, and criminal gangs that flourished in the country. Due to the wrong policies and corruption, the police force was discredited, and workers and people in need had no protection or support from the state. Criminal bands moved freely, campaigning openly in defense of the socialists.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1** **Social protection of the people in need** through social assistance and other assistance, such as that for people with disabilities, was established.
- 2** The mask of the Socialist Party's so-called Renaissance was torn continuously by highlighting the criminals in its ranks through **decriminalization** and denunciations of scandals.
- 3** Albania joined organizations such as Frontex and Interpol. **Speedboats were also banned**, thus increasing the state's fight against maritime crime.
- 4** In 2005, in just 18 months, more than 1,000 leaders or members of 204 criminal gangs operating in the country were brought before the law, **marking the strength of the state**.
- 5** **Albania became a member of the Council of Europe** and the European Court of Human Rights, giving Albanian citizens high international protection against the state.

# 6

## TRUST IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES

### FACT

One common denominator between communists and socialists in Albanian governments is the lack of trust in private enterprises' role in economic development, innovation, etc. As a result, the communists banned them, while the socialists made their activity difficult with administrative obstacles and competitive barriers. The enormous bureaucracy often forced enterprises to deal with state offices and officials, significantly increasing corruption.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1 One Stop Shop was enacted**, a mechanism that reduces the time and cost of business registration and simplifies customs and tax procedures.
- The tax on profit, dividends, social security, and customs fees was reduced (from 6% to 1%). Another **18 national taxes were reduced** and abolished.
- 3 The time of business registration was reduced** from 42 days to 30 minutes and cost from €4,000 to €1; the National Registration Center was created.
- 4 Two hundred fifty licenses were revoked in one day, and the procedure for another 250 was simplified**; the National Licensing Center was created.
- 5 The "1 euro initiative,"** leasing out public land to prominent foreign investors, presented **visionary projects for Albania**. It brought income generation, jobs, and a new spirit to the Albanian economy.

# 7

## INCREASING ECONOMIC WELFARE

### FACT

The communist regime condemned Albanians to live working six days out of 7, with only 15 days off per year, without enjoying material or financial well-being in return. Socialists did not add rights; they increased the fiscal burden and concentrated economic welfare within a few people.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1** **Two hundred twenty thousand families became owners of the houses they lived in**, and 460 thousand families of the working farms, giving hope of a new beginning in the country.
- 2** The legal working week became five days or 40 hours, the annual leave was extended to 4 weeks, and **maternity leave for new mothers was also extended.**
- 3** The liberalization of prices gave the immediate **opportunity to open the first businesses**, exports, and imports of products missing from the market.
- 4** VAT was set from the beginning to 12.5%. **The fiscal burden was reduced to 10% through a flat tax**, freeing up income to save, spend or invest.
- 5** A 2-tier banking system was created. The Bank of Albania **protects the local currency** against various shocks, and the second-level banks formalize money, transfers, and payments and provide security in savings and opportunities for credit and investment in the real economy.

# 8

## THE ROAD TO DIGITALIZATION

### FACT

In 2005, Albanian citizens sent “rings” to notify each other on the phone due to the high tariffs on mobile phone communication. They had little or no access to the Internet and faced an administration far below the standards required by the rapidly digitizing world. Just as the state had to be built from scratch in 1992, digital Albania had to be thought and realized from scratch in 2005.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1 The tariffs on mobile phone calls were reduced by 3 to 5 times** and by seven times the price of the Internet through a policy of competition and breaking monopolies.
- 2 Internet use was declared an important priority.** It spread to 63% of the population in 2012 from 4.8% in 2006.
- 3 Necessary innovations were considered and prepared** by extending the 3G technology nationwide and designing the framework for 4G.
- 4 Free internet service** was enabled in 1250 offices across the country, where 550 were in post offices with free wireless up to 5 meters.
- 5** The infrastructural basis of telecommunications and computerization (network, institutions, software, etc.) was created, on which all reforms of **digitization of administrative services** have been based until today.

# 9

## OPENING UP EDUCATION FOR ALL

### FACT

During communism, you could attend studies only if the Labor Party gave you the right. Schools were old, teachers few and poorly paid, and universities inaccessible to most Albanians.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1** The number of lecturers increased from 6,000 to 10,500 to adapt to population growth and new educational needs. **Salaries increased by 120-140%.**
- 2** **Over 2,800 schools** were equipped with Internet-connected computer labs (up from 33 before 2005).
- 3** Over 1,360 schools and educational institutions were built or reconstructed, significantly **improving teaching conditions.**
- 4** **Albania entered the European Higher Education Area** (Bologna Process), opening the international horizon for Albanian students (to work or to specialize).
- 5** A real opportunity was created for every Albanian to receive education through competition. The transition to high school went from 68% to 86% (2005-2013), and 70% of graduates went to universities that opened in every corner of the country. **For the first time, Albanian youth had their future in their hands.**

## FACT

The communists and their socialist followers did everything to undo Albania's identity and history to control the people through propaganda systems. Little by little, the true Albanian identity disappeared to give way to the fictitious narrative. Socialist governments never hesitated to destroy heritage for their interests, as with the ancient ruins of Durres or the National Theatre.

## THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- 1 No cultural heritage sites or assets were destroyed, and work was done to ensure their inclusion and **protection by UNESCO**.
- 2 **Butrint was recognized in 1992 by UNESCO** as a world heritage of Humanity.
- 3 **Albanian folk iso-polyphony** was announced as the "Masterpiece of the Oral Heritage of Humanity" in November 2005 and recognized as the Spiritual (non-material) Heritage of Humanity in 2008.
- 4 **UNESCO enlisted Berat**, a world heritage of Humanity, in 2008.
- 5 In 2008, there were **significant changes** to the boundaries of the Historical Center of Gjirokastra. The restoration of buildings with historical value, such as the Old Market, the cobbled street of the Castle, the opening of the First Tourist Center in 2007, etc., became commonplace.

## SELECTED

# STATISTICS

**Establishing a flat tax of 10%** (reduction of profit tax from 25% to 10%, reduction of personal income tax from 23% to 10%); Reduction of social insurance from 32% to 15% for the employer; Reduction of customs fees from 6% to 1%.

In 1992-1996, the complete liberalization of Europe's most hyper-collectivized and centralized economy meant that 80% of domestic production came from the private sector. In the years 2005-2013, **the number of businesses tripled.**

**Exports increased by over 300%**, while foreign investments increased by 316%.

**Budget revenues increased more than double the previous one,** and loans to the economy increased six times.

According to the 2011 Census: **343 thousand Albanian families had more than one house.** The ownership ratio per 1000 inhabitants exceeded 5 EU member states.

**The DP government and its allies increased salaries by 120-150% and low pensions by 100%.** Poverty decreased from 18.5 to 12.3%, while extreme poverty decreased from 4.3 to 1.3%. Unemployment recognized progressive reduction up to 12.8%



# SELECTED STATISTICS

In 2006-2013, **more than 11,000 km of national roads and cities were built and reconstructed throughout the country**, as the European Commission says, more than in the entire region. The following public investments took place during these years: Rruga e Kombit, the Tirana-Elbasan highway (16 km long tunnels), the Lushnjë-Fier, Levan-Vlorë, Thumanë-Milot highways, the Levan-Tepelenë-Gjirokastër, Shkodër-Han i Hotit highways, etc.

In the years 2006 - 2013, the following **were built or reconstructed: 1,300 schools and educational institutions**, 720 water and sewage systems, 10 sewage treatment plants, and 400 health centers and hospitals.

**The building of the Rinas Airport terminal**, and then in the second phase, the airfield was extended to twice its size.

**The reconstruction and redesign of the Port of Durrës**, Albania's main door to Europe. The ports of Saranda, Vlora, and Shengjin were significantly expanded.

Debt increased from 58.2% to 62.6% of the Gross Domestic Product from 2005-2013; in 2023, it exceeded 107% of GDP. In the eight years of DP governance, **the level of investments was more significant than the debt received.**

# SELECTED STATISTICS

**Albania, the minor renewable energy superpower in the region**, became the motto of the DP government and its allies. Albania became the site of two giant energy projects: TAP- The most prominent current investment in Europe is the gas pipeline that will bring Azeri gas to Italy; The Devolli cascade is the most significant hydropower investment in Albania.

**The government signed the construction of 432 hydropower plants** under a concession from private companies, of which 128 were completed and provided over 50% of the country's energy production, and 89 are under construction.

**3.2 billion euros were invested in rural Albania in 8 years.** 8300 km of regional, secondary, and third roads were built. Forty-five thousand projects in agriculture and animal husbandry were subsidized, which made it possible to plant over 7 million olive trees throughout the country and millions of apple, walnut, vineyards, and other fruit trees.

**The number of tourists and visitors increased** from 300,000 in 2004 to 4.7 million in 2012.

Albania, which in 1992 was one of the poorest countries on the planet, managed in 2008 **to enter the group of countries with high middle income.**

The law on **compensating former political prisoners** in the communist regime was implemented, and the first compensation payments began on 12.11.2007.

# SUBJECT

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This document is more than a balance sheet; it is a promise.

The promise of a youth group, a new department within a reconstituted party.

The promise is that the Link between Generations will accompany our activity at every step.

The promise is that the battle for memory will not be overlooked. The assurance that the pride of being a Democrat will be restored to a generation that continues to dream.

This document is a promise,  
This document is hope.

*Amanda Zeqiri  
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