

## Bilateral relations

Albanians have more positive view of contemporary bilateral relations between Albania and Greece. In both countries though there is a perception that relations have overall improved compared to previous decades.

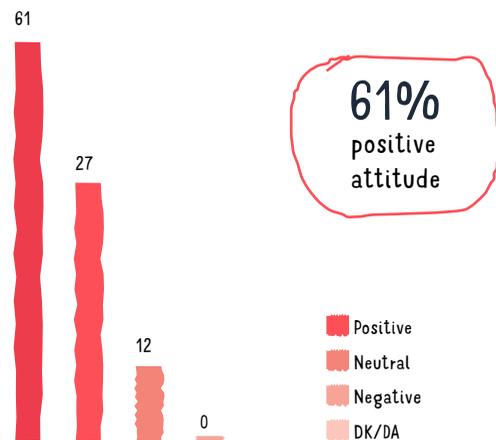
Opinions diverge greatly, with Albanians considering as the most important problems affecting the bilateral relations the delimitation of the maritime zones and the Cham population issues. Both issues do not register much attention among Greeks, who are concerned about the perceived Albanian expansionism and Albania's policies towards the Greek minority, but even these issues attract percentages of about 12%.

The awareness of the Chams issue is considerably higher in Albanian than in Greek public opinion. The vast majority of Greeks do not think that the Albanian government respects the rights of the Greek minority, while the vast majority of Albanians think the opposite. The majority of Albanians do not consider the Greek minority as a threat for Albania, while they view it as fully integrated part of the Albanian society. Similarly, the majority of Albanians define the relation between Albanians and the Greek minority in Albania as positive.

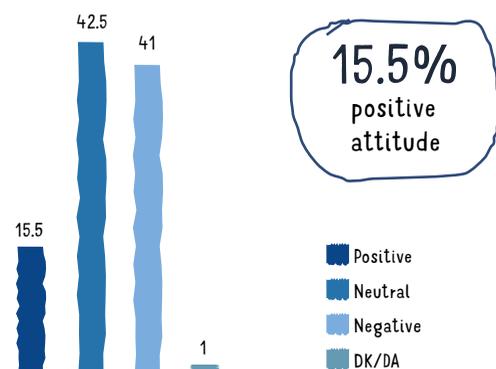


Both Greeks and Albanians, do not consider Albanian migrants as a threat to Greece, while both sides agree that relations between Greeks and Albanian migrants are good. Most Greeks and Albanians agree that the children of Albanian migrants are fully integrated in the Greek society. Moreover, both nations assess positively the contribution of the Albanian migrants to Greece's economic development. Both nations also support that Greece has assisted Albania in the past twenty years.

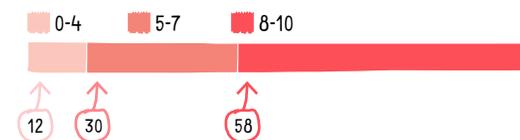
### What is the Albanians' opinion about Greece?



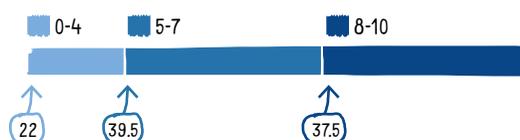
### What is the Greeks' opinion about Albania?



### Albanians: importance to develop relations with Greeks



### Greeks: importance to develop relations with Albanians



### Personal attitudes, values and stereotypes

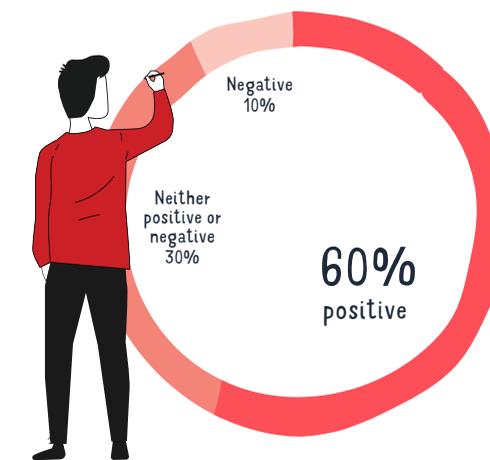
Purely negative attitudes at the personal level have significantly weakened. Only one in ten respondents in Albania and Greece holds negative attitudes about the other nation. Overall, Albanian respondents hold more positive attitudes about Greeks than vice versa.

In Albania, the most positive attitudes towards Greeks are mainly found in the south of the country. In Greece, the highest percentage of positive attitudes towards Albanians is found among young people.

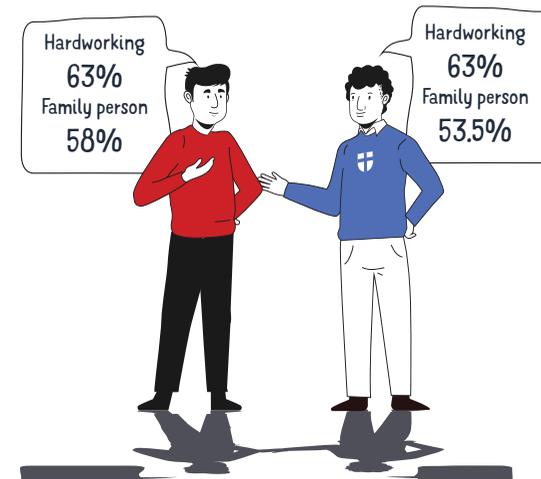
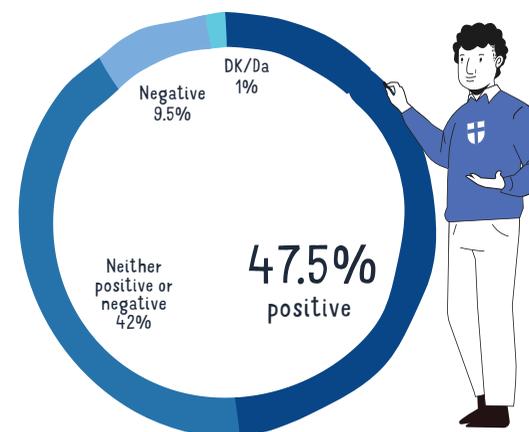
Albanians and Greeks view each other as hardworking and family persons. To a lesser extent they view each other as cordial and honest, and even less as trustworthy. Very few Albanians view Greeks as a threat to their culture, as someone inclined to do illegal activities or being in a bad financial situation. Similarly, few

Greek respondents consider Albanians to be a threat to their culture and fewer as someone being in bad financial situation, but one in five views them as inclined to do illegal activities.

### How Albanians feel towards the Greeks in individual level



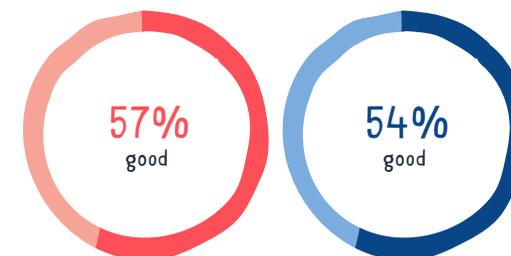
### How Greeks feel towards the Albanians in individual level



### Acquaintance and knowledge

When it comes to acquaintance, an overwhelming majority of Greeks have met someone from Albania, while the majority of Albanians have not met someone from Greece or on a larger extent neither a member of the Greek minority in Albania. Finally, the two nations do not seem to obtain accurate information about each other as, for example, the majority of respondents in both surveys are inaccurately convinced that the two nations have fought against each other in past wars.

### The relations of the Greeks with the Albanian migrants living in Greece



The Open Society Foundation of Albania (OSFA) teamed up with the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) to explore the 'Relations between Albania and Greece' by aiming to understand the public opinion attitudes in the two countries about bilateral relations and the various dimensions of this complex relationship. The joint research project involved two parallel opinion polls conducted in Albania and Greece and implemented by the Tirana-based Data Centrum Research Institute polling agency and the Thessaloniki-based Public Opinion Research Unit of the University of Macedonia Research Institute. The Albanian survey was based on a nationwide representative sample, following the multi-stratified sampling technique, with 1,200 citizens interviewed with the use of Face-to-Face (F2F), door-to-door interviews during February 2020. The Greek survey used a nationwide representative sample, following the multi-stage stratified sampling technique, with 1,128 citizens interviewed with the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) in December 2019.



## International Political and Security Context

Greeks view France as their country's best friend in the international arena, with the EU coming as a distant second. Albanians reserve the top places for the US and Germany.

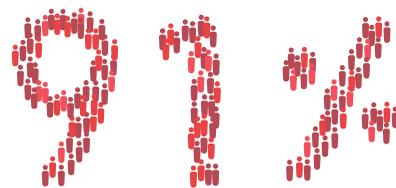
Most Greeks consider their country as being under threat by Turkey, while most Albanians do not consider any foreign country as being a threat. Albanians and Greeks largely do not see each other as a threat.

With regards to neighbouring countries, Albanians have the most positive opinion about Kosovo, Italy and to a lesser extent Turkey; Greeks have the most

positive opinion about Serbia and then Israel. Overall, many more Albanians have a positive opinion on Greece than vice versa. However, the negative opinions of Albania are much lower among young Greeks. On average, Albanian respondents consider developing relations with Greece as more important than Greek respondents consider developing relations with Albania.

The two nations also diverge in their perceptions of the European Union. Only four in ten Greeks consider EU as good thing, while in contrast nine in ten Albanians consider the Union as a good thing. Albanians are overwhelmingly in favor of their country's accession to the EU, while Greeks seem to have mixed feelings about Albania's accession.

### ALBANIANS



European Union is a good thing



European Union is a place of convergence and cooperation

### GREEKS



European Union is a good thing



European Union is a place of convergence and cooperation

# RELATIONS BETWEEN ALBANIA AND GREECE

2021

