

ATTITUDE TOWARD NATIONAL UNIFICATION/ EU INTEGRATION

Regarding the desire to achieve national unification, 63% of respondents in Albania and 54% of respondents in Kosovo state that they want to achieve it. But when asked if they would be willing to pay a tax which would enable national unification, respondents' willingness declined, with only 29% of respondents in Albania and 49% of respondents in Kosovo agreeing to such a tax. If given a chance to vote in a referendum, 75% of Albanians in Albania and 64% of Kosovo Albanians would vote in favor of national unification. Confidence falls in both countries when participants are asked how achievable they think national unification is, with only 23% of Albanians in Albania and 17% of Kosovo Albanians believing that such a thing is possible.

For Albanians in Albania who believe that national unification is possible, the international community is seen as a key factor enabling it. Whereas to Kosovo Albanians, the main factor that can achieve such a scenario are the leaders of Kosovo and Albania. But even those who think that national unification cannot occur, see the international factor as a major obstacle, both in Albania and in Kosovo. The national unification and EU accession of Albania and Kosovo are seen as processes which contradict each other by 42% of respondents in Kosovo and 37% of respondents in Albania. Albanians of Albania, to a greater extent than Kosovo Albanians, tend to view these two processes as complementary.

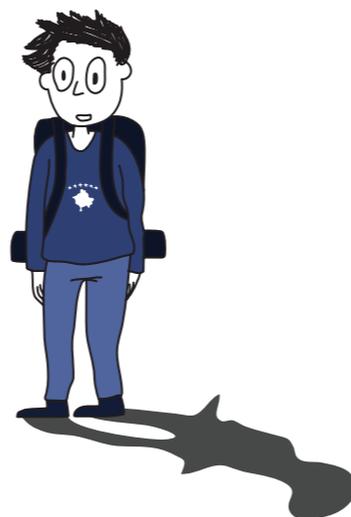
PERCEPTION OF ALBANIA'S ROLE IN KOSOVO/ COOPERATION

Regarding Albania's official attitude towards Kosovo, the citizens of both countries agree that Albania plays the role of 'big brother' to Kosovo. To Kosovo Serbs, Albania seems to interfere a lot in Kosovo's internal affairs, but Albanians of both countries disagree. The majority of respondents in Albania and Kosovo (of Albanian ethnicity) consider that relations between the two countries have not developed sufficiently and that there is still work to be done. The majority of respondents (76% in Albania and 59% in Kosovo) think that developing close relations between Albania and Kosovo benefits both countries equally.



76% **59%**

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70%
AGAINST

Recent months' debates on the possibility of border correction have not been well received by Albanians in Kosovo



52%
AGAINST

ATTITUDE TOWARDS KOSOVO-SERBIA DIALOGUE

Recent months' debates on the possibility of border correction have not been well received by Albanians in Kosovo (over 70% against) and Albania (over 52% against), nor by Kosovo Serbs (over 80% against). However, the majority of those polled in both Kosovo and Albania do not like the current 'status quo' in relations between Kosovo and Serbia and expect changes to be made, but not the kind which would affect territorial integrity.



KOSOVO – ALBANIA

Interaction, knowledge, values, beliefs, cooperation and unification

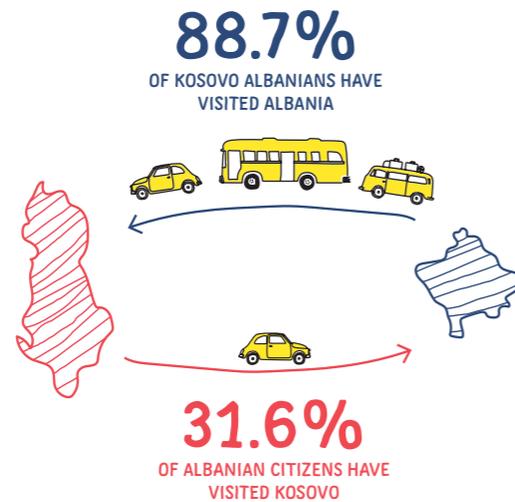


The Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) and the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA) completed an extensive research in Kosovo and Albania at the end of 2018 to measure the interaction and attitudes of citizens of both countries on a range of issues, such as: interaction, social distance, perception of neighbors, attitudes towards official cooperation of the two countries and attitudes towards national unification. 2,504 citizens were surveyed in both countries in October and November 2018: 1,200 in Albania and 1,304 in Kosovo (1,004 Albanians and 300 Serbs). Data collection was carried out according to the same methodology but by two different companies, namely WRA in Albania, and Kantar TNS Index Kosova in Kosovo. The survey format and number of questions were the same in both countries, but a shorter version of the survey was used for Serbian citizens in Kosovo.



INTERACTION

According to research conducted in both countries, 88.7% of Kosovo Albanians have visited Albania, while only 31.6% of Albanian citizens have visited Kosovo. Only 18% of those surveyed from the Serb community living in Kosovo have visited Albania in the last two years. Overall tourism is the main reason for mutual visits, with education, health, trade and employment occupying very little space. The vast majority of those who have not visited Albania or Kosovo say they would like to do so, but cannot because of financial constraints and distance. While 85% of respondents in Albania stated that they feel safe or very safe to travel to Kosovo, only 60% of Kosovo citizens shared this feeling of safety. The feeling of insecurity is high among Kosovo's Serbian population, with only 18% of respondents saying they feel safe to travel to Albania.



SOCIAL DISTANCE

The majority of Albanian respondents in Albania and Kosovo stated that they would have no problem having social relations with someone from Kosovo/Albania, living in the same village, town, and neighborhood with someone from Kosovo/Albania, or sharing the same workplace. When respondents are asked whether they would marry Albanians from the other country - Albania/Kosovo; 75% of respondents in Albania saying they do not have a problem and only 56% of respondents in Kosovo give a positive answer. Albanians of both Kosovo and Albania are more distanced to Serbs than to Montenegrins and Greeks. 84% of Kosovo Albanians and 67% of Albanian citizens do not like to have social relations with Serbs. Regarding social distance with someone from Western Europe, on average 85% of Albanians in Albania and 65% of Kosovo Albanians were in favor of social ties, sharing a place of residence or work.

WHEN RESPONDENTS ARE ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD MARRY ALBANIANS FROM THE OTHER COUNTRY - ALBANIA/KOSOVO;

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KNOWLEDGE

Kosovo Albanians are better informed about the political leaders of Albania's main institutions and its historical dates when compared to Albanian citizens about the same information on Kosovo. Citizens of both countries tend to overestimate the percentage of minorities living in Kosovo and Albania respectively. Kosovo citizens watch more Albanian media than vice versa: **34%** of respondents in Albania stated that they never watched Kosovo media (TV/newspapers/portals), whereas only **17%** of Albanian respondents in Kosovo stated that never watch media from Albania; 45% of Kosovo Albanians stated that they watch the Albanian media every week or several times a week, while only 23% of Albanian citizens stated the same about Kosovo media.

COMMON FRIENDS AND ENEMIES/ IMAGES

Albanians on both sides of the border have similar opinions regarding which countries are friendly or hostile to Albania and Kosovo. Albanians in Albania and Kosovo agree that countries like Germany, Italy, France, the US, Croatia and Turkey are friendly to both countries. Although to a lesser degree, Macedonia is also seen as a friendly country to both Albania and Kosovo. The two hostile states to both Albania and Kosovo are considered to be Serbia and Russia.

NATIONAL UNIFICATION

