

**DECISION**  
No. 396, dated 22.08.1994  
**ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE OF  
NATIONAL MINORITY PEOPLE**

Based on the key political orientation of the Republic of Albania to protect and respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual, including those of the people belonging to national minorities,

Aiming to pursue in the educational domain the state policy to create the proper conditions for the expression, preservation and development of the cultural and language identity of the persons that belong to national minorities as well as the need of their integration in the Albanian society,

Based on the Law "On Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms", approved by the Parliament on March 31, 1993, Article 26 which says: "Persons belonging to national minorities...have the right to study and to be taught in their native language...."

In view of the principles and standards contemplated in the European Charter on Regional Languages or those of Minorities, approved by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on November 5, 1992, as well as the other international documents in this field,

On the proposal of the Ministry of Education, the Council of Ministers

**DECIDED:**

Persons belonging to national minorities have the right to study and/or to be taught in their native language in set state school units and education institutions. Education in the native language of the minorities develops in a multi-form manner in accordance with the main principles of general education in the Republic of Albania and on the basis of teaching plans and programs of the state schools of the country as defined by the Ministry of Education.

In order to make possible an equal and active participation in all the economic, social, political and cultural life of the Republic of Albania, young people that belong to national minorities must know the Albanian language and for this purpose the state creates the necessary conditions.

Education units in the languages of the national minorities, as well as all other state schools operate under the supervision and control of the Ministry of Education. In the present education units where the native language of the minorities is taught, students of these minorities have the right to study and to be taught in their native language.

The plan and the teaching programs, as well as the ratios of the use of the native language and the official language in the educational process of these units are defined by specific acts of the Ministry of Education. Native language and literature for the national minority students, as well as Albanian language and literature are developed as separate subjects.

In the framework of the teaching program, possibilities are created for pupils of national minorities in the education units to study their history, traditions and culture. In the dwelling centers (cities and villages), in which people from the national minorities also live, in the cases when there is a sufficient number of students from the minorities that fulfill the general criteria for the operation of educational units, they have the right, in the context of the mandatory education state system, to study their own native language as an optional subject. The concrete way to organize the teaching in these units is regulated by special acts of the Ministry of Education.

The opening or termination of classes of optional teaching in schools where the native language is taught as an optional subject by national minority students is determined by a decision from the Prefect, after prior approval from the Ministry of Education.

To open such classes, a request signed by the parents or caretakers of the children who want to enroll in these classes in compliance with their rights as individuals and citizens, shall be presented to the head of the education department of the respective district. The request, which must contain the name list of the children according to the registry office register, is submitted to the head of the district education department by a representative of the parents, at least 6 months before the expected academic year starts. After making the verifications and valuations concerning the meeting of the general criteria for the functioning of the educational units, the head of the education department submits the request to the Prefect, as well as his opinion therewith.

After taking the decision, the Prefect has to observe the criteria defined in legal acts, taking into account the composition and the concrete conditions of the population in the respective dwelling center (city or village), especially the need to secure continuous contingents of students. The decision of the Prefect is made known to the representative of the parents or caretakers concerned at least a month before the beginning of the new academic year. When this decision is positive, the Minister of Education must approve it in writing beforehand.

The same criteria are also valid when the above-mentioned authorities examine and decide on the closing of an educational unit.

In specific circumstances, when the number of children or students of national minorities is smaller than that set by the general criteria, the operation of the educational units where the native language of national minorities is also taught, is made by a special decision from the Ministry of Education.

Over the academic year 1994-1995, the optional teaching of the native language shall start through an expedited procedure.

This decision enters into force immediately.

**DECISION**  
**No. 502, dated 05.08. 1996**  
**ON A SUPPLEMENT TO THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**  
**NO. 396, DATED 22.08. 1994 “ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION OF**  
**NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE”**

In conformity with Article 10.4 of the Law No. 7952, dated 21.06.1995 “On Preuniversity Education”,

on proposal of the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Council of Ministers

**DECIDED:**

In the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 396, 22.08. 1994 “On elementary education of national minorities in their native language”, paragraph 5 is added with point 5/1 with the following content:

“Upon requests by parents or caretakers of the children of the Greek minority in Saranda, Delvina and Gjirokastra, school units in which the pupils will also study their native language, shall operate. The first classes will start in the academic year 1996-1997 at the high schools where teaching is performed in the Albanian language, respecting the criterion that the number of pupils per class shall not be under 20. Requests by parents or caretakers of the children of the Greek minority dwelling in the respective town, who want to get education in their native language, shall be handed over to the education department of the district by their representative no later than September 5. The request shall include the name list of Greek minority children according to the civil status register, their age as well as the parent’s or caretaker’s signature. After making the necessary verifications, the head of the education

department of the district shall submit to the Ministry of Education and Sports the request-list as well as his/her own opinion therewith.”

The Ministry of Education and Sports is charged with the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters into force immediately.

**DECISION**  
**No. 548, dated 26.08. 1996**  
**ON CONTINUATION OF GREEK LANGUAGE TEACHING IN SOME HIGH**  
**SCHOOLS**

In compliance with the Law No. 7952, dated July 21, 1995, “ On Preuniversity Education System”,

on the proposal of the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Council of Ministers

**DECIDED:**

In regard to the teaching of the Greek language to minority pupils in the high schools of Dervişan and Bularat, in the district of Gjirokaster, Livadhja, in the district of Saranda and of Aliko, in the district of Delvina, the Greek language teaching shall be extended with 2 (two) more classes per week for the first and second grades.

The Ministry of Education and Sports is charged with the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters into force immediately.