

## Inter-country adoptions - Albania



*Hague Adoption Convention Country? YES*

### Child Profile

- Both boys and girls are available for adoption.
- Children as young as 2 years and as old as fifteen are available for adoption. (wait time for a referral of a child under 4 years old can be up to 3 years.)
- Sibling groups are available.
- Children with Special Needs are available for adoption.
- Children mainly of Roma origins

### PAP Profile

Applicants must be at least 18 years older than the child they are adopting. Both married couples and single women may adopt from Albania. Applicants must be in good health, own a home, and must have a positive net worth. Albania will not accept applicants with a criminal history, history of drug/alcohol abuse, or a history of pornography. Albania is reluctant to accept families with significant medical, psychological, psychiatric conditions. Families with Albanian heritage who meet Albania's adoption requirements may experience shorter wait times for referrals

### Process

1. Attend an adoptions preparatory course organised by an accredited adoptions agency.
2. Compile the Home Study Report together with the social worker. Attend a psychological assessment carried out by a competent psychologist.
3. Apply with the Maltese Central Authority and Adoptions Board to be found eligible to adopt. The following **original** documentation shall be prepared and transmitted to the Adoptions Board:
  - Birth certificate of the wife
  - Birth certificate of the husband
  - Marriage certificate of the couple
  - Police detailed and basic certificate of the wife
  - Police detailed and basic certificate of the husband (and other relatives living with the family)
  - Medical certificates of the wife, husband and any relatives living in the household including tests for HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis
  - FS3 wife
  - FS3 husband
  - Photos/welcome book
  - Home study report
  - Psychological reports

The PAPs shall also confirm with the Agency their intention to adopt from Albania, the number of siblings they would like to adopt and if they are considering adopting special needs children.

4. Once the couple is approved by the Adoptions Board the secretary will inform the Agency with the decision of the board. The Adoptions Board shall also prepare the necessary CA documents. The secretary will then contact the Agency to pick up the CA documents, the board's approval and the original documents listed above who will then forward to the PAPs.

The CA documents are the following:

- Certificate of eligibility and suitability to adopt
  - Approval by the Central Authority for Inter-country adoptions
  - CA covering letter
5. Preparation of the dossier with all the information as described below.
    - Birth certificate of the wife
    - Birth certificate of the husband
    - Marriage certificate of the couple
    - Police detailed and basic certificate of the wife
    - Police detailed and basic certificate of the husband (and other relatives living with the family)
    - Medical certificates of the wife, husband and any relatives living in the household including tests for HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis
    - FS3 wife
    - FS3 husband
    - Photos/welcome book
    - Copy of the Home study report – Do not include the assets and financial information
    - CA documents as listed down in Step 4
    - A letter of motivation stating their reasons for adoption and confirming their final and irrevocable intent to be fully committed to adopt the child.
  6. Translate the entire dossier into Albanian. NB. Only licensed translators can be used for this task.
  7. Submit apostilled dossier to the Maltese-Albanian Consul who will coordinate with the CA for the transmission of the Dossier to the Competent Authorities in Albania.
  8. Dossier is transmitted to the Albanian Adoption Committee for approval and consequent referral.
  9. Once the matching has been made, the couple will be informed by the CA or the Agency and they will visit Albania for a familiarisation visit. They return to Malta to settle the medical papers of the minor with the health authorities and once Health authorities approve they travel to Albania again for court proceedings and passport.