



HOW THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA HAS  
AFFECTED, THE RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT FROM 2013 TO 2021, AND  
HOW ALBANIAN CITIZENS PERCEIVE THE CHANGES?

MASTER THESIS

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# **HOW THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA HAS AFFECTED THE RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FROM 2013 TO 2021, AND HOW ALBANIAN CITIZENS PERCEIVE THE CHANGES?**

## **ABSTRACT**

Living in a new Democratic regime, most of us, we, the people who live in Western Balkan country like Albania, we may wonder: Does democracy enhance the quality of our everyday life? Numerous researchers have accepted that it does, even though recent researchers have raised their question about this. As transitional democracy Albania is yet suffering from many diseases in economic, politic, and social aspects, and are mostly characterized by lacking progress in further development. This research study focus on finding the correlation of democracy in Albania with, rule of law, human rights, and the human development based on the global Indexes from 2013 to 2021. The focus of this study goes further into describing how Albanian citizens perceive the democratic development of Albania, the development of rule of law, the development of human rights, and human development in the last 8 years. Through calculated measures from a time period of 8 years, and from the responses of Albanian citizens, we will be able to test the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ): Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights. The examination is reached out through correlation matrix methods, OLS regression analysis, SPSS analysis, and content analysis. Primarily from the investigations of this study resulted that democracy development in Albania has a negative correlation with development of the rule of law, according to the global Indexes data's. There was found a non-statistically significant positive correlation between democratic development in Albania and human rights, including human development.

Secondary the investigations of this study resulted that Albania citizens do not agree with the fact that democracy has developed in last decade, nor they agree with the development of rule of law over the last 8 years, neither do they agree with the fact that human rights or human development in Albania have increased over the last 8 years.

*Key words: Albania, Development, Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Human Development, Correlation, Albanian citizens, Perception, 2013-2021.*

# **SI KA NDIKUAR ZHVILLIMI DEMOKRATIK NË SHQIPËRI, NË SUNDIMIN E SË DREJTËS, TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT, DHE ZHVILLIMIN NJERËZOR NGA 2013 DERI NË 2021, DHE SI QYTETARËT SHQIPËTARË I PERCEPTOJNË NDRYSHIMET?**

## **ABSTRAKT**

Duke jetuar në një regjim të ri demokratik, shumica prej nesh, ne, njerëzit që jetojmë në një vend të Ballkanit Perëndimor si Shqipëria, mund të pyesim veten: A e përmirëson demokracia cilësinë e jetës sonë të përditshme? Studiues të shumtë kanë pranuar që PO, edhe pse studiuesit e fundit kanë ngritur pyetjen e tyre në lidhje me këtë. Si demokraci në tranzicion, Shqipëria ende vuan nga shumë sëmundje në aspektet ekonomike, politike dhe sociale dhe karakterizohen kryesisht nga mungesa e progresit në zhvillimin e mëtejshëm njerëzor. Ky studim kërkimor fokusohet në gjetjen e korrelacionit të demokracisë në Shqipëri me shtetin ligjor, të drejtat e njeriut dhe zhvillimin njerëzor bazuar në Indekset globale nga viti 2013 deri në vitin 2021. Fokusi i këtij studimi shkon më tej në përshkrimin se si qytetarët shqiptarë e perceptojnë zhvillimin demokratik të Shqipërisë, zhvillimin e shtetit ligjor, të drejtat e njeriut dhe zhvillimi njerëzor në 8 vitet e fundit. Nëpërmjet masave të llogaritura nga një periudhë 8-vjeçare dhe nga përgjigjet e qytetarëve shqiptarë, do të mund të testojmë hipotezën zero ( $H_0$ ): Zhvillimi Demokratik në Shqipëri, ka rritur sundimin e ligjit, ka rritur zhvillimin njerëzor dhe ka rritur të drejtat e njeriut. Ekzaminimi arrihet përmes metodave të matricës së korrelacionit, analizës së regresionit OLS, analizës SPSS dhe analizës së përmbajtjes. Fillimisht nga hetimet e këtij studimi rezultoi se zhvillimi i demokracisë në Shqipëri ka një korrelacion negativ me zhvillimin e shtetit të së drejtës, sipas të dhënave të Indekseve globale. U konstatua një korrelacion pozitiv jo statistikisht domethënës midis zhvillimit demokratik në Shqipëri dhe të drejtave të njeriut, përfshirë zhvillimin njerëzor.

Së dyti nga hetimet e këtij studimi rezultoi se qytetarët shqiptarë nuk janë dakord me faktin se demokracia është zhvilluar në dekadën e fundit, as me faktin se shteti i së drejtës është zhvilluar gjatë 8 viteve të fundit, as nuk janë dakord me faktin se të drejtat e njeriut apo zhvillimi njerëzor në Shqipëri janë rritur gjatë 8 viteve të fundit.

*Fjalët kyçe: Shqipëri, Zhvillim, Demokraci, Sundim i së Drejtës, Të Drejtat e Njeriut, Zhvillimi Njerëzor, Korrelacioni, Qytetarët Shqiptarë, Perceptimi, 2013-2021.*

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The last word of thanks go to my family. I thank my parents for their encouragement, patience, and their never endless support toward me. Deep thanks to my grandparents who have been a big support in my journey. Thank you for believing in me.



## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this Thesis, titled “How the democratic development in Albania has affected the rule of law, human development, and human rights from 2013 to 2021, and how Albanian citizens perceive the changes?” is based on my original work except quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that this thesis has not been previously or concurrently submitted for the award of any degree, at Epoka University, any other university or institution.

Endri Ngresi

06.03.2023

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS

<b>DI</b>	Democracy Index
<b>RLI</b>	Rule of Law Index
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HRI</b>	Human Rights Index
<b>H (0)</b>	Null Hypothesis
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>INSTAT</b>	Institute of Statistics
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
<b>OLS</b>	Ordinary least squares



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Being considered “democracy” for decades, closer to EU, and a Western Balkan nation, has not make it easier for Albania to join the grand family of European Union, to have the benefits, the privileges and supports that member of the Union share. Albania submitted its participation of application in 2009, but only in 2020 were given endorsement by EU to increase talks. All these years the centre focus Albania has been to Increase Democracy, and meet the Copenhagen criteria, such as stability of institutions providing rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities, infrastructure, privatization, and competitiveness (European Commission, 1993). That is why the EU accession for Albania means consolidated democracy, higher level of human development, and a pure bureaucracy where the rule of law is a separated branch as it should be in a democratic EU society. Taking into consideration the fact that Albania has been working for many years to strengthen its democracy as a EU requirement, it is necessary to be aware and to research, how effective this democracy have been towards the increasing of the rule of law, increasing of the human development, and the increasing of the human rights.

Democracy serves as a tool for redistribution (Meltzer & Richard, A Rational Theory of the Size of Government, 1981, pp. 914-927).

For more than 20 years Albania suffered the democratic transition and is considered either Hybrid regime, or Flawed democracy. According to The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index in 2021 Albania scored 6.11 out of 10 (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2022).

The democratic transition of Albania brought a plethora of changes over years in the executive, legislative and judiciary, including social changes such as welfare of citizens, and welfare of the state.

The overall changes for sure did target the judiciary, and more specific the rule of law, which is considered to be one of the main pillars of democracy. Albania over the last years faced a chaotic situation that had to do with the corruption of judiciary as a system. While hundreds of prosecutors and judges were charged with corruption charges, the high court remained empty in absence of qualified and uncorrupted judges. According to (World Justice Project, 2021) an international agency that measure the rule of law index, Albania is ranked in the 83<sup>rd</sup> place, from a total of 139 countries.

Meanwhile because of the changes that touched upon social welfare, it is important to consider the matter of human development as long as it's tightly connected with social welfare. By all means, the human development is considered as a crucial force, for generating individual gain to grow the economy, and to increase the well-being of society as a whole, including businesses.

According to Human Development Index which is comprised of three main components such as: health, education and income (United Nations Development Programme, 2020), in 2021 Albania is ranked in 69<sup>th</sup> position out of 189<sup>th</sup> countries (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

It is as well to be emphasized the importance of human rights, and whether changes touched upon fundamental values such as freedom, respect of human rights, and rights of minorities, which are also the fundamental values of European Union. According to the Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (European Parliament, 2013, p. 7), the EU's fundamental values are: "Human Dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, The Rule of Law and respect for Human Rights, including the Rights of minorities. I take in account in this study (The Global Economy, 2021), for giving a measure to the Human Rights. According to The Global Economy Albania in 2021, scored 3.60 index points, where value "0" is considered high level of human right, and value "10" is considered low level of human rights.

Further the focus of this study, will be in testing the null hypothesis (h<sub>0</sub>) that: Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights. In the first part of the study I explain the literature of democracy, and its relationship with rule of law, human development, and human rights.

Continuing in the second part, deductive reasoning is used, where I take in regard the performance of Albania from 2013 to 2021, on the Democracy Index, Rule of Law Index, Human Development Index, and the Human Rights Index. Correlation analysis is performed between the democracy variable, and all other up mentioned variables, followed by a regression analysis of democracy with the other up mentioned variables, which can lead to a rejection of the hypothesis or a confirmation of the hypothesis. Latter in the third part of the study, questionnaires and interviews are used to show the perception of citizens according to the null hypothesis, and to compare it with the results from the Indexes.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review of this study is based on systematic review, because it reach conclusion on what is known about democracy effect on rule of law, human development, and human rights, and what is unknown, through synthesising the representative literature from other authors, and researchers on the topics of democracy effect on rule of law, human development, and human rights. Deductive reasoning is used in this study's literature because I develop a hypothesis based on a theory, collect data, and analyse the results to confirm or refuse the hypothesis. Primary sources for literature include university libraries and online databases such as Google Scholar and Academia.edu.

I gather information from different authors regarding the understanding of democracy, rule of law, human rights, and human development, giving an explanation for each variable used. Later the literature explains the relationship of democracy with rule of law, human right, and human development, which is also the search of this study.

The search string that I used in both Google scholars and academia.edu is as follows:

Democracy\*OR Democrac?es\* AND Ruleoflaw\* AND  
(countries\*AND(econom?es\*AND institutio?s)).

Democracy\*OR Democrac?es\* AND HumanRight? OR HumanDevelopment?  
(countries\*AND institutio?s).

Human?Right? AND Democrac?es\*.

Inclusion criteria: Primary research, Studies concerned with democracy effect on rule of law, human development, and human rights, Studies using data collection and analysis, English written books.

Exclusion criteria: Secondary researches, books review, article reviews, Studies not concerned with Democracy effect on rule of law, human rights, and human development, Studies that include qualitative methods.

## **2.1 Democracy and its relationship with Rule of Law**

For many, democracy is only meant freedom of speech and freedom of people, but for many researchers, scholars and technocrats, who always seek to discover the covered side of a particular system, democracy is way more than simply the word “freedom”. (Doig & Theobald, 2000, p. 15) established the definition of democracy by including political legitimacy of the state through universal right to vote, and periodic elections; effective political opposition and representative government; a fair and accessible criminal justice system and arbitrary government as manifested by the lack of freedom of religion, association, speech and movement, and human and civil rights. For (O'Donnell G. , 1999) democracy include free and fair elections, inclusive and universalistic wager, and a legal operational system that adopt and protects the rights and freedoms of citizens, and make possible that no one is above the law. (Linz & Stepan, April 1996) Add one more concept to the definition of democracy, “the freedom of communication and association in the civil society”. In his early work “Polyarchy” (Dahl, 1971) referred the term “democracy” to a political system one of the characteristics of which is the quality of being completely or almost completely responsive to all its citizens. For Dahl the institutions of a democratic state must provide at least eight guarantees, which he lists as freedom to form and join organizations, freedom of expression, right to vote, right of political leaders to compete for support, alternative sources of information, eligibility for public office, free and fair elections, institutions for making government policies depend on vote (Dahl, 1971, p. 3). Also (Diamond & Morlino, Assessing the Quality of Democracy, 2005, pp. 3-18) identify 8 dimensions of democracy, named as rule of law, vertical and horizontal accountability, participation, competition, responsiveness, freedom and equality.

While the Rule of Law has evolved over time, by many is considered just “laws”, for some “the compliance with the institutional rules and norms”, and for others just a tool of the “political system”. For (Fuller, 1969, p. 106) law is “the enterprise of subjecting human conduct to the governance of rules”, further Fuller emphasize 8 principles to comprise the Rule of law, generality; publicity; prospectivity; intelligibility; consistency; practicability;

stability; and congruence (Fuller, 1969, p. 39). (Prezworski & Maravall, 2003, p. 1) in their work “Democracy and the Rule of Law”, followed the Dahl strategy, and embraced the Fuller principles, that: Rule of Law exist when there is the compliance with the law when the law is general, public, prospective, clear, consistent, performable, and stable. Prezworski agreed that the Rule of Law have a valuable effect on empowering individual autonomy, because through Rule of Law, individuals make predictions about the responsibilities their actions or behaviours hold, and as such people plan to live and design their life Prezworski (Prezworski & Maravall, 2003, p. 2).

(Dicey, 1885, pp. 110-120) in his early work “Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution” has considered the legal equality, as the key point of the Rule of Law. Citing Dicey:

“No man is above the law (and) every man, whatever be his rank or condition, is subject to the ordinary law of the realm and amenable to the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals” (Dicey 1885, pg114).

Following Dicey work, (O'Donnell G. A., 2004, p. 56) explain that the rule of law means that all citizens are equal before the law, laws are clear, universal, stable, publicly known, and applied to all the citizens through the independent judiciary.

(Garner, Brown, & Galabert, 1983, p. 9) describe the definition of the Rule of Law, as simply used to describe a normative state where law is observed and order is kept.

As stated above, the definition of “democracy” and “rule of law”, vary through time and by authors. Given the fact that democracy and rule of law are performed by different institutions, as democracy linked with legislature, elections, and government, while the rule of law with judiciary and police (Maravall & Przeworski, 2003, p. 243), many studies show that Rule of Law is tightly connected to democracy principles, as (Diamond & Morlino, 2005, p. XII) describe rule of law to be one of the eight dimensions of a good democracy, this means that the performance of the democracy affect in the same direction the performance of the rule of law, and when the quality of democracy increase also the quality of the rule of law increases too. Democracy is considered as a powerful tool to infuse the transparency, legality and rule of law, and as such for Diamond and Morlino in a good democracy, citizens have the power to evaluate the performance of government

according to the rule of law, and as such they held elected officials accountable for their policies (Diamond & Morlino, 2005, pp. 3-15) .

It is clear for Diamond and Morlino that freedom and equality no matter the explanation are indispensable connected to accountability and responsiveness. They base their argument in the fact that in a good democracy, the rule of law is strong, dynamic, and obedient and enforced to everyone, including state officials, oligarchs, political bosses, and criminal groups. In a good democracy separation of branches is necessary and the judiciary at all levels is independent and not affected by the political interference. Democracy enhance the horizontal accountability, because of many particular agencies that are created to counter high corrupted officials which enforce the rule of law (Diamond & Morlino, 2005, pp. 3-15). Also O'Donnell consider rule of law as one of many "institution" of democracy, but for him the highest level of a good democracy is not necessary reached when all the "institutions" are comprehensively developed. According to O'Donnell there might be trade-offs between these "institutions" and in the same time a good democracy to be placed (O'Donnell G. A., 2004, p. 40).

(Carrera, Guild, & Hernanz, 2013, p. 4) interpret the democracy, rule of law, and fundamental rights as co-constitutive and naturally linked with each other. When one of them is violated, the consequences for the other values are unavoidable. For Przeworski the relation of democracy with the rule of law is not more than a populated world of institutions in which different actors might have clashing interest and diverse power among them (Przeworski & Maravall, 2003, p. 13). But in the same time Przeworski consider democratic institutions to create equilibrium by requiring coherence on cause of actions (Democracy and The Rule of Law, 2003, p. 6). (Manin, 1994, p. 57) emphasize the importance of the check and balance system in the democracy, were no particular unilateral authority can act without the consent of other authorities, and as effect this might increase the performance of rule of law.

There are also many other author that disagree the positive relation between democracy and rule of law. This because of a possibility that many illiberal governments try to blend legality and the rule of law, claiming that whatever they do is legitimate. Such system which try to destroy and control the rule of law are mostly characterized by abusive constitutionalism (Dixon & Landau, 2019, p. 490), or by constitutional populism (Halmai,

2019, pp. 302-306) (Blokker, 2018). Such governments instead of accepting the consequences of their political actions, they deviate by changing laws and branches of institutions, with the only goal staying in power and making money.

(Zakaria, 1997, pp. 22-30) also oppose that democracy will lead to constitutional liberalism, while agree that constitutional liberalism can lead to democracy.

### **2.1.1 Measuring Democracy and Rule of Law**

There is not a single agreement to measure democracy, because of its heterogenic nature. Many Indexes are created based on the indicators of democracy as a benchmark, in order to measure the varying degree of democracy between different countries in a ranking scale, taking in consideration indicators such political and civil liberties, free and fair election, respect for human rights, and protection of minorities. Numerous Democracy indexes are available such as: “Freedom House Democracy Index”, “Polity Democracy Index” and “The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index”. These three are widely accepted and used in studies.

The Freedom House Democracy Index, has been in place since 1972 and was founded in the United States. The yearly “Freedom in the World” report, measure the democratization trend in 195 nations using two categories: political rights and civil freedoms. Civil freedoms are assessed using sub-categories such as freedom of expression and belief, freedom of association, and individual rights. Political rights are assessed using sub-categories such as electoral process, political plurality and participation, and functions of public opinion. In terms of political rights and civil freedoms, countries are ranked from 1 to 7. While “1” denotes to the less democratic country (unfree, absence of democratic tenets) and “7” denotes to the most democratic country (advanced democracies) (Freedom House, 2022).

The Center for Systemic Peace compiles the Polity Democracy Index (CSP). By comparing the administrative characteristics of the countries, it assigns codes and rates to them. These studies measures democracy and regime types for a smaller number of countries, using very simplistic definitions. In the Polity data sets, countries are ranked from “-10” to “+10.” “-10” denotes strong autocracy, whereas “+10” denotes robust democracy (Center for Systemic Peace, n.d.).



The Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index which I take in consideration in this study, is based on scores from 60 variables divided into five categories: electoral process and plurality; government performance; civil freedoms; political involvement; and political culture. The five categories are interconnected with each other and each category is rated on a scale of 0 to 10, with the overall Index being the simple average of the five. Based on the performed score that a country show, it can be named full democracy if scores greater than 8, flawed democracy if scores greater than 6 until to 8, hybrid regime if scores 4 until to 6, or authoritarian regime if scores less or equally 4 (The Economist Intelligence Unit, n.d.). One key distinguishing feature that differentiate Economist Intelligence index is the usage of public-opinion surveys—most notably the World Values Survey (The Economist Intelligence Unit's, 2021).

The rule of law, like democracy, is difficult to assess. Many Indexes exist for measuring rule of law namely as World Justice Project, The Global Economy and The Center for Financial Stability. I rely on the World Justice Project Indicators which explore issues such constraints on government power, absence of corruption, fundamental rights, and open government, criminal and civil justice (World Justice Project, 2021). Countries regarding their performance on the up mentioned indicators are ranked from a 0 to 1 scale. 1 indicating that a country rule of law is in the highest level “stronger”, while it becomes “weaker” in every drop from the scale 1.

## **2.2 How democracy affect the human rights?**

Human rights are intrinsic to every human and those include the right of life and being equal, the right to work and education, right to have a property, right to have a family, right of expression and freedom, prohibition of torture, (United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights). All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law according to Article 7 of (United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Human rights are the fundamental values of a democratic society. As such democracy and human rights are tightly connected with each other, and as stated in the Vienna Declaration

and Program of action in 1993: Democracy, Development and Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms are interdependent and reinforcing one another.

Many researchers have linked the positive relationship between the two that means that the more democratic a state is the more it respects the human rights. In their work through quantitative analyses ( (Cingranelli & Richards, 2010, pp. 401-424); (Davenport, Human Rights and the Democratic Proposition, 1999, pp. 92-116); (Davenport & Armstrong, II, 2004, p. 538); (McCormick & Mitchell, 1997, pp. 510-525) ), concluded that those government which show low levels of torture, killing and abusing are followed by high level of democratic government.

The EU has further showed, the guidelines on human rights which provide policy instruction on for member states, and for those which seek the EU accession: Actions prohibiting death penalty, human rights conversation, children's rights, protection of children's in situations of wars, protecting human rights activists, preventing and combating violence against female gender, promoting religious and philosophical freedom, protecting the rights of lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, promoting freedom of expression (Human Rights and Democracy, 2018, p. 3).

In a democratic society abusive human rights leaders can be removed through early elections, and further violations of human rights can be prevented. Citizens of a democratic society through their civil liberties can use the politics to prevent repression from the government.

Without human rights, democracy is meaningless. There are many elements of democracy incorporated into the human rights declarations, which are mentioned above, and also many international human rights laws contains general norms, and principles that form the roots of democracy. Since freedom of expression, and participation in the society, and politics is a general human right, and the fact that democracy require citizens to comment and engage in society, and policy making activities, including politics, by creating good institutions, it is a good reasoning to say that increasing democracy can improve human rights.

Another aspect but not the least important, that favours the argument that democracy promote human rights is that, democratic legislations which have their primary focus on

respecting their citizens human rights, can have a critical role in maintaining, and achieving a lasting and essential interaction among citizens, democracy, and human rights.

It is hard to give exact measure for the human rights, because of the wide social aspects that the latter include. As such many organizations are available with brief reports and indexes linked with human rights, on the matters such human freedom, or education. The most prestigious one is the United Nations Universal Human Rights Index which gives report on the situation the country, regarding different aspects of human rights, such as the rights of the persons with disabilities, racial discrimination, and so on. Indeed, for this study I take into consideration The Global Economy organization, because it gives the informer a yearly statistical index regarding Human Rights, in the longer timeframe. Countries are ranked from “0” meaning high level of human rights, to “10” representing low level of human rights (The Global Economy, 2021).

### **2.3 What is the relationship of Democracy with Human Development?**

Numerous writers throughout the history have acknowledge the fact that democratic institutions serves the needs of less advantages groups of the society. Beside some authors that contravense the fact that democracy promote economic and human development (Kurzman, Werum, & Burkhart, 2002), (Boix, 2001), (Brown & Hunter, 2004) most agree that democracy boost human development.

Because of the participatory nature of the democracy, this last can enhance human development by empowering citizens and civic society groups. The reasoning of this dispute is based on the concept that citizen involvement in government empowers ordinary citizens—including the poor—and should drive governments to be more responsible to work more on the interest of the citizens as a result. Participation of civil society in politics, can have direct effect on the society health. According to (Meltzer & Richard, A Rational Theory of the Size of Government, 1981) "the extent to which individuals and groups of individuals think they have control over their life plays a substantial impact in influencing their health". In a democracy, the government who represents the majority has to present redistributive policies (policies for the good of the public) to address social inequalities, as a pressure from the median voter and competitive election groups.

Rationally voters must reward the politicians which provide good policies and serves the good of the public (Baum & Lake, 2001).

Free media is considered as another important source of democracy to empower the human development. The quality of life may be increased when the right information via democratic media is spread to the general public regarding health life and economic issues. For (Boix, 2001) democratic government increases the social spending's which is correlated with enhancement in distribution of public good. (Gerring, Thacker, & Alfaro, 2012), agreed that democracy is likely to enhance human development in short and long term run. As mentioned, is justifiable to believe that democracy influences public policy, especially when the primary goal of such policies is to increase human development.

### **2.3.1 Understanding Human Development**

When it comes to Human Development, most of the early studies share the understanding of linking human development with mortality rates (Sen & Anand, 1998), which was vague on presenting a view on wellbeing. In the beginning of the 70s, many organizations and institutes and researchers highlighted that human development is comprised by a wide range of social indicators such as health, education including environment. (Morris, 1979) created the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) in 1979, which incorporated three factors: life expectancy, infant mortality, and basic literacy. Amartya Sen, introduced a multidimensional concept of human development, linked with specific social data.

Amartya Sen was more concerned with a society's capabilities than with its GDP. Two normative claims are made by this "capacity approach": 1) Development entails expanding people's freedom (i.e. self-determination), and 2) freedom should be viewed in terms of competence (Stanton, 2007).

Early on, the notion of human development is considered "what people do and be" according to (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). One of the latest method that UNDP use to measure the human development, is the Human Development Index (HDI) operating since 1990. HDI is reached by accumulating and measuring three different indicators namely Expectancy Index corresponding to life expectancy at birth, Education Attainment Index corresponding to expected years of schooling, and Adjusted Income

Index corresponding to GDP per capita (UNDP report), with the minimum and maximum stated as below:

-Life expectancy at birth: 25 - 85 years;

-Expected years of schooling (years) 0 - 18

-Means years of schooling (years): 0 - 15

-Real GDP per capita (PPP\$): PPP\$100 and PPP\$75000

The results are graded on a scale of 0 to 1, with 0 indicating the lowest level of human development and 1 indicating a state with the highest level of human development.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

This study is designed to describe how the democratic development has affected the rule of law, human rights, and human development, and how the citizens of Albania perceive the effects that democratic development has on rule of law, human rights, and human development. As so a mixed research methods such as quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and statistically correlation research method is applied in this study, determining the effect that democracy development can have on rule of law, human development, and human rights. In the common way, there are indeed other authors, and researchers on this field that has used the statistically correlation research method for finding the most suited results such as (Saha & Campbell, 2007); (Kolstad & Wiig, 2014); (Sung, 2004); and (Goldsmith, 1999, pp. 865-890). The purpose of using mixed methods is for fulfilling the gaps on explanation that one individual method can create, and making the study more valid. The qualitative method might lead to understand better the informant's views, but there is a possibility of being small, and possibly biased, which is complemented by the quantitative study, this latter reaches out to much more informants.

#### **3.1 Rationale for the Research Method**

This study is both inductive and deductive, so I use three different instruments to gather certain values for allowing me to make predictions. The first instrument that I use for the secondary data is the observation of the statistical document reports from well know and worldwide accepted international agencies such as The Global Economy, World Justice Project, United Nations Development Programme, and the Economist Intelligence Unit's, linked with democracy, rule of law, human rights, and human development. The second instrument used in this study is the survey questionnaire, with close ended questions and Likert scale questions. And the third instrument are the in depth face to face interviews, which are transcript on written format.

As regarding the sampling techniques for this study, I use the proportionate or stratified sampling in the questionnaire, because the strata's are created based on the age, of the entire population of Albania, and then participants are selected randomly to reach the quota for each strata. According to INSTAT the Albania population over 18 years old is around 2 million inhabitants, indeed I also use the same strata for creating a representative sample to the whole population. In the questionnaire, because I want to study the whole Albanian population over 18, which is considerably a big number of people, approximately 2 million according to (Institute of Statistics, 2022), the sample size is decided by taking into consideration the formula from the author (Cochran, 1963, p. 75), and is as follows:  $S = Z^2 \times p \times (1-P) / M^2$ , where S stand for sample size of infinite population, Z stand for the Confidentiality level, p for the population proportion, and M stand for the Margin of error. Cochran determine the value of each parameter which are also used for this study: the value of Z is based on the level of confidentiality, for the 95% confidentiality, the value of Z is 1.96. The value of p is equal to 0.5, and the margin error allowed is 5% so the value of M is equal to 0.05. If we substitute the respective values in the up written formula, the S representing the sample size for the infinite population used in this study must be equal to 384,16. Going further as Cochran recommend I add the sample size to the 2.000.000 population with the following formula: Adjusted sample size =  $(S) / 1 + ((S-1) / \text{population})$ . Replacing the values to the formula give as the results that the sample size for 2.000.000 population must be 384 people. Taking into the consideration the sample size and strata used in the study, a good representative sample of the population for this study in the questionnaire would be 77 participants from the 18-29 age group, 130 participants from the 29-49 age group, 127 participants from the 49-69 age group, and 50 participants from the 70+ age group. The questionnaire sample size is described below.

While the in depth interviews sampling techniques that I use in this study, is characterized by purposively sampling, defined by the criteria's according to (Palinkas, et al., 2015, pp. 533-544), where important actors are chosen purposively based on the topic covered, such education linked actors, human right servers, rule of law servers, bureaucracy servers, academics.

A mix of participants were part of the study. During the survey there were in total 310 randomly participants, which completed the questionnaire online, hand by hand, and face to face, but only 250 were chosen to be part of the sample size, in order to fulfil the strata's

based on the Albanian age groups that are mentioned above. According to the Albanian population percentage based on age groups, from this 250 participants that are chosen in the sample, 20% represent the age group of 18-29, 34% represent the 29-49 age group, 33% represent the 49-69 age group, and 13% represent the 70+ age group.

Although 250 participants are a considerable sizable number of opinions, we can say that because the proper representative sample size is 384, the reliability of this questionnaire survey is 65%. As so, if any repetitive nature of this survey can be reproduced, the result will be reliable 65% of the time, or if other 10 surveys with the same nature can be redone, 6.5 of those surveys will bring the results that this survey present below.

For the interviews there were 7 invitations in total chosen purposively, taking into consideration the author (Fridlund & Hildings, 2000, pp. 13-25) where he stated that 1 to 39 participants are enough for the in depth interviews, this depending on many different factors. From 7 invitations, only three agreed the consent form send online via email. The inclusion criteria that determined the participant's invitations were: 1) education linked actors, 2) human right servers on international organizations, 3) rule of law servers, 4) bureaucracy servers, and 5) high level academics.

Data for the questionnaire is mainly collected through, online forms, such as distribution via email, social networks including LinkedIn and Facebook, from hand to hand method, I gave a couple of surveys to other people to spread them for me, in order to keep the biases low, and the last method that I used to collect the data is the face to face method. Even though the face to method is considered to create bias in the results, this is not the case here, because I constantly reminded them that their own personal, and at the moment opinion is mostly valued, and not to have doubts in their opinions, so my presence would not make a difference. The survey questionnaire was voluntarily, participants could enter and leave in any moment, and the questionnaire contained 15 questions and 4 Likert scale statements. Regarding the in depth interviews the consent form sheet was presented to the participants online via email maintaining a high degree of confidentiality. While in the questionnaire the anonymity of the respondents leave no place for potential bias, because the engagement between the researcher and the respondents was reached in that way of not creating space for bias opinions, the case is not the same in the in depth interviews where possible bias might occur because of many different factors, such as the place, the moment,



the more longer face to face interaction between the interviewee and the interviewer. The interviews data are collected through verbal questions recorded on notes, on voice clips, then collected data is transferred into a written text.

Questions asked to the participants: 1-Do you support the idea that Albania has become more democratic in the last 8 years?, 2- Is there any reason to support this opinion of yours?, 3- Do you think that the laws have been strengthened during the last years?, 4- Do you think that human rights are respected, such as: the right to speak, to work and to education?, 5- In one way or another, would you agree that the laws have improved a little, and is there any factor in your opinion that has influenced the improvement of the laws, such as institutions?, 6- Does the government have a role in strengthening the laws?, 7- So you mean that the citizens have a high level of distrust towards the government and the laws?, 8- Are you personally aware of any case where the right to speech, to work, to education, or for any reason of race and gender, has been violated?, 9- Do you have anything else to add that you didn't get a chance to say before?

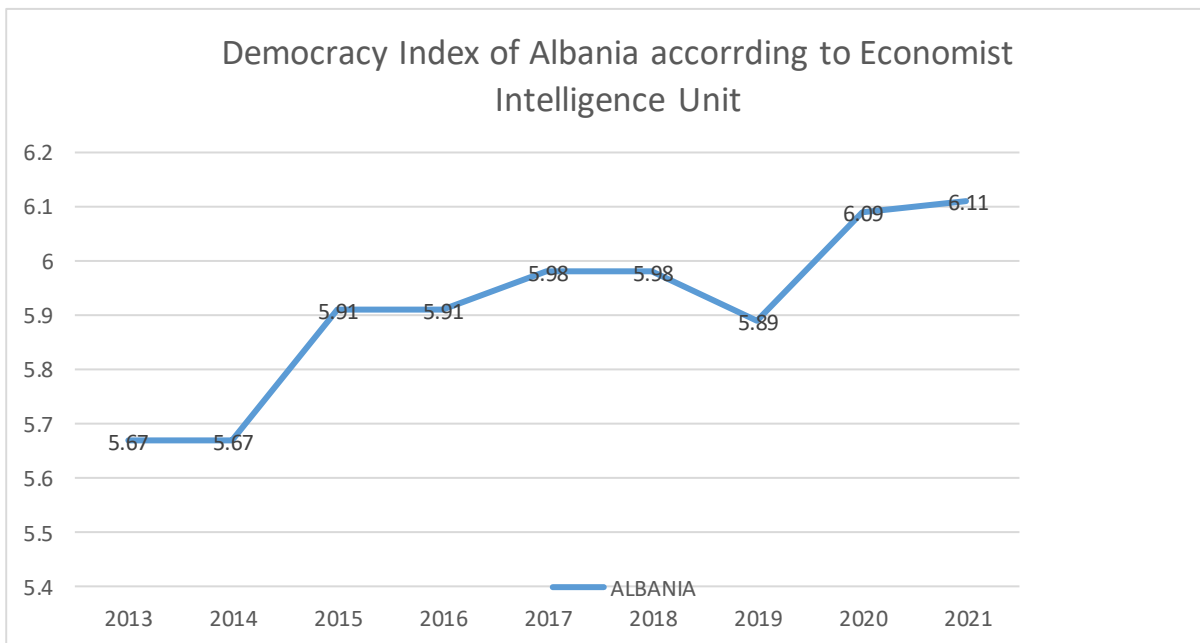
### **3.2 Secondary data analysis**

Since this study is both inductive and deductive the data analysis is achieved by a combination of methods. For the secondary data I use the descriptive statistics where I summarize the data gathered from agencies on democracy, rule of law, human rights, and human development, following by inferential statistics where I try to find out the bivariate relationship between democracy, and rule of law, democracy, and human rights, including the relationship between democracy, and human development, through the Pearson r correlation coefficient, and in the same time finding whether the correlation between bivariate variables is statistically significant or not (Bordens & Abbott, 2010, p. 391).

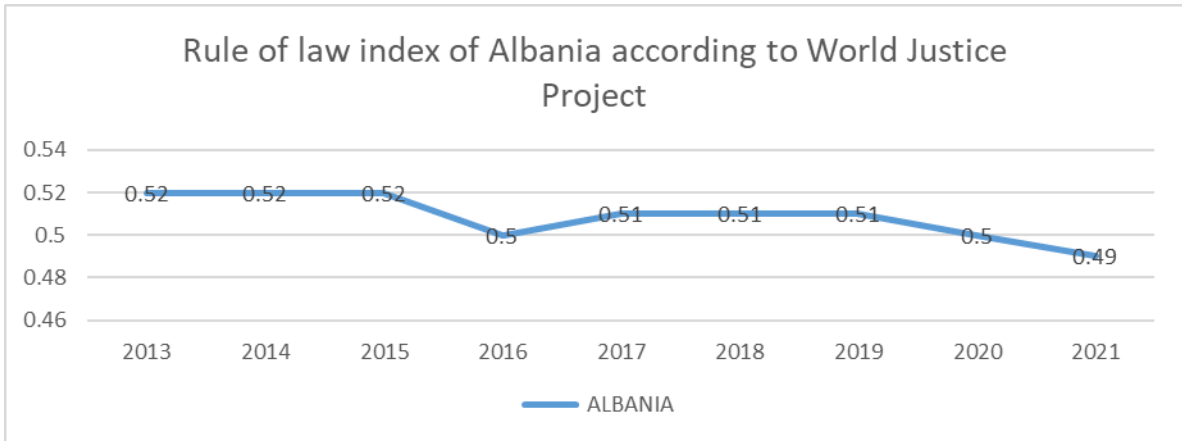
Based on the results of the past investigations, and following the literature work, higher the democracy levels, are associated with higher scores in rule of law, human development, and human rights, and the opposite happens when democracy levels lower, result to lower levels of the rule of law, human development, and human rights. In this section of the study, is expect to be discovered the relation between democracy and rule of law, democracy and human development, and the relation between democracy and human rights in Albania, where I take into consideration the data's from year 2013 to 2021.

The correlation matrix is performed between the independent variable, which is democracy, and the dependent variables, that are rule of law, human development, and human rights. After the correlation matrix, OLS regression analysis is used on the democracy index, and other up mentioned indexes, for showing whether the result of the correlation are statistically significant or not.

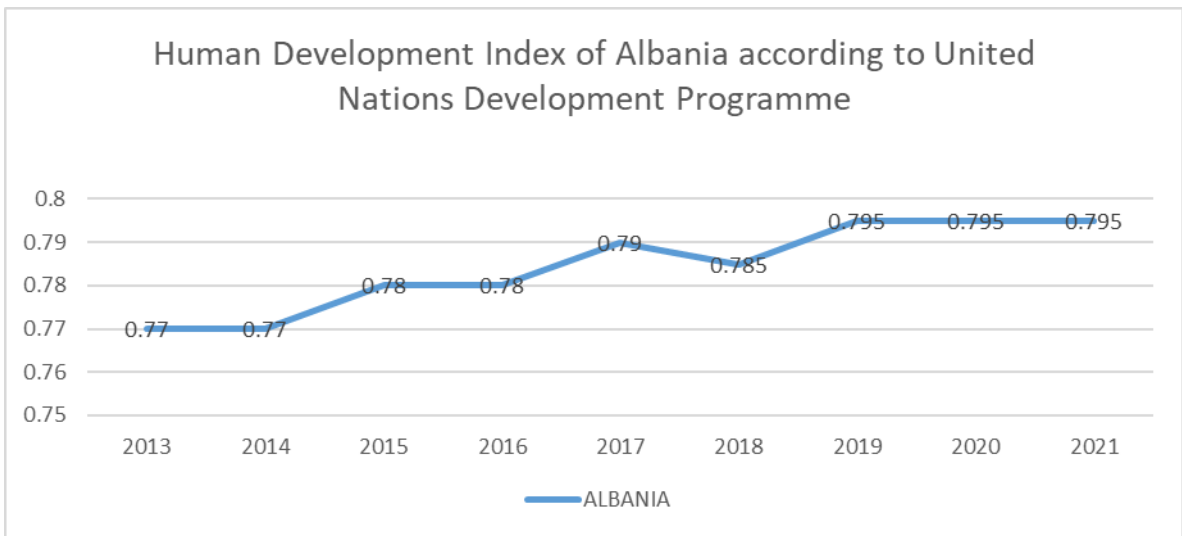
As shown in the graph 1 Albania has made a slightly increase in the democracy index over the last 8 years, by only 0.44 points, with the actual score of 6.11 in 2021, from a 4 year consolidation period, respectively from 2015 to 2021. Meanwhile the graph 2 shows a decrease in the rule of law index of Albania by 0.30 points over this 8 year period, with the actual score of 0.49 in 2021, and the highest 0.52 in 2013. The graph 3 describe the slightly increase by 0.025 of the Albania human development index score from 2013 to 2021, with a fixed maximum score of 0.795 in the last three years. We can say that the human rights index as showed in the graph 4, has achieved the highest increase in score over this 8 year period of time, by having a 2.4 increase in score, respectively from 4 in 2013 over 6.4 in 2021



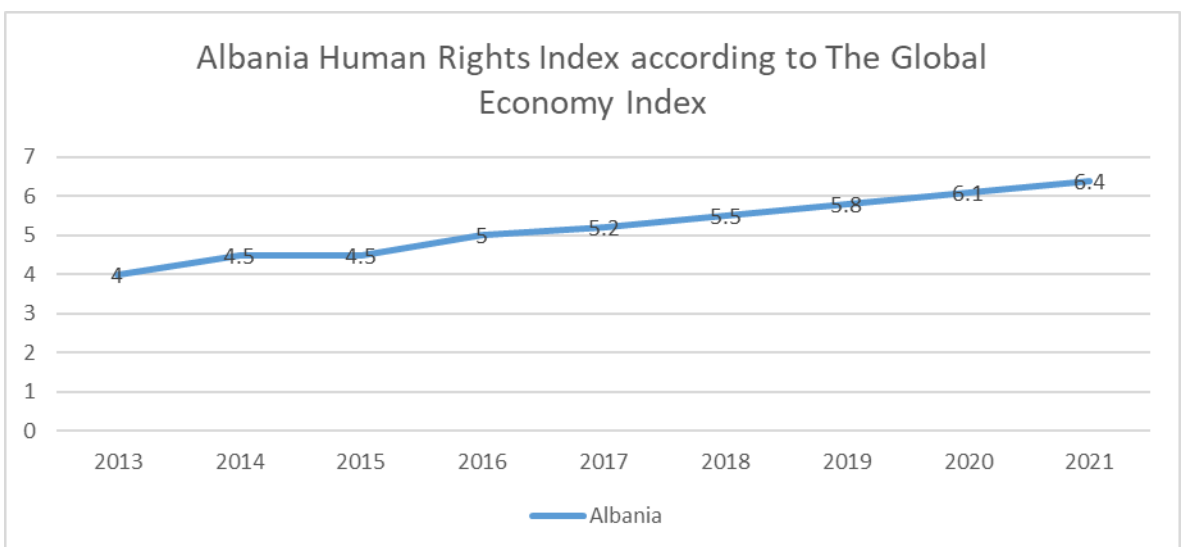
Graph. 3.1 Democracy Index of Albania from 2013-2021



*Graph. 3.2* Rule of law Index of Albania from 2013-2021

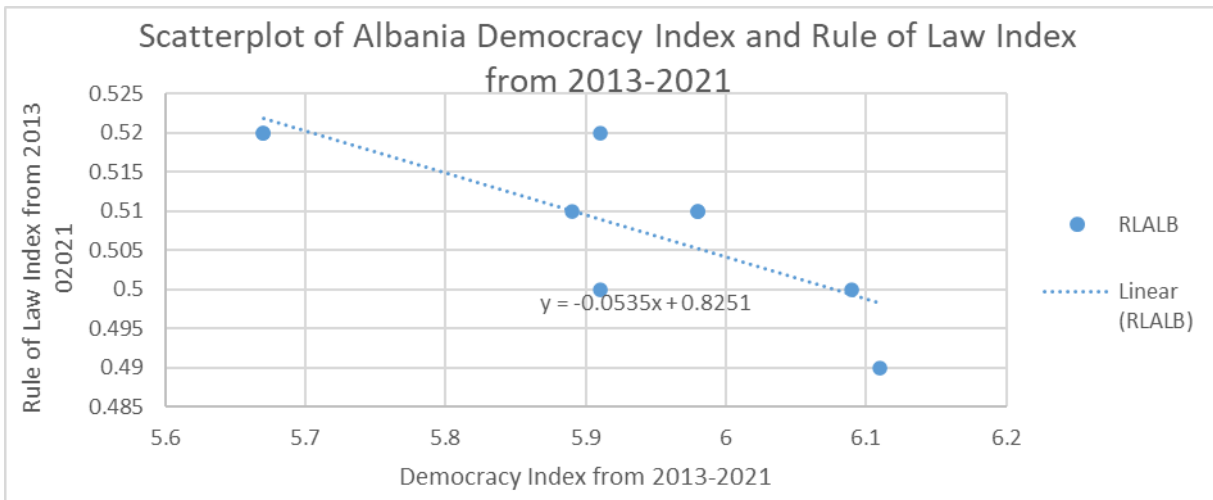


*Graph. 3.3* Human Development Index of Albania from 2013-2021

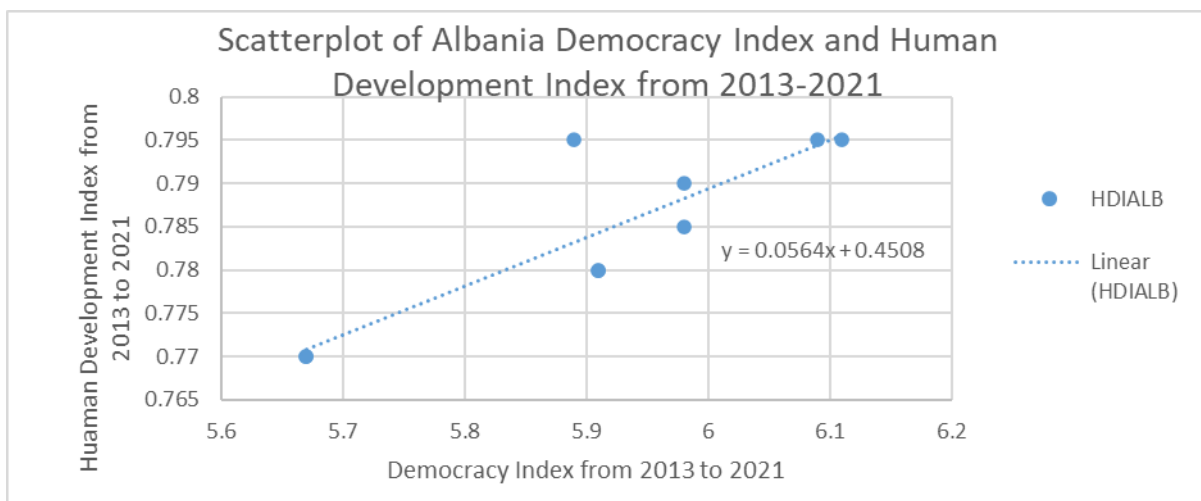


*Graph. 3.4* Human Rights Index of Albania from 2013-2021

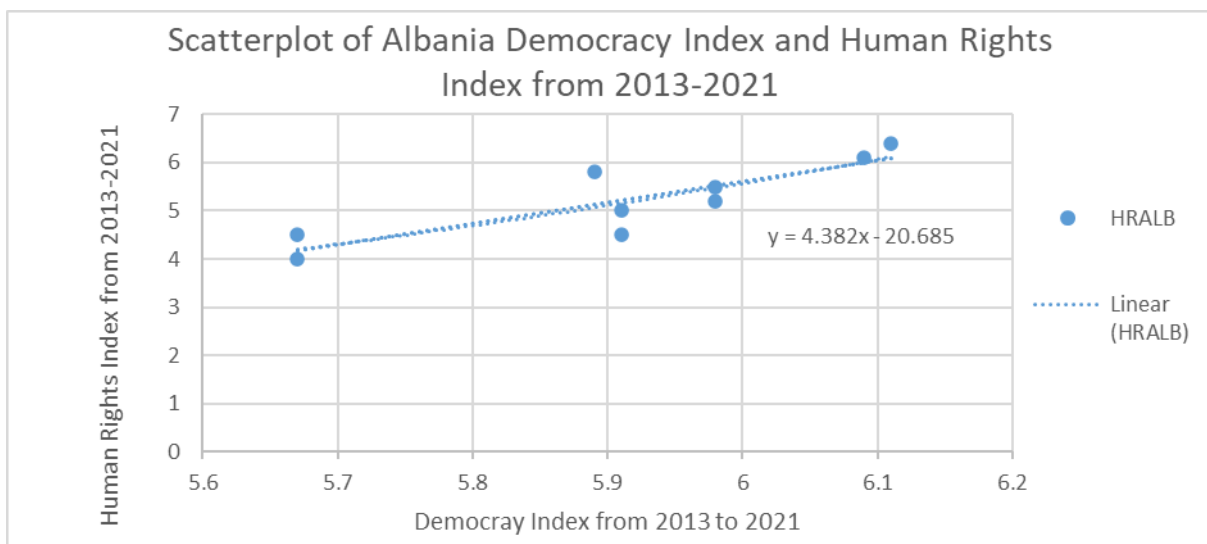
The scatterplots below shows overall the relationship between Albania democracy index with rule of law, human development, and human rights, from 2013 to 2021. In the scatterplot 1, Albania shows a negative relationship between democracy index, and rule of law index. The scatterplot 2, shows the positive relationship between the democracy index and the human development index, same as scatterplot 3 which shows that there is a positive relationship between democracy index and human rights index.



Scatterplot 3.1 Scatterplot of Albania Democracy Index and Rule of Law Index from 2013-2021.



Scatterplot 3.2 Scatterplot of Albania Democracy Index and Human Development Index from 2013-2021



*Scatterplot 3.3* Scatterplot of Albania Democracy Index and Human Rights Index from 2013-2021

Following, the table 1, 2, and 3 gives an overall result concerning the correlation between democracy index, and three variables such as rule of law index, human development index, and human rights index. Considering the timeframe of 8 years that this study used, Albania shows a negative strong relationship between democracy and rule of law, as it can be seen in the table 1,  $r = -0.79$  (Pearson  $r$  for correlation between variables), where maximum value for strong positive relationship is 1, and the maximum value for strong negative relationship is -1). This negative -0.8 value explain that when democracy index is increased by 1 point of value, the Rule of Law Index is decreased by 0.79 point of value. The contrary can be found in the table 2, which shows a positive strong relationship between democracy and human development,  $r = 0.87$ . When democracy index is increased by 1 point of value, the human development index is also increased by 0.87 point of value. The strongest and positive correlation was between the democracy index, and the human rights index as showed in the table 3,  $r = 0.85$ , which means that for every 1 point of value increase in the democracy index, the human rights index also increases by 0.85 point of value.

Table 3.1

*Correlation matrix Albania Democracy Index and Rule of Law Index from 2013-2021)*

	<i>DIALB</i>	<i>RLALB</i>
DIALB	1	
RLALB	-0.797	1

Table 3.2

*Correlation matrix Albania Democracy Index and Human Development Index from 2013-2021.*

	<i>DIALB</i>	<i>HDIALB</i>
DIALB	1	
HDIALB	0.875	1

Table 3.3

*Correlation matrix Albania Democracy Index and Human Rights Index 2013-2021*

	<i>DIALB</i>	<i>HRALB</i>
DIALB	1	
HRALB	0.858	1

Correlation matrix gave us a negative relationship  $r = -0.79$  in the case of democracy index and rule of law index, a positive strong relationship  $r = 0.87$  in the case of democracy index and human development index, and a positive relationship  $r = 0.85$  in the case of democracy index and human rights, but still further investigation are required to know whether this coefficients are statistically significant or not. The results of the Secondary Data are presented in the chapter 4.1 Secondary Data Results.

### 3.3 Questionnaire Survey Data Analysis

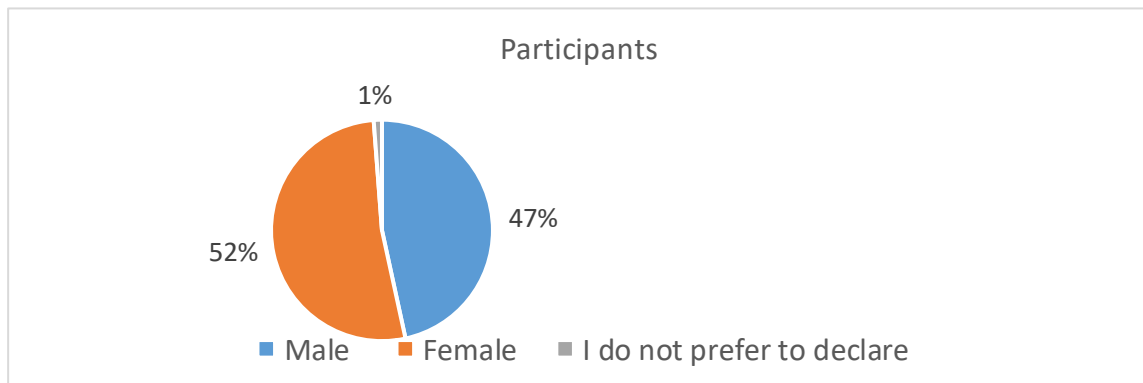
For the questionnaire data analysis in this study, the statistically correlation methods via Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) is applied, where again the descriptive statistics describe the survey results, and a one sample t test is made on the questions that represent the dependent variable, and the data's were managed in the same order as (Bordens & Abbott, 2010, pp. 391-426).

In this way this study can be able to tell whether the citizens of Albania perceive the democratic development over the years to have a positive or negative effect on the rule of law, human rights, and human development.

The data's of the 250 questionnaires are presented as below:

Question 1: What is your gender?

Male: 116 (47%)      Female: 131 (52%)      I do not prefer to declare: 3 (1%)

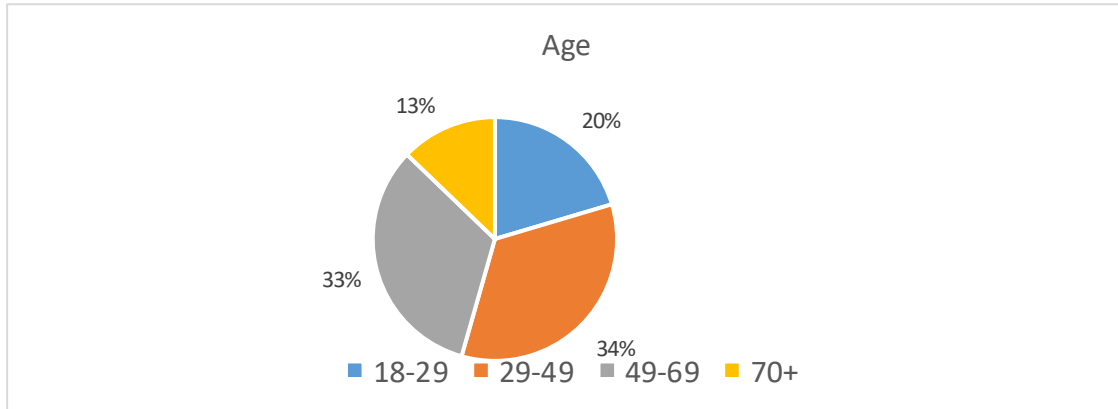


*Pie Chart 3.1* Participant's gender.

As shown in the Pie Chart 1, from a total of 250 participants, 52% are females, and 47% of the participants are males, only 1% of the participants preferred not to declare their gender.

Question 2: What is your age?

18-29: 51 (20%)      29-49: 85 (34%)      49-69: 82 (33%)      70+: 32 (13%)

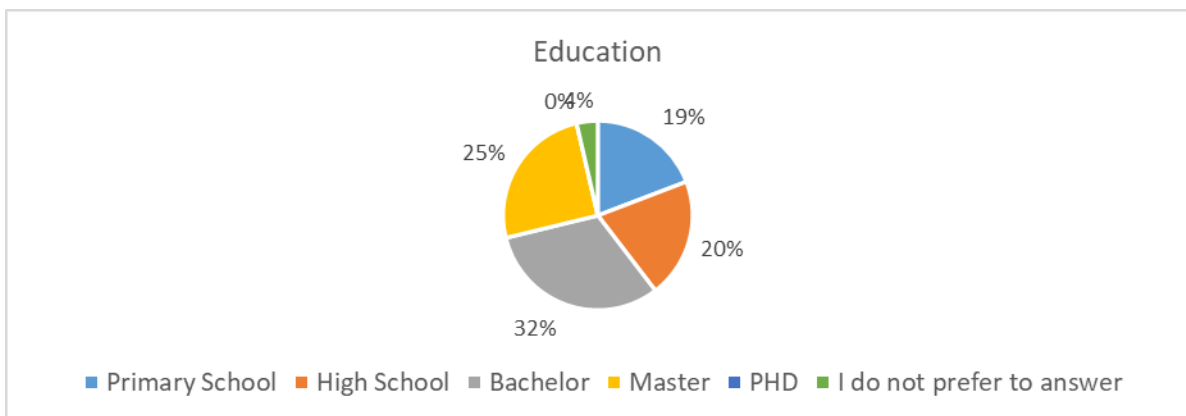


*Pie Chart 3.2* Participant's age.

The percentage of the participants in the Pie Chart 2, based on their age groups, corresponds to the percentage of Albania population older than 18, based on their age group, because the sample criteria as mentioned earlier is based around the age groups of Albania population. The dominant age group was the 29-49 age group, respectively holding 34% of the total respondents, or 85 participants, 51 participants belong to the age group of 18-29, while 82 participants represent the second biggest age group of 49-69, and 32 participants or 1% of the total respondents are at the age group 70+.

Question 3: What is your higher education?

Primary School: 48 (20%) High School: 51 (20%) Bachelor Degree: 79 (33%) Master Degree: 63 (25%) PHD: 0 I do not prefer to declare: 9 (4%)



*Pie Chart 3.3* Participant's education.

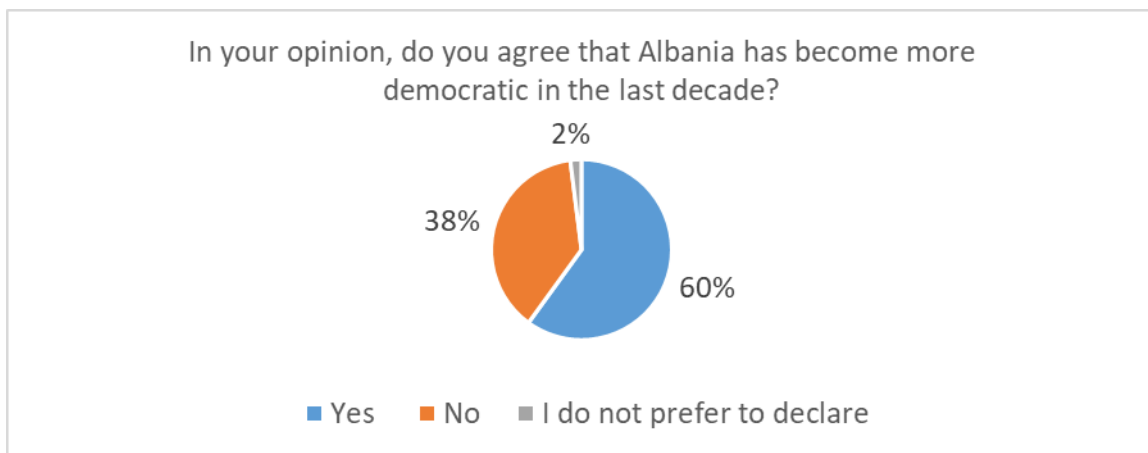
Pie Chart 3, shows that from 250 participants, 32% of the participants have Bachelor Degree as their higher education, followed by 25% of the participants which have Master



Degree as their higher education. A considerable number of participants in the study, respectively 51 participants or 20% of the total number, declared that their higher education is High School. 19% of the total participants have Primary School as their higher education, and only 9 participants decided not to declare their higher education.

Question 4: In your opinion do you agree that Albania has become more democratic in the last decade?

Yes: 150 (60%) No: 95 (38%) I do not prefer to declare: 5 (2%)

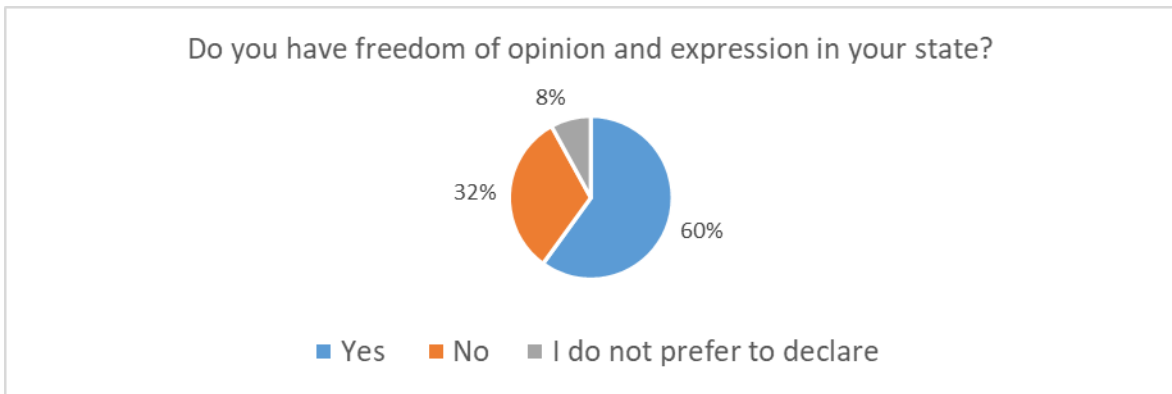


*Pie Chart 3.4* Participant's opinions on whether Albania has become more democratic in the last decade or not.

Most of the respondents as Pie Chart 4 shows, approximately 60% from the total number of the participants, or 150 respondents agreed that Albania has become more democratic in the last decade, while 95 respondents or 38% disagreed that Albania has become more democratic, while the respondents whom abstained to answer were only 5, or 2% of the total respondents.

Question 5: Do you have freedom of opinion and expression in your state?

Yes: 150 (60%) No: 80 (32%) I do not prefer to declare: 20 (8%)

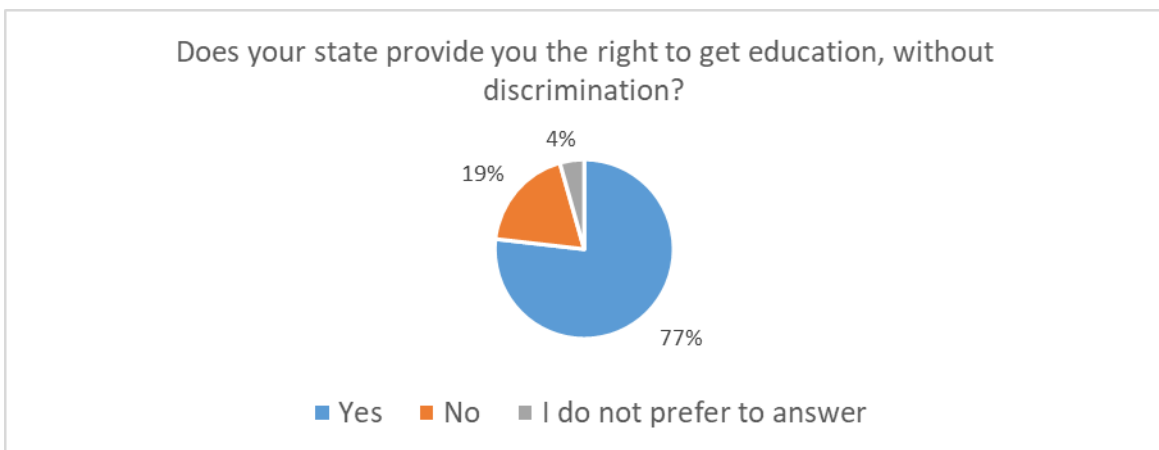


*Pie Chart 3.5* Albanian citizen’s opinions towards the freedom of expression and opinion in their state.

Most of the respondents, about 150 or 60% of the total number, agreed to have freedom of opinion and expression in Albania, while 80 respondents or 32% of the total number rejected having freedom of opinion and expression in their state, and only 20 respondents were not vulnerable on expressing their opinion.

Question 6: Does your state provide you the right to get education, without discrimination?

Yes: 192 (77%) No: 47 (19%) I do not prefer to declare: 11 (4%)

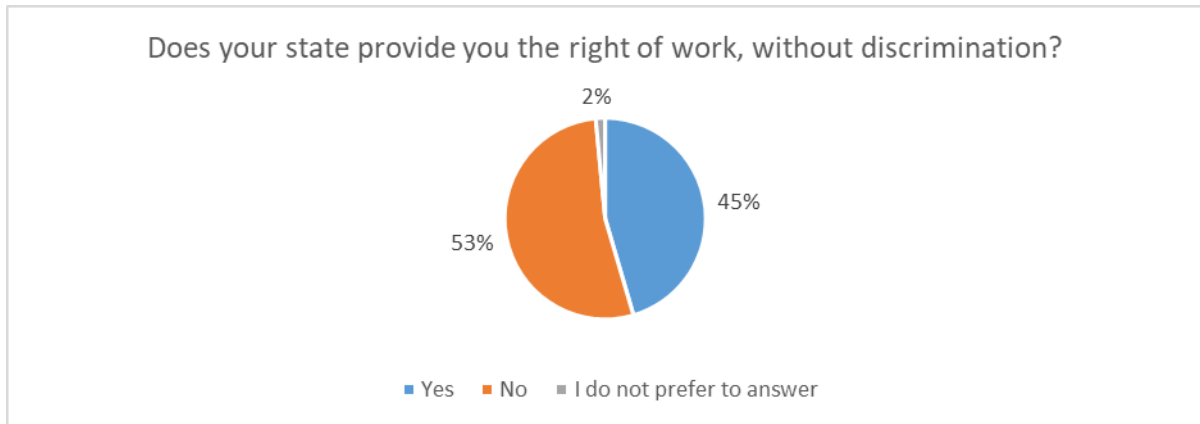


*Pie Chart 3.6* Participant’s opinions on whether the Albanian state provide them the right to get educated.

When asked whether Albania state provide them the right to get education, or not, 77 % of the total respondents agreed that their state provide them the right to get education, followed by 47 respondents whom disagreed, and 4% of the total number whom abstained to answer the question.

Question 7: Does your state provide you the right of work, without discrimination?

Yes: 104 (45%) No: 123 (53%) I do not prefer to declare: 23 (2%)

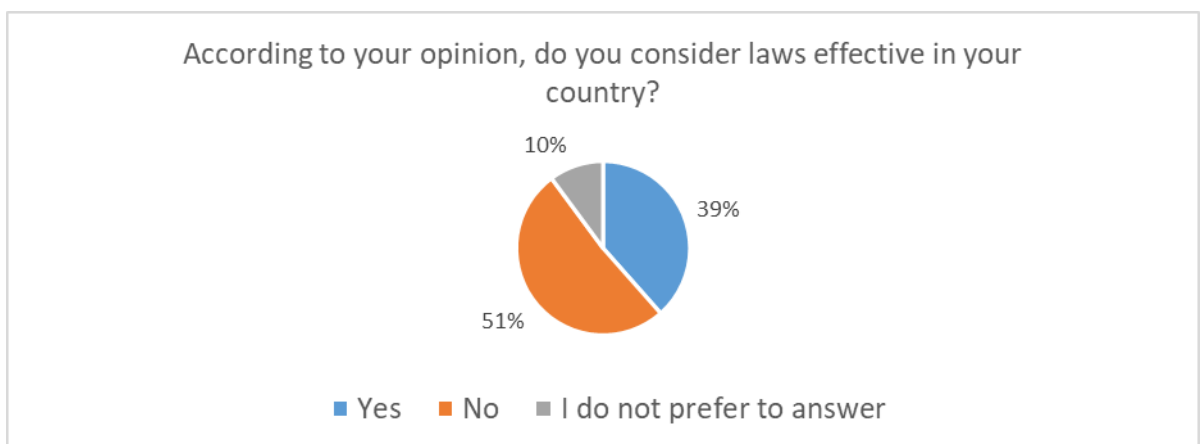


*Pie Chart 3.7* Albanian citizen's opinions on whether the Albanian state provide them the right of work, without discrimination.

As shown in the Pie Chart 7, more than half of the respondents, specifically 53% or 104 respondents, expressed negatively when asked whether their state provide them the right of work, without discrimination, 45 %, or 104 respondents favoured and agreed to the fact that their state provide them with the right of work, without discrimination, and a small percentage, around 2% of the total number preferred not to answer the question.

Question 8: According to your opinion, do you consider laws effective in your country?

Yes: 98 (39%) No: 127 (51%) I do not prefer to declare: 25 (10%)

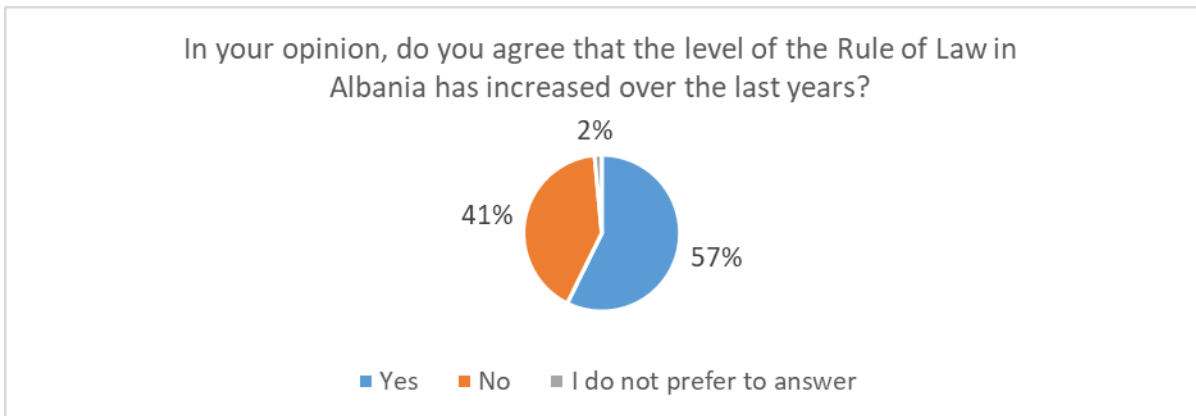


*Pie Chart 3.8* Participants opinions on whether they consider Albanian laws effective or not.

Pie Chart 8, shows that 51% of the total respondents, or 127 participants do not consider laws effective in Albania, only 38% of the total respondents consider laws in Albania effective, and 10% of the total number of the participants or 25 participants preferred not to answer the question.

Question 9: In your opinion, do you agree that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years?

Yes: 142 (57%) No: 103 (41%) I do not prefer to answer: 5 (2%)

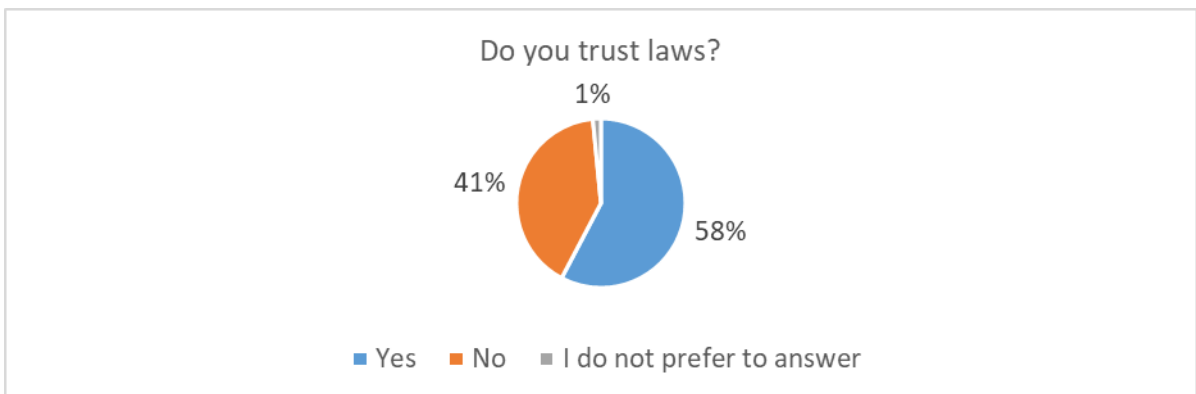


*Pie Chart 3.9* Participant’s opinion on the rule of law in Albania.

Most of the respondents, respectively 142 participants in the survey agreed that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years, meanwhile 41% of the total number of respondents disagreed that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years, and only 5 respondents preferred not to answer the question.

Question 10: Do you trust laws?

Yes: 145 (58%) No: 103 (41%) I do not prefer to answer: 2 (1%)

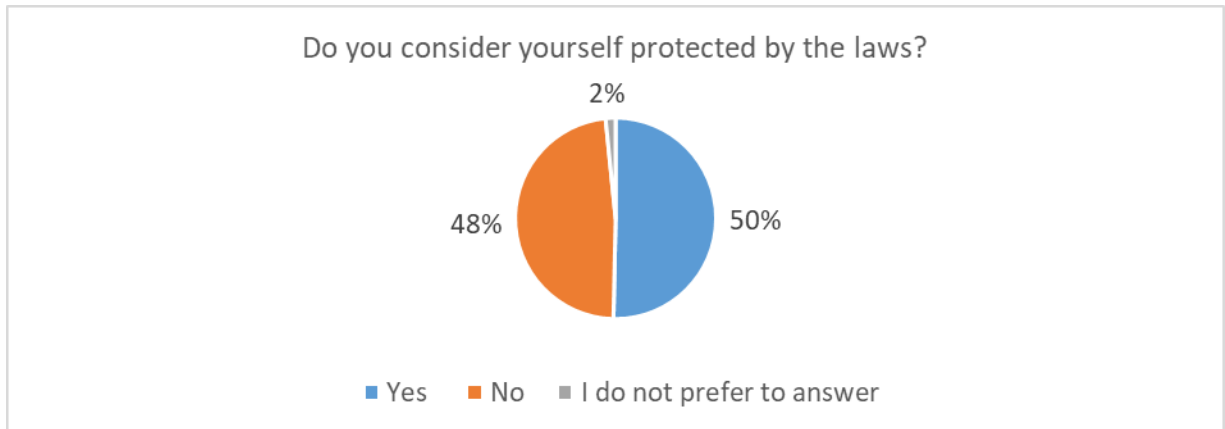


*Pie Chart 3.10* Albanian citizens opinion on whether they trust laws or not.

When asked whether they trust laws, or not, 58% of the respondents trust the laws in Albania, followed by 41% that do not trust the laws in Albania, and only 1% preferred not to answer the question.

Question 11: Do you consider yourself protected by the laws?

Yes: 125 (50%) No: 120 (48%) I do not prefer to answer: 5 (2%)

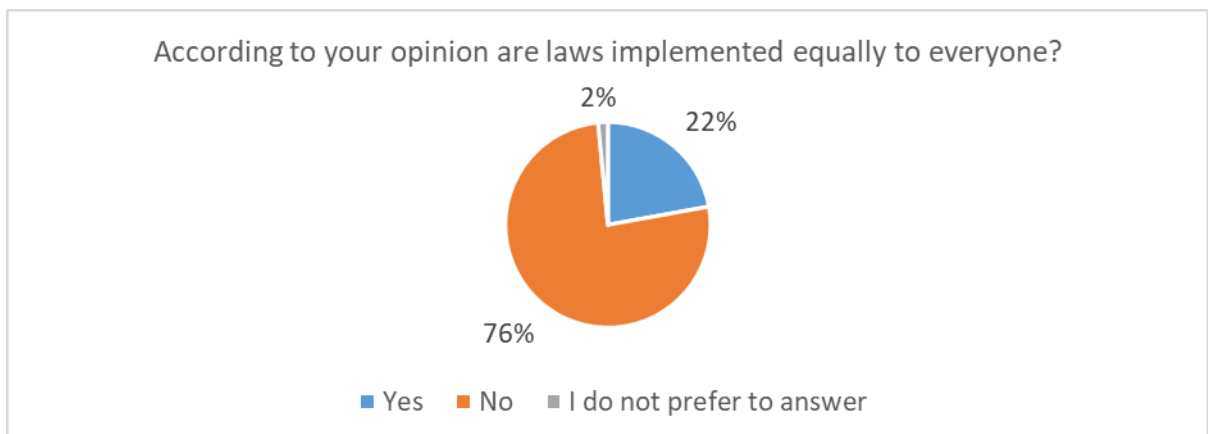


*Pie Chart 3.11* Participant's opinions on whether they consider themselves protected by Albanian laws.

Half of the participants, 50% consider themselves protected by the laws in Albania, a high number of respondents, around 48% do not consider to be protected by the laws in Albania, and 2% of the respondents preferred not to answer.

Question 12: According to your opinion are laws implemented equally to everyone?

Yes: 55 (22%) No: 190 (76%) I do not prefer to answer: 5 (2%)

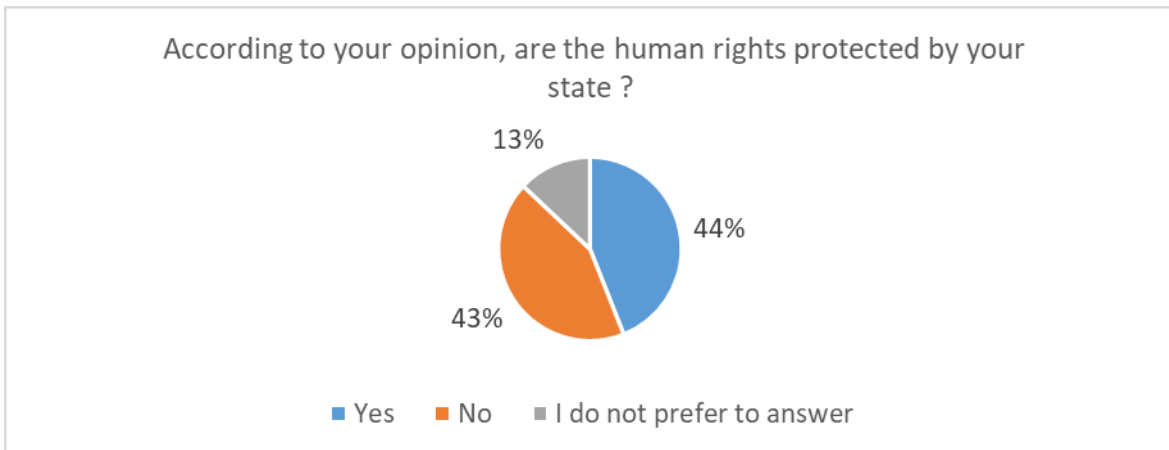


*Pie Chart 3.12* Citizen's opinions on whether they consider law to be implemented equally to everyone.

A high percentage of respondents, 76% or, consider that laws are not implemented equally to everyone in Albania, followed by a small percentage of respondents, 22% that consider laws to be implemented equally to everyone in Albania, and 2% of the respondents preferred not to answer the question.

Question 13: According to your opinion, are the human rights protected by your state?

Yes: 110 (44%) No: 108 (43%) I do not prefer to answer: 22 (13%)

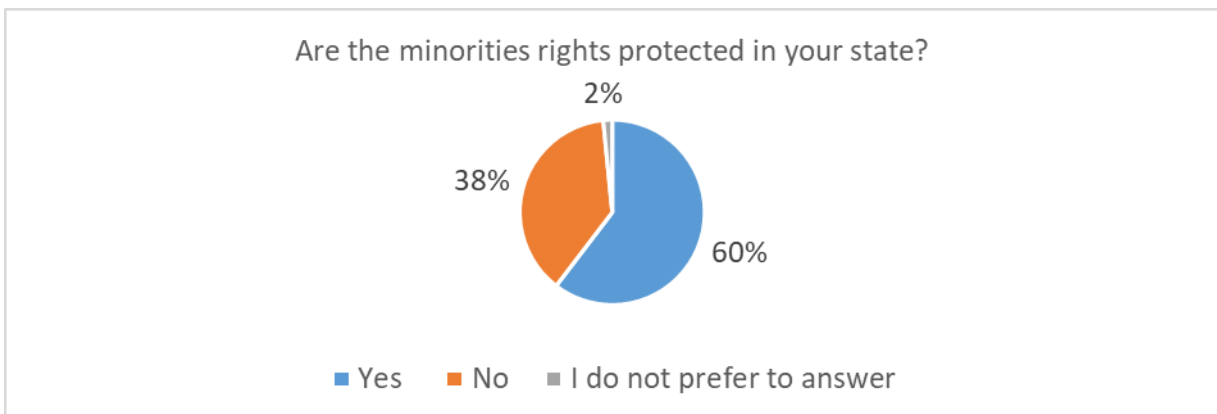


*Pie Chart 3.13* Albanian citizen’s opinions regarding the protection of human rights.

As the Pie Chart 13 shows, 44% of the participants agreed, and have an opinion that the human rights are protected by Albanian state, followed by 43% whom disagreed that the human rights are protected in Albania, and 13% of the participants preferred not to answer.

Question 14: Are the minorities rights protected in your state?

Yes: 150 (60%) No: 95 (38%) I do not prefer to answer: 5 (2%)

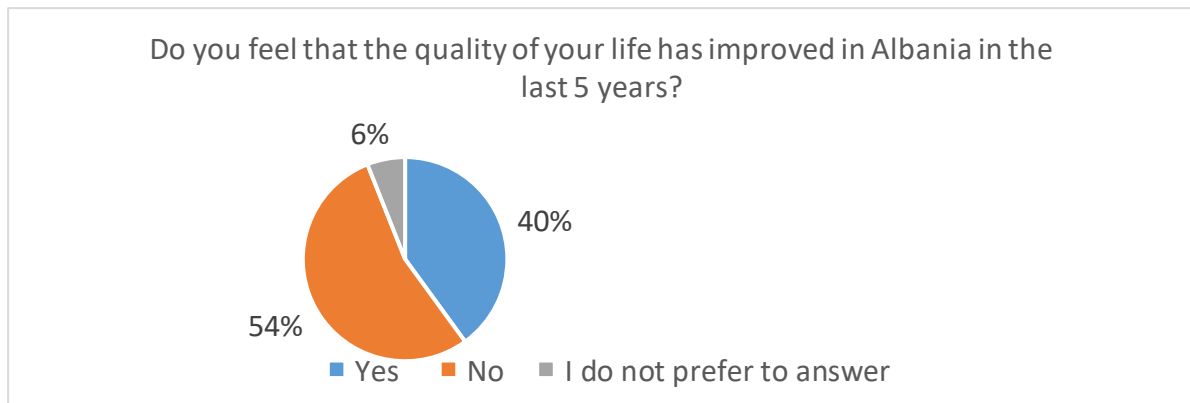


*Pie Chart 3.14* Participant’s opinions regarding the portion on minority’s rights by Albanian government.

According to a considerable percentage of respondents, respectively 60%, the minorities' rights are protected by the Albanian state, while 38% of the respondents do not consider minorities' rights to be protected by the Albanian state, followed by 2% of the respondents whom preferred not to answer to the question.

Question 15: Do you feel that the quality of your life has improved in Albania in the last 5 years?

Yes: 105 (42%)    No: 143 (57%)    I do not prefer to answer: 2 (1%)

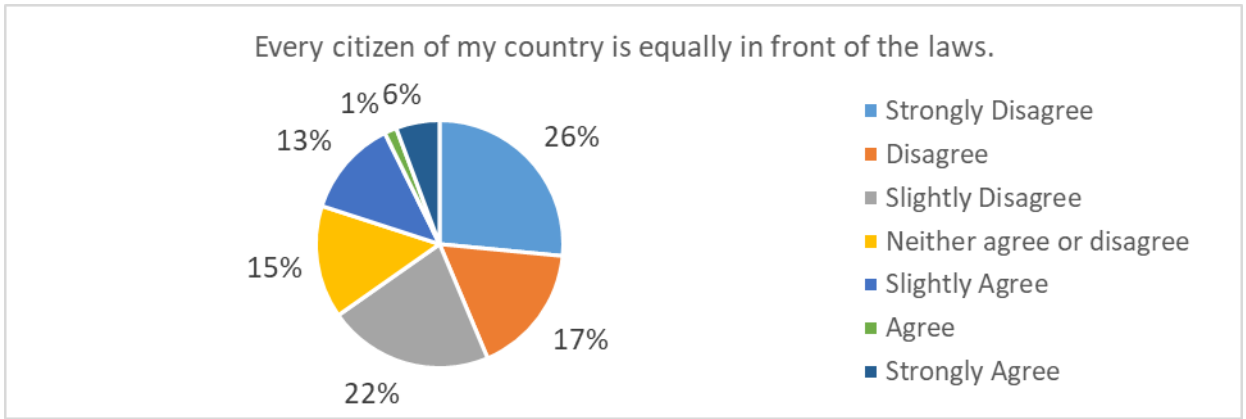


*Pie Chart 3.15* Albania citizen's opinions regarding the quality of life in the last 5 years.

Pie Chart 15 exhibit that a considerable number of respondents, specifically 57%, do not feel that the quality of their life has improved in Albania over the last 5 years, followed by 42% of the respondents whom agreed that their quality of life has improved over the last 5 years in Albania, a compact percentage of respondents, which fall at 1% preferred not to answer the question.

Statement 1: Every citizens of my country is equally in front of the laws.

1=Strongly Disagree: 67 (26%), 2=Disagree: 42(17%), 3=Slightly Disagree: 55 (22%), 4=neither agree or disagree: 37 (15%) , 5= Slightly Agree: 32 (13%), 6= Agree: 2 (1%), 7=Strongly Agree: 15 (6%)

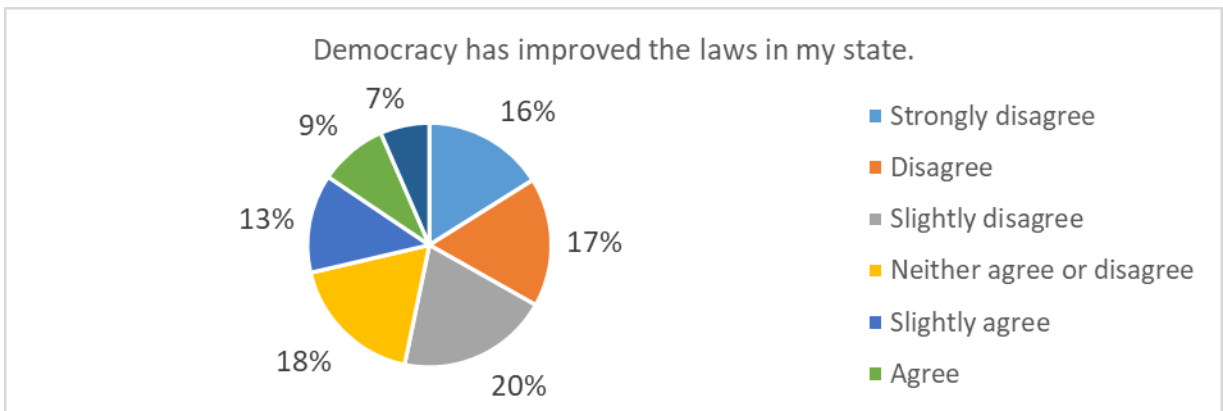


Pie Chart 3.16 Participant's opinions regarding the equality in front of the laws.

Pie Chart 16 shows that most of the respondents, express a negative answer regarding the equality in front of the laws, respectively 26% of the respondents strongly disagree that every citizen of Albania is treated equally in front of the laws, 17% of the total number of the respondents disagreed on the statement, 22% of the total number of the respondents , or 55 respondents slightly disagree that every citizen of Albania is treated equally in front of the laws, a considerable 13% percentage of respondents slightly agree on the statement, while only 2 participants agreed on the statement, followed by a minor 1% of the total number of the respondents that agreed that every Albanian citizen is equal in front of the laws, and 15% of the total respondents neither agree or disagree on the statement.

Statement 2: Democracy has improved the laws in my state.

1=Strongly Disagree: 40 (16%), 2=Disagree: 42 (17%), 3=Slightly Disagree: 50 (20%), 4=neither agree or disagree: 45 (18%) , 5= Slightly Agree: 33 (13%), 6= Agree: 23 (9%), 7=Strongly Agree: 17 (7%)



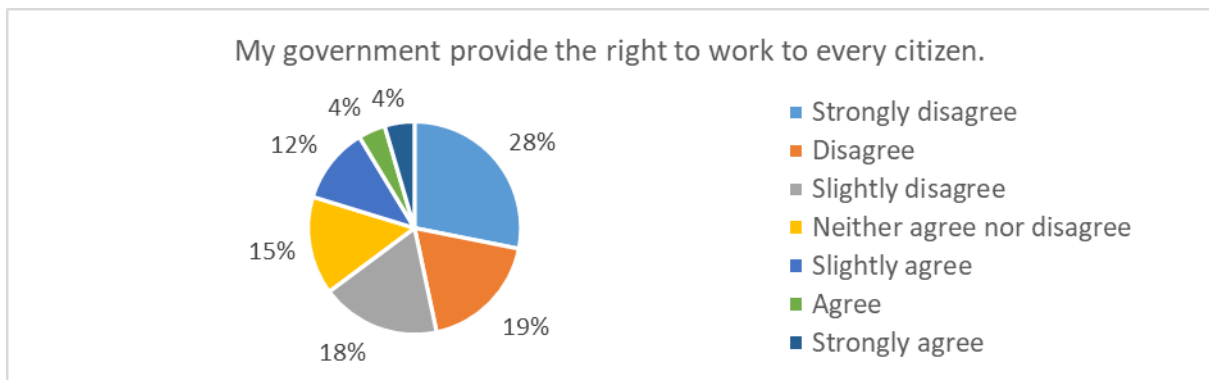
Pie Chart 3.17 Participant's opinions on whether democracy has improved the laws in Albania.



As the statement was presented to 250 respondents as shown in the Pie Chart 17, the findings shows that 21% of the total number of respondents slightly disagree that democracy in Albania has improved the laws, 19% of the total number of the respondents disagreed to the statement, while the percentage of those respondents that agreed that democracy has improved the laws in Albania was slightly minimal by 10%, and a high percentage of 20% from the total respondents neither agreed or disagreed on the statement.

Statement 3: My government provide the right to work to every citizen.

1=Strongly Disagree: 70 (28%), 2=Disagree: 47 (19%), 3=Slightly Disagree: 45 (18%), 4= neither agree or disagree: 38 (15%), 5= Slightly Agree: 30 (12%), 6= Agree: 10 (4%), 7=Strongly Agree: 10 (4%)

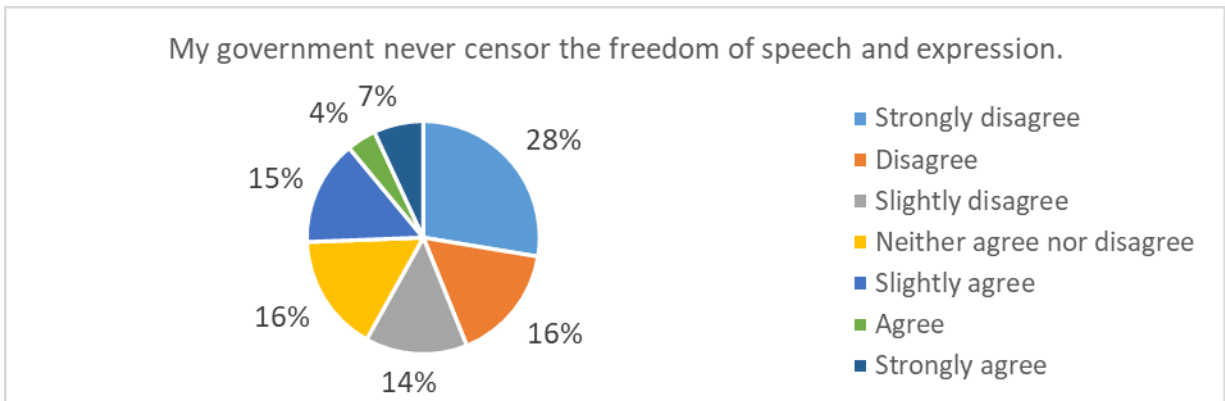


*Pie Chart 3.18* Participant’s opinions on whether the Albanian government provide the right of work as a human right to every citizen.

It is interesting to see, as the Pie Chart 18 exhibit, that 30% of the total number of respondents strongly disagree that Albanian government provide the right to work to every citizen, while a minimum percentage of respondents, respectively 4% of the total number, agreed that Albanian government provide the right to work to every citizen, high was also the percentage of respondents that neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, in particular 16% of the total number.

Statement 4: My government never censor the freedom of speech and expression.

1=Strongly Disagree: 70 (28%), 2=Disagree: 40 (16%), 3=Slightly Disagree: 35 (14%), 4= neither agree or disagree: 40 (16%) , 5= Slightly Agree: 38 (15%), 6= Agree: 10 (4%), 7=Strongly Agree: 17 (7%)



*Pie Chart 3.19* Albanian citizen's opinions on whether the Albania government censor the freedom of speech, and expression.

The findings in the Pie Chart 19, exhibit that a moderate percentage of the respondents of 30%, strongly disagree that Albanian government never censor the freedom of speech and expression, a considerable 17% of the total number of respondents disagreed on the statement, and only a modest 4% of the total number of respondents agreed that the Albanian government never censor the freedom of speech and expression. The results of the secondary data are presented in the chapter 4.2 Questionnaire Survey Data Results.

### 3.4 Interviews Data Analysis

The content analysis method is used in the interviews following the example of (Golsäter, Sidenvall, Lingfors, & Enskär, 2011, pp. 2573-2583), for the interpretation of written data through the process of coding and themes which is a process accepted by many researchers (Burnard, 1991, pp. 461-466); (Downe-Wambolt, 1992, pp. 313-321). The data analysis process which has been taken into consideration for this study is the one presented by the author (Bengtsson, 2016, pp. 8-14), where the written data content is processed through 4 stages: Meaning Unit, Generic or Primary Category, Sub Category, and Codes. The manifest analysis that is used in this study make possible to emphasize the stands of the participants, to stay closer to the original meaning, and not to create new hulumtation around the stands of the participants such would be in the case of a latent study (Burnard, 1991). It has to be emphasized, that the opening coding procedure in this study might be biased because it was performed only by the researcher of this study, instead as (Burnard, 1991) suggest to be performed by at least two researchers as a form of triangulation to increase the validity of the data coded. The questions were clear and understandable from

all of the participants, the answers were spoken to the interviewee to validate whether what I understood was the same with what they spoke and thought.

### **3.5 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Regarding the ethical considerations this study was guided by the Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC). The participants were informed about the content of the study, and their voluntary participation was confidential all the time, through anonymity. The validity of the study is reached through triangulation of methodology as a composition of both quantitative and qualitative. Meanwhile the reliability because of the nature of qualitative interviews, which can bring different result on different situations, and actors, is hard to be completely approved.

## 4 RESULTS

Since this study aim is to discover how the democratic development in Albania has affected the rule of law, human development, human rights, and in the same time to discover the perception of Albanian citizens in the up mentioned fields.

As such in this chapter of the research, the reader can find the results of the secondary data, and the results of the primary data, which includes the questionnaire surveys results on 250 Albanian citizens, and the 5 interviews results conducted by the researcher. The OLS regression analysis is performed in the secondary results, in order to see whether the negative correlation of democracy index with rule of law index is statistically significant or not, whether the positive correlation of democracy with human development is statistically significant or not, and whether the positive correlation of democracy index with human rights index is statistically significant or not.

Further the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) that: Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, has increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights is tested from the answers of 250 participants, in a simple t-test, on the value that express the highest consideration of the index increasement by the participants, which is equal to our null hypothesis. By finding the results through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) we will be able to tell if according to the Albanian citizens the null hypothesis is true or false.

Following the results line, the interviews results are presented lastly, taking into consideration the responses from the interviewed, and filtering those responses, we can reach to conclusions whether the null hypothesis is true of false.

#### 4.1 Secondary Data Results

So that to get the result required, further in this study the OLS regression analysis is performed, and as showed in the table 4, 5, and 6, the overall regression model was statistically significant in the three cases. Including a statistically significant relationship between democracy index and rule of law index  $F(1, 7) = 12.25, p < .001, R^2 = r = .79$ , see table 4. A statistically significant relationship was also found between democracy index and human development index  $F(1, 7) = 22.9, p < .001, R = r = .87$ , see table 5, and indeed a statistically significant relationship was found even between democracy index and human rights where  $F(1, 7) = 19.7, p < .001, R = r = .85$ , see table 6.

Alpha used .05, Significant if  $p < .05$ , not significant if  $p > .05$ . The results in the Albania case show that the Democracy Index account for 79% of the variance in Rule of Law Index, the Democracy Index account for 87% of the variance in Human Development Index, and the Democracy Index account for 85% of the variance in Human Rights Index.

Table 4.1

*OLS Regression of Democracy Index on Rule of Law*

	Model – Democracy Index Albania
Rule of law Index	
Coefficient	-11.9*
P-value	0.009
T	(-3.5)
$R^2 = r$ Because two samples in correlation	0.79
F	12.25
N	9
Notes: 1-* Significant 2- ** Not significant Alpha used = .05	

Table 4.2

*OLS Regression of Democracy Index on Human Development Index*

	Model – Democracy Index Albania
Human Development Index	
Coefficient	13.6*
P-value	.001
t	(4.7)
R <sup>2</sup> =r Because two samples in correlation	0.87
F	22.92
N	9
Notes: 1-* Significant 2- ** Not significant Alpha= .05	

Table 4.3

*OLS Regression of Democracy Index on Human Rights Index*

	Model – Democracy Index Albania
Human Rights Index	
Coefficient	.16*
P-value	.003
t	(4.4)
R <sup>2</sup> =r Because two samples in correlation	0.85
F	19.56
N	9
Notes: 1-* Significant 2- ** Not significant Alpha= .05	

## 4.2 Questionnaire Survey Data Results

Testing null hypothesis, t-test on questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and statements from 1 to 4.

Through primary data collection, in this case the survey questionnaires, this study research tend to discover whether Albania citizens, consider that democratic development in Albania has increased over the last decade, whether Albania citizens perceive that rule of law in Albania has increased over the last years, whether Albania citizens consider that human rights in Albania has increased over the last years, and whether Albania citizens perceive that human development has increased over the last years, as fundamental values of European Union, and conditions that Albania has to fulfil, according to European Parliament.

Using a sample t test as showed in the table 1 on questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and statements from 1 to 7 we will know whether the opinions of 250 people different significantly from the answer that indicates the highest positive evaluation of citizens perception, on the Albanian democratic development or democracy, on the Albanian rule of law, on the Albanian human rights, and on the human development in Albania.

Performing a sample t test on question 4 we want to know whether the opinions of 250 people different significantly from the answer yes  $\mu=1$ , which represent an Albanian citizen, who consider that Albania has become more democratic in the last decade. Alpha used .05, significant (the sample is significant different than  $\mu =1$ ) if  $p<.05$ , not significant (the sample is not significantly different than  $\mu=1$ ) if  $p>.05$ .

The same method is applied for question 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, where we are able to know that whether the opinions of 250 people different significantly from the answer yes  $\mu =1$ , which represent the highest evaluation of a citizen toward their perception on human rights, human development, and rule of law in Albania. Alpha used .05, significant (the sample is significant different than  $\mu =1$ ) if  $p<.05$ , not significant (the sample is not significantly different than  $\mu=1$ ) if  $p>.05$ .

Results of Question 4: Participants who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , of whether Albania has become more democratic in the last decade,  $t(249) = 12.25$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . In other word we can say that Albanian citizens do not consider Albania to have become more democratic in the last decade.

Results on Question 5: Participants who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on whether they have the freedom of thoughts and expression in Albania,  $t(249) = 11.75$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say that Albania citizens do not perceive to have freedom of thoughts and expression in Albania.

Results on Question 6: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on whether they have the right to get education, without discrimination in Albania,  $t(249) = 8.11$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say that Albanian citizens do not perceive to have the right to get education, without discrimination in Albania.

Results on Question 7: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , that Albania state do provide them the right to get work without discrimination,  $t(249) = 16.84$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . In other words Albanian citizens do not agree with the fact that Albanian state give them the right to get work without discrimination.

Results on Question 8: People who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on considering the laws in Albania effective,  $t(249) = 6.36$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . Albanian citizens do not consider the laws in their state effective.

Results on Question 9: People who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on agreeing that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years,  $t(248) = 13.33$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . Albanian citizens disagree that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years.

Results on Question 10: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on trusting the laws in Albania,  $t(249) = 13.49$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . Albanian citizens do not trust the laws of their state.

Results on Question 11: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on considering themselves protected by the laws in Albania,  $t(249) = 10.58$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say that Albanian citizen do not consider themselves protected by the laws in Albania.



Results on Question 12: People who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on considering laws to be implemented equally to everyone,  $t(249) = 26.02$ ,  $p = .001$ ,  $<.05$ . We can agree to say that Albanian citizens do not consider laws to be implemented equally to everyone.

Results on Question 13: People who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , that human rights are protected by the Albanian state,  $t(249) = 8.17$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . According to the results, Albanian citizens do not consider human rights to be protected by the Albanian state.

Results on Question 14: Participants who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on considering human rights to be protected by the Albanian state,  $t(249) = 7.07$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can that Albania citizens do not consider human rights to be protected by the Albanian state.

Results on Question 15: Participants who were surveyed had a statistically significant different choice than yes  $\mu=1$ , on considering that their quality of life in Albania has improved over the last 5 years,  $t(249) = 17.74$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say, that Albanian citizens do not consider that their quality of life has improved over the last 5 years in Albania.

Results on Statement 1: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different opinion than strongly agreeing  $\mu=7$ , that every citizens of their country is equal in front of laws, as a principles of democracy,  $t(249) = 17.97$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say that Albanian citizens do not consider to be equal in front of the laws.

Results on Statement 2: Individuals who were surveyed had a statistically significant different opinion than strongly agreeing  $\mu=7$ , that democracy has improved the laws in Albania, as a consequence of democracy,  $t(249) = 21.85$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . According to survey results, Albanian citizens view that democracy has not improved laws in their state.

Results on Statement 3: People who were surveyed had a statistically significant different opinion than strongly agreeing  $\mu=7$ , that Albanian government offer the right for work to every citizen,  $t(249) = 17.42$ ,  $p = .000$ ,  $<.05$ . We can say that Albanian citizens disagree with the fact that Albanian government offer the right for work to every citizen of Albania.

Results on Statement 4: Participants who were surveyed had a statistically significant different opinion than strongly agreeing  $\mu=7$ , on the fact that the Albanian government

never censor the right of speech and expression,  $t(249) = 17.97, p = .000, < .05$ . In other words we can say that Albanian citizens disagree with the fact that the Albanian government never censor the right of speech and expression.

Table 4.4

*t*-test on questions 4,5,6,7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and statements from 1 to 4

	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	ST.1	ST.2	ST3	ST4
M= Mean of each question and statement response.	1.4**	1.5**	1.3**	1.7**	1.8**	1.5**	1.6**	1.8**	1.9**	1.8**	1.7**	1.7**	3**	3**	3**	3**
t	12.25	11.75	8.11	16.84	6.36	13.33	13.49	10.58	26.02	8.17	7	17.74	17.97	21.85	17.42	17.97
P	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
N	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
Notes: 1.*: Not significant different. 2. ** Significant different. Alpha=.05																

### 4.3 Interviews Data Results

The final organization of the data defines a total of 21 codes, 4 sub-categories (SC), 2 generic categories (GC), within the main category (MC): Albanian citizens perceptions of democratic development, rule of law, human rights, and development from 2013- to 2021 (Table 2.1).

Participants described in their interviews, based on their perceptions of the efficiency of the Albanian government during the last 8 years, regarding democratic development, rule of law and human rights during the last 8 years (GC : “Albanian institutions and Albanian citizens during the last 8 years”) (Table 2.1). Thus, 3 participants believe that Albanian

government has increased the democratic development over the last 8 years (SC: “action of government”). The interviewed affirmed:

“It has become more democratic, such as in the style of living, the mentality of the people”

(P.2)

“The reforms and investments in years have brought a new spirit, more development and more entrepreneurship from young people,”

(P1)

“. Reforms also in institutions definitely, starting from the strengthening of the state, the laws, their applicability, the development of bureaucratic instances, and in areas such as in tourism and in the opportunities given to young people”

(P2)

However 2 from the interviewed felt that democratic development in Albania has not increased over the last years, example:

“Albania is still suffers for democracy in the framework of the democratic state, of the right to legal justice, many aspects of western democracy are missing”

(P1)

“Not feel free to express their opinions, and the achievement is far from expectations”

(P1)

3 from the interviewed hold that the Rule of law in Albania has not increased over the last 8 years (SC: “importance of Rule of law and judiciary”), example,

“Laws they don't work as they should, are different on paper and different in reality”

(P2)

“The government absolutely influences the making of the laws”

(P1)

“Implementation it favors itself more, and not in the service of the citizens”

(P2)

“The law does not protect the citizen, but those who make the laws, in pure interest of the elites and monopolies.

(P3)

However 2 participants felt that the Rule of law in Albania has increased over the last 8 years, e.g.

“Laws have improved because of the change of culture in institutions, young people bring a new culture, western culture that bring new spirit, new ideas”

(P1)

“The applicability of the law has changed and created a little more than what it was”

(P1)

4 from the interviewed believed that there is a big mistrust toward the government and the laws of Albania (SC: “influence of actions”), example,

“Still the laws are not independent from politics”

(P1)

“Depopulation, hopes are lost, that all the youth, or all the brains are leaving, lot of mistrust towards the government and the laws”

(P3)

“seeing the involvement in corrupt affairs of many former and current members of politics, the trust of citizens towards the government also falls, people are not judged equally, there are many favoritisms”

(P1)

“The government should facilitate the work of the relevant institutions, and strengthen the laws that directly affect the citizens, and not favor laws that support specific interest groups”

(P1)

“The media is the fourth power that also plays the role of observer”

(P1)

Nevertheless 1 of the participants hold that there is trust toward the Albanian government and laws, e.g.

“Because of the influence of the international community, trust has grown in recent years.

(P1)

In the interviews, participants also focused on their perception regarding the development of human rights in Albania (GC: “Albanian citizens perception regarding human rights in the last 8 years”) (Table 2.1). Thus 3 of the participants indicate a concern that human rights have not developed over the last 8 years (SC: “importance of human rights”), e.g.

“Human rights are written but not fully implemented”

(P3)

“No meritocracy regarding salary, a lot of political party influence regarding job recruiting”

(P3)

All of the interviewed agreed that Albanian government provide the right of education to every citizen, and that the minorities, and religious rights are protected, e.g.

“Education is compulsory by law and it is everyone's right to be educated”

(P5)

“We respect each other, and there is always equality”

(P5)

Table 4.5

*The process of data abstraction contained in the Albanian citizens interviews.*

Main Category (MC)	Generic Categories (GC)	Sub-Categories (SC)	Codes (Frequency of statements)
		Actions of Albanian government	-It has become more democratic (2) -Reforms in institutions, (1) -Development and more entrepreneurship from young people (2) -Still suffers for democracy in the

Albanian citizens perceptions of democratic development, rule of law development, and human rights.	Albanian institutions and Albanian citizens during the last 8 years.		framework of the democratic state, of the right to legal justice (1) -Not feel free to express their opinions (1)
		Importance of Rule of Law and Judiciary	-Laws they don't work as they should, are different on paper and different in reality (2) -The government absolutely influences the making of the laws (1) -Implementation it favors itself more, and not in the service of the citizens (2) -The laws does not protect the citizen, but those who make the laws, in pure interest of the elites and monopolies (3) -Laws have improved because, young people bring a new western culture (1) -The applicability of the law has increased (1)
		Influence of actions	-Still the laws are not independent from politics (1) -Lot of mistrust towards the government and the laws(3) -There are many favoritisms(1) -Government should facilitate the work of the relevant institutions not favor laws that support specific interest groups(2) -The media plays the role of observer(1) -Because of the international community , trust has grown in recent years (1)
	Albanian citizens perception regarding human rights in the last 8 years	Importance of human rights	-Human rights are written but not fully implemented (3) -No meritocracy regarding salary, a lot of political party influence regarding job recruiting (3) -Education is compulsory by law and it is everyone's right to be educated (5) -We respect each other, and there is always equality (5)

Continuation of Table 4.5

## 5 CONCLUSION

In this research study we described how the democratic development in Albania, has affected the rule of law, human rights, and human development from 2013 to 2021, and how Albanian citizens perceive the changes. To the highest degree, this is the first mixed study to describe the changes that Albania as a state has made during the last 8 years in terms of global Indexes, and in the same time describing the perceptions of Albanian citizens toward democratic development, rule of law, human, rights, and human development. The secondary results indicated that there was a statistically significant negative relation between democracy and rule of law in Albania in terms on global Indexes, but a statistically significant positive relation between democracy with human rights, and democracy with human development. Based on these results alone, we can say that the null hypothesis (h0): Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights, is rejected because, according to the results of the global Indexes, every increase in democratic development in Albania, decreases the development of rule of law, respectively 1% increase in the democracy, result to .8% decrease in rule of law, see table 1.

According to the questionnaire surveys results, Albanian citizens do not consider Albanian government to have been doing a great job over the last 8 years, in the fields of democracy, rule of law, human rights, and human development. Despite the fact that 60 % of the total respondents agreed that Albania has become more democratic in the last decade, the opinions of 250 people in every question were statistically significant different than the answer that indicates the highest positive evaluation of citizens perception, on democracy. The same statistically significant different opinion was on the, rule of law, human rights, and human development, and as such we can reach to agreement that the null hypothesis (h0) is rejected..

Albanian citizens do not consider Albania to have become more democratic in the last decade, neither do they perceive to have freedom of thoughts and expression in Albania. Nor do they perceive to have the right to get education, without discrimination in Albania, and they do not agree with the fact that Albanian state give them the right to get work without discrimination. Albanian citizens do not consider the laws in their state effective, and disagree that the level of the Rule of Law in Albania has increased over the last years. They do not trust the laws in Albania, and do not consider themselves protected by the laws of Albania. According to surveys results Albanian citizens do not consider human rights to be protected by the Albanian state, neither do they consider that their quality of life has improved over the last 5 years in Albania. The disagreements of the Albanian citizens, continues in the 4 statements as well.

Two of three methods used in this study, rejected the null hypothesis ( $h_0$ ): Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights.

Meanwhile according to the interviews results, even though most of the interviewed agreed that democracy has increased in Albania during the last years exactly 3 of the interviewed, but they do not consider the same development in rule of law, where 3 of the interviewed declared that laws do not work as they should, and that government still influence the laws, however two of the interviewed agreed with the fact that rule of law has improved over the last years. We can say that according to the interviewed there is no racial discrimination at least in school institutions, and that human rights at least those more minimal are applied to everyone. Taking into considerations such results from the interviewed, that rule of law has not increased, despite the fact that democracy might have had an increasment according to them, same with human rights, as such we can reach to agreement that even the third method of this study, the interviews, rejects the null hypothesis ( $h_0$ ) that: Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights. All citizens are describing that human rights such as the right of education, minority's rights, and religious rights are protected by the Albanian government. Albanian citizens agreed that there is a big mistrust toward the Albanian government.

In the all cases of the methods we rejected the null hypothesis ( $h_0$ ) that: Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development,



and has increased Human Rights. As a consequence of the different analysis we reach to conclusions that democratic development in Albania has not increased the rule of law, neither has increased the human rights, nor has increased the human development in Albania. Albanian citizens perceive that democracy has not increased, and nor has helped in the increasing of the rule of law, human rights, and human development.

## **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

There are also limitations in this study, because this study only tend to deal with a specific hypothesis, “Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights” and as such the concentration of the study result is not based on what a specific age group, gender group, or education group in Albanian society may perceive off, but the result include the perception of the all groups as one. This study cannot answer to questions such as “How the youths/the elderly perceive the fact that democratic development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights?”, or questions such as “Which age group tend to perceive more that Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights?”

Also to be mentioned is the fact, that there are asked to many questions in the questionnaire in order to collect as many as possible synonymous results, this in the other hand generate space for more information from the participants, which can missgiude the real result of the study. Not as a limitation but more as a challenge that asking to many questions to many participants can bring to a complicative study result.

As a younger curious researcher, such topics give me excitement to proceed further and to discover the real opinion, and the perception of Albanian citizens, which are most of the time left without heard, collected, and put into real data by the researchers.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A:** Information sheet

This interview will conduct questions about, the effects of democratic development in Albania on the rule of law and human rights?

You are chosen specifically for this interview because of your relation with everyday academics experts. The results of the interview will be used for research purpose related to the topic. The interview will conduct 7 questions, when you will be asked about your personal opinion on topics regarding the effects of democratic development in Albania on the rule of law and human rights.

## **Appendix B:** Consent form

I am more than honoured to ask for your participation in this research via a short interview that include 7 questions.

Study title: How the democratic development in Albania has affected the rule of law, human development, and human rights from 2013 to 2021? How Albanian citizens perceive the changes?

Researcher: Endri Ngresi

Sponsor: No Sponsorship

This is a consent form for research participation. It contains important information about this study and what to expect if you decide to participate.

Your participation is voluntary. Feel free to ask questions before making your decision whether or not to participate.

Purpose of the Study: You are asked to participate in this research study because of your relation and participation, with academics, which will help the finding of the study, by understanding the perception that scholar academics have on democratic effects in the rule of law, and human rights.

Procedure: The interview will be a face-to-face interview. The conversation will be audiotaped, and will not be accessed. You will be asked a couple of questions linked with the study title, according to your own opinions and experiences.

Duration: You may leave the interview at any time. If you decide to stop the interview for any reasons, you can simply tell, that I don't want to continue doing the interview. The time-lapse of the interview is around 10 to 15 minutes.

Risks and Benefits:

Risks: No risks.

Benefits: Contributing to literature in Albania.

Confidentiality: Efforts will be made to your study-related information confidential. However, there may be circumstance where this information must be released. For example, personal information regarding your participation in this study may be disclosed if required by state law.

Incentives: There are no incentives.

Participant Rights: If you choose to participate in the study, you may discontinue participation at any time. By signing this form, you do not give up any personal legal rights you may have as a participant in this study.



Contacts and Questions: For questions, or complaints about the study, or you feel you have been harmed as a result of study participation, you may contact Endri Ngresi at 0675741805.

Signing the consent form

I have read (or someone has read to me) this form and I am aware that I am being asked to participate in a research study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

I am not giving up any legal rights by signing this form. I will be given a copy of this form.

Signature of person interview

Date and time

Investigator/ Research staff

I have explained the research to the participant or his/her representatives before requesting the signature(s) above. There are no blanks in this document. A copy of this form has been given to the participant or his/her representative.

Signature of person obtaining consent

Date and time

### **Appendix C: Survey Questionnaire**

1. What is your gender? Male/ Female /I don't want to declare
2. What is your age? 18-29, 29-49, 49-69, 70+
3. What is your education? Primary School, High School, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree, PHD Degree, I don't want to declare
4. In your opinion, do you agree that Albania has become more democratic in the last decade? Yes/no/I don't want to declare.
5. Do you have freedom of opinion and expression in your state? Yes/no/I don't want to declare.
6. Does your state provide you the right to get educated, without discrimination? Yes/no/I don't want to declare.
7. Does your state provide you the right to get work, without discrimination? Yes/no/I don't want to declare.



## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Endri Ngresi was born on 16 July 1998 in Fier Albania. He received his Bachelor Degree in Political Science and International Relations in 2020 at Epoka University. He gained his first practice, at Fier Municipality as a human resources practicum in 2019. Since 2022 he has been a specialist at Fier state cadaster agency. During this time Endri Ngresi has been in the process of Master specialization in Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University, and has been constantly affiliated with the Social Science Researches.