MCAA
MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) expresses its support for the public statement issued by members of the Albanian academic diaspora in solidarity with the peaceful citizen protests in Albania.

As a global network of more than 24,000 members across over 155 countries who have benefited from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the MCAA shares the concerns raised by the Albanian academic diaspora. Rather than a simple reaction to a controversial investment, the ongoing protests highlight a deeper exhaustion of the governance system and growing social fatigue among citizens.

This exhaustion is driven by the gradual weakening of key societal pillars, including the education, research, and innovation ecosystem in Albania. The latter is characterised by chronic underinvestment, weakened standards of academic integrity, and a lack of a long-term vision for knowledge as a strategic public good, contributing to persistent brain drain.

Albania's innovation performance further illustrates these difficulties. The 2025 European Innovation Scoreboard classifies the country as an Emerging Innovator, ranking 35th out of 39 EU Member States and neighbouring countries[1].

This outcome is rooted in broader structural and governance-related challenges, including recurring political interference, fragile university autonomy, insufficient funding, and the weak integration of knowledge production into economic development strategies.

Taken together, these deficiencies limit the country's capacity for sustainable development, economic competitiveness, and democratic consolidation, as highlighted by the ongoing protests.

The MCAA remains committed to supporting the Albanian academic diaspora in fostering a knowledge-based society that prioritises education, research, and innovation. Supporting its research community is a prerequisite for Albania to ensure a resilient democracy and achieve EU accession by 2030.

Best regards,

Gian Maria Greco, Chair of the Board

Mostafa Moonir Shawrav, Executive Director

[1] Havari, E., & Doussineau, M. (2025), *Policy Report: General and Specific Recommendations to Improve the Position of Albania in the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS)*, POLICY ANSWERS.