

RISC-V SUMMIT EUROPE 2026

# Albania Is an AI Factory

*How RISC-V, Education, and Open Architecture  
Can Turn a Country into an Engine of AI Capability*



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THE RAW MATERIAL

# Talent Without a Factory

**Tens of  
thousands**

of skilled Albanian engineers write  
code for other countries' products,  
on other countries' architectures



Employment without ownership



Capability without sovereignty



Growth without value capture

*The raw material is already here. What's missing is the factory.*

**ALBANIA THE NEW  
INNOVATION  
CHAMPION**

# Albania Records the 4th Fastest Ecosystem Growth Rate in Europe

## **Ecosystem Value**

+71.1% growth — 4th highest in Europe  
US\$ 606.4M — #75 globally

US\$ 8.9B Western Balkans Combined

## **Leader in e-Governance**

8th in Europe, 19th worldwide  
95% of all public services are digital

## **Renewable Energy Leader**

98% from renewables — 2nd globally

## **Multilingual Workforce**

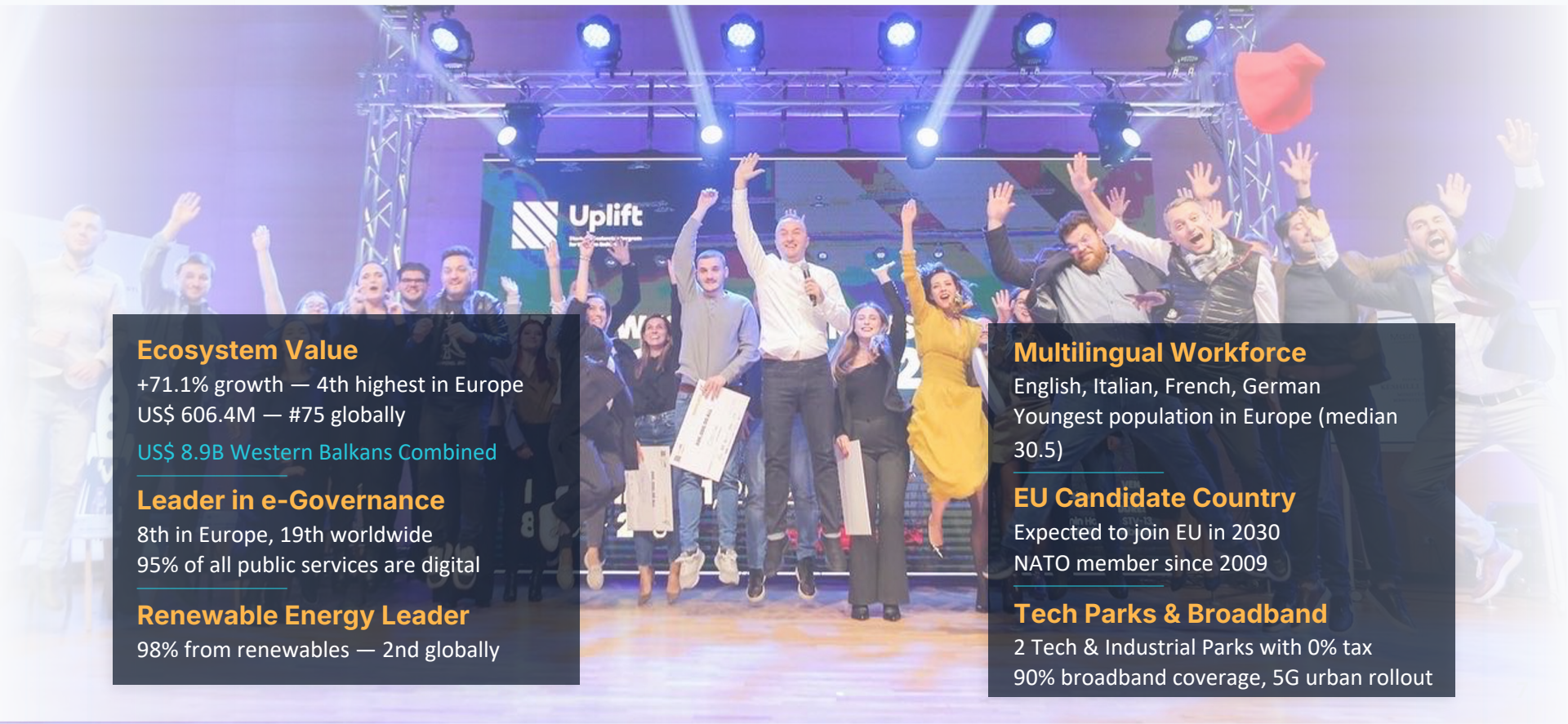
English, Italian, French, German  
Youngest population in Europe (median 30.5)

## **EU Candidate Country**

Expected to join EU in 2030  
NATO member since 2009

## **Tech Parks & Broadband**

2 Tech & Industrial Parks with 0% tax  
90% broadband coverage, 5G urban rollout





## THE WESTERN BALKAN 6 MARKET

17M people • 6 economies  
One emerging digital region



**The AI Factory is not designed for Albania alone.**  
*It is designed for the Western Balkans as a shared sovereign  
compute platform.*

### Why an AI Factory works here

- ✓ Shared talent pool
- ✓ Shared startup ecosystem
- ✓ Shared digital transformation
- ✓ Limited compute capacity
- ✓ Growing AI adoption
- ✓ EU accession digitalization

# What Is an “AI Factory”?

## The Conventional View



A data center.

GPUs in racks.

Power and cooling.

*Infrastructure you buy.*

*Capability you rent.*

*Sovereignty you borrow.*

## Our Proposition



A country.

Universities, engineers, startups.

Curriculum and compute.

*Capability you build.*

*Workforce you grow.*

*Sovereignty you own.*

## THE ENABLER

# Why RISC-V Makes This Possible

*An open ISA is **not** just a technical choice — it's an instrument of economic policy*



### No Licensing Gatekeepers

Build curriculum, design chips, deploy infrastructure — without asking permission or paying royalties



### Full-Stack Legibility

Students study from ISA to microarchitecture to compiler — including AI matrix extensions



### Ecosystem Partnership

Albania already partners with European RISC-V companies engaged in EuroHPC AI Factory programs

# The Workforce: Classroom to Silicon

**01**

## University Curriculum

RISC-V in CS and EE programs

**02**

## Design & Simulation

Students build RISC-V cores

**03**

## Open Tape-Out

Efabless, IHP fabrication

**04**

## Workforce Ready

Engineers for AI infrastructure

### Existing foundation:

**600+** youth projects • **8** accelerator cohorts • **75+** startups enabled • EU-recognized EDIH

## THE ANCHOR PROJECT

# Albania's AI Factory

A sovereign RISC-V-native AI compute facility, anchored by **VybiuM AG (Vienna)** — building AI accelerators on RISC-V, backed by **VRULL GmbH**, the principal authors of the RISC-V matrix extensions. Albania won't just consume RISC-V silicon — **it will co-develop it.**

### Albanian Public Sector

Core anchor

### Regional Hub: Western Balkans

Shared compute market

### EU Gateway for ME & Gulf

Sovereign access point



### VybiuM RISC-V Silicon

European-designed  
open accelerators, no  
ISA lock-in



### Regional Demand

Western Balkans as a  
single shared compute  
market



### GDPR-Compliant Gateway

EU-aligned compute for  
partners seeking  
sovereignty



### Demand Before Supply

Building the factory to  
justify the workforce  
pipeline

## THE ECOSYSTEM

# The Innovation Engine That Feeds the Factory



### **VRULL + Vybium**

The technology engine: RISC-V compiler and toolchain expertise (VRULL) powering sovereign AI silicon (Vybium) — from Vienna to Tirana



### **Innovation Labs**

ICTSlab and DiVA: 21st-century skills, rapid prototyping, industry partnerships — the feeder system for the AI Factory workforce



### **Startup Accelerators**

8 cohorts through Uplift, 100+ startups, soft-landing into EU markets — now with AI-native ventures building on the compute platform



### **International Partners**

UNICEF, UNDP, GIZ, EBRD, Bloomberg Philanthropies — proven delivery track record with global development partners



THE INTEGRATED FACTORY

# Albania: The Whole Country as One System

*The AI Factory is the **anchor**.  
The country is the **engine**.  
RISC-V is the **architecture** of both.*



**AI Factory**

The anchor



**The Whole Country**

The engine



**RISC-V**

The architecture

# Albania Is an AI Factory

The same Albanian engineer who today writes JavaScript for a Berlin startup could, in five years, be designing RISC-V vector extensions for an AI accelerator deployed in Tirana — serving inference workloads for hospitals in Pristina and smart-city systems in Durrës.

*That's not just a data center.*

*That's a country becoming an AI Factory.*

## A call to this community:



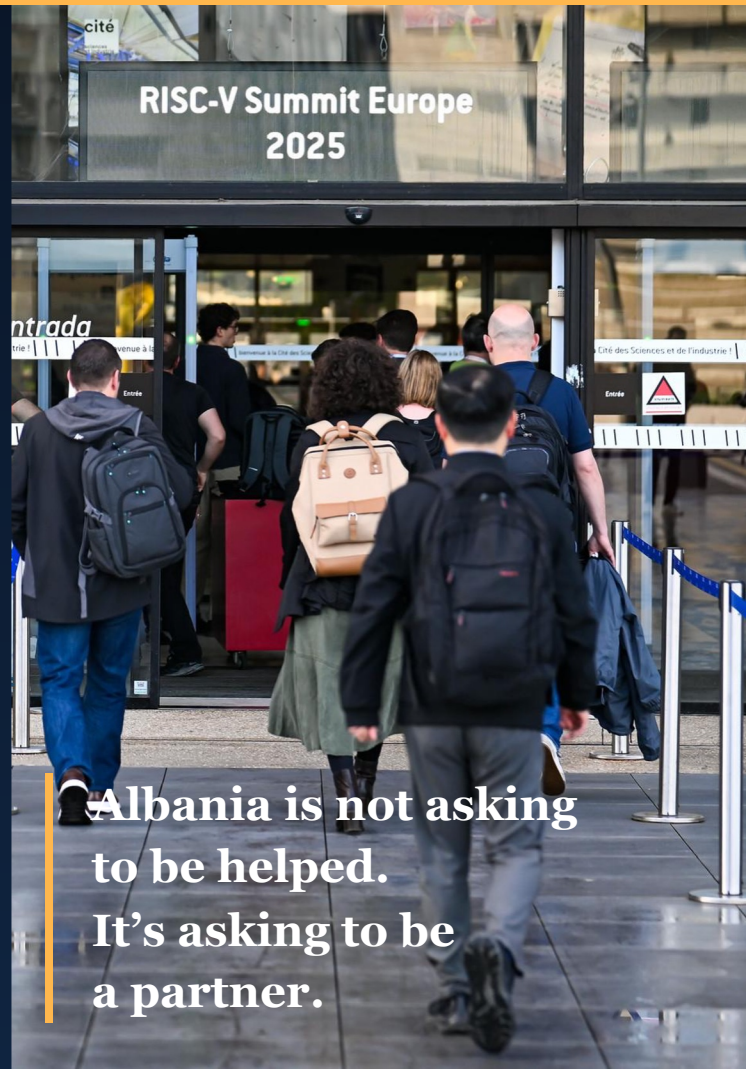
Collaborate on RISC-V curriculum



Include Albania in EuroHPC pilot programs



Co-invest in the AI Factory



**Albania is not asking  
to be helped.  
It's asking to be  
a partner.**