***7th PROFEEDBACK Conference:***

***“Participation in evaluation – Participatory evaluation”.***

**Tirana – ALBANIA**

**October 1st , 2024**

**Information Pack**

Venue Information

Location: University of New York Tirana (UNYT), Main Campus

Address: Rruga e Kavajës, 21 Dhjetori, Tirana, Albania

(Former Shkolla e Mesme Elektrike)

Date: October 1st , 2024

Link on Google maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/University+of+New+York+Tirana/@41.3265278,19.7896076,14.1z/data=!4m7!3m6!1s0x13503056050a21f7:0x285c4826d05c53c1!4b1!8m2!3d41.3265021!4d19.8038178!16zL20vMDc1bWZ3?entry=ttu>

Note: You can reach the venue from the city center by bus no. 15 A “Kombinat-Kinostudio” OR 15 B “Kombinat – Tufine” and stop at “Poliklinika 9”. See Tirana bus map [here.](https://tirana.al/en/uploads/2023/5/20230523143056_2023_05_04-urbani-map_english.pdf)

Airport Transfer / Transportation in Tirana

Tirana International Airport Mother Teresa: <https://www.tirana-airport.com>

By bus: <https://www.tirana-airport.com/en/transport-and-directions/15/By-Bus> ; <https://www.shuttledirect.com/en/transfer/tia/al-rinas.html>

By taxi:

Airport taxi in front of the exit: <https://www.tirana-airport.com/en/transport-and-directions/13/By-Taxi>

Cheaper taxi on call or pre-booking, whatsapp, (ask for the fix tariff of 10 EUR one way) :

<https://www.citytaxi.al>

<https://taxiluxalbania.al/welcome/> ;

<https://merrtaxi.com/tirana-rinas-airport-taxi-transfer>

Accommodation

There is a wide range of hotels in Tirana. Please find our recommendations below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Hotels* | *Distance from the Venue* |
| [Hotel Mondial](https://www.hotelmondial.al/) | *5 min Walk* |
| [Hotel Vila Ada](https://www.vilaadahotel.com/) | *10 min Walk* |
| [Hotel Europa](https://hoteleuropa.al/) | *15 min Walk* |
| [Hilton Garden Inn](https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/tiagigi-hilton-garden-inn-tirana/) | *20 min Walk* |

**General information about Albania**

**Languages:** Albanian is the official language of Albania.

English and Italian are widely spoken in Tirana.

**Local Time**: Tirana and Albania are in the CET (Central European Time).

**Currency:** Albanian Lek. 1 Euro= 99,64 Lek; 1USD= 89,63 Lek (<https://www.bankofalbania.org/Markets/Official_exchange_rate/>)

**ATMs and Credit Cards:** All major banks in Tirana, Albania have ATMs that accept foreign bank cards as well. Most of them are open 24 hours a day. Major banks are: Raifeissen, OTP, BKT.

**Electricity Supply:** The electricity supply is 230 V and 50 Hz. The power plug sockets are of type C and F.

**Emergency Numbers**

General emergency service phone number: <https://tirana.al/en/page/kontakte-dhe-sherbime>

Police: 129

Ambulance: 127

Fire service: 128

**Tourist information is found in official websites below**:

<https://akt.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DISCOVER-ALBANIA-compressed.pdf>

<https://akt.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ALBANIA-MAP-compressed.pdf>

https://www.visit-tirana.com/explore-tirana/

**Brief description of the tour and main points of attraction**

**The center of Tirana**

In the 1930s of the past centuries, the center of Tirana went through its most important transformation in history, designed by the Italian architects Armando Brasini and Florestano de Fausto. The ministries block and the City hall were built based on the project of the Florentine architect Florestano de Fausto. The construction style was neoclassic but at the same time they carried the burden of our history and its symbols. The historical value of this ensemble stands in the fact that it harmonically unified the existing values of the city with the new values that Tirana was getting as the capital city of the country.

**Scanderbeg’s Square**

This square was named Scanderbeg’s Square on the 26th of November 1937. It was projected in a round shape and with a round fountain in the middle, while the dominating building was the old City Hall which was destroyed in 1980. The monument was placed there on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of our national hero. This monument is an art work of the sculptors Odhise Paskali, Janaq Paço and Shaban Hadëri. Now, Scanderbeg Square is an open space dedicated only for pedestrians.

**The Palace of Culture**

The Palace of Culture was built over the previous Old Bazaar of Tirana and the first brick was put by former soviet president Nikita Hrushov on June 3, 1959. After two years the Soviet specialists departed permanently from Albania and in this way the Palace of Culture was finished with the outmost commitment of the most prominent names of the local architects and engineers. This building has significant elements from the Palace of Congress in Rome and the building of Finland Station in St. Petersburg. It was finished in 1963.

**The National Library of Albania**

The National Library of Albania (NLA) is the primary national cultural institution and the oldest in the Albanian State. It was founded on July 10th 1920. Its historic collection dates back to 1917. On December 10th 1922, at the inauguration moment as National Library of Albania there was a collection of 6,000 volumes. Today, the collection of the library exceeds one million volumes.

**The Clock Tower**

The Tirana Clock Tower began to be built by Haxhi Et'hem Beu in 1822 and was completed with the contribution of rich families of Tirana. Its installation was made by the Tufina family, renowned with regard to clocks. Since the tower has accompanied the development of the city, it was reflected in its appearance, where the first half is of the Ottoman style, the entire stone-carved section, and the balcony and the part above pertain to the Western style. The Clock Tower is the symbol of the Municipality of Tirana and together with the Et'hem Bey mosque represents a unique architectural ensemble.

**The Haxhi Et’hem Bey Mosque**

This is the only still existing mosque out of eight mosques that were built in Tirana in XVIII-XIX century. Its foundation was laid by Molla Bey at the end of the century XVIII, and the chapel was completed by his son Haji Et’hem Bey in the first quarter of the XIX century. Et’em Bey’s Mosque was declared a cultural monument of the first category in 1948.

**The Bank of Albania**

It was designed in 1936 by the Italian Architect Vittorio Ballio Morpurgo. The construction of the National Bank of Albania began in February 1937 and was made by “Staccioli & Fortuzi” company, directed by engineer Cipriani. Its inauguration ceremony was held on October 30th, 1938. The architectural style of the Bank belongs to the Rationalism stream style, a stream that was flourishing in the first half of the 20th century in Europe. After 77 years on the 30th of October 2015, the reconstructed building of the Bank of Albania was inaugurated, coinciding with the opening for the first time of the museum of the Bank of Albania.

**Museum of Secret Surveillance: “House of Leaves”**

The building known as the “House of Leaves” (so-called because of the clambering plant covering its facade) has now returned to the Museum of Secret Surveillance. Opened on 23rd of May, it is the newest museum in Albania and certainly, the most intriguing one that tries to narrate to young people and to foreigners, one of the darkest periods of the country’s history.

**Resurrection Cathedral, Tirana**

Tirana’s Resurrection of Christ Orthodox Cathedral is not just a Cathedral. It is the third-largest such structure in the Balkans and is located close to the center of Tirana. The construction of the building, southwest of Tirana Centre Plaza, was completed in 2012. It was officially opened on the 24th of June that year.

**St Paul's Cathedral (Tirana) - Catholic Church**

Saint Paul’s Cathedral was built after the fall of the Communistic Regime and is very modern in its appearance. The cathedral’s construction began in the 1990s, and Saint John Paul II actually laid the cornerstone during his visit here in 1993. It was completed in 1999 and then consecrated in 2002. The church pays tribute to Mother Theresa (a native of Albania), with a statue outside, and both a mosaic and stained-glass window inside.

**The New Bazaar**

The New Bazaar was constructed in 1931 and in the years that followed it was developed and grew even more. This Bazaar is located in that area of Tirana that together with Mujo’s Neighbourhood, represents one of the oldest areas of Tirana. The municipality of Tirana with the support of the Albanian- American Foundation Development renovated this area and turned it into a business development zone to provide a new model investment and community space. New Bazaar is a space that operates 24 hours, where the greatest focus in the morning is on the market and in the afternoon on culinary matters such as bars, and restaurants around and organizing artistic activities.

**Murat Toptani Pedestrian Street**

Murat Toptani Street was inaugurated as a pedestrian path on October 10th, 2011. Its renovation and reconstruction were made possible by EU funding. The Murat Toptani Pedestrian Street has great historical value and is considered a natural gallery, a museum, and a historical area.

**Fortress of Justinian**

Fortress of Justinian or simply known as Tirana Castle is a castle in Tirana, Albania. Its history dates back to 1300 and is a remnant of the Byzantine era. The fortress is the place where the main east-west and north-south roads crossed and formed the heart of Tirana. The Castle of Tirana was declared a monument of culture of the first category on 10 June 1973 and the new tracks of the walls of Tirana Castle were declared a cultural monument on 15 May 2008.

**The Tanner's Bridge (Tabak’s Bridge)**

The Tanner's Bridge is an 18th-century Ottoman period stone footbridge built by Tanner’s craft which had a special position in the social and economic life of Tirana in this period of time. The bridge went across the Lana stream and was adjacent to the area of butchers and leather workers. The Tanner Bridge is distinguished for its harmonious architecture and for the proportional distribution of its elements. In the 90s the bridge was restored to its former glory and is now used only by pedestrians.

**Dajti Hotel (former)**

It was designed by the Italian architect G. Bosio in the years 1939-40. After the Second World War, the building was used for a short time as the headquarters of the communist government of that time. It has been considered for a long time as the best hotel in Albania and was the only hotel where all foreigners coming to Tirana were accommodated.

**The Pyramid**

It was inaugurated on October 14th, 1988 as the museum of the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha. Its triangular structure was projected by a group of architects and was led by Enver Hoxha’s daughter and son-in-law. Its construction began in 1986 and ended in 1988 then served as a museum in his heritage until 1991. After 1991 it turned into a Conference and Fair Centre. The name Pyramid was given during the “Students Movement” of December 1990, due to its architectonic shape. Today it’s officially known as the International Culture Centre “Pjetër Arbnori” and remains an architectural piece of the communist era.

**The Prime Minister’s Offices**

The offices of the Prime Minister were designed by Italian architect Gherardo Bosio in 1939. It serves as the building for the Council of Ministers and the State Protocol. The 1980s brought a series of additions to the building which closed the initial appearance to create two courtyards; changing the function and the style of the architecture.

**Palace of Congresses**

The Congress Palace was designed and built in 1980 as a symbol of communist ideology and the power of expression of a totalitarian regime. The building construction was inspired by traditional buildings of Gjirokastër, Berat, and northern Albanian towers. Today, the palace is used as a well-known venue hosting conferences, festivals, exhibitions, trade and commercial fairs, ceremonies, concerts, and other events.

**Mother Teresa Square**

Situated at the end of "Dëshmorët e Kombit" Boulevard, in the southern part of Tirana, it was designed by the Italian architect Gherardo Bosio in the years 1939-41. The University building as the last element of the boulevard is characterized by heavy structural monumentality but also by clear and lucid lines. The square holds the name "Mother Teresa" in honour of the Albanian Catholic nun.

**Presidency**

The offices of the President of the Republic of Albania are located in the headquarters of the Presidency. The building was conceived to be the representative of the Soviet Embassy in Albania. Its foundations were laid in 1959, under an agreement signed by the governments of the two counties. Strangely the building is built away from edge of the road, giving the Presidency its special character that emphasizes its importance.

**The Assembly Hall (Kuvendi)**

The Assembly Hall is the meeting place of the Albanian Parliament. The Albanian Parliament has 140 members elected to a four-year term. The building was constructed in 1924. Initially, it served as an officers' club. On September 1, 1928, Ahmet Zog I was crowned here King of the Albanians.

**Block Area**

The Communist Block was the former residence of senior members of the Communist Party. It was known to be a restricted area to ordinary citizens. Block area has a unique story. Some of the city's most beautiful villas are settled here since the pre-war period. Enver Hoxha returned it in his own and to the "comrades" of communist leadership residence. Today, this neighbourhood is no longer the one covered by greenery, but a special amalgam of multi-storey buildings, villas converted into international residences, luxury boutiques, cafes and clubs packed in a small area. Block area has turned into one of the largest and most frequented night-life spots especially by youth, due to the diversity of services and luxury pubs. Definitely, whoever wants more nightlife, light and nightclub, should go to the Block.

**The Former Villa of Enver Hoxha**

This villa was the home of the former communist dictator Enver Hoxha, and is a construction of the Communist Era. This complex imitates the architecture of the 30’s, and consists of a heavy concrete construction with large slabs of white stone. This home sits in the middle of the old Communist Block, known in Albanian as ‘ish-Blloku’, and has been an intangible object, taboo, with a lot of mysteries at the time of the communist dictatorship.

***Looking forward to seeing you soon in Tirana!***