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National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania

The **National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania** (NRC) is an initiative of Partners Albania, financed by the European Union implemented in partnership with the Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) and the European Movement in Albania (EMA). The Centre is a platform for the civil society at the local, national, regional level and beyond.

The establishment of the Centre is in continuity to a dedicated work for many years of Partners Albania, in support to strengthening of civil society sector and other stakeholders in the country.

The objectives of the National Resource Centre are:

- ◆ Strengthening of civil society's capacities to be more effective, transparent, accountable and independent actors, and
- ◆ Creation of an enabling environment for the civil society, participatory democracy and the integration process of Albania into the European Union.

Main functions of the Centre are:

- ◆ Providing information and help desk services for the sector and all stakeholders and interested partners for developments in the civil society sector;
- ◆ Networking for CSOs at local, national, regional level and beyond;
- ◆ Strengthening of the capacities of civil society in Albania through training, assistance, exchange, etc;
- ◆ Supporting the improvement of governance of civil society organizations to be more effective, accountable and transparent, as well as for the improvement of the image, public and stakeholders' trust on the sector;
- ◆ Improving the networking and advocacy skills and facilitate of advocacy and political dialogue processes, for a greater and more effective participation in policymaking, as well as in the policy implementation and monitoring at local and national level.

National Resource Centre main office is in Tirana and has two other regional offices in Shkodra and Vlorë, to ensure wider territorial coverage of the country with its activities and services.



During the NRC Launching Conference, 5 April 2019.

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This project is funded by
the European Union



PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Launching Conference “National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania”



On April 5th, 2019, Partners Albania launched its latest initiative on the opening of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania, a platform for civil society that will support the strengthening of CSO's capacities, the policy dialogue and the advocacy efforts of the sector toward an enabling environment for CSOs and sustainable development.

The Conference was attended by about 140 participants, representatives of the civil society from all over the country, diplomatic bodies in Albania, donor and media.

The event was organized with the special participation of His Excellency Mr. Luigi Soreca, Ambassador of the European Union to Albania and Ms. Genoveva Ruiz-Calavera, Director of DG NEAR for the Western Balkans.

In her speech Ms. Calavera emphasized that “Good governance is a key political requirement for a country aspiring to join the EU family and good governance is also about the level of civil society engagement and structured participation in dialogues on reforms”.

Moreover, Ms. Calavera highlighted the crucial role played by civil society in Albania during the last 3 decades generating changes specifically to pushing forward the justice reform. Ms. Calavera stressed the importance that the involved of all interested partners in policy-making has for the European Union and the strengthening of civil society as a valuable asset in the protection of democracy, emphasizing the importance of the establishment of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society and the provision of its services in this framework.

In her greeting speech, Ms. Juliana Hoxha, PA Director, provided a brief overview of the current situation of the civil society sector, highlighting a number of issues on the legal and fiscal framework, lack of dialogue and cooperation between representative structures of the civil society and the governing institutions, etc.

Presentation of the main services and activities of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania was made by Ms. Arjola Agolli, PA Director of Programs and Manager of the Resource Centre.

The event provided a forum for discussion among all participating stakeholders, on the challenges of creating an enabling environment for CSOs. Issues and challenges of the civil society sector inclusion in policy and decision-making, the enabling legal environment and the provision of services to citizens and public institutions by the civil society sector as a social partner, were at the focus of the discussion.



Special participation of His Excellency Mr. Luigi Soreca, Ambassador of the European Union in Albania and Ms. Genoveva Ruiz-Calavera, Director of DG NEAR for the Western Balkans.

Power of Togetherness - World Café on Enabling Environment for CSOs in Albania

Following the launching event of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania, a World Café session was organized with about 120 representatives of civil society organizations, CSOs national networks, community donors, funding agencies, media, and national advisory bodies such as National Council For Civil Society in Albania.

The event served as an opportunity for gathering of civil society organisations in Albania in discussing, presenting and sharing main issues of concern, and set stones for further actions needed in addressing CSOs priorities like increasing participation in decision making, improvement of legal and fiscal framework and strengthening of collaboration between National Civil Society Council and the sector.

The challenges identified by CSOs and the recommendations with regard to enabling environment for civil society in Albania, was presented by the Manager of the National Resource Centre, at the International Civil Society Week, organized from 7-12 April 2019 in Belgrade.

Under the Slogan "Power of togetherness", in the framework of ICSW2019, BCSDN, in cooperation with CIVICUS and Civic Initiatives, with support from the Balkan Trust for Democracy, were organized 25 local events worldwide, including Albania. These local events and their results were presented as part of ICSW2019, to bring diverse civil society and community perspectives into the global conversations at the International Civil Society Week 2019!



120 representatives from civil society organization, CSOs national networks, community donors, funding agencies, media, and national advisory bodies such as National Council For Civil Society in Albania .

Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society – Country Report for Albania 2018



During presentation of “Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society—Country Report 2018”.



Partners Albania and National Resource Centre for Civil Society organized a round table to present the preliminary findings and recommendations of the “Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society – Country Report for Albania 2018”. The meeting served as a discussion forum focused on an analysis of the changes and development of the legal and practical framework affecting the sector occurred during January 2018- February 2019.

Participants were Ms. Alketa Knuti, Deputy Director of General Tax Directorate, representatives of Agency for the support of the Civil Society (ASCS), representatives of civil society organizations and donor institution in the country.

The following are some of the main findings:

Burdensome reporting procedures and formats, and poor implementation of the consultation processes on draft laws and policies, especially at the central level of government.

The Road Map for Drafting Policies and Measures for Enabling Environment for Civil society 2015-2018, resulted with only 20% of its actions implemented, while the new action plan 2018-2022 has not yet been approved.

The National Council for Civil Society Development is still struggling in its efforts to build a constructive and effective dialogue in advancing the civil society agenda.

On some clarifications and amendments to the law “On accounting and financial statements”

Since 1 January 2019, has entered into force the Law no. 25/2018 “On Accounting and Financial Statements”. Civil society organizations become aware on that only in the recent months, due to an invitation from the National Accounting Council (NAC) as the designated body for drafting the performance report format that NPOs have to submit to it under the applicable law.

This law has been drafted and approved without the knowledge and participation of the sector and comes to the attention of civil society organizations only at this moment when the process of drafting the reporting formats from the National Accounting Council has begun.

The Law brings some new changes and additions to the reporting of non-for-profit entities, which are a concern and a step backwards regarding the reporting of civil society organizations.

Partners Albania and National Resource Centre initiated and facilitated some meetings with the sector and the process of drafting an official statement and request to the government with this regard. [Read the Letter here.](#)

Request from CSOs to the General Directorate of Taxation

In June 2019, CSOs have received a request from the General Directorate of Taxation for filling the NPO QUESTIONNAIRE. Assessing the information requested to be gathered by GDT through the questionnaire, it gives the impression that this information intends to address issues that go beyond regulations and legal obligations of the sector or beyond the reporting obligations to GDT.

An official request for the suspension of the request for filling in the questionnaire, and its further revision, was directed to the General Directorate of Taxation by a group of civil society organizations. [Read the Letter here.](#)



Crowdfunding Platforms: An Alternative Source of Financing - Research Paper



Financial sustainability and fundraising remain among the key challenges that civil society organizations are facing today. National Resource Centre and Partners Albania presented in a round table with CSOs

the research paper on “Crowdfunding Platforms: An Alternative Source of Financing”. Crowdfunding is one of the innovative fundraising methods, which is being widely used by the sector and social entrepreneurs in the region and Europe but still very little explored in Albania. Through this publication, it is aimed at informing and encouraging the sector about using this method to generate funds and contribute to financial sustainability of the sector. [Read here the Research Paper](#)



**Monitoring Matrix
on Enabling Environment
for Civil Society Development
COUNTRY REPORT
FOR ALBANIA 2018**

The legal package on Social Enterprise is not in line with EU directive and European best practices, presenting several restrictions and state controlling mechanisms for CSOs deriving from the status of SE.

For more findings and recommendations, please read the report .

NPO Academy

NPO Academy comes as a consolidated program, created by Partners Albania, which contributes to enhancement of capacities of NPO executives and managers in regard to organizational development and management, financial sustainability, advocacy for issues of common interest, strengthening of inter-sector cooperation etc. Since 2015, over 70 representatives of Albanian NPOs, with a wide geographic, sectorial distribution and gender representation, gained knowledge and skills in regard to effective management of their organizations in order to assist their stakeholders and wide public.

NPO Academy 2019 started in April this year. Participants in this academy are 25 executives and senior managers of organizations who work and give their contribution across the country.

The NPO Academy is one of the key activities of the capacity building functions that National Resource Centre will have in the next three years. [Read here for more](#) information on the program, the criteria and the application process to be enrolled in the next year Academy Program.



Opening of the Academy and #1st Lecture on
"Legal framework for NPOs in Albania"

Legal services in support to CSOs activity

Av. Shehi has a long experience in the NPO sector and in legal service provision for NPOs. From March 1, 2018, she provides legal services dedicated to NPOs related to: NPO registration and fiscal registration; organizational and / or regulatory legal status of NPOs; solving of fiscal legal issues of NPOs, including issues related to the exercise of economic activity by NPOs; counseling on contractual issues of NPOs; legal exit from the NPO market and their legal deregistration etc. For more on this service [contact us!](#)



#session2
"EU accession process and the role of CSOs"



#session3
"Organizational Management and Development"



#session4
"Financial Management"



#session5
"Strategic Communication"

Training Programs for CSOs



NRC ACTIVITIES

National Resource Centre in the framework of its capacity building function will focus on strengthening the CSOs sector's capacity through a series of tailored training programs. For this purpose, NRC conducted a national assessment and identified the needs of the civil society sector across the country. Tailored local and regional training program were designed and organized, in response to the identified needs in the three regions. The need assessment report and its findings will be public soon.

Meantime, based on the articulated need by the local organizations but also considering the opening of several Call for Proposal, mainly from the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Union in Albania, but other donors and local organizations as well, during May - June 2019, NRC organized six two-day trainings programs on the topic of Proposal Writing in Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durres. About 110 local CSOs representatives participated in these trainings and advanced their knowledge through practical exercises during the project proposals training sessions.

Following the need assessment findings, other training programs for CSOs will be organized in the upcoming period.



During regional training programs in Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durres

News from regional offices of National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania

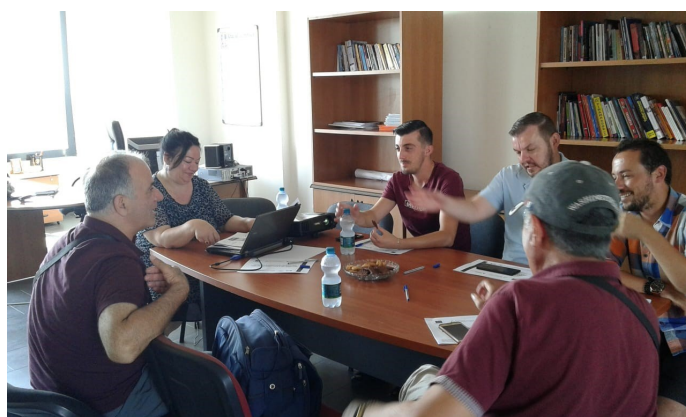
As anticipated in the launching event of the National Resource Centre, apart the main office in Tirana, the Resource Centre will have two other offices at regional level, situated in Shkodra and in Vlora city, to ensure wider territorial coverage of the country with its activities and services.

During May 2019, two info sessions were organized at Shkodra and Vlora Regional Offices with representatives of local civil society organization, aiming to introduce the participants with the main services that will be provided by the Centre and the activities planned throughout a three year period.

Moreover, in the last months, the regional coordinators of Shkodra and Vlora Offices, organized several meetings and round tables with CSOs to discuss key issues and main problematic they are facing in their work and activity. Meetings were organized as well with representatives of local media and journalists, to promote the Resource Centre and its role at local and national level.



Shkodra Regional Office of National Resource Centre for Civil Society



The 7th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum



The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) organised its 7th Western Balkans Civil Society Forum in Tirana on 16-17 April 2019. The main topics on the agenda were the role of civil society organisations in promoting regional cooperation, the state of social dialogue, as well as enabling civic space in the Western Balkans. Ms. Juliana Hoxha, Partners Albania Director was one of the speakers in the panel of this forum dedicated to creating an enabling environment for civil society.

The Forum brought together approximately 180 participants, including a broad range of civil society representatives from the EU and the Western Balkans, as well as representatives of EU institutions, international organisations and governments of the region. [Read more about the Forum.](#)

International Civil Society Week 2019



Over 900 civil society leaders and activists from across sectors, themes, regions and backgrounds convened in Belgrade, Serbia in April, for the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) 2019 hosted by CIVICUS in collaboration with Civic Initiatives and the Balkans Civil Society Development Network, to explore ways that individuals and organisations around the world can work together to protect civic space and help ensure the resilience and sustainability of civil society locally and globally. [Read more about ICSW2019.](#)

Mr. Arjola Agolli, Partners Albania Director of Programs and Manager of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania, contributing in several sessions with presentations of good practices and discussions on the latest development in the civil society sector and social entrepreneurship in Albania, and the main challenges to an enabling environment in this regard.



International Conference on "The 2030 Agenda: Partnerships for Sustainable Development"

Under the supports of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, International Conference on Agenda 2030: Partnerships for Sustainable Development took place on the 16th of April, at the Palace of Parliament, in Bucharest.

The Conference was organised by the Department of Sustainable Development within the Romanian Government and aimed at strengthening the coordination for efficiently monitoring the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Participants from the EU countries, Eastern Partnership countries, Western Balkans countries, and Central Asia countries, as well as civil society representatives and business community took part in this conference. Part of this conference was Ms. Klotilda Tavani, Director of Programs at Partners Albania. The Conference concluded with the importance of promoting partnerships for sustainable development and cooperation.

[Read more about the Conference](#)

Conference on Western Balkans' youth aspirations and opportunities

The Conference was organised by the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council in partnership with regional partners such as the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). It took place in Bucharest, Romania 28-29 May 2019.

The topics touched upon during the conference contributed to identify the best solutions to increase the socio-economic inclusion of young people in the region and facilitate the setting up of a sustainable dialogue among youth in the EU and in the Western Balkans, fostering mutual understanding and a broader attachment to European values.

The conference was attended by more than 200 participants from more than 120 organizations - young people from the Western Balkans and the European Union, Romanian and foreign officials, representatives of European institutions, international and regional organizations, representatives of the IT industry and start-ups, as well as of the academic environment.



[Read more about the Conference](#)

Albania Report 2019



The European Commission published the country reports for the six Western Balkans states and Turkey.

On 29th May 2019 in Tirana, Ambassador Luigi Soreca presented the Annual Report to media and civil society representatives following the live presentation of the 2019 Enlargement Package and Annual Report on Albania by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

The recent Progress Report recognized achievements in key fields such as justice system, fight against corruption and organized crime, neighboring relations etc.

Part of the Report were also efforts made toward an enabling environment for civil society sector which in regard to the implementation of the roadmap progress is yet to be made.

The report emphasizes the need for amends on the Law on National Council for Civil Society (NCCS) to reflect changes on ministerial portfolio and provide for appropriate representation in

the NCCS.

Furthermore, substantial efforts are needed to ensure meaningful and systematic consultation with civil society as part of an inclusive policy dialogue for reforms. The report recommends that these efforts should involve comprehensive feedback and follow-up mechanisms. Financial sustainability of civil society organisation is defined as a remaining challenge due to fiscal and legal framework.

The EU Delegation recognized that Albania has continued to make progress on its EU reform agenda throughout the reporting period.

[Read the Report](#)



From the meeting of Ambassador Luigi Soreca with CSOs representatives

CSOs as Service Providers for Public Administration



Civil society organizations in Albania are influential actors in national development. In one area in particular -the provision of services- CSOs assumed a major responsibility in the past decades, in the situation of lack of service delivery by the government structures. Nowadays, the government still does not have institutional mechanisms and tools for cooperation with CSOs, resulting in insufficiently developed cooperation, particularly in delivery of the services.

Following an assessment conducted for the capacities of Albanian CSOs with regards to their readiness on offering services for public administration, 20 local CSOs across country become part of a long term training and mentoring program designed by Partners Albania, in cooperation with Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS). CSOs part of the program, were exposed to European experiences on access to public funds schemes, identification and development of products and services for the public sector, aiming to build bridges for the establishment of future cooperation and concrete agreements on public service delivery.

Regional Social Academy on Social Enterprises - IRIS NETWORKing

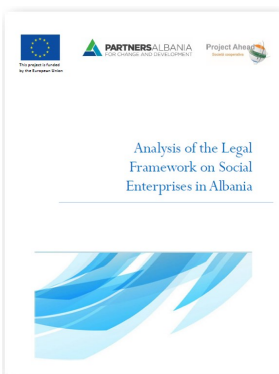
The Regional Social Academy "Social Enterprises – An Innovative Model for sustainable service delivery and integration of marginalized groups in the labour market and society" was held in Tirana, from 27 to 30 May 2019. The Academy was organized under the framework of IRIS NETWORKing - CSOs for protection sensitive migration management.



Over 30 participants selected among applicants from civil society organizations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, benefited from a tailored training package and diversified learning methodologies designed and delivered by Partners Albania in cooperation with international guest speakers & trainers. The Academy program included lectures, workshops, discussions and field visits, where the participants got introduced with legal framework and practical models of social enterprises in the region, and explored innovative entrepreneurship activities for the development of the region through higher inclusion of migrants, Roma, women, youth and people with disabilities (PwD) and other marginalized groups, into labour market and social services delivery. [Read more](#)

Supporting Social Entrepreneurship Development in Albania

In the framework of the promotion of a constructive dialogue and advocacy efforts for an enabling financial and legal environment for the SEs, a policy paper providing a synthetic overview of the legal package and addressing some key issues in the legislation that represent barriers in the activity of social enterprises has been developed and published by Partners Albania.



As part of the analysis, references to European and Western Balkan legal practice are made. This analysis will contribute to a better understanding of the development needs of the social enterprise

sector by state institutions. In addition, it will help the social enterprise sector in developing its fact-based advocacy effort. [Read the full legal package in English here.](#)



Further training and mentoring sessions have been provided to 16 CSOs in the program to enhance their capacities in developing successful entrepreneurship initiatives.

Additional assistance on management, visibility tools and networking at local/ international level, have been provided to the 5 CSOs supported through the EMBRACE sub granting scheme, to run their social entrepreneurship initiatives.



During training and mentoring sessions



Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Latest Publications Search by reference Advanced Search

Reference: 103516 Search

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Programme: Human Rights
Type: Action Grants
Status: **closed** + 24/05/2019
Published: 20/04/2019
Updated: 14/05/2019
Geographical Zone: Albania



Open Call for the Award of the Small Grants under the Web4YES project

Objective of this Call is to improve effectiveness of the civil society organisations in Western Balkans in undertaking initiatives for improving youth employment and entrepreneurship policies at the local level. The Call aims to further build capacities of the civil society organisations from the Western Balkans and strengthen their involvement in public decision-making and also to design and implement the innovative initiatives related to youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship.

The budget ceiling for each individual project will be up to 10,000.00 € (The maximum amount awarded by EIDHR is up to 150,000.00 € overall indicative amount made available from Grant Support Scheme of the Action is up to 150,000.00 €).

The types of entities which may receive financial support:

In order to be eligible for support from Grant Support Schemes, the applicant and the co-applicants must:



Shpallet Thirrja për Propozim të kandidatëve anëtarë të shoqërisë civile në KKShC



Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Support to regional thematic networks of civil society organisations, support to a regional network for women's rights and gender equality and support to small scale projects promoting cooperation between communities and citizens from Serbia and Kosovo*

Programme: Pre-Accession Countries / New Member States
Type: Action Grants
Status: **Open** + 23/05/2019
Budget: 18,700,000 (EUR)
Geographical Zone: Pre-Accession Countries / New Member States
Published: 14/05/2019
Updated: 23/05/2019
Reference: EuropeAid162473/DH/ACT/MS



**BALKAN CIVIC PRACTICES
PROMOTING CIVIC SPACE
SECOND EDITION**



**RECORDED WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Civil Society Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey
Three Webinars held Friday, May 3, 2019
on the Call for Applications for EuropeAid/162473/DH/ACT/Multi-Support to Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations, Support to a Regional Network for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, and Support to Small Scale Projects Promoting Co-operation Between Communities and Citizens from Serbia and Kosovo*

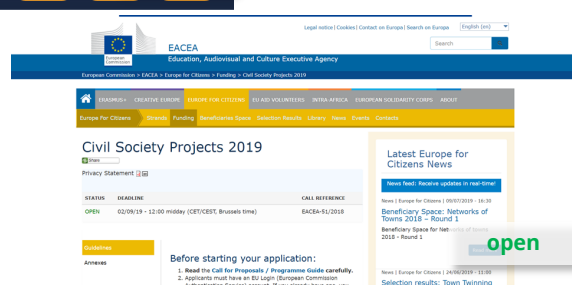
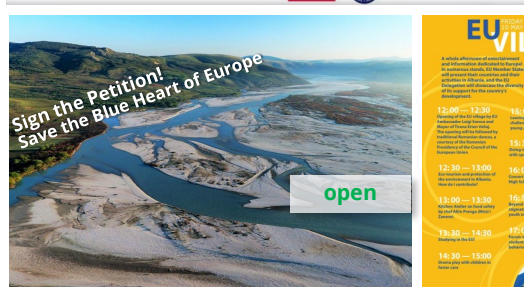


Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Cross Border Cooperation Programme for Environment - Albania Kosovo *

Programme: Pre-Accession Countries / New Member States
Type: Action Grants
Status: **Open** + 14/05/2019
Budget: 2,040,000 (EUR)
Geographical Zone: Albania
Published: 09/05/2019
Updated: 24/05/2019
Reference: EuropeAid162473/DH/ACT/MS

Documents:
15052019_OA for the 2nd CP AL-KS 2019 - doc
Annex 2.doc
English 09/05/2019



QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! Be involved in our upcoming events!

July 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



NPO Academy



Trainings & Seminars for CSOs



Networking Events



Public Forums and Events

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES



Partners Albania offers a 45 m2 meeting room, equipped with all the necessary equipment to carry out various events such as training, workshops, conferences etc.

Advantages:

- Very good location
- Competitive prices
- Networking and exposure opportunities
- Opportunities for online meetings, conferences, trainings, webinars up to 25 participants
- Suitable conference room with natural lighting, contemporary equipment, air-conditioning, etc.

We welcome you!

For reservation contact us at:

Elbasan Street, Park Gate Building, 10th Floor,
Ap. 71/73, Tirana

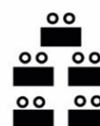
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Tel. 00355 4 2254881

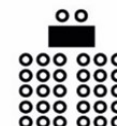
partners@partnersalbania.org



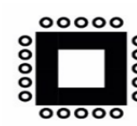
Cocktail
(standing)



Classroom



Theatre



Round
Table

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Tel / Fax: +355 4 2254881

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Office in Shkodra

The congress of Përmet, Str. Oso Kuka, 2nd Floor, Entrance 1, Shkoder

(in the premises of the "Women in Development" Association)

E-mail: shkodra@resourcecenter.al

Office in Vlora

Neighborhood 29th November, Str. Dede Ahmet Amataj, Mother's Day 15, 2nd Floor, Vlora

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