

AGENDA TIRANA 2017





MEMORY DAYS 2017 (2nd edition)

16 - 23 NOVEMBER 2017, TIRANA

Languages: Albanian, English, German

#memorydays2017

© IDMC - Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture Address: Bardhok Biba Street, Entrance A, Trema Bldg, Fl. 11, Apt. 35, Tirana, Albania

Email: office@idmc.al Web: www.idmc.al

THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana National Museum, Dictatorship Exhibition Pavilion

Opening ceremony of MEMORY DAYS 2017 EXHIBITION presentation

17:00 Registration

17:30 - 18:00 Welcome address:

Jonila Godole,

Director of Institute for Democracy,

Media & Culture (IDMC)

Walter Glos,

Director of Konrad Adenauer

Foundation (KAS)

Susanne Schütz,

Ambassador of German Embassy

in Tirana

Bernd Borchardt,

Ambassador of OSCE Presence in Albania

18:00 - 18:30 Opening speeches

Hildigund Neubert

Former Commissioner for STASI files in Thüringen Politics of Memory – German experience

Video-speech by Sami Repishti

Former persecutee

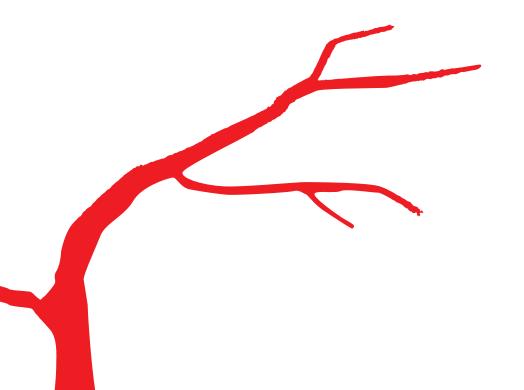
Forgetfulness of dealing with the past

18:30 - 19:00 Presentation of the

exhibition: "Propaganda during

the dictatorship"

19:00 Reception



FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Classic Conference Room

International Conference: "BETWEEN APATHY AND NOSTALGIA: Public and Private Recollections of Communism in Contemporary Albania"

09:00 - 09:30 Welcoming Coffee

09:30 - 10:00 Opening Speeches

Hildigund Neubert

Former Commissioner for STASI files in Thüringen Representative of Ministry of Education,

Sports & Youth (tbc)

10:00 - 10:45 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Daniela Koleva

St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

Post - Socialist Nostalgia: What is it and

what to do about it? **Moderator: Jonila Godole**University of Tirana & IDMC

10:45 - 12:00 Session 1

POLITICS OF MEMORY

Rigels Halili

University of Warsaw & Nicolaus Copernicus University

of Toruń

Remembering Communism – the Interplay between Work on Memory and Work of

Memory in Albania and Poland

Sokol Lleshi

European University of Tirana

Restoration of Tradition: Institutional Effects

on Cultural Battles over Memory

Afrim Krasniqi

University of Tirana & Albanian Institute for Political

Studies (ISP)

Everybody Pro and Against the Communism: Paradoxes in the Change of the Political System and Attitudes towards Communism

(1990-1992)

Moderator: Elidor Mëhilli

Hunter College, City University of New York

12:00 - 12:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

12:15 - 13:00 Session 2

COMMUNIST HERITAGE IN THE URBAN SPACE

SPACE

Kailey Rocker

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Ruins, Bodies, and Pyramids:

Exploring Communist Ruins and Memory

Politics in Albania Ilir Parangoni

Albanian-American Development Foundation

Debating the Handling of Communist Ruins

Moderator: Francesco Iacono

University of Cambridge

14:00 - 14:45 Session 3

COMMUNISM IN THE MUSEUMS

Alsena Kokalari

Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences,

Athens

Remembering the Communist Past in Albania:

The Case of Bunk'Art Project

Konstantinos Giakoumis

European University of Tirana

On the Politics and Pragmatics of Memory and Oblivion: Post-Communist Attitudes towards Communist Museology Approaches

in Albania

Moderator: Irena Myzeqari

European University of Tirana

14:45 - 15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:00 - 16:15 Session 4

PUBLIC DISCOURSES AND PRIVATE

MEMORIES

Francesco Iacono

University of Cambridge

Communist Heritage and the Memory of Communism in Post - Socialist Albania: Between Public Discourses and Private

Recollections

Blerina Kellezi, Clifford Stevenson, Aurora Guxholli,

Nottingham Trent University

Remembrance, Psychological Wellbeing and

Intergroup Relations

Gilles de Rapper

Institute for Mediterranean, European and Comparative

Ethnology, Aix-en-Provence

Photography and Remembrance. Questioning the Visual Legacy of Communism and its Reception in Contemporary Albania

Moderator: Julie Vullnetari

University of Southampton

16:15 - 17:00 S

Session 5 POSTER PRESENTATIONS Briseida Lala

University of Tirana:

Albanian - Soviet Union relations in private and collective memory

Rashela Shehu

Independent researcher:

The creation of places of collective (communist) memory in the public space

Romina Kali

Independent researcher:

Memories and post-communist treatment of former persecuted families of Shkodra.

Leonora Laçi

Independent researcher:

Reçi's War in the memory of people yesterday and today.

Moderator: Sonila Danaj

University of Jyväskylä

SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Classic Conference Room

09:00 - 09:30 Welcoming Coffee

09:30 - 10:00 Session 6

PERSPECTIVES FROM ROMANIA

Cristian Vasile

Romanian Academy of Sciences

Remembering Communism in Romania: The Role of Historical Commissions

Moderator: Idrit Idrizi University of Vienna

10:00 - 11:15 Session 7

COMMUNISM IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH,

FICTION, MEDIA Federico Boni

Università degli Studi di Milano

Specters of Communism. Albanian (Post-) Socialist Studies and the Repression of

Communist Legacies **Elidor Mëhilli**

Hunter College, City University of New York

"The Dictatorship's Archive"

Brikena Smajli

European University of Tirana

A Poetic of Memory through Novel

Narrativeness and Metanarratives of New

Albanian Literature

Moderator: Kostandinos Giakoumis

European University of Tirana

11:05 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 - 12:45 Session 8

COMMUNISM REMEMBRANCE AND YOUTH

Jonila Godole

University of Tirana & IDMC

New Generation and the "Borrowed"

Memory on Communism

Irena Myzeqari

European University of Tirana

A "Loaned" Memory and a "Bittersweet"

Nostalgia – How Youth Remember

Communism

Moderator: Blerina Kellezi

Nottingham Trent University



Session 9 12:15 - 13:00

PRIVATE RECOLLECTIONS AND EXTERNAL VIEWS

Filippo Frangioni

You2TellEu - European Project of Historical Memory Albanian Immigration in Tuscany and the Memory of Communism

Andreas Hemming

German-Albanian Friendship Association "Did I not see, or Did I not Want to See?" Former West German Communist Activists

Remember Albania Moderator: Brikena Smaili European University of Tirana

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

Session 10 14:00 - 15:15

PRIVATE RECOLLECTIONS Idrit Idrizi

University of Vienna

From Demonisation to Glorification: Typologies of Privately Remembering Communism in Contemporary Albania Irida Vorpsi

University of Tirana & University of Vienna Communism in the Minds and Souls: Of Nostlagia and Forgetfulness in Post-Communist Albania

Julie Vullnetari

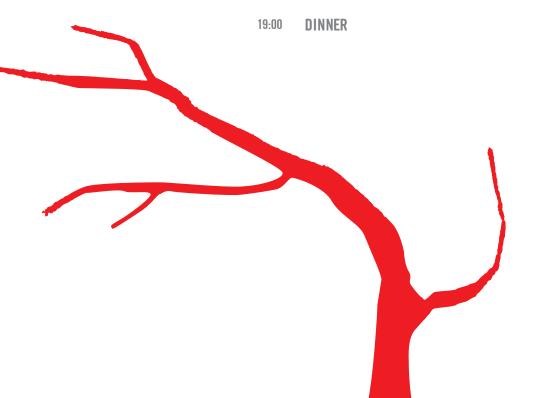
University of Southampton & Russell King, University of Sussex

'Dancing in the Mouth of the Wolf! Remembering Everyday Life at the Border

in Socialist Albania Moderator: Rigels Halili

University of Warsaw & Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń

15:15 - 15:30 CONCLUSIONS



SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

Parallel Study Visits to Sites of Memory in Tirana & Shkodra

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

Venue: Rogner Hotel

"LAW & JUSTICE" SYMPOSIUM

09:15 - 09:30 Registration

Welcome address 09:30 - 10:00

Walter Glos

Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Anke Holstein

Deputy German Ambassador in Albania

Bernd Borchardt

Ambassador of OSCE Presence in Albania

10:00 - 10:15 "Reappraisal of the Communist Dictator-

> ship in Poland" Łukasz Kamiński

University of Wrocław, Poland

"Communist crimes and their state 10:15 - 10:30

> impunity" **Agron Tufa**

Institute for Studies on the Crimes and Consequences

of Communism

10:30 - 10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:45 - 12:00 Panel discussion: "The legal and

social process of dealing with the communist past"

Moderator: Jonila Godole IDMC & University of Tirana

Panellists:

Gentiana Sula

Authority on Access to Information on the former

State Security Service Markus Meckel

Budesstiftung Aufarbeitung Germany

Radu Preda

President of the Institute for the investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian

Exile (IICCMER)

Fatos Lubonja Former political prisoner **Enkeleid Alibeai** Democratic Party

12:00 - 12:30 0 & A

12:30 - 13:00 Presentation of the photo album:

Following the traces of communism in

Albania

Alice Teodorescu

Analyst, Blogger, Photographer (Romania)

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Teuta Room

BOOK PRESENTATIONS

09:00 - 09:30 Registration

09:30 - 10:30 Book presentation (1)

Elidor Mëhilli

"From Stalin to Mao: Albania and the Socialist World"

Moderator: Idrit IdriziUniversity of Vienna

10:30 - 11:15 **Book presentation (2)**

"Communism through archival documents: Repression during the self-isolation". A pedagogical tool for teachers by IDMC

11:15 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 - 12:00 **Book presentation (3)**

"Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Victims of Communist Terror", Vol. VI, by the Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences in Albania (ISKK).

PUBLIC READING OF KOKALARI FILE

Venue: Tirana National Museum

17:00 Welcome address

17:10 - 17:45 **Jonila Godole**

IDMC

Moderator

Panellists:

Skender Vrioni

AIDSSH

Linda Kokalari

"Musine Kokalari" Institute

Persida Asllani

National Library

Dorian Koçi

Tirana National Museum

17:45 - 19:00 Public reading of Musine Kokalari file

Moderator: Edlira Agolli

OSCE

WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana National Museum, Library Room

ORAL HISTORY (OSCE activity)

14:00 - 16:00 Welcome address

Sarah McGuckin

OSCE

Jonila Godole

IDMC

Youth Forum on Oral History **Moderator: Edlira Agolli**

OSCE

Panellists:

Miran Butka

Institute for Studying Communist Crimes

Valbona Bezati

Journalist, Project coordinator of "Unë dëshmoj – I testify"

Fatmiroshe Yhemalai

Fatmiroshe Xhemalaj EUROCLIO Ambassador in Albania

Fabian Kati

A victim of persecution, journalist, film director

THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER

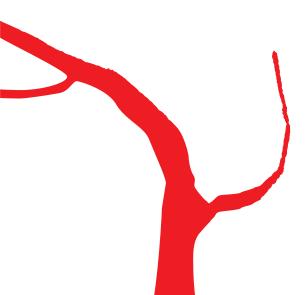
Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Balsha Room

AWARDS CEREMONY "ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS II"

17:00 - 17:30 Registration17:30 - 17:45 Welcome address by the organizers

17:45 - 19:00 Competition awards

19:00 Reception



A part from the keynote speech of Sami Repishti, former persecutee

'Forgetting' crimes that have been committed is possible only as time draws a veil over them and our past too — without mercy! The judgement on the act remains, as does the possibility for its forgiveness. The forgiveness of the act is a voluntary gesture which can be offered only by those who suffer from the crime: the only category of people who have this privilege, who are rationally capable and morally equipped to forgive where there is guilt. Only those who suffer from the crime have the right to answer this question; only the victims of the dark past. Who else has political or moral authority?

Forgiveness cannot be offered in the name of a victim by someone who has not borne the terrors of unbearable tortures which cannot be 'forgotten'. Not even the martyred 'king' of a country...! The absolution of guilt for those who seriously feel the effect of 'collective guilt' is possible even though the mark of shame remains indelible. It is their silence which sentences them!

Today we must fight 'forgetting', because we are convinced that silence represents the greatest risk of past terrors being repeated.

Today we must fight 'forgetting' because we should not allow the loss of our ability to work freely in a free world which we have defended with so much sacrifice.

Today, 'forgetting' would, for us, be to abandon the legal and moral authority of the victim without the victim's permission; our work should take place in this context.

The victims of the red terror found sufficient courage to scorn hatred and its first-born child, revenge. With this attitude they ennobled themselves and gave a shining example for our country's history. There has still been no response to this sublime gesture! A great misfortune.

But 'forgetting' – and perhaps also the 'absolution of guilt' – is not only 'personal'. No-one has the right to absolve guilt in the name of a victim. We must not allow it. (A French proverb says that we are very strong in enduring the misfortunes of others). This is a categorical imperative for Albanian society, and particularly for the victims here. Because this dictatorship attempted to make great sectors of the population physically disappear. Hell will never freeze!

The importance of judging and punishing guilt of this kind is undeniable. We should not forget this, because 'forgetting' makes it possible for the past to be repeated by the twisted minds of opponents of democracy in our country. We must speak out; we must narrate and describe the Communist hell with all its tools, but without violence. Violence is not our weapon; justice is!

Today we face the second phase of the moral reconstruction of our life in Albania. In the first phase we scorned hatred and revenge. Today we have hope that it will be possible to take the next step: reconciliation between ourselves. Because as victims we also have a need for the peace we have lost. How can we achieve something so difficult? Perhaps... if we are certain that 'reconciliation' will return the human element to us - to all of us - and our ethical values.

I have still not fully achieved such certainty. And so I live with anxiety, I do not forget, and I will always continue to 'remember' the Communist crime. Me, the former prisoner, who has rejected hatred and revenge...

Thank you!

MEMORY DAYS 2017

On 16 to 23 November 2017, under the motto "Memory as a Mission", will be organized the 2nd edition of the MEMORY DAYS, a project initiated by the Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture (IDMC) in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS). The aim of this project is stimulating public dialogue in dealing with Albania's dictatorial past.

Among the various activities to take place this year is:

- The international conference "Between Apathy and Nostalgia: Public and private recollections of communism in contemporary Albania", 17 - 18 November
- "Law and Justice" symposium, 20 November
- A study trip to sites of memory, 19 November
- Presentation of research works on the dictatorship, 21 November
- Public reading of "Musine Kokalari file", 21 November
- Youth Forum on Oral History, 22 November
- Awarding of the "Ask your Grandparents II" competition winners,
 23 November
- "Propaganda during the dictatorship" exhibition will be open during Memory Days

In the following you will find a general overview of each activity.

For more information about MEMORY DAYS 2017 visit: https://www.idmc.al/en/between-apathy-and-nostalgia.html

To get a broader idea of this activity check the summary of MEMORY DAYS 2016: https://www.idmc.al/en/memory-as-a-mission.html

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

DAY 1

THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana National Museum, Dictatorship Exhibition Pavilion

Opening Ceremony of MEMORY DAYS

The 2nd edition of MEMORY DAYS 2017 will open on 16 November at the Tirana National Museum in the presence of the organizers, partners, local and foreign actors working in the field of memory and others interested in the subject. During the opening ceremony a keynote speech will be delivered by Sami Repishti. The "Propaganda during the dictatorship" exhibition by IDMC will accompany the event and stay open for a week at the Dictatorship Exhibition Pavilion in the National Museum. For everyone who couldn't visit the "Cold War" exhibition from last year, it will stay open, as well, throughout the Memory week.

Languages: English, Albanian, German

For more information visit: https://www.idmc.al/en/between-apathy-and-nostalgia.html

"Propaganda during the dictatorship" exhibition

The exhibition "Propaganda during the Dictatorship" presents aspects of the political manipulation of the masses from the communist state in Albania through various forms of propaganda, such as articles and photos in the press, official ceremonies, caricatures and other forms. Propagating the Party's successes in building socialism in Albania went hand in hand with measures of the Communist state to destroy private property and achieve the common ownership of the means of production; to create the "New Man" using features deemed essential for Communist morality; to glorify the role of the Party and the Party-state leader Enver Hoxha. The propaganda aims at showing the superiority of the communist system over the capitalist system.

Exhibition text in Albanian

"Cold War" exhibition
For more information visit:
https://www.idmc.al/en/assets/lufta-e-ftohte.pdf

DAYS 2 & 3

FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Classic Conference Room

International Conference: "BETWEEN APATHY AND NOSTALGIA: Public and Private Recollections of Communism in Contemporary Albania"

The conference "Between Apathy and Nostalgia: Public and Private Recollections of Communism in Contemporary Albania" explores and discusses the different ways communism is remembered and represented both in public (e.g. in political discourse, literature and arts, historiography and school books, museums, memoirs, media, social media and popular culture) and in private (across e.g. social, gender, urban-rural, geographical such as north-south, generational and professional borders). Investigating who remembers what, how and when, the conference aims at providing both a comprehensive and nuanced overview of communism remembrance in Albania.

Furthermore, two speeches on communism remembrance in Bulgaria and Romania by respectively Daniela Koleva and Cristian Vasile, and a panel discussion that brings together Albanian and non-Albanian scholars will provide the opportunity to compare the Albanian case with other Eastern Europe countries.

For more information visit:

https://www.idmc.al/en/between-apathy-conference.html

Languages: English, Albanian

DAY 4

SUNDAY. 19 NOVEMBER

Venue: Tirana & Shkodra

The MEMORY DAYS program team will arrange study trips to sites of memory in Tirana and Shkodra. We believe that sites of memory, such as internment camps, political prisons and labour camps should be brought more often to the attention of the public, for two essential reasons: first, to commemorate the victims of communism, and secondly, to confront and explore the past and the so-called Albanian communism phenomenon.

Familiarity with the past helps to meditate on the nature of Albania's totalitarian regime and the legacies of the time, as well as increase awareness of the threat of totalitarian tendencies in present times. By knowing these tendencies in advance, a democratic society is able to prevent history from repeating.

DAY 5

MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

"Law & Justice" Symposium

Venue: Rogner Hotel

Law and justice can hardly be regarded with entire complacency, because no institution, no state and no person can always give the justice one deserves. The justice we dream of is always a little bit outside of what we can shape.

This event is not about the formula that can be used to administer justice. It is about making democracy better by remembering and asking: Has Albania's constitutional state acted justly to the victims of the communist dictatorship? What does the law when dealing with dictatorships? What is the use of a legal process? Which social expectations are directed towards the jurisprudence?

Languages: Albanian, English, German

DAY 6

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

Book presentations

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Teuta Room

The organizers will offer the possibility to actors working in the field of memory in Albania and abroad to present their scientific works about the dictatorship. There will be a presentation of the book "From Stalin to Mao: Albania and the Socialist World" by Elidor Mëhilli; "Communism through archival documents: Repression during the self-isolation", a pedagogical tool for teachers by the Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture (IDMC); and the "Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Victims of Communist Terror", Vol. VI, by the Institute for the Study of Communist Crimes and Consequences in Albania.

Audience members will be free to pose questions to authors or representatives who were directly involved in their research.

Languages: Albanian, English

Public reading of Musine Kokalari file

Venue: Tirana National Museum

In the context of the commemoration of Musine Kokalari, her resistance and her work, IDMC in cooperation with the Musine Kokalari Institute and the Albanian Authority on Access to Information on the former State Security Service will perform the first public reading of her file.

Surveillance, terror and persistent isolation were some of the tools used by the Sigurimi to inhibit the spread of opposition. IDMC aims to increase young people' interest, especially their awareness, about the crimes and consequences of communism through the reading of the files.

Languages: Albanian

DAY 7

Youth Forum on ORAL HISTORY

OSCE activity

This session aims at contributing to the debate about oral testimony and its importance in the revision of history textbooks. The main questions that will be addressed during the event: What types of stories do the young people want to hear from the old people?; How is that information important to them?; What are the differences between documented testimony and oral history?; How would they react if a victim of communist regime where to share their persecution story?; How can we best share resources?

The panellists will present their work and views on the subject. Fabian Kati will present his films and projects on the topic. Miran Butka from the Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes will introduce their "Zërat e kujtesës" (Memory Voices) run by the Institute. Valbona Bezati will talk about the "Unë dëshmoj" (I testify) project initiated by IDMC. Fatmiroshe Xhemalaj will address the importance of oral history and textbook revisions.

Languages: Albanian, English

DAY 8

Awards Ceremony – "Ask Your Grandparents 2"

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Balsha Room

This is the third national competition organized by IDMC, following "Born in the 90s: Explore the Past, Create the Future" (2015) and "Ask Your Grandparents" (2016), which already awarded 17 prizes. "Ask Your Grandparents 2" is a collaboration between IDMC and the Albanian History Teachers Association "Youth & History" (ALBNA), and supported by the Ministry of Education and Sports and Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The aim of the "Ask Your Grandparents" competition is raising the young people and the Albanian society's awareness of the importance of the past, because without knowing it there will be no safe future. This year, the competition focuses on events as well as specific objects with a personal story connected to them, giving Albanian high school students the possibility to be creative and share personal experiences, family stories, and facilitate the dialogue across generations.

For more information visit: https://www.idmc.al/en/askyourgrandparents-two.html

Languages: Albanian, English

ORGANIZERS:

IDMC-Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture is a non-profit organization that uses an interdisciplinary approach to study and promote the development of democratic values, culture and media in Albania. The Institute aims to promote dignity and human rights as key elements of Europe and European Union's (EU) democratic values, and raise awareness amongst young people about the history of the EU and the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, including the dictatorship in Albania, through:

- educational training, school curriculum, and creative projects in multimedia, film, awareness events
- publication (in print and online) and translation of books and materials that enable scientific and cultural exchange, European and international one.
- scientific research surveys of public opinion about media and peace

Website: www.idmc.al

KAS – Konrad Adenauer Foundation is a political foundation which stands near the Christian Democratic Union of Germany. Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967), as co-founder of the Christian Democratic Union and the first chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, brought together Christian, social and conservative traditions with liberal traditions. His name is a symbol for the democratic reconstruction of Germany, to deploy its foreign policy in a transatlantic community of values, the vision of a united Europe and orientation towards the social market economy. His spiritual heritage is our duty and commitment at the same time.

Website: http://www.kas.de/albanien/sg/

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:















ACTIVITIES VENUES

Tirana National Museum

City Center, Skanderbeg Square 1, Tirana, Albania http://www.mhk.gov.al/

Tirana International Hotel

City Center, Scanderbeg Square, Tirana, Albania Tel: +355 4 223 41 85; Fax: +355 4 223 41 88; Email: hotel@hoteltirana.com.al http://tiranainternational.com/portal/index.php/sq/

Rogner Hotel Tirana

"Dëshmorët e Kombit" Blv. Tirana, Albania Tel: +355 4 2235035; Fax: 355 4 2235050

Email: info.tirana@rogner.com

http://www.hotel-europapark.com/en/contact-info.html

ORGANIZERS:





PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:













