

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Arben IMAMI *Head of the Board of Directors*

One of the founders of the Democratic Party, since 1991 Mr. Imami was elected seven times Member of Parliament. He was also a major contributor to the Albanian Constitution in 1998. Mr. Imami has held key ministerial positions in government such as Minister of the Legislative Reform, Minister of Justice, Minister of Local Government and Decentralization, and Minister of Defense during the historic period of Albania's integration and membership into NATO.



Blerta ZILJA, PhD

University of Tirana graduate, she serves as a lecturer since 2009. Her work experience includes several technical and research positions at the Open Data Albania, Albanian Institute of Science, the Soros Foundation Albania. She is also a co-creator of the portal financatransparente.al



Dritan SHANO

Has worked for years as an expert and adviser for the European Union Delegation in Albania and the World Bank. Has a long experience in the NGO sector and for years served as Program Director at the Institute of Contemporary Studies.



Mateo SPAHO, PhD

University of Parma and the Bocconi University graduate, he has participated in numerous trainings including the European Union and the IMF Institute in Vienna. He is currently an Associate Professor for Finance.



Merlinda HOÇO, PhD

Graduated from the University of Athens, University of Tirana and Clark University in the United States, she is currently a lecturer at the University of Tirana and is intensely involved in the activities of civil society.



Nevila XHINDI, PhD

University of Tirana and University of Potsdam (DE) graduate, she is a Fulbright/Humphrey scholar. A university lecturer for 17 years, she has worked as a Foreign Aid coordinator for the Albanian government. Former Deputy-Mayor of Tirana, she is also member of several European programs and working groups on education.



Reila BOZDO, PhD

Graduated from the University of Tirana and Institute Universitaire Kurt Bosch in Switzerland. A lecturer at the University of Tirana since 2006, she has also been engaged in marketing and public relations in the private sector for more than 10 years.

STAFF



Akil KRAJA *Executive Director*

ENA, Bocconi and Sciences Po Paris alumni, he was previously a Manager of Projects & PR for the Albanian agri-financial cooperative and Director for SME & Exports at the Albanian Investment Development Agency. He has a vast international experience including working for the EC, the CoE and the Government of Kosovo.



Lediana FRATARI *Communication Officer*

Graduated from LSE and Queen Mary University of London, she has previously studied in Oxford and Italy. Her professional experience includes the European Union Delegation in Albania. She is also responsible for External Relations for the Albanian Confindustria.



CONTACT

Freedom and Democracy Foundation
Democratic Party Headquarters
Zhan d'Ark Boulevard, No. 11
Tirana, Albania
www.pd.al/fld
info@fld.al

The Foundation for Freedom and Democracy



Contributing to the
**development of
democracy** and the
**promotion of
liberal conservative
values** in Albania

The Foundation for Freedom and Democracy (FLD) is an Albanian NGO founded by the Democratic Party. The FLD aims to contribute to the development of democracy and the promotion of liberal conservative values in Albania.

Further, the FLD aims to support and strengthen the ideological values of the Democratic Party and to boost its research capacities. Through cooperation with civil society, the Foundation for Freedom and Democracy shall serve as a forum for dialogue on political, economic and social values of the center-right as well as broaden youth support for liberal democratic thinking in Albania.

OBJECTIVE

The FLD main objective is to nourish the democratic political thinking by generating thesis and policy research, fostering political communication with citizens, experts and civil society representatives, encouraging electoral participation and activism, acting as a catalyst for civic awareness campaigns influencing Albanian political decision-making structures.

GOALS

In order to achieve its objective, the FLD has set out these main goals:

1. Advocate liberal democratic thinking in Albania.
2. Promote continuous awareness among DP members, affiliated organizations and public at large regarding liberal conservatism.
3. Develop and support initiatives aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in governance as well as civic participation in the democratic process in Albania

MAIN PILLARS

Political Consulting

Legislators, opinion makers and Albanian political activists face today a tremendous challenge on the technicality of many political issues. The Foundation will support policymakers, analysts and public policy stakeholders in order to reinforce the political national and local decision-making process. Our work will be based on the principles of independence and authenticity, acting as a bridge between academics and professionals, civil society and center-right political structures.

Political Academy

The focus of our objective is to build a well-defined, alternative and innovative political doctrine. To this end, the Political Academy will bring together annually professionals, young people, experts and social activists of all sides, to debate, share and learn not only the philosophy but also the instruments of a modern and liberal democracy. The Political Academy will not only target the technical capacities of DP professionals and activists, but will strive to build network of individuals who naturally embrace the democratic values and the liberal conservative philosophy.

International Relations

The Foundation aims to integrate the international network of sister organizations engaged in promoting democratic liberal values. Scholarships, trainings and seminars for activists, opinion makers, politicians and center-right professionals will be provided. International best practices in the organization of democratic elections, party management, and the European integration process will be addressed in particular.

Youth and Civic Education

Civic and political education is a fundamental precondition for a well-functioning democracy. It includes an increased public awareness on free and fair elections, political and party representation, EU integration and human rights. The making and/or translation of legal and political documents on such matters will result in a better understanding of national policies and their impact on everyday life.

PROJECTS

In order to achieve its goals, the FLD has determined five categories in which projects will be classified.

1. Education and Training Courses include courses on ideology, policy content, communication which are carried out by guest/party experts.
2. Conferences and workshops are designed to contribute to the development and promotion of liberal democratic thinking in Albania. Conferences and workshops will be organized in cooperation with foundations from sister parties.
3. Research and Technical Assistance will be provided in composing or translating documents that are of importance to party secretariats or departments.
4. Exchange visits to sister parties for selected individuals or groups. During such visits, participants will closely observe the functioning of party structures as well as promotion of liberal democratic values.
5. Publications are an important component of our work. The FLD will issue several publications on liberal democratic values to be used in education and/or training courses.