



The Foundation for Freedom and Democracy (FLD) is a non-profit political organization, established by the Democratic Party of Albania, on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## Why “Freedom and Democracy” ? A brief overview of the Albanian democratic legacy



Albanian students at mass rallies in favor of democracy on December 1990

Albania is rightfully considered among the youngest state in Europe considering not only its demographics but also its institutions and history. It was in 1912 that Albania achieved its independence and in 1991 held its first pluralist democratic elections. After a short monarchy and having endured Enver Hoxha’s communist dictatorship, Albania is now building new democratic institutions following its innate euro-atlantic pathway. A NATO country member, Albania is also an EU candidate country adapting its institutional framework based on the best European practices.

Due to its turbulent history, the Albanians democratic aspiration is best represented from the call for “*Freedom and Democracy*”, evoked by Albanian students claiming the end of the communist regime during the early 90s. The call for “Freedom and Democracy” became literally a national motto and it is still today one of the major symbols of the Albanian center-right for the last 25 years.

## The Foundation for Freedom and Democracy

### Mission

To contribute to the Albanian democracy while spreading and further developing center-right values, model and history.

### Vision

FDF will promote the democratic values of the Albanian center-right by building, strengthening and supporting the Albanian Democratic Party's ideology via research, education and media related projects based on the national and/or international partnerships of the DP, and through cooperation with civil society. The Foundation will serve as a forum for political, economic and social philosophy dialogue as well as for the strengthening and consolidation of the ideological and democratic education of Albanian youth and women.

### Objective

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

## FLD's pillars and core activity

1. Political  
Consulting

2. Political  
Academy

3. International  
Relations

4. Youth  
and Civic  
Education

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### Political Consulting

Legislators, opinion makers and Albanian political activists face today a tremendous growth of political issues' technicality. The Foundation will support policymakers, analysts and public policy stakeholders so that the national and local political decision-making process is increased. The main principles that will govern this action will be those of independence and authenticity, playing the role of a bridge between the academic world and that of professionals, civil society and center-right political structures.



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### Political Academy

The focus on a center-right vision implies primarily building a defined alternative and innovative political doctrine. It is precisely this logic that stands at the core of the 'Political Academy', bringing together annually professionals, young people, experts and supporters of a wide variety, to share and learn not only on the philosophy, but also on the instruments of a modern and liberal democracy. The Political Academy will target not only the technical capacities of Albanian DP political professionals and activists, at local and national level, but also the building of a "thinking-network" of center-right individuals who naturally embrace the democratic values and the liberal-conservative philosophy.



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### International Relations

The Foundation aims to integrate in the international network of sister organizations engaged in promoting democratic liberal values, in order to cooperate and attract new resources and expertise in supporting the Albanian center-right policymaking. Scholarships, trainings and seminars for activists, opinion makers, elected politicians and center-right professionals will be provided. International best practices regarding the organization of democratic elections, party management and the European integration process will be addressed in particular. The implementation of international best practices at local level will create a national chain effect enabling the overall professionalization and integration of the Albanian center-right thinking according to broader international standards.



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## Youth and Civic Education

Society's civic and political education is a fundamental precondition for a well-functioning democracy. It includes not only the promotion of core subjects such as fair elections, political and party representation, EU integration or human rights, but also public awareness on current issues of interest to society. The translation of the legal, financial and political jargon in simple terms, a better explanation of national policies' impact on everyday life, educating Albanian youth on the national democratic legacy and particularly on communism etc. - all these constitute the essence of FLD's mission. An additional effort will also be paid on national policies relating to gender issues .



## National Conferences

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### ALBANIAN FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

A gathering on the values, vision and relevance of the Albanian democracy today. Numerous high level speakers, interactive debates, very large media coverage with a large participation by politicians, experts and representatives of civil society.

*Partners: Hanns Seidel Foundation, IRI, NDI, WDN*



Hotel Sheraton, Tirana, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### POLITICAL SYMBOLISM: A DIALOGUE FOR THE CITIZEN AND DEMOCRACY

Intellectuals, journalists and artists debating on the use of symbolism in politics, modern PR, communication and propaganda within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the overthrow of the statue of dictator Hoxha.

*Partner : Hanns Seidel Foundation*



Hotel Tirana International, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## YOUTH POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

Within the context of the Albanian DP renovation, and of its youth branch, the seminar targeted the new young DP leadership on issues such as party modernization, right-wing ideology, political competition and boosting of party structures ahead of the 2017 elections.

*Partner : IRI*



FLD HQ, Tirana, October 2015

## PUBLIC SPEECH & FRPD CANDIDATES

Mr. Nebojsa Andric, journalist and public speaking consultant from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), conducted a full day training with the candidates for the head of the youth DP Forum on how to master public speeches and debates.

*Partner : NDI*



FLD HQ, Tirana, November 2015

## Trainings and seminars

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT – REFORMS AND CHALLENGES

Up to 100 recently elected city councilors exchanged their opinions and ideas on the latest territorial reform, and the challenges it presents to local government representatives on the legal, managerial and service levels. A series of workshops dedicated to new members of the City Councils.

*Partner : Hanns Seidel Foundation*



Hotel Leonardo, Durres, October 2015

### 'YOUR VOICE' – COMMUNICATION PLATFORM CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLICYMAKERS

The project was implemented in seven major Albanian cities, with the objective to bring together within one sole communication platform intellectuals, students, journalists, civil society representatives, businesses and trade unions in the framework of the local elections held on June 2015.

*Partner : Hanns Seidel Foundation*



Nationwide, April 2015

## Projects and Activities

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### NATIONAL CALL FOR DEMOCRACY

An initiative launched within the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first pluralist elections held in Albania and the end of the Communist regime. The concept is translated by the production and the large scale promotion via social networks of 15 short videos-clips of intellectuals supporting a 'National Call for Democracy' and why democracy is still a key objective for Albania today.

*Partner : Hanns Seidel Foundation*



[www.facebook.com/FLD](http://www.facebook.com/FLD), January 2016

### 'YOUR COUNTRY, GET INVOLVED'

Best image and essay national competition on the dreams and challenges faced today by young people aged from 16 to 25, in particular as it relates to emigration. All competition participants were invited in a dedicated training on youth involvement, democracy and state of law.

*Partner : Hanns Seidel Foundation*



Nationwide, February to April 2016

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### **Arben IMAMI**

*Head of the Board of Directors*



One of the founders of the Democratic Party, Mr. Imami was elected seven times Member of Parliament since 1991. Mr. Imami was also a major contributor to the Albanian Constitution of 1998. He has held key ministerial positions such as Minister of the Legislative Reform, Minister of Justice, Minister of Defense, Minister of Local Government and Decentralization. He successfully led the demilitarization program and the integration of the Albanian Armed Forces in NATO.

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**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 [financatransparente.al](http://financatransparente.al) portal.

**Mateo SPAHO, PhD**



Graduated from the University of Parma and the Bocconi University in Milan. He has participated in numerous trainings including at the European Union and the IMF Institute in Vienna. He is currently an Associate Professor for Finance.

**Nevila XHINDI, PhD**



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

**Dritan SHANO**



He 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.

**Merlinda HOÇO, PhD**



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

**Reila BOZDO, PhD**



Graduated from the University of Tirana, the Insitute Universitaire Kurt Bosch in Switzerland and is a candidate for PhD. She is a lecturer at the University of Tirana since 2006 and was also engaged in the private sector in marketing and public relations with an experience of more than 10 years.

## Staff

Akil KRAJA, *Executive Director*



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

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 an involvement at the EU Delegation in Albania. She is also responsible for External Relations at the Albanian Confindustria.

Stiliano RUSHAJ, *Research officer*



A PhD candidate at the European University of Tirana, he holds a MA in Democracy and Human Rights from the University of Bologna and the University of Sarajevo and a MSc. in International Organizations. He has lectured at the University of Elbasan and has been an assistant-researcher at the Institute for Development Policy in Pristina.



### **CONTACTS**

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