

INFOPACK

Symposium Navigating transitions: adapting policies to young people's changing realities

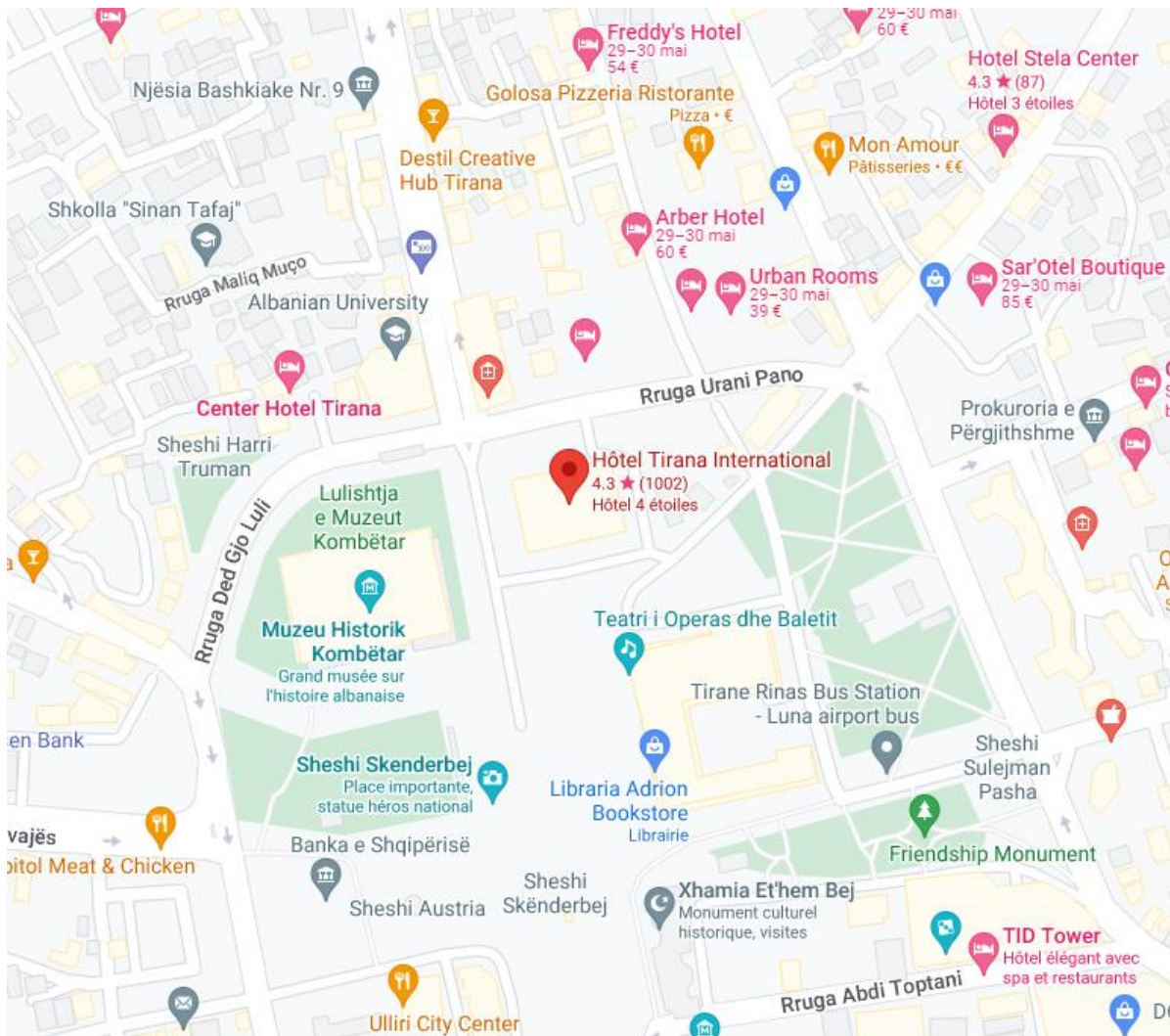
22- 23 June 2022, Tirana, Albania

Lodging

Your lodging and subsistence have been taken care of and reserved by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, according to the travel times you have shared with our team. **If you have not done so yet, please send your travel details asap.**

The Symposium and the lodging is organised at **Tirana International Hotel & Conference Centre, Scanderbeg Square no. 8, Tirana.**

Please note that the check-in time is 14:00 and the check-out time is until 12:00.



How to get to the venue?

Tirana airport *Mother Teresa International Airport* is situated 17 km northwest of Tirana. **The public bus to the city centre (with the final stop right behind the Hotel) can easily be found in front of the airport.**

LU-NA shpk offers a shuttle service from TIA to Tirana and vice versa (see <https://www.tirana-airport.com/c/16/bus>). The service called Rinas Express is available every hour between 06:00 in the morning until 24:00 in the evening. The bus stops 5 minutes from the Hotel, behind the Palace of Opera and Ballet. The journey takes 30 minutes.

The rate for a single fare is 400 Albanian Lek (around 3.5 EUR).

Service Hours:

Tirana main square – Tirana International Airport: every one hour starting from 06:00 until 24:00

Tirana International Airport – Tirana main square: every one hour starting from 07:00 until 02:00

If you are coming by car, all guests of the hotel can benefit from a parking free of charge. There are 2 entrances to the parking: one from Dibra Street and one from the National Museum.

Some useful information:

- The Weather in Tirana at the end of June is around 25-33°C and it is quite sunny
- Time Zone in Albania: GMT+2
- National Currency in Albania is Lek (L); you can easily exchange the money in the banks or exchange offices.

Exchange rate: 1 EUR =120.42 L

1 USD =115.51 L

You will be often asked and advised to pay cash (in restaurants, taxi, shops...) so as not to pay an expensive conversion fee. Think about exchanging to Lek at the arrival to cover your transport costs to the Hotel. The Airport shuttle bus stops 5 mins walk from the hotel and it costs around 400 L. See more information on the airport bus below in How to get there.

- Free Wifi connection is available in the Scanderbeg Square and at the hotel, as well as in most bars and restaurants. Keep in mind and in check your roaming costs. Albania does not participate in the EU initiative on free roaming so your bills might go up quickly.
- Drinking tap water is not recommended. Think about bringing along your own bottle to fill up with filtered water.
- As of 1 May 2022, Albania removed all COVID-19 requirements. Travellers no longer need to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative PCR test to enter Albania. Please remember to check the relevant rules and requirements for your country of return and/or transit as well as for the airlines. They may differ.

Additional information about Albania, provided by our local partners

The host city of the event - Tirana, the Capital of Albania

Tirana, Albanian **Tiranë**, city, capital of [Albania](#). It lies 27 km east of the [Adriatic Sea](#) coast. This year Tirana is hosting the [European Youth Capital Title](#).

It was founded in the early 17th century and became the capital of Albania in 1920.

The old city stretches to the east and north of the main square and features alehouses and historic architecture. Tirana has museums, a national institute of folklore, a national theatre, and a concert hall. Skanderbeg Square has a large statue of [Skanderbeg](#) (Gjergj Kastrioti), the Albanian national hero. The inhabitants of Tirana are mostly Muslim.

For more information and guidelines about Tirana you can follow below pages: <https://albania.al/destinations/tirana/>



Official Language in Albania:

The Albanian language has its own alphabet and is distinct from any other language (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albanian_language). And you read the language just like it is written.

Useful words in Albanian:

Hello –Përshëndetje

No/Yes – po/jo – Po/Jo

Goodbye- mirupafshim

Thank you (very much) - - Faleminderit

Good morning – Mirëmëngjes

Excuse Me –Më falni

Please – ju- lutem

A a	B b	C c	Ç ç	D d	Dh dh	E e	Ë ë	F f
a	bë	cë	çë	dë	dhë	e	ë	fë
[a]	[b]	[ts]	[tʃ]	[d]	[ð]	[e]	[ə]	[f]
G g	Gj gj	H h	I i	J j	K k	L l	Ll ll	M m
gë	gjë	hë	i	jë	kë	lë	llë	më
[g]	[j]	[h]	[i, j]	[j]	[k]	[l]	[l]	[m]
N n	Nj nj	O o	P p	Q q	R r	Rr rr	S s	Sh sh
në	një	o	pë	që	rë	rrë	së	shë
[n]	[ɲ]	[o]	[p]	[c]	[r]	[r]	[s]	[ʃ]
T t	Th th	U u	V v	X x	Xh xh	Y y	Z z	Zh zh
të	thë	u	vë	xë	xhë	y	zë	zhë
[t]	[θ]	[u]	[v]	[ɬ]	[ɬ]	[y]	[z]	[ʒ]

[Albania](#) has a population of just 2.8 million. It is also a top destination for foodies, with affordable fine dining and delicious local dishes such as *fërgesë* stew to try. Be pleasantly surprised by the world-class beaches of the Riviera, or find your inner adventurer by hiring a car and driving into the mountains. Here's what to know before you go.

Albanians are said to be very friendly. Albania is a tourist friendly and safe country. So don't be afraid to ask for directions or other information – there will always be someone who will help you find what you're looking for, be it accommodation, a place to eat or transport advice. Many Albanians speak English and tourism is developing as a key part of the country's economy.

Albanian food is delicious. Bring a pair of stretchy pants with you, because [Albanian cuisine](#) is fantastic. The best dishes are tasty and affordable. Make sure to try as many as you can while you're here, but start your culinary experience with *fëgesë* (a slow-cooked stew made of pep-

pers, onions, spices, tomatoes and cottage cheese); *tavë kosi* (lamb and rice baked with yoghurt and eggs); *byrek* (flaky filo stuffed with savoury fillings); *speca me gjize* (peppers in cottage cheese); *baklava* (a sweet layered pastry covered in syrup) and *trilece* (three-milk cake). For Albanians, **raki** is the answer to everything – but what is it? Raki is an intense aromatic liquor that's very similar to grappa, as it is made from grape pomace. It is often flavoured with aniseed. You'll find it throughout Albania and the Balkans, as well as Kazakhstan, and it is considered the national drink in Turkey.

It is thought raki was originally made by monks in Greece during the 14th century. Don't forget to say *gëzuar* (cheers) before drinking it down.

FrescuZZi culture is well developed and you can find non-alcoholic refreshing alternatives available to anyone to cool off the summer heat or digest a tasty meal.

Albania is a country of many religions. Albania is a tolerant nation when it comes to religion. Christians, Muslims and Jews all feel safe and welcome here. In every town you'll see an Orthodox church and a Catholic church within a few metres of a mosque. According to the 2011 census, just under 60 percent of the population is Sunni Muslim, 10 percent Roman Catholic and seven percent Eastern Orthodox, with Bektashi Muslims, other Christians and other religions also represented.