

CCIFA Weekly News

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**Revue de presse hebdomadaire/Përmbledhja javore e shtypit /Weekly press review
Activité hebdomadaire de la CCIFA /Aktiviteti javor i CCIFA /CCIFA Weekly activity**



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Maison de l'Albanie - our member



La Maison de l'Albanie soutient la promotion des artistes albanais et des œuvres qui aident à mieux connaître l'art albanais en France, et ne pouvait pas manquer à la **projection du film "TRANZICION - art et pouvoir en Albanie"** du réalisateur Giuseppe Schillaci.

<https://www.facebook.com/MaisonAlbanie/posts/2071579736397493>

Angelin Preljocaj - Trait d'Union



Premiera Botërore
TRAIT D'UNION & CREATION 2017
Balet nga Angelin Preljocaj

4 Tetor 2017 - ora 20:00 - Pallati i Kongreseve
Tiranë

france danse orient-express
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS
Ambassade de France en Albanie
SOCIETE GENERALE ALBANIA
BOGA & ASSOCIATES
LEGAL • TAX • ACCOUNTING
Sheraton TIRANA HOTEL
Alliance Française Tirana
OPERA BALETIT

L'ambassade de France a le plaisir de vous annoncer la venue du nouveau spectacle du chorégraphe Franco-Albanais Angelin Preljocaj le 4 octobre 2017 au Palais des Congrès de Tirana.

Ambasada e Francës ka kënaqësinë t'ju njoftojë mbi vënien në skenë të spektaklit të ri të koreografit Franko-Shqiptar Angelin Preljocaj më 4 tetor 2017 në Pallatin e Kongreseve në Tiranë.

https://www.facebook.com/events/1818731831478303/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%22%2C%22ref_newsfeed_story_type%22%3A%22regular%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D

#NewPeugeot3008#

MODEL I RI PEUGEOT 3008

ASNJËHERË NJË SUV NUK KA SHKUAR KAQ LARG



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PEUGEOT RECOMMENDS TOTAL

MOTION & EMOTION

<https://www.facebook.com/PeugeotAlbaniaOfficial/>

Societe Generate Bank Offers 300 Free Insurance Policies !

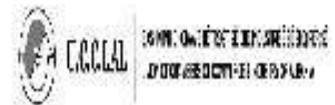
Societe Generale Albania Bank offers for its clients coverage for earthquake damages - made possible by Albsig in cooperation with Europa RE and a Swiss government program. The insurance policy 'Swiss Visual Pro' will be provided free of charge to the first 300 clients who receive the Express Loan at the Societe Generale Albania Bank. This policy makes available for insured individuals an immediate fixed payment of 300,000 Lek in case of full house damages by earthquakes. For the first year this policy's premium will be covered 100% by the Bank for said clients. Starting from September 5th, 2017, 300 clients of Societe Generale Albania Bank can have their earthquake insurance free of charge for one year. After the first year they can choose whether they want to continue with coverage directly from the Albsig insurance company. This produce is enabled by the Catastrophe Risk Insurance Program in Southeast Europe, funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the World Bank. This program aims at raise awareness of the population on insuring property against earthquakes. Due to its geographic position Albania is at risk from earthquakes as a result of high seismic activity. But, only a small part of the population is covered by insurance. The authorities and international institutions are calling for population in such countries to insure properties from earthquakes otherwise the economic and social consequences would be heavy

(Albanian Daily News,5)

SOON...

INTERNATIONAL TASTING WINE & SPIRITS

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER
TIRANA BUSINESS PARK



This event is reserved to women- members' representatives

“GATHERING FOR A CAUSE”

September 2017

Dear CCIFA women members,
Dear colleagues,

Come and join us at “**Gathering for a Cause**” for an inspiring evening, socializing and networking.

We introduce hand-to-hand giving to our guests – their in-kind gifts are distributed immediately to **Abandoned Babies in Albania**

Our innovative approach to philanthropy educates and energizes women, members of CCIFA about their impact on local needs. **We believe in the power of women!**

This evening also gives you the opportunity to make valuable business connections with our network.



A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

'The Pearls Fishers' Brings Inva Mula in Albania

Source: Albania daily news



After performing in "Pagliacci" opera, the world-renowned Albanian soprano Inva Mula returns to the public as a director but also as the protagonist of the opera "The Pearls Fishers".

This opera, composed by Georges Bizet, with the libretto of Michel Carre and Eugene Cormon, will raise the curtains of the artistic season of the National Opera and Ballet Theater (NOBT) at the Palace of Congresses stage. The artist's cast includes well-known names of the Albanian opera as the baritone Armando Likaj, soprano Ramona Tullumani, while the orchestra will be directed by the French conductor Gerard Akoka.

In this premiere soprano Mula comes with the lead role of Lejla, which she interpreted 27 years ago on the Albanian stage. 'The Pearls Fishers' is a three acts opera that was presented for the first time to the French public on September 30, 1863. The Albanian public was given a chance to enjoy this opera for the first time in 1990 under the direction of Nikolin Gurakuqi.

The opera narrates the story of two men whose long-lasting friendship is threatened by a woman.

"The Pearls Fishers" will come on stage on September 22.

Tirana to Host Next Meeting on IAP Project

TIRANA – The next meeting of the Project Management Unit for the Ionian-Adriatic Pipeline (IAP) will be held in Tirana on September 8. The announcement was made Wednesday by Zarko Djuranovic, energy department director and consultant at the Montenegrin company Bonus.

This company is exactly one of the participants in the project management unit.

In August last year, Albania, Bosnia, Croatia and Montenegro's Energy Ministries signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Along with the gas transmission operators for each country, this unit was also created, which aims to determine the steps needed to facilitate the development and implementation of the IAP project.

The proposed IAP pipeline will be launched from Albania by joining TAP, it will pass through Montenegro, Bosnia and will end in Split of Croatia.

BoA, EBRD Promote Factoring Service

The main objective of the workshop was to raise the awareness of banks and financial institutions on the advantages of expanding the factoring service in Albania

TIRANA – The Bank of Albania, in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), hosted the workshop “Albanian Factoring”, central bank said in a press release on Wednesday.

The event brought together representatives of the central bank, the EBRD office, commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions, etc. The main objective of the workshop was to raise the awareness of banks and financial institutions on the advantages of expanding the factoring service in Albania, as an opportunity to finance business, for small and medium enterprises in particular.

The factoring service is part of the Albanian financial system. The regulatory framework of the Bank of Albania provides for the licensing of banks or non-bank financial institutions for this service. Currently, eight non-bank financial institutions and nine banks are licensed by the Bank of Albania for providing factoring.

The Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Albania, Natasha Ahmetaj and the representative of EBRD in Albania, Matteo Colangeli, welcomed the participants and opened the workshop.

In her speech, the Deputy Governor Ahmetaj emphasized the fact that factoring can be an important service in the Albanian financial system, and it has the potential to develop further. Therefore, the Bank of Albania will cooperate with interest groups to identify potential obstacles to the further development of this service. Central Bank's surveys show the market in Albania needs such services, as they can provide more funding than the traditional lending institutions and reduce credit risks.

The EBRD representative noted that factoring is a little known service in Albania and needs to be promoted. In addition to benefits in business funding, this service also enhances the competitiveness of the country's economy, an objective that is broadly supported by the EBRD.

Source: ADN

TAP Backs 12,000 Families to Receive Land Certificates

With ownership certificates in their hands, land owners can use the property to get a loan, credit, or take other actions

TIRANA – The cadastre update process started by Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) in 2013 has assisted more than 12,000 families along the pipeline's route in Albania to receive landownership certificates. Meanwhile TAP updated the cadastral data for approximately 34'000 properties, less than one third of them have been affected by pipeline construction works.

Property rights-related issues are still a challenge in Albania. Due to lack of recognized land ownership rights, real estate transactions have a negative impact on the population's livelihood and the country's economic development.

TAP recognized this challenge since the project development phase. TAP therefore undertook an unprecedented initiative to improve and update the cadastral data, not only for the parcels directly affected by the project, but for a wider 300-metre corridor along TAP's 215 km route across Albania. Under this project, known as the Cadastre Update and Improvement Process, TAP collected all required documentation, conducted field measurements, survey plans, cadastre update process. TAP covered all expenses related to the process.

In a TV interview, Altin Prifti, Head of Vithkuqi Administrative unit, said that farmers have been looking forward to this process for 27 years. "With ownership certificates in their hands, land owners can use the property to get a loan, credit, or take other actions. It has been an obstacle from the past. I took the chance to thank TAP, because they implemented a solution that makes everybody happy."

As part of this process, TAP conducted full first registration of three villages, two in Korça (Vithkuq and Mollaj) and one in Fieri (Sheq-Marinas). Both Vithkuq and Sheq Marinas have high tourism potential but without ownership certificates, investing in these villages was impossible. The same applies for the Mollaj village, which has a significant agriculture potential.

All in all, more than 138 communities (villages) and over 12,000 families in Devolli, Korça, Skrapari, Berati and Fieri municipalities have benefited from TAP's cadastre update process.

Source: ADN

A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS

Albania's power output falls 26% y/y in H1

Albania's electricity production fell 25.9% year-on-year to 3,730 GWh in the first half of 2017, the country's statistical office, INSTAT, said. Albania's power exports dropped by 72% on the year to 360.8 GWh in the first six months whereas imports of electricity increased by 39.2% to 1,080 GWh, INSTAT said in a statement. The entire volume of the country's H1 2017 electricity production of 3,011 GWh was generated by hydro power plants, with 67.4% produced by state-owned companies, whereas the balance came from independent electricity producers. The country's power network losses declined 1.6% to 1,020.6 GWh. Distribution losses accounted for 61.7% of the total network losses, while the balance is attributed to transmission losses. Within distribution losses, technical losses amounted to 629.3 GWh, with the rest were due to non-technical reasons.

Euro recovers against Lek

The end of the summer season has prompted the euro to turn back to the growth in the foreign exchange rate. According to the official exchange rate of the Bank of Albania, on Thursday the euro was exchanged with 133.5 leks, an increase of half a point from the previous day. The euro has been steadily strengthening against the lek since last week and has reached the highest level in the last three months. Experts believe that the main reason for the strengthening of the euro is a gradual decline in the European currency offer on the exchange market. In recent months, this offer has been high due to tourism revenues, "emigrants", and it is estimated that the election campaign might have had an effect by the end of June. This growth was predicted by market experts who were expecting a correction of the euro rate after the summer season. However, they do not expect the euro to return to the 140 lek limit, at least not in a short time. In recent months, the euro has followed a trend of appreciation in international markets, especially against the US dollar. It is not believed that the performance of international markets is a determinant factor in the Euro-lek rate, but the opposite is true with the US dollar rate. The dollar's exchange rate against the lek runs almost in a fairly proportionate manner with the green currency against the euro. The fact that the dollar has weakened against the euro also explains the depreciation against the lek in recent months, dropping to the limit of ALL 110.

Tourism increased business profits

Positive earnings of businesses this August have increased not only the economic growth, but also budget revenues. "Declared business turnout for August, without including tax-payers covered by VAT, has been 5.4 billion ALL higher than the same period of one year ago. 2 million more receipts than one year ago were issued this summer", said Vasilika Vjero, General Director of the Tax Office. According to the Tax Office, sales from businesses were increased with 15%, compared to last year. "Certainly, we will have to see if this will create new jobs, but we will inspect the declared spending of businesses", Vjero underlined. According to Vjero, the increased number of reports is result to the fight against evasion, especially for tourism. Only this summer, more than 6500 businesses have been inspected. "2300 taxpayers have been penalized, 36% of them. These businesses were kept under watch and will be watched even later", Vjero said. The Tax Office will now focus in three other sectors that have reported lower turnovers than one year ago.

Construction market, INSTAT data show an increase of construction costs

The Institute of Statistics has published some data relating to construction costs. During the first 6 months of 2017, the costs for construction have increased but the prices of houses have decreased significantly when compared to the same period a year ago. Data from the Institute of Statistics show that expenditure for construction materials increased by 1.6%, compared to the same period a year ago, resulting in an increase on construction cost. Meanwhile, data from the Bank of Albania on the price index for houses show a reduction of 11% in the housing price in the second quarter of this year. According to the connoisseurs of the construction market, the decreased price of houses is largely due to the high number of newly established buildings, especially in the capital. It was evaluated that the increased cost of construction has little impact to the final price of apartments. Data from the Institute of Statistics show that the number of requests for rented houses has increased in the first months of the year, a trend that started in the third quarter of 2016. According to the data from the Bank of Albania, the price of houses has increased for two quarters in a row, respectively by 11.3% and 5.2%, compared to the same period a year ago. The experts consider the data to be positive for the construction sector, which is now seeing an improvement after the blocking of construction permits.

Enterprises Complain about Business Climate

Albanian enterprises have expressed their concern about what they considered a highly unfavorable business climate in the country. In a letter, the Independent Association of Albanian Entrepreneurs has declared that Albanian business can't be sufficiently competitive in the region and that Albanian is not attracting foreign investments. In order to improve this situation, the Association makes a number of proposals to the Albanian government: Intervention and opening of markets through a fight against monopolies, oligopolies, and cartels, corruption of all types and mainly those of the type "state capture," in procurement, concession, and privatizations; Taking measures for the necessary increase of local investments; Drafting a fiscal politics comparable with other region countries, which will help national business become more competitive; Improvement of the construction and functioning of the monetary and banking system.

Gender pay gap in Albania lower than in several EU countries

Gender gap in salaries in Albania has gotten even closer. The average salary of women in Albania is 44.000 ALL. The average pay for men is 47.000 ALL. The gap is now 6%, from 10% that it was in 2014. "Having more freedom, being more open, women want to manage their lives. This is a tendency of especially younger generations. Women want a higher pay level and there is a higher investment in education. The society is also more open", says sociologist Edmond Dragoti. Men seem better paid in IT positions, health care, education, business administration, defense and industry. INSTAT notes that women are more paid than men in managerial positions, but this doesn't mean there is no discrimination. The gender pay gap in Albania is lower than in several developed European countries. However, the number of employed citizens in those countries is higher, and also the pay level, which also deepens the gap.

The budget to be adjusted based on new institutions

The Albanian government is expected to change the budget in order for it to align with the new government structure. Sources from the Ministry of Finance told Ora News that work for the preparation of the draft has not yet started, as the structuring of the new ministries and institutions is expected. Changing of the budget will be made after the reduction of the ministries and such a change is thought to be necessary in order to adjust it with the needs of the new institutions. The government plans to halve the number of public agencies and ministries, in order to create more efficient institutions, and to offer better services. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Edi Rama will gather the new government for an informal meeting on September 6. The meeting will be informal as the ministers are not yet sworn into parliament and they have not yet been decreed by the President of the Republic. The meeting will be held in the tourist area of Velipoja in Shkoder. On August 28, the Prime Minister held the first informal meeting with the new ministers in Llogara. During the meeting they discussed the new governance, the new structures and the preparation of the working plan that each of the ministers will have.

Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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