

# CCIFA Weekly News

No.6; 4-7 Avril 2017

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



*Les opinions exprimées dans CCI FA Weekly News n'engagent que les magazines cités / Opinionet e shprehura në CCI FA Weekly News janë ato të revistave të përmendura /The opinions expressed in CCI FA Weekly News are the sole responsibility of the cited magazines*

## Photos from the ceremony "Grand Master"



**H.E.Mr. Bujar NISHANI and Mr. Jean-Alain JOUAN**

**BUSINESS**  
Opportunities

*Le Groupe Eram  
(pour les  
chaussures) est à la  
recherche d'usines  
en Albanie ayant  
une capacité  
importante de  
production*

*The Eram Group  
(footwear) is  
looking for  
factories in Albania  
having significant  
production  
capacity*

*For more  
information, please  
contact CCIFA*

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/single-news/n/jean-alain-award-from-president-grand-master-1/>

*Mais aussi...*



**CONSEIL  
D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA  
CCI FRANCE ALBANIE**

**MBLEDHJA E KËSHILLIT  
DREJTUES TË CCI FRANCE  
ALBANIE**

**26/04/2017, 16h00**

**CCI France Albanie, Twin Towers, Tower 1, Floor 9**

**AIIESEC in Albania invites CCI France Albanie members:**

**06/05/2017 Place: Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The YouthSpeak Forum, where we will bring together the private and public sector and young people to raise awareness about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and come up with ideas and solutions to them.

Contact: CCIFA

**BUSINESS**  
Opportunities

**Le Groupe Eram (pour les chaussures) est à la recherche  
d'usines en Albanie ayant une capacité importante de  
production**

**The Eram Group (footwear) is looking for factories in  
Albania having a significant production capacity**

**For more information, please contact CCIFA**

# FOCUS MEMBRES & CCIFA



"Sami Frasheri" Street, TID Ballkan Building, Tirana, Albania  
Tel : +355 4243 0194  
www.seed-consulting.al  
Email: info@seed-consulting.al

## Projects in Progress:

- "Preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for the motorway connecting Thumanë – Vorë - Kashar".

This Project is being prepared in partnership with the international company "SPEA Engineering" S.p.A. and is considered as highly important both for Albania's and the Region's infrastructure, as it will study possible connection alternatives for some of the Country's main arteries (A1 Highway to Kosovo and SH1 Road to Montenegro) with Tirane - Durres Motorway (which links afterwards with the International Port of Durres and the SH4 Road to the south of the Country), Rinas International Airport (SH60 Road), and Tirana ByPass. The Project consists in a Feasibility Study, including traffic and economic analysis of different alignment alternatives, considering both green and brown field options, followed by the preparation of the detailed design for the most sustainable and suitable alignment identified. The preliminary cost estimation of the construction works is about 150 million €.

Client  
Albanian Roads Authority

Date  
Feb 2015 –May 2017



Note: please find more info attached



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**Çelësi Communication** is an Advertising Agency, part of Çelësi Media Group, which has provided **360° marketing services** in the Albanian market since 1998.

## Our three Core services are:

### Communication

- Chain of services Photo-Design-Print-Web
- Creative Design & Brand Identity
- Business Consultancy
- Market survey
- Strategic Marketing Campaign
- PR & Event Manager
- Outdoor
- Promotional products

### Mapping & Direct Mailing

- Catchment Study
- Quantitative & Qualitative Survey
- Door to Door Distribution
- Face to Face Distribution

### i-Media

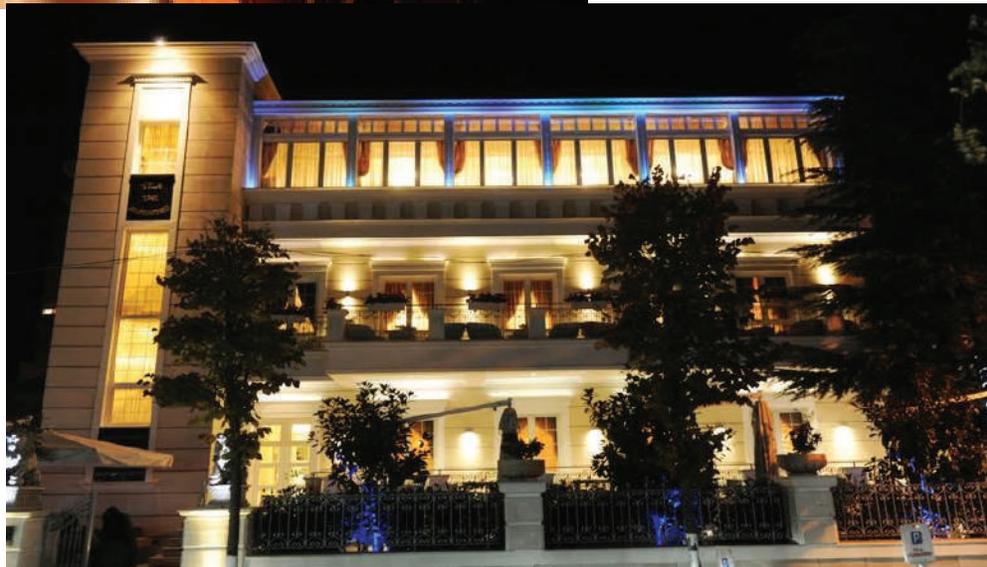
- Web Design & Development
- Social Media Management
- Search Engine Optimisation
- Online Marketing
- Mobile Apps Development
- Content Creation



**VILA ALEHANDRO** is the icon of the capital, a chapter that divides the past from the present. It is the gratest place of wine and for its customers offers 300 labels of wines, chapangnes from five continents of the planet.

**Vila Alehandro offers:**

- Business lunch 850 lek
- Buffet style organizations (starting from 1500 lek/person)
- Wedding organizations (starting from 4000 l/person)
- Every weekend, each Friday and Saturday live music from different bands.





## **Advanced Business Solutions Profile**

ABS provides advanced ICT solutions and support for businesses, governmental agencies and NGO organizations. The solutions give to the customers the access to the modern ICT tools and help them boost their business effectiveness and efficiency. The support services give them the guarantee of smooth operation of the ICT systems installed. No matter what industry you are in, ABS will take on any ICT challenge.

ABS's mission is to contribute and respond to the rapidly growing needs for Telecommunication, Computer Technology, Applications and Solutions Design in Albania. ABS is continuously being improved structurally and qualified technically to fulfill customer expectations and their increasing needs. The secret of progress and constant growth of ABS is related to the talented people with passion and the strong will to succeed.

ABS Ltd was founded on 2002 by a group of Albanian engineers with experience in the field of Computer Technology and Telecommunications.

In the early years of activity, ABS was focused on PABX, networking and telecommunications, becoming the market leader of Albania in this field. ABS installed and maintained network infrastructure and PABX for the major part of the governmental institutions, embassies, international organizations and banks operating in Albania.

Trading and reselling computers, servers and devices of worldwide-known brands, together with ICT professional services were introduced by ABS in 2007. Later these were followed by providing IT outsourcing for several prestigious local and international companies.

In the recent years, ABS doubled the number of employees and number of clients, and tripled its revenue, becoming the fastest growing company in the ICT market of Albania. Annual Turnover of the last year was above \$4,000,000 while the total number of employees is 25, whereas major part of them is high qualified ICT engineers.

### **Representation**

Advanced Business Solutions –ABS sh.p.k is:

1. HPE Gold Partner

Note: Please find more info attached

## ***A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE /HIGHLIGHTS***

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### **World Bank BoD visit Albania**

A group of eight Executive Directors - members of the Board of the World Bank Group, visited Albania during March 29 - 30 as part of a broader tour of the Western Balkans. The main purpose of this visit was to assess the Bank Group's engagement in the energy sector and efforts to support regional connectivity. Increasing regional cooperation and plans to improve connectivity within Western Balkans started in 2014 with support from the World Bank Group and the European Union. The Executive Directors met with Prime Minister Rama, as well as with the Ministers of Finance and Energy. They discussed Albania's progress and challenges in the energy sector and its regional connectivity agenda. They shared views on facilitating energy exchange through the establishment of organized electricity markets and the prospects for expanding regional integration. They also discussed the impact of World Bank Group financed operations, like the Power Sector Recovery Program, on energy sector reforms within the Government's broader structural reform agenda. During their meeting with representatives of the private sector, the Executive Directors discussed challenges to a competitive and efficient energy sector and how the World Bank can assist in addressing these constraints. The Executive Directors visited Fierza hydropower station, one of the most important investments in the Drini River cascade, where they saw progress in implementing the Dam Safety Project, financed by the World Bank, as well as other development partners (Swiss Development Agency, EBRD, USAID, and KfW) to improve dam safety and enhance efficiency of hydropower generation. "We welcome the role of the Bank in improving dam safety and the efficiency of energy generation in the Drini River cascade," noted Ms. Karen Mathiasen, who represents the United States on the Bank's Board.

Source: Albanian Daily News, 4

### **Tourism revenues in 2016 hit a record high**

Albania's tourism revenues in 2016 have hit a record high of over 1.5 billion Euro according to the Bank of Albania. Revenues are up by 13 percent or 175 million Euros compared to 2015, according to the Bank. Tourism was one of the sectors hit the hardest from the financial crisis. After 2009, revenues from trips of non-residential visitors dropped for four consequent years, down to 1.1 billion EUR in 2013. The tendency has changed in the past three years, with the Eurozone leaving the crisis and with the increased interest on Albania by the tourist market.

Source: Scan TV

### **Italian law on call centers enters to force, Ekonomi: Negotiations are ongoing**

Albanian government is still negotiating with the Italian authorities regarding the Italian law on repatriation of call center operators which takes effect starting from April 1. The law is aimed at further strengthening the measures for these companies while its effects have already been felt in Albania as 30 operators have left the labor market. For this reason, this law is received with high sensitivity in Albania, a fact that was admitted even by the Economic Development Minister Milva Ekonomi. Actually, the informal operators or the small ones are expected to be affected the most as they won't be able to afford the taxation of their activity. "The way we are negotiating with Italian side is ongoing. We sent a letter to the Italian embassy here which has also made it own reflection to the Italian government to review these changes taking place to the law in question. We are continuing negotiations in order to consider of possibility of a win-win situation for both parties at the time that the law will take effect," Minister Ekonomi said Friday.

Source: Ora News

## ***A LA UNE CETTE SEMAINE/HIGHLIGHTS***

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### **Albania's Q4 GDP grows 3.97% y/y**

Albania's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by an estimated 3.97% year-on-year in the last quarter of 2016, official statistics indicated on Monday. On a quarterly comparison basis, Albania's GDP increased by 0.90% in the October-December period, the country's statistical office, INSTAT, said in a quarterly report on the GDP growth. The main contributors to Albania's economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2016 were retail, transport and accommodation services, as well as construction. In the third quarter of 2016, Albania's economy expanded by an estimated 3.08% year-on-year and by 0.89% on a quarterly comparison basis.

Source: Scan TV

### **Ahmetaj: Economy will grow 5.5% as a result of reforms**

Minister of Finances Arben Ahmetaj said Tuesday that the continuation of reforms during the second mandate of the Socialist Party will drive up economic growth to 5.5 percent at the end of 2021. According to Ahmetaj, the country's economy grew by 3.46% at the end of 2016. "Economic growth of 3.46 % is significant in comparison to four years ago. We increased economic growth fourfold from scratch, with a bankrupt budget unable to pay off the debts. Today the government has a budget surplus, while debt reduction is expected to hit 45 percent at the end of our second term of office," Ahmetaj noted. Minister Ahmetaj said that the Socialist-led government created 183,000 jobs and urged the implementation of justice reform. According to Ahmetaj, the government will decide in the upcoming two weeks on the minimum wage increase. He said that the increase in bank lending reveals the trust of second tier banks to enterprises. The Minister also commented on Arber Road, announcing that the winning company for the road reconstruction will be announced by the end of May.

Source: Ora News

### **Pennine plans 3 mln Canadian dollars in non-brokered funding for Albanian energy project**

Canada-based Pennine Petroleum Corporation said on Monday it will undertake a non-brokered financing of 3 million Canadian dollars (2.1 million euro) to advance its project in Albania's Velca oil block. "This non-brokered financing will help Pennine move its exploration and production activities forward in Albania's Velca Block, following the finalisation on February 14, 2017 of a Production Sharing Agreement with Albpetrol, the national oil company of Albania," Pennine said in a statement. The financing is subject to final approval by TSX Venture Exchange. "We are extremely excited to continue to advance activities on the Velca Block in Albania, as well as our domestic activities. Ultimately, these activities will play a major role in expanding our production footprint on two continents," Pennine's CEO N. Desmond Smith said. Velca block is located 10 km southeast of the port city of Vlore, in southern Albania, and covers an area of 620 sq km. Pennine was selected the winner of a tender for onshore petroleum exploration, development and production in the Velca block at the beginning of December 2015. In February 2016, it signed the main terms and conditions of a production sharing agreement for the Velca Block with licensee Albpetrol.

Source: ATA

### **Albania starts construction of 6.3 mln euro power substation**

Albania broke ground for a 6.25 million euro (\$6.67 million) power substation in Orikum, in the southwest of the country, the energy ministry said on Wednesday. The construction of the 110/35/20 kV substation is co-financed by Germany's KfW bank, the ministry said in a statement, published on its website. Construction works are expected to be completed within 14 months. The new substation is part of a broader project, which includes the construction of one more substation in Himara and the upgrade of the Vlora-Borsh power line.

Source: Seenews

### **Albania sells 3 bln leks (22.1 mln euro) of 3-yr T-notes, yield rises**

Albania raised on Wednesday 3 billion leks (\$23.6 million/22.1 million euro) through the sale of three-year fixed-rate Treasury notes, according to auction data posted on the website of the finance ministry. The coupon of the issue increased to 2.70%, compared to 2.15% at the previous auction of three-year fixed-rate Treasury paper held on July 1, 2016.

Source: Scan TV

### **Albania to turn Sazan Island military base into tourist destination**

Two Albanian ministries signed Wednesday a cooperation agreement to turn the southern Sazan Island into a tourist destination during summer seasons. The agreement was signed between Albanian Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism and Trade and the Ministry of Defense. Sazan Island is the largest island in Albania with a surface area of 5.7 square km. It is a military facility with no civil population. It will be open to tourists from early May to late October, the ministries informed. According to economy minister Milva Ekonomi, the opening of Sazan Island has been a constant request of Albanian tour operators, travel agencies which are trying to offer more destinations to tourists seeking to explore Albania. Minister of defense Mimi Kodheli told reporters after signing agreement that tourism as a significant sector of the Albanian economy. "Due to the fact that many military bases are located in prominent places of particular natural beauty such as the seaside, we should make it possible for tourists to visit them thus making their stay more appealing," Kodheli told reporters.

Source: News 24

### **New Water Supply System in Saranda**

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Sokol Dervishaj and Ambassador of Germany to Tirana, Susanne Schiitz, inaugurated Thursday the new water supply in Saranda. This project worth Euro 7.6 million will serve over 30,000 inhabitants of Saranda. The new water supply system will guarantee supply to the city of Saranda and tourist area for 24 hours a day. Minister Dervishaj, praising the support given by the German development bank KfW for the project, said that Albanian government in cooperation with major donors, the European Union and KfW, are working to give Saranda a modern infrastructure in water supply and sanitation systems. "Water supply network will help residents, but also businesses operating in the tourism sector. We are working to improve the lives of the citizens of Saranda and those in other cities," said Minister Dervishaj. Also, the head of MTI stated that "we have in our plans the implementation of several projects in Saranda and Vlora region. He informed that soon will begin work on the access road to Saranda. "We are working on a PPP for Kardhiq-Delvina road," said Dervishaj. Minister Dervishaj stressed that Saranda would be a good place to build a new airport following the removal of exclusivity from TIA

Source: Balkanweb

## L'ACTUALITÉ

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### **Albpetrol Puts on Sale Several Oilfields**

TIRANA - State oil company Albpetrol announced that it has issued an invitation for express of interest regarding the blocks taken over in January this year by the company TransAtlantic Albania. The blocks are Gorisht-Kocul oilfield and Cakran Mollaj oilfield.

The list also contains the free search blocks in the Adriatic Sea and the blocks mentioned are oilfields 2.3 and 4.

All interested investors must submit their applications at Albpetrol and the deadline for submission of this application is the date May 2, 2017.

Each application will be submitted in turn to the Ministry of Energy and Industry will be submitted to Albpetrol and a bid assessment will be made within 10 days.

"Any party interested in entering into a Petroleum Agreement with Albpetrol JSC for the abovementioned blocks and/or oilfields must file and officially submit via mail the Application Form and all the corresponding documents as specified in the Application Form," said the announcement.

The application should be separate for each of the blocks and not in group. Earlier the Ministry of Energy and Industry announced that it would pursue a different policy regarding the oilfields.

Any interested investor may submit a request, while during the last three years the practice has been different, namely, NANR used to make announcements for individual oilfields.

Source: ADN

### **Albanian, Dutch Businesses to Cooperate in Textile Sector**

TIRANA - Aiming at fostering the economic cooperation between Albania and the Netherlands in order to promote the collaboration between businesses of the two countries, a workshop was held recently in Tirana focused on the "Opportunities for cooperation between Albania and the Netherlands in the textile and footwear industry". The workshop was organized with the support of the Dutch Embassy in Tirana, in cooperation with CSR Netherlands, MVO Nederland and AIDA, as the main Albanian partner in this project.

Ambassador Dewi van de Weerd gave a speech at the opening event, where she outlined the extensive cooperation with AIDA - the Albanian Investment Development Agency during the last years, in order to establish potential trade connections among businesses of both countries.

"I am delighted that today we have moved to another stage where both Dutch and Albanian companies will seriously and concretely explore match making and partnership opportunities. As you are officially the first group of Dutch entrepreneurs that come to Albania, I would like to congratulate you for the initiative and look forward to seeing the first results," Ambassador said.

She also thanked MVO NL for the initiative and the whole team that contributed to this week's program, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO for their essential support and the extensive cooperation with AIDA - the Albanian Investment Development Agency during the last years.

"I appreciate this partnership, as it has laid a strong foundation for potential trade connections. Sustainable business and the circular economy are our future," she further said.

Pellumb Qosej, as the representative of AIDA, made a presentation of the Albanian textile sector, the favorable investment climate for Dutch businesses and the opportunities for new investments in this sector. Also, a special emphasis was given to AIDA's role in supporting the textile sector, and the funds it manages.

During the event were held B2B meetings between 12 Dutch businesses within the textile and footwear industry and about 20 Albanian entrepreneurs that operate in this sector, exploring the opportunities for cooperation between them.

Source: ADN

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Source: ADN

## **Economic Growth Created More Jobs in Kosovo**

PRISTINA - Economic growth in Kosovo remained above that of neighboring countries and contributed to considerable job creation in 2016, according to the latest Western Balkans Regular Economic Report (WBREER) of the World Bank, launched on Thursday in Skopje.

Productivity and competitiveness gains are essential to make growth more sustainable and address the still high level of unemployment, particularly among youth.

The Western Balkans as a region grew faster in 2016 than a year earlier, according to the report. Compared to 2015 the strengthening of growth in Serbia and Albania compensated for weaker expansion in Montenegro and FYR Macedonia, the slight slowdown in growth in Kosovo, and steady growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Continuing economic growth created more jobs in the region, and all countries in the region, including Kosovo, and with the exception of Montenegro, reduced unemployment. By September 2016, job growth was highest in Albania and Serbia, translating into an 8.5 and 7.2 percent increase over 2016, respectively.

Despite this progress, the labor market remains challenging in the Western Balkans, with the unemployment rate hovering around 22 percent in 2016.

"The economic growth outlook of Kosovo remains positive. However despite welcome evidence of job creation in 2016, Kosovo needs to make economic growth much more reliant on higher productivity at home and greater competitiveness abroad, in order to tackle historically high levels of unemployment, especially among youth and women", says Marco Mantovanelli, World Bank Manager for Kosovo.

Source: ADN

## **S'implanter en Albanie : découvrez les services de la CCI Implantation+ en vidéo**

En France et à l'étranger, les Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie françaises proposent avec CCI Implantation+ un accompagnement sur mesure pour tous les projets d'implantation à l'international.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdbJo26H2p8&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.ccifa.al/fr/>

# Les sources de cette semaine/The Source

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## Albanian Daily news

Scan TV

News 24

ATA

Ballkan Web

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*CCIFA Weekly News is published by CCI France Albania with the support in particular of the Press Service of the French Embassy in Albania.*

### NOTA BENE :

La revue de presse hebdomadaire est une synthèse de l'actualité à partir des nouvelles et articles publiés par les revues hebdomadaires albanaises. Les opinions, critiques et points de vue exprimés ne sauraient refléter une quelconque position des auteurs, de la CCI France Albanie, Le Service Presse de l'Ambassade de France en Albanie et sont simplement le reflet de ce qui a été publié.

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*The weekly press review is a synthesis of the news from the articles published by the weekly Albanian magazines. The opinions, criticisms and points of view expressed can not reflect any position of the authors, the CCI France Albania, The Press Service of the French Embassy in Albania and are simply the reflection of what has been published.*

