Balkan-American Research and Evaluation Conference

Strengthening Families and Communities

June 19-21, 2014
University of Tirana
Tirana, Albania

Conference Brochure
Conference organizers

The conference is organized by a network of researchers from the following institutions:

Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life
Clemson University

University of Tirana

The Haruv Institute

University “Marin Barleti”

Childwatch International Research Network

International Society for Child Indicators

University “Aleksandër Xhuvani” of Elbasan
Conference sponsors

Clemson University
University of Tirana
The Haruv Institute
University “Marin Barleti”

Host of the conference

University of Tirana, Faculty of Social Sciences

Conference site

Building of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Boulevard “Gjergj Fishta”
Tirana, Albania

Conference board

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Chair of the Local Organizing Committee
Department of Social Work and Social Policy
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Tirana
Keynote Speakers

Prof. PhD. Ferid Agani
Minister of Health of Kosovo

Prof. PhD. Anat Zeira
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
PREFACE

This conference brings together researchers and others interested in learning how families and communities are being studied in the Balkans. Of specific interest is how success is measured to improve child and family well-being and how research and evaluation are being used to bring about meaningful change for children and families.

Presentations are focused on topics of relevance to the symposium theme of strengthening families and communities. Because families are the fundamental core of all societies, it is important to understand how current social and economic forces are affecting the quality of family life. There are many changes taking place in the structure and function of families that put stress on the important role of families to act as a buffer and provide a safe place for family members. Community institutions (schools, workplaces, NGOs, places of worship) have historically been supportive of family life but are now also facing challenges in meeting the needs of families and providing meaningful support.

There is an emphasis on an empirical approach, with a focus on describing changes in family life and the policies and practices of community institutions that are supportive of family life. The relative effectiveness of various strategies (e.g., family support/treatment programs, NGOs, legal action, political action, public information campaigns, educational efforts), and the lessons learned from last few generations are of interest. The overall quest is to understand what is happening to families and how might change occur to improve family life.

Among the topics of interest are:

* descriptive analyses of changes in the structure of families (e.g., divorce, co-habitation, single parents);

* analyses of the impact of changes on children, adolescents, young adults, families, and communities, in areas such as: family life, schooling, health, gender roles, sexual behavior, ethnic relations, wealth distribution, crime and victimization, international migration, religious beliefs, organization of work, opportunities for people with disabilities;

* analyses of the ways in which community institutions (e.g., faith institutions; health care; education; human services; local governments) have initiated changes and the relative effectiveness of different strategies to strengthen families;

* the types of innovations in policies, programs, and clinical practices that are needed to respond to current challenges and further develop positive trends.
# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
**“Strengthening Families and Communities”**

**JUNE 19 - 21, 2014 in Tirana, Albania**

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BALKAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
“Strengthening Families and Communities”

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
Excellence Room

17:30  Registration

Opening session
Chair, Edmond Dragoti

18:00  Welcome and Greetings from Dignitaries
Dhori Kule, Prof. Dr., Rector of the University of Tirana.

18:10  Opening Address

Strengthening families: Comments on some recent American trends.
Mark Small, J.D., PH.D.
Professor and Associate Director, Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life
Clemson University.

18:30  Representative of the Ministry of Welfare and Youth

18:45  Representative of the Ministry of Education and Sport

19.00  Representative of the U.S. Embassy

19.10  Marenglen Spiro, Prof. Dr. Rector of the University “Marin Barleti”

19.20  Representative of UNICEF

19.30  Representative of Terre Des Hommes

19.40  Reception
FRIDAY, JUNE 20
Excellence Room

08:30 Registration

Plenary session
Chair, Jim McDonell

09:00 Key Note Address
Ferid Agani, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pristina; Minister of Health, Kosovo.

Session I

10:00-11:00

Social Support for Vulnerable Populations (Doctorate Room)
Chair, Irida Agolli

Perceived life satisfaction for women treated with Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in Albania. Fatlinda Berisha Tahir & Daniela Kalaja, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.


Needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the importance of family support. Irida Agolli & Artur Rada, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Mental Health Policy (Room 103)
Chair, Elvisa Sokoli

How psycho-active substance usage is reflected in social problems. Fiona Todhiri, University “Aleksander Xhuvani”, Elbasan & Rudina Rama, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Social difficulties of people with mental health problems in detention institutions in Albania, Eglantina Dervishi, Albanian University.

Exploring demographic differences on psychological and behavioral symptoms among Albanian adults. Elvisa Sokoli, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Domestic Violence (Room 104)
Chair, Edlira Haxhiymeri

Domestic violence in the media: a conceptual frame of reference in Albania. Elona Dini, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Dasara Dizdari-Zeneli, United Nations Development Program in Albania & Edlira Haxhiymeri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Domestic violence and its effects on children - An interpretation of behaviors and artwork by children in the shelter for battered women and girls. Edlira Haxhiymeri, Marian Ndrio, & Nikoleta Mita, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Faith institutions and family strengthening. Alma Tandili Leshi, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.
**Session II**

11:30-13:00

**Parent Child Relationships (Doctorate room)**
Chair, Arlinda Beka

*Family functioning, its demographic characteristics and academic achievements of adolescents.* Ledia Kashahu Xhelilaj, University “Aleksander Moisiu”, Durrës.

*Relations between parenting styles and adolescent identity statuses in the Albanian context.* Brunilda Laboviti, Albanian University.

*Communication between parents and schools in rural areas; Parental points of view.* Rina Muka Gera, University “Luigi Gurakuqi”, Shkodër.

*Parents’ views about the education reforms in Kosovo.* Arlinda Beka, University of Prishtina.

**Human Rights (Room 103)**
Chair, Delina Fico

*Embracing diversity: Coming out to your family in Albania.* Delina Fico, East West Management Institute

*Human rights legislation in Albania: The case of human trafficking.* Albina Balidemaj, American University, Kosovo.

*Child Labour Monitoring System: A powerful tool to transform policy, institutions and direct action at the community level for prevention and elimination of child labour in Albania.* Etleva Vetopi, GIZ & Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

*Forms of social impact in the integration of ethnic minorities in Albania as a social society.* Arjana Mucaj, Tirana University & Shkelqim Xeka, University “Aleksander Moisiu”, Durrës.

**School Participation (Room 104)**
Chair, Mirela Arqimandriti

*Family support and the motivation of adult students to attend school.* Leticja Papa Gusho, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

*The impact of parental engagement in school on children’s education and development.* Mirela Arqimandriti, Gender Alliance for Development Centre.

*Parents’ involvement in teacher recruitment.* Valbona Habili, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

*School dropout, factors and consequences.* Florinda Tarusha, University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan.

13:00-14:30 Lunch
Session III

14:30-15:30

Parent Child Relationships (Doctorate Room)
Chair, Nikoleta Mita

- Exploring the Parental Reading Beliefs Inventory (PRBI) in the Albanian family context. Stela Dhima, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- Examination of the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory with Albanian parents of preschool-age children. Esmeralda Ismaili, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- The role of parents in children's foreign language learning. Elida Tabaku, Faculty of Foreign Languages, University of Tirana, Nikoleta Mita, & Edlira Haxhiymeri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Child Well-being (Room 103)
Chair, Juliana Ajdini

- International perspective on children’s well-being: findings from the ISCWeB project, Tamar Dinisman, Children’s Worlds.

- Challenges of abused women in facing children’s’ psychological and social problems. Eliona Bimbashi Kulluri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- Incarcerated children and their parents in Albania. Juliana Ajdini, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Community Strengthening (Room 104)
Chair, Marsela Dauti

- Beggar thy neighbor: Government, NGOs and neighbors in people’s perceptions toward voluntary work in Kosovo. Ridvan Peshkopia, University for Business and Technology (UBT) & Ardiana Rahmani.

- Five lessons on how to strengthen community participation in formal organizations in Albania. Marsela Dauti, Washington University in St. Louis, USA.

- Anomie and the Code of Honor in the Albanian Family, Miranda Rira, University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan & Julian Çota, Albanian University.
Session IV

15:45-17:15

Family Strengthening (Doctorate Room)
Chair, Timothy Hagen

- **Attitudes toward marriage of Albanian students.** Theodhori Karaj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- **The challenge of balancing work and family life: Empirical evidence of gender differences in attempting to combine work and family roles and responsibilities in Albania.** Elona Dhëmbo, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- **The impact of conflict between married couples in marital satisfaction: Strengthening family structure by identifying conflict resolution style.** Greta Hysi, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

- **Where are we now? A literature-based situation analysis of family strengthening programs in Albania.** Timothy Hagen, Epoka University.

Mental Health Policy (Room 103)
Chair, Skerdi Zahaj

- **Crisis response in public schools: An inquiry into Albanian School Psychologists’ experiences and perceptions.** Skerdi Zahaj, University of Tirana & Flavia Selmani.

- **Service of personal assistance to persons with disabilities - Important elements toward independent living.** Blerta Çani Drenofci, Albanian Disability Rights Foundation.

- **The psychological effect in children with chronic nephropatology and their families.** Jeta Ajasllari, Tirana University Hospital Center.

- **Challenges of the foster care program in Albania.** Megi Xhumari, Springfield College, USA.

17:15 Refreshments
SATURDAY, JUNE 21
Excellence Room

08:30 Registration

Plenary session

Chair, Tamar Dinisman

09:00 Plenary Address

An international classification system for child welfare programs.
Anat Zeira, Prof. PhD, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Session I

10:00-11:15

Positive Youth Development (Doctorate Room)
Chair, Blerta Perolli Shehu

An alternative way of “investing” in young people in Albania. Livia Nano, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Involving parents as active partners of school in the learning process of their children (regional study at elementary schools, Elbasan, Albania) Valentina Haxhiymeri Xhafa, University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan.

Social exclusion: Understanding the social economic factors that contribute to social exclusion, the case of Bathore a suburb of Tirana. Erika Bejko, University of Tirana.

Development of family and community programs: The case of Kosovo. Blerta Perolli Shehu, Coalition of NGO’s for Child Protection.

Bullying and Deviance (Room 103)
Chair, Ana Uka

Investigating the Relationship between a child’s academic achievement and delinquency: Evidence from a nationally representative sample. Ana Uka, Beder University.

Family and students’ school related deviant behavior: Examining the role of parental negative labeling among other school variables. Stela Karaj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

Bullying in elementary schools. Artilda Lala, Clemson University.

The impact of bullying in adolescent’s self-esteem, Arlinda Kadriu, Aliriza Arenliu, University of Prishtina, & Natyra Agani, University of Prishtina & Clemson University.

Social Support for Vulnerable Populations (Room 104)
Chair, Artur Rada

Support for parents and families of children with autism. Artur Rada, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.
Family members as cancer caregivers: the role of social support. Veronika Ducí, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana


Economic assistance as a vital support for families in need: Difficulties, restrictions and barriers. Blerina Xhakolli, University “Aleksander Moisiu”,

11:30 Refreshments
Abstracts
Friday June 20

Session I

Panel I: Social Support for Vulnerable Populations

Perceived life satisfaction for women treated with Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in Albania

Fatlinda Berisha Tahiri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Daniela Kajala, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This study aimed to bring an integrated perspective of women treated with Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART), describing the socio-demographic characteristics of women treated with ART and their liaison with the use of 2 instruments: (1) a general questionnaire (designed by the author), that aimed to gather information about socio-demographic characteristics of the research population, history of infertility and specific received treatments, and social support used during treatment and beyond; and, (2) Diener’s Life Satisfaction Scale. The sample of this study was 171 women, treated with one of ART (IUI, IVF, ICSI). The mean of Diener’s LSS, resulted from the current study is slightly disatisfied, with differences that are related to the age, education, place of living (urban/rural) and treatment lasting.

Key words: life satisfaction, assisted reproductive technologies, women

Employment and vocational training of people with disabilities in Albania

Narbis Ballhysa, Albanian Disability Rights Foundation
Blerta Çani Drenofci, Albanian Disability Rights Foundation

The issues of employment and vocational training of people with disabilities in Albania still are not addressed according to their needs. The study is focused on the actual situation of employment and vocational training of people with disability addressing issues like; (1) how is the process of employment and vocational training realized; (2) what are the needs and (3) what are the necessary changes to be made for the future. Participants (N=17) were employers and managers of vocational training centers which have experiences with people with disabilities. The data were collected through a written questionnaire and in-depth interview. The results show that the employers and vocational training providers have positive attitudes towards inclusion of people with disability but they are facing a lot of challenges like; (1) lack of proper knowledge to work with people with disabilities; (2) lack of knowledge and
sufficient financial resources to provide reasonable accommodation and (3) lack of special structures and procedures to assess their needs and capabilities.

**Keywords:** employment, vocational training providers, people with disabilities, employers, reasonable accommodation

**Needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the importance of family support**

**Irida Agolli-Nasufi,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana  
**Artur Rada,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This article explores the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the importance of family support to better address their concerns related to the diseases. Those who live with HIV/AIDS face serious challenges; data from Albania have shown that discriminatory attitudes prevent these persons from accessing educational, health and social services. The impact of the epidemic goes far beyond health outcomes and encompasses the broad spectrum of human development challenges. It affects not only people living with HIV, but also their families and communities. Family members and society could provide essential support, but stigma and exclusion often undermine this possibility at a time of greatest need.

**Keywords:** people needs, HIV/AIDS, family support, stigma, exclusion

**Panel II: Mental Health Policy**

**How psycho-active substance usage reflected in social problems**

**Fiona Todhri,** University “AleksanderXhuvani”, Elbasan  
**Rudina Rama,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

Alcohol, smoking and other drugs usage (ASOD) poses a major risk to society. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), alcohol and smoking is among 10 major health risk factors worldwide, while illegal drugs usage is among 10 major health risk factors in developed countries.

Beside health problems, psycho-active substance usage is reflected in many severe social problems. Interpersonal violence related to ASOD usage includes crimes, violence on a sexual background and a wide range of family violence. Consequences of child violence and their neglect as a result of substance abuse also influence their longterm sequel and eventually, on society as a whole. Crimes committed to provide or deliver illegal substances pose another serious threat to community well-being.
Social harm related to illegal drugs usage such as crime, public disobedience and workplace problems affect individuals, community and the whole society in different ways. Some of these problems are consequence of psychopharmacological effects of the used drug, which as you may recall, are included in the first category described by Goldstein (1985). Problems for other people, which are related to drug usage, include even injuries or harm as a result of vehicle accidents and violence.

**Keywords:** psychoactive substance, social problem, child violence

**Crises response in public schools: An inquiry into Albanian School Psychologists’ experiences and perceptions**

Skerdi Zahaj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Flovia Selmani

Since the kidnapping of children in Chowchilla in the early of 1970, there has been an increase on training, education and research about crises response in public schools. The purposes of these advances were to help school authorities and school psychologists to enhance awareness, response and management of school crises. The objective of this study was to gain descriptive information from practicing school psychologists about crises management in Albanian schools. In this survey, 100 school psychologists from 20 different Albanian cities completed a questionnaire about most common types of school crises, crises team members and crises intervention plans. The sample consisted of 87 female (87.0%) and 13 male (13.0%), with a range of age from 23 to 60 years old. Most of school psychologists (n = 64, 66.7%) indicated that schools have a crisis intervention plan. However, 58.1% of psychologist (n = 43) reported that the plan was general in nature using a similar response for each crisis and only 31 (41.9%) reported that the crisis plan included specific response procedures for different type of crisis. Additionally, response for crisis intervention in the following few days included brief psychological services, from which 34 (34%) reported that used general psychological debriefing and only 8 psychologists (8%) used standardized psychological debriefing. Results are discussed within the focus on how education, training and research can help practicing school psychologists and school authorities manage crises in public schools.

**Keywords:** crises, school crises, school psychologists, crises management
Social difficulties of people with mental health problems in detention institutions in Albania.

Eglantina Dervishi, Psychology Department, Albanian University

Goal: This study is conducted in the Detention Hospital in Tirana, Albania. Its aim is to give an overview of the difficulties that patients with mental health issues face while trying to adapt with the norms and rules established by the penitentiary system and the gravity of displayed symptoms. Method: In order to explore patients’ behavior, we administrated in the Psychiatric Department a questionnaire called Psychiatric Disability Assessment Schedule and we searched in personal files of the patients. In the study were participating 89 patients sentenced to “obligated medication” offense. These patients/prisoners are residents of the psychiatric department in Detention Hospital, which covers the whole penitentiary system in the Republic of Albania. Results: The patients resident in this department display dominant severe psychiatric disorders. According to the results, most of the patients have difficulties in different domains like in self care and respecting the rules of the institution. The rehabilitation process of the patients with severe psychiatric disorders constitutes a real challenge not only in the personal aspect but also concerning their social functioning.

Keywords: social adaption, psychiatric patients, obligated medication, mental health, rehabilitation

Panel III: Domestic Violence

Domestic violence in the media: a conceptual frame of reference in Albania

Elona Dini, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Dasara Dizdari Zeneli, United Nations Development Programme in Albania
Edlira Haxhiymeri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

Media are widely seen as social agents that through their messages act as important determinants in how society deals with social issues. Many cases of domestic violence have highlighted the problematic way in which the media treats this subject. The violent cases become news as soon as there is a crime around them, thus pointing to lack of structural, spatial and daily experience of domestic violence in Albanian Medias. Considering this, the aim of this study is to provide a conceptual frame of reference and secondly to propose certain recommendations that aim at improving reporting on domestic violence issues.

Keywords: domestic violence, media, violence case
Domestic violence and its effects on children - An interpretation of behaviors and artwork by children in the shelter for battered women and girls

Edlira Haxhiymeri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Marina Ndrio, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Nikoleta Mita, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The research is focused on the effect that domestic violence has on children. The authors based their research work mainly on observations of children’s behavior and their interactions with mothers while staying at a Shelter for battered women and girls. Children’s artwork, writing pieces, memories, playing mood were subject to interpretation. A group of twenty-two children were studied.

The authors believe that the results of this research will serve as an aid for social workers, psychologists, teachers and other professionals who work closely with children to help them recognize significant emotional disturbances and liabilities through children’s behavior, interaction, and artwork.

**Keywords:** domestic violence, children, children’s behaviour, abused women

Faith Institutions and Family Strengthening

Alma Tandili Leshi, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

“Churches everywhere are wrestling with the role of the faith community as more and more families find themselves in poverty, with fewer resources available to help,” says Rev. David J. Frenchak, “I believe that faith matters because of its power to promote personal transformation and its potential to strengthen family and community bonds.” Because of the spiritual development they foster, communities of faith have been and will continue to be strong partners in our effort to promote family and community strengthening. We recognize the assets and gifts that faith communities bring to this work.

- Strengthening connections between faith based organizations and families and communities in order to provide spiritual and material services and supports;
- Supporting and expanding the reach of strategies faith-based organizations are using to promote family economic success;
- Bolstering informal and formal networks among faith-based organizations to improve their support to families; and this study focuses on religiously motivated lobbying groups fighting on family strengthening.

**Keywords:** faith institutions, faith based organizations, spiritual services
Session II:

Panel I: Parent Child Relationships

Family functioning, its demographic characteristics and academic achievements of adolescents

Ledia Kashahu (Xhelilaj) Faculty of Education, University “Aleksander Moisiu”. Durrës

The purpose of the study is to reveal the relationship and impact of some family demographic characteristics on the dimensions of family functioning, its cohesion and flexibility, as well as the influences these two dimensions of family functioning have on family support of learning at home and on the academic achievement of adolescents. Sample of the study were adolescents (N=714) and their parents (N=27). It was found that an adolescent’s gender, parental education, dwelling density and economic status are predictors of family functioning, which in turn predicts family support in learning, the academic achievements and school attendance of adolescents.

Keywords: family functioning, family cohesion, family flexibility, demographic characteristics, academic achievement

Relations between parenting styles and identity statuses of teenagers in the Albanian context

Brunilda Laboviti, Albanian University

This research aims to realize the assessment of special components of parental involvement which mediate the relations between parental models and statuses of teenager identity. The surveys in psychology have shown that the common parental models and the special parental practices model the development of child. The researches have also demonstrated that the parental influence does not weaken the maturity of a teenager. The goal of this survey is to reveal how the parenting styles impact on identity’s status of teenagers in Albanian context and how the relations between these variables change referring always to our context.

The objectives of this scientific work are: Which parenting styles do the parents follow? Which identity status have the teenagers formed? Do the gender and age differentiations exist and which are they in the identity status of participating teenagers? The participants (N=130) where 65 are parents and 65 are teenagers between 14-18 years old. They filled up two questionnaires to find out which parenting style they follow and which identity status they have at the moment of
survey, to assess later the relation between these variables. The results indicated a
relation between liberal parenting style and confused identity status, but they did not
indicate any relation between authoritarian style and imposed identity style and they
also did not result in a relation between the authoritarian style, the matured status
and moratorium as expected. The results also demonstrated that girls as expected
resulted to have an imposed identity status, but against expectations even the
majority of boys concluded with the same status. The findings were discussed
interpretatively considering the authoritarian parenting style as protective for the
confused identity status, the moratorium and as facilitator in the identity forming
process.

**Keywords:** parenting style, identity status, teenager, gender differentiation, age
differentiation.

**Communication between parents and schools in rural areas: Parental
points of view**

**Rina Muka Gera,** Faculty of Sciences of Education, University “Luigi Gurakuqi”,
Shkodër

The parents nowadays are being part of the school as parents, as partners, as
collaborators and as stakeholders. Their communication with the school and teachers
plays an important role in the pupils’ academic achievement in school, pupils’
motivation and interest in learning. It may also serve to increase children's
confidence in their abilities and interest. Good communication between parents and
teachers has many benefits. When parents and teachers share information, children
learn more and parents and teachers feel more supported. Good communication can
help create positive feelings between teachers and parents. This study tends to
present the situation of the communication and information between parents and
teachers in rural areas in Shkodra District. To highlight this process we have done a
questionnaire with the parents of children of 6 rural area schools in Shkodra’s
District, to reflect some of their point of view about this communication. This is a
point survey. To select the sample was used the sampling with stratification, where in
each layer was made from a simple random sample. 300 questionnaires were
distributed (mostly with closed questions) in six different villages, 50 questionnaires
for each village) in Shkodra district. The questionnaire was based on parents self-
reporting. 274 of 300 questionnaires were returned (91%) questionnaires completed
by parents of children attending these schools. The distribution was in North of
Shkodra and South of Shkodra. In South of Shkodra was included a high school in
Oblikë and the secondary school of Bushat and Trush (is including also an
elementary school Shkjezë, annexed Bushat.) Also the questionnaire is delivered in
North of Shkodra: Dragoç, Shtoj i Ri and Hoti i Ri (all secondary schools). The
distribution period was December 2013 - January 2014. The data were elaborated
with SPSS.20 program. In this study have participated parents of both genders who live in the rural areas of Shkodra District: 54% of them are females and 46% are male. Their age varies: 22% of the participants are between 22-35 years old; 36-45 years old are 54% and over 46 years old are 24% of the population who participated in this study. They have also different levels of education: 5% have an elementary level of education, 38% followed the secondary school, 39.4% high school, 15.7% university and 1.8% have a master degree. On the other hand their children also follow different level of education: 34% are in primary school, 44% in secondary school and 22% follow high school. About the kind of school (public or private) they follow, the parents admit that their children in 93% of all the participants in this study have followed only the public school and only 7% of them have followed both systems of education.

**Keywords:** communication, parent, school

**Parents’ views about the education reforms in Kosovo**

**Arlinda Beka,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana & Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina

The aim of this research is to analyze parents’ involvement in the process of education reform. This research was conducted with 278 parents, in which 205 of parents had their children in elementary school and 73 in middle and high schools in Kosovo. Methodology: The part of research I will present is quantitative. The research has been conducted through questionnaire which consisted of variation of different questions; testing articles with optional selection of answers. The data analyses where processed with SPSS program. Outcome results of this research showed that parents were not aware of the changes awaiting their children at school. Since they were not informed in advance the reform process caught them totally confused. Teachers, too, were almost totally unprepared to enter the cycle of change; parents faced changes of the methodological approach that teachers used, as a result of reforms in education.

**Keywords:** teaching courses, learning, teaching
Panel II: Human Rights

Embracing diversity: Coming out to your family in Albania

Delina Fico, East West Management Institute, PhD Student at Clemson University
USA

A quiet revolution has taken place in Albania since 2006. A society that was until then extremely homophobic began to move slowly towards embracing LGBT persons as equal members of the community. From nearly a total absence of public discussion and actions related to LGBT rights, the Albanian civil society, media, public institutions and communities address these issues more often now and have made LGBT rights part and parcel of human rights discussions and public and civic action in the country. Since the first Roundtable on Human Rights Issues in 2006 that included a separate session on LGBT rights, things have changed dramatically. There is now a community of LGBT persons that get together, provide support to each other, and also engage in civic actions to promote their rights. Three organizations that represent this community, in close cooperation with a good number of civil society organizations and public intellectuals that support their cause, have taken the lead in advocating successfully for LGBT rights and in educating the LGBT community and the society about these rights. Government officials at the highest levels have publicly promoted LGBT rights as human rights and a new anti-discrimination law provides protection in cases of violation of LGBT person’s rights.

But, more importantly, substantial change at the individual and family level has taken place underneath the public aspect of this progressive societal shift. Increasing numbers of LGBT persons have come out of the sometime self-imposed darkness, they have come out to their friends, colleagues, and families, thus expanding the space for living their lives fully and enjoying their rights as equal members of the society. This has not been an easy process and not every LGBT person has benefited from this process. Few have taken the lead and have inspired the others. But, still very few parents would openly state or accept that their children are homosexual. The issue of the space available for LGBT person to enjoy fully and openly their rights is a very important one for Albania. LGBT persons, their families, the communities where they live and work, and the society at large face major challenges. Despite the progress made in the last eight years, Albanian society remains still the most homophobic society in Europe. Polling from the European Social Survey found that 53% of Albanians say “gays and lesbians should not be free to live life as they wish. The poll, which covered a variety of social issues, was given to citizens of 30 countries, including 1,200 Albanians.

Keywords: diversity, human rights, LGBT rights
Human rights legislation in Albania: The case of human trafficking

Albina Balidemaj, International Family and Community Studies, Clemson University

Albania has been one of the key origin and transit Eastern European countries to traffic women and children. More than 5,000 Albanian women have been victims of trafficking in the past decade. The Albanian Government's judiciary has been inefficient, corrupted, and the pressure on the judiciary continues to be a serious problem. The development of international law concerning human trafficking showed minimal effectiveness for the protection of victims as the law was limited under the penalty of the author.

This paper discusses the human rights of human trafficking victims in Albania with special emphasis on the Albanian human rights legislation and conventions. Moreover, this paper provides recommendations for Albania to improve its strategies in combating human trafficking.

Keywords: human trafficking, human rights, International Law

Child Labour Monitoring System: A powerful tool to transform policy, institutions and direct action at the community level for prevention and elimination of child labour in Albania

Etleva Vertopi, GIZ & Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This paper presents how the concept of CLMS piloted by MOLSAEO in cooperation with NGOs and SP technically supported by ILO-IPEC, impacted the dynamics of policies, institutional structures and empowered community for better response to prevent and eliminate child labour in Albania. The CLMS is a response to Convention 182, where “members after consultations with employers’ and workers’ organizations establish mechanisms to monitor implementation of the Convention”. The governments’ challenge is to consolidate progress, facilitate community empowerment and lead country to meet international commitments. After election, is it possible that new ministry advances progress achieved referring to CLMS approach?

Keywords: child labour, policies, monitoring system
Forms of social impact in the integration of ethnic minorities in Albania as a social society

Arjana Muçaj, Faculty of Social Science, University of Tirana
Shkelqim Xeka, Faculty of Law, University “Aleksandër Moisiu”, Durres

In the literature of the Western European Countries, for the Balkans, revolves us a negative rating regardless of which side of the political and cultural living standards from which they’re commented. It is important that dominates the history full of legends and myths about territorial rights, cultural, linguistic and religious faith. The cliché "the gunpowder barrel" wins again with the collapse of Yugoslavia. What interests us is that in this region 7 languages and dozens of dialects are spoken. At the end of the XIX century and early XX century history of Balkan countries is following the model of European development. But we should not overlook the migrations that have occurred because of various wars that have brought about the creation of ethnic minorities, who have native language and religion different from that of the majority. In Albania the base of the Albanian society has a very well developed identity. In Albania, there are different minorities living, such as: Roma, Greek, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Montenegrían. What provokes us more is the guarantee of the ethnic minorities rights such as: language, religion, etc. Albania is waiting to become a member of the European Community but has forgotten to work towards this direction. From this point of view not often do we see conflicts among ethnic minorities in the country. We should not forget that the effects of large groups bring into smaller groups superstitious forms to integrate these societies, the acceptance of their rights. According to M. H. Shtejtell Lacarus and all areas of this study are related to the field of mass psychology, which is divided into two parts, abstract and concrete. All this field of study of mass psychology is studied by "history of psychology" and "ethno - psychology". Relying on the Convention of the Rights of Ethnic Minorities, under the forms of social impact study of ethnic minority view as a social society capable of contributing to the development and integration of the country into the European Community.

Keywords: convention, minority ethnic, social society, the Balkans, prejudice, integration
Panel III: School Participation

Family support and the motivation of adult students to attend school

Leticja Papa Gusho, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship that exists between the motivation of adult students to attend school and their family support in doing so. The sample consisted of 400 adult students from Tirana, Durrës, Korça and Elbasan public Universities, who attended part-time program in these universities. For this study there were used quantitative methods. From the statistical analysis it is revealed that there was a good positive correlation between two variables, rs = .639, n = 366, p < .0005, which indicates that high levels of family support is associated with high level of motivation to attend school for adult students.

Keywords: adult students, motivation to attend school, family support

The impact of parental engagement in school on children’s education and development

Mirela Arqimandriti, PhD Student, Clemson University & Gender Alliance for Development Centre

The main problem this paper discusses is what we have to do with the children of the new generation whom will run Albania in the near future. In order to revitalize the schools, we must address all the problems that have captured our schools with a completely new methodology. This methodology must include a collaboration between schools, parents and communities. Unfortunately, parents' concern only for grades makes them overlook many other aspects of children’s lives and development. According to UNICEF (2012), many parents do not understand the importance of children’s pre-school years, especially in poor areas of the north and overcrowded informal settlements that have sprung up around the capital since 1991. Believing that education begins at school, they fail to offer appropriate stimulation for young children, and physical punishment is common (UNICEF, 2012). In some extreme cases, parents even agree with the harmful autocratic behavior of the teachers. This “autocratic behavior” goes in some cases in violence from teacher to the children in school, this more often is happening in rural and remote areas. This paper seeks to understand challenges in the parents/ family and teachers/school relationships and how to improve parental engagement in school in Albania. Many of the studies and researches addressed parent engagement in school relationship as a very important feature in children.

Keywords: children, parents, family, engagement, school, community
Parents’ involvement in teacher recruitment

Valbona Habiš Sauku, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The scope of this paper is to examine the perception of the parents as decision makers in the teachers’ recruitment process. The main aims of the research presented through this paper are: a) to identify the perception of the parents on their involvement in the teachers’ recruitment; b) to identify the parents needs on recruitment process knowledge; c) to identify the ways of the accountability, the parents involved in the recruitment process, use as they are obliged to inform the parents they represent and the Parents’ Council as well. For the purpose of this research are used several methods a) content analyses; b) interview; b) case study. The research found that parents are not aware of their important role and are not trained how to play the role of decision maker in the teachers’ recruitment.

Keywords: teacher recruitment, parent involvement

School dropout, factors and consequences

Florinda Tarusha, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan

At least, the first 9-10 years of children and youngsters’ lives are spent in school, which makes up one of the main institutions of socialization which greatly affect childhood and youth’s development. Family is another institution that plays important role in children growth, socializing and development. The majority of children are able to achieve the required school results, but a considerable number of students face problems with their daily school life. These children and youngsters are forced to find alternative solutions to their problems. This often leads to school dropout. There is no single cause for school dropout. Based on the Albania school context, this paper aims to analyze the factors that affect school dropout and the consequences concerning this phenomenon.

Key words: school dropout, factor, consequences
Session III
Panel I: Parent Child Relationships

Exploring the Parental Reading Beliefs Inventory (PRBI) in the Albanian family context

Stela Dhima, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

Reading aloud is one of the most effective ways families can promote the enhancement of literacy and language development of preschoolers. (DeTemple & Snow, 2003; Senechal & Cornell, 1993; Whitehurst et al., 1988). Reading behaviors derive from parents’ beliefs on the effects of reading to children. To measure parental beliefs about reading to children, DeBaryshe and Binder (1994) developed an instrument named Parental Reading Beliefs Inventory. The inventory, analyzed in the present study, resulted to be reliable in the Albanian context (40 items; \( \alpha = .91 \)). Results show that most parents have positive beliefs about reading to preschool children.

Keywords: reading aloud, language development, parental reading beliefs, preschooler, literacy

Examination of the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory with Albanian parents of preschool-age children

Esmeralda Ismaili, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

Developmental researchers and psychologists have been continuously interested in assessing and screening children’s problem behaviors, since such behaviors have been associated with negative long-term outcomes. Behavior rating scales are the most commonly used method of assessing and the number of child behavior rating scales has increased dramatically in recent years (Kamphaus, Petoskey, & Rowe, 2000). The Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI) is a 36-items parent rating scale that assesses child behavior problems using two scales: the intensity scale and the problem scale. The Intensity Scale measures how frequent certain behaviors occur within the child, while the Problem Scale measures whether or not the parent considers that behavior as a problem. The psychometric properties of the ECBI have been examined in some cross-cultural samples. A sample of 250 parents of preschool children (3-6 years) in Tirana, Albania, completed the ECBI Intensity and Problem Scales. In this study, internal consistency of ECBI was excellent, for both Intensity Scale (\( \alpha = .91 \)) and Problem Scale (\( \alpha = .89 \)), indicating a deep understanding for the items in this inventory. Other analysis are preformed and discussed in the article.
The role of parents in children’s foreign language learning

Elida Tabaku, Faculty of Foreign Language, University of Tirana
Nikoleta Mita, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
Edlira Haxhiymeri, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This paper presents research results on parental involvement with children learning the English language. The purpose of this research was to get a better understanding of parents’ attitudes and involvement in their children learning the English language by studying parents’ views, motivating, monitoring, home environment, and financial support. This study was guided by two research questions: What are the parents' views about parental involvement in their child's foreign languages learning? How are parents involved in children's foreign language learning? This qualitative research is based on stories of eight parents. Findings from this research indicated that parents have different views and attitudes on parental involvement that produce different outcomes for children learning the English language.

Panel II: Child Well-being

International perspective on children's well-being: findings from the ISCWeB project

Tamar Dinisman, Children’s Worlds

Children’s well-being has traditionally been studied on the basis of objective facts such as rates of mortality, illness or malnutrition, and has relied mostly on adult perspectives rather than the children's subjective evaluations. However, during the last two decades children's subjective well-being (SWB) has received growing attention from scholars and policy makers, hand in hand with increase efforts to measure and monitor children's lives. Nevertheless, there is still a significant shortage of cross-national comparative research with children from diverse cultures, and most of the existing reports focus on developed countries and were conducted with adolescents rather than with children.

The purpose of the current study is to narrow the knowledge gap about the subjective experiences of children at the age 8-12 from a large variety of countries around the globe. More specifically, the study aims to present and explore children's appraisals of their lives in varied life-domains and from various countries, and to improve our understanding of similarities and differences in the nature and quality
of children's lives in different cultural contexts. The study is based on data from the first wave of data collection of the international Children’s Worlds (ISCWeB) survey. Children's Worlds, the International Survey of Children Well-Being (ISCWeB) is a worldwide research survey on children’s subjective well-being that aims to collect solid data on children’s lives and daily activities, their time use and in particular on their own perceptions and evaluations of their well-being. This wave of data collection took place between winter 2011 and winter of 2012 in a range of 14 countries - Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, England, Israel, Nepal, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Uganda and United States. About 34,500 children age 8-12 have participated in the survey.

Comparative cross-national findings show similarities and differences in four broad categories of children's lives. First, the context of children's lives (for example living situation). Second, particular aspects of life (for example family, school, and friends). Third, how children spent their time. Finally, life satisfaction in general. The implications of these findings to comparative research with children and to policy in both country and international levels will be discussed.

**Keywords:** children's subjective well-being, cross-national research with children, Children's Worlds (ISCWeB)

**Challenges of abused women in facing children’s psychological and social problems**

**Eliona Bimbashi Kulluri**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The goal of the study is to explore the difficulties and challenges that women, survivors of domestic violence face related to psychological and social problems of their children toward divorce. The population being studied is composed from women that come from different areas of Abania, but actually live in Tirana because of violence experience. The study is based in qualitative methods such as observation, follow-up and interviews. Findings relate to the different kinds of psychological reactions and concerns, as well as and social problems that mothers, survivors of domestic violence, face with their children, when they decide to go out of an abusive relationship.

**Keywords:** abused women, domestic violence, psychological problems, social problems

**Incarcerated parents and their children in Albania**

**Juliana Ajdini**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana
The purpose of this article is to explore, through the experiences of children with a convicted parent, how they perceive their rights. The article presents a study that the author has conducted with 9 children with imprisoned parents. The method has been that of qualitative research, based on in-depth interviews. The article has reached some findings and conclusions. The rights of children of incarcerated parents are not recognized and often aren’t considered by social institutions. One of the most important recommendations of this paper is that of increasing awareness of policymakers to better address the rights of children of incarcerated parents.

Keywords: convicted parent, children, social institutions

Panel III: Community Strengthening

Beggar thy neighbor: Government, NGOs and neighbors in people’s perceptions toward voluntary work in Kosovo

Ridvan Peshkopia, University for Business and Technology (UBT)
Ardiana Rahmani

Which personal traits might help to define people’s inclination toward voluntary work in Kosovo? Furthermore, where do they rely if they want to join forces with others in order to keep clean the communal environment? Are neighbors the most trusted partners in such efforts or perhaps other actors might carry more credibility in community organizing? In order to answer those questions, our research builds on a public opinion survey conducted in Kosovo in the period March-May 2014 (still under way). Preliminary data show that youngsters and people who live in the countryside are more inclined toward the voluntary work. The same data reveal that people continue to rely on government structures rather than neighbors to organize community voluntarism. The good news is that they look up more to the local rather than central government for community organization.

Keywords: voluntary work, community voluntarism, community organization

Five lessons on how to strengthen community participation in formal organizations in Albania

Marsela Dauti, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

We examine citizen knowledge and participation in formal organizations introduced with decentralization – open meetings, public hearings, and citizens’ commissions – in Albania.
Drawing on interviews with community members, we show that citizen knowledge and participation in formal organizations is poor. We identify numerous barriers to participation, such as the lack of confidence in officials and the expectation that officials should encourage participation in formal organizations. We discuss five lessons on how to strengthen community participation in formal organizations in Albania and other contexts that share similar characteristics.

**Keywords:** formal organization, participation, community participation

**Anomie and the Code of Honor in the Albanian Family**

**Miranda Rira,** University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan  
**Julian Çota,** Department of Political Science, Albanian University

This paper aims at elaborating and understanding anomie and the code of honor in the Albanian family. During the last two decades, Albanians have experienced rapid changes, great turmoil and transitions from a communist, traditional ethnic-based society towards a new era of modern norms of a “western” society. Referring to Durkheimian’s paradigm on anomie as the first leading cause to crime and deviance we will go further by explaining that when people are living in an anomic state due to rapid changes in transitional societies, a revival of old canonical, patriarchal norms is seen which controls and constructs human behavior. In the Albanian psycho-social system, the code of honor of the Middle Ages is renewed, by influencing the level of crimes and homicides especially within the family members. We hypothesize that: “when ethnic-based family oriented societies face new rules and regulations, a deregulation of the social system and a disruption of family ties is displayed, hence a domain of anomie is created, a threat of collective conscience of the society, a state of being lost between past and future which influences people to be more prone to committing murder and crimes towards society, towards their families and towards themselves, committing suicide. The second hypotheses is that: the honor killings are nothing but a rudiment of the old patriarchal societies and an expression of the collision between the new imposed norms and old, well-established traditions.

**Keywords:** anomie, homicide, culture of honor, deviance, crime
Session IV

Panel I: Family Strengthening

Attitudes toward marriage of Albanian students

Theodhori Karaj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This study investigates the perceptions of young people towards marriage, as well as demographic differences (gender, age, religiosity, family structure, parental education, location and relationship status) in their attitudes. A sample of 1300 students was randomly drawn from seven largest universities in Albania. Attitudes toward marriage were measured with an adapted version of the Hills’1951 Favorableness of Attitudes toward Marriage Scale (FAMS). Religiosity was measured using an adapted version of the Jessor’s Value on Religion Scale (Jessor & Jessor, 1977). Principal Component Analysis indicated the unidimensionality of each scale. The internal consistency reliability (Cronbach’s alpha) of the FAMS scale was (α = .83);The internal consistency reliability (Cronbach’s alpha) of the Jessor’s Value on Religion Scale was (α = .77). Descriptive statistics were used for the univariate analysis. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was used to measure the direction and the strength of the relationships between attitudes toward marriage, religiosity and other demographic variables. Inferential statistics (t-test and Analysis of Variance) were used to determine if there were significant differences between groups regarding the attitudes toward marriage. The study findings indicated that there is still a general positive feeling for marriage among Albanian students. Statistically significant correlations between demographic variables and attitudes toward marriage were found. Religiosity was revealed to be the greatest demographic influence on the attitudes toward marriage, followed by gender.

Keywords: marriage, attitudes, religiosity, age, relationship status, family structure, parental education

The challenge of balancing work and family life: Empirical evidence of gender differences in attempting to combine work and family roles and responsibilities in Albania

Elona Dhembo, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

This paper addresses the issue of work-family reconciliation in Albania. Using secondary data from ADHS 2009, the paper explores whether there is work-family tension in Albania and if there are gender differences. It is hypothesized that: 1.presence of family (i.e.being married) and/or having children reduces odds of engagement in the labour market; 2.combination of marriage and participation in the labour market reduces willingness to have (more) children. Findings confirm the
existence of work-family tensions but with significant gender variations. Documenting work-family tensions in Albania as well as gender variations associated with that opens the floor for further research and assessment to provide specific recommendations on how state family policies (or / and employers’ policies at the workplace) might be developed and improved to support individuals and families in their efforts to combine work and family life while accounting and addressing gender differences and needs related to the issue at stake.

**Keywords:** work-family balance, family policy, gender, labour market, Albania

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**The impact of conflict between married couples in marital satisfaction:**

**Strengthening family structure by identifying conflict resolution styles**

**Greta Hysi**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

Researchers and clinicians have long been interested in the relationship between spouses’ perceptions of the quality of their marriage and the way they react to conflict. The most important aspect of the research that links conflict to marital satisfaction is the wide array of conflict responses that are employed in order to manage and maintain the long-term quality of the marital relationship. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between conflict resolution styles and marital satisfaction among married couples. Two measures are used for this purpose, Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument (to measure five types of conflict resolution style) and Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (to measure marital satisfaction). A sample of 200 spouses completed these questionnaires. A regression analyses is used to examine how different conflict resolution styles predict marital satisfaction. Hopefully, this study will stimulate additional research on conflict resolution styles among Albanian married couples that will generalize to a wider population.

**Keywords:** married couples, marital satisfaction, conflict resolution

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**Where are we now? A literature-based situation analysis of family strengthening programs in Albania**

**Timothy Hagen**, Epoka University & PhD Student Clemson University

Albanian families face many challenges, from legacies of gender inequality and evidence of domestic violence to economic constraints and pressure to send members abroad for work. One recent challenge is the increasing rate of divorces in Albania. As literature in the West links divorce to negative impacts on children, a better understanding of the causes of divorce and the activity of marriage strengthening programs is necessary. Thus this study reviews literature on both and
calls for empirical research to deepen our understanding of divorce and healthy marriages in Albania.

**Keywords:** domestic violence, gender inequality, divorce

**Panel II: Mental Health Policy**

**Exploring demographic differences on psychological and behavioral symptoms among Albanian adults**

**Elvisa Sokoli,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The objective was to determine emotional and behavioral problems of Albanian adults in a national representative sample. More specifically, this study explored the influence of adult demographic variables (e.g., age and gender), internalizing variables (e.g., depression, anxiety, self-esteem), externalizing variables (e.g., aggression, rule-breaking behavior). A primary goal was to further understand how these variables may differentially influence and contribute to the emotional and behavioral problems displayed by the Albanian adults.

Adult ratings of emotional and behavioral problems were collected with the Adult Self Reports (ASR) in a general population sample of 750 adults of age 18-59. Using a comparison group design and a sample of 750 adults, results revealed that internalizing and externalizing symptoms exerted a mediating influence that was conditioned by gender. Assessed with self-reports in adulthood, anxious/depressed problems were found among females and rule-breaking and aggressive behavior were found among males.

These findings provide evidence for gender differences in the pathways between maladaptive thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Thus, adapting evidence-based strategies that target gender specific internalizing behaviors and externalizing behaviors among adults significantly contributes to the literature on the relationship between demographic variables and emotional and behavioral problems displayed by the Albanian adulthood.

**Keywords:** adult emotional problems; behavioral problems; internalizing behavior; externalizing behavior; adult self report

**Service of personal assistance to persons with disabilities-Important elements towards independent living**

**Blerta Çani Drenofci,** Albanian Disability Rights Foundation
Nowadays, independent living and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community, is getting more and more attention in the development related to disability in the international level. Therefore, it is necessary to take appropriate and effective measures to provide residential support services in the community and family. Programming of these services, should take into consideration the specific needs of different categories of persons with disabilities. The study "Service of personal assistance to persons with disabilities - important element towards independent living", is an assessment of the level and quality of fulfilling the specific needs of different disability groups, based on the mutual relationship of disabled person and their personal assistant. The study involved 229 people with disabilities and 227 of their care givers. The study showed that the role of personal assistant is considered indispensable in the daily life of persons with disabilities, but remains far from the aim of influencing social inclusion and independent living. This paper is accompanied by a set of recommendations that will serve to plan a reform for the service of personal assistance, whereby this will not considered only as a source of financial income (although insufficient) to the family of a disabled person, but as a support for the disabled individual so that he would not become a burden to the family, but could be able to build an independent social life.

**Keywords:** disability, independent living, personal assistance

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**The psychological effect in children with chronic nephropatological and their families**

**Jeta Ajasllari,** PhD Student Tirana University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa"

The purpose of this doctoral study is to explore the influence of hospitalization in children with chronic illness. The dynamics of psychological reactions, the quality of life, the level of anxiety, the anger the children feel while dealing with these illness. It also aims to outline the feedbacks of the children with chronic illness based on variables such as age, gender, number of admissions, degree of difficulty and health care by relatives. The participants in this study are 30 patients between the age of (6 – 14 years old), 15 of them are included in the experimental group and 15 in the control group, the subjects are chronic patients hospitalized at Tirana University Hospital Center, respectively admitted at nephrology unit and patient of dialysis. This study have instruments which measure lifestyle, children’s anxiety and their anger: The Anger Expression Scale for Children (AESC); (STAIC) State - trait Anxiety Inventory for Children is a self – reporting instrument of anxiety experienced by children; (PedsQl) Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (Renal Disease module) for the children and for parents. This modul contains information about the general fatigue of the patients, the kidney deseases, the way the children deal with these problem, the relationship they have with their peers, about their concerns, how they feel about their physical appearance and the communication with the others. Also all parents
have undergone a structured interview during which they have provided detailed information about background family and socioeconomic factors. Details about the children’s psychological adjustment will be also collected. Parents of ill children provide a description of the illness and its impact of the family. Then it proceeds with the psychological intervention. The psychological intervention is being applied to the experimental group of 15 patients diagnosed with chronic nephropathologies. The therapy aims to focus on specific factors which influence on the manifestations of behavioral and psychological complications in children with chronic diseases, and on the development of therapy based on the attitude of the child and the family dynamics. Patients who received psychological services, will improve their level of anxiety and their psychological reactions, will increase their self-esteem, improving relationships with peers, increasing productivity, expressing emotions in a constructive way, exploring the hidden skills or talents, encouraging the children and helping them developing these skills.

**Keywords**: chronic disease, family, psychological effect, quality of life

### Challenges of the foster care program in Albania

**Megi Xhumari, Graduate Student Springfield College, Massachusetts, USA**

Today I can analyse in a broader perspective the new alternative community based services for children in risk, such as foster care program, introduced for the first time in Albania in 2010. I have been engaged in the process of its implementation working as a social worker for Bethany Social Service in Tirana, an NGO which is a strategic partner of Bethany Christian Services in the U.S. I was involved in assisting piloting for the first time foster care for the social reintegration of children and families through needs’ assessments as well as case management, being part of a multidisciplinary coordinating team. We are interested in presentations relating to an empirical approach, with a focus on describing changes in family life and the policies and practices of community institutions that are supportive of family life. The relative effectiveness of various strategies (e.g., family support/treatment programs, NGOs, legal action, political action, public information campaigns, educational efforts), and the lessons learned from last few generations are of interest. The overall quest is to understand what is happening to families and how might change occur to improve family life.
An alternative way of “investing” in young people in Albania
Livia Nano, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

This paper aims to present the findings of a research undertaken in Albania in understanding the state of youth development from a strength-based approach. More specifically, the research explores the state of development assets among young people attending public secondary and high schools of Tirana city (Albania), by providing an analysis according to eight assets categories (support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and positive identity) as well as according to five context areas (personal, family, school, social and community). The instrument used to collect data was Development Assets Profile, an instrument designed by the Search Institute, and contextualized for the Albanian context.

Keywords: youth development, strength-based approach, development assets profile

Involving parents as active partners of school in the learning process of their children (regional study at elementary schools, Elbasan, Albania)

Valentina Haxhiymeri (Xhafa), Educational Sciences Faculty, University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan

The family makes critical contributions to a child’s achievement. The purpose of this study was to explore actual roles of teachers in helping parents become effectively involved in the learning process of their children. The study methodology included questionnaires (applied to 50 teachers/50 parents) and an analysis of relevant data. The results of the study indicated that teachers try to inform parents to support their children’s learning, but they think that parents do not do enough. Meantime, many parents want to support their children’s learning at home but do not always know how to help. The study proposes a new interactive approach – Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) process.

Keywords: children, schools, academic achievement
**Social exclusion: Understanding the social economic factors that contribute to social exclusion, the case of Bathore a suburb of Tirana.**

**Erika Bejko,** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The research is an exploratory and descriptive study of how the people that have migrated from other northern regions in Albania in Bathore are socially excluded. This research looks at the relationships of the following variables: education and employment, civic and social and cultural engagement. Social exclusion is most frequently linked to the problem of high unemployment and a lack of job security but not only. This is a quantitative study that aims to describe and explain the research questions. What are the descriptive data that represents the socio and demographic data of the population in Bathore? Which of the following dimensions of the social exclusion: economic dimension, social dimension or cultural dimension contributes the most in the exclusion of the individuals or groups from the society?

The main findings resulting in the study are: (1) Social exclusion in Bathore is determined by the employment, education civic /cultural inclusion; (2) Labor market participation is the main indicator of economic inclusion and social inclusion in Bathore; and 30 (3) Group and association membership social and cultural participation are the indicator of civic and cultural inclusion and they represent a very low rate.

**Development of family and community programs: The case of Kosovo**

**Blerta Peroli Shehu,** PhD Student Clemson University, USA

The paper presents the current socio-economic situation of Kosovar families, the post-conflict social vulnerability factors behind the poor development, family needs as well as the work of non-governmental organizations in the area of family strengthening. The paper also explores the social and community programmes led by non-governmental organizations, their activity, impact, and the gaps in their programming. The paper specifically focuses on the work of the Family Strengthening Programe led by SOS Children’s Villages in Kosovo. Finally, the paper addresses the need for families and communities to directly initiate and lead change processes influencing main vulnerability factors in their communities.

**Keywords:** family strengthening, community development, non-governmental organization, families, children
Panel II: Bullying and Deviance

Investigating the relationship between a child academic achievement and delinquency: Evidence from a nationally representative sample

Ana Uka, Beder University, PhD Student Clemson University

Objective: The aim of this paper is to contribute towards the knowledge and findings in the literature about the relationships between a child’s academic achievement, parental monitoring and delinquency while controlling for adolescents’ age, sex and race. Methods: Data from two waves (W1 & W2) of the nationally representative National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) followed 6504 youth (ages 13 through 22 years) were analyzed using a moderation model tested with a linear regression analysis. Results: Results indicated that higher academic performance ($b = -0.42, SE_b = 0.04, \beta = -0.15, p < .001$) was associated with lower levels of delinquency among adolescents. Further, sex ($b = -0.28, SE_b = 0.07, \beta = -0.06 p < .001$) and age ($b = 0.10, SE_b = 0.02, \beta = 0.07, p < .001$) also were significantly associated with delinquency such that boys and older youth reported higher levels of delinquency than their respective counterparts. Conclusions: Parents need to pay close attention to their children’s academic achievement by checking on children’s homework, attendance, attitude toward school and teachers especially for boys and older youth who appear to be at high risk for delinquency.

Keywords: academic achievement, delinquency, parental monitoring, adolescence

Family and students’ school related deviant behavior: Examining the role of parental negative labeling among other school variables

Stela Karaj, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between parental negative labeling, teacher negative labeling, peer negative labeling, school bonds and students’ school deviant behavior. Apart from that, the study aimed at determining the impact of parental negative labeling on students’ school deviant behavior in comparison with other variables. The sample of this study was composed of 740 randomly selected students from grades 7-12 in different schools in Albania. The selection of the sample was made using the cluster sampling method. The instrument used in the present study was a structured questionnaire composed of a scale for measuring students’ school deviant behaviour, a scale for measuring school bonds and three items for measuring parental, teacher and peer negative labeling. The reliability coefficient of the scales used in this study were: the scale for measuring students’ school deviant behaviour (Cronbach alpha: 0.89); the scale for measuring the school bond (commitment: Cronbach’s alpha: 0.75; attachment:
Cronbach’s alpha: 0.72; belief: Cronbach’s alpha: 0.69). Pearson correlation coefficients were employed to determine the strength and direction of the relationships of the variables under the study. Multiple regression analysis was used to determine the impact of each of the variables on the students’ school deviant behaviour. The study findings indicated positive moderate correlations between parental, teacher and peers negative labeling and student classroom deviant behaviour. All of the variables were significant predictors of student school deviant behaviour.

**Keywords:** negative labeling, informal labeling; school bonds; students’ school deviant behaviour

**Bullying in elementary schools**

**Artilda Lala,** PhD Student Clemson University, USA

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that occurs at school, with serious implications for the psycho-emotional development of children and adolescents and for the learning process. It is the repeated exposure of a child to negative actions of one or more students, (Olweus, 1991). Bullying at school is seen more and more in modern societies and in many countries of the world (Burke and Herbert, 1996; Heller, 1996.) Researches have shown that about 15% of students between the ages of 8-15 years have experienced bullying (Smith *et al.*, 1999).

Social-ecological models have been used to study bullying or peer victimization. Bullying and victimization are influenced by the community, society, school, peer groups, by the individuals and by the family. There are a lot of existing data about the different risk factors of this phenomena. Preschool behavioral, emotional and motor problems, socioeconomic status, and family breakup are related to involvement in bullying at a later age. Prevention of bullying and its consequences can be enhanced by focusing on risk groups in early life. In Albania there does not exist so many data for bullying because just on October 2013 began the first informative campaign, including only 20 teachers from Tirana. There are few number of existence of available data. School bullying is pervasive and most children will probably experience it at some stage, either as a witness, a victim, or by being a bully themselves. Large-scale surveys show that it happens across the world, though it can involve different behaviors and have different meanings in different countries.

**Keywords:** bullying, school, children, violence, prevalence.
The impact of bullying on adolescents’ self-esteem

Arlinda Kadriu & Aliriza Arenliu, University of Prishtina
Natyra Agani University of Prishtina & PhD Student Clemson University

The Balkan culture in general and Kosovar society in particular has paid little attention to bullying among school children. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between bullying behaviors and self-esteem among adolescents between ages 15, 16, and 17 in “Aleksander Xhuvani” high school in the municipality of Podujevo, Republic of Kosovo. In addition, this study explored the prevalence of bullying behaviors as well as the most common forms of bullying behaviors in this age group. The total sample for this study was composed of 460 (60% females and 41% males) adolescent and majority of the students were Albanians. Results of this study showed that 18% of participants’ experienced bullying in school environment while 67% of students did not experience bullying within school environment. Correlations between bullying behaviors and the level of self-esteem showed that low self-esteem is positively correlated with bullying behaviors. Potential mediating factors, such as cultural differences regarding conceptualization and definitions of bullying in Albanian language will be discussed, as well as implications for policy and practice.

Keywords:

Panel III: Social Support for Vulnerable Populations

Support for parents and families of children with autism

Artur Rada, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania

The aim of the study was to explore and identify the services provided to parents and families of children with autism, based on the service providers’ experiences and point of view. The qualitative research method was used in the study. In-depth, semi-structured interview was the instrument for data collection. 17 key persons belonging to service providers groups were interviewed. Through data analyses it came out that: Almost all key persons stated that they provide supporting services for both children with autism and their parents. More than half of the service providers stated that only few parents were seeking help and support. According to all participants in the study, there are still problems in the system due to limited number of such services, their geographical coverage and range.

Keywords: children with autism, services for family
Family members as cancer caregivers: the role of social support

Veronika Duci, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana

The aim of this study is to explore the impact of cancer caregiving in the caregiver’s life and the role of social support as a buffer. The participants of this research were \( N = 377 \) cancer caregivers, whom were reached at the University Hospital Center “Nene Tereza” in Tirana. The research tool consisted in general information and patient/diagnosis related. Added was the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support of Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet and Farley (1988), which was validated for this sample. Participants of this study faced many problems related to caregiving (practical and emotional). Social support moderated the impact of some of caregiving load.

**Keywords:** family caregivers, social support, cancer, Albania, social networks

Parent-adolescent communication and support for diabetes management: a review of the literature

Anisa Zeqja; Endocrinology and Diabetology Service, UHC”Mother Teresa”, Tirana, Albania
Marjeta Kërmaj; Endocrinology and Diabetology Service, UHC”Mother Teresa”, Tirana, Albania
Ilir Alimeheti; Endocrinology and Diabetology Service, UHC”Mother Teresa”, Tirana, Albania
Dorina Ylli; Endocrinology and Diabetology Service, UHC”Mother Teresa”, Tirana, Albania
Agron Ylli; Endocrinology and Diabetology Service, UHC”Mother Teresa”, Tirana, Albania

The purpose of this review is to present a synthesis of the research literature from empirical studies about interaction and communication between youth with Type 1 diabetes and their parents. A psychologist is a very important position to enhance the parent-adolescent communication that facilitates the transition period.

Communication between parent and youth is essential in transitioning the adolescent to increased responsibility for diabetes self-management. The review includes a search of published studies that met these criteria: empirical study about youth with Type 1 diabetes, family support as primary subjects, self-care, and metabolic control. Review Methods: A total of 30 published papers were included. Papers were analyzed sequentially. Findings in the areas of problematic parent-adolescent communications were included. Results: Studies indicate that maternal support, conflict, control, emotional expression are important communication
concepts that are linked to diabetes outcomes in youth. The influences of different family structures, cultural and socioeconomic circumstances, have an important role too.

Psychologists that care for young people with Type 1 diabetes need to consider the family relationships as an achieving health outcome. Studies about communication includes the perspectives of the two parents and the influence of family structure, economics and culture as a positive source for the growth of health outcome for the youths with Type 1 diabetes.

**Keywords:** family relationships, health, communication

**Economic assistance as a vital support for families in need: Difficulties, restrictions and barriers**

**Blerina Xhakolli, Reci**, University “Aleksander Moisiu”, Durrës

The article focuses on the theoretical study of the situation of financial assistance; it provides an overview of how it works, to whom it is addressed, and what is most important, it highlights the barriers and difficulties of these families in need in overcoming various and deep problems that are vital to them. The study focuses on the city of Durres and is not just a review of literature but also a description of the current situation of the aid operation, one of the bases of social policy in the country. The poverty is a significant issue, which concerned the whole public opinion, in all stages of development of human society. One way of viewing the situation of poverty refers to the lack of income to meet needs for food, clothing and shelter, to the insufficiency or lack of something, lack of land or badlands and others. Financial Assistance Scheme (EA) represents a program in the form of money transfers in support of families lacking income entirely, or who have low income. It is based on socio-economic assessment of the sustenance of the family and is unlimited in time. The calculation of economic assistance fund is based on the assessment of poverty and the family in need to be supported with EA, from the local governments. The essence of this method consists in establishing the correspondence between needs and the mass of fund allocation for economic assistance and social services. What follows the study, are recommendations for the progress of a whole process in place for families in need as a vital support and as a sound social policy.

**Keywords:** poverty, economic assistance, families in need, social policy.
GUIDE TO ALBANIA - TIRANA

Welcome to Albania, welcome to Tirana!
Mirë se vini në Shqipëri, mirë se vini në Tiranë!

In the heart of the Mediterranean, on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, Albania is fast becoming one of the world’s most interesting getaways. Still relatively unspoiled by globalization, visitors will notice an inspiring mixture of civilizations and cultures - making this European country truly unique. Albania was chosen as the No.1 Destination in Lonely Planet’s list of ten top countries to visit for 2011.

General information

General data
Area: 28.748 Km2 (11,000 sq miles)
Population: 2 821 977
System of government: Parliamentary democracy
Capital city: Tirana
Currency: Lek (ALL)
Official Language: Albanian
Weights and Measures: Metric
Electricity: 220 V
International telephone prefix: ++ 355
For more information visit the following web address: www.albaniantourism.com
History

The area known as Albania today has been populated since prehistoric times. In antiquity, much of it was settled by the Illyrians, who are the ancestors of present-day Albanians. It was around the turn of the third millennium B.C. The country has suffered continuous invasions over the last 1000 years and by the end of the 14th century Albania was occupied by the Ottoman Empire.

The subsequent efforts and insurrections for independence eventually brought about the proclamation of the independence of Albania in 1912. After 1912 till the end of the First World War, the country was attacked by neighbouring countries. After eleven years of monarchy the country was occupied by Mussoliniti forces in 1939, putting the end of monarchy. In 1943 the armies of Hitler occupies the country. The resistance against foreign invasion was known as the Anti – Fascist National Liberation front. The Communist party took power in November 1944, when the foreign armies were expelled. Shortly thereafter, a totalitarian regime was established. For about 50 years, the regime applied the policy of self-isolation, leaving the country in great economic poverty. In 1991 the political system collapsed and Albania started to develop the democratic system.

Albania is a member of the UN, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, World Trade Organisation, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and one of the founding members of the Union for the Mediterranean. Albania has been a potential candidate for accession to the European Union since January 2003, and it formally applied for EU membership on April 2009.

Population

Albania is an incredibly hospitable culture and has its own particular traditions of courtesy. Albanians are friendly and very open towards foreigners that visit their country. If you are lucky enough to be invited to visit an Albanian’s home, you will be treated as royalty. Albania is a safe country for visitors. It’s tradition of hospitality affords great respect for foreigners; almost all Albanians will go out of their way to help you if you are lost or in trouble.

The resident population in urban areas is 53.5% while 46.5% of the population lived in rural areas.

The vast majority of inhabitants are Albanian, with ethnic minorities, comprised primarily of Greeks and Macedonians, representing only about 2% of the population. According to the 2011 census the population of Albania declared the following ethnic affiliation: Albanians 82.58%, Greeks 0.87%, Macedonians 0.20%, Montenegrins 0.01%, Aromanians 0.30%, Romani 0.30%, Balkan Egyptians 0.12%, Other 0.09%, Undeclared 13.96%, Not relevant 1.58%.

Religion

Albanians’ first religion, Catholicism was the only one in this country for almost 1000 years. The separation of the Roman Church from that of Byzantium, the borders of which passed almost in Albania, would produce the first conversion of some Albanian Catholics into Orthodox. Some centuries later, the invasion of the Balkans by the Ottoman Empire, would produce, along with the army and administration, a new religion: Islam.

Albania was established as a secular state. During the communist regime, religion was initially allowed while the principles of secularism were preserved and enforced. From 1967-1991 religion was forbidden. Actually, the state is neutral in questions of belief and conscience, and also, it guarantees the freedom of their expression in public life. The state recognizes the equality of religious communities.
The 2011 Census had declared the following religious affiliations: 56.7% Islam, 10.03% Roman Catholic, 6.75% Albanian Orthodox, 5.49% Unaffiliated, 2.5% Atheist, 2.09% Bektashi, 0.14% Protestant/Evangelical.

In Albania, there is a peaceful coexistence of those practicing a variety of religious faiths.

**Language**

Albanian is the official language of Albania. It comprises a separate, original branch in the family of the Indo-European languages. Its standard spoken and written form is revised and merged from the two main dialects, Gheg and Tosk; though, it is notably based more on the Tosk dialect. The alphabet is comprised of 36 letters, each pronounced the same way, regardless of usage. This enables visitors to quickly and easily learn a few essential phrases to facilitate communication.

Languages spoken by ethnic minorities in Albania include Greek, Macedonian, Vlach, Serbian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Gorani, and Roma. According to the 2011 population census, 98.767% of the population declared Albanian as main language spoken at home during childhood. Many Albanians, particularly in larger cities, speak English.

**Tirana**

Tirana is the capital and the largest city of Albania. Modern Tirana was founded as an Ottoman town in 1614. Tirana became Albania’s capital city in 1920. It has a population of 421,286, with metro area population of 763,634. The city is the centre of the political, administrative, economical, financial, and cultural life of the country. The city serves as a venue for the Tirana Biennale, Tirana Jazz Festival, Summer Day, Rally Albania, and Tirana Fashion Week. Tirana has been redesigning its identity to a more Mediterranean city lined with cafes and a "vibrant" nightlife. Tirana is host to academic institutions such as public and private universities, the Academy of Sciences of Albania, national and international academic research institutions. Tirana is the media hub of Albania. Tirana is a major centre for sport in Albania.
The University of Tirana (UT) is a public university located in Tirana. Two smaller affiliated campuses are located in other Albanian cities, including Saranda in the South and Kukës in the North. UT was founded in 1957 as the State University of Tirana through the merging of five existing institutes of higher education, the most important of which was the Institute of Sciences, founded in 1947. UT is the largest and highest ranking university in Albania. It includes six faculties. UT offers three-year Bachelor programs, one and two year Master programs, and three year Doctorate degree programs. Students dorms are grouped in a separate location called “Student City” in Southeast Tirana.

Useful information

Currency
The Albanian monetary unit is called "lek". The currency floats freely but is quite stable. In February exchange was about 139.94. lek to 1 euro, and about 106.05 leke to 1 US dollar. On the rate boards in banks and exchange offices (kambim valuator) the initials ALL are sometimes used instead of the word “lek”. Cash point machines or ATMs which issue Albanian Lek can be found in all major cities in Albania. The most commonly accepted currencies are the US dollar and the euro. Banks and exchange offices will have a rate for major currencies other than these. Banks are open only on weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 16.00 p.m. You also can change money at your hotel, although you should not rely on this option. You will almost certainly be able to pay your room in euro, although if you have been quoted a price in lek, the hotel's exchange rate will not be in your favour. Restaurants also sometimes accept euro.

Many years ago, the currency was evaluated and a zero was dropped. Albanians of all ages still insist on using the extra zero, although people who have regular dealings with foreigners sometimes try to remember not to. The systems are differentiated by the adjectives “old” and “new”. In modern supermarkets the prices are displayed in “new” lek. In markets and small shops, particularly outside the cities, if prices are displayed at all they might be in either system. It is fairly easy to guess that the price of a bottle of mineral water is 50 “new” lek (about 0.30 euro) rather than 500 lek (about 3 euro). Sometimes it can be quite unclear which is meant. Fortunately, most Albanians are very honest about this and will put you right if you try to give them ten times more money than they expect.

Matters are made even more confusing by a tendency to quote large numbers without mentioning the word thousand – a hotel receptionist might well quote a room rate simply as “fifty”. The only way to find out if this means 50 dollars, 50 euro, 50 euro or 5,000 lek, is to ask.
**Dialling codes**

Albania's country code is 355.
For calls to Albania, from your mobile phone: 00 355 + area code + telephone number

**Electricity and water**

Albania’s power supply is 220 volts, 50Hz. The round two-pin plugs are the most common.
Drinking bottled water is recommended.

**Tipping**

Normally a small tip for goods service (eg. accommodation, meals) is appreciated but is at the discretion of the client. Tip 10-15 per cent if you think the service merits it.

**Emergency numbers**

The phone number for medical service: 128
The telephone number for police: 129
The phone number for fire department: 127

**Getting there**

**Entry by air**

All international arrivals enter through Mother Theresa International Airport, located 17 km northwest of Tirana. Linkage with the city is provided through a shuttle bus service, the Tirana Rinas Express, running between Skanderbeg Square and Mother Theresa Airport. Shuttle buses depart every hour at the top of the hour, with an approximate cost of 2 euro. Taxi service available at all times, taxi fares mounting to approximately 20 euro.

"Mother Theresa“ Airport
Phone: + 355 4 23 79 063 / 4
Cel: +355 69 20 666 26
E-mail: info@tirana-airport.com
Website: www.tirana-airport.com.al

**Airport Taxis**

The fastest way to get to TIA is by taxi. Such a service is available in all Albanian cities and urban areas, with the main cities operating a call-service. The journey from Tirana to the airport takes 20–25 minutes, depending on traffic, and costs about 2,500 Leke (20 EURO) one way. For full details download TAXI Offer by Hour.

Tirana Airport taxi service is provided by ATEx shpk. www.atex.al is the website that offers to all passengers the ability to reserve taxis in advance, online. The service is professional, courteous and personal, and at affordable prices, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
It is recommended that passengers use only licensed taxis, which are yellow with a red ATEx logo and the airport logo on both sides of the vehicle. At the airport, these taxis park in front of the terminal and also at the pickup area of the terminal.

Contact:
Phone: 00355 4 2222 122           Mobile: 00355 66 20 80191, 00355 66 20 08873

Local transport within Tirana is by bus or taxi. Official taxis have yellow plates with red text.

Albanian phrases

Po          Yes
Jo          No
Ju lutem    Please
Faleminderit/ Falemnderit Thank you
Shumë faleminderit Thank you very much
Më falni    Excuse me / Sorry
S’ka problem No problem
Zonjë       Mrs.
Zoti        Mr.
Zonjushë    Ms
Tungjatjeta Hi/ Hello
Mirëmëngjesi Good morning
Mirëdita     Good afternoon
Mirëmbrëma   Good evening
Natën e mirë Good night
Mirë se vini/ Mirë se vjen Welcome
Mirupafshim Bye/ Goodbye
Shihemi më vonë See you
Paçi dîtë të mbarë Have a nice day
Si ju quajnë? What’s your name?
Më quajnë    My name is
Nga jeni?    Where are you from?
Gezohem që ju takova Pleased to meet you
Flisni anglisht? Do you speak English?
Unë nuk flas shqip I don’t speak Albanian
Ju lutem, mund flisni më ngadalë Could you please speak more slowly?
Ju lutem, mund ta thoni edhe një herë Could you please say that again?
E kuptoj      I understand
Nuk e kuptoj   I don’t understand
E di          I know
Nuk e di      I don’t know
Mund të më ndihmoni? Could you please help me?
Unë jam mire      I am fine
Unë ndihem mire    I do not feel well
Ndihmë      Help
Ndalo
Sa kushton?
Ju lutem më sillni faturën
Ju lutem më jepni faturën
Ku ndodhet hoteli?
Drejt përpara
Kthehuni djathtas
Kthehuni majtas
Ndiqni këtë rrugë

Stop
How much does it cost?
Could you please bring the bill?
Could you please give me the bill?
Where is the hotel located?
Straight ahead
Turn right
Turn left
Follow the road

ENJOY YOUR STAY IN TIRANA!
Balkans – American Research and Evaluation Conference „Strengthening Families and Communities“, 

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Dear participants,

As organizers of the Balkans – American Research and Evaluation Conference „Strengthening Families and Communities“, we would like to thank you for your active participation and creative contribution to this conference.

We very much hope that your stay in Tirana was enjoyable and rewarding, and we are looking forward to welcome you again to the next year conference.

We shall be announcing location and dates for the upcoming events and all news about the network on our homepage __________________.

Your continued support and cooperation would be very much appreciated.

With best regards,

Mark Small, J.D., PH.D.                                      Edlira Haxhiymeri, Assoc. Prof. Dr.
For the international steering committee                   For the local organizing committee