

ARIO Platform

Ambassadors and Representatives of
International Organizations Platform



INSTITUTI SHQIPTAR PËR ÇËSHJET PUBLIKE



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CONTEXT

ARIO Platform (Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations) is thought to be an apolitical, interactive, informative and consultative platform targeting the university students, but not only. According to **the Youth Law no. 75/2019 in Albania**, the definition of “young person” consists in the age group between 15 to 29 years old, and during 2019-2020 only, the number of young people who live in Albania is 1661,365, representing 23,2% of the total population. Even though young people represent the largest group in the society, the perception is that they are left outside the focus of the policies of the governments during all these prolonged transition years. The problem of youth unemployment remains a constant concern and a real challenge. However, some initiatives are taken by central and local authorities, but still the lack of attractive job opportunities, the lack of a comprehensive labour market study, as well as the lack of effective and efficient policies for the promotion of youth employment has brought Albania among the countries with the highest unemployment rate in the Western Balkans.

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Meanwhile, according to INSTAT data, youth unemployment was 20.9% in 2019, which is not reflected in figures of various national and international organizations. But, referring to ILO (International Labour Organization), youth unemployment in Albania, in 2019, reached 32.8%. Meanwhile, according to the National Survey “Youth in Albania 2019”, 73% of the interviewed young people addressed youth unemployed as the most worrying issue for them. A data from the study “Albanian Youth 2018-2019”, conducted by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), shows that 51 % of young people who have been interviewed stated that they are unemployed, and they do not have any concrete perspective of finding a jobs, as well.

Youth unemployment and the lack of job opportunities, programs and policies lead to the increase of the number of youth emigration and brain drain. In this regard, a study conducted by Emerging Europe shows that in our region it is only Albania which is suffering the high rate of brain drain among well-educated young people.

Unemployment among young people, brain drain, and the quality of Education in Albania constitute some of the challenges and priority issues for young people (including students). Considering the fact that such problems need a well-thought, structured and immediate intervention, we thought to establish a structured dialogue with the government and/or with the highest representatives of the embassies and international organizations, as young people/students often face the lack of opportunities and mechanisms to do so.

In this regard, the **Albanian Institute of Public Affairs (AIPA)** and **Barleti University (UniBa)** have been working intensively to establish the **ARIO Platform** (Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations), which is an interactive Platform of open, informative and consultative communication between the young people, students and Academic Staff of UniBa, on one hand, and the Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations present in Albania, on the other.

MAIN AIMS:

Through direct and open discussions and dialogue, ARIO Platform aims at:

- ✓ *Establishing the structured dialogue between youth and Ambassadors and International Organizations;*
- ✓ *Creating a better understanding of the expectations of the Albanian youth with regard to the European Union integration perspective of Albania;*
- ✓ *Creating a better understanding of the different and sometimes very diverse issues that our society has to address in a properly structured approach;*
- ✓ *Increasing the awareness of our students in order to acknowledge and apprehend the cultural and economic diversity that exists today in our globalized world, even beyond the European Union;*

ACTIVITIES OF ARIO Platform

- ✓ *Increasing the understanding of the International Community that lives and works in Albania about the exigencies and aspirations of the Albanian Youth through live discussions, consultations and direct dialogue with them.*



ACTIVITY 1

On September 14th 2021, ARIO Platform was successfully launched with the presence as Guest of Honour of the **Ambassador of the United States of America, Her Excellency, Mrs. Yuri Kim**. The event was held at the new Campus of Barleti University, and was opened with welcoming remarks by the Rector of Barleti University, Prof. Dr. Suzana Guxholli.

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After a short introduction of the ARIO Platform and its goal and aims by the Executive Director of AIPA, Amb. Gilbert Galanxhi, the floor was given to the Guest of Honour, Her Excellency Amb. Yuri Kim.

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During her speech, Amb. Kim highlighted that the *United States of America have supported and continue to support Albania, as an ally country, in three main pillars, related to: Rule of Law and Democracy, Security and Defense, and Economic Growth and Business*. During

her open conversation with the students present at this event, Amb. Kim, among other things, said that Albania has been and is a European country, and the United States of America will support an ally like Albania toward the full integration into the European Union.

The ARIO Platform will continue to organize activities with Ambassadors and Representatives of the International Organizations in Albania **every month**.

For further information, please feel free to contact us at: **Albanian Institute of Public Affairs (AIPA)**:

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