

**The ARIO Platform is successfully launched
with the presence as Guest of Honour
of the Ambassador of the United States of America, Her Excellency,
Mrs. Yuri Kim**

Tirana, 14 September 2021 - **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 Students and Academic Staff of UniBa and the Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations present in Albania.

Through direct discussion, ARIO Platform aims at creating a better understanding of the expectations of the Albanian youth with regard to the European Union integration perspective of Albania, as well as to the different and sometimes very diverse issues that our society has to address in a properly structured approach. ARIO Platform also aims at 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 area, since nowadays everything is just 'a click away'.

On the other hand, the International Community that lives and works in Albania will better understand the exigencies and aspirations of the Albanian Youth through live discussions, consultations and direct dialogue with them.

In this context, at the new Campus of Barleti University, the ARIO Platform was launched today, on 14 September 2021, by the Rector of Barleti University, Prof.Dr. Suzana Guxholli and the Executive Director of AIPA, Amb. Gilbert Galanxhi, with the presence of the Ambassador of the United States of America, Her Excellency, Mrs. Yuri Kim, as the Guest of Honour.

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; Economic Growth and Business.* During her 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 integration into the European Union.



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The ARIO Platform will continue to organize activities with Ambassadors and Representatives of the International Organizations in Albania every month, and these activities will aim at developing the discussions as well as strengthening the dialogue with students and young people.

For further information, please contact Albanian Institute of Public Affairs (AIPA), at the E-mail address: director.aipa@umb.edu.al.