

## Contents

ABOUT DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE.....	5
1.1 Welcome Ceremony - 2024-2025 Academic Year .....	7
1.2 Club Fest 11 .....	8
1.3 Spring Fest 2025 .....	9
1.4 CULTURE DAY 2025.....	10
1.5 First Real-Life Squid Game Albania .....	11
1.6 Student Elections .....	12
1.7 World Mental Health Day with Special Guest .....	13
1.8 Tirana Slush'D Presentation at Epoka University .....	14
1.9 Arber Kadia, CEO of Patoko -Info session with our students! ....	15
1.10 The Draw for “Epoka League” Held – Students and University Staff Ready for the Second Edition .....	16
1.11 Harvard Simulation Days” Launched at Epoka University with Support from the U.S. Embassy.....	17
1.12 Finance Club Hosts Open Lecture on Mobile Wallets by Renowned Fintech Expert David Gyori .....	18
1.13 United in Diversity: Celebrating Interfaith Tolerance”.....	19
1.14 Information Session on Startup Albania’s Funding Scheme .....	20
1.15 Stylist Edi Xharkanji Hosts Inspiring Fashion Design Session at Epoka University.....	21
1.16 "Po t'vjen një kartolinë," .....	22
1.17 Innovation Meets Sustainability! .....	23
1.18 DevFest 2 .....	23
1.19 Marin Mema dhe Historitë që Frymëzojnë” .....	25

1.20 Inspirational Mountaineering Talk with Aleksandër Bojaxhi ....	26
1.21 Epoka Football League Final .....	26
1.22 Visit to Kadare and Agolli House Museums.....	28
1.23 Excel Workshop: Levelling Up! .....	29
1.24 Epoka Business & Tech Competition!.....	30
1.25 Trip to Berat! .....	31
Activity & Events Report Career Planning and Alumni Office ....	32
1.The importance of Mental Health – Guest Speaker: Anisa Zace (14.10.2024).....	33
.....	33
2.PATOKO- New Experience - Guest Speaker: Arber Kadia (29.10.2024).....	34
3. Cyber Security – Harvard Simulation Days (01.11.2024) .....	35
4. Explore Deloitte- Tour & IT Internship Fest (12.11.2024) .....	35
5. Epoka University Students Visit KRACO: A Day of Learning and Insight into Albania's Food Industry Pioneer (27.11.2024) .....	37
6. PMable Inspires Students at EPOKA with a Workshop on Project Management and Innovation (16.01.2025) .....	38
7. Open Forum: From Flowers to Forever, a Journey of Creativity and Entrepreneurship (17.01.2025) .....	39
8. Book Launch Event of "Copezat" by Kei Hysi (30.01.2025)....	40
9. EPOKA University Hosts Career Training to Enhance Students' Job Market Readiness (06.02.2025) .....	41
10. EPOKA University and Union Financiar Tirana (UFT) Sign Cooperation Agreement to Enhance Academic and Professional Opportunities (07.02.2025) .....	43

11. EPOKA University Explores Future Collaborations with ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA to Expand Student Opportunities (07.03.2025).....	44
12. Guest Lecture: Digital Campaign Strategies with Arlind Zoto (26.03.2025) .....	45
13. Career Office x AGNA Group (28.03.2025) .....	46
14. Career Fair 12 <sup>th</sup> edition (03.04.2025) .....	47
15. EPOKA University Students Gain Real-World Business Insights at Vodafone Albania (09.04.2025) .....	48
16. Cybersecurity Insights: Epoka University Hosts Info Session with Cyber Tirana (24.04.2025) .....	49
17. Workshop: Structured Project Planning in Civil Engineering (28.04.2025).....	50
18. Open Hour on “Modern Times & Artificial Intelligence” with Dominusoft (02.05.2025) .....	52
19. From Theory to Practice: Insights from Balkan Trans Albania on International Trade Operations (05.05.2025) .....	53
20. Celebrating Student Mentorship at Epoka University, delivering the certificates (08.05.2025) .....	54
21. Information session- Raiffeisen Bank (13.05.2025).....	55
22. EPOKA University Architecture Students Engaged by Porsche Albania in Sustainability Design Challenge (02.06.2025) .....	56

Epoka University

Dean of Students Office  
Annual Report

2024 – 2025 Academic Year

## ABOUT DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

EPOKA University is committed to equipping students with the essential skills required for their future personal and professional success. Student clubs, established on academic foundations, foster meaningful interpersonal relationships among students while also cultivating leadership abilities. Social and cultural activities offered by the University enhance students' understanding of diverse life experiences and promote cultural exchange among peers from various regions of Albania, the Balkans, and beyond. To support this, a wide range of social and cultural activities are made available to students. These activities are organized and facilitated by the Students Clubs & Activities Office, operating under the Office of the Dean of Students.

The Dean of Students Office is entrusted with the planning, support, advocacy, and coordination of a wide range of educational programs and student-focused services. Its core mission is to ensure the holistic well-being of students, physically, academically, emotionally, intellectually, socially, and spiritually. All initiatives and activities undertaken by the Office are guided by a commitment to fostering the comprehensive development of every student.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- To provide a confidential, safe, respectful, and welcoming environment where students are encouraged to express their concerns openly and honestly.
- To serve as a supportive liaison between students, faculty, and administrative staff, ensuring effective communication and collaboration.
- To advocate for fairness, justice, transparency, and the prompt resolution of student-related issues.
- To empower students to achieve their intellectual, interpersonal, and personal development goals through meaningful support and guidance.

- To organize, coordinate, and expand partnerships between EPOKA University students and their peers within and outside the institution, thereby fostering bilateral and multilateral collaborations.
- To ensure the quality of student life at EPOKA University, including the implementation of agreements with third parties that support student interests and engagement.
- To promote and maintain a healthy, safe, and inclusive campus community.

## 1.1 Welcome Ceremony - 2024-2025 Academic Year



On October 9, 2024, EPOKA University officially welcomed its students to the 2024-2025 academic year with a lively and inspiring Welcome Ceremony. The event marked the beginning of the new academic cycle and fostered a spirit of community and motivation among attendees. The ceremony featured distinguished speakers, including Prof. Dr. Ahmet Öztaş, Rector of EPOKA University, alongside accomplished alumni and representatives from partner companies. Their remarks set an encouraging tone for the year ahead.

A highlight of the event was an engaging video presentation that showcased the success stories of former students, illustrating the lasting impact of an education at EPOKA University. The celebratory atmosphere was further enriched by a remarkable musical performance from student Emi Baloshi. Additionally, motivational speeches were delivered by Artela Roshi, President of the Student Council; Mr. Armando Alicanaj, Program Manager and Administrator at Green Coast (BALFIN Group); and alumna Enxhi Lipa, CEO of Brain Nest Institute. Their inspiring messages encouraged students to embrace new opportunities and fully engage in their university experience. We extend our sincere gratitude to all students for their enthusiasm and positive energy, which contributed to making the Welcome Ceremony a memorable event. This occasion provided an excellent platform for students to connect with peers, engage with faculty, and strengthen their networks within the EPOKA University community

## 1.2 Club Fest 11



EPOKA University successfully hosted **Club Fest 11**, an engaging event marking the commencement of student activities for the academic year. The event took place in the lobby of Building A and served as a platform to highlight the dynamic involvement of the university's Student Clubs, as well as to present their plans and initiatives for the upcoming year. The occasion created a lively and interactive atmosphere on campus, fostering a strong sense of community.

- **Presentations by Student Clubs:** Various clubs showcased their activities and outlined their goals for the academic year, providing attendees with detailed insights into opportunities for participation.
- **Student Performances:** The event featured exceptional musical performances by Erma Mici, Irsa Mello, and Emi Baloshi, whose talents captivated the audience.
- **Interactive Activities:** Attendees enjoyed karaoke, dance sessions, and multiple chances to engage directly with club representatives, encouraging exploration of diverse interests.

Club Fest 11 proved to be an excellent opportunity for students to discover new interests, join clubs, and deepen their engagement in campus life. The event's success was a testament to the dedication of the organizers, performers, and participants, reflecting positively on the vibrant student culture at EPOKA University.

### 1.3 Spring Fest 2025



On April 30, 2025, Epoka University hosted **Spring Fest 2025**, a traditional end-of-year celebration designed to bring students together through games, entertainment, and creativity. The event was organized with the active participation of students, who developed and managed **16 different interactive game stations and creative workshops**.

The event created a highly energetic and positive atmosphere on campus, offering students opportunities for entertainment, social interaction, and creative expression. Through wide student involvement, the festival fostered a strong sense of community, collaboration, and a dynamic closure to the academic year. The Office of Student Clubs expresses sincere gratitude to all student organizers and participants who contributed with dedication and enthusiasm to the success of this event. Thanks to their energy and commitment, **Spring Fest 2025** was a memorable and meaningful way to celebrate the end of the academic year

## 1.4 CULTURE DAY 2025



On May 22, 2025, Epoka University proudly hosted “Culture Day”, a celebration of cultural diversity, international dialogue, and student engagement. The event brought together the unique traditions and perspectives of **10 countries**, represented through the presence of their embassies in Albania. **China, Japan, United States, Germany, Greece, Qatar, Palestine, Egypt, Slovakia**

Each embassy set up a cultural booth offering insights into their country's history, heritage, language, and lifestyle. Visitors had the opportunity to engage with embassy representatives, explore cultural artifacts, try traditional foods, and participate in hands-on activities.

The event created a dynamic space for **cross-cultural learning and mutual respect**, reflecting Epoka University’s commitment to global education and inclusivity. Students, staff, and guests experienced a “trip around the world” without ever leaving campus.

**Organized by the Office of Student Clubs**, in collaboration with embassies and student volunteers, Culture Day was a memorable celebration that highlighted the value of cultural exchange and international friendship.

## 1.5 First Real-Life Squid Game Albania



Inspired by the global hit series, **EPOKA University brought the thrill of “Squid Game” to life** with an unforgettable campus-wide competition filled with excitement, challenge, and team spirit!

Students faced off in a series of adapted, safe, and fun versions of the iconic games—designed not to eliminate, but to engage! From precision and patience to agility and teamwork, each round tested both mental and physical skills. Whether it was *Red Light*, *Green Light*, *Dalgona Challenge*, *Marble Madness*, or the grand finale *Tug of War*, participants showed impressive determination and enthusiasm.

Highlights of the event included:

- A creative setup recreating the show’s signature aesthetics
- Competitive group-based games with escalating challenges
- Symbolic prizes for top performers and the most strategic teams
- Music, snacks, and lots of cheering from fellow students

The event drew wide participation and quickly became one of the most talked-about experiences of the semester. It fostered healthy competition, laughter, and collaboration among students across departments.

## 1.6 Student Elections



On November 6 at EPOKA University, the Student Council Elections event took place, an important occasion that engaged students in their representation in academic and social life on campus. This democratic process offered students the opportunity to elect their representatives, who will advocate for their interests and serve as their voice before the administration and academic staff. Students were encouraged to participate in the voting, contributing to creating a campus environment that reflects their needs and aspirations. Student participation was key in shaping the future of student life at EPOKA, and this event was an important step toward actively involving students in decision-making and building a united and committed community.

## 1.7 World Mental Health Day with Special Guest



On October 13, we held an activity for World Mental Health. The event featured Anisa Zace, a psychologist, who shared helpful advice on how to take care of mental health. Anisa Zace talked about why mental health is important and encouraged everyone to seek support when needed. The event was aimed at helping students and staff understand mental health better and starting open conversations about it.

## 1.8 Tirana Slush'D Presentation at Epoka University



On October 21, at 11:00 AM, we held a presentation about the Tirana Slush'D, Organized by Protik Innovation Center, this initiative aims to bring the spirit of the famous Slush event to the Albanian startup ecosystem. During the presentation, representatives from Protik explained the event's importance and the opportunities it offers for local startups to connect with regional and international investors. Slush, held annually in Helsinki, Finland, is one of the world's leading events for startups and investors, gathering over 13,000 participants, including 3,300 investors.

Tirana Slush'D took place on October 25, 2024, at the Pyramid of Tirana, featuring panel discussions, presentations, and networking sessions to help startups showcase their ideas and products. Protik Innovation Center encouraged all students and young people interested in innovation to join this event and take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

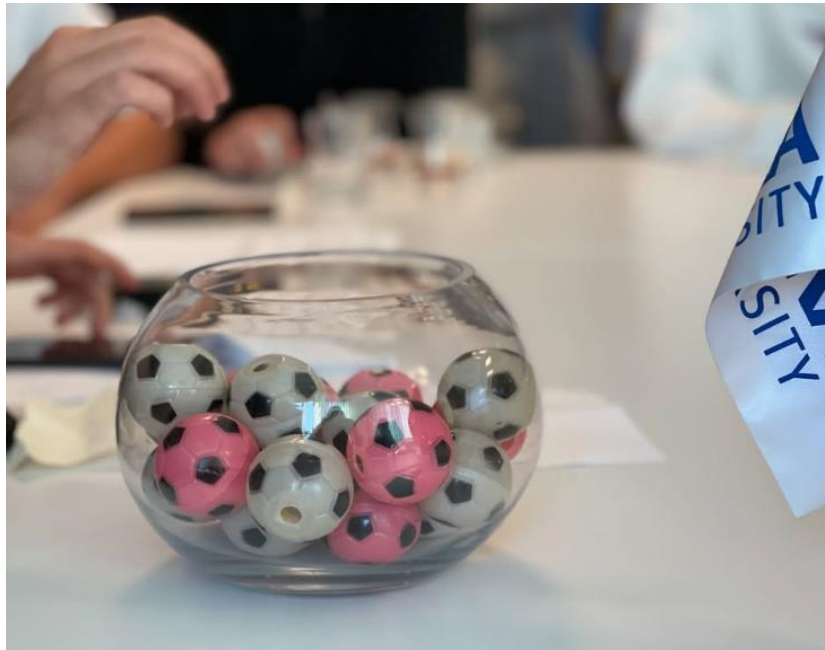
## 1.9 Arber Kadia, CEO of Patoko -Info session with our students!



On October 29, students at our university had the unique opportunity to attend an event featuring Arber Kadia, CEO of Patoko. Organized in collaboration with Career Planning Office and Marketing Zone Club the event aimed to introduce the Patoko app and showcase its capabilities for businesses and individuals alike. In his presentation, Kadia shared the story behind Patoko's development and explained how the app is helping businesses grow and expand their market presence. He highlighted Patoko's mission to connect businesses and customers through an innovative and user-friendly platform. Students had the chance to ask questions and learn more about how they could leverage Patoko in their future careers. Kadia provided practical examples and concrete ideas on how the app could assist local businesses and enhance customer experiences.

This event served as an excellent opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of digital marketing applications and the role technology can play in driving business growth.

### 1.10 The Draw for “Epoka League” Held – Students and University Staff Ready for the Second Edition



On October 30, 2024 – Today, Epoka University held the draw for the “Epoka League,” a sports tournament organized by the Sports Club that will take place between departmental classes. For the second consecutive year, a team composed of university staff will participate in the league, competing against student teams and bringing a spirit of collaboration and friendly rivalry to the campus. The “Epoka League” matches are expected to bring energy and excitement to all participants and supporters, as students and staff aim for the championship title in this special competition.

## 1.11 Harvard Simulation Days” Launched at Epoka University with Support from the U.S. Embassy



On November 1st, Epoka University hosted the launch event for the “Harvard Simulation Days” program — an initiative supported by the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program of the U.S. Embassy in Tirana and powered by Harvard Business Publishing Education.

The event met with great enthusiasm and interest from Epoka students, who had the opportunity to learn more about this unique, hands-on educational experience designed to prepare the next generation of leaders for real-world challenges.

Organized by Protik, the program provides students with access to Harvard-level business simulations, enabling them to develop critical thinking, decision-making, and leadership skills in a dynamic learning environment.

Applications for the program are now open. Interested students are encouraged to apply through the link below to secure their spot in this prestigious initiative.

## 1.12 Finance Club Hosts Open Lecture on Mobile Wallets by Renowned Fintech Expert David Gyori



The Finance Club, in collaboration with Epoka University's Department of Banking and Finance, recently hosted an enlightening open lecture titled "Mobile Wallets: Connecting the People of Albania." The session was led by David Gyori, a globally recognized fintech trainer, author, advisor, and keynote speaker. Participant in the lecture was also Ms. Gentiana Gjonça, Head of Product Management and Operations Department at BKT Pay who focused mainly on the developments of the Electronic Money Institutions in Albania. As CEO of Banking Reports London, Gyori is known for delivering high-quality training and advisory services to financial professionals worldwide. Recognized as a top 10 global thought leader and influencer in financial technology, Gyori shared valuable insights into the evolving landscape of mobile wallets and their impact on financial inclusion in Albania. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of how digital banking technologies foster financial connectivity and engagement in the Albanian market. The lecture served as a unique opportunity for students and professionals alike to learn from one of the industry's most influential voices.

### 1.13 United in Diversity: Celebrating Interfaith Tolerance”



On November 18, 2024, the Dialogue and Culture Club organized the event “United in Diversity: Celebrating Interfaith Tolerance” in honor of the International Day for Interfaith Tolerance. Two prominent speakers, Assoc. Prof. Genti Kruja, President of European National and International Bodies, and Mons. Gjergj Meta, President of the Episcopal Conference of Albania, shared their thoughts and experiences on the importance of interfaith tolerance and the role of dialogue in building a society based on respect and inclusion. In his remarks, Assoc. Prof. Genti Kruja emphasized that “interfaith dialogue is the bridge that helps us overcome prejudices and build collaborations between different cultures and beliefs.” Mons. Gjergj Meta highlighted the importance of open and honest communication, stating that “respect for one another is the foundation of a harmonious society.” This event not only raised awareness about the importance of diversity and interfaith tolerance but also served as a meaningful step toward promoting a culture of unity and coexistence on campus.

## 1.14 Information Session on Startup Albania's Funding Scheme



On December 12, 2024, the Innovators Club in collaboration with Startup Albania Agency organized an engaging Information Session. The session was hosted by Jorina Kadare, who provided valuable insights into the funding scheme, aimed at supporting innovative and entrepreneurial business ideas. During the event, students were encouraged to participate by submitting their innovative ideas and applying for the funding scheme. The session included an in-depth explanation of the application process, benefits, and opportunities provided by this initiative.

The highlight of the session was the interactive Q&A segment, where students actively engaged with questions, seeking clarification and advice on their entrepreneurial aspirations.

This event marked a significant opportunity for students to transform their ideas into reality, and all participants were motivated to take advantage of this unique initiative.

### 1.15 Stylist Edi Xharkanji Hosts Inspiring Fashion Design Session at Epoka University



On December 16 Epoka University had the pleasure of hosting Edi Xharkanji, a renowned stylist, for an engaging and inspiring session focused on fashion design.

During the event, participants had the unique opportunity to gain exclusive insights into Edi Xharkanji's professional journey, explore current trends in the fashion industry, and learn practical steps on how to transform a passion for fashion into a successful career.

The session was both informative and motivating, sparking creativity and enthusiasm among all attendees.

We extend our sincere thanks to Edi Xharkanji for sharing her valuable experience and inspiring the next generation of creatives.

### 1.16 "Po t'vjen një kartolinë,"



On December 20, EPOKA University students and staff personally delivered 164 gifts to the children of "Dushk" School, from kindergarten to 5th grade. This initiative was part of the amazing project "Po t'vjen një kartolinë," led by journalist Osman Stafa, and organized by the Sensitive Society Club, Volunteer Club, and all EPOKA Clubs. This is the third year of our participation, and the joy we witnessed today reminds us of the power of giving back. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this meaningful event possible.

## 1.17 Innovation Meets Sustainability!



On December 20, the Innovators Club at Epoka University had the pleasure of visiting Recycling Albania, a company focused in advocating environmentally friendly solutions and advancing Albania's zero-waste future. We saw their work in progress for the inspiring education center and their innovative recycled materials store, and we witnessed firsthand how they're turning sustainability into a reality. Their commitment to ecological impact, social equity, and economic feasibility truly aligns with our mission to drive meaningful change through innovation.

This visit wasn't just an eye-opener it was a call to action! Seeing how waste can be transformed into valuable resources reminds us of the power of creativity and collaboration in tackling global challenges.

We encourage everyone to learn more about this incredible initiative and visit their location to see how they have managed to turn recycled materials into something beautiful.

## 1.18 DevFest 2



Epoka University had the pleasure of participating in the DevFest 2 workshop, an exciting and intellectually stimulating event that brought together students and tech enthusiasts to explore innovative ideas in robotics and artificial intelligence.

The session focused on the fascinating topic of cellular automata and e-puck robots, specifically exploring Braitenberg behavior. Participants engaged in hands-on learning and meaningful discussions, fostering both knowledge exchange and creative thinking.

It was a rewarding experience to teach, learn, and collaborate with such passionate individuals. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this inspiring environment and look forward to future collaborations that continue to push the boundaries of technology and innovation.

## 1.19 Marin Mema dhe Historitë që Frymëzojnë”



We had the pleasure of hosting the renowned journalist and historian Marin Mema, best known for *Gjurmë Shqiptare*, in an inspiring event organized by the Dialogue and Culture Club on January 15, 2025. Marin Mema captivated the audience of students and academic staff with his insights into preserving Albania’s cultural heritage and the vital role of history in shaping national identity.

Students engaged in lively discussions with him, delving into topics of journalism, history, and culture, and left inspired by his motivational message to explore and uphold national values.

## 1.20 Inspirational Mountaineering Talk with Aleksandër Bojaxhi



On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 11:30 AM, Epoka University's Conference Hall hosted an inspiring event organized by the Outdoor Club, featuring one of Albania's most prominent mountaineers, Aleksandër Bojaxhi.

During the session, Mr. Bojaxhi shared his extensive experience in mountaineering, shedding light on the challenges of the sport in Albania as well as his remarkable achievements in climbing some of the world's highest peaks. His journey as both a climber and trainer captivated the audience and served as a true source of inspiration for students passionate about nature, adventure, and perseverance.

The event offered a rare opportunity for participants to gain deeper insights into the world of mountaineering and encouraged a spirit of exploration and resilience among the university community.

We thank Mr. Bojaxhi for his valuable contribution and look forward to more initiatives that connect students with role models who inspire ambition and courage

## 1.21 Epoka Football League Final



The Epoka Football League Final between SWE 3B and CEN 1A was an intense and thrilling match, ending in a 7-4 victory for SWE 3B. Match Summary: CEN 1A started strong, taking an early 2-0 lead with goals from Dejvi Muca and Klaert Godime, putting SWE 3B on the back foot. However, SWE 3B made a stunning comeback, led by a hat trick from Soni Deliallisi, with additional goals from Jurgen Balliu, Xhoni Hasmuca, Henri Dervishi, and Alvin Kollçaku, securing their dominance in the second half.

## 1.22 Visit to Kadare and Agolli House Museums



The Dialogue and Culture student club at Epoka University recently organized a cultural visit to the house museums of two of Albania's most celebrated literary figures, Ismail Kadare and Dritëro Agolli.

Surrounded by rich history, a creative atmosphere, and the spirit of two literary giants, students had the opportunity to experience firsthand the lasting legacy of these iconic authors whose works continue to inspire generations.

This meaningful visit served as a reminder of the importance of culture and dialogue in shaping both our personal growth and professional development.

The activity was a valuable opportunity for students to connect with Albania's literary heritage and reflect on the powerful role of literature in fostering understanding and identity.

### 1.23 Excel Workshop: Levelling Up!



The second session of the *Excel Workshop: Levelling Up!* was successfully held at Epoka University, offering civil engineering students the opportunity to enhance their practical skills and boost their efficiency in data handling and analysis.

This hands-on session focused on real-life applications of Excel, helping students learn how to work smarter by using advanced tools and techniques relevant to their field. From formulas to data visualization, the workshop equipped participants with valuable skills for both academic and professional use.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the students who participated and contributed to the dynamic learning atmosphere. We look forward to continuing the workshop series with even more insightful sessions ahead!

## 1.24 Epoka Business & Tech Competition!



*Epoka Business & Tech Competition*, a dynamic event that brought together students eager to showcase their creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities in the fields of business and technology.

Throughout the competition, participants took part in mentorship sessions, hands-on workshops, and challenging tasks designed to test both their technical and entrepreneurial skills. The event fostered a collaborative and competitive environment, empowering students to transform ideas into actionable solutions.

The competition culminated in an award ceremony where top-performing teams were honored for their outstanding work. Winners not only received recognition for their achievements but also secured valuable job and internship opportunities with partnering companies.

Epoka University congratulates all participants for their dedication and enthusiasm and looks forward to continuing to support future leaders through such impactful initiatives.

## 1.25 Trip to Berat!



Dialog and Culture Club organized a memorable trip to the UNESCO city of Berat, where students had the chance to experience its rich history and breathtaking beauty up close. After an early departure and a light breakfast, our first stop was the iconic Berat Castle. There, we explored the ancient walls and cobblestone alleys, and conducted interviews with local residents, uncovering inspiring stories of life inside the castle. Following a delicious traditional lunch, we continued with a relaxed city tour through the charming neighborhoods of Mangalem and Gorica, capturing moments through photos, videos, and lasting memories.

# Activity & Events Report

## Career Planning and Alumni Office

**2024-2025**

# 1.The importance of Mental Health – Guest Speaker: Anisa Zace (14.10.2024)



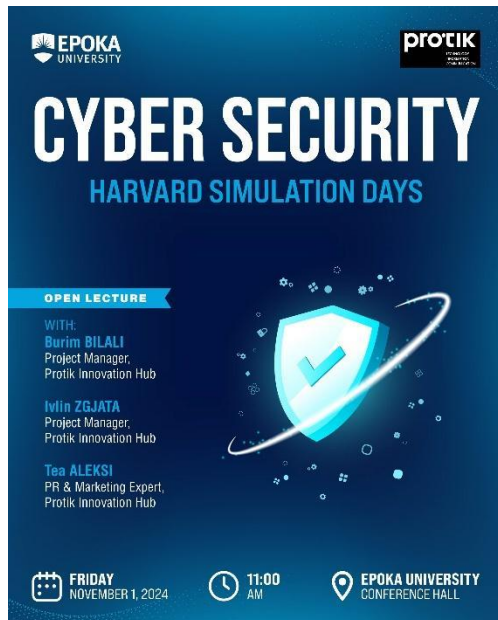
The University of Epoka hosted a guest speaker, Anisa Zace, for an insightful session on the importance of mental health. The event highlighted strategies for managing stress, maintaining well-being, and fostering a healthy mindset, particularly in the context of academic and career challenges. The Career Office also played a key role in organizing the event, emphasizing the importance of mental health in career development and guiding students on how to balance academic pressures with personal well-being.

## 2.PATOKO- New Experience - Guest Speaker: Arber Kadia (29.10.2024)



On October 29, 2025, the University of Epoka hosted a guest speaker event with Arber Kadia, the CEO of PATOKO. During the session, Arber shared his personal journey and the key stages of his success, offering valuable insights into the challenges and strategies involved in building a successful business. His talk inspired students by providing real-world examples of perseverance, leadership, and innovation. The Career Office also supported this event, reinforcing its commitment to connecting students with industry leaders and helping them understand the pathways to success in the professional world.

### 3. Cyber Security – Harvard Simulation Days (01.11.2024)



On November 1, 2024, the Career Office organized the "Cyber Security – Harvard Simulation Days," where we invested in providing students with hands-on knowledge from industry experts. Professionals from leading cybersecurity companies conducted specialized training sessions, simulating real-world scenarios to enhance students' skills in tackling cyber threats. This event gave students the opportunity to learn directly from practitioners, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in the rapidly evolving field of cybersecurity.

### 4. Explore Deloitte- Tour & IT Internship Fest (12.11.2024)



On November 12, 2024, the Career Planning and Alumni Office organized the "Explore Deloitte - Tour & IT Internship Fest," where students had the opportunity to learn about the latest career opportunities and internships available at Deloitte. Representatives from the company, including staff from international offices, were present to discuss the various roles and the skills required for success in the global business environment. The event provided valuable insights into the professional world, with a particular focus on IT internships, offering students a unique opportunity to connect with a leading global company and explore potential career paths.

## 5. Epoka University Students Visit KRACO: A Day of Learning and Insight into Albania's Food Industry Pioneer (27.11.2024)



The Business Administration Department at Epoka University, in collaboration with the Career Planning and Alumni Office, organized a visit to KRACO, a leading Albanian food production company. The visit gave students the chance to connect classroom knowledge with real-world business operations.

Epoka first-year students from Banking and Finance and Economics were welcomed by KRACO's HR Specialist, Anxhela, who guided them through various departments including logistics, marketing, HR, finance, IT, and production. The Quality Control Specialist, Sofia, explained the production processes for teas and other products.

The visit provided valuable experiential learning for students in the *Introduction to Business* course (by Assistant Lecturer Mikaela Süslü), linking business theory to practice. Students observed key concepts such as entrepreneurship, corporate strategy, supply chain management, and technology in production.

KRACO's commitment to quality, demonstrated through rigorous checks at each production stage, earned the company numerous quality certifications. The day ended with KRACO gifting students samples of their products.

## 6. PMable Inspires Students at EPOKA with a Workshop on Project Management and Innovation (16.01.2025)



EPOKA University hosted an engaging and interactive workshop organized by PMable in collaboration with the Department of Business Administration and the Career Planning and Alumni Office. The workshop explored the dynamic synergy between project management and business innovation, offering students a practical and inspiring introduction to essential skills for their careers.

The two-hour session kicked off with an energizing introduction and icebreaker activities to set a collaborative tone. Participants then tackled the creative challenge, *"Create the Business of the Future in 5 Minutes."* Divided into teams, students developed innovative business concepts in the

fields of Marketing, Logistics, and Informatics, fostering creativity and teamwork in a lively and engaging atmosphere.

The workshop delved into the P3.express methodology, a simple yet effective approach to project management. Through hands-on activities, including a Kahoot quiz and crisis simulations, students gained practical insights into applying Agile principles, using tools like Trello and Notion, and adopting sustainable and ethical practices in global projects. The session emphasized the transformative potential of project management skills, equipping participants to excel in their future careers.

## 7. Open Forum: From Flowers to Forever, a Journey of Creativity and Entrepreneurship (17.01.2025)



Ms. Olsjana Ajdini, CEO of Lunariaa, a visionary leader who turned a personal passion into a successful international brand.

Ms. Ajdini shared her remarkable journey of innovation and entrepreneurship, detailing how she

founded her unique startup and established herself as a pioneer in the art of preserving flowers. Through her story, students gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of launching a business, the role of creativity in innovation, and the mindset required to succeed as an entrepreneur.

This activity is organized by the Department of Business Administration, in collaboration with the Innovation Management course led by Dr. Vilma Çekani, the Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO), and Epoka Art Club.

## 8. Book Launch Event of "Copezat" by Kei Hysi (30.01.2025)



On January 30th, the book launch of "Copezat" by our esteemed alumna, Kei Hysi.

The event was attended by representatives from the Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO), who were invited to support Kei Hysi's work.

The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni and strengthen the bond between the university and its graduates.

At Epoka, we value our alumni network and continue to nurture meaningful relationships that contribute to their ongoing professional success.

## 9. EPOKA University Hosts Career Training to Enhance Students' Job Market Readiness (06.02.2025)



EPOKA Hosts Career Training to Equip Students for the Job Market February 6, EPOKA University's Career Planning Office, in collaboration with Hireus, organized an insightful training session aimed at preparing students for the job application process and interviews. Led by Ermelinda Ruka, CEO and expert in HR strategy at Hireus, the session provided students with essential strategies to stand out in the competitive job market.

Through practical advice on CV writing, professional email etiquette, and interview preparation, students gained valuable knowledge on avoiding common mistakes, building confidence, and

effectively presenting their skills to recruiters. The session also included interactive discussions, giving students the opportunity to refine their self-presentation and ask industry-relevant questions.

Topics discussed:

-Perfect Your CV

-Write Professional Emails

-Prepare for Interviews

-Be Proactive

This training proved to be an invaluable opportunity for students to enhance their career readiness and take proactive steps toward securing their dream jobs. The Career Planning Office continues to support students with similar initiatives, ensuring they are well-equipped for the professional world.

## 10. EPOKA University and Union Financiar Tirana (UFT) Sign Cooperation Agreement to Enhance Academic and Professional Opportunities (07.02.2025)



Union Financiar Tirana (UFT) and EPOKA University concluded an Agreement of Cooperation on February 07, 2025. The Agreement of Cooperation between UFT and EPOKA University was signed by Mr. Elton Çollaku, Administrator of UFT, and Prof. Dr. Ahmet Öztaş, Rector of EPOKA University. The Agreement of Cooperation between UFT and EPOKA University comprises mutual cooperation in the following areas:

- Internship and employment opportunities for EPOKA students and graduates
- Joint organization and execution of projects, research, and related activities
- Students enrolled in the Master's study programs at EPOKA University shall conduct master theses with topics related to the interest areas of UFT
- Participation of UFT in the Career Fair organized by EPOKA University
- Open lectures/forums delivered by staff members of UFT to EPOKA students

This partnership marks a significant step in educational and professional ties between UFT and EPOKA University, as it will create new opportunities for students and staff, enhancing cooperation in academic, research, and applied fields. The entire agreement and collaboration were organized by the Career Planning and Alumni Office at EPOKA University, ensuring a seamless connection between academia and industry.

## 11. EPOKA University Explores Future Collaborations with ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA to Expand Student Opportunities (07.03.2025).



On March 7, 2025, EPOKA University had the pleasure of meeting with ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA to discuss potential future collaborations aimed at enhancing student opportunities and fostering academic and professional growth. The meeting focused on organizing open lectures and exploring various avenues to provide valuable experiences for EPOKA students.

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA Albania plays a vital role in consulting Austrian businesses interested in the Albanian market. They offer crucial industry, import/export, and market insights while

facilitating trade between the two countries. With over 110 offices in more than 70 countries, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA delivers a wide range of intelligence and business development services to Austrian companies and their international partners.

Their global network includes 800 employees and 35 consultants who assist in locating Austrian suppliers and strategic business partners. Additionally, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA organizes over 1,200 events annually to connect businesses and foster collaboration. Their services range from matching companies with international importers, distributors, or agents to providing in-depth information on Austria as a business hub.

EPOKA University aims to leverage this partnership to offer students access to international business networks, enhance their understanding of global trade dynamics, and create unique learning experiences through joint events and lectures.

## 12. Guest Lecture: Digital Campaign Strategies with Arlind Zoto (26.03.2025)



March 26, 2025, EPOKA University had the pleasure of hosting Arlind Zoto, a digital marketing expert with over 14 years of experience and the founder of Digital Brand Agency and Digital Academy Albania.

During the session, he shared innovative strategies on content marketing, social media, SEO, email marketing, and digital campaigns, all essential for building a strong online presence. From engaging video content to interactive websites and virtual events, Arlind provided key insights into what it takes to stand out in the digital landscape.

With over 55 businesses supported and 1,500+ individuals trained, he brings extensive expertise to the field.

### 13. Career Office x AGNA Group (28.03.2025)



As part of their research on Managerial Practices & Challenges in Import-Export Companies in Albania, our International Marketing and Logistics students, Sara Mjeshtri and Klea Tali, had the valuable opportunity to visit AGNA Group.

This visit, organized in collaboration with the Career Planning Office at Epoka University, provided students with firsthand insights into real-world business operations and the complexities of international trade.

## 14. Career Fair 12<sup>th</sup> edition (03.04.2025)



**Aim of the Event:** The aim of the Career Fair at Epoka University is to connect students with potential employers, providing them with an opportunity to explore career paths, internships, and job vacancies in various industries.

This event seeks to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world career opportunities, helping students build valuable professional networks, gain insights into industry trends, and secure job vacancies or internships that align with their career goals.

The Career Fair featured 80 companies, each with their own dedicated booth, organized according to company profiles and session types. This layout made it easy for students to navigate and find companies that best matched their department and career interests.

The booths were clearly divided, ensuring that students could easily engage with companies from their respective fields and participate in sessions that personified the company's specific offerings.

## 15. EPOKA University Students Gain Real-World Business Insights at Vodafone Albania (09.04.2025)



On April 9, 2025, students from the Economics and Business Administration program at EPOKA University participated in a site visit to Vodafone Albania, as part of their Management and Organization course. The visit was led by lecturer Mikaela Suslu in collaboration with the Career Planning and Alumni Office, and provided students with an invaluable opportunity to connect academic learning with practical industry experience.

Students attended sessions led by Deborah Hatellari and Fatma Ibrahim, who explained Vodafone Albania's internal structure, outlining the function of each department and the career opportunities available to students and graduates.

Students gained perspective on how career growth at Vodafone is shaped by adaptability, curiosity, and a drive to acquire new skills—regardless of one's academic background.

The visit also included personal career journeys from Ada Taho and Evi Hoxha, both Vodafone professionals who encouraged students to follow their passion, embrace challenges, and stay open to change and collaboration throughout their careers.

A highlight of the day was the participation of two EPOKA alumni, Irisa and Dejvi, who joined Vodafone through the Discover Graduate Program. They spoke about Vodafone's inclusive and supportive work environment and the valuable experiences the program provided through cross-departmental rotations.

## 16. Cybersecurity Insights: Epoka University Hosts Info Session with Cyber Tirana (24.04.2025)



At 24 April, students at EPOKA University had the opportunity to dive into the world of cybersecurity during an insightful info session led by Juxhers Fishka, Administrator of Cyber Tirana and Cyber Security Instructor.

The session covered critical topics such as information management, common cybersecurity threats, phishing attacks, and practical tips for protecting personal and organizational data.

Students engaged with real-world examples and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the digital security landscape.

Cyber Tirana, a cutting-edge training center specializing in technology education, combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on learning experiences. Their mission is to prepare students for the demands of today's job market, with a special focus on the rapidly expanding field of cybersecurity.

EPOKA University extends its sincere thanks to Cyber Tirana for their collaboration and for helping to empower the next generation of tech professionals. Events like these continue to inspire students to develop critical skills and stay ahead in an increasingly digital world.

## 17. Workshop: Structured Project Planning in Civil Engineering (28.04.2025)



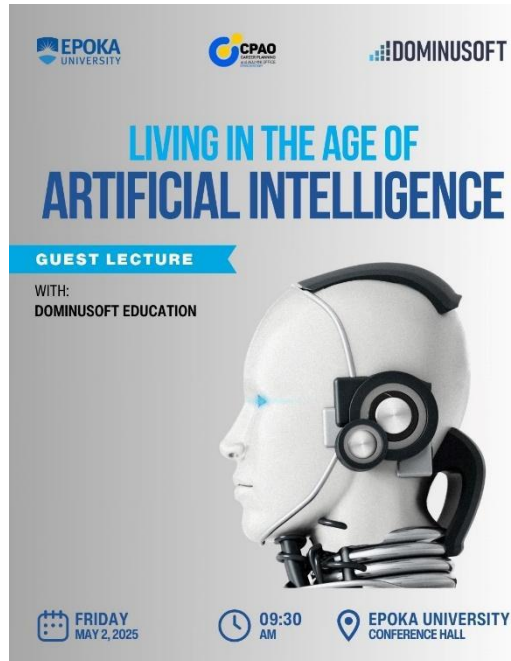
We're thrilled to continue the series of tailored workshops at Epoka University, designed to introduce students to the P3.express project management methodology — a simple yet powerful approach to managing real-world projects effectively.

The second in this series is dedicated to the Department of Civil Engineering, with the session titled: “Structured Project Planning in Civil Engineering” organized by the Career Planning and Alumni Office in collaboration with PMable, a professional agency specializing in project management, B2B and B2C training, consultancy, and staff leasing. This workshop will explore how P3.express can be used in planning and executing infrastructure projects, helping students bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry practice.

Through hands-on learning and real-world case studies, students will gain:

- A strong foundation in project management
- Clear understanding of P3.express phases
- Insights into applying these tools in their future careers

## 18. Open Hour on “Modern Times & Artificial Intelligence” with Dominusoft (02.05.2025)



The Career Planning and Alumni Office at EPOKA University, in collaboration with Dominusoft Education, invited students to a Guest Lecture on "Living in the Age of AI." This event will explore how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping our daily lives, transforming industries, and redefining the future of work.

What you can expect:

- Real-life applications of Artificial Intelligence
- Practical use of AI across different sectors
- The professions most impacted by AI
- An open and interactive discussion with participants

This session presents an important opportunity to deepen your understanding of AI and its growing impact on society and the workforce. We encourage all students and staff to join us as we learn, discuss, and envision the future together.

## 19. From Theory to Practice: Insights from Balkan Trans Albania on International Trade Operations (05.05.2025)



During our recent lectures, students explored key topics in international trade, such as import-export documentation, customs clearance processes, the most common Incoterms, and payment methods in global trade. It was a valuable opportunity for them to see how these concepts are applied in real-world scenarios!

As part of the discussion, students had the chance to ask our invited guests insightful questions. They even had a direct conversation with the head of transportation, gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the field.

Additionally, BALKAN TRANS ALBANIA kindly invited us to visit their company, giving us a closer look at their administrative processes and import-export transport operations. The visit was organized by the Career Planning and Alumni Office in collaboration with the course instructor,

providing students with an interactive and informative learning experience that bridged theory with practice.

## 20. Celebrating Student Mentorship at Epoka University, delivering the certificates (08.05.2025)



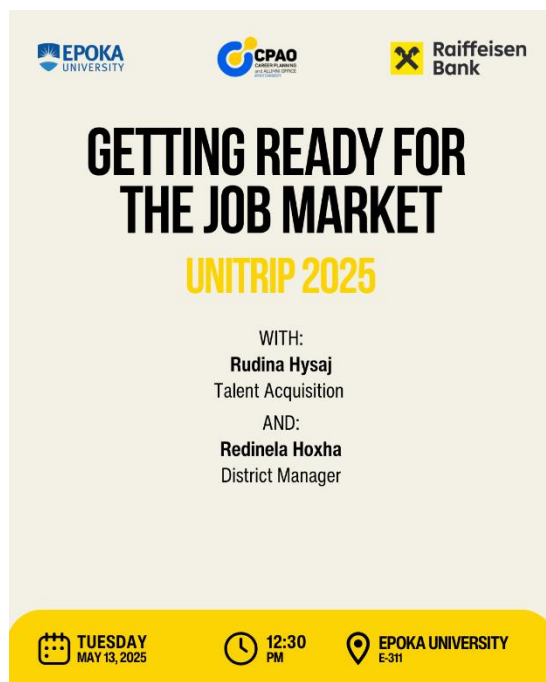
On May 8, 2025, we celebrated with our amazing mentors at Epoka University, recognizing the outstanding contributions of high GPA students who volunteered their time and knowledge to support their peers. These dedicated students, who helped their fellow classmates in various subjects, were awarded well-deserved certificates in a special ceremony.

The mentorship program, which pairs high-achieving students with their peers for academic support, has proven to be an invaluable initiative. By fostering collaboration and a spirit of mutual

aid, this program not only helps improve academic performance but also strengthens the sense of community at Epoka University.

This remarkable mentorship initiative was made possible by the Career Planning Office, which continuously works to create meaningful opportunities for student growth, professional development, and peer-to-peer collaboration.

## 21. Information session- Raiffeisen Bank (13.05.2025)



The Career Planning and Alumni Office, in collaboration with Raiffeisen Bank, invites all students to an engaging session titled "Getting Ready for the Job Market."

Join us for valuable insights from two distinguished speakers: Rudina Hysaj – Talent Acquisition at Raiffeisen Bank and Redinela Hoxha – District Manager at Raiffeisen Bank

This session will focus on preparing for today's competitive job market, understanding what top employers are looking for, and how you can stand out as a candidate.

## 22. EPOKA University Architecture Students Engaged by Porsche Albania in Sustainability Design Challenge (02.06.2025)



Porsche Albania visited EPOKA University for an engaging info session with fourth-year Architecture students. Elona Mera, Head of Marketing and PR at Porsche Albania, led the discussion and introduced students to an exciting competition organized in celebration of Porsche Albania's 20th anniversary. The competition challenges students to design an *installation using recycled materials*, which will be exhibited in the city center. The most innovative idea will receive a special prize. During the session, students learned not only about the competition's concept and criteria but also about Porsche Albania's mission and values as a company. Elona Mera extended a warm invitation

to students for a future visit to the company's premises, further strengthening the connection between academia and industry. This collaboration reflects EPOKA's commitment to offering students real-world opportunities that inspire creativity, sustainability, and professional growth.