

Subject: 2018-2019 Academic year activity report.

Student Clubs

EPOKA University develops all the skills you need for the future. Student's clubs are established on academic bases and make possible and develop interpersonal relationships between students and also build leadership skills.

The social and cultural activities give students a better understanding of life and bring about cultural exchange between students from different parts of Albania, the Balkans and the beyond.

For these reason, a variety of social and cultural activities are available to the students of Epoka University. The programs are organized by Students Clubs & Activities Office, part of the Dean of Students Office.

Activities:

- 1- Welcome Ceremony .
- 2- Clubs Fest .
- 3- Spring Fest .
 - a) Human Dignity Training by Conflict Resolution Club.
 - b) Road to Success 1.0 by Innovators Club.
 - c) Real Estate in Albania- Young Economists Network Club.
 - d) Seasonal Employment for Students in Germany.
 - e) Visit Orphanage of Durres by Sensitive Society Club.
 - f) Kolashin Trip-Outdoors Club.
 - g) Robotics Club Information Session.
 - h) I support Gender Equality.
 - i) Next step for an engineer.
 - j) Epoka Outdoors Club had another wonderful trip at Selca's waterfalls.
 - k) Winter Wonderland Exhibition.
 - l) Information session by Open Labs.
 - m) Ideas Master the game.
 - n) Vodafone Workshop.
 - o) Be Different, Be Scalable, Be Great.
 - p) The Key to Success 3.0
 - q) Sports and Games Day.
 - r) A Tedx Journey.

- s) Plan your Summer with Aiesec.
- t) Mrs. Grida Duma talks about women in our society.
- u) Visit to the National Bank of Albania.
- v) Shihemi me Eni Çobanin..
- w) Sensitive Society Club visited some poor orphan families.

Welcome Ceremony.



EPOKA University organized at 15th of October, 2018 an official Welcome Ceremony for all freshman students at the beginning of 2018-2019 Academic Year. During the Welcoming Ceremony all students were welcomed by distinguished speakers from the university, Alumni and the freshman students too. Students were part of this ceremony today to celebrate the start of their studies at EPOKA University with traditional music dancers and many Albanian singers like: Selma Bekteshi, Jonias Papa & Enias Papa, Aroilda Ibrahim and Mishela Rapo. We thank them for the positive energy that gave today's ceremony and the beautiful atmosphere.

Welcome Ceremony is the perfect opportunity to meet other students and staff of the university and its faculties!

Clubs Fest 5.



On 10th of January, Epoka University organized the Clubs Fest 5. In this very important event for students, participated many clubs with years of experience and clubs that opened this year. Today, many of students engaged in the organization of this event, in which many students participated for the first time. Also part of this event were the students who are part of Art and Music in Albania by performing the best hits on world playlists. This was a celebration for all but not just that. A new day to become part of the hundreds of activities that these clubs will organize. A new day for everyone who wants more opportunity to engage with something better and positive.

Spring Fest



On May 22, 2019, Epoka University organised the Spring Fest 2019. This annual activity, which has become a tradition now, gave the students the opportunity to enjoy many activities during the day.

The Fest started with the opening ceremony, welcoming everyone to be part of it and enjoy all the activities of this festive day.

Afterwards, another beautiful activity that is organised every year is the competition "Epoka Talent". Students of the university competed in different categories such as musical instruments, songs and dance. All the competitors surprised with their beautiful performances. It can not be left without emphasised the fact that on this Spring fest the variety of the activities was large. Students enjoyed folkloric and latin performance which created a beautiful atmosphere in our university. Quiz and many other games forwarded to students the feeling of competition and joy.

The most beautiful moments in Spring Fest was the performance of Venera Lumani and Lind Islami. Their great songs made students to dance and to sing together with them. Lind Islami's and Venera Lumani's performance with their great voices was the concluding activity of this colourful event.

After Spring Fest the students and staff joined the call of the Albanian Red Cross for blood donation. It should be underlined the fact that the participation was large.

Human Dignity Training by Conflict Resolution Club



From October 29 to November 2, WYA Europe Director of Partnerships Hrvoje Vargić was in Tirana, Albania to train members in WYA's Certified Training Program (CTP). More than 40 very motivated youth from several Albanian cities participated in an intense five-day training organized in the Epoka University (Conflict Resolution Club) in Tirana.

Throughout the week, the participants learned about WYA's foundational history, the mission and values WYA represents and policies it advocates for on the European level. Through the CTP, they tackled complex philosophical, historical and political explanations of Human Dignity, Freedom, Solidarity, Culture and History of Ideas, culminating in the training and workshop in International Law and Human Rights.

The CTP was also accompanied by different practical trainings and workshops to develop the skills of the participants. WYA Europe Director of Partnerships held the advocacy workshop and the media training, followed by the training on EU legislation, and trained members in WYA's Human Dignity Curriculum.

“We are extremely happy to see so many young people in Albania wanting to join WYA's Mission. They proved to be extremely motivated and engaged during the training, which makes us confident that WYA Chapter in Albania has a promising future”, said Hrvoje Vargić.

The certifications are scheduled from November 12 to 15, after which all certified members will be able to join the activities of the WYA Albania Chapter

Road to Success 1.0 by Innovators Club.



On 10th of Xhulio Mitre was at Epoka University. He shared his personal experience among students on behalf of Road to Success 1.0 open forum. He talked about a lot of things like digital marketing, online magazines in Albania, the use of social media, startups, importance of skills needed in a job etc. Shout out to the organizers. The questions were on point. He was taking into consideration writing a series of articles based those questions.

Real Estate in Albania- Young Economists Network Club

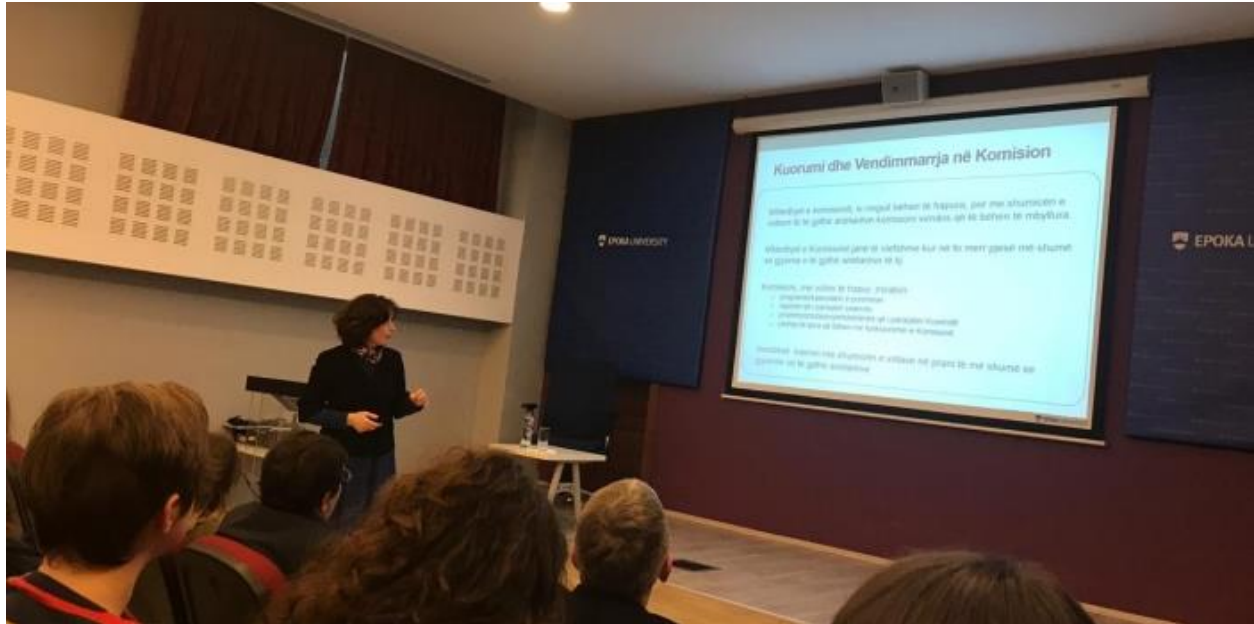


On 17th of January 2019, Young Economists' Network Club organized an open forum where Miss Juliana NELA, the co-owner of REMAX, was invited and delighted to discuss with the students about the wide subject of real estate.

Firstly, she opened the forum with a lovely quote from Albert Einstein. She continued to talk about how motivation is one of the key components of being successful, while illustrating it with the award system that her company "REMAX" has applied. She came into conclusion that money is not the best motivator. As a person who has done her master in business and managing, she enlightened us with some very wise words. "There will come a day in your life when you will have to give your contribution for your country. It is one of the most beautiful feelings in the world." She explained that real estate is an important sector of the economy and that by working with young and inspired people, she felt that real estate will move forward. Despite having a lot of issues, like lack of information, of communication and of professional knowledge upon this topic, she believes that out there are many young professionals who require good training and education. Moreover, she concluded the forum with an interesting question. "When a chief of a restaurant asked me why should people come in agencies to find their houses, instead of looking on their own, I said "Why should I come to the restaurant and eat if I have food at home?"

In the end of this conference, students were interested and asked questions relating her profession. Miss Juliana took great pleasure in answering them all and sharing her opinion on them.

Seasonal Employment for Students in Germany.



On Tuesday, 22.01.2019 representatives of DIMAK Albania came in Epoka University to hold an information session on seasonal student employment in Germany. During the session, the students were presented to the requirements needed, the application form and how to fill it and where to submit it. Although third-year students weren't eligible to apply, seasonal employment is a good opportunity for university students to go out of their comfort zone and try something different during their summer vacations. As the application was free and no visa was required to work in Germany, many students showed interest and asked numerous question. The representatives answered different questions such as how do companies accept students, how long are students allowed to work and how much can a student save on average from this seasonal work. In the end, both representatives welcomed Epoka students to visit their office in Tirana fur further questions or assistance regarding their application to spend a summer in Germany.

Visit Orphanage of Durres by Sensitive Society Club.



Today, Sensitive Society Club visited orphanage of Durres. This was supported from Epoka students with the money gathered from "High 50 leke for donation" campaign. It was such a great feeling seeing in their faces happiness. In this shelter are around 14 orphans. We took them to the playground 'Bluestar' and after the beautiful time passed there, we delivered some gifts for every children.

Sensitive Society Club wants to thank all the students who donated and made this event possible. Also we want to encourage each of you to join in the other donations and events as well. Give and you will get more.

Kolashin Trip-Outdoors Club.



On January 27, we passed the borders of Montenegro to stop at the town of Kolasin, which is famous for its mountain tourism.

We made the most out of the day by being engaged in different activities. Some of us by skiing through the steep ski slopes, some by wandering around in the snow, enjoying a ride on the cable cars and of course by taking lots of photos. The visit was exhausting, but it was worth it. We took with us lots of laughter, positive energy and some good winter memories.

May you all share this peaceful feeling of the snow we walked on!

More and more destinations in the upcoming weeks only with EPOKA Outdoors Club!

Robotics Club Information Session.



Yesterday the Robotics Club held an information session regarding the activities that will be held in the following semester:

Arduino Workshop - A workshop intended for students of Epoka who wish to get practical knowledge in electronics

Electronics Camp - An Arduino Workshop for High School Students

Next Step - A series of career orientation seminars for students in Electronics and Computer Engineering, with the purpose of informing them about future specialization fields and career paths

Smart Building - A project about modeling and implementing smart features in a building, using concepts such as Internet of Things and Machine Learning

Students who are interested are all invited to participate.

I support Gender Equality.



"I support Gender Equality" was organized by Women Leadership Club, where was invited Mrs. Nora Kushti, UN Communications Specialist. She talked about the women's violence that is faced in Albania. Than she introduced us with some motivational videos where violate women was telling their stories and the number of women that are registered in activities that UN offer. After that, participants from AIESEC organization introduced their organization and the internships they offer. Also they involved the audience by doing a game where students had to find different known female pictures and their stories. Certificates were provided.

Next step for an engineer.



At 19th of March, at Epoka University, it was held an informative session organised by the Innovators Club called “Ideas Master the game” by Migena Muslli. She was invited as an expert of the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA), as well as the Coordinator of Albania for Enterprise Europe Network.

The participants were known with the proper tools to help them grow their business ideas. The session was mostly informative oriented but also it had an integration between the participants which made questions and had the chance to communicate and take answers for their questions. The topics discussed were mostly focused on the opportunities that are offered for Start-Ups and new businesses in our country and also for the environment that Albania offers for the two things mentioned above.

Finally, AIDA representatives shared their contacts with the students which were interested and we want to wish them successful collaborations for the future projects.

Epoka Outdoors Club had another wonderful trip at Selca's waterfalls.



Epoka Outdoors Club had another wonderful trip this Sunday, March 10.

This time's target to be explored was: Selca's waterfalls. In Selca lies the largest canyon of Kelmend, the most beautiful waterfalls in Albania, interesting mountain trails and beautiful landscapes to be photographed.

As a saying goes “Enjoy the journey as much as the destination”, and that's exactly what we did. While on the bus we had fun listening to music, playing pantomimes and different word games, joking and laughing.

A coffee break in Shkodra, short visit of the mountain pass Leqet e Hotit and Tamara's settlement were some parts of our fascinating trip, when we had the chance to see Albania's mesmerizing Alps.

Hiking towards the peaks of our target was very challenging and physically consuming, but this is what made us stronger and even more determined to go forward. Helping hands and

encouraging words were always there amongst us and when we reached to our destination: WOW! We forgot our struggles.

How we could ever imagine that somewhere between those stones, trees and thorns there could be these breathtaking and inspiring waterfalls. This is why Epoka Outdoors Club is here. We were withdrawn by the wild nature around us, the magical sounds of the waters and all that inspiring atmosphere of the waterfall.

On our way back we ended this memorable trip by stopping in a café in Tamara and later in a restaurant in Shkodra to get some rest and energy.

Every other word would be just too much, the pictures say it all.

“Life is a journey that must be traveled no matter how bad the roads and accommodations.”

Epoka’s Outdoors Club is heading towards new adventurous experiences for you souls!

Winter Wonderland Exhibition.



In these last winter days, Art and Culture Club is glad to invite you to have a look at this season’s atmosphere through the beautiful pictures that be shown during Winter Wonderland Exhibition in A Building. It started today and will stay until March 20,2019. Check the photos and make sure to send us your feedback regarding the ones you liked the most on this email address.

We will be honored to see you there!

Kind regards,

“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them”

Information session by Open Labs.



On March 18 2019, Academics Club invited students to an information session by Open Labs community on the annual Open Source Conference held in Tirana on May. The representative of Open Labs, Mr. Redon Skikuli, started his presentation by informing the students on the benefits of using open source technologies, open data, open technological standards and how we can individually contribute to public domain and alternative licenses of creative works such as Creative Commons.

Then, Mr. Skikuli talked about the OSCAL 2019 which is being held in Tirana for the 6th year, in the premises of Oficina. During 18th and 19th May, there will be over 90 hours of sessions, 70 diverse speakers and tech booths, dedicated to promoting software freedom. Anyone could apply to be a volunteer to help in organizing the conference or a speaker for a project created on the basis of open source platforms.

By the end of the information session, students were able to get free stickers and were invited to participate in OSCAL 2019 in May.

Ideas Master the game.



At 19th of March, at Epoka University, it was held an informative session organised by the Innovators Club called “Ideas Master the game” by Migena Muslli. She was invited as an expert of the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA), as well as the Coordinator of Albania for Enterprise Europe Network.

The participants were known with the proper tools to help them grow their business ideas. The session was mostly informative oriented but also it had an integration between the participants which made questions and had the chance to communicate and take answers for their questions. The topics discussed were mostly focused on the opportunities that are offered for Start-Ups and new businesses in our country and also for the environment that Albania offers for the two things mentioned above.

Finally, AIDA representatives shared their contacts with the students which were interested and we want to wish them successful collaborations for the future projects.

Vodafone Workshop.



Innovators Club in collaboration with Vodafone Albania organized "Technology Trends Nowadays" workshop on Thursday, March 21-th at Epoka University. Many students joined at the conference hall. The workshop showed the latest technology developments and how they have shaped the market from a technical and business perspective. The workshop was divided into four main sessions.

In the first session, the topic was "What 15+ years of Software and Game development can teach Business and Governments?" and this part was moderated by Rubin Haxhihymeri, who works at Vodafone as an Agile Coach and Lumjana Shehu. They described and discussed with the students how AGILE, a new software engineering approach, has affected not only business environment, but also different governments. They explained how agile can be beneficial and gave some concrete examples of this approach.

In the second session Romina Shehu, who is working as Youth Product Management, represented the new app by Vodafone, named JUTH, which targets an audience from 18-25 years old. Romina gave a brief overview on the application itself, the Albanian market and some marketing strategies used by Vodafone. Also, she pointed out that the agile approach was followed for this project, while the company works with the waterfall approach. To continue with, many students participated in the discussion about the application by giving their sincere opinions to Ms. Romina.

The third session was mostly technical and suitable for engineering students. The topic was "Technology Trends and Developments" by Fatjon Gjata, who works as Digital Engineering Manager. He taught the latest developments and trends and compared them to older trends, in order to provide some important conclusions.

In the fourth and last session, Ervis Goga (Partner Sales and Alliance Manager), represented Graduate Program and Internship opportunities at Vodafone Albania. Mr. Ervis invited all the students to apply at the Sales Department for an internship and gave a detailed presentation in the requirements and opportunities of this internship. Whoever, is interested can send his/her CV at ervis.goga@vodafone.com.

Be Different, Be Scalable, Be Great.



On March 27 Innovators Club organized "Be Different, Be Scalable, Be Great" by Ketan Makwana, on topics of Global Entrepreneurship.

Mr. Ketan showed in this great speech how you can "Be Different, Be Scalable, Be Great", by sharing his personal journey from education to global entrepreneurship. He shared the things learned throughout his career and what is more important, he showed to Epoka students his ups and downs unconventional approaches.

But, who is Ketan Makwana?

Ketan Makwana is a renowned international business man & TEDx Speaker, influencer, serial entrepreneur and mentor. He has started, scaled and sold multiple business, including Enterprise Lab which started as a response to the emerging skills gap between education and employment. Ketan launched Enterprise Lab in 2011, which is now operating in 11 countries training 100,000 people a year. Ketan's focus in business development is mostly through innovation, design thinking and leadership.

To continue with, he is an advisor at the UK Government on youth and enterprise policies, works with International Governments & Ministries on Enterprise Eco-System Development and also sits on many advisory boards and panels including MIT Professional Education and British

Council and the Foreign & Commonwealth Offices related to Enterprise development in countries across the globe.

The Key to Success 3.0.



On 4th of April it was organized “The Key to Success 3.0” with Mr. Eglent Bici. This session lasted about 2 hours and its focus was to motivate and inspire all the students who participated and make them think about finding their WHY! Mr.Bici was very energetic and a good knowledge man. He created a very interactive environment with his questions, exercises and his jokes.

The message was clear from the beginning. If you want to change everything in your life, the only one who is capable of doing it is yourself.

He strongly believes that the change starts from YOU!

We want to thank you Mr.Bici for being part of this session.

Note: We encourage you all to participate in all the activities organized by Innovators Club.

Sports and Games Day for Epoka University.



On 9th of April , Epoka University held it's annual Sports and Games Day. Keli kasharaj ,Sindi kalo and Amela Rahimi were the winners of Ludo king game. Monopoly winner was Xhoison Hoxha . Jenga winner was Dhimitraq Stambolliu . Ping pong winner was Serhat Zengindemir. Chees winner was Diamand Yzeiraj. Everyone had a good time , and it provided a much needed relaxiation for the upcoming midterms.

A Tedx Journey.



A Tedx Journey" by Ada Shukullari, organized by Innovators Club.

Plan your Summer with Aiesec.



On Thursday, Innovators Club in collaboration with Aiesec organized an information session "Plan you Summer with Aiesec". Students were known with various internship opportunities that Aiesec offers during summertime.

Mrs. Grida Duma talks about women in our society.



Mrs. Grida Duma was invited at Epoka University by Women Leadership Club to talk about the role of women in our society.

Mrs. Duma except from explaining the role of women, she stopped in the individual role in our society and how the youth of Albania should behave in out society.

Moreover, Mrs. Duma advised us to not leave Albania and to bring innovation in our birth country.

On the other side she was very enthusiastic about new experiences abroad and encouraged us to bring in Albania the foreign culture.

In the last part students made questions to Mrs. Duma. It is worth to underline the fact that Mrs. Duma was very comfortable in discussing with students and very pleased to answer all students questions.

She also shared some personal information with students such as her family and her biggest fears.

Students learned very effective lessons from Mrs.Duma. She gave to the students the right positivity that they need in life.

Visit to the National Bank of Albania.



The Young Economists Club organized on May 28th 2019, a visit to the National Bank of Albania. With the assistance of Elsa Zhulali, the members of this club were able to take a tour inside the premises of the national bank. Everyone had the chance to learn about the history behind the many collections of monetary system coins that existed in the territories of Albania since the 5th century. An interesting aspect that captured the students' attention was seeing from up close the Treasury Room. This room, built in 1938 in the form of 6 angles, was made of steel and concrete, completely armored. It was so heavy that only 2 people might have the power to

move it. In case of danger, at the back of it was a spare door equipped with a ladder, which the students enjoyed the most. Walking through the corridors and many rooms, our guide introduced them with many informative games, which helped the visitors to learn more about money. As the board of YEN left their signatures in a special memorial notebook, the visit ended with pictures and a lot of laughs.

Shihemi me Eni Çobanin.



On 31 of May, Women Leadership Club in collaboration with Business Administration Department organized the open forum "Shihemi me Eni Çobanin". Mrs. Eni Cobani talked about her career, that started in auditors, and that's why she was very enthusiastic to be with Epoka students today. Also she talked about her successful program "Shihemi ne gjyq", and gave advises how to be a "ndermjetes". In the last part students made questions and extinguished their curiosity about Mrs. Eni Cobani.

Sensitive Society Club visited some poor orphan families.



Today, at 1 of June, members of “Sensitive Society Club” visited some poor orphan families in suburbs of Tirana and distributed food. When we arrived at their houses, they were really happy to see us and they were really grateful that someone was there to help them. Watching the smiles in their faces gives us the desire to help them more. We would love to do more about these orphans, to help them and to give as little hope as we can. Every child deserves happiness! Not only in children’s day, but everyday!