

A stone archway made of grey and tan stones. In the center of the arch is a large, rough-hewn rock. The rock has the words 'BANKA' and 'SHQIPERISE' carved into it in a bold, sans-serif font, with a small 'E' between them. The rock is set on a patch of green grass.

BANKA
E
SHQIPERISE



Bank of Albania Training and Research Centre



BANK OF ALBANIA TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

"In light of its work ambit, the Bank of Albania extends its research and studies beyond the field of monetary policy or financial stability as our scope of activity is also related to phenomena that take place in all the sectors of the economy. In this context, we want to offer our information and expertise to a broader platform of scholars where we will be able to discuss our concerns with various groups of interest. Subsequently, the Centre will contribute to the organisation of events that enable dissemination of economic knowledge and discussion and exchange of a diversity of views and insights.

Our Centre in Berat will provide an excellent opportunity to enrich professional experiences with cultural elements, not only about Berat, but also about the history and antiquity of the entire Albanian nation, for which all of us have a lot more to do. The Bank of Albania acknowledges this is a way to promote Albania through central banking. The interest of foreign citizens on certain aspects of the Albanian life, in our case the economy and monetary policy, may be used as an instrument to incite a greater interest in Albania's culture, tradition, ethnography and genuine values.

Therefore, this building of the Bank of Albania adds to the architectural values of Berat through its modest contribution in upgrading the cultural heritage of this city and the country at large."

*Ardian Fullani,
Governor of the Bank of Albania on the occasion of the inauguration of the Bank
of Albania Research and Training Centre in Berat, 10 February 2010.*

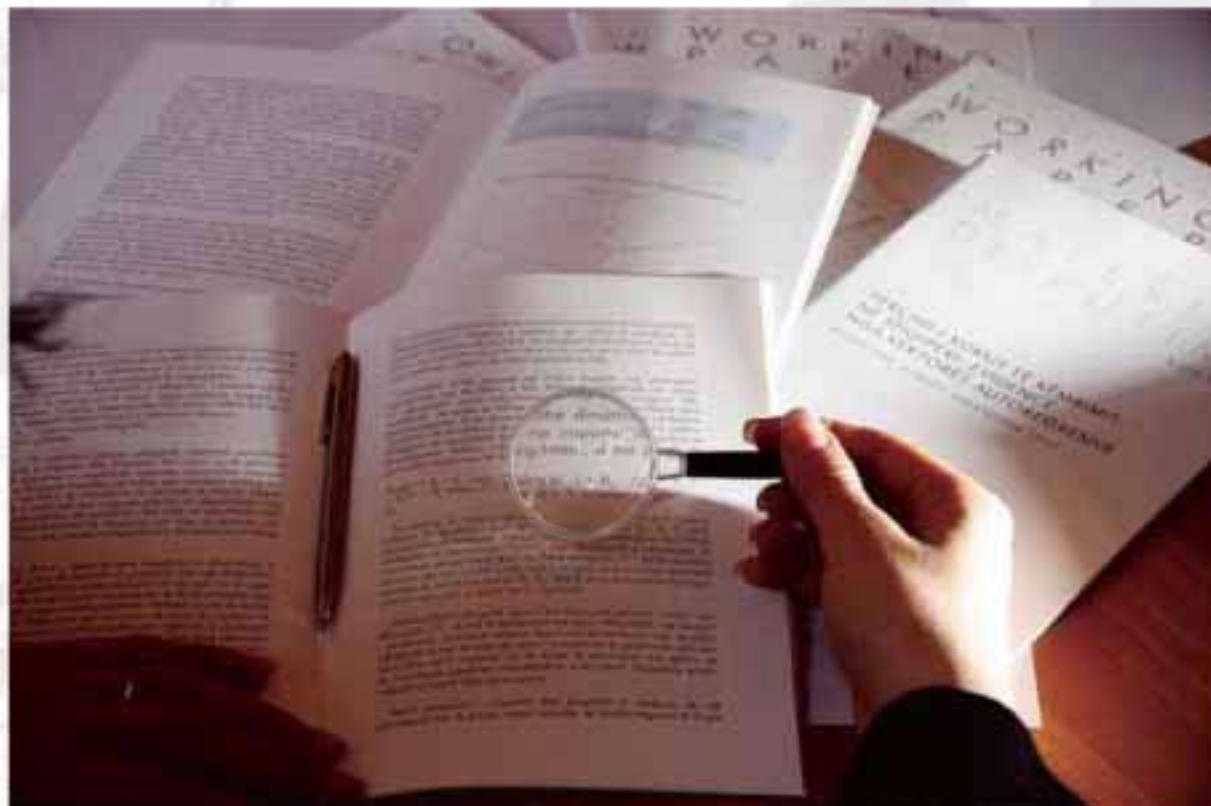


Purpose of establishment

The Bank of Albania Training and Research Centre was established with the purpose to organise and host activities related primarily to issues on central banking as well as on macroeconomy, commercial banking, financial system, banking supervision and financial literacy. Inspired by the beauty and history of its location, the Centre will also host additional activities that stretch beyond banking, money and finance on topics such as Balkan civilisation, art, culture and architecture, and why not, banking industry development over the evolution phases of its civilisation.

The primary objective of the Centre is to disseminate information and expertise on Bank of Albania core issues, providing its staff with a broader perspective on their field of expertise. Secondly, this Centre will serve as a rendezvous for workshops, training sessions, and roundtables, under the auspices of national and international experts, providing the grounds for its transformation into a regional centre for exchanging scientific knowledge on central banking.






Other activities include as follows:

- Short-term programmes to meet the country's current training needs;
- Regular beginner programmes, with a certificate of participation for trainees or specialised training, which aim to establish a tradition of research for issues of interest;
- Technical assistance to address specific needs of interest groups.

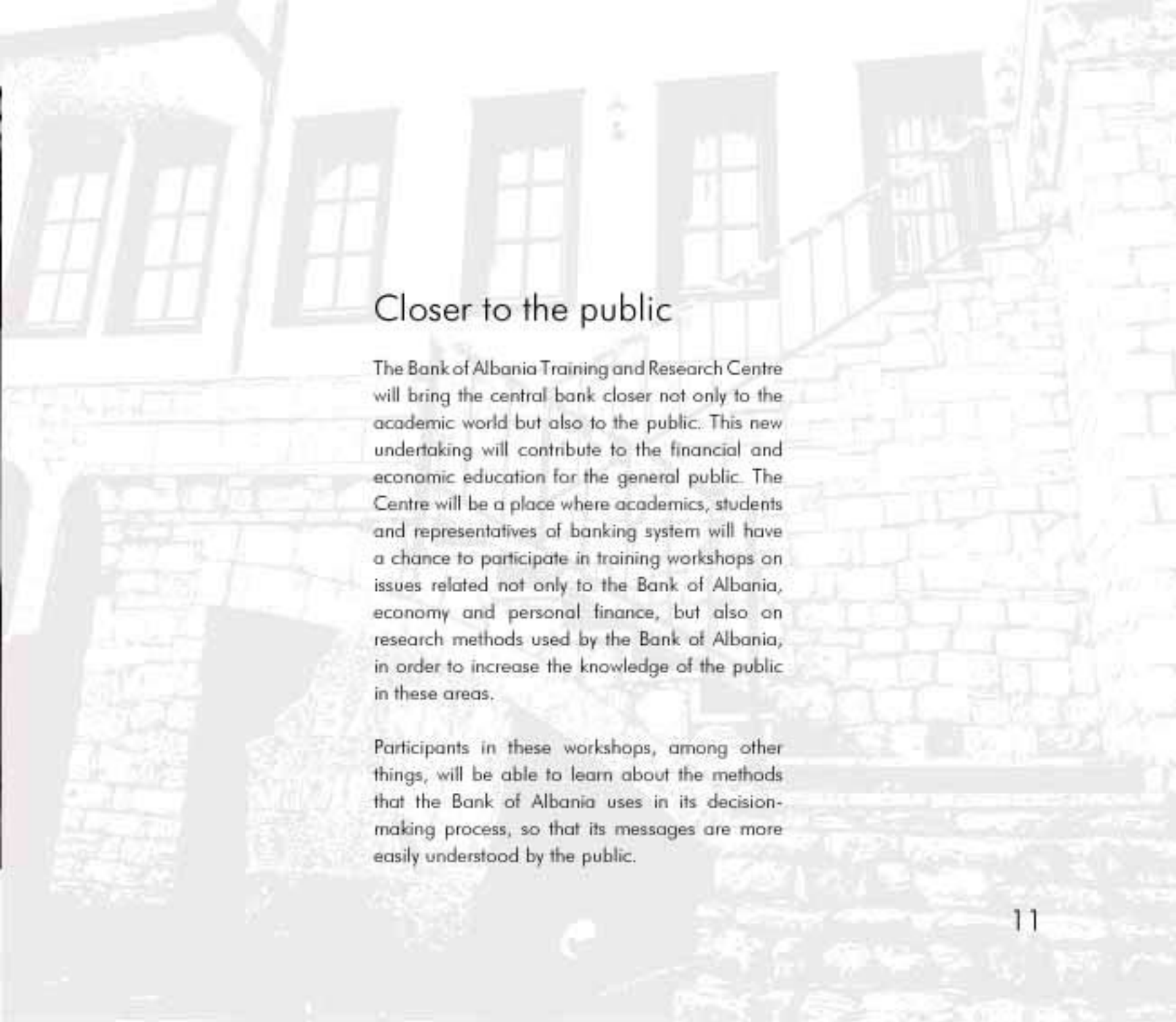




A new communication and cooperation opportunity

The Bank of Albania has paid particular attention to communication and cooperation with universities and other economic research entities in country and abroad. With the establishment of this Centre, the Bank of Albania opens a new communication window to discuss its studies and research with a broader range of scholars through its activities organised to discuss and exchange diverse perspectives on economic science. Furthermore, the Centre provides an excellent opportunity to enhance the cooperation of the Bank of Albania experts with the academic world for joint research work of a high scientific quality.



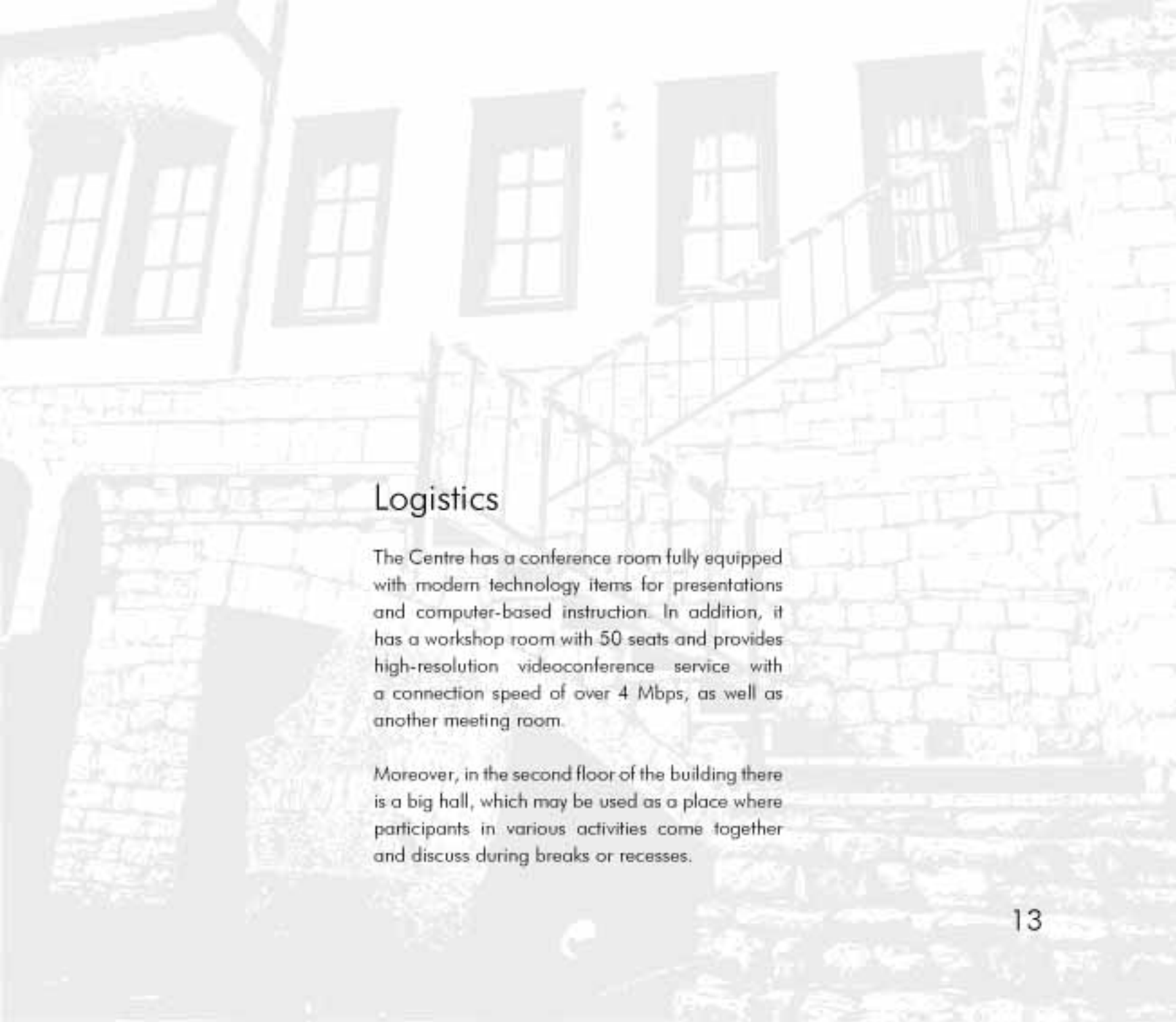


Closer to the public

The Bank of Albania Training and Research Centre will bring the central bank closer not only to the academic world but also to the public. This new undertaking will contribute to the financial and economic education for the general public. The Centre will be a place where academics, students and representatives of banking system will have a chance to participate in training workshops on issues related not only to the Bank of Albania, economy and personal finance, but also on research methods used by the Bank of Albania, in order to increase the knowledge of the public in these areas.

Participants in these workshops, among other things, will be able to learn about the methods that the Bank of Albania uses in its decision-making process, so that its messages are more easily understood by the public.





Logistics

The Centre has a conference room fully equipped with modern technology items for presentations and computer-based instruction. In addition, it has a workshop room with 50 seats and provides high-resolution videoconference service with a connection speed of over 4 Mbps, as well as another meeting room.

Moreover, in the second floor of the building there is a big hall, which may be used as a place where participants in various activities come together and discuss during breaks or recesses.





Architectural values

The Centre is situated in the renowned Mangalem quarter of Berat, on the road leading up to the Castle. Originally built during the period of socialist realism in the 1970s, its architecture clashed with the distinct architecture of Mangalem. Consequently, this building imperilled the cultural heritage of the city, marring the plastic, architectural and urban sculpture carved so skilfully by local masters over the centuries.

The city of Berat and the dialogue with its 2400-year-old history provided the ideal conditions for the restoration of the Centre's facility, conceptualised as a revitalisation of the building in full harmony with the characteristic and traditional architecture of Mangalem.

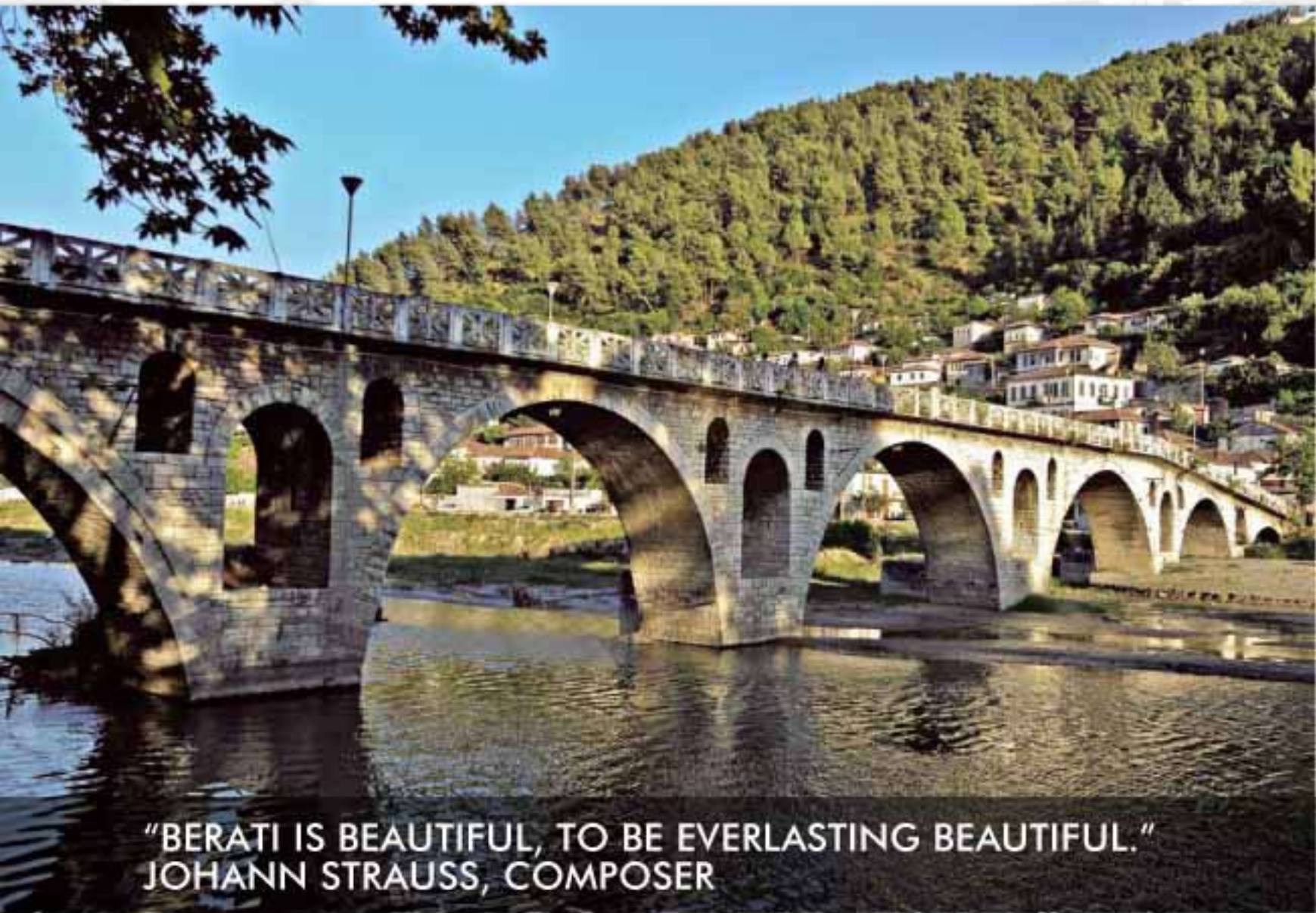
Today, this building represents a combination of traditional and modern and refined architecture, reflecting concrete efforts of the Bank of Albania to preserve and promote the architectural and historical values of this ancient city.



Harmonisation with the ensemble of the surrounding buildings is reflected in all the details of the exterior style and design. More specifically, the ground floor of the building is in white stone and its façade has big arched gates, symbolising entrances. The windows have their characteristic shape in full conformity with the rest of the buildings. The façade is added a console on each side, leaving the central section intact. The third floor projects the idea of the traditional veranda roof (çardak) and the tiled roof extends 1,50 metres from the wall, following the silhouette of the building along its perimeter.

The Centre reflects its conformity with other characteristic buildings of the city, while satisfying all the criteria for a modern research institution, in the conceptualisation of the interior as well.

This conformity reflects local features in the furnishing of the interior, to mention a few wooden ceilings decorated in circular rosettes, walls coated in wood or stone, a fireplace in the lobby, in-wall closets, and credenza.



**"BERATI IS BEAUTIFUL, TO BE EVERLASTING BEAUTIFUL."
JOHANN STRAUSS, COMPOSER**

Gorica Bridge



Author Anonymous
"Life-giving source". This icon
was taken from the Church of St.
Elijah, "Perrua" quarters, Berat.
Iconographic Museum Onufri of
Berat



Berat Castle





Located in central Albania, Berat bears witness to the coexistence of various religious and cultural communities down the centuries. It features a castle, locally known as the Kala, most of which was built in the 13th century, although its origins date back to the 4th century BC. The citadel area numbers many Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built under the Ottoman era which began in 1417.

The castle area had stone fortifications by the middle of the 4th century. An Illyrian town developed under its protection.

In antiquity, Berat was known as Antipatreia, a fortified centre which succeeded in resisting the Roman legions for a time. The town is mentioned by Polybius and Livy, and in the list of fortifications of Emperor Justinian. During the Byzantine period, in 533, Berat is called Pulcheriapolis, after the 5th century Byzantine Empress Pulcheria. It developed at the summit of the hill. The castle and its fortifications were rebuilt.

In the middle ages, the town was under Bulgarian occupation (860-1018), and grew in importance.

The name Berat is first mentioned in 1018. From the Crusader period onward (13th century), Berat had various occupants, including the Angevins, the Serbs, and the Muzakaj Princes. Much of the fortification system was rebuilt, in the 13th century, assuming its present-day general form, and many features of this period have been conserved.

During the 13th and 14th centuries three important churches were built: St. Mary Vllaherna, Holy Trinity, and St. Michael. At this time the town had a remarkable cistern system.

At the start of the 15th century Berat was occupied by the Ottomans. Substantial alterations were made at this time; the fortifications were repaired and new towers were built to strengthen them. The town remained part of the Ottoman Empire for a long period, characterised by peace and prosperity. Situated as it was on a major communication route between the capital and the Adriatic, it spread beyond its fortifications. Its quarters took on their present-day form: Kala (the castle), and Mangalem and Gorica on the opposite bank. The communities of inhabitants built many

*Red Mosque,
Berat Castle*





mosques, several of which have outstanding architectural qualities (Leaden Mosque, Teqeja Helvetive mosque).

This period was notable for its remarkable religious tolerance, and the conservation of the Orthodox Christian heritage within a sizeable Muslim population. Christian arts such as illumination and iconography developed (School of Onufri, 16th century) and the Orthodox Cathedral was restored (18th century).*

Berat's historic centre, a rare example of an Ottoman-era town, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008.

* This information has been taken directly from the United Nations, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) website.

Holy Trinity Church,
Berat Castle





Nature tourism

Some nature landmark attractions in the Region of Berat include:

- River Osum valley and canyons;
- Pirogoshi Cave;
- Mount Tomorr National Park;
- Kulmak Tekke*.

For more information, please visit
www.unesco.org, www.mtkrs.gov.al.

** This information has been taken directly from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports – Albania website.*

*Holy Trinity Church,
Berat Castle*







Canyon of Osum river







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the following address:

www.bankofalbania.org

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