

SIFE ALBANIA HOLDS FINANCIAL LITERACY FORUM AND 10th SIFE NATIONAL COMPETITION

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NATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN MAY

15. May
Slovenia

21. May
Poland

24. May
Belarus
Russia

25. May
Netherlands
Ukraine

On the 28th of April SIFE Albania celebrated its 10th national competition and its 11th year of operation. The competition saw over 60 judges and 300 in audience.

But before the National Competition was held, SIFE Albania had its first PSHM Financial Literacy Forum. Starting in the morning of the 27th the SIFE Teams who were awarded with a fund from the PSHM Financial Literacy Program had the opportunity to present their achievements in a exclusive circle. They received valuable feedback from Charles Erziger and other PSHM representatives.



National Champion SIFE UT

In the evening Genc Pollo, Minister of Education and Science officially opened the 10th National Competition with the Opening Ceremony. The next morning was filled with excitement and positive tension. 9 teams competed for the honor of becoming the National Champion. In the afternoon the decision was made and the teams from Shkodra, the University of Tirana and NYC Tirana advanced to the Final Round. After three great presentation the judges had to make their decisions.



The Prime Minister announced the National Champion

The Award Ceremony was opened by Genc Boga, Managing Partner, KPMG. Klejda Tufi from Shkodra University was awarded "Faculty Advisor of the Year". The teams from the Military University Scanderberg, the University of Gjirokastra and the University of Vlora were awarded with the "Spirit of SIFE" presented by Majlinda Hakani, Raiffeisen Bank Albania, Vasil Naçi, President of the Agna Group and Floran Pustina, Partner at Zaka, Toshka & Tasko.

The National Champion Award was presented by His Excellency the Prime Minister Sali Berisha. He also gave a great speech about how proud he was of what SIFE is doing in his country.

But it wasn't just the 200 people attending who were aware of the event: 7 television stations covered the closing ceremony and every one of those stations reporting on SIFE on the evening news that night. 1,600 SIFE posters were plastered all over the city. In addition, 17 beautiful lighted bus spot signs and several other huge signs were displayed at the hotel entrance and at the city square. There was even a truck traveling around town each evening with a huge lit SIFE



Moving sign in Tirana



All the winning teams from the National Competition

billboard. All of this was achieved in a country which during most of the 20th century has been at war or occupation.

The national champion is University of Tirana and will attend the SIFE World Cup in New York City. NYU Tirana won the Board of Directors award and will attend the European Symposium in Warsaw Poland in September.

For more information please visit: www.sifealbania.org

Are you planning to conduct or already conducting a project outside of your country—another SIFE country or a Non-SIFE country—or in cooperation with a SIFE Team from another country?

Remember you MUST hand in your GORT in order to be able to present your project at a competition!

For more details please visit: www.sife.org/gort



NATIONAL PRESENTATION IN MALTA

This year again Malta was opening the season for National events in Europe. On the 14th of April the 2nd National Presentation was held at the Hilton Conference Center in St. Julians in Malta.

At SIFE's national event the students presented their projects to a panel of judges made up of leading Maltese business people.

The panel judging the SIFE presentations, composed of Ms Mary Louise Agius, Head of Diversity Learning & Development, HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c, Mr Charlos Bonnici, Head of the Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment and Mr David Pace Manager Corporate Finance, KPMG, gave their feedback and advice to the students on how they can improve their projects and make them more beneficial to their target audiences.



SIFE UMT with the Hon. Edwin Vassallo and judges at the event

Mr Brian Tortell, Head of Marketing, HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. said that "The bank in Malta was among the very first to follow this up, ensuring students in Malta gained access to the SIFE programmes as quickly as possible. SIFE students are challenged to develop community outreach projects and HSBC has a strong commitment to helping young people and to helping communities obtain the knowledge and skills they need to achieve."

The Hon. Edwin Vassallo, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and the Self Employed added: "Last year, SIFE UMT managed to gain everybody's respect in the European Symposium held in Paris. Such positive results will enable more students to take part in such an initiative that will promote the skills and motivation Maltese students have, while encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship. The Parliamentary Secretariat for Small Business and the Self Employed has always worked closely with student organisations, and we have been close to SIFE from the start. We are doing this in order to implement a different way of thinking. We want to instill a more entrepreneurial mindset in order to introduce students to the real world of commerce and entrepreneurship. SIFE UMT has achieved a lot, and I am sure that they will continue to be successful. I wish all of you students the best of luck in this year's European Symposium," he added.

For more information please visit: www.sife.org or www.sifeumt.com

TIP OF THE MONTH

All over Europe National Competition are coming up. This month we will provide you with some tips for preparing for the competition.

- You are free to choose how many presenters your team would like to have, however most team have between 4-6 presenters.
- Some teams use an underlying theme to tie their presentation together. This can be as simple as "Changing the World" and using a globe as your backdrop for your annual report and PowerPoint.
- You don't need to memorize your speech, but you should know it well enough so that you don't have to read it.
- Many teams will choose to wear the same color suit or the same color shirts so that they are dressed alike, showing team unity.
- Wait until the league coordinator gives the 1-minute warning before the presentation team walks to the front to give their presentation. You will have plenty of time to get situated and comfortable before you begin.
- Stay calm. This is your opportunity to tell the judges what you have done. They are excited to meet you and to hear about your SIFE experience.

- Include pictures to show your SIFE Team in action
- Include charts and graphs to depict the impact of your project
- Include video clips with testimonials

SIFE Europe wishes all of you good luck!

KPMG TRAINING DAY

On the 26th of April about 80 SIFE students gathered at the KPMG branch at Duesseldorf, Germany for a day full of training.

SIFE Teams from German universities presented their unique SIFE Projects and received feedback to from KPMG executives. The KPMG Training Day included personal coaching sessions by KPMG Human Resource and Management Representatives.



Additionally the students were offered a personal training "Managing your Future" session to improve their personal success skills. Useful

tips and practices were given to enforce the achievements of the SIFE Teams and to support the teams' efforts on their way to the national contest.

For more information please visit: www.sife.de