

## **OPPORTUNITIES IN TIRANA**

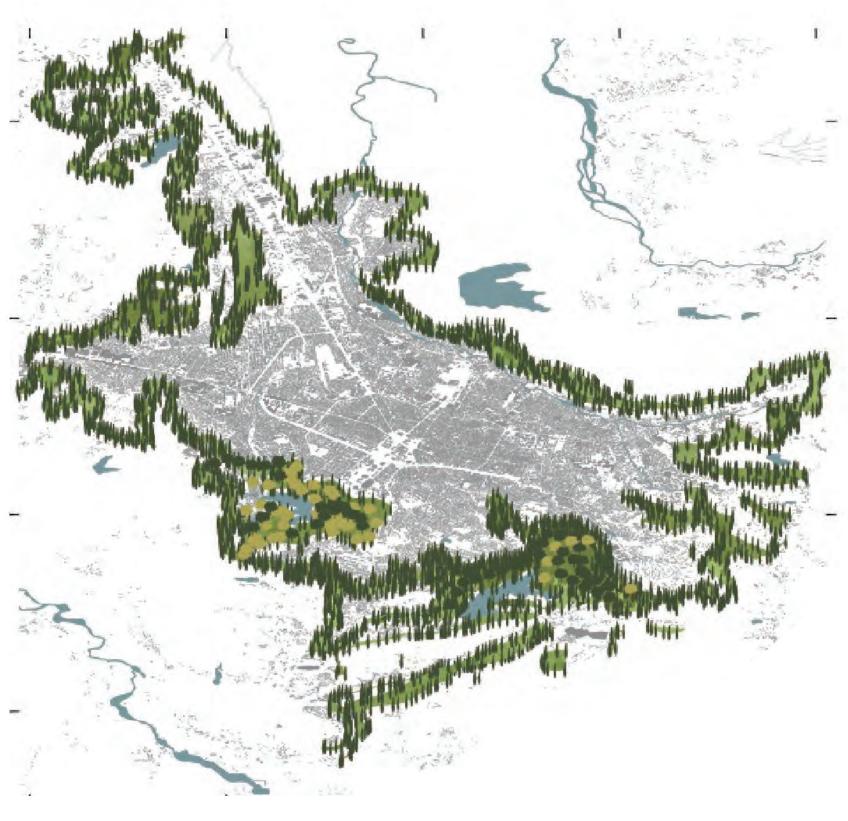
Tirana is the capital of Albania and one of the most critical hubs of the Southern Balkans. The capital has undergone a remarkable transformation, giving particular importance to new public spaces, pedestrian areas, and the center's expansion. The municipality has envisioned 'A city for Everyone,' which echoes all the latest territorial plans, economic and social development strategies and projects. 'Tirana for all' is a city where all resources are accessible and useful to the common wellbeing while improving the quality of life through sustainable, well designed, and well-planned cities.

In 2018, we approved the Tirana 2030 Local Plan (TR2030), a Masterplan to reconquer the landscape, heritage and find a new balance between city and nature. TR2030 has 13 strategic projects located within the territory that will trigger development and are focused on polycentrism, mobility, tourism, geopolitics and water. The Masterplan devises 5 centers within the capital city, restoring its unused idle spaces and replacing energy consuming buildings with a new aesthetic and functional architecture. We focus on an accessible city that promotes active mobility, while preserving and promoting biodiversity.

One of the most impressive projects is the Orbital Forest, aiming to create a green revolution. It involves planting 2 million trees that will embellish Tirana with a ring of trees, green corridors and agricultural land to limit urban sprawl. The city's layout has been affected by significant interventions starting from the project of the Skanderbeg Square, also awarded the Best Public Space 2018, to the large extension of the New Boulevard, known as the spine of the city. The New Boulevard will locate several governmental buildings, embassies, and organizations, turning it into a central point preserving its history and political meaning.







## TRO30 ORBITAL FOREST









## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Tirana was granted several prizes such as the Best Renewal Project for 'New Bazaar'. It was transformed into the newest tourist destination with public spaces, businesses, bars, and restaurants without losing the old traditional elements. Furthermore, Tirana was announced the winner of the European Youth Capital 2022. Our city has one of the youngest populations in Europe, where about 50% are under 35 years old and currently accommodates up to 100,000 students.

According to Lonely Planet, Albania is in top 10 affordable adventure destinations for 2019 as one of Europe's final frontiers that offers hiking amid appealing nature and its unique history. Lonely Planet also rated the capital, Tirana, as one of the top ten European hotspots for 2018, describing it as "a vigorous metropolis that has undergone transformation and offers much to visitors". Albania has regularly made it to Lonely Planet's top 10 destinations since 2011 ranked as "Europe's last secret" and a "New Mediterranean love."















## A METROPOLITAN AND SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS LOCATION

Through liberal legislation, domestic and foreign investors have the same rights and obligations. The Albanian government has attached great importance to sectors with high development potential, such as renewable energy, mining industry, tourism, manufacturing industry, agriculture, transportation, logistics as well as the information and communication technology sector. There are supportive measures for Innovative Startups as a new legislation is under public consultation. Accordingly, Innovative Startups are exempt from paying simplified profit tax for small business, local tax on real estate, building category, and local table tax. They are supported by financial grants, a guarantee of credit risk, programs, and other support measures according to the provisions of the legislation for Innovative Startups, implemented by the local government.

The city is a promising place for ICT skills. One of the latest projects is the Revitalisation of the Pyramid of Tirana which will serve as the Regional ICT Center. It will be a 12,000 sqm reconstructed space, trasnformed into a place for innovation, committed also to arts and other visual expressions.

Tirana aims to drive more economic growth and deepen industrialization through Technology and Economic Development Areas (TEDA). It will develop industry-specific skills and increase product knowledge through technology transfer and industry-specific skills training. This establishment boosts competitiveness in the national and international economies, alleviating large-scale unemployment, especially youth unemployment.

Albania's location at the center of the natural crossroad of European transport corridors places the country in a unique geographical position. It finds itself almost in the central of the main border points and from other the region's capital cities since it is located 20 minutes from the National Airport and 30 mins from the main port of Durres. Tirana is the administrative, cultural, economic, and industrial center of the nation, populated by almost 1 million citizens, 1/3 of the country. Subsequently, nearly 50% of the country's GDP is generated in the Tirana – Durres region.



