

Rector's visit to Albania

2021.11.01. – 2021.11.05.

Last week, **Dr. Tamás Sterbenz**, Rector and **Dr. Judit Kádár**, Director of International Relations, paid an official visit to Albania, in the partner institution of the University of Physical Education, Tirana Sports University (SUT). The visit can be mentioned in several aspects, as on the one hand it was Dr. Tamás Sterbenz's first international trip as rector, and on the other hand several relevant discussions took place during the visit.



The Hungarian delegation was received by the Rector of the Tirana Sports University, Prof. Dr. Agron Kasa, in the framework of a “Welcome Dinner”, during which the heads of the two institutions had a long discussion about prospective areas of collaboration. Among the different segments involved, perhaps the most significant were the possibility of co-mentoring doctoral students, the model of the integrated laboratory system of the University of Physical Education, and the use of TE know-how in the field of rehabilitation and physiotherapy.

In addition to academic sector, the delegation also had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Albanian Olympic Committee, **Dr. Fidel Ylli**, and the Secretary General of the Albanian Basketball Association, **Llazan Korabi**. The latter had just finished his career as a professional athlete, as an NB I basketball player, thanks to which he had an immediate opportunity to exchange experiences with the rector of our university. During the meeting, it was discussed that professional sports in Albania as such are still in its infancy, so that the country can develop more intensive participation in the NET training system provided by the International Olympic Committee. Furthermore, the University of Physical Education is ready

to share its knowledge in coaching, rehabilitation and nutrition in order to contribute to the development of Albanian sports.

During the discussion on sports, the possibility arose for the sports associations of the two institutions to contact each other and organize friendly games in order to mutually promote the youth. Among the different sports, volleyball, traditional basketball and 3x3 basketball were highlighted.

From the civilian side, **Dr. Attila Fodor**, Hungary's Deputy Ambassador of Tirana, and **Dr. Antal Kulcsár**, Consul, and **Oltion Rrumballaku**, Deputy Minister for Education and Sports, also took part in the negotiations. The latter helped to identify the resources and tender opportunities needed to strengthen and stabilize the partnership. Among other things, the launch of a joint postgraduate or MSc in the field of recreation has been suggested.



Last but not least, Dr. Tamás Sterbez and Dr. Judit Kádár gave a lecture of their own research areas to those interested. In order to arouse people's curiosity to come to the University of Physical Education for learning or teaching and gain some experience in Central Europe educational system.



Overall, the trip can be considered successful, as this week our university has already submitted a small application involving the Sports University of Tirana as a partner. We hope that the application will be considered positively and that future joint work will further strengthen the partnership between the two institutions.