

**Proposal to host the 2019 ICDPPC**  
**Information and Data Protection Commissioner**  
**of Albania (IDP)**

[www.idp.al](http://www.idp.al)

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A. Overview of the strengths of the proposal

1	Overview	<p>By selecting Albanian DPA as the host of 2019<sup>th</sup> International Conference, the Secretariat gives a great chance to the Region of the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe to promote its values and capacities through one of the most typical countries, with both historical and cultural representation. The International Conference has never been hosted in this region in the past, and that is the case also for other important international events, such as the European Conference (Spring Conference).</p> <p>With reference to the complex history of the Western Balkans countries, and their current efforts toward a democratic and open society, government transparency, rule of law and the implementation and enforcement of the best practices and legal framework of the European and International leading partners, the action of gathering the whole international data protection and privacy community in this area, would definitely encourage these countries and their governments to increase their efforts in promoting the highlighted values.</p> <p>In our proposal's case, the International Conference could be hosted for the first time by a country that once experienced the harshest and quirkiest communist dictatorship of eastern Europe, but currently sees itself at the doorstep of EU, while providing its modest contribution as a member of the NATO. The priorities of the Albanian populace have changed rapidly after the fall of the iron curtain, whereas initially the key targets were the dissolution of the communist model of organizing the society, with the present challenges being now more or less similar to those found in the western consolidated democracies.</p> <p>Alongside with other important public institutions of Albania, the IDP Commissioner Office is currently a much more consolidated body, it has scored crucial achievements since its establishment in 2008, the staff has grown rapidly in terms of numbers and expertise, its independence is firmly assured and its overall capacities have strengthened significantly. This progress was evidenced accordingly when the Data Protection Commissioner was entrusted the power to supervise and enforce the right to obtain information from public bodies, through the amendment and subsequent adoption of the Law "On the right to Information" in 2014, which expanded simultaneously its annual budget, personnel and included thereto new and fancy premises in the center of the capital as of January 2017.</p> <p>Getting back once again to the regional features, it would be opportune to mention that one of the most important issues, often pointed out by the international community, remains the nationalism, borders and claims in this respect. As was the aim of the previous ICDPPC events i.e building bridges and fill gaps, whereas the ultimate aim is the borderless data protection cooperation, that would constitute a practical example of bringing people together and enforcing cooperation in a complicated environment.</p> <p>While the Albanian DPA hosted in 2015 two international events, the 17<sup>th</sup> CEEDPA Meeting and the 27<sup>th</sup> Edition of Case Handling</p>
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2	Supporting the Conference's strategic direction	<p>Based on the Action Plan 2016-2018, on the goals set for 2016-2018 in supporting the strategic priorities adopted during the 37<sup>th</sup> ICDPPC, the organization of the Conference in Albania shall meet the Strategic priorities of Strengthening of the Connections and the Advancing of Global Privacy in a Digital Age on account of the inclusion of the Western Balkan's Region in the European and International dialogue, being that this region remains yet to be integrated and included in this global context, due to many persistent gaps in terms of economy, global market, and digitalization. Many partners from the Region would be encouraged to join the exchanges and profit from this event in order to include themselves in the global debates in order address challenges in a larger context.</p> <p>The Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania shall put forward a proposal on turning the Executive Committee into a self sufficient body, through a scheme of membership annual contribution, which will in short term provide the Committee with different mechanisms for the encouragement of co-operation. These mechanisms could be designed in the form of permanent/ad hoc forums, networks and support programs etc.</p>
	Dates	Indicative dates: 10-13 October 2019 but shall depend from the international data protection agenda and welcome any suggestion from the Committee.

B. Closed session, public events and side events

3	Closed session	<p>We are not in the position to determine the key topics of the closed session, but at this point we could anticipate that it shall focus on the new technologies, big data, profiling and most importantly on the data processing by public authorities (with special focus on law enforcement agencies), while we could also put forward other important issues such as cross-border data flows and harmonization of national laws, connected devices and practical tools for longstanding international cooperation. The application of the new European Data Protection legal framework and its impact on third countries could be included in the agenda as well as another topic that could serve 1 working day entitled “Global Internet Supervisor – DPA’s at the frontline of the struggle for cyber compliance”.</p> <p>Simultaneous interpretation in both English and French will be available. Various companies operate in Albania in the sector of International Events Translations/Interpretations. We shall cooperate with the State University of Tirana (a cooperation agreement between our institutions is currently in force) to hire for 4 days of the main event/side events (if that is the case) best internationally recognized Albanian interpreters of English and French languages.</p> <p>In case of necessity or following the needs of participants, we can provide interpretation in German, Spanish and Russian.</p>
4	Public events	<p>On the eve of the Conference, the IDP Commissioner along with the Executive Committee will hold a press conference with the participation of national and international media representatives.</p> <p>The Open Session in our point of view should focus primarily on the data protection and security on the internet. Many other sub-topics could be listed thereto including social networks, online media etc.</p> <p>A reception shall be organized at the premises of the Assembly of Albania with the Speaker of the Parliament or with the Prime Minister at the PM’s Office.</p> <p>Gala Diner shall be arranged at the Royal Palace (<i>Pallati i Brigadave</i>) in Tirana.</p>
5	Side events	<p>The necessary space and support will be given to side events. The IDP Commissioner will launch a call for side events to take place prior and subsequent to the main event. Some of the networks of cooperation in the field of data protection such as the GPEN, the AFAPDP, consortiums, national and international organizations in the field of digital education, will find all the necessary support by the Commissioner’s Office in order to best organize their side events. Our staff will have a clear plan as concerns these events and will propose concrete infrastructure to the interested parties, in order to facilitate and fully satisfy their particular needs.</p>

C. Organisation

6	Host authority details	<p>The Albanian Information and Data Protection Commissioner is the sole independent authority of Albania in charge of supervising and monitoring the protection of personal data by respecting and guaranteeing the fundamental human rights and freedoms in compliance with the law and also the sole authority in charge of supervision of the Law on the right to information. The staff of the Commissioner's Office is currently composed of 35 civil servants and growing. The Commissioner's Office was established on 11 September 2008 and was accredited during the International Conference of Jerusalem, in October 2010. The IDP Commissioner is voting member of the T-PD Committee, AFAPDP, CEEDPA, GPEN and European Data Protection Authorities Conference.</p>
7	Host authority's event experience	<p>The IDP Commissioner organized in April 2015, in Durrës the 17<sup>th</sup> CEEDPA Central and Eastern Europe Data Protection Authorities Conference. Previously, the Commissioner's Office organized national events and 1 international event regarding Binding Corporate Rules in the Francophone Countries, starring CNIL experts, on International Data Protection Day, IPA Project events, Freedom of Information events with representatives of Public Administration, the 27<sup>th</sup> Edition of Case Handling Workshop in September 2015 in Tirana, etc.</p>
8	Organising team	<p>The Office of the Commissioner will be ahead of the organization in the overall aspects, but the infrastructure details may be contracted out by companies operating in the field. A working group with specific tasks for each member will be appointed. Every department of the IDP Commissioner will be assigned tasks to accomplish and will follow a clearly defined action plan.</p> <p>The internal working group will assist the "Main Organizing Team" which will be composed of different other members from Central Government, External Service Provider representatives, Local Administration representatives and Academia. Following the organization plan the MOT's duties will be to meet on regular basis in order to discuss important milestones of the plan and coordinate their work.</p>

9	Conference planning	<p>The IDP Commissioner will build a dedicated website related to the event. This website will be operated by the Commissioner's Office in cooperation with a contracted webmaster and its conception will take place in close cooperation with the Committee before launch. A special dedicated link will connect the official web page of IDP Commissioner with the dedicated website of the Conference; the latter will be promoted in Medias.</p> <p>The necessary space and support will be given to side events. The IDP Commissioner will launch a Call for side events. Some of the networks of cooperation in the field of data protection such as the GPEN, AFAPDP, various consortiums, national and international networks in the field of digital education, etc.</p> <p>As concerns the social program of the Conference, we will draft a document including the possible ideas and this document will be presented for preliminary approval of the Committee at first. After its approval, a document/survey will be distributed to the members of the Conference and other attendees for confirmation of interest. The opinions expressed in the survey will constitute the final option as concerns social program. This program will include possible visits of the best archeological sites in Tirana (Petrela Castle, Tirana's Mosaic, Tirana's Castle, Preza Castle, Et'hem Beg Mosque, etc), Durres (Mosaic the Beauty of Durres, the Amphitheater, Archeological Museum, Castle of Durres, etc) and Kruja (the Castle of Kruja, the Old Bazaar, etc) historical sites in Tirana such as the Museum of Surveillance during Cold War, Bunk'Art Museum (1 and 2), National Historic Museum of Tirana, National Gallery of Arts where a special exhibition will be arranged, a special show of the Opera and Ballet Theater of Tirana, the Mosaic of Tirana and many other options.</p> <p>Transportation will be arranged for attendees.</p> <p>As regards the anticipation of number of attendees, the working group will present to the Secretariat an anticipation paper including all the possible authorities, organizations, stakeholders, companies, cooperation networks, Media, researchers, institutions, national or international, etc to be invited. Important number will be expected while bearing in mind that Albania is easily accessible.</p> <p>The organization plan, detailed and available in both English and French, will be presented to the Secretariat in reasonable time after the decision of the Secretariat on the host. This plan will be drafted by the working group of IDP Commissioner and will range all the tasks and explain every detail along with appropriate deadlines.</p>
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D. Location and venue

10	City	City Tirana
11	Venue	<p>The venue of the Conference will be the newly refurbished Congress Palace which is an important structure dedicated to major events, situated on the main Boulevard “Martyrs of the Nation”, in the heart of capital’s administrative center. The main hall of the Palace, which hosted on May 2016 the Nato Parliamentary Assembly Spring Conference, has a capacity of 2400 persons and other rooms such as 2 rooms with approximately 200 persons, 1 room with approx. 120 persons and others approximately 50 persons, constitute ideal premises for the organization of side events of the Conference.</p> <p>Many hotels are situated within walking distance from the Venue, including among all Hotel Tirana International, Plaza Tirana, Rogner Hotel, Xheko Imperial, Sheraton Tirana Hotel, Hotel Monark, Plaza Hotel, Lot Hotel, etc.</p>
12	Accessibility	<p>Tirana is easily accessible for international travelers, the International Tirana Airport is only 17 km (30 minutes) from the center of Tirana, and the venue is located right in the center of Tirana. Ground transport is available both by hotels, airport taxi service as well as public transportation.</p> <p>Free transportation airport-hotel-airport for all delegations may be offered by the IDP Commissioner’s contracted company.</p> <p>The venue is accessible for people with disabilities and a prior check of the premises shall be applied by the team.</p>
13	Accommodation	<p>Hotel Sheraton Tirana <a href="http://www.sheratontiranahotel.com/">http://www.sheratontiranahotel.com/</a></p> <p>The Plaza Tirana: <a href="http://www.plazatirana.com/">http://www.plazatirana.com/</a></p> <p>Rogner Hotel <a href="http://www.hotel-europapark.com/">http://www.hotel-europapark.com/</a></p> <p>Xheko Imperial Hotel <a href="http://www.xheko-imperial.com/index.php/en/">http://www.xheko-imperial.com/index.php/en/</a></p> <p>Tirana International Hotel <a href="http://www.tiranainternational.com/portal/index.php/en/">http://www.tiranainternational.com/portal/index.php/en/</a></p> <p>The IDP Commissioner’s Office shall negotiate special rates in advance for all the above listed hotels.</p> <p>Many other hotels adjacent to the Conference venue.</p>

14	Personal safety	Albania is very safe to visit. In addition, it could be worth mentioning that the Commissioner has accessibility with the relevant Law Enforcement agencies of Albania and if need will be, their assistance could be requested during the events and the excursions (such assistance has regard to the traffic measures, while there is no need for additional safety/security measures).
15	Human rights	<p>Albania is a member of UN, OSCE, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, World Trade Organization and also an Official Candidate for membership in the European Union. Albania has a high HDI and provides universal health care system and free primary and secondary education to its citizens. Albania is an upper-middle income economy with the service sector dominating the country's economy, followed by the industrial sector and agriculture.</p> <p>During his visit in Tirana, on September 2014, Pope Francis hailed Albania as a model of religious harmony and “an example to the world”.</p> <p>Albania is not included in the list of countries with Human Rights issues.</p>

#### E. Finances

16	Budgeting	In case our proposal to host the Conference will be recommended, a special invoice in the Annual State Budget assigned to the IDP Commissioner will be projected in order to organize the event. The highest assumption of budgeting remains to be discussed, but it is guaranteed to cover every aspect of the organization. The IDP Commissioner has received great support from the government, and public institutions in organizing the CEEDPA and CHW 2015 meetings in Albania. Important contributions were also assigned by the Ministry of Finances of Albania, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of European Integration, Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism, The Albanian Assembly, etc. All the relevant stakeholders will get involved through a concrete cooperation plan, which will get drafted in reasonable time in advance of the preparations.
17	Sponsorship and other sources of funding	<p>The national law provides for sponsorships and donations and based upon the actual experience in organizing the CEEDPA 2015 Meeting in Albania and the Case Handling Workshop 2015, we have received considerable contributions by partner organizations, companies, banks, telecommunication operators and more.</p> <p>A concrete plan will be prepared by the Office of the Commissioner in order to attract the interest of important national and international economic actors to support the organization of this very important international event.</p> <p>The Government of Albania shall patronize the event.</p> <p>Many other support mechanisms translated in infrastructure facilities and support shall be provided by Central Government and Local Administration.</p>