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#Memorydays2024

Agenda

#9

20 – 26
February

2024



MEMORY DAYS '24

20–26 FEBRUARY, TIRANA
#memorydays2024

Languages: [Albanian](#), [English](#), [German](#)
Livestream on [Facebook](#) & [Youtube](#)

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Address: Bardhok Biba Street,
Entrance A, Trema Building, 11th Fl.,
Tirana, Albania
www.idmc.al

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Address: “Dëshmorët e Kombit” Blvd.
Twin Tower 1, 11th Fl.
Tirana, Albania
www.kas.de/albanien/

Contact

Jozita Zhura,
IDMC Programme Coordinator,
jozita.zhura@idmc.al

Klaudja Zerva,
KAS Programme Coordinator,
kludja.zerva@kas.de

Agenda

Tuesday
20
February

OPENING CEREMONY OF MEMORY DAYS 2024

Rogner Hotel, Antigonea 2 Room

Languages: Albanian, English, German

16:30 – 17:00 **Registration**

17:00 – 17:30

Jonila Godole

Executive Director of the Institute for Democracy,
Media & Culture (IDMC)

Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)

Ruth Huber

Swiss Ambassador to Albania

Silvio Gonzato

EU Ambassador to Albania

Lekë Tasi

Former Political Persecuted

Anna Kaminsky

Director of the Federal Foundation for the Study of
the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany

17:30 – 18:20

Documentary Screening: **“STALIN–LIFE AND DEATH
OF A DICTATOR”** by Martin Hübner, Jürgen & Daniel Ast
Dubbed in Albanian with English Subtitles



Stalin, both hated and idolized to this day, was Lenin’s successor and one of the most powerful and feared people of the 20th century. The myth of the “strong leader” persists, especially in Putin’s Russia. This documentary, told with exclusive archive material and graphic novel sequences, recounts Stalin’s bloody career, his boundless paranoia, and the cult that sought to immortalize him. It focuses on the last days of Stalin’s life at his secret dacha in Kunzewo.

18:20 – 19:00

Panel Discussion

Jörg Baberowski

Historian, Humboldt University, Berlin

Moderator: Ulrich Mähler

Historian, The Federal Foundation for the Study of
the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany

19:00

Reception

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: “FUTURE MEMORIES - PRESERVING HISTORY WITHOUT WITNESSES”

Tirana International Hotel, Consortium Room

Languages: Albanian, English, German

9:00 – 9:30

Registration

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome Address

Jonila Godole

Director of IDMC

Karl Bergner

German Ambassador to Albania

Fatmiroshe Xhemalaj

Ambassador of EuroClio in Albania

Panel 1: “PRESERVING MEMORY WITH AND WITHOUT WITNESSES – INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES”

9:45 – 10:00

Keynote: “Dealing with Testimonies of the Communist Persecution in Albania and in Post-Soviet countries – A Comparative Perspective”

Thomas Schrapel

Historian, Former Director of KAS in Albania and South Caucasus Countries

10:00 – 11:15

Panel Discussion

Patrick Siegele

Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalization, Program “ERINNERN:AT”

Sabine Kuder

The Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany

Ladislav Kudrna

Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Republic

Louisa Slavkova

Sofia Platform, Bulgaria

Q & A Session

Moderator: Pjerin Mirdita

Director of the Site of Witness and Memory, Shkodra

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30

Round Table: “PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF COMMUNIST PERSECUTION IN ALBANIA – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES”

Çelo Hoxha

Historian, Director of the Institute for the Study of Communist Crimes and Consequences

Etleva Demollari

National Museum “House of Leaves”

Admirina Peçi

Journalist, Kujto.al

Fatbardha Mulleti Saraçi

Author, Former Persecuted

Gjelosh Progni

Anti-Communist Association of Former Persecuted

Alma Liço

Former Persecuted

Vytene Muschick

Literary Translator and Cultural Mediator

Vojsava Kumbulla

Director of ALBNA, Albanian Association of History Educators, Youth and History

Eljona Plaku

Teacher & Director High School “Drita e Dijes”, Berat

Oriada Dajko

Coordinator of the Competition, IDMC

12:30 – 12:50

Q & A Session and Closing Remarks**Moderator: Brisejda Lala**

Historian, Research Department, ISKK

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch**MOVIE SCREENING:
“Those Sweet Murky Waters”**

Agimi Art Center

Languages: Albanian, English

18:00 – 18:15

Welcome Address**Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes**

Director of KAS Albania

Alessandro Ruggera

Director of the Italian Institute of Culture Tirana

18:15 – 18:30

Movie Screening: “Those Sweet Murky Waters”

by KAS & The Italian Institute of Culture

Dubbed in Albanian with English subtitles



Totalitarian regimes are known for stifling ideological opposition and silencing “unpleasant voices”, including those of scientists pushing the limits of the so-called impossible. “Murky Waters”, conceived by artist Driant Zeneli in collaboration with papier-mâché master Deni Bianco and supported by the Merz Foundation, embarks on a journey that intertwines art, memory, ecology, and technology. The film focuses on the life of researcher Sabiha Kasimati, who challenged politics, social stereotypes, and even death in the name of science and freedom. Drawing a parallel with the myth of Prometheus, it uses clay, papier-mâché, and robotics to portray Kasimati’s transformation into a fish, symbolizing her connection to aquatic life and evolution. The film portrays her as a modern Prometheus, stealing electric light from a dam to aid fish in murky waters, leading to her own tragic fate.

18:30 – 19:15

Panel Discussion**Driant Zeneli**

Film Director

Stefano Romano

Curator

Vytene Muschick

Cultural mediator

PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS FROM ISKK

Tirana International Hotel, Abret Room
Languages: Albanian, English

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome Address**

Çelo Hoxha

Director of ISKK

Ladislav Kudrna

Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR), Czech Republic

Signing of an agreement between ISKK and USTR

10:00 – 11:00 **PRESENTATION OF ISKK–PUBLICATIONS 2023**

The Institute of Studies on the Crimes and Consequences of Communism presents the study column published during 2023. Notable among the 10 new books is the XII volume of the “Encyclopedia of Victims of Communist Terror”, a comprehensive database on the persecuted in Albania during the communist period. Since its inception, ISKK has published over 100 textbooks focused on the communist dictatorship in Albania.

- “Encyclopedia of Victims of the Communist Terror” by ISKK & KAS
Presented by **Çelo Hoxha**
- “Zërat e Kujtesës - Voices of Memory” Vol. 9
Presented by **Juliana Kurti**
- “Son of the Enemy” written by Nebil Çika
Presented by **Çelo Hoxha**
- “Memoir Stories. Confessions from the Dungeons of Communism” written by Mark Alia
Presented by **Violeta Murati**
- “We Survived” written by Musa Çapani

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:15 **Further PRESENTATION OF ISKK–PUBLICATIONS 2023**

- “25 Years, 3 Months, 15 Days in Communist Prisons” written by Urim Elezi
Presented by **Urjolsa Elezi**
- “The Democratic Coalition, the First Post-War Albanian Opposition” written by Kastriot Dervishi
- “Agricultural Cooperatives and Peasant Dissidence” (1946-1991) written by Xhafer Sadiku
- “Baba Zylfo Turani, Martyr of the Nation” written by Syrja Xhelaj
- Scientific Journal “Memoria 3/2023”

12:15 – 12:30 **Q & A Session**

Moderator: Armanda Hysa

Deputy Director of ISKK

12:30 – 13:30 **Reception**

ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE: M ú S i N é

National Museum “House of Leaves”

Languages: Albanian

16:30 – 17:00 **Welcome Address**

Ruth Huber

Swiss Ambassador to Albania

Erenestina Gjergji Halili

Ideator and Curator of the Performance

17:00 – 18:00 Performance: “M ú S i N é – Just Like Us! Voices that Withstood Time”



An inspiring artistic performance at the National Museum of Surveillance “House of Leaves” that brings to life the works of courageous individuals such as Musine Kokalari, At Zef Pllumi, Sabiha Kasimati, Vilson Blloshmi, and others who stood against Albania’s Communist dictatorship. Drama Club students from the University of Tirana will vividly bring these once-muted voices to life, demonstrating the power of art and resilience in overcoming adversity. Supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Albania, this event is more than a performance: it’s a profound journey through history, paying homage to those who bravely fought for freedom and truth. Prepare for an unforgettable evening, where the silenced voices of the past are heard once more, set against a backdrop of innovative lighting and sound, symbolizing the enduring human spirit’s relentless quest for freedom.

Note: Due to space constraints in the museum, please make sure to confirm your presence writing to our E-mail: office@idmc.al in advance, to secure your participation at this event

DISCUSSION: “THE PERSECUTION OF ARTISTS DURING THE DICTATORSHIP”

Europe House

Languages: Albanian, English

16:00 – 16:15 **Registration**

16:15 – 16:20 **Welcome Address**

Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

Director of KAS Albania

16:20 – 16:35 Documentary Screening “PAINTING IN DARKNESS”
produced by **BIRN Albania**
Authors **Blerina Gjoka & Elton Baxhaku**

Artists who were persecuted by the State Security had their artworks confiscated, and these artworks were either destroyed or sold without being returned to the original creators. The documentary “Painting in Darkness”, presents a rare case where the paintings of a young artist, sentenced to prison, were discovered and returned to the artist after 46 years.

16:35 – 17:35 Panel Discussion

Blerina Gjoka

Journalist, Screenwriter, BIRN

Bujar Kapexhiu

Screenwriter, Cartoonist

Lulzim Beqiri

Painter

Astrit Jegeni

Historian, Archivist

Exhibition with Lulzim Beqiri's Paintings

Friday
23
February

**BOOK PRESENTATION:
“TRIALS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST
NOMENCLATURE (1993-1996)”**

Europe House

Languages: Albanian, English

09:30 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10:05 **Welcome & Introduction**

10:05 – 10:15 **Opening Remarks by the Editors**

Jonila Godole

Director of IDMC

Çelo Hoxha

Director of ISKK

10:15 – 10:40 **Presentation of the Findings**



This is the first publication of its kind that compiles all judicial decisions from court trials against 35 officials of the Albanian communist nomenclature between 1993-1996. It explores the accusations and convictions of communist nomenclature leaders, the selection process for those facing justice, and the legal basis for their initial conviction and subsequent acquittal by the courts. This publication serves not only as documentation of events but also contributes to the discussion and reflection on Transitional Justice in the context of Albania.

10:40 – 11:00 **Q & A Session / Discussion on Future Research**

Moderator: Neritan Sejamini

Political Consultant and Analyst

11:00 – 11:30 **Networking Reception**

OPEN FORUM ON OSMAN KAZAZI, EMBLEM OF RESISTANCE AGAINST COMMUNIST REGIME

Faculty of Social Sciences, Aula Magna Hall

Languages: Albanian, English

10:30 – 11:00 **Welcome Address**

Artan Hoxha

Rector of the University of Tirana

Clarisse Pásztor

Acting Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania

Edmond Rapti

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of
Tirana

11:00 – 11:50 **Documentary Screening “EYES OF THE SOUL”**
by Kujto.al

The documentary “Eyes of the Soul,” dedicated to
Osman Kazazi, the man who endured 42 years of
persecution during the communist dictatorship and
his special friendship with the Dutch optician Paul
Luijf.

It brings testimonies from family and friends who
have known Osman and the story of the friendship
that inspired Paul’s humanitarian work in Albania.

11:50 – 12:20 Overview of Preparations of the Documentary and
Sociological Analysis of the Political Persecution of
Persons under the Communist Regime

Teuta Starova

Researcher, Sociologist

Blerina Gjoka

Director of Kujto.al Foundation

12:20 – 13:00 **Q & A**

Moderator: Erjola Likaj

National Legal Officer, Rule of Law and Human Rights
Department, OSCE

Saturday
24
February

AWARD CEREMONY OF “ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS” COMPETITION



Tirana International Hotel, Balsha Room

Languages: Albanian, English

10:00 – 10:30 **Registration**

10:30 – 10:50 **Welcome Address**

Jonila Godole

Director of IDMC

Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

Director of KAS Albania

Representative of Ministry of Education

Katja Fausser

Programme Director, EUSTORY

Vojsava Kumbulla

Director of ALBNA

10:50 – 11:50 **The Grand Finale: “Ask Your Grandparents 6”**

The “Ask Your Grandparents” competition’s sixth edition concludes with an awards ceremony, marking the end of a three-month journey where young people explored and unearthed stories of lesser-known places in Albania. Highlights of the contest, featuring selected works, will be showcased, and 7 awards will be pre-sented for the most creative entries. This event is a collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, EUSTORY, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Albanian Association of History Teachers, and other educational and memory institutions, and includes participants from the media, diplomatic corps, students, teachers, and parents. Open to young people aged 14-21, the competition had two categories: essays and multimedia, each delving into Albania’s hidden historical sites.

Members of the Jury 2024:

Fatmiroshe Xhemalaj, Historian, Curricula Expert

Valbona Bezati, Media Expert

Agim Baçi, Journalist

Moderators:

Alba Lloshi

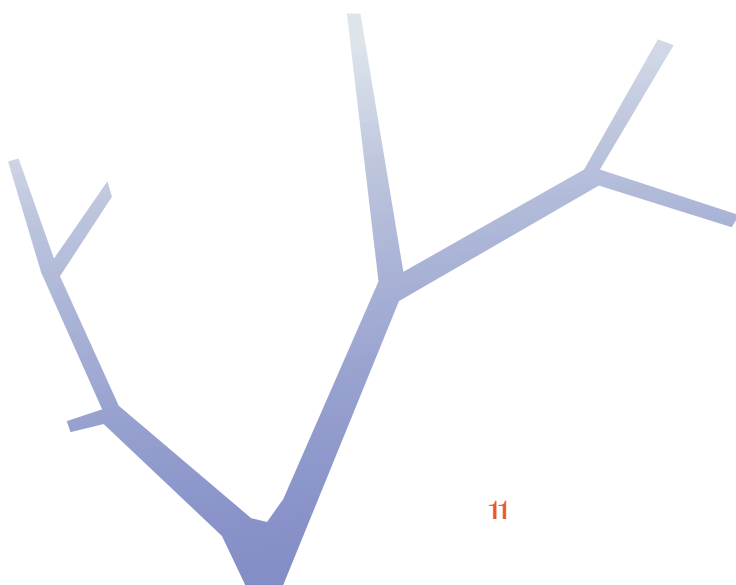
Winner of the 5th Edition of the Competition

Markus Dalla-Via

Austrian Service Abroad

11:50 – 12:00 **Closing Remarks & Future Vision**

12:00 – 12:30 **Networking Reception**



Monday
26
February

COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF FEBRUARY 26, 1951

National Martyrs Cemetery of Albania, Tirana

10:00 – 11:00 **Tribute to the Memory of 22 Intellectuals
Murdered on February 26, 1951, on the 73rd
Anniversary**

On February 19, 1951, a bomb exploded at the USSR embassy in Tirana. This event led the Politburo to order the execution of 22 intellectuals, falsely accused of involvement. On the night of February 26, these in-nocent victims were executed on the bank of the Erzen River, near the village of Mënik, and buried in a com-mon pit, bound with barbed wire. Among the victims was Sabiha Kasimati, a notable female intellectual. In 1991, all victims were posthumously declared inno-cent, and in 2008, they were honored with the title “Honor of the Nation”.

Welcome Address

Çelo Hoxha

Historian, Director of ISKK

Historical Overview

Uran Butka

Historian

Memorial Address

Gëzim Peshkëpia

Family member of one of the victims

End of the Ceremony

Moment of Silence and Laying of Wreaths



MEMORY DAYS 2024

“Future Memories: Preserving History Without Witnesses”

On February 20-26, 2024, in this edition of the MEMORY DAYS, we aim to address the extraordinary challenges of preserving and conveying our history when eyewitnesses today are a few, while tomorrow they will no longer be among us.

After 45 years of Stalinist dictatorship in Albania and a significant absence of confrontation with the past post-1990, the issue of memory and its future challenges is more critical than ever. How do we keep history alive when eyewitnesses will no longer be among us? Technological advancements have enhanced the possibility of preserving and processing oral testimonies, it may be a chance for the transition from living to virtual testimony, despite the ethical dilemmas that accompany this process. As Albania and neighboring countries face the consequences of their totalitarian pasts, it is essential to learn from international experiences. This is not just to keep our history alive but to ensure that it is not forgotten and is learned by future generations.

MEMORY DAYS is an annual activity organized by IDMC with the support of KAS and in cooperation with other memory institutions in the country and abroad, since 2016. The activities during MEMORY DAYS aim to raise the awareness of Albanian society about the consequences of crimes of communist regime, and strengthening the dialogue on the past through debates, presentations of the newest publications on the dictatorship, artistic performances, international conferences, documentary screenings etc.

The activities of #MemoryDays2024

- 20.02** 16:30 Rogner Hotel, Antigonea 2 Room
OPENING CEREMONY OF MEMORY DAYS 2024
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: “**Stalin** – Life and Death of a Dictator” & Panel Discussion
-
- 21.02** 09:00–13:00 Tirana International Hotel, Consortium Room
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“Future Memories – Preserving History without Witnesses”
-
- 18:00–19:15 Agimi Art Center
MOVIE SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION
“Those Sweet Murky Waters”
-
- 22.02** 09:00–13:30 Tirana International Hotel, Abret Room
ISKK PUBLICATIONS 2023
-
- 16:30–18:00 National Museum “House of Leaves”
ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE
“M ú S i N é – Just Like Us” by Erenestina Halili & Drama Club Students
-
- 16:00–17:30 Europe House
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING “PAINTING IN DARKNESS”
and Panel Discussion
-
- 23.02** 09:30– 11:30 Europe House
BOOK PRESENTATION
“Trials Against the High Communist Nomenclature (1993-1996)”
-
- 10:30-13:00 Faculty of Social Sciences
OPEN FORUM ON OSMAN KAZAZI, EMBLEM OF RESISTANCE AGAINST COMMUNIST REGIME
Documentary screening & Panel discussion “Eyes of the Soul”
-
- 24.02** 10:00-12:30 Tirana International Hotel, Balsha Room
AWARD CEREMONY OF “ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS” COMPETITION
-
- 26.02** 10:00 National Martyrs Cemetery of Albania
COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF FEBRUARY 26, 1951
Tribute to the Cemetery of the 22 Intellectuals executed by the regime on February 26, 1951
-

For more information about MEMORY DAYS 2024 visit:
<https://www.idmc.al/en/memory-days-24/>

Organizers:

IDMC – The Institute for Democracy, Media & Culture is a non-profit organization that uses an interdisciplinary approach to study and promote the development of democratic values, culture, and media in Albania. The institute aims to promote dignity and human rights as key elements of Europe and the European Union's (EU) democratic values and to raise awareness amongst young people about the history of the EU and the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, including the dictatorship in Albania, through:

- educational training, school curriculum, and creative projects in multimedia, film, and awareness-raising events;
- the publication (in print and online) and translation of books and materials that enable scientific and cultural exchange, both European and international; and
- scientific surveys of public opinion about media and peace.

IDMC's activities on dealing with the past, such as MEMORY DAYS, are supported by Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Website: www.idmc.al

KAS – The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is a political foundation of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany. Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967), the co-founder of the Christian Democratic Union and the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, brought together Christian, social, and conservative traditions with liberal traditions. His name is a symbol of the democratic reconstruction of Germany, the deployment of its foreign policy in a transatlantic community of values, the vision of a united Europe, and an orientation towards the social market economy. His spiritual heritage is, at the same time, our duty and commitment.

Website: www.kas.de/albanien/sq/

Partners & Supporters

“MEMORY DAYS 2024”:

- Embassy of Switzerland in Tirana
- German Embassy in Tirana
- Austrian Embassy in Tirana
- Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany
- OSCE Presence in Albania
- Ministry of Education and Sport
- Institute for the Studies of Communist Crimes and Consequences
- Albanian National Association of History Teachers
- House of Leaves – The Museum of Secret Surveillance
- OeAD – Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation
- Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes
- Site of Witness and Memory
- University of Tirana
- Faculty of History and Philology
- Drama Club FHF/UT
- EuroClio
- EUSTORY
- Kujto.al Foundation
- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network: BIRN
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura
- Anti-Communist Association of the former Political Persecuted

Venues

Rogner Hotel

Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit, Tirana

<https://www.hotel-europapark.com/en.html>

Tirana International Hotel

Sheshi Skënderbej 8, Tirana

<https://www.tiranainternational.com/>

Europe House

Papa Gjon Pali II Street, Tirana

Faculty of Social Sciences

Gjergj Fishta Boulevard, Tirana

<http://fshs-ut.edu.al>

House of Leaves – The Museum of Secret Surveillance

Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit str, Tirana

<https://muzeugjethi.gov.al>

Agimi Art Center

Bajram Curri Blvd, Tirana

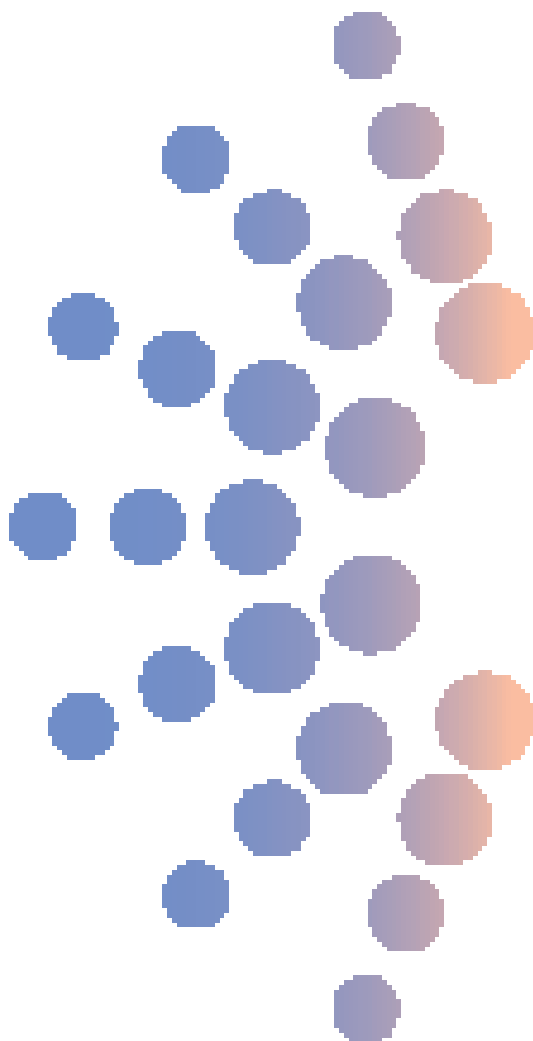
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Facebook: **IDMC – Instituti për Demokraci, Media dhe Kulturë**

Instagram: **idmc_albania**

You Tube: **Instituti për Demokraci, Media & Kulturë**

Twitter: **idmc5**



#9

20 – 26
February

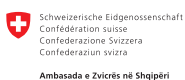
2024

MEMORY DAYS

ORGANIZERS:



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:



Ambasada e Zvicëris në Shqipëri



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Tirana



AMBASADA
AUSTRIAKE
TIRANË



SHTETIA ME GJETHE
HOUSE OF LEAVES



EuroClio
Institute for History and Citizenship Educators

