

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some solid and some semi-transparent, arranged in a way that suggests movement and depth.

# IFG - a delocalization fruitful experience in Albania

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# A brief history

**The 1990s of the last century in Albania were marked by many reforms, political, economic and social transformations.**

**At the very beginning of its years the country seemed well on its way to a free economy, but the lack of experience, the greed to get rich and by any means, on the one hand, and the banking system not suitable to political and economic changes, on the other hand, led Albania to a deep economic and political crisis, which culminated in the collapse of rentier societies (also called pyramidal) in 1997.**

**It was evident that the imperatives of good management, the privatization of enterprises and the process of transforming the Albanian economy from the centralized model to that of a free market economy had highlighted the urgent need for qualified managerial staff. It is in this context that solutions should be considered in collaboration with Albanian higher education**

# A brief history

The “Institut Français de Gestion” in Tirana is a concrete illustration of a French initiative to offer a second cycle training (according to the Bologna Process) in the field of Business Management.

From the outset, the **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** via **FNEGE** (with its network of French higher education institutions, including the University of Bordeaux IV Montesquieu), the **Foundation Open Society for Albania (OSFA)** and the **Polytechnic University of Tirana (UPT)**.

This training program was designed with a double ambition:

- **quality**: validated by a French third cycle diploma of that time, which corresponds to a second cycle diploma today;
- **efficiency**: acquisition of management theories and good practices.

# Objectives, Candidates and curricula

**The objectives** of the proposed training were the creation of a postgraduate degree course (currently second cycle) at the level of specialized "Masters" for a period of one-year full time in order to train future Albanian executives following the French know-how in the area.

**The candidates** were selected according to the following criteria:

- possession of a higher education diploma, Mat + 4 or Bac +5 level;
- knowledge of management and economics;
- Mastery of the French language;
- potential and motivation for a career in business;
- testimony of an inter-cultural and multidisciplinary openness.

**The Curricula** was designed based on the IV University of

# Study programme organization

**Legal basis** : the *Decision of the Council of Ministers* number 19 of January 6, 1997 on the “Implementation of qualification and training courses at higher education institutions” and the *agreement* signed between the Polytechnic University and the FNEGE gave life to the French Institute of Management (at the Polytechnic University).

**Two semester** teaching process, based on a modular scheme taught by French professors coming to Tirana, one at the time.

**A stage at any local of French company** that concluded the academic year.

**Institutional diploma awarding ceremony** led by the IFG (UPT) , IV University of Bordeaux and OSFA under the auspices of the French Embassy in Tirana.

# IFG and Bologna Process

## From a University degree to a National French Master

- At the beginning IFG started under a pre-Bologna scheme (DU);
- Step by step with the progress of Bologna Process in France and Albania the degree was formalized under a French National Master scheme (ECTS points based curricula and accreditation)

## Difficulties

- Albania changed the HE law three times in 8 years (2007, 2010 and 2015);
- The laws of 2007 and 2010 didn't regulate the delocalised education in Albania;
- Every issue was run on the basis of the DCM no.19 of January 1997.

# IFG and Bologna Process

## Success

- **Only ONE HEI responsible of the diploma – a sign of trust;**
- **The French degree is well-recognized by the local labour market;**
- **No need to any particular procedure for international recognition;**
- **Around 300 graduates : Albanian, French, Italian, Russian alumni;**
- **Integration of the local teaching staff to the study programme.**

## Findings

- **Mastery of the teaching language at university level (French) is a very good basis for succeeding ;**
- **Engineering & management has been discovered as a good marriage;**

# IFG and Bologna Process

## Evolution

- **The HE law of 2015 opened the doors to delocalization of HE in Albania;**
- **IFG needs CD changes – no more Mat+4 degrees as Albania has chosen the 3, 5, 8 Bologna model;**
- **Difficulties on the HE Internationalization ;**
- **Under the Covid 19 circumstances the online courses and distance learning means should be reconsidered in Albania from a legal initiative prospective.**