

## The Czech-(Slovak)-Albanian Relations: One Hundred Years in the Making

Regional Knowledge Global Connections

## INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

<u>Venue:</u> Prague (<u>Online via Zoom</u>: https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/4590951100; Meeting ID: 4590951100; <u>Streaming</u>: https://www.facebook.com/adrian.brisku)

Organizers: Dr Adrian Brisku (IMS, FSS Charles University & University of Vienna), Mgr. Přemysl Vinš (FF) & Dr Orkida Borshi (FF) Charles University

<u>Time</u>: 26.11.2020, from 09:30 to 15:30

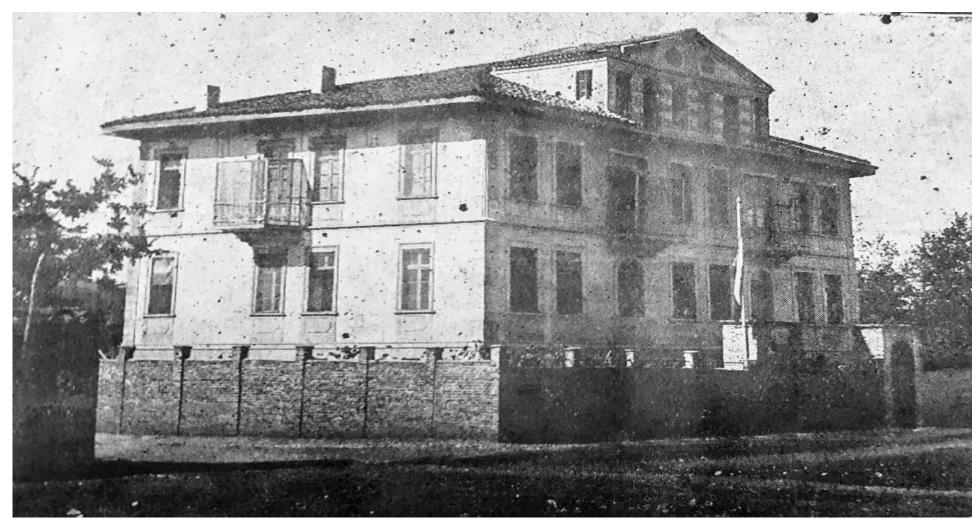
Except for those attuned to contemporary diplomatic relations between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Albania, few might be aware that the Czech-Albanian relations – with their diplomatic ties established on 5 July 1922 – are to reach a hundred years. To mark this approaching centenary, this first international academic conference on the Czech(Slovak)-Albanian relations – organized by the Department of Russian and East European Studies (IMS, Faculty of Social Sciences) and the Department of South Slavic and Balkan Studies (Faculty of Philosophy) of Charles University – brings together ambassadors, historians and scholars from both the Czech Republic and Albania to deliver accounts on historical and contemporary cultural, economic, diplomatic and people to people interactions between the two nations. Drawing on archival material as well as contemporary interactions and experiences, the contributors of this conference will shed light on as to why and how these two geographically non-contiguous European countries – during these one hundred years – have gotten closer, at times cooled off, and rebounded with more dynamic, amicable and entangled interactions.











Historic Photo of the Czechoslovak Consulate in the Albanian Capital, Tirana. Circa 1925 © Valter Gjoni.

## **PROGRAMME**

09:30 **CONFERENCE OPENING** 

CHAIR & MODERATOR: Dr Adrian Brisku

PANEL 1. Getting to Know Each Other: Between the First and the Second World Wars

09:40 The Memoirs of Czech Soldiers Serving in Albania in WWI – Mgr. Přemysl Vinš, Charles University

10:00 Czechs in the Albanian Mountains: The Ethnography of the North Albanian Mountainous Tribes

during WWI in the Work of Karel Sellner – Bc. Robert Dobra, Charles University

10: 20 The Interwar Period as the Onset of the Czechoslovak-Albanian Diplomatic Relations – Mgr. Matěj Křepinský,

Charles University

10:40-11:00 Discussion 11:00-11:20 Break

PANEL 2. From a Strengthening to a Cooling off of the Relations: Post-War to the Fall of the Iron Curtain

11:20 Albania and the Soviet Occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968: Closer to Beijing through Prague – Dr. Artan

Puto, University of Tirana

11:40 The Economic Dimension in the Albanian-Czechoslovak Relations during the Communist Period – **Prof. Ana** 

Lalaj, University of Tirana

Czechoslovak-Albanian Cultural Relations since 1945 – Honorable Former Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. 12:00

Piro Milkani

12:20-12:40 Discussion 12:40-14:00 Lunch Break

PANEL 3. Closer Ties through Education, Tourism, EU Integration: Post-Socialist Dynamics

14:00 A Revival of Albanian Studies at Charles University – Dr. Orkida Borshi, Charles University

14:20 Contemporary Czech-Albanian Relations – Honorable Albanian Ambassador in the Czech

Republic Mr. Ilirian Kuka

14:40 Tourism as a Hidden but Effective Instrument of Integration – Honorable Czech Ambassador in the

Republic. of Albania, Mr. Jaroslav Ludva

15:00-15:30

Department of European Studies



Department of German and Austrian **Studies** 



Department of Russian and European Studies

