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THE PROJECT OF GREEN COAST VILLAGE, IN PALASA, ALBANIA

7

9

8

10



MORE ROOM
FOR RETAIL UNITS,
GASTRONOMY &
ENTERTAINING AREAS

TOTAL GLA
54,000M2

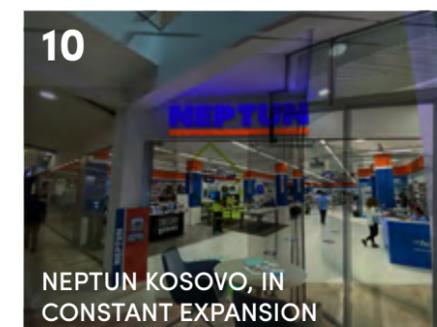
160
STORES

9.6 MILLION
VISITORS ANNUALLY



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WHO WE ARE

"Balkan Finance Investment Group", (BALFIN Group) is one of the most significant and successful investment groups in the Western Balkans, with a 835 million euro gross revenue non-consolidated.

BALFIN Group is a trustworthy partner applying the highest business and ethical standards, with experience and expertise in several industries, great financial capitals, outstanding human resources, and a rigorous focus on innovation.

The Group operates in various industries such as: real estate, retail, mining and smelting industry, banking, tourism, energy, logistics, etc. On the other hand, by applying the highest global business principles and speaking the local language, all group companies are unquestionable leaders in their respective enterprises, thus making BALFIN Group a commended and applauded partner for a large number of significant international companies and financial institutions.

BALFIN Group was founded in 1993 in Vienna by Mr. Samir Mane, and is currently located and operating in Austria, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Netherlands and Switzerland. The Group has more than 5.000 employees, whose dedication and passion remain key to BALFIN Group's success story.

BALFIN Group has made constant progress in overall growth by upgrading standards and shifting towards sustainability. Through economic development, employment opportunities, innovation, and social involvement, BALFIN Group challenges the status quo, fostering a positive impact on communities.



FACTS AND FIGURES



More than
5,000 people
work in all BALFIN Group companies



Non-consolidated total
Group Assets
€ 1.5 billion



gross revenue
unconsolidated
**€ 835 million
euro**



+ 28 million
visitors are estimated
to visit QTU, TEG and
EGM annually



Approximately
€ 59 million
taxes paid in 2021



QTU and TEG are
respectively
**the first and
the largest**
shopping malls in Albania.



Neptun International is the
leading retail
the chain of consumer
electronics operating in
Albania, North Macedonia
and Kosovo



KidZone is present in 4
countries, with 21 Jumbo
superstores, offering more than
30,000 products
for every buyer persona



Balfin Real Estate &
Hospitality manages a wide
portfolio of assets of
€ 830 million
in 2021



From 2019, BALFIN Group
is present in the
banking sector
as the sole shareholder of
Tirana Bank



East Gate
located in Skopje, is
the largest shopping
mall in the region



SPAR is the
**largest
international**
chain of supermarkets in
Albania, serving more
than 35,000 clients daily



€ 88 million
total Group investments
in 2021



East Gate Living project

Transforming tourism and lifestyle through the real estate sector

6 months of 2022 results in an increase of 65% compared to the same period last year.

The real estate sector has been bringing significant income flows to the Albanian economy for several years. The demand for real estate has seen significant growth and this has been best translated into the sale of projects in which BALFIN Group has invested. Thanks to the large number of projects in which the Group is involved, as well as their diversity, BALFIN today fully accommodates demands and offers a quality lifestyle for the clientele it targets. All this, translated into sales volume, for the first 6 months of 2022 results in an increase of 65% compared to the same period last year.

Although Green Coast remains a success story, BALFIN Group has not limited itself to what it has done with this project in the field of hospitality.

In terms of quality, the group cooperates with brands of international standards such as Accor, a world-leading group in hospitality. In terms of quantity, in order to expand the accommodation structures, in the new project of Green Coast Village, the Group is always focusing more and more on providing quality hotel services by implementing the best practices from international brands. In order not to limit tourism only during the summer

season, BALFIN Group aims to extend the season to 365 days thanks to the services offered. Conceived as a harmonious fusion between premium and authentic life in taste, culture and scent, Green Coast Village is the most significant symbol of modernity, dynamism, relaxation and approach to nature in its truest form.

The diversity of tourism is also very important. As a result, apart from the coast, the Group's investments in real estate in Albania are already present in other areas, such as Belvedere Korça, which is located in a mountainous area.

Also, the Univers City project in the outskirts of Tirana proved that the Group knows how to be one step ahead and "create demand", referring to the way residential centers are now built, offering what the market lacked in the country: a city within the city with all the necessary services and facilities.

Not much time has passed since the presentation and start of works on the project, and every residential or service unit ready for sale in BALFIN's portfolio was sold immediately, which confirms its significant success.

East Gate Living has completed the construction of 4 buildings

Following the inauguration of East Gate Mall in Skopje on October 29, 2021 a 103 million euro investment by BALFIN Group, the Skopje East Gate project is progressing at a satisfactory pace with East Gate Living. The construction of 4 buildings has been completed, while the interior of the apartments, the electrical and mechanical installations, and the facade are in progress and will finish very soon. It is expected that the apartment owners can start moving in as early as spring 2023.

East Gate Living brings back the high standards of living. With wide apartments, high ceilings, furnished kitchens, spacious balconies, orientation and views in 4 directions, lots of light, 50 m distance from building to building, greenery, gardens and 25,000 m2 of playgrounds, it makes the perfect green oasis close to the city center, but still very unique and hidden from the city crowd. The potential customers of this important project are active

professionals who want a different lifestyle. The new surrounding and settlement will be a unique Skopje area, close to the biggest shopping mall (East Gate Mall) and the five business centres that will concentrate the advanced IT, financial, and technological business units in one.

East Gate Living and Offices are developed in different stages and phases. Living will be completed in 2023, meanwhile East Gate Offices' works shall start in 2024-2025. These investments are generating new working places, as a new settlement in the city is being built. Circa 5,000 people will be working and living in Skopje East Gate.

The CEO of Neptun Macedonia, Goran Cvetinov, awarded "Manager of the Year 2021"

The "Men of the Year 2021" event in Skopje, North Macedonia, awarded the CEO of Neptun Macedonia, Goran Cvetinov, as the "Manager of the Year 2021". Organized by Gentleman Magazine, the first specialized online magazine for men in the country, and Friday Communications, a top production and marketing agency, it is a well-established event that brings together successful men in different categories in more than 70 countries in the world.

"From the very first day, I've worked with passion, commitment, creativity, and vision, driven by strong and meaningful values, including an unwavering commitment to integrity. If you want to lead, there is no secret, but never start and continue a job you don't enjoy. In the end, it's every day's reality, you should live the work you do," – stated Cvetinov when asked about this award.



New office of BRE&H in Zurich, Switzerland

BRE&H officially in Switzerland with a representative office

Four years after its establishment, Balfin Real Estate & Hospitality officially opened its branch in Zurich, marking not only a key moment in the company's history, but also the entry of BALFIN Group in the Swiss market. An extraordinary achievement for BRE&H and BALFIN Group, this development comes as a result of the company's continued growth and successful real estate and tourism projects.

The representative office in Zurich will offer a full range of services in the field of real estate, starting from research, consulting in finding the right property, providing maximum support in its management, sales / brokerage agreements, rental and after-sales consulting.

With this representative office, the international market will now have the opportunity to get acquainted with the most important projects being built in the most exclusive

and tourist areas of Albania.

The company is targeting Albanian and Kosovar citizens living in Switzerland, but also foreign citizens. The branch will provide the necessary consultancy so that this target can be acquainted with Albania and the potential it possesses in real estate investments. The considerable presence of the Albanian diaspora in this country, as well as their continuous interest in investing in quality real estate projects in Albania, has made BALFIN Group consider the establishment of this representation office as the first step to create a bridge between the places where Albanians live. A significant part of the clients who invest in real estate and who reside in Switzerland have believed in the quality of our residential and tourist projects. The high number of customers from these markets who show interest was the key success factor in establishing this representation.



Alba-Trade office building in Vienna, Austria

Alba-Trade, the Austrian subsidiary of BALFIN that supplies technology to the Balkans

Alba-Trade GmbH in Vienna, Austria, is the first BALFIN Group company founded by the Group's President, Samir Mane, in 1993. Over the past 29 years, the company has grown and has become one of the leading wholesale and retail players of major technology brands such as Samsung, Xiaomi, Apple, Sony PlayStation, and Lenovo, which have entrusted Alba-Trade with their official and exclusive representation in the Balkan region.

Alba-Trade has been a successful distributor thanks to a comprehensive market knowledge in the region and business planning synchronized with the sales policies of its international partners. Business volume and solid capital turnover have made it a reliable and strategic partner. Alba-Trade alone has grown by about 15% in the last three years. This has generated stability, confidence, and long-term partnerships in the Balkans and beyond.

The company has contractual relationships where it represents renowned brands in the electronic industry in Albania, North Macedonia,

Kosovo, and since 2020 in Croatia, too. Based on wholesale structure inherited since Alba Trade's inception, it also operates wholesale on a global scale including companies outside Europe. It currently has distribution points that operate under the daily business models introduced in Hong Kong, Dubai, and Miami.

Alba-Trade presents international companies with a variety of products to meet the buyers' needs. Alba Trade has cooperation agreements with some of the most remarkable companies in the world of technology like Samsung, Xiaomi, Sony PlayStation, or Apple. The company has

representation agreements with these companies or even exclusivity agreements for their distribution in the Balkan countries.

Alba Trade, in addition to supplying the retail network of Neptun International, a subsidiary of BALFIN Group, is also currently acting as a distributor for other countries of the region, covering all sales of retail companies. Having completed the initial project in Croatia, the plan is to open the same facility in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina within 2022.



Neptun shops in Kosovo

Neptun Kosovo, in constant expansion

Economic instability and high inflation rates have had a significant impact on the authorized retail resale sector for household appliances in Kosovo. Quickly adapting to the difficulties brought by the reflection of the global crisis in the domestic market, Neptun Kosovo, part of BALFIN Group, is investing in two main directions: network expansion and technologies that improve internal process.

In the short term, the expansion chain includes two new openings in Gjakova and Malisheva, cities where Neptun is not yet present. Meanwhile, in the long run, the expansion trend will continue to cover the country's map with Neptun's blue colour.

A first step in the technology that Neptun is implementing in Kosovo is the digitalization of the system, an innovation that will ensure the most effective management of day-to-day operations in each segment. Beyond the tendency to follow the pace of digitalization, this initiative will move the level of operational action to another scale. The integration of all units through the intelligent

system will enable the reflection of business performance in analytical and visual reports, easily readable and comparable.

Faruk Ademi, Neptun Kosovo's CEO, foresees the upcoming trend: "Judging by the fact that we are impacted by the constant economic changes not only at a national but also at an international level, we forecast a decline in performance and difficulties, compared to last year. Therefore, for a growth trend trajectory, a strong and rapid economic recovery is needed. However, we are constantly accommodating prices in line with consumer demand and organizing campaigns that raise awareness not only of the challenging prices but also of the rewards as an added value of promotion. In addition, dynamics similar to these will be followed throughout the year. Thus, we see such challenges as opportunities to embrace positive changes, like the digital transformation, which has significantly altered consumer behaviour and the way industries operate," - he stated.

Beko, a consolidated long term exclusive partnership

Beko, a world-known brand of electronic and home appliances whose journey started in 1955, and over the past 60 years made it to create both innovative and environmentally friendly products, is operating in North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Albania for many years now. Beko has partnered for more than twenty years with the well-known home appliance network Neptun, part of BALFIN Group, and a recognized leader company in the above-mentioned markets. While visiting Neptun in Tirana, Alp Arbatli, Beko's Regional Manager for the Balkans, spoke about this year-long partnership.

"With the development of Beko and the growing success of Neptun, we have become important partners. Our cooperation began at an early stage, and now we are enjoying the maturity, efficiency, and synergies of Neptun's store network as well as the quality of Beko's products for consumer use. Together, we are creating success stories. We have always felt the strength of BALFIN Group, which supports us and stands by us, and this is a significant factor in our successful cooperation," - says Alp Arbatli.

Beko operates in 135 countries around the world. The company has 30,000 employees and is one of the 3 main brands of home appliances in Europe.



West Park, the new retail park makes its debut

West Park, a 7400 m2 commercial facility with public areas, officially opened on August 5 in Korça.

Distinguished brands of SPAR Albania, Jumbo, Neptun, and LC Waikiki will now make shopping easier for the residents of Korça and the many tourists that this town welcomes throughout the year. On the occasion of the retail park opening and inauguration, these brands had dedicated offers for their customers.

The facility provides a wider selection of similar shopping center-style stores, but in a building with a more consolidated structure, thus giving more free space to serve the citizens.

The retail park presents the stores as part of the city's public spaces, eliminating enclosures and divisions,

whereas the units offer an inviting environment for everyone without creating barriers.

This investment will only be the first of its kind, as BALFIN Group plans to later extend the retail park model to other cities in Albania, such as Vlorë, Elbasan, Tirana, and so on.

With West Park opening its doors, 200 new jobs were instantly created in the city of Korça and its surroundings.

The retail park will be managed by ACREM, which also manages TEG and QTU, Albania's two largest shopping centers.

Fashion Group brings ALDO to Albania

Another world renowned brand has been added to the portfolio of Fashion Group Albania. ALDO, the Canadian brand which began with a dream, now operates a chain of stores as one of the representatives of high quality, unique style, and innovation in the worldwide market. Since the 5th of March, this well-known shoes and accessories' brand is present in Albania with two curated stores at TEG and QTU, as well as online at www.fga.al.



The Tirana Bank-Happy Credit Card, a unique product in the Albanian market

The collaboration between On Solutions and Tirana Bank brought in place one unique product, which will be an added value to customers empowering and differentiating brands in the market. The Tirana Bank-Happy Credit Card is a competitive advantage in the Albanian Market offering loyal customers double happy points for each purchase at SPAR Albania, Neptun, Jumbo, FGA stores; the possibility to pay via installments from 2-12 months with 0% interest; personalized offers, etc.





Newco Ferronikeli factory in Drenas, Kosovo

Agreement signed for the sale of NewCo Ferronikel's shares to Yildirim Group

BALFIN Group has reached an agreement to transfer the ownership of NewCo Ferronikeli L.L.C to Yildirim International Group, based in Turkey. The agreement was signed by representatives of both parties in early June 2022. This development will not affect the employees, or the investment plan launched by BALFIN Group, as the representatives of the Yildirim Group are also engaged in this regard.

Founded in 1984, NewCo Ferronikeli is the largest exporter in Kosovo and one of the most important actors in the country's economy. With over 1,000 employees and over 2,000 others indirectly employed,

NewCo Ferronikeli is also one of the largest employers in Kosovo. Additionally, this company is the largest

consumer of energy in the country and the largest user of the railway network, to an extent of up to 80%.

NewCo Ferronikeli became part of BALFIN Group in July 2018. Found in a state of suspended activity with liabilities, as well as unpaid salaries of employees, BALFIN Group intervened to improve the financial situation and began implementing a program of investments worth 30 million euros.

Yildirim Group has expressed its readiness to follow the investments of BALFIN Group. The Turkish conglomerate has stated that with its business plan, it will turn NewCo Ferronikel into one of its most valuable and best nickel companies in Europe.

Innovation Summit, a commitment of internal innovation and organizational culture

BALFIN Group organized in June the 4th consecutive edition of Balfin Innovation Summit, an annual event dedicated to innovative ideas and projects.

Three finalist projects of the Group competed with concepts that constituted innovations both within their structure and in the market. The three innovative projects presented in the finale were from East Gate Mall in North Macedonia, Jumbo and OnSolutions in Albania.

The event was greeted by the President of BALFIN Group, Samir Mane. "I take pride in knowing that all of us at BALFIN work hard every day to reach new unexplored heights," he said before applauding the contestants for their project-ideas. This year's edition hosted guest speaker Afonso Rebelo De Sousa, renown agile project



manager and innovation trainer, who presented the audience with key takeaways on corporate innovation and venturing.

The winning project, "Augmented Reality in East Gate Mall" presented by Skopje East Gate's CEO, Igor Davkov, aimed to enhance the consumer journey through cutting-edge technology. The project was realized in cooperation with Filip Kopanovski, Natasha Apostolov, and Biljana Severinova.

To BALFIN Group, Balfin Innovation Summit is a manifesto of the internal innovation and organizational culture, which aims to maximize employee potential and challenge the status quo.

Balfin Real Estate Forum, a new standard in the industry

In July, BALFIN organized the first edition of Balfin Real Estate Forum in Tirana. The forum brought together representatives of the Management Board, executives and professionals from Balfin Real Estate & Hospitality, Mane TCI, Green Coast, and Tirana Bank, as part of the ecosystem in financing, to discuss the group's achievements in real estate, challenges, and trends of the industry.

BALFIN Group's Real Estate Vice President, Ardiana Sokoli, presented "Real Estate as Envisioned by BALFIN Group", an overview of the timeline, achievements, and strategy in the industry, followed by Vice President and Director of Corporate Projects, Ervin Kajno, who lectured the audience on "How to Launch, Lead and Sponsor in Real Estate". The Group's CEO, Edlira Muka, was also present in the forum, actively participating in the roundtable discussion sessions.

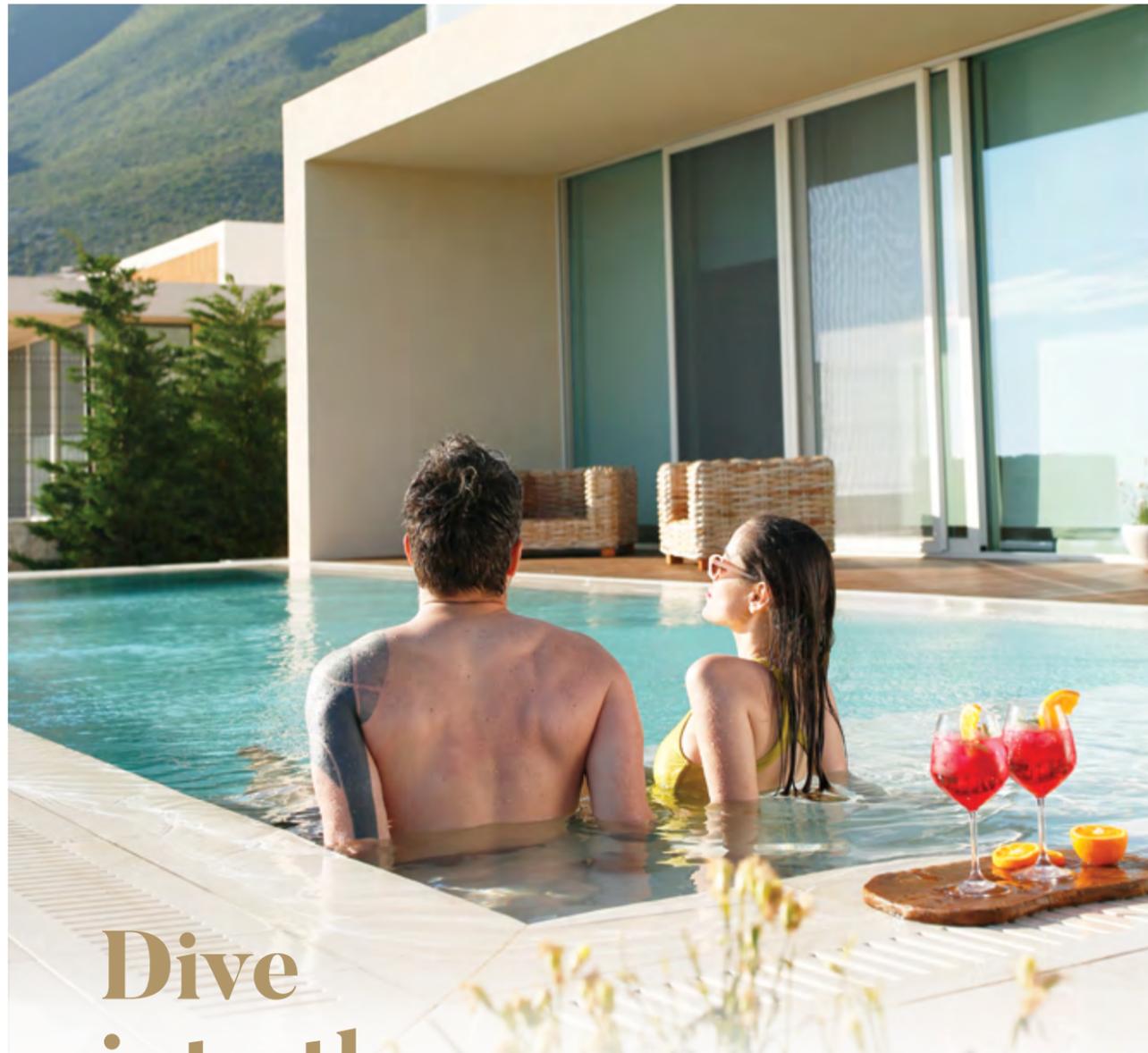
Other topics addressed real estate challenges today, market trends and key indicators. It also featured presentations from Deloitte Albania, which had conducted a market research on the field, and Idra Research & Consulting, that shared their insights on leveraging research to maximum advantage in real estate. Antony Slumbers, a UK-based Technology and Real Estate Advisor, presented for the audience the "10 Things that Matter in the Future of Real Estate". In his opening remark, the expert praised BALFIN Group for the high representation of women in the real estate industry specifically, which he cited as "uncommon, but definitely a key determinant in positive outcomes".

In the framework of its rigorous focus on real estate across Albania, Austria, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Switzerland, BALFIN Group set up this interactive initiative that will undoubtedly turn into a tradition and expand in participation, reach, and results in future editions.



Golden

Summer



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into the
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GREEN COAST
RESORT AND RESIDENCES



BALFIN Group to the aid of Ukraine's people



Students Hub in Tirana Bank



Jumbo Montenegro in Bijela



Winners and jury of Business Ideas Competition

Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Montenegro, a huge CSR contribution

As the war in Ukraine startled the world, BALFIN Group joined brands and organizations coming to the aid of the population affected by the conflict. Its companies, in the seven countries where they operate, mobilized and assembled contributions for the citizens of Ukraine.

Fashion Group Albania, Jumbo, and SPAR Albania responded to the call of the Ukrainian Embassy in Tirana for donations in accordance with the provided list of necessary, essential items such as sanitary products, clothing, first-aid kits. During the last six months BALFIN Group contributed with other CSR activities, some of which are listed below:

- On World Down Syndrome Day, BALFIN Group joined the global efforts to fully include in society people with Down syndrome. Its companies regularly support with necessary items the organizations that work in the field and cover the cost of therapeutic sessions for several children. People with Down syndrome are employed by companies of BALFIN Group, which will continue to contribute to adequate access to health care and inclusivity for this community. Several BALFIN Group companies, such as Fashion Group Albania and SPAR Albania are committed to raising awareness about Down Syndrome, through implementing an employment program for people belonging to this community. Jumbo Albania has provided didactic items to centers that take care of this community, while QTU is covering the yearly therapeutic sessions for nine children.

- Neptun Albania joined the project of the Faculty of Economy to establish a Marketing and Tourism Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the premises of the latter. It is a unique laboratory in Albania with the necessary technology to enable the synergy between the academic world and the private sector. Students

of this Faculty, part of the University of Tirana, can experiment with their innovative ideas and implement entrepreneurship projects. Neptun Albania provided ICT equipment to this advanced hub in the framework of its commitment to bring technology closer to the education system.

- Organizations of university students in Podgorica have made it an annual ritual to visit the Home of Orphans in Bijela and provide all the support they can to the children. Jumbo Montenegro joined the students and made available considerable quantities of school supplies, educational items, and toys. Jumbo is perceived as the place that makes children happy and this is especially true in the case of this cooperation with the students and the children in Bijela.

- This May, Jumbo Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrated its 5th anniversary with an entertainment program and additional benefits for customers. On this occasion, 5% of one day's traffic was allocated to charity. This amount will be used to equip the playground of Los Rosales Center with entertainment products that are suitable for children

with special needs, for example a swing. Los Rosales takes care for children and young people with special needs, and it will be the first institution in the country with such facilities. This was announced during the 2nd International Games for Children and Young People with Development Disabilities, held in the city of Mostar. The social contribution of Jumbo has been permanent during all its five years of activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- During the first half of this year, Neptun Kosova cooperated with two central organizations in the health system of the country. First, it equipped the Surgery Department in the University Clinical Center of Prishtina with monitors that are used during the therapy for patients. The main medical facility in the country now can provide a better hospitalization period.

Then, Neptun Kosova provided the Blind Women's Committee of Kosovo with appliances that help members of this community to integrate in society.

- "Compact" and "DDA - Diabetic Digital Albanian App" are two new startups founded by students that have been supported with €5,000 and €3,500 respectively, as winners of the second edition of the Business Ideas Competition. A dedicated training module on the development of business competencies was provided to all competition participants, delivered by experienced managers of the BALFIN Group. 10 finalists of the competition were welcomed by the Group President, Samir Mane, in a conversation about entrepreneurship.

- The Faculty of Natural Sciences in Tirana also received support with infrastructure investments from the B4Students program. The 4 teaching laboratories, C ++, Mathematical and Informatics Engineering, Molecular Biotechnology, Inorganic Chemistry, as well as the meeting room, are equipped with information and communication technology equipment, identified by the directors as one of the main needs of the institution, to improve capacities in function of the process of teaching, learning and practical training of students, according to the needs of the labor market.

- B4Students created the opportunity for 95 students from different universities in the country to be part of the Internship and Employment program for the period March - June 2022 within BALFIN Group. Program participants are selected from over 700 applicants. Based on their performance during the professional internship, students are evaluated for employment opportunities on a Group level.



Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship



The Executive Leadership Team gathers in Vienna to discuss the growth of BALFIN Group

During June, BALFIN Group held the Executive Leadership Team Meeting in Vienna, Austria, with the attendance of the President of the Group and advisors, the CEO, the Vice Presidents, the Executive Directors of all Group companies, and the Group HQ's Directors of Departments. This annual meeting is of significant importance regarding the strategic direction of BALFIN Group.

The agenda of this senior management meeting covered various interactive topics on the present and future of BALFIN Group. The meeting was commenced by the CEO of BALFIN Group, Edlira Muka, whose remarks focused on the achievements of 2021.

Furthermore, Vice Presidents elaborated on the sectorial updates and the strategy for the next two years. Another

interesting item on the agenda was the keynote on strategy effectiveness and Q&A with guest speaker Christo Popov, the Founder and CEO of Fast Track, who also led the Fast Track Way Workshop earlier this year with senior executives.

"I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership you have demonstrated in your respective departments and companies, while endowing innovation, creating equal opportunities for our people to grow, and leaving a positive footprint on society. From here, we can only grow bigger," said BALFIN Group President, Samir Mane, in his message to the attendees, which was followed by a highly interactive Q&A session.

BALFIN Group, a key participant of Tirana Economic Forum's 4th edition

BALFIN Group's Real Estate Vice President, Ardiana Sokoli, and Tirana Bank's CEO, Dritan Mustafa, participated in the 4th edition of Tirana Economic Forum held on May 10. The two leaders were invited as speakers among many distinguished leaders, to talk about banking consolidation, real estate, and tourism. BALFIN Group's Real Estate Vice President and the Executive Director of Tirana Bank spoke at about the current challenges, trends, and developments that the respective sectors are facing, as well as the steps that the actors are taking. Tirana Economic Forum is a high-level meeting of the most influential Albanian and international political, corporate, and intellectual leaders to address pressing challenges currently faced in Albania and the world.

Samir Mane, open forum with students



Samir Mane hosted by Epoka's University rector Prof. Dr. Ahmet ÖZTAŞ

The President of BALFIN Group, Samir Mane, met with students of Epoka University in Tirana at the Open Forum "From Student to Entrepreneur, the Journey of Building a Successful Business". Approximately 120 students participated in the forum organized by the university's Career Planning and Alumni Office in corporation with BALFIN Group.

The forum followed a business-oriented question and answer format. BALFIN Group's strategy, investments, sustainability, and CSR were some the topics discussed. Moreover, BALFIN Group President's beginnings in business, approach to work-life balance, and his own personal advice on entrepreneurship gathered the most interest from undergraduate and graduate students of various programs.

"My entrepreneurial journey started in Austria, by noticing a demand and grasping an opportunity. Every day is a chance to start a business. I want to contradict the general opinion that says there are no possibilities in Albania. Always stay vigilant. Albania has many opportunities for entrepreneurship as it is still an economy with many needs. That is why we set up the B4Students program, to support students who have entrepreneurial ideas, to give them a head start in business," said Mane.

BALFIN Group's President encouraged the attendees to work hard and aim high. He expressed his appreciation for Epoka University students, who at large, have participated in B4Students via the Internship and Employment program, Social Clubs, or the Business Competitions, and invited the ones attending to take part.

The forum was part of a series of activities with higher education as a focus. BALFIN Group's President has made sure that the support of education is of significant focus in Group CSR initiatives. One solid example is B4Students, a program dedicated to education, powered by BALFIN Group.





Neptun Albania Champion Team



SPAR Albania wins the first football championship

Neptun Albania and SPAR Albania win the Volleyball and Football Championships

In a jovial atmosphere at the Olympic Park in Tirana, Neptun Albania won the 9th edition of the Balfin Volleyball Championship in July.

This is the 6th time in nine editions that Neptun lifts the champion's trophy, which was proudly handed by the Retail Vice President of BALFIN Group, Julian Mane. The final was full of grit and battle. Both teams put their best efforts into the competition. Initially, the game seemed to lead in favour of Neptun, that easily won the first two sets. However, ACREM responded agilely, winning the third set, and temporarily refuelling the game. At the point ACREM was expected to continue the turn, Neptun sealed the victory by winning the fourth set as well.

Last year, it was Mane TCI's team championing the finals with Neptun, whereas the latter advanced by winning the international finals, where finalists from Kosovo companies' teams also participated. The other two champion titles in the history of this tournament were won by BALFIN and ACREM.

For several years now, BALFIN organizes the finals in one of the best sports facilities in Albania, thanks to the

cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Agency at the Municipality of Tirana and the Superior Volley Association, which dates back years ago.

Earlier in July, SPAR Albania became the champion of the Balfin Football League in the first football championship among BALFIN Group's companies.

SPAR Albania managed to beat the BALFIN IT team in the finale held in Tirana with the result 5-3 and lift the cup, which was handed over to captain Bilbil Laçi by a distinguished Albanian football personality, such as Sulejman Demollari.

The first football championship included 140 players of 9 teams and hundreds of fans in 39 matches in the span of 12 weeks, characterized by sporting rivalry, a high racing spirit and fair play. It was organized in cooperation with the Albanian Football Federation, under the supervision of professional referees.

This championship, which started as a social club founded by employees, is already expected to turn into tradition and be perfected in organization from year to year, motivated by the interest demonstrated by staff to play football with colleagues.