

# Building Trust through Transparency and Ethics: A RECAP OF THE IIA ALBANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REVIEW

DOI: 10.56362/Rev231041215

Dorida Stambola<sup>1</sup>

The Institute of Internal Auditors of Albania (IIA Albania) recently led the charge in reshaping the conversation around trust-building in the modern era at their annual conference held in Tirana on December 12, 2023. The conference brought together almost 200 industry leaders, visionaries, and experts to delve deep into the critical aspects of trust building in today's dynamic world not only local auditors but with representatives from other countries, such as Belgium, Poland, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Sweden etc. Participants were notable panelists who shared their insights and expertise related to the conference topic "The Road to Building Trust."

The conference consisted of a plenary session and two panel discussions. Speakers at the plenary session were 1) IIA Albania President Erald Bezhani, who presented the history of almost 15 years and IIA Albania as well as the Conference content, 2) ECIIA President, John Bendermacher focused on the Risk in 2024, based on the assessment performed by Global and European IIA, and 3) IIA Global Standards Board, Maciej Piolunowicz, whose presentation about the new Global standard changes, timelines and recent publication was appreciated and discussed by the audience. Then the first panel discussion was focused on the "Transparency and trust: Ethics in internal audit". Distinguished speakers on this panel included Director of the Supervision Department of Central Bank of Albania authority, Head of Insurance Market supervision Directorate at Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority, Director of the Internal Audit Harmonization Directorate Ministry of Finance and Economy, also representatives from Sweden and Greece. The second panel was focused on "Emerging risks in the region and local environment" and was a thought-provoking discussion on the challenges and opportunities shaping our community. Distinguished speakers on this panel included Secretary General at Albanian Association of Banks, President of Albanian Microfinance Association, General Director at Albanian Audit Authority for EU Assurance Program, External Auditor and Fintech representatives, as well CAEs. The conclusion was that because of the globalization and maturity of financial market, it was faced the same risks also in the region and moreover in Albania regarding the cybersecurity, human capital, compliance with changes and new regulations, climacteric risks, etc. Human capital was a new risk identified. Also, it discussed how the internal audit role

---

<sup>1</sup> Institute of internal auditors of Albania (IIA Albania).  
E-mail: [dorida.stambolla@raiffeisen.al](mailto:dorida.stambolla@raiffeisen.al)

should cope, adapt and change with these new risks. CAEs concluded to the need of i) the alignment and communication with management and strategy of the organization (not working in silos but more info sharing between 3 lines of defense), ii) more IT auditors, specialization and trainings for safety, security and IT also for business auditors, iii) risk based audit planning prioritizing/incuding these new risks, iv) agile audit, advisory and consultancy role increase, etc.

The commitment of all conference participants to the theme made this event not just a conference but a catalyst for positive change. The ripple effect of the discussions will extend far beyond the confines of the conference. Lessons learned, fostering trust across diverse domains is a good fundament for building a foundation for a more trustworthy future. The journey to building trust is ongoing, and there are a great number of possibilities that lie ahead. Following the conference, IIA Albania received a distinguished congratulations for excellent event, professional organization and very interesting and relevant topics and discussions.

Izgradnja poverenja putem transparentnosti i etike:  
PRIKAZ GODIŠNJE KONFERENCIJE IIA ALBANIA

*Institut internih revizora Albanije održao je 12.12.2023. godine godišnju konferenciju sa temom "Put za građenje poverenja" (The road to building trust). Konferencija se sastojala iz tri dela, plenarnog izlaganja na kojem su učestvovali predstavnici ECIIA i IIA Global i dva panela na kojima su učestvovali predstavnici značajnih institucija Albanije. Na konferenciji je bilo prisutno oko 120 učesnika.*