



British Embassy
Tirana



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES AND LAW
ALEKSANDËR MOISIU UNIVERSITY OF DURRËS**

in collaboration with

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

and with the support of British Embassy

Call for papers

The Department of Political Sciences of Aleksandër Moisiu University, in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute is organising the academic conference:

“Money in Politics: Reflections, Expectations and Solutions”,

25 February 2019

Durrës.

Political parties require money to fund their activities and election campaigns. However, money in the electoral process, if not regulated properly, can undermine the fairness of electoral contests and negatively impact democracy and democratic values. In particular, political finance is intertwined with free and fair elections, effective governance, corruption and democracy.

Nearly all countries have some form of rules governing political finance. The rules generally address permissible sources of funding, controls on spending, reporting and disclosure requirements, oversight mechanisms and sanctions for non-compliance. Nevertheless, the issue of political finance continues to attract attention as a problematic area throughout the world. In some countries, academic research abounds whereas in others this remains a relatively new area of academic interest. In Albania, and throughout the Balkan region, the space for academic and public discussion has been limited.

This conference aims to provide a platform for debate between academics, students and the public on important dynamics of the financing of the political parties. The key topics can be grouped into the following categories:

- Abuse of state resources (financial, institutional, regulatory or enforcement) for electoral gain;
- The criminalisation of politics as a result of illicit funding streams;
- Foreign funding that can threaten the sovereignty of the nation;
- The impact of excessive campaign spending and how to curtail it;
- Preventing and managing conflicts of interest in the award of public contracts and employment;
- Regulating social media to avoid circumvention of the rules;
- Comparative case studies on political finance regulation in different countries and lessons learned for Albania;
- Political finance oversight and enforcement best practice and recommendations for Albania;
- Role of civil society and media in monitoring compliance with political party finance regulations.

The full papers will be published by Aleksander Moisiu University in a Conference Proceeding Book with ISBN. There is no fee for the authors. Only high-quality papers will be accepted.

All academics interested in presenting at this conference are invited to submit an abstract (500-700 words) and a biographical note to: moneyinpolitics@yahoo.com, by November 26th, 2018

Notifications on acceptance will be sent by December 15th, 2018

Full paper with 3000-8000 words should be submitted by January 10th 2019.

Scientific Committee:

- Lisa Klein, *International Expert in Political Finance Regulation*
- Dr Justin Fisher, BA (Hons), PhD FAcSS, Professor of Political Science, Head of the Department of Social and Political Sciences, *Brunel University, London*
- Dr. Belina Bedini, Lecturer, *Aleksandër Moisiu University*,
- Dr. Viorela Polena, Lecturer, *Aleksandër Moisiu University*
- Dr. Alida Tomja, Lecturer, *Aleksandër Moisiu Universty*
- Dr. Marsida Ismaili, Lecturer, *Aleksandër Moisiu University*
- Dr. Dorina Bërdufi, Lecturer, *Aleksandër Moisiu University*