



TIRANA 2026



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
COMBAT
CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 12 – 17, 2026.

<https://combatsports2026.eusa.eu/>



Tirana, Albania, has been officially confirmed as the host city for the 2026 European Universities Combat Sports Championships.

This confirmation follows EUSA's standard evaluation process, ensuring that all organisational, financial, and logistical requirements are fully met and validated ahead of the event.

Organised by the Albanian University Sports Federation, the European Universities Combat Sports Championships will take place from **September 8-16, 2026**, welcoming university athletes from across Europe to compete in Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, and Kickboxing.

The competition will follow a new 2+2 format, allowing for a structured schedule across all disciplines.

The event programme is divided into two phases:

- Taekwondo and Karate: arrivals on September 7, departures on September 12
- Judo and Kickboxing: arrivals on September 12, departures on September 17

Registrations for participating universities and athletes are now open, inviting teams from across Europe to confirm their participation and take part in the championships.

As the Combat Sports are not one of the sports disciplines of this year's European Universities Games in Salerno, the EUSA Executive Committee attributed the 2026 European Universities Combat Sports Championships to the city of Tirana

National university sports bodies may register the teams on the registration platform, with **April 15 being the 1st General Entry Deadline.**





TIRANA 2026



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
COMBAT
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EUSA COMBAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tirana, Albania, September, 12 – 17, 2026

KICKBOXING
POINT FIGHTING
KICK LIGHT
FULL CONTACT
K-1 STYLE



PLACE OF EVENT – Tirana, Albania



Tirana is the capital and largest city of Albania. It is located in the centre of the country, enclosed by mountains and hills, with Dajti rising to the east and a slight valley to the northwest overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the distance. It is among the wettest and sunniest cities in Europe, with 2,544 hours of sun per year.

Tirana was founded in 1614 by Ottoman Albanian general Sylejman Pasha Bargjini, centered on the Old Mosque and türbe. The site of present-day Tirana has been continuously inhabited since the Iron Age and was likely the core of the Illyrian kingdom of the Taulantii, which in classical antiquity was centred in the hinterland of Epidamnus. Following the Illyrian Wars, it was annexed by the Roman Empire. With the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the fourth century, most of Albania came under the control of the Eastern Roman Empire. The city was fairly unimportant until the 20th century, when the Congress of Lushnjë proclaimed it as Albania's capital after the Albanian Declaration of Independence in 1912.

Classified as a gamma-world-city, Tirana is the most important economic, financial, political, and trade centre in Albania due to its significant location in the centre of the country. As the seat of power of the Government of Albania, it hosts the official residences of the President and Prime Minister of Albania and the Parliament of Albania. The city was announced as the European Youth Capital for 2022.

ORGANIZER

TIRANA

The European Universities Combat Sports Championships 2026 is organised by the Albanian University Sports Federation. The Championships will be held in Tirana, the capital city of Albania, between September 8-16, 2026. The city locates in the center of the country surrounded by mountains and hills.

Here are some useful information about the host country during the Championships:

Capital:	Tirana
Language:	Albanian (Shqip). English and Italian are widely spoken by locals.
Currency:	Albanian Lek (ALL). The Euro is widely accepted, even in smaller shops. Cards are commonly accepted in the city center, but it is recommended to carry some cash.
Population:	Approximately 2.8 million
Time Zone:	CET (GMT+1) / CEST (GMT+2 in summer)
Government:	Parliamentary republic
EU Status:	EU candidate country
Emergency number:	112
Electricity:	230V (Type C & F plugs)
Internet:	Widely available, including public Wi-Fi in many areas

UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

The University of Tirana (Albanian: Universiteti i Tiranës, abbreviated UT) is a public university located at the central borough of Tirana 10 in Tirana, Albania. It was established as the State University of Tirana (SUT) in 1957 through merging of five existing institutes of higher education.

The main building was planned by Italian architect, Gherardo Bosio at the beginning of 1940. It is situated at the Mother Teresa Square, south of the city center of Tirana.

The primary language of instruction is Albanian, but there are a number of faculties of foreign languages which are carried out in English, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, German, Chinese and other languages.

The University of Tirana was founded in 1957 as the State University of Tirana (Albanian: Universiteti Shtetëror i Tiranës), through the merging of five existing institutes of higher education, the most important of which was the Institute of Sciences, founded in 1947. Immediately after the death of Enver Hoxha in 1985, the university was renamed the Enver Hoxha University of Tirana (Albanian: Universiteti i Tiranës Enver Hoxha) until 1992.



Academics and size

The university is the largest and highest ranking university in Albania.[5] It includes eight colleges, 50 academic departments, and 41 study programs or majors. Most programs are offered in Tirana; a few smaller affiliated campuses are located in other Albanian cities, including Saranda in the southern part of the country and Kukës in the north. It offers three-year bachelor's, one- or two-year master's, and three- to five-year doctorate degree programs, in accordance with the Bologna system.

The current campus is urban and decentralised. A new large and centralised campus has been planned in the southeast periphery of Tirana.[6] Student dorms are grouped in a separate location called Student City (Qyteti Studenti) in southeast Tirana.[7]

UT is the biggest university in Albania, and among the biggest in Europe with 35,000 students. In 2013 the college accepted 95 new Ph.D. students. These are students in possession of bachelor's degrees.

Faculties and departments

- Tirana University's faculty of history and philology
- Faculty of Natural Sciences of Tirana
- A student dormitory
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of History and Philology
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Economic Sciences
- Contains the J. Limprecht Library, named after Joseph Limprecht, a United States of America ambassador to Albania from 1999 to 2002.
- Faculty of Foreign Languages
- Department of Physical Education

More info about University of Tirana: <https://unitir.edu.al/en/>



A student dormitory

More info: <https://combatsports2026.eusa.eu/about/location>

COMPETITION HALL

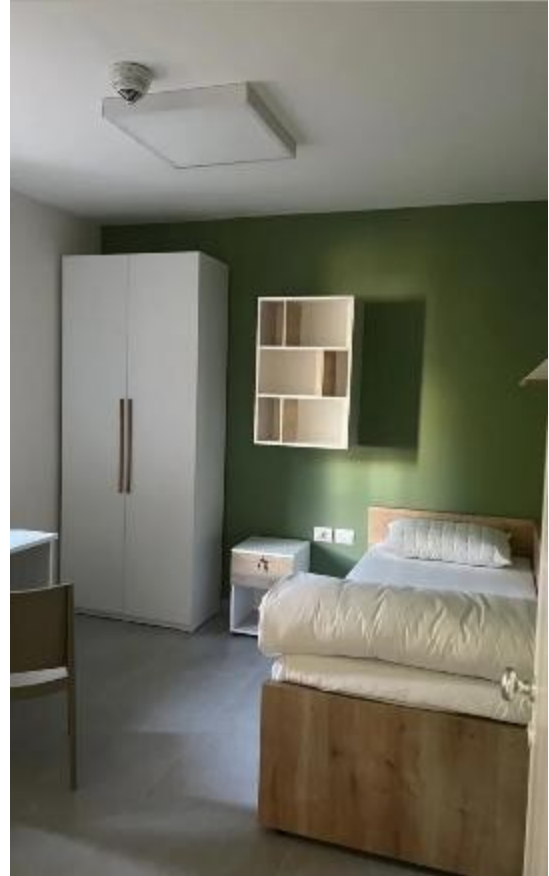
UNIVERSITY OF SPORTS



ACCOMODATION.

UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA – STUDENTS' DORMITORY





More info: <https://combatsports2026.eusa.eu/about/accommodation-catering>

DATE OF EVENT – September 12. - 17. 2026.

REGISTRATIONS



Deadlines:

- 15 May – General & Quantitative Entry
- 15 June – Individual Entry
- 15 July – Travel Plan

Registration Procedure

Participants represent their universities. [EUSA's Member Federations](#) can submit General Entry Forms at [REGISTRATIONS](#), defining a contact person to carry out the rest of the registration procedure, including submission of Quantitative Forms, Travel Plans and Individual Entries.

Fees

- Participation Fee: 85 EUR / person / night
- EUSA Entry Fee: 50 EUR / person (40 EUR for EUSA Associated Members)

Fees cover: accommodation with full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner — starting with lunch on arrival and finishing with breakfast on departure day), transfer from official welcome points, local transport, training, competitions, and organisation of the event.

Delegations are responsible for providing international health insurance for all their members.

- Deposit per team: 400 EUR

The deposit amount will be deducted from the total fees for the participating teams and will be returned to NUSAs/teams who are not selected. Deposits are otherwise non-refundable (confirmed teams that cancel are not entitled to a refund).

Eligibility

Only the following may participate as competitors in a EUSA EUC:

- **WAKO MEMBERS ONLY with valid WAKO Event Pass**
- Students who are officially registered for and pursuing a course of study at a university or similar institute whose status as an institution of higher education is recognized by the appropriate national authority of their country.
- Former students of the institutions mentioned above who obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year preceding the EUC.
- Competitors shall not be younger than 17 or older than 30 years.

Formula: EUC year (2026) – competitor’s year of birth = age

Link for registrations: <https://combatsports2026-registrations.eusa.eu>

Additional Information

- The [Registrations Guide](#) provides step-by-step instructions.
- The entry procedure is described in the [Rules & Regulations for EUSA Sports Events](#).

Program:

September 12, 2026 (Sat) - official arrival day

September 13, 2026 (Sun) - trainings, General Technical Meeting
and other Meetings, Opening Ceremony, Welcome Party

September 14-16, 2026 (Mon-Wed) - competitions, trainings possible, social activities

- Monday, 14. September - competition day – 1/8 and 1/4 finals
- Tuesday, 15. September - competition day – 1/2 finals
- Wednesday, 16. September - competition day – 1/1 finals,
awarding ceremony, Competitors’ Party, departure

September 17, 2026 (Thu) - departure day

COMPETITION DISCIPLINES AND CATEGORIES:

POINT FIGHTING

Men: -63, -74, -84, +84 kg

Women: -55, -65, +65 kg

- Qualifying and semifinals fights will be held on 1 tatami.
- Final fights will be on 1 tatami.



KICK LIGHT

Men: -63, -74, -84, +84 kg

Women: -55, -65, +65 kg

- Qualifying and semifinals fights will be held on 1 tatami.
- Final fights will be on 1 tatami.



FULL CONTACT

Men: -67, -71, -75, -81, -86 kg

Women: -56, -60, -65 kg

- Qualifying and semifinals fights will be held on 1 ring.
- Final fights will be on 1 ring.

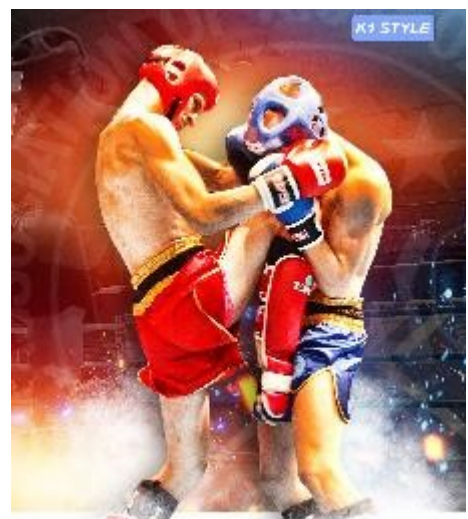


K-1 STYLE

Men: -67, -71, -75, -81, -86 kg

Women: -56, -60, -65 kg

- Qualifying and semifinals fights will be held on 1 ring.
- Final fights will be on 1 ring.



VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

Each **National kickboxing federation (NKBF)** should contact and co-operate with the **National University Sports Association (NUSA)** in the shortest time and agree on further cooperation and communication regarding the participation of kickboxers at the **EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026**.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026

Each NKBF will, in cooperation with the NUSA, determine how the qualifications will be held. At national university qualifications in the foreseen disciplines and categories, students come as representatives of their faculties and as such they are running for appearance in the composition of their university sports team.

Qualifications can be held as separate qualifier tournaments for the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 or qualifications as part of national kickboxing championships - depending on the agreement between NKBF and NUSA.

NKBF will, in cooperation with the University Sports Federation and the NUSA, determine which kickboxers have acquired the right to participate at the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026.

Each University can register an unlimited number of kickboxers in each category. Double start is possible in point fighting and kick light. On the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 can participate kickboxing teams from all the Universities from each country - WAKO members. On EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 kickboxing teams represent University (not country or national team).

Referees

Referees for EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 will be nominated by WAKO Europe Referee Committee - total 18 referees (8 + 1 tatami and 8 + 1 ring). Costs of travel and accommodation of referees will cover WAKO Europe and NKBFs.

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

The right to participate on the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 has students who are **WAKO MEMBERS ONLY with valid WAKO Event Pass** and meet the following criteria:

- They study at any University of the European countries regardless of degree of study
- They are studying at a faculty that is part of a university, regardless of whether the institution is public or private
- Former students who graduated in the academic year 2025/2026.
- Students who are between 17 and 30 years of age

The right to participate on EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 has kickboxing teams from all of Europe's Universities operating in Europe regardless of whether they are EUSA members or not. [The kickboxing team or kickboxers is entitled to participate only who are members of the NKBF who are members of WAKO Europe.](#)

GENERAL ENTRY

This procedure may vary from country to country and should be defined by agreement between NKBF and NUSA.

A student - kickboxer who wishes to participate at the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 must contact the NKBF and the Student sports association the faculty / university where the student is studying. It is also possible for NKBF to report its members to a particular University Sports Association. In the event that the University does not have a student sports association, the student must contact the sporting person at the faculty / university where he or she is studying and NKBF.

After the University agreed and declares that the student - kickboxer or University kickboxing team will represent the University of the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 in kickboxing, the same through his student sports association or by a sports person sends a request to the NUSA to apply for the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 in kickboxing.

NUSA applies to the University Sports Team and to the EUSA online registration system. The system automatically sends a confirmation to the University that it has been registered for the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 in kickboxing and generates a deposit account in the amount of 300.00 €. After entering the general application, the person in front of the University receives user data and instructions for accessing the EUSA online registration system. Until the payment of the deposit the application is not deemed valid and cannot be resumed by entering a quantitative and nominal application.

The deadline for submitting a general application and payment of the deposit is 6 months before the start of the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 - May 15 2026.

TRAVEL PLAN

The deadline for submission of a detailed travel plan - date and time of arrival and departure, via the EUSA online registration system, is 1 month before the start of the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 – July 15, 2026. The organizer is obliged to transport from the bus and train station and the airport to arrive and leave only for those who submitted the plan times.

ACCREDITATION

In order to obtain accreditation, participants must submit at the arrival:

- Confirmation of payment of all costs
- Certificate of Academic Eligibility or a copy of a diploma for students who have graduated
- Valid personal document (passport or identity card)

COSTS

The prize for the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 is 510,00 € per person (85 € / person / night).

EUSA registration fee is 50,00 € per person (the fee is paid before the participation, via the invoice generated by the system based on the number of registered persons).

The participants themselves bear the costs of medical, travel and other insurance.

NOTES

- The deadlines for registration may be changed in certain circumstances as decided by the organizer and EUSA.
- In each account generated by the system, payment information is provided and payable.
- Every university must report an official to the team, it is not possible for athletes representing a University to perform on their own.
- There is no way to sign up if the University does not want to apply to your student for competition or if the application is not submitted through the EUSA online registration system.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE REFER TO THE LINKS BELOW:

Registration procedure available under this link: <https://combatsports2026-registrations.eusa.eu/>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail: combatsports2026@eusa.eu

All additional information on: [https://combatsports2026@eusa.eu](mailto:combatsports2026@eusa.eu)

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- Deposit per team: 400 EUR

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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- Former students of the institutions mentioned above who obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year preceding the EUC.
- Competitors shall not be younger than 17 and older than 30 years.
- Formula: EUC year (2026) – competitor’s year of birth = age
- The registration guide can be found at the following link:
<https://www.eusa.eu/media/documents/registrations-guide>
- The entry procedure is described in the [Rules & Regulations for EUSASports Events](#)

ARRIVALS

The traffic structure of the city of Tirana enables fast and safe arrival of the EUSA Combat Championship 2026 participants by land or air traffic and easy organization of the participants’ transportation at the time of their arrival and departure, during the sports competitions and during participants' free time. Traffic terminals where the arrival and departure of the EUSA Combat Championships - Tirana, Albania 2026 participants is expected:

Tirana airport



Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza, also known as Rinas International Airport, is an international airport serving Tirana, the capital of Albania. The airport is named after the Albanian Roman Catholic nun and missionary, Mother Teresa. It is located 11 kilometres northwest of Tirana, in the municipality of Krujë, Durrës County

It is currently the only airport in Albania with scheduled commercial passenger flights. It is one of the busiest Balkan airports after reaching 10 million passengers in 2024, compared to around 3.3 million in 2019. - <https://www.tirana-airport.com/>



Bus station in Tirana

The Tirana East Bus Terminal is located at the TEG Tirana East Gate Shopping centre outside the centre of Tirana. To get to the Tirana East Bus Terminal at TEG, you can take a taxi or take a city bus.

More info: <https://extendedgetaway.com/how-to-get-to-regional-bus-station-tirana/>