

SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIA

in partnership with
Sustainable Urban Planning Organization



“DYNAMICS OF CITY DEVELOPMENT”

REPORT OF THE SESSION



Shkoder – Adriatic Sea – Tirana (Albania)

17 to 23 July 2019

This year, CIFE added a new destination to its Summer University Programme: Albania. From 17 to 23 July, participants were introduced to the relevant topic of sustainable urban development. This English-spoken programme was organised in partnership with GO2 Sustainable Urban Planning Organization, a local NGO.

The programme took place in three different places. During the first part of their stay, the students discovered Shkoder and its surroundings. Shkoder being the “capital of cycling”, lectures took on the form of bike tours that allowed the participants to study issues such as climate change “on the spot”. The students all agreed that this kind of fieldwork largely contributed to their understanding of the topics discussed.



The group then headed to the Adriatic Sea by minibus. Before arriving at the campsite where they spent the night in a spacious guesthouse, the students paid a very interesting visit to a local fabric company and farm. After a warm welcome, the entrepreneurs enthusiastically told the students about the number of jobs generated by their respective family businesses. Of course, the group could not leave without buying some hand-woven fabrics neither without enjoying a dinner prepared with products from the farm.

The next day, it was fish that was on the menu, freshly caught by local entrepreneur Sander Molla who also explained something about his traditional fishing company. The students, who in the meantime had got to know each other very well, then enjoyed some free time on the beach.

The third part of the programme took place in Tirana, where the organisers had arranged a stay in the very charming hotel Villa Tafaj. The delicious breakfast buffet provided the group with the necessary energy for an extensive walking tour during which the students were initiated into the history, culture and architecture of the capital of Albania. In the afternoon, when the candidates that wished to obtain ECTS Credits had their oral exams, the others followed the lecturer’s recommendations and visited one of Tirana’s interesting museums.

The group was very diverse in terms of nationality, age and educational and professional background. This created a unique atmosphere in which everyone felt at ease. The Albanian hospitality, both of the local participants and of GO2 and the lecturers that they had invited, also played an important role in this. With 11 participants (and two auditors in Tirana), the group was rather small, but this greatly facilitated the interactive and dynamic nature of the session.

All the candidates successfully completed the programme and received a certificate of participation during the closing ceremony. At the end of the session, the students were also invited to fill out an evaluation form and comment upon the programme. Their observations, which can be found further on in this report, have been of immense value for us, organisers, and showed a great satisfaction.



CIFE warmly thanks GO2 for its collaboration in organising this first (and hopefully not last!) Summer University in Albania, and especially Sonila for her initiative and Eltjana for her great involvement before and during the stay.

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2019: SHKODER

Arrival of the participants – Accommodation in Hotel Kaduku – Free time for dinner

THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019: SHKODER AND SURROUNDINGS (TARABOSHI MOUNTAIN)



10:00 h Opening session in the office of GO2: Welcoming by the two partners

GO2 Sustainable Urban Planning Organization, Albania
Eltjana Shkreli, Executive Director

Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)
Marie-France Perdigon, Director of the Summer University Programme, CIFE Nice, France

ISSUE: PRESENTATION OF ALBANIA AND THE REGION OF SHKODER



11:00 h “Synergies in urban development in Shkoder region”

Historical, economic, cultural and touristic aspects

PhD Nevila Xhindi, regional geographer

Lunch together in Shkoder



Continuation of the morning programme



Free time for dinner

FRIDAY 19 JULY 2019: SHKODER

ISSUE: CLIMATE CHANGE

9:00 h *"The contribution of cities as major actors of climate change: control strategies"*

Laurent Baechler (France/Turkey), Director of the MAEIS of CIFE – Anglophone branch

Lunch together in Shkoder



Afternoon

"Resilient city. Floods" (Rozafa Castle)

Merita Mancaku, climate change expert



Free time for dinner



SATURDAY 20 JULY 2019: SHKODER – ADRIATIC SEA



ISSUE: TRANSPORTATION

10:00 h *"Shkoder, a champion cycling city in SEE"*

Eltjana Shkreli, urban planner

Free time for lunch and for the preparation of the luggage

13:30 h Departure by minibus for the Adriatic Sea

ISSUE: CREATIVE ECONOMY IN SMALL REGIONS (Zadrima Area)

During the transfer

Visit to small companies to explain the development of the economy in small regions through the investment of small family companies



“GUR I ZI social business”

Suzana Hila, entrepreneur (Fabric Company)



“Farm Agrotourism Marku”

Aneta Marku, entrepreneur (agricultural farm)

**Dinner together in the Farm Agrotourism Marku
Accommodation on the Adriatic Sea**



SUNDAY 21 JULY 2019: ADRIATIC SEA – TIRANA

ISSUE: CREATIVE ECONOMY IN SMALL REGIONS (continuation)

8:30 h Sander Molla, entrepreneur (traditional fishing company)



Free time on the beach

Lunch together on the Adriatic Sea



**13:30 h Transfer by minibus for Tirana.
Accommodation in Hotel Villa Tafaj**

Free time for dinner



MONDAY 22 JULY 2019: TIRANA: *ISSUE: REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY*



10:00 h "Field trip in Tirana city center"
Armand Vokshi, architect



Free time for lunch

Afternoon

Oral exams for the candidates wishing to obtain ECTS Credits

Free time for the others

19:00 h Closing session: Closing dinner and distribution of the certificates





TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019 Departure

PARTICIPANTS

Bossuyt Alexis Belgium bossuytalexis@gmail.com		Diplomat, Chief commercial and Economic Section (Flanders Investment and Trade).
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<p>Lamce Edvin Albania</p> <p>elamce@gjirokastra.org</p>		<p>Graduated from Bologna University - Archaeological Restoration. Project coordinator at Gjirokastra Foundation implementing various heritage and tourism projects in the UNESCO city of Gjirokastra.</p>
<p>Kemper Hannah Germany</p> <p>hannahkemper.speyer@gmail.com</p>		<p>Student (first year), Master of Science Geography, University of Bonn.</p>
<p>Majorek Agnieszka Poland</p> <p>agnieszka.majorek@edu.uekat.pl</p>		<p>Scientific Assistant, Department of Spatial and Environmental Economics, University of Katowice, Poland.</p>
<p>Manga Manjola Albania</p> <p>manjoramanga@gmail.com</p>		<p>Tourist guide and activist with community based approach. Background in Business-Administration, with demonstrated skills on sales and marketing.</p>
<p>Meksi Megi Albania</p> <p>megimeksi@gmail.com</p>		<p>Just finished her Studienkolleg at Rheinische Studienkolleg in Bonn. Currently is being prepared to study biology sciences in Germany.</p>
<p>Nehanaj Arsilda Albania</p> <p>a.nehanaj@hotmail.com</p>		<p>Graduated from Vechta University, Germany in Business Ethics and Economics. Coordinator at Opportunity Course Center Albania, with a strong background as sale representative on investment markets.</p>

Edmond		Auditor in Tirana
Soraya		Auditor in Tirana



Find all the photos of the session on [Facebook "Summer University Programme-CIFE"](#)



EVALUATION

SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIA SHKODER – ADRIATIC SEA – TIRANA (Albania) 17-23 July, 2019

For the first time, CIFE organised a Summer University in Albania. In partnership with GO2, a local non-governmental organisation for sustainable urban planning, a very original programme was developed. In fact, lectures did not take place in the traditional setting of a classroom but in the open air in order to study the central theme “dynamics of city development” in the best possible way. According to the evaluation forms that the participants were asked to fill out at the end of the week, this format was highly appreciated. Together with other aspects such as the logistics of the session, it resulted in a general satisfaction rate of 96 %.

As the location of the programme changed, the participants were accommodated in different places as well. In Shkoder, the international students stayed in Hotel Kaduku. After the first days in Shkoder, the whole group spent a night in a guesthouse on a campsite on the Adriatic coast. Hotel Villa Tafaj in Tirana was the destination for the last part of the stay. Admittedly, the hotels, and especially the one in the capital, were judged more comfortable than the campsite. Nevertheless, the evaluation forms show unanimous satisfaction with the accommodation in general. The meals were even more appreciated, and the group had nothing but good things to say about the local character of the food that was served, for instance during the dinner on the farm.

Evaluation of the lecturers

The innovative format of this Summer University asked for a different type of lecturers. Instead of academics, it was mostly professionals from GO2’s network that took the students on field trips. The students were very positive about both their professional knowledge and the informal, interactive approach that they adopted. In their evaluation forms, the participants also gave special thanks to the entrepreneurs who showed them how their respective family companies generate employment for the entire local community.

Evaluation of the programme

The group unanimously agreed that the programme was very well designed. The topics were relevant, the duration was just right and the chosen format was considered to be not only “fun” but also of real value to the purpose of the summer course. As a matter of fact, some participants noted that the programme not only constituted an introduction to the field of urban development, but also to Albania and its rich history, nature and culture.

In this regard, the students also largely benefited from their leisure time. Although the group was very diverse, they immediately got along very well and continued the country’s discovery together after the field trips, for example by visiting one of Tirana’s museums that had been recommended by one of the lecturers. On these occasions, the candidates noticed once again the amazing Albanian hospitality. The both very professional and friendly approach of the organisers was also specifically mentioned by several participants.

CONCLUSION

Both the organisers and the participants considered this first Summer University in Albania as very successful. One of the students even described it as “the best summer school ever”. CIFE expresses its thanks to GO2 for this fruitful collaboration that resulted in a both original and academically interesting programme.

SUMMER UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION

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