

SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIA

in partnership with



REPORT OF THE SESSION

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CHALLENGES TO SAFEGUARD IT



Gjirokastra– Tirana (Albania)

11 to 17 July 2021

This program is organized for the second time, in Albania. After a first session in Skoder, in 2019, the 2021's session took place for 4 days mainly in Gjirokastra area, the Historic Centre (UNESCO) combined with site visits in the rural area of Gjirokastra, including one day in the National Park of Butrint.



The last day, all the candidates went together in Tirana by minivan in order to visit the capital, through a cultural program as well for departure of the participants from abroad. Lecturers with great experience and representatives of Gjirokastra Foundation, the host organization have spoken in the program. All the participants have been received by a lot of famous institutions, the Municipality of Gjirokastra, the Regional Directorate of National Culture, etc.

Classes dealt with specific problems regarding all aspects of culture heritage development, preservation, management, UNESCO principles, local community development, local governance etc. and was proposed inside, but also mainly outside to understand, on the spot, the different topics.

A lot of topics were discussed through specific questions :

What are the main objectives of Gjirokastra Foundation and project being developed?

To preserve and develop cultural heritage, promote the heritage of Gjirokastra. Projects developed include restoration of around 20 sites and buildings, development of crafts, touristic products, publications, research and promotion of Gjirokastra.

Discussion on the main organization of Gjirokastra, the main functional areas at present, and the vision for the spatial development of the city.

Sustainable development and managing the tourism which can damage the values of cultural heritage; creativity and community inclusion, innovative solutions

Identification of main areas in decay within the broader city area which could be subjected to interventions and change of use.

A part of the bazaar area is in need of restoration, despite the restored core of it, several buildings listed as monuments of culture are in decay and need interventions; the castle of Gjirokastra and its stability on the North-East side. Other buildings are abandoned in the quarters.

What is the changing role for the Historic Center and the future role that should play in relation to the rest of the city?

The historic center is having attention and interest for investments, and is not well integrated the same approach with the new modern city.

Tourism plays an important role in the economy, and has been experiencing an important growth. what impacts and threats have or might bring and how should be managed the role for tourism in the Historic Centre?

Touristic product and new attractions have been developed in a sustainable approach; population is anxious about the tourism and over investing in the historic site.

What are key heritage and natural assets that should be prioritized to integrate in the tourism offer? Which trails should be upgraded?

It is suggested the inclusion in the trails of sites in the area combined and not only the classic tours. Investments was done in the past in the trails for hiking to Antigonea park, from Asim Zenel village; the tour and trails to the Ali Pasha bridge; There are suggestions for Kadare tours and trails, and as well as the communist heritage tour of Gjirokastra.

What are the main environmental problems affecting the city also in terms of public utilities, and quality of open spaces?

The traffic and the use of vehicles in the historic center; the authorities are suggesting a mobility plan and implementing of it by introducing the clean energy.

Identification of key buildings, vacant land, vacant or underused sites and green open spaces in need of upgrade and that could be integrated in the overall IUU strategy at city level. Identification of main links to be upgraded and improved to better integrate the different sections of the city used by residents, and links used or to be promoted by tourists.

Considerations for promotions of quarters such as Dunavat, Manalat, and Cfaka as there is not interest yet for investments and the number of visitors is low. The revitalization of the castle and the communist tunnel under it.

etc.

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 also played an important role in this. With 13 participants from Albania and abroad, 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 last closing dinner in Tirana. At the end of the session, the students were 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 Gjirokastra Foundation for its collaboration in organising this very original Summer University in Albania, and especially the representative of the Foundation, Edi, for his great involvement before and during the stay.

AGENDA

Monday July 12th 2021

Arrival of the foreign candidates
Transfer from Tirana to Gjirokastra together

20.00 h Dinner together at Edua Restaurant

Accommodation in Gjirokastra

Tuesday July 13th 2021

ACADEMIC PROGRAM in Gjirokastra

9.00h Welcoming by Mrs Jorida Mudo,
Vice Major of the Municipality of
Gjirokastra, Presentation of the
Gjirokastra Projects

The project "REVETO", Revitalization in the Historic Cities of Gjirokastra and Berat.



Presentation of the partners:



GJIROKASTRA FOUNDATION,
Edvin Lamce, Secretary of the Foundation

Marie France Perdigon,
Director of the Summer University
Programme, CIFE, France

***"20 years Preserving and Developing
Gjirokastra UNESCO town"***
***"The Albanian Restoration Charter and UNESCO
principles – Case of Gjirokastra",***
by Edwin Lamce, GJIROKASTRA FOUNDATION



***"Product and Process Innovation with a new tourism mobility model. Presentation of the
SMARTiMONY project"***

Participation in the event presented by Mrs Matilda NACO, Project Manager, Regional Center for
Development and Cooperation.

12.30 h Lunch/buffet together

13.30h ***"Administration of Historic Centre; the
new challenges of Gjirokastra, projects
and solutions"***
by Ms. Pezana REXHA, Architect, Director
of the Regional Directorate of National
Culture.



17.00h Cultural visits organized by the Gjirokastra Foundation: The communism heritage



Gjirokastra Fortress
Museum of Communism,
Museum of the weapons,
the prisons.....



Accommodation in Gjirokastra

Wednesday July 14th 2021 ACADEMIC PROGRAM in Gjirokastra

9.00h *"A comparative research of cultural heritage models between the Lusophone Region and Albania, specially the Gjirokastra area"*
by **Nathan dos SANTOS**, Postgraduate student (Specialization in Heritage Studies) at Stanford University



"Managing Museums and challenges"

museologist Ms Dorina XHERAJ, Manager of the Museum of the Durres

"Assessment of Built Heritage – the case of Tower Houses (Kulla) in North Albania",
by **Ms. Eltjana SHKRELI**, architect lecturer at Tirana University



Cultural visit organized by Gjirokastra Foundation: the war tunnel.

13.30 h

Lunch together at EDUA Restaurant: **discussion with the owner, Mrs Manjola Bici** (how she succeeded in creating her slow food startup by promoting Gjirokastra Region, using only Albanian products, bio products and proposing at the same place a restaurant and a shop with Albanian specialities and curative and medicinal herbs,)



16.30h

Cultural visit organized by Gjirokastra Foundation: "Skënduli" House

One of the oldest architectural construction of Gjirokastra



Accommodation in Gjirokastra

Thursday July 15th 2021 FULL DAY IN Butrint :

Visit of the archeologic site guided by Manjola MANGA, Free lance Touristic guide in Gjirokastra

Discussions about the management of the park by the Butrint Park Staff



Free time and lunch at the sea side in Ksami



Visit of the Natural Park "Blue Eye"



20.00 h Return in Gjirokastra and dinner together.
Accommodation in Gjirokastra

Friday July 16th 2021

8.30 h Transfer to Tirana

Free time for lunch and check in the hotel

16.30h Walking tour of Tirana under the responsibility of Eronida Mataj
Free time for personal visits





20.00 h

Closing session and dinner together in the Hotel
Distribution of the diplomas
Accommodation in Tirana













Saturday July 17th 2021, Departure of the foreign group

PARTICIPANTS

BAZZICHELLI Alice <i>Italy</i>		M.A. Degree in European Politics and Policies at the Institute for European Studies, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.
BOIS D'ENGHIEN Koen <i>Belgium</i>		Policy officer at the European Commission (employment and Education policies), Brussels/Belgium.
GEGA Mimoza <i>Albania</i>		Cultural Tour Guide
GJONCI Elisa <i>Albania</i>		Cultural guide in Gjirokastra.
JARVI Katariina <i>Finland</i>		Postgraduate Student, Master of Law, Master of Political Science, Abo Akademi Turku, Finland.
LAQJA Elson <i>Albania</i>		Cultural agency (DRTK) under the Ministry of Culture.

<p>MATAJ Eroninda <i>Albania</i></p>		<p>Municipality of Gjirokastra. Project development.</p>
<p>METAJ Aleksandros <i>Albania</i></p>		<p>United Nations Youth Association, Department of Human Resources, Albania.</p>
<p>MIZIRI Ela <i>Albania</i></p>		<p>Ministry of Culture. National Institute for Culture Heritage</p>
<p>NORA Blérina <i>Albania</i></p>		<p>Municipality of Gjirokastra.</p>
<p>dos SANTOS Nathan <i>USA/ Brazil</i></p>		<p>Postgraduate Student, M.A. in Latin American Studies (Specialization in Heritage Studies) at Stanford University, USA.</p>
<p>SCHMIDT Johannes <i>Germany</i></p>		<p>MA Student of Cultural Diplomacy, Central European Studies Diplomacy, Andrassy University Budapest.</p>

<p>XHERAJ Dorina <i>Albania</i></p>		<p>Museologist museum specialists.</p>
<p>ZANINELLI Giulia <i>Italy</i></p>		<p>Phd Student, Cultural and Social Anthropology, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy.</p>



Find all the photos of the session on [Facebook “Summer University Programme-CIFE”](https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=ProgrammeUniversitairedEteCIFE&set=a.2614131138889832)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=ProgrammeUniversitairedEteCIFE&set=a.2614131138889832>



EVALUATION

For its second summer university in Albania, CIFE proposed a session in partnership with Gjirokastra Foundation in the very old city of Gjirokastra, one of the most famous site of the Unesco's Heritage.

At the end of the week, the participants were asked to fill in an evaluation forms to evaluate their level of satisfaction. After reception of these forms, we can say that the programme was highly appreciated. Together with other aspects such as the logistics of the session, it resulted in a general satisfaction rate of more than 95 %.

Accommodation in a very old and typical hotel of the town was a large part of the satisfaction of each own, together with the meals that was organised in a typical restaurant, EDUA. This restaurant was the object of a small presentation by the owner of how to promote the Region by using local and bio products in the restaurant and proposing, in the same place a small shop with specialities of the Region.

Evaluation of the lecturers

The special format of this Summer University was interesting too. Instead of a lot of academic presentations in a classroom, half of the programme was proposed outside, on the historical or cultural sites with experts who could give detailed explanations about these sites. The students were very positive about both their professional knowledge and the informal, interactive approach that they adopted.

Evaluation of the programme

The group unanimously agreed that the programme was very well designed. The topics were relevant, the duration was just right, even too short (always too short.....!) and the chosen format was considered "fun". As a matter of fact, some participants noted that the programme was the opportunity to better know 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 discovery together after the field trips, and tested by themselves the rich gastronomy of Albania.

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 Summer University as very successful. CIFE expresses its thanks to Gjirokastra Foundation for this fruitful collaboration that resulted in a both original and academically interesting programme.

In addition, the CIFE's summer university was the opportunity to participate to the "CIFE competition".

Bags, with the CIFE logo, were distributed to each participant during the summer sessions of July and the aim was to submit photos using these bags.

3 categories were granted for :

- the most artistic picture*
- the funniest picture*
- the picture taken far from our office in Nice*

and the winner for the most artistic photo was our friend Johan SCHMIDT from Germany !

Congratulations Johan !



SUMMER UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION

Direction of the Summer University Programme of CIFE

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ORGANISATION AND ASSISTANCE IN ALBANIA

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