

in partnership with



SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIA



REPORT OF THE SESSION
2 to 8 July 2025

The Summer University in Albania organised by CIFE in partnership with EPOKA University in Tirana and the Association AMAD took place in Tirana from 2 to 8 July 2025.

The foreign candidates were accommodated in a very well-situated hotel in the city centre. A transfer by minibus was organised each day for the academic programme and for all the visits and excursions proposed during the week.



The central theme of this English-spoken academic programme

“Albania: From Its Cultural Heritage to the Accession Process”

was very pertinent, especially in this country where the candidacy to become a member of the European Union is a subject of great importance. This enabled us to approach many associated topics and its various problems.



During the approximately 30 hours of lectures, debates and discussions that composed this programme, experts from both Albania and abroad paid special attention to a wide range of relevant topics.

24 participants were enrolled in this programme, representing 12 different nationalities of different ages, academic and professional backgrounds. They all took advantage of this diversity and appreciated the role of the few but very invested local students during their free time. During the week, the group also enjoyed numerous visits outside of Tirana to discover the rich historical heritage of Albania. Everyone was amazed by the historical character of all the old cities and castles we visited and agreed that even after these walks, there still was much left to discover.

All the candidates successfully completed the programme and received a certificate of participation. Those who wished to acquire ECTS credits also took an oral exam. At the end of the session, the students were invited to fill out an evaluation form that showed their satisfaction.

CIFE warmly thanks the two partners for their collaboration and hopes to work together again in the future.

We should also mention the participation of the company VERROCCHI GROUP who also supported the project.



PROGRAMME

Wednesday 2 July 2025: Individual arrival of the participants in Tirana - Accommodation

Thursday 3 July 2025: Opening session

10.00: **Presentation of the partners:**

EPOKA University; Prof Dr. Ahmet
Öztaş, Rector of **Epoka University**



AMAD, Voltiza Prendi (Albania), Executive Director of **AMAD Center**



**Centre international de formation
européenne, Nice (France)**
Marie France Perdigon, Director of the
Summer University Programme, CIFE



10.30: ***“The Alchemy of Tastes: Rediscovering
Albanian Heritage through Flavours and
Symbols”***

Kleantino Goga/Arlinda Shehu, Cultur – Al
Network



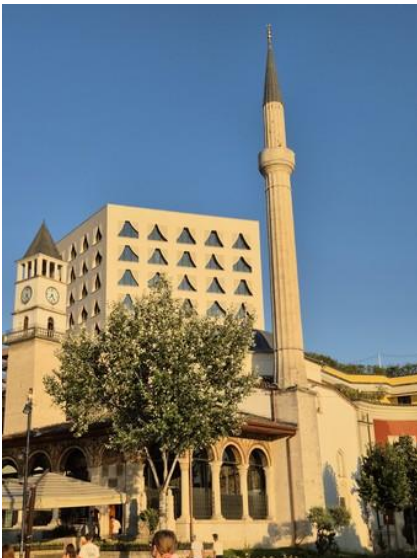
11:30: ***“Towards Europe through Youth, Rights and Resilience from the Ground Up”***
Voltiza Prendi (Albania), Executive Director of AMAD - NGO/CSO in Albania

13.00: **Lunch together** (Catering at the Faculty)

14.30: ***“Current National Security Issues in Albania”***
Gledis Nano (Albania), Former State Police Director
General



16.30: Walking tour of Tirana with contributions from the Albanian participants



19.30 **optional:**

"From Besa to Bytes: Can Values Thrive in the Digital World?"

AMAD's LIFE xTalk,

Mi-To Cocktail Bar: Rr. Ismail Qemali, Tirana

Free time for dinner



Friday 4 July 2025:

10.00: ***"The Future of Europe and EU Enlargement Policies in the Balkans"***
Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Üstün (Turkey), Nişantaşı University Istanbul, Turkey



11.30: ***"EU Enlargement and the Future of Albania"***
Klajdi Kaziu (Albania), Secretary General of United Nations Association in Albania



12.30: **Lunch together** (Catering at the Faculty)

13.30: **Departure for Durrës city**

14.30: ***Study visit: Municipality of Durrës***
Deputy Mayor Elio Jani, Dr. Floreta Kërtusha, Director of European Integration and Foreign Aid, Durrës Municipality



15.30: ***Visit of the Port of Durrës***



Free time in Durrës

18.00: **Back to Tirana**



Saturday 5 July 2025:

10.00: ***"Fulfilling the Conditions for EU Membership in the Age of Unpredictability"***

Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Üstün (Turkey), Nişantaşı University Istanbul, Turkey

11.00: ***"Monetary and Macprudential Policies in Albania's Path to EU Accession"***

Meri Papavangjeli, (Albania), Monetary expert at the **National Bank of Albania**



12.00: ***"Youth, Security and Democratic Resilience in the Western Balkans"***

Redion Qirjazi (Albania), Security affairs expert, the first Albanian to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point.



13.00: **Lunch together** (Catering at the Faculty)

14.00: Departure for the half-day excursion:
Study visit of Kruja Castle



Back to Tirana - Free time for dinner and personal visits

Sunday 6 July 2025:
FULL DAY EXCURSION to Berat city:
The Onufri Monastery of St Mary



Back to Tirana - Free time for dinner and personal visits

Monday 7 July 2025:

9.00: Meeting in the office of the **Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination**



11.30: ***“Albania and the Migration Crisis in the Western Balkans”***

George Tzogopoulos (Greece), Associate Researcher
Begin Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, Lecturer at the
Democritus University of Thrace, Programme Director,
EU-China Programmes at CIFE

13.00: **Lunch together** (Catering at the Faculty)

14.00: ***“Energy and EU Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans:
The Case of Albania”***

George Tzogopoulos (Greece)

15.00: Closing ceremony and distribution of the certificates





16.00:

Optional: Oral exams for the candidates asking for ECTS Credits

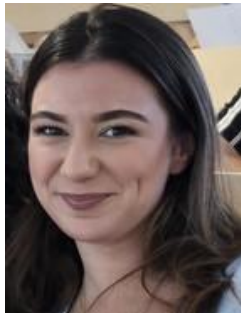
19.30: Closing dinner in a traditional restaurant



Tuesday 8 July, 2025:

Individual departure of the foreign participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Atanasova Paula <i>Bulgaria/Canada</i>		BA Political Science, McGill University, Montreal (Canada)
Blankesteyn Joël <i>Netherlands</i>		MSc. Political Science, Uppsala University (Sweden)
Brignonnet Emma <i>France</i>		Bachelor in Political Sciences, Student in Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies, Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic)
Cordy Jessica <i>United Kingdom</i>		1 st -year degree, University of East Anglia
Decolli Ines <i>Albania</i>		Epoka University
Haliti Suzana <i>Albania</i>		Student in Veterinary Medicine, University of Tirana (Albania)

Hanssen Rebeca Perla <i>Hungary/Norway</i>		Bachelor in Politics and International Relations, Forward College/ London School of Economics and Political Science
Hillis Emma <i>United Kingdom/Australia</i>		Bachelor of International Relations and Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Australian National University (Double degree)
Imeraj Dea <i>Albania</i>		Bachelor in Finance and Accounting, University of Tirana
Jin Ruigi <i>China</i>		Student in Law, Economy and Politics, Renmin University of China
Jorgensen Torben <i>Denmark</i>		Historian (Master of Arts in History), Teacher, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
Kodra Dea <i>Albania</i>		Epoka University

Lamb Imogen <i>United Kingdom/Australia/New Zealand</i>		Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Melbourne (Australia)
Lebelle Maëva <i>France</i>		3rd-Year Bachelor in Management and Administration, Université de Bourgogne Europe, Dijon (France)
Livari Carlotta <i>Italy</i>		Master in International Cooperation on Human Rights and Intercultural Heritage, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna (Italy)
Maksymiuk Fedir <i>Austria</i>		BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, University of Salzburg (Austria)
Pancar Derya <i>Turkey</i>		Bachelor Degree, Faculty of Education, Ordu University (Turkey)
Qana Argi <i>Albania</i>		Asim Vokshi School, Tirana (Albania)

Shala Nehar <i>Kosovo</i>		Graduate in Political Science and International Relations and in Public Relations, Hasan Prishtina University (Kosovo)
Shllaku Redon <i>Albania</i>		Graduate in Pharmacy at Kristal University (Albania)
Soepenber Jonne <i>Netherlands</i>		Bachelor in Russian Studies (4 th year), University of Leiden (Netherlands)
Spahija Eralba <i>Albania</i>		Master in Computer Science, University College Bedër, Tirana
Walbergs Patricia <i>Germany</i>		Bachelor, Social Sciences, Media, Politics and Society, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany)
Yildirim Sude <i>Turkey</i>		Bachelor Degree, Faculty of Education, Ordu University (Turkey)

EVALUATION

The programme was successfully carried out to the satisfaction of the group. This edition was very much appreciated, as demonstrated by the overall student satisfaction rate of 90%.

Except for the local students who stayed in their own apartments, the participants were accommodated in a hotel in the centre of Tirana. Every morning, the university bus transported the students from the hotel to the faculty where the academic programme took place. The working lunches were organised at the cafeteria of Epoka University which proposed good quality and varied meals.

The participants formed a diverse group in terms of nationality, age, academic and professional backgrounds. They took advantage of this diversity, especially in the evening when they discovered the city with the help of their new Albanian friends.

On the last day, as part of the closing session, a dinner was organised in a traditional restaurant. All students took part together with the available teachers who were pleased to attend. The restaurant proposed typical Albanian meals and the students together with the teachers ended the evening with music and traditional dances.

The participants were very satisfied with the relationship with the organisers and the administrative assistance before and during the programme. CIFE's personal approach did not go unnoticed. Regarding the academic programme, the students agreed that it was interesting as they learnt a lot about this country.

When it comes to the cultural activities, the students had only positive things to say about the different tours. They mainly regretted the lack of free time in the evenings or during excursions to explore the country individually, the difficulty in enjoying outside activities due to the intense heat during this season (unfortunately out of our control) and sometimes the stress due to the intense timing schedule.

Conclusion

The Summer University in Albania in Tirana was an enriching experience from both an academic and a cultural perspective.

CIFE warmly thanks all the teachers from Albania and the European Union who took part in this project and contributed to its success. And, of course, CIFE thanks everyone who participated in the organisation and funding of this project:

- **EPOKA University**, 
- Voltiza Prendi through her company **AMAD**, 
- and the **VERROCCHI GROUP**, which also funded the meal during the excursion to Berat. 

All of them contributed greatly to the success of this summer university. CIFE greatly appreciated this wonderful collaboration and hopes that this programme will continue in the future.

Find all the photos of the session on Facebook “Summer University Programme-CIFE”

https://www.facebook.com/ProgrammeUniversitaireEteCIFE/photos_albums

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1331654865636858&type=3>



SUMMER UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION

Direction of the Summer University Programme of CIFE

Marie-France Perdigon

Director of the Summer University Programme

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE FORMATION EUROPEENNE



marie-france.perdigon@cife.eu

L'Adriatic – 81 rue de France - 06000 - NICE

Tel. 00 33 (0)4 93 97 93 77

ORGANISATION AND ASSISTANCE IN TIRANA



EPOKA University: gskara@epoka.edu.al

AMAD Center: voltiprendi@gmail.com