



## 16<sup>th</sup> CASEE Conference

*"Next Stop Europe: Shaping the Future of Agriculture and Life Sciences Education"*



**11 - 13 May 2026**

**Tirana, Albania**



**Location:**

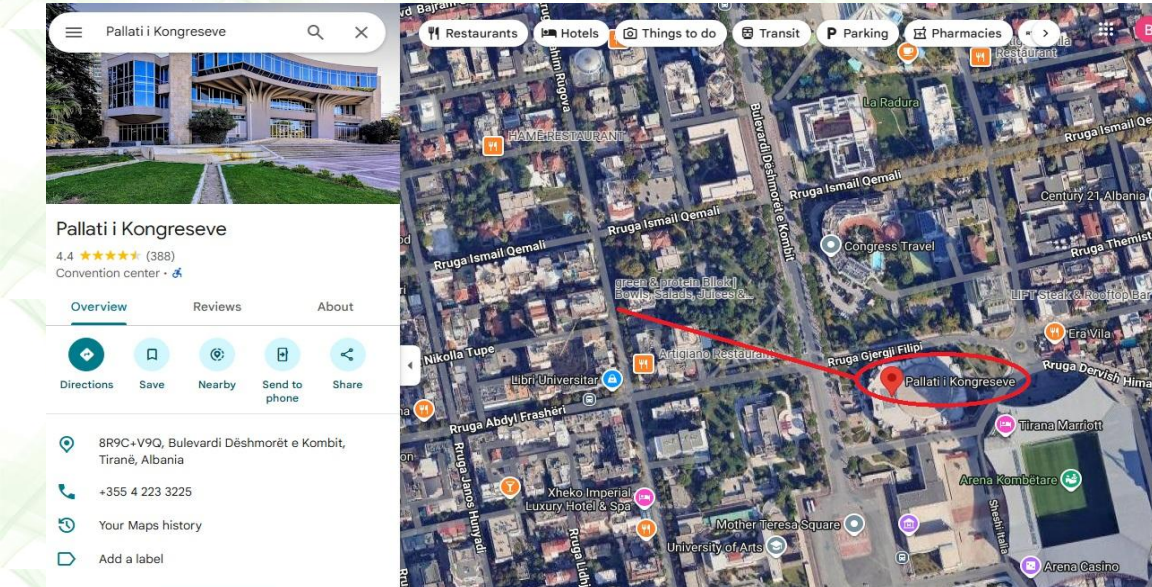
DAY 1 – Palace of Congress, Tirana (see map)

DAY 2 - Agricultural University of Tirana (see map)

DAY 3 - Field trip in Berat

**Location DAY 1**

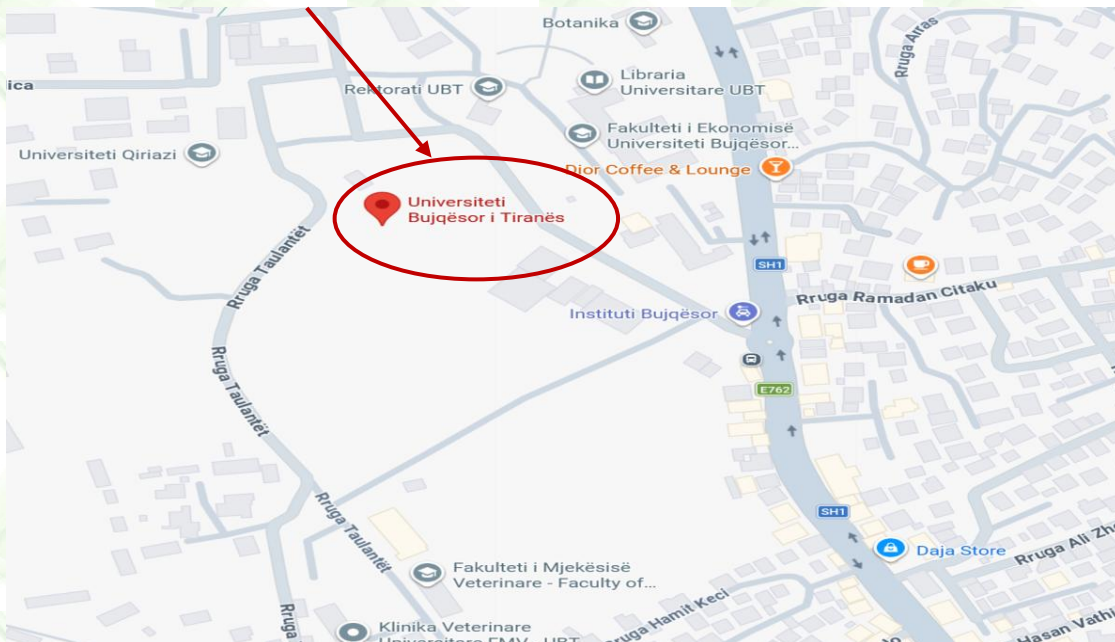
**Palace of Congress, Rruga: Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit, Tirana, Albania**



**Location DAY 2**

**Agricultural University Tirana**

**Rruga Pajis Vodica 1025, Tiranë, Albania**



## Day 1: Monday, 11. 5. 2026, at the Palace of Congress

- 10:30 – 11:45 CASEE General Assembly Meeting (with separate invitation)  
Palace of Congress, Tirana
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break**
- 13:00 – 13:30 Registration of the participants at the **Palace of Congress, Albanology Room, Tirana** (entrance next by Rogner Hotel)
- 13:30 – 14:00 **Official opening of the conference** (2 minutes for each speaker)

**Moderator: Besmira Pelushaj, Director for Communication and PR, UBT**

*Welcome addresses:*

**Prof. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector of Agricultural University of Tirana**

**Prof. Florin Stanica, President of CASEE**

**Ms. Letizia Fischioni, Acting Director, Tirana Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, AICS**

**Mr. Teodoro Miano, Secretary General of the CIHEAM**

**Ms. Lorena Pullumbi, Assistant FAO Representative in Albania**

**Prof. Eva Schulev-Steindl, Rector of BOKU**

**Mr. Andis Salla, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**

## From Policy to Practice: Advancing Albania's EU Path in Agriculture and Environment and the Role of Higher Education

**Moderator: Prof. Myqerem Tafaj, former Minister of Education, Albania**

- 14:00 – 14:20 **Fatmir Guri, Deputy Minister, MARD and Professor at UBT**  
*"Developments in Albania's Agricultural Sector in the Context of EU Accession Negotiations"*
- 14:20 – 14:40 **Andrea Ferrero, Head of Section Sustainable Economic and Social Development, Delegation to the EU in Albania**  
*"Agriculture in Albania's EU Accession Process: Reforms, Alignment, and Perspectives"*
- 14:40 – 15:00 **Hans Kordik, Team Leader, German Moldovan Agric. Policy Dialogue (APD)**  
*"Reform priorities for Albanian agriculture on the way into the EU"*
- 15:00 – 15:20 **Debora Bonucci, EU4Rivers Team Leader**  
*EU4Rivers: Shaping Albania's Water Sector on the Path to EU Integration*
- 15:20– 16:00 Coffee break**

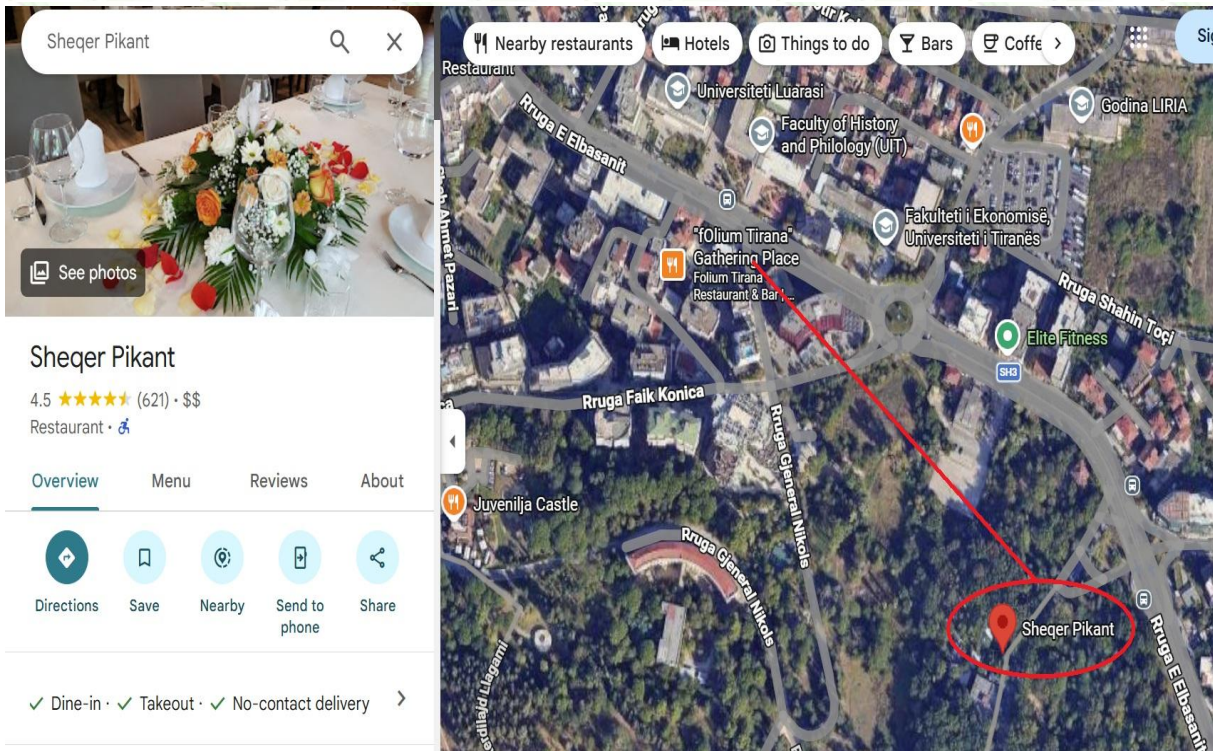
**Moderator: Prof. Hans-Peter Kaul, Professor for Crop Production and Grassland Management, BOKU University, Austria**

16:00 – 16:20 **Ms. Mirta Novak, expert in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, EU GoAL Project**  
*“Towards the EU Common Fishery Policy: Key requirements and opportunities for Albania”*

16:20 – 16:40 **Guido Zolezzi, Professor, University of Trento**  
*“Integrated Water and Sediment Management in Albania: towards EU Water Framework (2000/60) and Floods (2007/50) Directives Requirements”*

16:40 – 17:00 **Hubert Hasenauer, Professor, BOKU University Vienna**  
*“The Future of Higher Education: Strategic Priorities of the UBT2030”*

**19:00** **Official Conference Dinner**  
Restaurant: Sheqer Pikant, Address: Gjeneral Nikols street, Tirane



## **DAY 2: Tuesday, 12. 5. 2026, at the Agricultural University of Tirana**

**Room 101 (Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness), UBT**

**08:30 – 09:00**      **Registration of participants and poster placement on designated boards (Agricultural University of Tirana)**

### **UBT 2030 Strategy Project: Results Showcase: Insights, Achievements, and Future Directions**

**Moderator: Matthias Schreiner, Professor for Food Chemistry at BOKU University**

**09:00 – 09:15**      **Hubert Hasenauer, BOKU University, Vienna, Austria**  
*“Introduction to the UBT 2030 Project: Vision Mission and Competences”*

**09:15 – 09:30**      **Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector of UBT**  
*“Why did we start the UBT 2030 reform project history and expectations?”*

**09:30 – 09:45**      **David Ranuci, Professor for Food Quality, University of Perugia, Italy**  
*“Transforming Higher Education and Research for Food Safety and Quality: Innovation Pathways towards EU Food Systems 2030”*

**09:45 – 10:00**      **Olsid Mema, Center for Geoinformation, UBT**  
*“Strengthening Geoinformation in the Western Balkans: A Capacity Building Success Story”*

**10:00 – 10:15**      **Petra Winter, President of EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education)**  
*“Reforming Veterinary Education at UBT: Why is the EAEVE accreditation important for Albania?”*

**10:15 – 10:45**      **Coffee break**

**Moderator: Endrit Kullaj, Director of Science at UBT**

**10:45 – 11:00**      **Erinda Lika, Vice Rector for Science and Project, UBT**  
*“The importance of research for high quality education at UBT”*

**11:00 – 11:15**      **Johann Sölkner and Spase Shumka, Chairmen of Research Committee**  
*“Strengthening research cooperation: The Mobility Program of UBT”*

**11:15 – 11:30**      **Christoph Hauer, BOKU, EIT Water**  
*“Importance of water research and education for UBT”*

**11:30 – 11:45**      **Hans-Peter Kaul and Matthias Schreiner, BOKU University, Austria**  
*“The principles of the educational reform at UBT”*

**11:45 – 12:00**      **Adrian Maçi, Chairman of the Study Curricula Committee at UBT**  
*“The new bachelor and master programs at UBT”*

**12:00 -12:15**      **Hubert Hasenauer, BOKU University, Vienna, Austria**  
*“Summary, Conclusions and Next Steps of the UBT2030 reform”*

**12:30 – 13:30**      **Lunch break**

**16:30 – 17:30**      **CASEE Board Meeting organized by the CASEE presidency (separate invitation only)**  
Room: Rectorate Office

## **Parallel Session 1: AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES**

**Room: 101, FEA Building B**

**Moderator: Prof. Petra Winter, President of EAEVE**

- 13:30–13:45 **Prof. Aida Bani, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Reducing Nickel transfer to crops in ultramafic soils using nature-based solutions”*
- 13:45–14:00 **Prof. Gernot Stöglehner, BOKU University**  
Land management as a chance for spatial planning
- 14:00–14:15 **Prof. Giulio Senes, University of Milan, Italy**  
*“The place and contribution of landscape architecture education in Agricultural and Life Sciences Universities”*
- 14:15–14:30 **Prof. Elvin Toromani, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Nature-Based Solutions for Land Restoration in the Drin River Basin, Albania: Evidence from three case studies”*
- 14:30–14:45 **Dr. Zamir Libohova, ARS-USDA**  
*“Delineation of Salinity Management Zones for Precision Farming Using DUALEM-Based Proximal Sensing and Remote Sensing”*
- 14:45–15:00 **Prof. Dolja Pavlova, Sofja University, Bulgaria**  
*“Interactions between parasitic plants and nickel-hyperaccumulating *Odontarrhena* species”*

15:00 – 15:15 **Coffee break**

**Moderator: Prof. Erinda Lika, Vice Rector for Science and Project, UBT**

- 15:15–15:30 **PhD(c) Ber Mihai Vlad, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Assessing the Impact of Temperament on Reproductive Efficiency in Dairy Cattle”*
- 15:30–15:45 **Prof. Asoc. Luziana Hoxha, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Reshaping Future Food Systems with Microbial Proteins in the Era of Green and Digital Transformation”*
- 15:45–16:00 **Prof. Blagoy Uzunov, University of Sofia 'St Kliment Ohridski'**  
*“First report on soil algae from ultramafic substrates in Albania”*
- 16:00–16:15 **Prof. Fran Gjoka, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Preliminary Two-Year Effects of Organic and Conventional Practices on Crop Yield and Sandy Soil Quality in Divjaka, Albania”*
- 16:15–16:30 **PhD(c) Viola Saliaga, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Albanian rivers quality in response to the requirements of EU Water Framework Directive”*

## 16:45-18:00 Poster Session with Drinks and light snacks

### Poster Session 1: Agricultural and Life Sciences

- A01**      **Marian Velcea, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*"Research on the influence of a passive electromagnetic device on lettuce growth performance"*
- A02**      **Olsid Mema**  
*"GIS and Multi-Criteria Land Suitability Modelling for Cereal Cultivation: Uncertainty Assessment Using Sensitivity Analysis and ROC-Based Accuracy Evaluation"*
- A03**      **Denisa Balo**  
*"Urban waste management and public health risks in Tirana"*
- A04**      **Ludmila Bivol / Dumitru Malenchi**  
*"Impact of Hermetia illucens Meal on Broiler Blood Indices"*
- A05**      **Teuta Bushi**  
*"Smectitic Clay Amendment Reduces Nickel Bioavailability and Uptake by Odontarrhena chalcidica in Ultramafic Soil"*
- A06**      **Anxhela Çurri**  
*"Ghost Nets in Drini Bay: Field Evidence of Marine Life Interaction and Ecological Impact"*
- A07**      **Luljeta Dhaskali**  
*"Cytological diagnosis of the Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumor (CTVT): Case report"*
- A08**      **Jozef Gašparovski**  
*"Effect of microbial biostimulants on sprouting of onion bulbs (Allium cepa L.) during storage"*
- A09**      **Viorel Flavius George**  
*"Comparative Evaluation of Thermal-Induced Oxidation in Vegetable Oils and their corresponding Oleogels"*
- A10**      **Viktor Gjamovski**  
*"Whole-Genome Sequencing Reveals Genetic Variation and Population Structure in Indigenous Macedonian Sweet Cherry (Prunus avium L.)"*
- A11**      **Katarzyna Gladysz**  
*"Species matters: interspecies variability in particulate matter accumulation on an urban green roof"*
- A12**      **Taulant Goga**  
*"Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of a Large Renal Cyst in a Cat: A Case Report"*
- A13**      **Bledar Goxha**  
*"Evaluation of preoperative and postoperative gait analysis in dogs treated with TTA with porous titanium scaffold"*

- A14**      **Alda Habasllari (Kapaj)**  
*“Integrating Pharmacovigilance, Phytovigilance, and Environmental Monitoring to Address Antimicrobial Resistance in Albania”*
- A15**      **Fatos Huqi**  
*“Assessment of Heavy Metals in the Shkumbini River and Their Risk to Irrigated Agriculture and the Food Chain in Central Albania”*
- A16**      **Hysen Këlliçi**  
*“Spatial Mapping for Wastewater Monitoring: Identifying Microbiological Pollution and AMR Risks in Albania”*
- A17**      **Tomáš Kušta**  
*“A Tool for Supporting the Selection of Wildlife Mitigation Measures on Roads”*
- A18**      **Alexandra Raluca Lazar**  
*“Influence of the thermal treatment: from the kernels of *Fagus sylvatica* L. to oils”*
- A19**      **Anisa Lipe**  
*“Investigating the Prebiotic Carbohydrate-Based Microencapsulation of Apple Vinegar with Potential for Functional Food Powders Applications”*
- A20**      **Anxhela Luzi**  
*“Metabolic Food Waste Across Dietary Profiles”*
- A21**      **Maria-Luissa Maino**  
*“Impact of preferments on dough fermentation and final product quality”*
- A22**      **Altin Metalla**  
*“Cadmium Concentration in the Liver of Three Marine Fish Species from the Adriatic Sea (Albania): A Comparative Assessment”*
- A23**      **Ioana-Mihaela Mihălcioiu, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Hortivoltaics: Combining Solar Energy Production with Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba* L.) Cultivation — Light Dynamics and Plant Response in a Preliminary Study”*
- A24**      **Selma Myslihaka**  
*“Potential Risk of Heavy Metals in Agricultural Ultramafic Soils for Food Crops”*
- A25**      **Adam Nawrocki**  
*“Vegetated Earth Berms as a Nature-Based Solution for Mitigating Traffic-Related Air Pollution”*
- A26**      **Enerilda Ndoci**  
*“Assessment of Soil Salinization in Akërne (Vlora, Albania): Drivers, Impacts and Sustainable Management Approaches”*
- A27**      **Gabriela Oprea (Butnariu), University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Comparative analysis of essential oil composition in two *lavandula angustifolia* cultivars”*
- A28**      **Amelia Petrescu**  
*“Selected Innovations in Blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) Production: A Theoretical Review”*
- A29**      **Shkelqime Poga**  
*“The role of environmental health education in drinking water safety”*

- A30**      **Andreea Pușcaș**  
*“Assessing the impact of processing technology on the bioactive profile of a dessert with glutinous rice and oleogel as fat replacer”*
- A31**      **Snezana Rajkov**  
*“Unlocking Native Microbiota for Control of Strawberry Fruit Rot”*
- A32**      **Vjola Bakillari, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Environmental pressures and water chemical status in the Ishëm River Basin (Albania) under WFD framework”*
- A33**      **Xhuljo Sema**  
*“Modeling Soil Erosion Risk in the Ishmi River Basin (Albania) Based on the USLE Approach and GIS Techniques”*
- A34**      **Laura Smuleac**  
*“Climate crisis and environmental resilience: Challenges for the 21st century”*
- A35**      **Cristian Szekely**  
*“Replacing conventional fat with glycerol monostearate-based oleogel in cookies enriched with bioactive compounds from Rosa canina, Crataegus monogyna and Prunus spinosa”*
- A36**      **Larisa-Theodora Țilincă, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Pest Management by Conserving Natural Predators”*
- A37**      **Slavisa Sestic, University of Novi SadRALUCA CIUBOTĂRAȘU\*,**  
*“Preharvest 1-MCP Treatments as a Tool to Help Overcolor Development with Gala Apples in the Conditions of Climate Change”*
- A38**      **Raluca Ciubotărașu, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Green vs. Mean: Can plants protect other plants? Assessing Artemisia spp. hydrolates (hydrosols) as biocontrol agents against plant pathogens in modern horticulture”*
- A39**      **Emilia Moisescu, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*“Conserving local fig germplasm for biodiversity preservation”*
- A40**      **Emanuela Diana Critea (Lorentz)**  
*“Incidence of postharvest diseases and fungal etiology of Diospyros kaki during cold storage”*

## **Parallel Session 2: Rural Development, Policy and Innovation**

**Room: Luce Agraja (201), FEA Building B**

**Moderator: Prof. Florin Stanica**, CASEE President, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania

- 13:30–13:45 **Prof. Cosmin Salasan, King Mihai I University of Life Sciences**  
*Resilience to disruptions of the Romanian agriculture*
- 13:45–14:00 **PhD(c) Eranda Selmanaj, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*Albanian farmers towards EU standards through financing programs*
- 14:00–14:15 **Dr. Lorenzo Ciapetti, University of Bologna**  
*From Capacity Building to Digital Product Passports: A Participatory Pathway for Sustainable and EU-Aligned Agri-Food Value Chains in Albania*
- 14:15–14:30 **Prof. Edoardo Marcucci, Roma Tre University**  
*Stakeholder-Centered Capacity Building in Agri-Food Chains: A Participatory, Behavioural, and Storytelling-Based Approach*
- 14:30–14:45 **PhD(c) Jonida Biturku, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*“Advancing Sustainable Food Systems through Medicinal Plants: The Nigella sativa Approach”*
- 14:45–15:00 **PhD(c) Carmen Adriana Cocian**  
*Transposing EU pesticide policy in Romania: evolution, digital governance, and implementation gaps across three National Action Plans*

15:00 – 15:15 **Coffee break**

**Moderator: Prof. Romina Koto, Vice Rector, UBT**

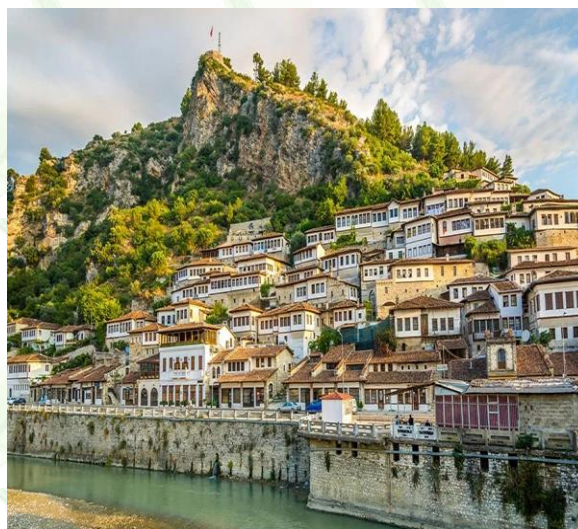
- 15:15–15:30 **Prof. Dimitrios Petropoulos, University of Peloponnese**  
*Relative dependence on CAP subsidies Evidence from Greece and the European Union*
- 15:30–15:45 **PhD(c) Johnson Kansiime, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)**  
*“Individual Immobility through the Lens of Well-being in Rural Areas: Insights from Four Southeast European Countries”*
- 15:45–16:00 **PhD(c) Palanceanu Armand, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**  
*Structural dynamics and farmer demographic profiles: A comparative study of Romania and the EU agricultural farms*
- 16:00–16:15 **PhD(c) Ayesha Asbat**  
*“Styrene Adsorption on Montmorillonite and Saponite: Computational Insights for Environmental Remediation”*
- 16:15–16:30 **PhD. Nataliia Volchenko, Sumy National Agrarian University**  
*Regulatory Framework for the Integration of Alternative Proteins into Food Security Systems*

## Poster Session 2: Rural Development, Policy and Digital Innovation

- B01**      **Ewa Biazik**  
*"The role of trust, expectation, and certification when buying animal products: pilot study"*
- B02**      **Larisa Caisin**  
*"Food Safety Standards and Market Access: Implications for Local Agri-food Producers in the Republic of Moldova"*
- B03**      **Majlinda Çakalli**  
*"Efficiency of Public Expenditure under Alternative Territorial Reform Scenarios in Albania"*
- B04**      **PhD(c) Engjëllushe Icka, Agricultural University of Tirana**  
*Determinants of Preferences for Ecosystem Services: Evidence from a Discrete Choice Experiment in Lake Ohrid*
- B05**      **Saimir Dinaj**  
*"Kosovo Chestnut-Mountain Honey: Setting Quality Standards in Line with EU Requirements for Balkan Food Systems"*
- B06**      **Fabjola Domi (Arapi)**  
*"Innovative approaches to agritourism"*
- B07**      **Vlora Duraku**  
*"Agricultural Policies in Kosovo, EU Standards, and Its Integration"*
- B08**      **Myrvete Gashi**  
*"Insights from Agricultural Data and Real-Time Public Sector Management"*
- B09**      **Luana Harizaj**  
*"Developing a Digital-Ready Framework for Food Labeling Surveillance in Albania: A Sequential Exploratory Mixed Methods Approach"*
- B10**      **Leons Hasani**  
*"Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Youth Employment in Albania: The Role of Agricultural and Life Sciences Education"*
- B11**      **Melisa Muço**  
*"Enhancing Traceability Systems in the Albanian Agri-Food Sector: A Pathway Toward EU Integration"*
- B12**      **Monica Ocnean**  
*"The Impact of Agritourism on the Development of Rural Areas in Banat, Romania"*
- B13**      **Raul Pascalau**  
*"Integrating climate change, sustainability and digital agriculture into foreign language education in Higher Education Institutions"*
- B14**      **Armond Halebi**  
*The Impact of Renewable Material Policies on the Wood Value Chain: Economic Evidence from Europe, the Western Balkans and Albania"*
- B15**      **Fatime Beqo**  
*"Regional governance in Albania: a strategic solution or a challenge?"*
- B16**      **Zenepe Dafku**  
*"Aligning Training Demand and Capacity in Agriculture: A Dual Borich Analysis of Farmers and Trainers in Albania"*

## DAY 3: Wednesday, 13. 5. 2026 Field trip to Berat

(Departure: **08:15** from downtown Tirana, **Place: Behind the National Historical Museum**)



“Scenery from Bus Route from Berat to Çorovoda and from Berati City, Albania

The field trip to Berat will provide CASEE Conference participants with the opportunity to visit one of Albania’s most renowned agricultural regions, with a particular focus on greenhouse production and vineyards. During the visit, participants will gain direct exposure to local farming practices, production systems, and technological applications in horticulture and viticulture. The trip will also showcase the interaction between agricultural activity, rural livelihoods, and the characteristic landscape of Berat, offering valuable insight into the region’s contribution to sustainable agricultural development. A visit to Berat Castle will be included

### Agenda

8:15 Departure from Tirana

10:30 Visit to the ancient city of Berat and the Castle

12:30 Visit to PUPA vineyards and vineries – wine tasting

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch

Return to downtown Tirana: 19:00.

Berati is one of the most beautiful and oldest cities in Albania. It is also known as the “city of a thousand windows” because of its traditional houses with many windows that seem to be placed one above another. Berati has a very ancient history and is protected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In this city is located Berat Castle, one of the most important historical monuments in the country. Inside the castle, people still live, and there are old churches, cobblestone streets, and beautiful views. Berati is rich in culture, traditions, and religious sites that show the peaceful coexistence of different religions over the centuries.

Berati lies near the Osum River, which gives the city a unique and charming landscape. Visitors can enjoy nature, traditional food, and the warm hospitality of the locals. This city is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Albania.