

Report on Erasmus+ STA Teaching Mobility

Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

4–8 May 2026

As part of the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching (STA) programme, I visited the Faculty of Forestry Sciences at the Agricultural University of Tirana (Universiteti Bujqesor i Tiranës) in Albania from 4 to 8 May 2026. The Agricultural University of Tirana is currently the largest agricultural university in Albania, offering education in agricultural sciences, veterinary medicine, environmental sciences, forestry, biotechnology, and related disciplines.

The main objective of the mobility was to conduct lectures for forestry students and broaden their knowledge of the applications of biotechnology in forestry. Another important aim was to become familiar with the teaching and research activities carried out by the academic staff of the host institution and to gain a deeper understanding of forestry education and research in Albania.

During my stay, my academic host and supervisor was Professor Nehat Çollaku, who provided substantial organisational and academic support throughout the mobility period.

During my visit, I delivered lectures and seminars for Bachelor's and Master's degree students in forestry concerning selected aspects of forest biotechnology. The students showed considerable interest in the practical applications of DNA analyses in forestry, particularly in timber identification and clonal verification. During one of the seminars presented to academic staff members and students, I also introduced my home institution — the University of Life Sciences in Lublin — presenting its educational and research profile, scientific activities, and opportunities for international cooperation. The seminar was followed by an interesting discussion concerning research possibilities and academic collaboration between our institutions.

As part of the mobility, I also had the opportunity to meet with the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry Sciences, Professor Elvin Toromani. During our discussions, we addressed possibilities for future scientific and educational cooperation between our institutions. Particular attention was given to the potential for joint research projects involving the application of molecular analyses in tree populations and forest genetic studies. We also discussed opportunities for strengthening cooperation through student and doctoral candidate exchanges, including the possibility of hosting students or PhD candidates from Albania for research internships and laboratory training in Lublin.

The mobility contributed significantly to my professional development. It enhanced my teaching skills and increased my capacity to operate in an international academic environment. The experience also provided valuable insight into higher education and forestry-related research conducted in Albania.

An important added value of the mobility was the opportunity to establish new professional contacts and promote internationalisation between both institutions. The visit may contribute to future educational and scientific collaboration between the Agricultural University of Tirana and my home institution.

Dr Magdalena Sozoniuk

Institute of Plant Genetics, Breeding and Biotechnology

Faculty of Agrobioengineering

University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Poland



Fot.1. Entrance to the campus of the Agricultural University of Tirana.



Fot. 2. Discussion with faculty members following the seminar.



Fot. 3. Meeting with the Dean Professor Elvin Toromani and the Erasmus mobility coordinator Professor Nehat Çollaku.



Fot. 4. Commemorative photo after the seminar.