



ALBANIA ECOLOGICAL

4TH GRAZ WINTER COLLEGE FOR LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY

March 22-26, 2027

University of Graz

Meerscheinschlössl (Mozartstraße 3, 8010 Graz, Austria)

Since 2014, Albania has been a candidate for EU membership. At the latest since June 2026, the country has been at the center of broader European attention due to ongoing protest movements. Triggered by construction projects in the Vjosa-Narta Delta and on the island of Sazan, the compliance with EU environmental standards, the use of protected areas, and the handling of natural resources have come into focus in public debates. Albanian civil society does not want to tolerate the environmental and climate crisis exacerbated by natural disasters, mass tourism on the Adriatic coast, and large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as other symptoms of a semi-autocratic state.

Against this background, the 4th Graz Winter College for Language, Culture, and Society, under the title "Ecological Albania", will focus on the new protest culture in Albania, its connections to the European environmental movement and EU environmental policy, social negotiation processes, and possible paths to democratization. The Winter College will engage with various dimensions of ecological awareness in language, image, discourse, and action, and will combine the following areas of focus:

- **LEARNING ALBANIAN** Basic Albanian language skills (A1-B1) and debating for advanced learners (B2-C2)
- **UNDERSTANDING ALBANIA** A wide range of lectures from history, literature, culture, art, language, religion, and environmental science will provide a comprehensive understanding of ecological, social, and cultural negotiation processes
- **APPLYING KNOWLEDGE** Acquired language and subject knowledge will be applied in a practice-oriented workshop format, primarily in video journalism (reporting and documenting environmental protests) and protest art (artistic forms of resistance and articulation of ecological concerns)
- **DISCOVERING ECOLOGY** Cultural approaches to the relationship between humans and the environment, including nature walks, readings, film evenings, and music lectures

The 4th Graz Winter College for Language, Culture, and Society invites applications from individuals interested in exploring the complex relationships between ecology, society, and culture in Albania. The program aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current environmental and social challenges in Albania and to promote intercultural dialogue and exchange.

This call is aimed at students and early-career researchers at Universities of the CEEPUS network SLAVIC PHILOLOGY AND ITS CULTURAL CONTEXTS, in particular those studying Southeastern European Studies and Balkan Studies, as well as those studying Slavic Studies who aim to broaden their knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity in the Adriatic region.

Travel grants are available through CEEPUS!

How to apply >>

BA, MA, PhD students and young researchers can apply through CEEPUS for travel and accommodation costs:

- Go to <https://www.ceepus.info>
- Create an account at "My CEEPUS".
- Apply as a student for a "Short term intensive course mobility". It's important to choose the correct network AT-0037-22-2627, and apply for the dates of the school 21/03/2027-27/03/2027. In your motivation letter mention the winter school and why it is important for you to participate (it can be one paragraph).
- The application is very simple and generally does not require anybody's help. But it is highly advisable to contact the CEEPUS coordinator of your institution. Here is the list of coordinators <https://www.ceepus.info/nw/0037-2627>
- The application deadline is November 1, but please apply before.

We're looking forward to your interest and the lively academic exchange in Graz!

ALBANIA ECOLOGICAL is the latest Winter College in a series that has previously featured **UKRAINIAN INTERACTIVE** (2024), **BELARUS DIGITAL** (2025), and **MACEDONIAN INTERMEDIAL** (2026).

Organisation:

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Info on CEEPUS application: address your local CEEPUS coordinator