



**ZKE+ Shqipëri**  
Zyra Kombëtare Erasmus+ Shqipëri

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Home Institution: "Fan S. Noli" University

E+ Programme: Erasmus Mundus Green-Tech WB

Period: 2015– 2016

## Porto/Portugal

My name is Tea Feratllari, one of the students participating in the Erasmus Mundus Green-Tech WB program academic year 2015-2016. At the same time, student at the University of Korça, Faculty of History and Philology, from where the beautiful journey of the Erasmus program begins. It would be a normal lecture day, sitting on the university benches, that would make the difference and would be the starting point of a European dream. My professor was talking about an exchange scholarship at one of the European universities, with a monthly scholarship and included travel and visa costs, by unfolding before us a golden opportunity. I could not believe my ears. Was what I was hearing true or just an illusion?

I needed to get more information and then contacted the university career center. With an eloquence and a willingness to help, the center representative explained to me and confirmed everything I had heard about this opportunity.

The application process for this program was simple. Firstly there must be a good will within oneself to undertake a new initiative. Then the documents section had the support of the Career Center for the application procedure, professors who were more than ready for two letters of reference and a list of grades. The latter ones not necessarily the best and only for the excellent students. Which means a comprehensive and stimulating option to seek the best for yourself and to grow more both professionally and personally.

Completing and selecting courses under the Learning Agreement document was as simple as anything else. It

even offers choices that are in one hand approximate and on the other hand new, enabling you to have a variety of courses.

So what can you expect in the face of such an opportunity? Of course, do not leave it untried!

## "Chasing a Dreams"!

And it would be exactly the date September 10, 2015, that still remains in my memory as if it were today, when I undertook my first journey away from my country, away from family and moreover alone. In flight over European land I felt truly "above the clouds," a sense of satisfaction mixed with a fear still unknown. This fear was somewhat extinguished when upon arrival at the airport of my future city appeared the friendly face of the representative of ESN (Erasmus Student Network) who helped us to address us at the student residence (found since we were in Albania).

And behold the first day passed very quickly as thousands more would flee to meet a year. Small but very beautiful town, hospitable and smiling people to help you at any moment, access to supermarkets, pharmacies, shops, or and everything else was very easy.

The university was a world in itself. Course assignments developed with projects in English, a giant library and materials in both English and local language (Portuguese), open lectures, written exams, student card and many other benefits that make you feel a European student but not only. In addition to local culture you had the opportunity to meet other people and get used to their differences without prejudice.

Between this system similar and different at the same Time I often wondered if I would be able to cope? Will I be able to pass the exams successfully? If I can not do what will happen? Today I laugh at myself with these thoughts. Nothing is impossible if you try hard, think positively and work patiently. Success is achieved slowly and exactly after that beautiful year, the fruits of that success come to be finalized in Albania. The new knowledge and skills acquired abroad, it is time to unfold in the Diploma Thesis after a year of work and research experience. And on graduation day I fill my eyes with tears when you I see myself growing up and when with those hands that trembled with fear at first when it all started you hold not only a diploma card but much more than that, proudly hold the crown for your achievements.

At the end of the day and then every other day you are no longer afraid to take new initiatives. This experience helped me to be more open-minded to the world, to cultural differences, to learn something new whenever I could, to knock on doors to ask without hesitation, to want

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to learn a new language, to be myself but above all to love what I do.

"A comfort zone is a beautiful place ... but nothing grows up there"!

Thank you Erasmus Mundus!