

## Special Edition ERASMUS MUNDUS Master Programme Profile of an Albanian Student

Zamira Xhaferri is one of the students who was granted an Erasmus Mundus fellowships for the 2008-2009 programme. She is now attending her second term of studies. In this interview Zamira describes all the application procedures, her experience in Europe and the universities she visited.

recommendations, post-graduate courses, command of English and French and motivation. I was then nominated for an Erasmus Mundus Fellowship granted by European Commission(EC). The second stage focused on the examination of my profile by the EC. At the end of the process, I received a confirmation.

programme (EMLE started on 1997)

**Based on your experience, do you see this programme as an opportunity or a difficult challenge for the Albanian students, and what will be your advice to them?**



Zamira Xhaferri

This programme is highly recommendable for both lawyers and economists. It would be a mistake to perceive these professions as separate from each other. EMLE contributes in bridging and clarifying the link between both disciplines.

**What are you doing now that you are back to Albania?**

I used to work in governmental projects providing consultancy for the Government of Albania. I think that what is missing in the governmental policy documents is the Benefit-Costs Analysis of Laws. This is what I am doing since I am back in Albania.

**What is your thesis topic?**

I am doing a research in Law and Economics of post-communist land reform in Albania. Our country still lacks a viable land market. This generates uncertainty over the land tenure and impacts negatively the optimal use of landholdings while discouraging investments in the country. In my research I try to suggest feasible economic solutions in order to establish clear and well-defined property rights .

**Have you ever thought of not coming back to Albania?**

The EU funds programmes allowing successful Albanian students to attend prestigious master programmes, unfortunately does not have a policy on recruitment of young and high skills professionals.



Memories from Hamburg  
Erasmus 2008-2009

**How did you get the information on the programme and what were the selection criteria?**

I am a mid-career legal professional with an extensive work experience in the academic and governmental sectors. I was eager to attend a master programme abroad because Albania, being a transition country, still lacks high academic standards. It was simple to get in touch with the programme. I googled the master programmes in the EU and I found many of opportunities. I filed my application together with the supporting documents and I was admitted to 3 master programmes and granted for each of them an Erasmus Mundus Fellowship by the European Commission. I decided to attend EMLE( The European Master in Law and Economics). The first stage, involved the selection from the EMLE Board based on my academic results, work experience,

**Which Universities did you attended?**

During the first term: the Rotterdam Institute of Law and Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam/ During the second Term: the Institute of Law and Economics/ Hamburg University, Germany

**What do you recall from this experience?**

It was a unique academic experience. Law and Economics or Economic Analysis of Laws is an interdisciplinary approach to legal theory that applies methods of economics to law. It includes the use of economic concepts to explain the effects of laws, to assess which legal rules are economically efficient, and to predict which legal rules will be promulgated. Law and Economics methodology is totally unknown in Albania where there are a very few legal-economists. In fact i was only the third Albanian admitted in the

# Erasmus master scholarships for 19 Albanian students

## More applicants and scholarships compared to the previous year



Erasmus programme students visiting European Institutions.

19 Albanian citizens will profit from Erasmus Mundus scholarship to attend master degree studies for the academic year 2009-2010. Erasmus is a European Commission funded projects and Albania is one of the countries which benefited for the last previous years. The number of applicants and the students accepted by different European universities has increased compared to previous years. On 1 of July 2009, the European Commission has awarded almost 10,000 new grants to be funded by the Erasmus Mundus programme in the academic year 2009-2010.

8,385 students and academics will come to study or teach in Europe, and 1,561 Europeans will spend periods at partner institutions in countries outside Europe. The European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Ján Figel said "Erasmus Mundus is going from strength to strength. In the years since 2004, when it began, the programme has been able to establish itself as one of the world's foremost international mobility programmes. With its emphasis on quality and excellence, it is doing an outstanding job of promoting European higher education on

the world stage." The European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner said: "Education plays a crucial role in the development of countries and for providing younger generations with perspectives. By promoting academic exchanges between Europe and the rest of the world we are giving university students the means to better shape their own futures and to understand and respect each other. Erasmus Mundus is, therefore, a precious instrument to build and strengthen bridges across the world."



## What is Erasmus Mundus

*Erasmus Mundus is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through co-operation with countries outside the European Union.*

*Erasmus Mundus offers masters courses and scholarships*

*In 2009, a new selection of students and academics from all over the world will receive scholarships to study or teach in one of the 103 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. These courses are provided by consortia of Europe's top higher education institutions, and lead to the award of a recognised double/multiple or joint Masters degree.*

*The courses and the scholarships together meet the overall objectives of Erasmus Mundus to enhance the quality of European higher education and promote it around the world.*

*Starting in the academic year 2009-2010, 1,833 students are being awarded scholarships to study for one or two years at the Masters course of their choice, alongside students from Europe. Students follow these Erasmus Mundus courses at two or more universities within the Masters consortium. 489 academics with outstanding academic track records will come to Europe for shorter periods of teaching, research or tutoring activities within one of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses.*

## The benefits of the programme

The scholarship-winners come from 105 countries: China is the most-represented country, followed by India, Brazil, Mexico, Bangladesh, the US, Ethiopia, Russia and Indonesia. The academics come from 75 countries; the best represented in this category are the US, China, India, Australia and Canada.

Erasmus Mundus supports international institutional partnerships for higher education mobility

For 2009-2010 Erasmus Mundus will also fund 39 partnerships between European higher education institutions and those from countries targeted by EU external co-operation policy. The aim is to contribute to the development of human resources and the capacities for international co-operation of higher education institutions in non-European countries through mobility between the European Union and these countries. These partnerships together involve 735 higher education institutions – 349 from the EU and 386 from other countries – and focus on academic co-operation and the exchange of students and academics.

For 2009-2010, 7,624 individual mobility grants will be awarded to fund study, research and teaching visits of between three months and three years, at undergraduate, graduate, doctorate, and post-doctorate levels, and for academic staff. This includes the opportunity for 1,561 Europeans to visit partner institutions in countries outside Europe and for 6,063

Mundus programme, which runs until 2013. The programme will build on the successes of the first phase, which ran from 2004-2008, by continuing to select new Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and award scholarships to outstanding students and scholars. There are new elements for the 2010-2011 academic year: these include fellowships for a



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students and academics from outside the EU to visit European partner institutions. Moving ahead 2009 sees the start of the second phase of the Erasmus

number of newly-selected doctorate programmes and grants for European students to travel to participating universities from outside the EU.

## Objectives and its implementation for 2009-2013

Erasmus Mundus as a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education, contributes to the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of Higher education institutions in Third Countries by increasing mobility between the European Union and these countries.

The Erasmus Mundus programme pro-

vides support to: higher education institutions that wish to implement joint programmes at postgraduate level or to set-up inter-institutional cooperation partnerships between universities from Europe and targeted Third-Countries; individual students, researchers and university staff who wish to spend a study / research / teaching period in the context of one of the above mentioned joint programmes or cooperation partnerships any organisation active in the field of higher education that wishes to develop projects aimed at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, vis-

ibility and image of European higher education worldwide. Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education for: the enhancement of quality in European higher education; the promotion of the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world; the promotion of intercultural

Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 is implemented through of the following actions:

Action 1: Erasmus Mundus joint programmes of outstanding quality at masters (Action 1 A) and doctoral (Action 1 B) levels including scholarships/fellowships to participate in these programmes;

Action 2: Erasmus Mundus Partnerships between European and Third Country



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understanding through cooperation with Third Countries as well as for the development of Third Countries in the field of higher education.

Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013 continues and extends the scope of the activities already launched during the first phase (2004-2008) of the programme. It now includes the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window scheme, which was launched in 2006 as a complement to the original programme. In addition, the Programme integrates cooperation activities with Industrialised Countries.

higher education institutions including scholarships and fellowships for mobility at all academic levels;

Action 3: Promotion of European higher education through projects to enhance the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.

The Programme Guide contains all the general information and the conditions on how to apply for funding. In addition, regular Calls for Proposals are published for the specific actions.

Please visit the websites below or contact the Delegation of the European Commission to Albania

[www.delalb.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delalb.ec.europa.eu)

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

[www.ec.europa.eu/enlargement](http://www.ec.europa.eu/enlargement)

[www.eu2009.se](http://www.eu2009.se)

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