

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONTEST FOR THE SELECTION OF YOUNG WRITERS FOR THE VALORISATION OF KUKËS TERRITORY THROUGH SHORT STORIES

Announcement date: April 24, 2023

Deadline: May 31, 2023

The Urban Research Institute is pleased to announce the "Discover Kukës" contest for young writers, launched as part of the ECOROUTES project. The contest aims to encourage and inspire young writers to explore the beauty of Kukës and share their unique perspectives with the world. Whether you are passionate about history, culture, traditions, or landmarks this contest is an opportunity to showcase your writing skills and celebrate the diversity of Kukës.

The contest invites young writers between the ages of 18 and 33, that have a strong connection with Kukës, to participate in creating short stories that highlight local features such as territory, cultural heritage, and traditions. The best stories will be included in a unique book that will contain 20 short stories, written by young writers from Albania and Kosovo. The book will be published and distributed all across the Programme area.

The "Discover Kukës" contest will run until May 31st, 2023 and offers a chance for young writers to perfect their skills by participating in a creative project.

"ECOROUTES - Ecotourism routes in the Cross-Border area for the promotion of alternative tourism" is being implemented by the Kukës Municipality and Urban Research Institute in Albania, and by the Rahovec Municipality and Green Art Center-Prishtina in Kosovo.

The project is co-financed by the European Union and the National Funds of the participating countries, within the third Call for Project Proposals for the IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme Albania – Kosovo 2026-2020.

We encourage all young writers to seize this opportunity, to embark on a journey of creative exploration, and join us in discovering the beauties of Kukës together!

Important Note

Please ensure you read the rules carefully before entering the competition.



Who can apply?

All young writers aged 18 to 33 who have a strong connection to Kukës and are passionate about its history, culture, nature, and traditions.

Rules and Guidelines

- The contest is open to original and unpublished stories.
- Stories that have won and/or placed in other writing contests are not eligible.
- Stories should be suitable for a general audience.
- Only one (1) story per author.

How to apply?

All applications should be submitted online to info@uri.org.al and must include:

- Annex 1 - Completed Application Form.
- A short bio of the applicant, including information such as the education, work experience, skills, achievements, and hobbies.
- Photocopy of a valid identity document (Identity Card or Passport), duly signed.
- A short story related to the topic, no more than 3000 words.

Story format

Add the word count to the top right of the first page. The title is not included in the word count.

- The short story must have the author's name on the top of the first page.
- The short story must not exceed **3,000 words**. Title not included in the word count.
- Pages must be numbered, and the page number must appear in the footer of each page.
- The short story title must appear in the header of every page.
- The short story file name must be saved and submitted in this format: "Story Title – Author Name" (Ex.: EcoRoutes – Jon Leka).
- Standard fonts such as Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, or Georgia in 12point font size must be used, singled spaced.
- All stories must be submitted in electronic format, no paper submissions will be accepted. Acceptable formats are: .docx or .pdf.
- The application shall be in **Albanian**.

Deadline

The deadline date for entries is 23:59 midnight (Albanian time) on May, 31st 2023. Entries are confirmed by email to your Submittable account. Please check your junk folder as emails can land there.

Evaluation

SHORT STORIES	POINTS
Linguistic competence and formal correctness	30 points
Originality of the content and relevance to the project theme	40 points
Ability to convey emotions and originality of expressions	30 points
TOTAL	100 points

Judging

The judges' decision is final and no individual correspondence can be entered into. Judging is fair and unbiased.

Copyright

Copyright of each entry remains with the author but the Urban Research Institute has unrestricted rights to publish the winning and highly commended short stories with the purpose of including them in any relevant promotional material produced under this project.

Results & Awards

Winners and highly commended writers will be notified by email in on June, 15th 2023. A prize of 500 euros is foreseen for the 3 best stories. A prize- giving event will be held for the winners in Kukës, on June, 25th 2023.

For more information, please email info@uri.org.al