



NextGen Research Workshop

FROM LAB DISCOVERY TO HIGH-IMPACT PUBLICATION: PhD RESEARCH & PUBLISHING MASTERCLASS

(Empowering PhD students to present, connect, and publish)

Organized by **QUARTZ** (NanoBalkan Ph.D. Students Program), the **Albanian Academia of Young Researchers**, **SUSNANO** project, **NanoBalkan Center**, **Albanian Academy of Sciences**, and the **Faculty of Natural Sciences (UT)**

Tirana, Albania (October 3, 2025)

This interactive workshop is designed to: **promote the research activity of Albanian young Ph.D. researchers** and provide them with the essential skills for successful scientific writing, contributing to the visibility and recognition of their work at both regional and international levels; and to **guide early-career researchers**, particularly Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows, through the complete journey of transforming research findings into high-impact scientific publications. Participants will gain practical insights into structuring a paper, selecting the right journal, addressing reviewers' comments, and navigating ethical considerations in publishing. Beyond technical writing skills, the workshop will also emphasize strategies for enhancing research visibility, building an academic profile.

This workshop **will bring together** Ph.D. students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career scientists interested in strengthening their skills in scientific writing and publishing. The masterclass will provide them with tools, mentorship, and networking opportunities to translate their laboratory work into impactful publications

By the end of the workshop, participants will be equipped with actionable tools and strategies to effectively communicate their research, increase the chances of acceptance in peer-reviewed journals, and strengthen their confidence as authors and contributors to the global nanoscience community.

LOCATION:

NanoBalkan 2025 will take place at Tirana International Hotel, Tirana

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Prof. Arben Merkoçi (NanoBalkan, ICN2, Spain) – Coordinator

Prof. Majlinda Vasjari (NanoBalkan, FNS, UT, Albania) – Co-coordinator

Prof. Valbona Aliko (QUARTZ, NanoBalkan, FNS, UT, Albania)

Prof. Erman S. Istifli (University of Çukurova, Turkey)

Prof. Asoc. Ledia Vasjari (Albanian Academy of Young Researchers, NanoBalkan, FNS, UT, Albania)

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Section I – Masterclass: Writing & Publishing Successfully (09:00 – 10:45)

Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Valbona Aliko

Led by invited experts in scientific publishing, this session will provide practical guidance on how to transform research into high-quality scientific papers. Participants will learn strategies for structuring manuscripts, selecting journals, responding to reviewers, and increasing the visibility of their work. The masterclass aims to strengthen the publishing skills of young researchers and enhance their success in the international scientific community.

09:00 – 09:10 | Opening Remarks

Welcome by Organizers (NanoBalkan Unit, QUARTZ PhD Program, Academy of Young Researchers)

09:10– 09:30 | Keynote Talk (Prof. Erman S. Istifli, Cukurova University, Turkey)

The Art of Scientific Storytelling: From Draft to Published Paper

09:30 – 09:45 | Masterclass Part I (Prof. Valbona Aliko, NanoBalkan, FSHN, UT)

Structuring Papers and Journal Selection: Choosing the right journal; Common mistakes to avoid

09:45 – 10:00 | Masterclass Part II (Assoc. Prof. Ledia Vasjari, NanoBalkan, FSHN, UT)

Ethics in publishing, Open access vs. traditional publishing

10:00 – 10:15 | Masterclass Part III (Assoc. Prof. Aulon Shabani-UPT)

Advanced Critical Thinking and Avoiding Plagiarism in the Researcher's Journey

10:15 – 10:30 | (Dr. Ina Varfaj, University of Perugia, Italy)

Peer review process and how to respond to reviewers

10:30– 10:45 | (Dr. Klaudio Peqini, Department of Physics, FNS, UT)

To be precise

10:45– 11:00 | Coffee Break & Networking

Section II– PhD Research Showcase (11:00 – 12:00)

Chairperson: Assoc. Prof. Ledia Vasjari

Organized with QUARTZ PhD Program & the Young Researchers' Section of the Albanian Academy, this session will showcase the latest research achievements of PhD students, offering them a platform to present their work, exchange ideas, and connect with peers and senior scientists. It aims to promote visibility of young researchers and foster collaboration within the nanoscience community.

11:00 – 11:40 | PhD Student Lightning Talks (QUARTZ program and collaborators)

10-minute Oral presentations of ongoing projects Selected talks by PhD students (Max 4 presentations from PhD Students)

Poster Exhibition will run throughout the entire workshop day, showcasing innovative research from PhD students in the room.

11:40 – 12:00 | Closing Session; Wrap-up, Q&A & Awards

Announcement of 2 winners (best oral presentation & best poster)

Two awards for Best Oral Presentation and Best Young Researcher Poster will be issued. All selected presenters (oral and poster) will receive a certificate of participation. Selected best presentations and posters will be selected for submission to the Journal of the Academy of Sciences and the Journal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. These contributions will be appeared in a special issue or proceedings section dedicated to NanoBalkan 2025 Young Researchers.