

4th China – CEEC Curator's Forum of the Libraries Union
October 19 – 22, 2025
Budapest, Hungary

Fostering library identity through community - based reading programs

- Read, connect, promote: reading clubs as library ambassadors -

Beneta Dhima
Cataloger/Classifier
Qemal Baholli Public Library, Elbasan



Monumental Clock Tower



Monastery of Saint Joan



Ethnographical Museum



Bisantium Basilica



Qemal Baholli Public Library

The Reading Club – The Library – An Afternoon with Elbasan Authors

*A cultural initiative to promote local literature
and connect generations through books*

📍 Elbasan Library

Purpose of the Initiative

- Promote Elbasan authors within the cultural space of the library.
- Engage young people and the wider community in reading.
- Create an interactive and personal environment beyond digital distractions.

Why a Reading Club?

- Equal and inclusive atmosphere
- Open discussion and shared experiences
- Encourages personal reflection and expressive freedom
- A way to disconnect from the internet and reconnect with books

The Role of the Library

- Promoting lifelong reading habits
- Supporting the initiative by:
 1. Providing access to books
 2. Sharing announcements via Facebook, Instagram, website
 3. Organizing and facilitating events

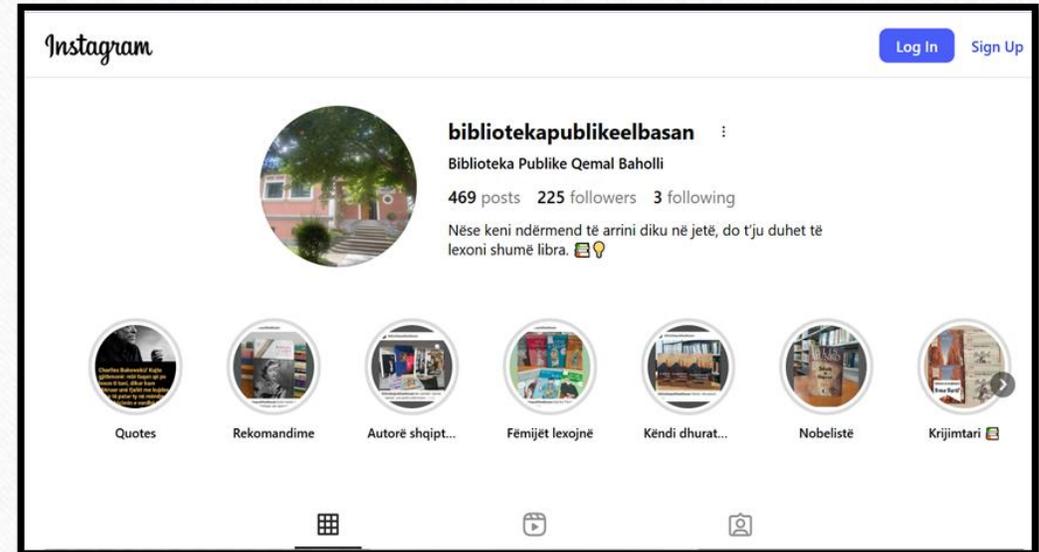


Biblioteka Publike Qemal Baholli
5,2 mijë ndjekës • 169 duke të ndjekur

Shokët Dërgo një mesazh

Kërko

Postimet Rreth Reels Fotografitë Ngjarjet Shokët Më shumë



bibliotekapublikeelbasan
Biblioteka Publike Qemal Baholli

469 posts 225 followers 3 following

Nëse keni ndërmend të arrini diku në jetë, do t'ju duhet të lexoni shumë libra. 📖💡

Quotes Rekomandime Autorë shqipt... Fëmijët lexojnë Këndi dhurat... Nobeliste Krijimtari



Qemal Baholli
Biblioteka Publike - Bashkia Elbasan

Kreu Biblioteka Rreth nesh Koleksione Digjitale Aktivitetet Të reja

Biblioteka Publike "Qemal Baholli"

në rubrikën:

"Elbasani në shkrim dhe shpirt"

Koleksione Digjitale
Lexoni libra, revista e gazeta ne format digjital
Shfletoni Koleksionet Digjitale →

Udhëzuesit e bibliotekës
Gjeni libra, materiale digjitale dhe baza të dhënash.
Mësoni Më Shumë →



<https://www.facebook.com/biblioteka.qemalbaholli.7>



<https://www.instagram.com/bibliotekapublikeelbasan>



Qemal Baholli

Biblioteka Publike - Bashkia Elbasan

<https://bibliotekaelbasan.com/#>



Flutura Aça – contemporary novelist with international recognition



Mustafa Bodini – songwriter of traditional urban folk music



Astrit Bishqemi – beloved children's writer, Albania's nominee for the *Astrid Lindgren Award* (2010)



Musa Vyshka – poet and publicist

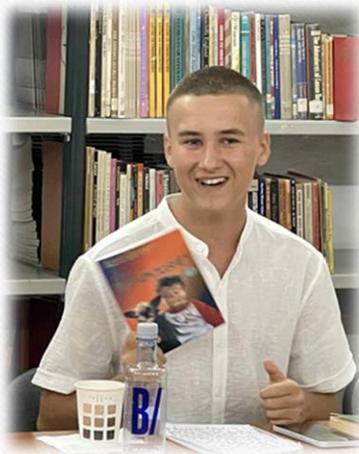


Leksi i Vinit – collector of Elbasan's cultural customs

How It Worked

- Announcements made online and at the library
- Readers chose their preferred author/book
- Two meetings per month with readings and group discussions
- Sessions recorded and shared by a podcasting member of the club

What Stood Out?



Why Do Local Authors Matter?

- They form the foundation of national literature
- Recognizing local voices builds community identity
- Fosters pride in the city's literary heritage

What's Next? – Future Plans

- **Expand the Reading Club**
 - Invite readers of all ages
 - Create themed subgroups (poetry, childrens' lit, novels, etc.)
- **Year-Round Literary Calendar**
 - Extend meetings beyond summer
 - Reintroduce forgotten Elbasan writers

What's Next? – Future Plans

- **Involve Schools and Students**
 - Collaborate with local schools
 - Organize writing and reading contests
- **Digital & Online Promotion**
 - Turn meetings into multimedia content
 - Build a digital archive (videos, photos, summaries)

What's Next? – Future Plans

- **Publish an Anthology**
 - Include excerpts from featured authors
 - Add reader reflections and interpretations
- **Partnerships & Support**
 - Work with cultural institutions, publishers, NGOs
 - Invite scholars and critics for deeper discussions

Closing Message

This initiative, born as a tribute to Elbasan's authors, is evolving into a sustainable cultural tradition where books are not only read, but shared, felt and celebrated.

“Books take you far; local voices bring you home.”

Thank you!

Köszönöm!