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## **EU Between Kosova and Serbia**

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### **Abstract**

In its recent enlargement strategy for the Western Balkans, the European Union (EU) requires for Kosovo and Serbia to conclude a legally binding agreement on the normalization of their relations as a prerequisite for their future membership in the EU. However, the EU is silent on the content of such agreement and leaves it to the parties to agree under EU auspices. There are various options available on how such agreement could look like, ranging from the former West-Germany and East Germany model, exchange of territories and partitioning to extensive autonomy for Kosovo Serbs. The purpose of the presentation would be to assess these, and other options, from an international law and international relations perspective and to assess them in the light of the concept of “international peace”. A key aspect would be the geopolitical aspects of these options, especially in view of the question if a “local” solution, i.e. between Kosovo and Serbia only, is sufficient for “peace” or if broader regional factors have to be taken into consideration.

## **Support Towards the European Integration of Albania Sara Kelmendi**

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### **Abstract**

On its 2018 progress report, the European Commission finally recommended the opening of accession negotiations for Albania. Firmly set on its integration path towards a European future, Albania is among the most enthusiastic countries, remaining untouched by the Eurosceptic wave that has taken over most European Union (EU) member states in the post-Brexit era. However, studies indicate a declining trend of support towards EU integration, which, in addition to the lack of critical debate in Albania, may lead to the creation of misconceptions and false expectations concerning the integration process. The circumstances of the EU enlargement to the Western Balkans are in many aspects less favourable than the ones during the previous rounds of enlargement. Therefore, regional efforts are needed to build resilience to the enlargement fatigue.

**Key words:** *EU Integration, euroscepticism, enlargement fatigue, regional cooperation.*

**Unraveling the Balkans**  
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**Abstract**

Problems of limited statehood have seriously curbed the transformative power of the EU in the Western Balkans – despite their membership perspective.

In Western Balkans, while formal compliance with EU norms and rules is progressing, rule-consistent behavior is still scarce. In order to explore such problems of decoupling, we need to go beyond formal adaptation and systematically study the implementation of domestic reforms where factors mediating the domestic impact of Europe become even more important. Conditionality and capacity – building are certainly very important means to bring about institutional changes in the countries. However, there is a clear tendency that they are of little use in changing the domestic strategies of ethnic nationalism and economic clientelism.

**Keywords:** Western Balkans, Europeanization, EU Transformative Powers, Conditionality.

**The Emotional Deficit: Reflections on the  
Concept of European Identity**  
**Dea Elmasllari**

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**Abstract**

The current political developments and crisis that the European Union is experiencing, are a reflection of its own identity crisis. A new momentum is displaying the rise of right-wing populist parties, which spread a pride in their nationalistic policies and shift away from European values and unification. Many authors argue that such an occurrence takes place due to the democratic deficit that exists within the European Union. In this paper I argue that the major problem existing in the European community is an emotional deficit, and such a deficit has given rise to identity crisis and divergent views in our societies. The most relevant case where such a deficit is exhibited lies within the migration crisis and the inability of the European Union to find common answers in addressing the issue of migration and refugees. In this paper, I interpret the notion of the emotional deficit within the context of the European identity, claiming that it is often such a deficit the one that creates an inability of the EU officials in finding common agreements to the current matters, as well as experiencing a lack of support from the large European community and public.

**Key words:** Identity, EU, emotional deficit, multicultural discourse

**Albania's Progress towards EU  
Regarding Research  
Albana Cekrezi**

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**Abstract**

In June 2014 Albania was finally granted the status of a candidate member of EU after several efforts of reforms made during the previous years. Having experienced a tempestuous, turbulent period after the fall of communism and a civil war in 1997 because of the collapse of financial pyramids, the country's road to the status has not been easy since then. Education and research have been crucial fields requiring improvement. Albania has signed many agreements regarding research and innovation, but it remains questionable if the country has fulfilled the needed criteria imposed by EU. Although research requires much attention and improvement, Albania has to play an active role in implementing agreements, support researchers in order to reach the level of countries which are innovation leaders and contribute to Europe as a global factor in research and innovation. Therefore, the aim of this research is to analyze to what extent has Albania fulfilled the needed criteria in the field of research.

**Keywords:** Albania, EU, Research

**EU Conditionality in the Kosovo Serbia  
Dialogue  
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**Abstract**

This proposal examines the role of EU conditionality and the way it influences the government of Kosovo and Serbia to implement the agreements of the dialogue and to make dialogue more efficient. This thesis aims at explaining why it is difficult for the countries to engage in the dialogue without the facilitation of EU and its conditionality. By analysing the external factors and the role of EU conditionality, as well as the domestic factors in Kosovo and Serbia, this thesis provides conditionality—studies with an original in—depth investigation of the topic. The thesis uses elements from conditionality theory. A detailed process tracing has been completed which consisted of examining official documents by both countries and by the EU. Three interviews have been conducted with in order to obtain final remarks and answers on the research question.

**Key words:** EU Conditionality, Dialogue, Implementing, Kosovo and Serbia

**Albanian Citizen's Freedom and the  
Influence of the Main Ruling Power  
Actors over it  
Dorina Bërdufi**

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**ABSTRACT**

While the Republic of Albania is involved in the European Union process, considerable steps have been made towards it, such as the integration into NATO, the opening of the economic borders with the region and beyond. In Albania, there has been investment in education, the empowerment of the individual, marginalized social groups, the poor, the Roma, etc., Especially investments have been made for the development and the most natural integration of women in social, political and economic life. All these indicators, serve as factors of creating new generation of educated voters, as also civic repeated voters. For thus, creating a responsible and participatory citizenship in decision-making in all areas of their lives. However, these investments are not enough to speak out an improvement of the Albanian society from the point of view of the development of "freedom", as per in in Sen's perspective. The economic aspect should come as a result of social integration as the natural development of human capital first and foremost after the development of economic capital. Therefore, based on this view, this integration of individuals and the Albanian state can be considered to be rigid, not natural, influential forces of the ruling power actors, executive, political parties,

administrations, foreign and Albanian nongovernmental organizations, media, business, legislative, judiciary, IMF economic institutions, WB, etc., are weak and easily vulnerable. Because it is a top-down connection (intergovernmental, governmental, political, etc.) and not a natural connection from below, by Albanian voters/citizens, in such a way of creating a strong and difficult connections

**Key words: citizen, freedom, welfare, ruling power actors**

## **The Role of Financial Development in Economic Growth in Western Balkan Countries**

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*Epoka University*

### **Abstract**

The role of financial development in economic growth is substantially accepted by researchers, academician, policy makers. The studies done so far do not come at a common result: some of them show that there is a bi-directional relation between financial development and economic growth, the others accept just one direction of the relation. For this reason, the aim of this study, is to examine the Granger causality between financial development and economic growth in 6 Balkan countries. The empirical analysis uses annual data for the period 2000-2016 and conducts VAR model. The results shows that financial development Granger cause economic growth of the region and it is a one-directional relationship.

**Key words:** *financial development, economic growth, broad money, direct credit.*

## **The European role in the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Priština. Difficulties and perspectives** **Marco Siragusa**

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“L'Orientale” (Italia)*

### **Abstract**

Ten years after the Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, the relations between Belgrade and Priština remains rather tense. Although the EU has put the normalization of relations between these two countries on the top of its political agenda, as a precondition for future accession, and achievement of historic agreement in 2013 about autonomy of Serbs within Kosovo, the path continues to present numerous obstacles. In these years Brussels has acted with several economic and political instruments in order to prevent conflicts and to improve the economic performance of the countries. The role of mediator, played by EU, has made it the main actor in the region. But in the last year and half several episodes had threatened to blow up the dialogue limiting the EU's mediation capacity. A concrete step towards the resolution of conflicts will be achieved only when both countries will consider the distension of relations as a winning perspective to take advantages. Will the EU be able to guarantee a solution that satisfies both parties although the current distances? Will the EU be able to support, in the countries involved, the necessary economic and political reforms to promote a more cooperative behavior?

This work will analyze the weight of the EU in facilitating the relations, the instruments and aid it use, the results obtained and the possible perspectives to achieve a real and definitive peace, also in the light of the new enlargement strategy which assumed Serbia's and Montenegro's accession in 2025.

**The Role of International Organizations  
in Shaping Human Security Concept in  
Albania**  
**Iglil Qosja**

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**Abstract**

Security is one of the principal concepts in international relations discipline since it is related to the safety and security of individuals and states. Human security is closely related to human rights. Both human security and human rights address violence and poverty. Human security aims to protect human beings from threats regarding their lives and the continuity of their lives.

The main focus is to scrutinize the threats to human security and human rights from both internal and external factors. After the Cold War with the change of the threats and perils to security the concept of security has changed itself. The meaning of security has been broadened and also political, economical, social and environmental issues have been added to this meaning. Human security has been used and shaped as a concept and later promoted to international agendas by UNDP stressing more human-centric approach than state-centric approach that was predominant during the Cold War.

Threats to human security cause hardships and pain to human beings as a direct victim. Genocide, massive human rights violation, international terrorism, proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and pandemic threats like HIV/AIDS, global climate change, environmental threats, poverty and hunger remains the biggest threats and challenges for international security and human security in particular.

These challenges are of greater importance for our country especially when taking into account the pace at which Albania is advancing toward EU Integration.

**Key Words: Human security, human rights, threats to human security.**

**Contemporary politics of multilingualism  
and its role in democracy consolidation of  
an enlarged EU**

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**Abstract**

Research on the role of multilingualism in a constant enlarging European Union has gained prominence to scholars of international relations, European studies and applied linguistics. This paper aims to provide an answer to some recent questions such as: Does multilingualism guarantee functional political participation and representation of citizens of the EU member



states? Can multilingualism guarantee linguistic justice and fill in the gap of the notorious democratic deficit already marked in the EU? Through a textual analytical discourse encompassing cross-disciplinary literature of international relations, European integration and language politics, this paper makes the argument against multilingualism. Notwithstanding the democratic principle of equity among member states ever since its inception, the EU will add more fuel to its democratic deficit and linguistic barriers due to impracticality of the multilingual platform in real practice. Multilingualism will not increase political participation and representation from bottom up due to its sluggish rhythm of cohesion between layers of domestic and European supranational bureaucracy, financial costs of huge piles of translations into 25 official languages by now and above all, due to a high exposure to translation misinterpreting of sensitive key areas.

**Western Balkan Countries and the political dimension of EU enlargement process: Obstacles and achievements in building democracy and peace in Balkan.**

**Dr. Elda Zotaj**

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"Aleksander Moisiu",*

**Abstract**

The Western Balkans has moved forward in integration process with different speeds and in a long run. Although the significant steps,

signals and decisions achieved, the region is still facing some sharp problems.

By the other side, there are different points of view within EU about the enlargement process with new members. Unlike the grand European project that the enlargement was a decade ago, currently it is merely conferred to the "unfinished business" of the perspective accession of the countries of Western Balkans. In the absence of a compelling narrative promoting the EU accession of Western Balkan states, the enlargement politicization is mainly framed by Euro skeptic and anti-enlargement forces. That is why the enlargement has become mostly a technocratic and highly political process, stressing especially for the WBC the necessity of various reforms with "political" and "institutional" aspects. Without discussion this are a basic condition and un-negotiable process for the six remained countries of the Balkan based on the EU Treaty Article 49 "Any European State which respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law may apply to become a Member of the Union". The main purpose of this paper is to analyze the political condition implication imposed by the EU on democratization process and peace building on Western Balkan Countries as a two part process. We will try to present an assessment of the EU's enlargement policy towards the Western Balkans based on the obstacles, challenges and achievements connected to democratization and peace building.

*Key words: Political dimension, enlargement WBC, democracy*



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