

Welcome note

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juelda Lamçe

EDITOR-IN CHIEF

JUS & JUSTICIA

Dear readers,

I am honored to present this edition of the academic journal Jus & Justicia. The journal, founded in 2008, is published twice a year by the Faculty of Law, Political Sciences, and International Relations at the European University of Tirana.

I want to express my gratitude to all the colleagues, previous Editors in Chief, Prof. Dr. Ksenofon Krisafi, Prof. Dr. Migena Leskoviku, Prof. Dr. Xhezair Zaganjori, members of the Editorial Board, authors, and peer reviewers, whose contributions have brought a significant impact to the journal.

During these years, Jus & Justicia has grown substantially, aiming to join the international academic debate. Since 2020 it has published articles only in English. As an interdisciplinary journal, it promotes cutting-edge insights into contemporary legal and political developments. The journal provides a platform dedicated to facilitating the exchange of original works and ideas. The editions published so far have been focused, but not limited to, on post-communist transition, local democracy, constitutional dilemmas, the interaction between the law and society, international diplomacy, justice reform, and recent developments in human rights.

Albania has made significant steps to develop good neighborly relations and regional cooperation, thus contributing to stability in the Western Balkans. It is worth mentioning its continuous contribution to peace and security from a larger perspective of the foreign policy issues, as well as the fact that for the first time, Albania is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, one of the most important bodies of the United Nations as it relates to peace and security between nations. In the framework of the latest geopolitical developments, such a position is of the utmost importance and certainly a good starting point to acknowledge within the Albanian academic environment. The rule of law, good governance,

democracy, international cooperation, harmonization of laws with the EU legal framework, among others, remain important areas of engagement and challenges for Albania.

This edition is dedicated to an overview of the Albanian territorial administrative reform, a challenge for the advancement of local democracy and EU integration. It focuses on the decentralization approach, local fiscal autonomy, and the empowerment of the Albanian local state bodies. Professors, researchers, academics, and experts at the national and international level are invited to contribute.

