Welcome note

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juelda Lamçe
Editor-in-Chief
Jus & Justicia

Dear readers,

I am honored to present the 15th 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 past 14 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,
Territorial reform and lack of real decentralization in Albania

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Abstract

Albania has undertaken decentralization reforms at least in two separate instances in the post-communist period. The first was in late 1990s and the second with the territorial reform of 2016. Although the focus of the first was to bring Albania in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government and the second officially to have a more effective governing of the territory, the real decentralization of power has not taken place. This is not so much because of the lack of proper legal framework or the necessary constitutional changes but mostly because of lack of real political will to delegate power to subsidiaries, to empower municipalities and to create the basis for actual autonomy of the local authorities.

Keywords: decentralization, territorial reform, Albania, constitutional changes

1 Prof. Assoc. Dr. Ilir Kalemaj is the deputy rector and chair of department of political science/international relations at the University of New York Tirana. His expertise is primarily in the areas of comparative politics, international relations and European studies. Prof. Kalemaj has published five books, three of which monographs, more than twenty peer review journal articles as well as an equivalent number of book chapters, conference proceedings etc. Furthermore, he regularly contributes in daily press with his commentaries on political affairs and is invited regularly in Albanian televisions for his commentaries on matters of foreign policy and international relations.