

European Integration and National Security

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Jus & Justicia No. 15, Issue 1 is mainly dedicated to the students of the European University of Tirana (EUT), graduated in Master of Science at the Faculty of Law, Political Sciences and International Relations. The aim is to increase EUT students' participation in research activities. Best theses, articles and research papers, in cooperation with their supervisors, are selected and revised,

In this issue we embark on an exploration of the post-1990 era in the Western Balkans—a period marked by significant socio-political upheavals, transformative initiatives, and evolving regional identities. Particularly with a focus on Albania and Kosovo, this collection highlights the complex details that have shaped the region's trajectory. Naime Ibrahimini comes with the article “National Identity of Kosovo” in which she explores the narrative of Kosovo as one intertwined with a fervent quest for identity and recognition. Through this analyse, we journey into the historical, cultural, and political framework of Kosovo, assessing the markers of its national identity and the challenges and opportunities it embodies in the contemporary age. The second article “Implications of organized crime in the national security of the Western Balkans after the 1990s” by Edmond Merdani, focuses on organized crime as a long-entangled phenomenon in the socio-political landscape of the Balkans. Centring on Albania, this article sheds light on the vast reaches of organized crime networks and their implications on national security, governance, and socio-political stability. The article “Erasmus Programme, as an instrument of EU Public Diplomacy” by Blendi Lami and Rexhina Myrta, refers to the transformative Erasmus Programme. Beyond a mere academic exchange, this article posits Erasmus as a strategic instrument of EU public diplomacy, evaluating its influence in shaping perceptions, fostering European unity, and facilitating cross-cultural understanding. In his article “Security challenges in Albania after the

1990s”, Albert Pëllumbi critically examines Albania’s security paradigm following the seismic political shifts of the 1990s. The piece offers insights into Albania’s security dynamics and how they reverberated throughout the broader region. Concluding our selection with the article “The importance of EU Integration for Albania” by Erjona Reçi, elucidates the pivotal role of EU integration in Albania’s overarching journey towards political reform, socio-economic development, and regional stability. The discussion traverses the triumphs, challenges, and aspirations associated with Albania’s European path with a special focus on the Berlin Process.

We invite our readers to delve into these thought-provoking articles, challenge their preconceptions, and engage in the ongoing discourse surrounding this vital region.

