

Editorial

Public Policy and Governance in Albania

Prof. Dr. Xhezair ZAGANJORI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear readers,

After a three-year break, we are continuing the law review periodical “Jus & Justicia” of the European University of Tirana. This journal will now have a new format, only in English, – Justicia. The aim is to broaden the spectrum of our readers to also include a larger international audience.

In this number of “*Jus & Justicia*” we delve into the nuanced challenges and shortcomings that continue to shape Albania’s path in terms of public policy and governance. After the fall of the communist regime in 1990, the country embarked on a journey toward a brighter future and has made commendable progress in its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance transparency, and improve the lives of its citizens. Nevertheless, while progress has been made, it is imperative to confront the pressing issues that continue to hinder Albania’s journey towards effective governance and policy implementation. These critical issues demand scrutiny and thoughtful consideration.

While the country tries to leave behind its turbulent past, it’s essential to acknowledge that the democratic process remains fragile. Elections have at times been marred by allegations of irregularities, and political polarization has hampered the effective functioning of democratic institutions. Despite efforts to combat corruption, it remains a significant challenge in Albania. Corruption seeps into various sectors, from law enforcement to public procurement, and erodes public trust. The question remains whether the government’s anti-corruption measures are genuinely effective or merely cosmetic.

EU integration process has been a driving force for reforms, democracy and rule of law during the years of transition. At the same time the journey toward EU membership has been marked by delays and setbacks, raising questions about the

effectiveness of reform efforts but also the EU's commitment to the region. The Public Administration Reform program, while ambitious, faces implementation hurdles. Bureaucracy and inefficiency persist, hindering the delivery of services to citizens. Questions arise regarding the government's ability to streamline public administration effectively. The space for civil society to operate freely and hold authorities accountable appears to be shrinking, raising concerns about the protection of fundamental freedoms.

In conclusion, Albania's journey towards improved public policy and governance is fraught with challenges that demand rigorous assessment and action. The challenge lies in crafting policies that genuinely address these disparities and create opportunities for all Albanian citizens. Addressing corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and fostering political unity are paramount. Also, the protection of civil society and media freedom should be a priority.

Thus, this number of "**Jus and Justicia**" highlights the ability of the Albanian institution to navigate these turbulent waters, its capacities and commitment to overcome the challenges that threaten its progress and embracing the reforms needed to build a more transparent, accountable, and equitable society.

