

A Political and Media Discourse Analysis on Albania's European Integration _____

Ervis ILJAZAJ _____

DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, UET

Abstract

The integration process has always been one of the most important political and strategic priorities of the country. In the parliamentary elections of May 2025, European integration was once again at the center of the electoral campaign. The Socialist Party used Albania's EU accession as a political slogan for its campaign. EU integration has often been used by political parties as an instrument of political legitimacy as opposed to undertaking a genuine commitment to accelerate this process. The aim of this article is to analyze the approach of political parties towards Albania's EU integration, as well as the role that the media has played in shaping public opinion and transmitting this discourse. The findings of this article show that, despite presenting themselves as committed to integration, political parties have utilised this issue for electoral purposes rather than provide a substantive explanation of it. The approach of political forces regarding EU integration has not been cooperative but rather polarizing. Even in the 2025 campaign, the integration issue served more as a source of conflict than of political cooperation. This context has influenced the media, which reflected this process in a fragmented manner and without the necessary objectivity to serve the public interest. The study concludes that European integration in the 2025 electoral campaign served as political confrontation rather than consensus. The use of European integration as a political and media strategy by political parties has directly influenced citizens' perceptions of this process.

Keywords: EU integration, media, political parties, political polarization, public opinion, electoral campaign, political discourse.

Introduction

The parliamentary elections of 2025 held particular significance for Albania because the country found itself at a key moment on its path to European integration. After the opening of accession negotiations in 2022, political and social dynamics have been increasingly focused on meeting the standards required by the European Union. This focus is rooted in the fact that EU integration has always been a major aspiration of Albanian society. However, beyond its technical dimension, European integration in Albania plays a crucial role in political and media debates. It is also a political process, often used by political forces to shape electoral behavior.

The 2025 electoral campaign represents a case study to better understand the positions of political parties regarding EU integration and how these positions were reflected in the country's media. European integration has always been at the center of political and media debates and has often been employed for narrow political interests rather than as an inclusive process. Although in public discourse political parties declare a consensual stance on European integration, in most cases they use it as a motive for conflictual and polarizing politics. Political parties do not hesitate to exploit this national interest of Albanian society as a rhetorical instrument and an electoral mobilization tool. Moreover, it is used both as a means of political legitimacy and of delegitimizing opponents. In reality, Albania's European integration should be presented as an actual platform of consensual reforms.

Europeanization, the mediatization of politics, and Euroscepticism are the theoretical concepts through which this study examines political parties' approaches toward EU integration. Europeanization refers to the adaptation of national policies to EU standards and the alignment of legislation. Euroscepticism appears in Albanian political debates as criticism of delays in the process, while still supporting Albania's EU membership. Meanwhile, mediatization concerns the growing role of the media as an instrument used by politics to shape public opinion on this issue.

The main objective of this article is to analyze how European integration was treated during the 2025 electoral campaign by Albanian political parties and how the topic was covered by the media. The article seeks to answer two questions:

1. How did political parties approach the issue of European integration during the electoral campaign?
2. How does the media influence public perceptions of EU membership?

The article aims to contribute to the analysis of the relationship between politics, media, and Albania's European integration. This is done by examining the political programs of parties, media sources, and public discourse during the 2025 campaign.

This study is based on a combined qualitative and quantitative approach to analyze how Albanian political parties and the media addressed the issue of European integration during the 2025 electoral campaign. The methodology used is content analysis and discourse analysis. The sources include political programs, television reports, and existing literature on the topic.

Theoretical Framework

The process of European Union integration places a candidate country such as Albania on a process of institutional and political transformation on its path toward membership. According to Ladrech (2010), Europeanization implies not only the alignment of national legislation with the *acquis communautaire*, but also a broader process of change in political practices and public perceptions. In the case of the countries of the Western Balkans, EU integration has often acquired a symbolic dimension, being used as an instrument to legitimize political elites (Elbasani, 2013). In some cases, integration has served as a political battleground among parties to delegitimize opponents or highlight governance failures, regardless of which political force has been governing the country at the time. In this sense, the transformation that should result from this process has often been hindered by political rhetoric and by the way political parties approach the issue.

In the Albanian context, political forces formally express consensus regarding European integration. However, this consensus is often more declarative than substantive, as parties have instrumentalized the topic to build their electoral narratives (Bieber, 2020). It is therefore important to analyze political discourse on European integration—not only to examine its content, but also to understand its strategic function in electoral campaigns and its influence on the electorate's behavior. Albanian politics frequently exploits this issue for strategic purposes, being fully aware of the high levels of public support for EU membership, which are among the strongest in the region. In this regard, it is difficult to find political positions in public discourse that oppose integration. This symbolic stance is always consensual, but in reality it changes according to the political interests of different parties.

The literature on Euroscepticism distinguishes between “hard Euroscepticism” (outright rejection of membership) and “soft Euroscepticism” (selective criticism of EU policies or of the integration process itself) (Taggart & Szczerbiak, 2008). In Albania, only forms of soft Euroscepticism appear. This is especially visible in

the opposition's discourse, which has used delays in the integration process as evidence of government failure, as well as to emphasize the absence of European standards in governance. Although Albania has been moving forward with the opening of chapters, the opposition frames this progress more as a geopolitical decision by the EU rather than a merit of the government.

This form of Euroscepticism can be seen as an electoral strategy by political forces seeking to build consensus through government criticism. Even while using this strategy, political parties consistently maintain pro-integration rhetoric as an important element regarding the country's future. This dual strategy is typical of candidate states, where integration is seen as inevitable, but its pace, modalities, and timing are exploited for political confrontation.

During electoral campaigns, this political dimension of EU integration takes on particular significance. At such moments, political communication and strategy play a central role, as was the case during Albania's 2025 elections. Political communication in electoral campaigns is closely linked to the concept of agenda-setting, whereby the media and political parties influence the prioritization of issues for the public (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). Furthermore, the literature on framing (Entman, 1993) emphasizes that it is not only the presence of an issue in discourse that matters, but also the way in which it is presented, which shapes public perception.

In the Albanian context, European integration has served to polarize politics in two main directions. On one hand, the opposition uses it as a critique against the government, and on the other, the government presents it as its own achievement. This polarization reflects the logic of political confrontation that dominates Albania's party system. As a result, integration is not used as a public debate about reforms and concrete public policies, but rather as a political weapon to legitimize or delegitimize the opponent in the eyes of the public. This occurs because integration in Albania is not perceived as a common political contribution of all forces, but as a tool for gaining electoral consensus by specific parties.

Another important dimension in this regard is the role of the media in shaping public opinion on the issue and influencing Albania's collective mission toward this historic objective. The theory of the mediatization of politics (Mazzoleni & Schulz, 1999; Strömbäck, 2008) emphasizes that the media are not merely transmitters of information, but actors that actively influence how politics is presented and perceived by the public. In highly polarized contexts such as Albania, the media often have editorial positions closely tied to particular political forces, contributing to a fragmented rather than cohesive public discourse on this crucial national issue.

In addition, social media has created a direct link between politics and citizens, shaping public opinion according to partisan interests rather than through editorial filters that could facilitate the integration process. All of these elements of

political and media discourse on Albania's EU integration are crucial factors that have influenced the process, making it both lengthy and difficult. These theoretical approaches provide the analytical basis for understanding not only the content of political and media messages on European integration, but also their strategic function in the context of the 2025 electoral campaign in Albania.

The Socialist Party (PS): Appropriation of European Integration Progress

European integration has always been a subject of debate in political rhetoric and in the struggle between parties. In this sense, the issue constitutes one of the strategic pillars of Albanian politics. Since 2013, when the Socialist Party came to power, the delays in this process have been among the main criticisms directed at it by the opposition. The opposition has consistently blamed the Socialist Party for slowing down the integration process. In fact, in previous electoral campaigns, the Socialist Party did not place European integration at the center of its rhetoric. However, since the opening of accession negotiations in 2022, the Socialist Party has shifted to making EU integration the core of its discourse—completely opposite to the previous approach of that before 2022. In the 2025 campaign, the Socialist Party placed EU integration at the heart of its electoral promises and campaign slogan. From 2022 onwards, its public discourse on integration has included several distinct elements, which are confirmed by a content analysis of its political rhetoric.

The Socialist Party's narrative on European integration during the 2025 elections, and continuing today, is centered on the sustainability of progress in this process. This progress is presented as the result of effective governance, political stability, and the strong leadership of the party. Such discourse is employed to legitimize its power, mobilize public support, and position the Socialist Party as the key actor in the country's European journey—often portraying itself as the sole actor, excluding other political forces.

It is evident that EU integration serves as an important source of political legitimacy for Albanian governments, given that it has always been a national aspiration. According to theories of political communication (Fairclough, 1995; Van Dijk, 1998), themes of national consensus are often used to reinforce the standing of those in power. Within this framework, the Socialist Party has intertwined the discourse of integration with that of governance performance, particularly by presenting institutional reforms—most notably judicial reform—as evidence of compliance with EU standards. Judicial reform, often praised as successful by EU institutions, is portrayed by the Socialist Party as its exclusive achievement, realized solely through its political will. This is just one example of

how the Socialist Party appropriates essential reforms for EU integration, making the process exclusionary rather than cooperative, as it should be.

When analyzing the public discourse of the Socialist Party, its elements are clearly linked to protagonism and the positioning of the party as the central factor in the integration process. This constitutes a rhetoric that is not only politically but also socially conflictual. Through electoral rhetoric and institutional public communication, the Socialist Party portrays itself as the “guarantor” of the European journey, presenting integration as an objective closely tied to the continuity of its rule. This approach was especially visible in media coverage and public speeches during the 2025 campaign, where integration was presented as both a symbol of promises fulfilled and as the political responsibility of the party.

Political stability is a key element in Albanian political rhetoric. The Socialist Party frames stability as a prerequisite for integration, a condition it claims to guarantee through its will to lead the country into the EU. In political communication analysis, values such as stability are often used to polarize discourse: in this case, the Socialist Party depicts itself as the guarantor of institutional order, while portraying the opposition as a destabilizing factor (Laclau & Mouffe, 1985). In Albania’s context, where political crises are frequent, stability becomes a crucial political asset. The Socialist Party uses this contrast discursively: “we provide stability and integration” in contrast to “they provide chaos and obstruction.” This polarizing rhetoric has been evident in parliamentary debates and media coverage, where the opposition was frequently framed as anti-integration whenever it criticized the government.

Apart from the Socialist Party, the figure of Prime Minister Edi Rama himself holds a special place in the construction of this narrative. Through personalized and symbolic communication, Rama is presented as the leader who represents Albania internationally, maintaining strong relations with allies and being accepted by European leaders and EU institutions. To reinforce this narrative, the Socialist Party’s 2025 campaign slogan was “With Edi to Europe.” The message conveyed to voters was that Rama is the sole guarantee of Albania’s EU accession. In this way, the integration issue becomes personalized—not only as a political interest, but also as a communication strategy to secure electoral consensus.

This personalization of the integration process aligns with the “strong leadership” models in new democracies, where the individual replaces the party as the embodiment of the political project (Pappas, 2019). In Albania’s case, this has led to the identification of European progress with the personal leadership of the Prime Minister, strengthening the myth of the “reformist leader.” However, Albania’s institutional context remains weak and far from EU standards. Despite the country receiving positive assessments in EU progress reports, issues such as judicial independence, separation of powers, and the protection of fundamental rights persist. The personalization of integration has had negative consequences, particularly in undermining the political cooperation required for EU accession.

One of the reasons Albania remains delayed in the integration process—despite 35 years since regime change—is precisely the instrumentalization of the integration narrative for political and personal purposes.

The media has also played a significant role in shaping and disseminating this narrative. Instead of offering a critical and objective reflection of integration progress, many Albanian media outlets function in a partisan manner, often repeating government messages without further thorough analyses. This has contributed to fragmented information and a publicly managed perception of Albania's EU progress (Balla & Xhambazi, 2022).

The conclusions of this analysis demonstrate that the Socialist Party's discourse on European integration rests on three main pillars: progress as a product of governance performance, stability as a legitimizing condition, and leadership as the personal symbol of international achievements. This approach has enabled the Socialist Party to politically capitalize on the aspiration for integration. In fact, European integration currently represents the central cause and rhetoric of both the Socialist Party and its leader. In this sense, the party employs it as a strategic national objective in its public discourse. Nevertheless, this is more a means of instrumentalization for staying in power than a genuine institutional commitment. Importantly, this discourse should be transformed into a real institutional engagement, rather than remaining a slogan or façade of a reformist government. However, the Albanian government has made satisfactory progress in opening EU chapters and promised during the 2025 campaign that Albania would become a member of Europe with complete rights by 2030.

What's essential is that Albania's EU integration be viewed as an instrument for improving citizens' lives through committed reforms required by the process. If integration continues to be utilised as a tool of political confrontation rather than as a mechanism serving citizens, the process will remain a political symbol instead of a real instrument for the future of Albanians.

The Democratic Party (PD): Real, Not Merely Formal Integration

The Democratic Party's approach toward the EU integration process in recent years, and especially during the 2025 electoral campaign—based on political speeches, press statements, and its program—was built around criticism concerning corruption, lack of transparency, and delays in meeting European standards. An analysis of its discourse shows that the Democratic Party used the EU integration process as a means of delegitimizing its political opponent and presenting itself as a credible alternative in the public opinion.

EU integration has been a strategic objective of Albanian foreign policy for more than two decades. However, Albania's progress in this direction has been

slow and frequently influenced by domestic political factors. During the 2025 electoral campaign, the Democratic Party (PD) employed the issue of integration as a central theme in building its oppositional rhetoric against the Socialist Party government. In the twelve years that the Democratic Party has spent in opposition, accusations against the government for delaying the integration process have been a significant part of its public discourse. Politically, these criticisms have not always been the result of a well-formulated strategy, but rather a spontaneous discourse aimed at influencing public opinion and legitimizing its political action.

The Democratic Party has consistently described the European integration process as “blocked” due to Socialist Party governance. In many public statements, PD leaders presented integration not merely as a technical process but as a direct reflection of the internal functioning of the state. Criticism of state capture, rampant corruption, and the absence of justice were framed as the main reasons why Albania was being prevented from moving forward in EU integration. PD leader Sali Berisha, in a speech on April 15, 2025, declared: “Albania is no closer to the EU today than it was four years ago. Not because of the EU, but because of a government that protects corruption and closes the doors of transparency.”

By advancing this discourse, the Democratic Party drew a direct connection between the failure of integration and the lack of political will on the part of the government. According to PD, this lack of will is tied to the government’s objective of maintaining power without having its power constrained and controlled by EU monitoring and accountability.

An analysis of PD’s public discourse shows that corruption is the key word most frequently used in its political communication. Corruption is perhaps the greatest focus of its criticism of the government, and PD presents it as the primary obstacle to Albania’s EU accession. This rhetoric is also supported by credible international reports monitoring corruption, which consistently rank Albania as a highly corrupt country. Moreover, the issue is politically strategic, given that corruption is one of the most sensitive issues for Albanian public opinion, as revealed in numerous surveys.

In its official documents and media statements, the Democratic Party argues that Albania’s failure to advance in key negotiation chapters stems from the absence of a genuine fight against high-level corruption. For instance, in its 2025 electoral program it stated: “Albania will never join the EU under a government that controls the judiciary and covers up corruption scandals with propaganda.” Through such declarations, PD positioned itself as the political force that would govern in the service of citizens through “transparent and honest governance.” Nevertheless, this anti-corruption rhetoric has often been used by PD more as a communication tool to influence public opinion and gain consensus than as a credible alternative policy. Political confrontation with the government has frequently centered on corruption and the lack of justice, making these issues a constant and focused battleground.

Another significant critique towards the government concerns the lack of transparency in relations between the latter and the EU. PD has argued that the Socialist Party turned the integration process into a closed, politically driven mechanism. According to PD, the government excluded the opposition and other actors, such as civil society, from this process. The appropriation of integration by the Socialist Party has thus been one of the Democratic Party's key criticisms.

From a discourse analysis perspective, PD has employed phrases such as “captured state,” “oligarchy of integration,” and “fictional cooperation with the EU” to reinforce the idea that the process is merely formal rather than substantive. Expressions like “integration is not a formality but substance” are frequently found in its public discourse. Through such rhetoric, PD seeks to portray the government as the main obstacle to achieving European standards in the functioning of the Albanian state. According to PD, the Socialist Party and its leader deliberately block Albania's integration in order to preserve a closed, clientelist, and corrupt system of power.

PD's approach makes use of integration as an instrument to construct its political legitimacy, turning the EU into a moral authority that judges government failures. This strategy is common in transitional countries, where opposition parties seek credibility by appealing to European norms (Krasniqi, 2021).

Nevertheless, criticisms of the government's failure to meet EU standards often remain rhetorical and are not accompanied by alternative proposals. This approach has prevented the creation of consensus around the real reforms the country needs. The Democratic Party's stance on integration and its criticisms of the government have remained largely a tool of political confrontation, used as a measure to expose government failures rather than as a strategic national policy that should unite the entire political class.

The Democratic Party's approach toward European integration was clearly reflected during the 2025 electoral campaign. PD employed a strongly critical stance, portraying integration as damaged by current governance. By emphasizing corruption, lack of transparency, and delays in fulfilling EU conditions, PD attempted to convince voters that it was the political force capable of ensuring integration as a real, substantive process—not a merely formal one. This became the main message of PD's campaign, stressing the need for fundamental state reforms, as opposed to using integration as a slogan for partisan interests. This position was also politically necessary for PD, given that the integration process was moving forward with the opening of new chapters and that the government was portraying this as a success. By focusing on real reforms, the Democratic Party sought to distinguish itself as the credible alternative.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that Albanian political forces—including the Democratic Party—have used public and political discourse on integration more as a symbolic tool for electoral consensus rather than as a unifying process

aimed at accelerating it. EU integration, which represents the greatest aspiration of Albanians, has been and continues to be exploited by the political class for partisan confrontation rather than for broad consensus, which is essential for making the process faster and more substantive for the benefit of Albanian citizens and their future. The conflictual and polarizing approach to integration has contributed to Albania's delay in this process, despite 35 years having passed since its initiation.

The Role of the Media in the Perception of Albania's EU Integration

The process of Albania's European integration began with the fall of the communist regime in 1990. Since then, it has continued through important stages that have shaped the country's political life. Key milestones include Albania being granted candidate status in 2014 and the opening of negotiation chapters in 2022. Each of these moments has generated a series of reforms across different areas of social and economic life. In this sense, integration has profoundly influenced Albanian politics, as well as political and media discourse. Approaches to this process have varied, despite the progress made. Political actors and public opinion have often been divided in their evaluation of the process, and the media have played a decisive role in shaping these perceptions.

The complex reforms required to fulfill Albania's commitments to the EU have influenced not only the political process but also generated significant media debates. In this regard, the media have played a decisive role in shaping public opinion on the issue. The way the process is presented in the media, the approaches taken, and the debates generated as a result have directly influenced public attitudes toward both politics and European integration itself.

Traditional media in Albania continue to have a major role in shaping public opinion. Although information today is accessed through multiple channels, Albanian citizens still rely primarily on traditional television media. In Albania, the media exert a strong influence on how citizens perceive political processes, including European integration. The coverage of integration in the Albanian media is, in most cases, not objective, but instead reflects the interests of specific political parties, resulting in different portrayals of developments surrounding this process.

Studies have shown that the media is among the main factors that contribute to the construction of public opinion, shaping the way citizens perceive integration (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). In Albania, traditional media—particularly television and newspapers—have often supported the integration process, highlighting the progress achieved and the opportunities it provides. On the other hand, online media and social networks have reflected a wider spectrum of opinions, including skepticism about the process and voices emphasizing delays in fulfilling EU conditions (Gjoni, 2018).

Media coverage of Albania's EU integration has reflected the political alignments of different outlets. Some have presented an optimistic image, emphasizing Albania's successes and progress toward the EU (Dajti, 2020). Others have used more critical tones, due to their editorial line. Nevertheless, regardless of differing portrayals, nearly all media agree on the benefits that EU integration would bring for Albania, particularly economic aid and development opportunities.

Critical tones reflected in some outlets are mainly linked to delays in reforms, corruption, and the lack of judicial independence. The language used in such cases conveys the pessimism often present in Albanian public opinion regarding EU accession. This pessimism is justified by the lengthy and difficult path Albania has faced toward EU membership. In some cases, these delays have eroded public trust in the process, and this has been echoed in the media through language reflecting skepticism and public frustration. Critical coverage has also been framed as a reaction to international pressures, as well as skepticism from certain societal groups (Bajrami, 2019). Online media have also reflected debates and public opinion about integration. Digital platforms have created a wide space for discussion and the circulation of ideas, but they often lack editorial oversight, creating opportunities for disinformation (Krasniqi & Dajti, 2021).

There is a misalignment between media portrayals and public perceptions of integration. While some media portray Albania's EU accession as a successful and realistic process, many citizens remain skeptical about the country's prospect to meet EU standards—especially in the areas of corruption and judicial reform (UNDP, 2020). Some media outlets have reinforced this skepticism, given their editorial or political affiliations.

Media portrayals of integration often follow editorial lines rather than reflecting objective reality in a way that could clarify the issue for the public. In fact, a large portion of the public remains unclear about the process. Citizens' opinions tend to align with their political loyalties rather than an objective perception of integration. A study conducted by IREX (2018) found that 60% of Albanian citizens felt uncertain and insecure about the potential benefits of EU accession—something that has negatively influenced support for the process.

This uncertainty may affect their behavior towards political actors and even slow down the integration process itself. For the process to succeed, it requires the inclusion of social, political, and economic actors—something that is currently lacking.

In this sense, the media coverage of Albania's EU integration has varied: some outlets have supported the process, while others have criticized delays. The analysis suggests that this issue requires more in-depth and objective coverage, as this would encourage greater public support for integration and help transform citizens into promoters of reform policies aligned with European standards.

Conclusions

The process of European integration has perpetually been used by Albanian politics throughout the transition period for political gain. The political class has employed EU integration as a tool of public and political confrontation, being fully aware that the majority of Albanian citizens are pro-European. Publicly and formally, both the Democratic Party and the Socialist Party declare themselves in favor of integration, but whenever cooperation for this goal has been required, they have failed to materialise it. On the contrary, both parties have maintained polarizing and conflictual positions, thus hindering and prolonging the integration process.

Albanian citizens remain largely pro-European, despite the fact that the process has been long and strenuous. However, in recent years skepticism has grown, with many losing faith that Albania can become a full EU member in the near future. This growing skepticism has undoubtedly been fueled by conflictual politics, but also by the way the media have covered the issue.

Even in the most recent electoral campaign, EU integration was not presented as a consensual project of the political class, but as a matter of political conflict exploited for politically motivated and personal interests. In the last elections, integration was the central promise of the Socialist Party, which pointed to the opening of chapters as evidence of progress. Nevertheless, the Socialist Party has appropriated the integration process which is not being viewed as a process that requires the involvement of all actors and stakeholders. Over the course of the long integration process that began in 1990, both political forces have played roles in its successes and its failures. If EU integration continues to be viewed as either the failure or the achievement of only one political party, polarization on the issue will deepen and the process will be further delayed.

If Albania truly intends to implement reforms that meet European standards, it needs cooperative politics and a new rhetoric based on cross-party consensus, rather than conflict. EU integration cannot be considered the success of a single party, as it is a process that has lasted for 35 years in which all political forces have played a role.

Furthermore, the media in Albania must play their important role in reflecting this process. They should act as promoters of EU integration by providing objective and balanced coverage. The media has a decisive role in shaping public opinion; therefore, it must present EU integration as a national interest, clarifying its benefits for citizens and fostering a spirit of political cooperation—a condition necessary for the success of this process.

References

- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language*. Longman.
- Van Dijk, T.A. (1998). *Ideology: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. SAGE Publications.
- Laclau, E. & Mouffe, C. (1985). *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*. Verso.
- Pappas, T.S. (2019). *Populism and Liberal Democracy: A Comparative and Theoretical Analysis*. Oxford University Press.
- Balla, J. & Xhambazi, V. (2022). Media and Political Communication in Albania: Between Partisanship and Public Interest. *Albanian Journal of Political Studies*, 6(2), pp. 101–118.
- Krasniqi, M. (2021). *The opposition and European integration: Discursive strategies in the Western Balkans*. Pristina: Institute for Democracy.
- Laclau, E., & Mouffe, C. (1985). *Hegemony and socialist strategy*. London: Verso.
- Panorama. (2025, April 18). Berisha: Albania is being held hostage by a corrupt government *Panorama Newspaper*.
- Democratic Party. (2025). Electoral Program 2025: “Albania towards Europe with justice and honesty” . Tirana.
- European Commission. (2023). *Albania 2023 Progress Report*. Brussels: EU Publications.
- Shekulli. (2025, April 10). DP: Rama has held the integration process hostage for political interests .
- Panorama. (2025, April 18). Berisha: Albania is held hostage by a corrupt government .
- Bajrami, A. (2019). *Media perception and its influence on public opinion in Albania*. Tirana: Higher School of Journalism..
- Dajti, M. (2020). Media coverage of Albania’s European integration: The role of traditional and digital media. *Journal of Media Studies*, 12(2), 45–58.
- European Commission. (2014). *Albania: 2014 Progress Report*. Brussels: European Commission.
- Gjoni, M. (2018). Albanian media and Euroscepticism. *Albanian Politics Review*, 6(3), 132–146.