



Konferencë vjetore ndërkombëtare shkencore e UET / Annual International scientific conference of EUT

DSSH X/ 2023

DITËT E STUDIMEVE SHQIPTARE

albanian studies days / journées d'études albanais

THE LAST STEP: PREPARING THE COUNTRY FOR THE FULL EU MEMBERSHIP

28-29 APRIL 2023

Organiser: European University of Tirana (EUT), Albania

Venue: Tirana, Albania / EUT premises



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THE LAST STEP: PREPARING THE COUNTRY FOR THE FULL EU MEMBERSHIP

The Tenth International Conference “Albanian Studies Days” is calling for paper submissions focusing on the topics related to The last step: preparing the country for the full EU membership.

EU integration has consistently been the only project that Albanians have embraced since the fall of communism with the same pathos and support. Important milestones have so far been achieved: a Stabilization and Association Agreement is in force since 2006, a document which regulates not only trade in goods and services, but many other dimensions of investment and economic governance issues. Some degree of flexibility in the movement of people is also achieved. From year 2020, Albania was accepted by EU members to open negotiation for a full membership status. However, negotiations have started only from the last year, 2022. This will bring the country in the final step of the very long journey to become a full member of the European Union.

Given the complexities of the process and the need to involve all actors of the society, this year Albanian Studies Days (ASD) Conference will be dedicated to research on the implications of this process.

Researchers interested in the mentioned issues are encouraged to participate in the conference, which brings together researchers from different areas, such as politics, economy, finance, IT, engineering, law, sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, arts, medicine, etc.

The aim of this conference is to get better insight and exchange ideas and experiences, and to map future research directions in a broader context.

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DSSH / ASD

BRIEF GUIDE TO ALBANIAN STUDIES DAYS

WHY ASD?

Albanian Studies Days is a series of scientific conferences designed with a “peer review” system and focused on discussions about important issues related to Albanian society and region, ranging from economy, history, media, legal system, political institutions, public policies, and on to development of education and its impact on social, human, and economic development.

PARTICIPANTS

- a. Foreign researchers whose research and scientific studies focus on Albania and the region.
- b. Albanian professors, who have provided their contribution to Western universities since 1990s or earlier, whose work still focuses on Albania and the region.
- c. Foreign and Albanian PhD candidates whose research is focused on Albania and the region.
- d. ASD is the key scientific activity for EUT academic staff.

TIME

This activity is held at the end of April on an annual basis, and it is divided into five panels related to respective EUT Research Projects and relevant topics approved by the conference scientific committee.

WELCOME TO ALBANIAN STUDIES DAYS!

CONFERENCE PANELS

AND
DISCUSSION
THEMES



PANEL I

EU INTEGRATION JIGSAW: THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FOR ALBANIA

EU integration has been a strategic political and economic objective for the Albanian governments since the fall of communism. The path towards such a complex process has been prolonged and hindered by various political, economic, and social factors and events, be they domestic or EU-related ones, but finally Albania has commenced the long-awaited EU accession process. The EU integration process has been evolving and changing through times, given some remarkable events, which has affected the EU approach and attitude towards the Western Balkans (WB) countries. Along with the difficult political consensus within EU, the last decade's financial crisis in the EU has transformed the whole EU architecture, including the ECB and Euro system in general, along with the "EU appetite" for new members from WB countries. In this regard, the Albanian government, economy, society, and relevant institutions are faced with multiplex challenges, given the stage of development in all the respective areas and the complex harmonization process with the Acquis Communautaire. Therefore, the EU accession process calls for diligent endeavors and preparations from all institutions, structures, and individuals, which are, or will be, in charge of implementing and leading various aspects of such a comprehensive process.

PAPERS IN THIS PANEL SHOULD BE FOCUSED,
BUT NOT LIMITED, ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Enlargement and the harmonization process with the Acquis,
- Industrial policies,
- The new migration pattern: professional & expert migrants,
- Labor market challenges,
- Capital and financial market development and integration,
- EU structural funds,
- Financial services, payment systems & innovation,
- Security and human development,
- Financial literacy & education on EU, its institutions and enlargement process,
- Competition policy.

PANEL II

JUSTICE, POLITICS, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF EU NEGOTIATIONS

Albania's accession to EU remains one of country's top priorities. It's national strategy 2021-2030 is focused on development and EU integration. The negotiations for EU integration have placed a great deal of importance on strengthening the rule of law, functioning of democratic institutions, public administration, and judicial system reform. Particular regard has been paid to the vetting process, anti-corruption policies, human rights protection, territorial administrative reform, strengthening of civil society, fight against organized crime and terrorism, regular and irregular migration, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, political dialogue in the framework of foreign policy, security and defense etc. Even though progress made by Albania has been acknowledged by EU, the process is still challenging and requires a lot of efforts.

PAPERS IN THIS PANEL SHOULD BE FOCUSED, BUT NOT LIMITED, TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Democracy and human rights
- Effective remedies to property rights protection
- Rule of law challenges
- Mobility and migration governance
- Gender and social inclusion
- Justice reform in Albania
- Implications and impact of the High Court decisions
- Foreign policy and nationalism
- Good governance and its challenges
- Contested elections
- Geopolitics in the Balkans
- Security in the digital age
- Open Balkans
- Civil society and social movements

PANEL III

ALBANIAN AND EUROPEAN IDENTITIES: NEW PERSPECTIVES IN HUMANITIES, EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

In accordance with the EU overarching priorities in the region of Western Balkans, this panel is calling for paper submissions focusing on the Albanian and European Identities. Papers should reflect upon new perspectives in the fields of Humanities, Education and Liberal Arts, and more closely related to the development and uptake of digital skills in the landscape of digital humanities and communications, digital education, and digital arts. The focus on the digital transformations is an EU priority in the region with the aim to make such developments as comprehensive and inclusive as possible through the evaluation and the implementation of digital strategies. Furthermore, attention should be given to the digital identities and practices in the media sector, culture industries, as well as professional PR and in the field of visual arts. Finally, we call for contributions on the issues of cultural and regional identities related to the educational systems and European trends in the context of digital transformations in line with the European Union integration perspectives.

PAPERS IN THIS PANEL SHOULD BE FOCUSED, BUT NOT LIMITED, ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- European Integration and European Identity
- European integration as a process of fostering a distinctive European cultural identity
- Albanian Identities in the context of European Integration
- National historical differences or a collective, common identity?
- Cultural identities in the digital age for the Region of the Western Balkans and Albania
- Effective Communication Strategies for Governments, Universities and Cultural Actors
- Challenges and new perspectives for the educational systems
- Education, Globalization and Impact of Education in EU societies
- Integration through arts and culture
- EU programs and digital transformations: digital skills and strategies for the EU aspiring countries
- Digital identities and new professional practices in communication, education, sports, and arts

PANEL IV

TECHNOLOGY

AND INNOVATION IN ECONOMY

Nowadays, consumers and companies must adapt to the rapid changes and emerging technologies. It is necessary to keep an eye on the future and try to understand which skills we need to learn and master in order to secure a decent job in the near future and even the necessary steps to get there.

Referring to the Albania 2022 Report, by the European Commission, "Albania is moderately prepared in the field of digital transformation and media and limited progress was made on implementing the recommendations of the previous report". So, in the path to become a full member of the European Union, further steps are necessary on digital performance and digital competitiveness.

PAPERS IN THIS PANEL SHOULD BE FOCUSED, BUT NOT LIMITED, ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Management information systems
- Business information systems
- Information processing management
- Communications systems
- Digital communication
- Aligning technology and business strategy with information management
- Information security
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning
- The smart city
- The smart village
- Cybersecurity
- Ecommerce
- Data privacy & Security Protection
- AI Engineer
- AI Architect
- Transport and road safety
- Sustainable architecture, new designs and technologies to protect the environment
- Energy efficiency in industry
- Energy efficiency in construction
- Production of energy from renewable sources of energy
- Production of heat water using solar panels
- Nanomaterials in the industry
- Using recycling materials in the industry and construction.

PANEL V

CHALLENGES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE ACCORDING TO EU STANDARDS

During the last decades, the medical system in Albania has been achieved some progress in the medical care of patients and expansion and modernization of state and private hospitals. Still the EU integration will need to fully meet criteria in several domains of Albanian health system such as: intranet database, referral system, health insurance system to be used both in state and private clinics, advanced diagnostics and equipment, improvement in the ratio medical doctor and nurse per number of populations covered, etc. In this panel we encourage research and discussion of the challenges presented by doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals working in the field, as well as their recommendations and solutions toward improvement in health care.

PAPERS SHOULD BE FOCUSED,
BUT NOT LIMITED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

- Health organization
- Health economics
- Health politics
- Public Health
- Internal Medicine
- Surgery
- Reproductive Medicine
- Mental Health
- Biotechnology
- Nursery and physiotherapy
- Imaging
- Lab and diagnostics
- Pharmaceuticals

GENERAL RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Paper abstracts 300 words shall be submitted through the email address: dssh@uet.edu.al clearly indicating the panel in which the presentation shall be delivered.
- A short biographical information of the author(s) and contact details should accompany the abstract.
- An applicant shall not submit more than two papers as author and/or co-author.
- Conference language: English

DEADLINES

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 February 2023
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 24 February 2023
- Paper Submission: 30 March 2023
- Notification of Paper Acceptance: 10 April 2023
- Final paper submission for publication: 31 May 2023

TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF THE PAPERS

- Paper shall be between 5,000-7000 words; Times New Roman, 12; in English language; APA referencing style.
- These deadlines are final and failure to comply remains responsibility of the interested participants.