

# **Public Administration Reforms in Kosovo: Challenges and Prospects for EU Integration**

Permbledhje Studimesh

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## **Abstract**

This collection of studies explores the challenges and reforms within Kosovo's public administration system, contextualized within its broader Euro-integration process. As Kosovo aims for European Union (EU) membership, its administrative structures—including the judiciary, public services, and governance frameworks—are undergoing significant transformations to meet EU standards. The studies identify key challenges such as political instability, corruption, institutional inefficiencies, and limited capacity within governmental structures, which hinder Kosovo's reform progress. The research underscores the need for administrative reforms that foster transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, essential for both EU integration and sustainable governance. The studies also address legal, institutional, and socio-economic issues, including tax administration, foreign investment, public procurement challenges, human trafficking, and the role of civil society in combating violent extremism. By offering a detailed analysis of Kosovo's progress, setbacks, and reform needs, these studies contribute to the discourse on the country's EU accession efforts and its governance evolution. The summaries of each study provide an accessible overview of legal issues, offering valuable insights for further research.

Keywords: Kosovo, public administration reforms, EU integration, governance, legal issues,

## **1. Introduction**

The following studies provide a comprehensive exploration of the challenges, reforms, and dynamics of Kosovo's public administration system in the broader context of its Euro-integration process. As Kosovo strives for European Union (EU) membership, significant efforts have been made to align its administrative structures, including the judiciary, public services, and governance frameworks, with EU standards. However, the process is fraught with obstacles, including political instability, corruption, institutional inefficiencies, and insufficient capacity within governmental

structures. These studies critically assess how these challenges hinder progress and what reforms are necessary to overcome them.

At the heart of these discussions is the recognition that Kosovo's public administration must evolve to ensure greater transparency, efficiency, and democratic governance. Several of the studies explore the evolving roles of public institutions, highlighting the need for reforms to foster stronger rule of law, governance frameworks, and public accountability. These reforms are not only essential for the country's EU integration but are also critical for ensuring better governance, improving public trust in institutions, and facilitating sustainable economic development.

The research also covers a wide range of legal, institutional, and socio-economic topics related to Kosovo's public administration. Studies delve into Kosovo's tax administration system, where efforts to protect the procedural rights of taxpayers and ensure fairness are seen as pivotal to building a more efficient and trustworthy tax system. Other studies examine Kosovo's foreign investment climate, focusing on how legal frameworks can attract foreign capital and enhance economic development. Key challenges in public procurement contracts and corruption are also analyzed, suggesting that more robust oversight and accountability are required to address these issues effectively.

Additionally, the studies address crucial societal issues such as human trafficking, voter behavior, and the role of civil society in combating violent extremism. These areas are directly linked to the overarching goals of reforming Kosovo's public administration and aligning it with European norms. The studies provide insights into how Kosovo can address these pressing challenges and move forward on its path to EU integration while ensuring a stronger, more democratic governance system.

Overall, these studies offer a detailed overview of Kosovo's progress and setbacks in its public administration reforms and the implications of these reforms for the broader Euro-integration process. By examining the legal, political, and institutional aspects, they contribute to the ongoing discourse on Kosovo's European future.

These summaries aim to provide a quick overview of each study, making it easier for readers to access relevant information on legal issues in Kosovo and beyond.

Below is a brief summary of each study, designed to help readers quickly access fundamental information on legal issues related to Kosovo and more general legal problems. Most of these resources are open-access and can be easily accessed for further research.

## **2. Summary**

### **The Procedural Rights in Tax Administrative Legislation System: Evidence of the Emerging Economy**

In their 2023 study, Belegu and Fejzullahu explore the procedural rights within the tax administrative legislation in Kosovo, particularly in the context of its emerging economy. They examine how the procedural rights of taxpayers are protected under the current legal framework, and analyze the mechanisms in place to ensure fairness in the administration of taxes. Their research highlights the challenges and opportunities of integrating international tax practices into Kosovo's legislative environment. The study suggests that a well-defined set of procedural rights not only protects individuals but also enhances the efficiency and trust in the country's tax system, thereby promoting economic growth.

### **The Challenges of Public Administration Reforms in Kosovo in the Context of the Eurointegration Process**

Fejzullahu and Belegu (2022) examine the difficulties faced by Kosovo in reforming its public administration in the context of its efforts to join the European Union. They identify several challenges, such as political instability, corruption, and a lack of capacity within institutions, which hinder effective reform. The authors argue that in order for Kosovo to align with EU standards, significant improvements must be made in governance structures, transparency, and the rule of law. This research provides a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationship between public administration reforms and the broader goal of EU integration.

### **An Analysis of the Institute of Dissolution of the Assembly: A Case of Emerging Democracies**

Belegu and Fejzullahu (2022) analyze the dissolution of legislative assemblies in emerging democracies, focusing on Kosovo as a case study. Their work examines the political and legal ramifications of dissolving the assembly, particularly in newly established democracies, where such actions can lead to instability. The authors discuss the various constitutional and procedural aspects surrounding the dissolution of legislative bodies, considering both the legal precedents and political motivations behind such decisions. This research provides a nuanced view of how such actions impact democratic governance and the rule of law in Kosovo.

## **Promotion, Encouragement, and Legal Protection of Foreign Investments in the Developing Country**

Pasjaqa and Prekazi (2023) focus on the legal frameworks surrounding foreign investment in Kosovo, addressing the challenges and strategies for promoting and protecting foreign capital in the country's developing economy. The authors argue that while Kosovo has introduced several reforms aimed at improving the investment climate, significant gaps remain in ensuring legal protection for foreign investors. Their study suggests that stronger institutional frameworks, better enforcement of property rights, and clear investment policies are necessary to attract more foreign investment, which is crucial for Kosovo's economic development.

## **Understanding Voter Behavior and Election Dynamics: A Case Study of the 2021 Local Elections in Kosovo**

Terziu and Belegu (2023) investigate voter behavior and election dynamics in Kosovo, with a focus on the 2021 local elections. They analyze key factors influencing voter participation and electoral outcomes, including political affiliations, local governance issues, and socio-economic conditions. The authors highlight the importance of electoral integrity and transparency, stressing that a well-informed electorate and fair electoral processes are essential for democratic consolidation in Kosovo. Their research provides valuable insights into the evolving nature of electoral politics in a post-conflict society.

## **A Study of the Effect of Working Parameters and Validation of SEM/EDS Method for Determination of Elemental Composition of Commonly Encountered GSR Samples in Shooting Events in Kosovo**

Tahirukaj, Olluri, and Surleva (2021) focus on the forensic analysis of gunshot residue (GSR) in criminal investigations in Kosovo. They explore the use of Scanning Electron Microscopy/Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (SEM/EDS) to analyze GSR samples in shooting events. Their study validates the accuracy of this forensic method, which is crucial for linking suspects to crime scenes. The research underscores the importance of robust forensic techniques in criminal justice, particularly in enhancing the reliability of evidence in gun-related crimes.

## **Assessment of Persistence of Gunshot Residues Produced by Firearms from Criminal Cases in the Republic of Kosovo**

In their 2022 study, Tahirukaj et al. assess the persistence of gunshot residues (GSR) in Kosovo, specifically focusing on how long these residues remain detectable after a shooting incident. They explore the factors that affect GSR persistence, such as environmental conditions and the type of firearm used. The study provides valuable insights for law enforcement agencies by offering guidelines on the timing and method for collecting evidence in shooting-related crimes, ensuring more reliable forensic investigations.

## **Position and Role of Mediator in the Mediation Procedure: A Comparative Overview Between Kosovo, Albania, and Montenegro**

Hajdari, Sadriu, and Hajdari (2022) provide a comparative analysis of the role of mediators in the mediation process in Kosovo, Albania, and Montenegro. They explore the legal frameworks and practical roles of mediators in each country, emphasizing the challenges and successes of mediation as a conflict resolution tool. The study highlights the differences and similarities in how mediation is practiced, suggesting that strengthening mediator training and institutional support is crucial for improving the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the region.

## **Same-Sex Relationships: The Absence of Legislative Framework in the Republic of Kosovo**

Hajdari and Krasniqi Hajdari (2022) address the lack of a legal framework for same-sex relationships in Kosovo, focusing on the implications for the LGBTQ+ community. They discuss the social, cultural, and legal challenges faced by individuals in same-sex relationships, including discrimination and the absence of legal protections. The authors argue for the establishment of comprehensive legislation to safeguard the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, which would align Kosovo with international human rights standards and foster greater social acceptance.

## **The Role of the Police in Reducing the Fear of Crime in the Community**

Qollakaj and Muharremi (2024) examine the role of the police in reducing crime-related fear within communities in Kosovo. Their research investigates how police presence, community engagement, and transparency in law enforcement affect public perceptions of safety. The study emphasizes the importance of building trust between law enforcement and communities as a means

of decreasing fear and improving public safety. Their findings suggest that proactive policing, combined with community outreach, is essential for creating a safer and more cohesive society.

### **Challenges in the Implementation of Public Procurement Contracts and in Corruption: Evidence from Kosovo**

Jahmurataj and Zejnullahu (2022) explore the challenges in implementing public procurement contracts in Kosovo, particularly focusing on corruption and inefficiencies within the system. They analyze how corruption undermines the effectiveness of procurement processes and contributes to suboptimal outcomes for public projects. The authors suggest that strengthening oversight, improving transparency, and enhancing accountability mechanisms are necessary steps to combat corruption and improve the effectiveness of public procurement in Kosovo.

### **Artificial Intelligence Technology and Human Rights**

Vula, Qerimi, and Ademi (2024) discuss the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) technology and human rights, focusing on its implications for privacy, equality, and freedom of expression. They examine how AI is reshaping societal norms and the legal landscape, and how it might both protect and violate fundamental rights. The authors call for clear regulatory frameworks to ensure that AI technologies are developed and used in ways that uphold human rights, particularly in the context of rapidly advancing technological capabilities.

### **The Impacts of COVID-19 as an External Socio-Economic Factor in the Real Convergence of the Western Balkan States Toward the European Union**

Kukaj and Ademi (2024) analyze the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the real convergence of Western Balkan states, including Kosovo, toward the European Union. They assess how the pandemic affected economic growth, governance, and regional cooperation, and how it may have delayed or accelerated the EU integration process. Their study suggests that while the pandemic posed significant challenges, it also highlighted the need for deeper regional cooperation and stronger institutional frameworks to navigate future crises and align with EU standards.

### **Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans: Case Study of Kosovo**

Berisha, Dema, Ademi, and Qerimi (2024) provide a detailed study on human trafficking in the Western Balkans, focusing on Kosovo as a case study. They explore the causes, dynamics, and consequences of human trafficking in the region, emphasizing the role of organized crime and corruption in perpetuating this issue. The authors suggest that improving legal frameworks, enhancing victim support systems, and strengthening international cooperation are key strategies to combat human trafficking effectively in Kosovo and the wider Balkans region.

### **The Role of the Police in Reducing the Fear of Crime in the Community**

Muharremi and Ademi (2023) examine how the police can reduce the fear of crime within communities, particularly focusing on Kosovo. They argue that effective policing strategies, community policing initiatives, and building trust between law enforcement and the public are vital for reducing fear and improving overall security. Their study concludes that the police play a crucial role in ensuring public safety, and their efforts should be aimed not only at crime reduction but also at fostering positive community relationships.

### **The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention and Combat of Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism-War**

Ademi and Vula (2023) discuss the role of civil society in combating violent extremism and radicalization in Kosovo, focusing on the broader context of terrorism and conflict. They explore how non-governmental organizations, educational initiatives, and community leaders can contribute to preventing radicalization and supporting vulnerable individuals. The authors argue that a collective effort from civil society, government, and international partners is essential for addressing the root causes of extremism and ensuring long-term peace and stability in Kosovo and the region.

### **Property Rights Under the Ottoman Legal Taxation System**

Ahmeti and Lecaj (2023) analyze the property rights under the Ottoman legal taxation system, focusing on the historical context and its impact on contemporary legal frameworks in Kosovo. The study explores how the Ottoman taxation system structured property ownership and how these legal traditions influenced the property rights regime in Kosovo, particularly during the post-Ottoman period. Their findings highlight the evolution of property laws and offer a deeper

understanding of the historical roots of current legal structures governing property in Kosovo. The study provides important insights into the persistence of certain legal traditions that continue to shape Kosovo's property laws today.

### **The AUKUS International Legal Agreement and Its Impact on International Institutions and Security**

Lecaj and Rexha (2022) explore the international legal agreement AUKUS, focusing on its implications for global security and international institutions. The study examines how the agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States affects the power dynamics within international relations and institutions, particularly in the context of the Indo-Pacific region. The authors discuss the potential geopolitical consequences of AUKUS, including shifts in alliances and security strategies. Their research suggests that the agreement marks a significant turning point in the global security architecture, raising questions about the future of multilateral diplomacy and international governance.

### **The Application of International and Domestic Arbitration Law in the Settlement of Legal Disputes: A Comparative Study**

Lecaj, Curri, and Rexha (2022) provide a comparative study on the application of both international and domestic arbitration laws in resolving legal disputes. Their work contrasts the principles and practices of arbitration within different legal systems, including Kosovo's, and highlights how international arbitration is integrated into national legal frameworks. They argue that a better understanding and harmonization of international and domestic arbitration laws can improve the efficiency and fairness of dispute resolution processes. Their findings have important implications for legal practitioners and policymakers involved in international trade and cross-border dispute settlement.

### **Features of the Special Civil Procedure for Small Value Disputes in Countries of the Balkan Region**

Gojani, Mehmeti, and Azemi (2024) examine the special civil procedure designed for small value disputes in the Balkan region, with a focus on Kosovo. The study analyzes how different countries in the region have implemented simplified procedures to resolve low-value civil claims efficiently

and at a lower cost. The authors argue that these procedures are essential for increasing access to justice and reducing the backlog of cases in courts. The paper also discusses the challenges and benefits of such procedures, particularly in terms of improving the efficiency of the judicial system and ensuring justice for vulnerable groups.

### **Mediation as an Alternative Method of Dispute Resolution in the Civil Field in Kosovo**

Gojani, Mehmeti, and Hoti (2024) explore the role of mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution in Kosovo, focusing on its application in civil cases. The study examines how mediation is increasingly being used to resolve disputes outside of the court system, offering parties a quicker, more cost-effective solution. The authors analyze the legal framework surrounding mediation in Kosovo and discuss the challenges and opportunities for its broader implementation. The paper highlights the potential for mediation to alleviate the burden on the judicial system while providing a fairer resolution for parties involved in civil disputes.

### **Acquisition of the Property Right: An Overview of Prescription Method Analysis**

Gojani and Hoti (2023) provide an in-depth analysis of the prescription method for acquiring property rights in Kosovo. They focus on how long-term possession or use of property without dispute can lead to legal ownership, according to Kosovo's civil law. The authors examine the legal principles, requirements, and challenges of prescription in the context of property law. Their research highlights the importance of this legal concept in resolving property disputes and providing clarity in cases where ownership is contested. The study suggests that improvements in the legal framework could further strengthen property rights protection in Kosovo.

### **Kosovar Attitudes Towards Homosexuality and Lesbianism and the Legalization of Same-Sex Civil Unions**

Jonuzi-Shala and Shala (2024) explore the social attitudes toward homosexuality and lesbianism in Kosovo, particularly focusing on the potential for legalizing same-sex civil unions. Their research examines public perceptions and the social, cultural, and political challenges of legal recognition for same-sex couples in Kosovo. The authors argue that while progress has been made, significant barriers remain in terms of public opinion and political will. They advocate for a

legislative approach that would ensure equality for LGBTQ+ individuals while promoting social acceptance and inclusion within Kosovo's broader societal framework.

### **Convicted Women in the Republic of Kosovo 2003–2019: The Volume, Dynamics, and Structure of Criminal Acts in a Comparative Aspect**

Jonuzi-Shala and Shala (2024) provide a detailed study of convicted women in Kosovo between 2003 and 2019, examining the nature and structure of criminal acts committed by women in the country. They analyze the social, economic, and cultural factors influencing women's involvement in crime, and compare Kosovo's data with international trends. The study highlights the challenges faced by women in the criminal justice system and calls for gender-sensitive reforms that address the unique circumstances of female offenders, including their social backgrounds and economic opportunities.

### **Kosovo Sui Generis: Criminal Act 'Inducing Sexual Acts by False Promise of Marriage' and the 2019 Criminal Code**

In 2024, Jonuzi-Shala (2024) examines a unique criminal act introduced in Kosovo's 2019 Criminal Code: "inducing sexual acts by false promise of marriage." The study discusses the legal implications and the societal context of this offense, which addresses deceptive practices used to manipulate individuals into sexual acts under the pretense of a future marriage. The paper highlights how this provision fits into Kosovo's broader legal framework and its potential for protecting vulnerable individuals from exploitation. The author suggests that further legal clarifications and public awareness are needed to ensure the effective implementation of this law.

### **Lessons to Be Learned About Suicide Numbers in Kosovo: Comparative Aspect and Discrepancy Between Police Reports and Official Data**

Jonuzi-Shala (2023) explores discrepancies in suicide reporting in Kosovo, comparing police data with official statistics. The study examines how differences in data collection and reporting can affect public policy and the understanding of suicide trends in Kosovo. Jonuzi-Shala investigates the potential reasons for the inconsistencies between official records and police reports, including differences in classification, reporting methods, and societal stigma. The research advocates for

improved data collection practices and greater attention to mental health issues to ensure more accurate reporting and better public health responses.

### **Artificial Intelligence Technology and Human Rights**

Vula, Qerimi, and Ademi (2024) discuss the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) technology on human rights, focusing on issues such as privacy, equality, and freedom of expression. They explore both the positive and negative implications of AI in various sectors, including law enforcement, healthcare, and surveillance. The authors argue that while AI can enhance the efficiency of services, it also poses significant risks to human rights, particularly regarding data privacy and the potential for discrimination. Their study emphasizes the need for clear legal frameworks and ethical guidelines to ensure that AI technologies are developed and implemented in ways that respect human rights.

### **The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention and Combat of Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism-War**

Ademi and Vula (2023) examine the role of civil society in preventing violent extremism and radicalization in Kosovo. They discuss how non-governmental organizations, religious groups, and community leaders can contribute to deradicalization efforts and the prevention of terrorism. The authors highlight the importance of a proactive approach that involves community-based initiatives to address the root causes of radicalization, such as social exclusion and economic inequality. Their study calls for a stronger partnership between civil society, government, and international organizations to combat violent extremism in Kosovo and the wider Balkans.

### **Intelligence Service in the Prevention of Organized Crime in Kosovo**

Ademi and Vula (2022) explore the role of Kosovo's intelligence services in preventing organized crime. They analyze the effectiveness of intelligence gathering, surveillance, and collaboration with international partners in tackling criminal networks. The study highlights the challenges faced by Kosovo's intelligence agencies in addressing transnational crime, particularly human trafficking and drug smuggling. The authors argue that improving coordination between intelligence services, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations is crucial for combating organized crime and ensuring national security.

### **Violation of Legal Certainty in the Case of Law Amendments: The Case of Kosovo**

Tahiri and Vula (2022) discuss the violation of legal certainty in Kosovo due to frequent amendments to laws, particularly in the context of the legal system. They analyze the impact of these amendments on the stability of the legal framework and the rights of individuals and businesses. The study highlights the risks posed by constant changes to the legal system, such as undermining public confidence and creating confusion for those who rely on stable laws. The authors recommend a more careful approach to lawmaking to ensure greater legal certainty and predictability for all stakeholders in Kosovo.

### **3. Conclusions**

In conclusion, the studies presented offer a comprehensive analysis of Kosovo's public administration reforms within the broader context of its pursuit of European Union integration. While significant progress has been made in aligning Kosovo's governance frameworks, judiciary, and public services with EU standards, numerous challenges continue to hinder the reform process. Political instability, corruption, institutional inefficiencies, and a lack of capacity within governmental structures remain major obstacles to achieving the desired outcomes.

However, these studies emphasize the critical need for comprehensive reforms in key areas such as transparency, efficiency, and democratic governance to foster a stronger rule of law and enhance public accountability. The legal and institutional frameworks in Kosovo require significant improvements to attract foreign investments, enhance the tax system, and strengthen oversight mechanisms in public procurement to ensure better governance.

Moreover, societal issues such as human trafficking, voter behavior, and the role of civil society in preventing violent extremism further underline the need for systemic reforms. These areas are not only essential for improving governance and public trust in institutions but also play a critical role in supporting Kosovo's overall goal of EU integration.

By addressing these challenges and continuing to push forward with much-needed reforms, Kosovo can make strides toward achieving its European aspirations. Ultimately, these studies contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on Kosovo's integration into the EU and provide essential guidance for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners working on strengthening the country's public administration system.

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