



FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master Thesis

**„THE EUROPEAN UNION’S ENLARGEMENT POLICY SINCE
ITS CREATION – CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS”**

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ABSTRACT

The Master thesis titled "The European Union's enlargement policy since its creation, challenges and achievements", first has research, factual and analysis purposes of events by detailing relationships, the performance of the European Union, his expansion and integration policies in particular in Balkan, as a special aspect of the research will be placed on the role and the different historical moments of intervention and missionary aspects of EU policy processes in the Balkan countries. The study will also focus on the role of the EU in the Balkan countries, analyzing the integration processes of each country separately. EU policy in stabilization and peace building, EU function, especially different contributions of the EU aimed at preparing the Balkan, as a place that it was promised European perspective.

An initial analysis, has to do with history, struggles and obstacles that the EU has had in its expanding, detailing the circumstances, moments, challenges, commitments and role of agreements as a special contribution to the functioning and sustainability of the European Union . The European Union remains one of the most discussed topics in public discussions and media in Balkan, now two decades ago through the efforts of numerous political, economic and those military-civilian forces as part of the development and as such continues to be active now a long time ago. Therefore, this interest has driven relations to deal with the study of this topic master. Another reason was that a study and explanation of this field in Kosovo lacks, especially the performance of the country's path towards the European Union.

The study is an actual indicator of the country's orientation that provides a vision for the future on how to improve, standardize and implement from European perspective on implementation.

My analytical, comparative and argumentative summaries will be highlighted in final references in conclusions and recommendations that at the same time show the progress but also the jams made that will be an indication on how to work together with the help of the European Union to be part of the its trunk.

Key words: European Union, integration, enlargement policies, the Balkan, Kosovo, processes, rule of law, the future, and liberalization.

CONCLUSIONS

The idea and the proposal for a union of European states existed since ancient times, respectively in Old Rome and Ancient Greece. However, the main creator was the British prime minister Winston Churchill, in his speech held in Zurich in 1946, and then this idea was strengthened with the proposal to establish the European Community for Coal and Steel from the France's minister of Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman on 9th of May 1950, what is now regarded as the European Union. Contribution in this regard was also given by two eminent personalities such as Jean Monnet and Konrad Adenauer. The European Union is a community of European states, respectively an international and intergovernmental organization, established by the Fundamental Treaties, which is currently comprised of 28 member states, with the aim of free movement of goods within the free market. One of the main features of the European Union is that it is based on the written constitution. They are EU treaties which also appear at the same time with the primary sources of EU law and secondary sources of this organization. In the group of primary written sources include: BETHQ, KEE, Euratom, the Single European Act, the Maastricht Treaty, the Amsterdam Treaty, the Treaty of Nice and the Treaty of Lisbon. While secondary sources of EU or European Union Legislation consists of: orders, directives, decisions on one hand and on the other hand recommendations and opinions. Like any body, institution or other organization, the European Union as a European community of states consists of specific institutions, through which the activity is conducted across the organization. Within these institutions participate: the European Parliament; European Council; The Council of the European Union; European Commission; The Court of Justice of the European Union; European Central Bank; European Court of Auditors and several other important secondary institutions. After the law approval of the Lisbon Treaty (2009), there are quite a number of broad of policies of the European Union. Among these policies worth mentioning are: the Single Market or the European internal market; The policy of agriculture, fisheries and food; economic and monetary policy; environmental, consumer and health policy; employment and social policy; policy of justice, home affairs and citizens' rights; the common foreign and security policy; enlargement policy and many other policies. It must be said that despite the fact that some policies are more important and valuable than others at the work and actions of the European Union, without any of these policies the European Union couldn't be imagined or couldn't exist, therefore, all policies have their value and importance in functioning of the EU.

Among them, undoubtedly the enlargement policy of the European Union has special importance. European Union within the meaning of today was created for the first time from the following

countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Then, Denmark, UK and Ireland joined. Furthermore, within the European Union also entered Portugal, Spain and Greece. In addition, Austria, Finland and Sweden joined this organization, reaching 15 the number of member states. Also, in 2001 the Union includes the following countries: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Then, Romania and Bulgaria also joined, and at the end with the accession of Croatia as the 28th member country of the EU in 2013. Western Balkan countries have aspirations and claims to be part of the European Union, as countries with full rights and entitlements. Within these countries, Albania, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro have taken the status of candidate country for membership within the EU, meanwhile Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina have not yet managed to have a status, due to the many problems and setbacks in the process of integration in this organization. Poor performers in the future for Kosovo remain challenges in the fulfillment of state-building activities. These are like a potential key to open associated and integral process of the EU, where at the same time remain as poor reference points addressed by the EU, and by not having strategic plans as there should be for the practical implementation of our institutions. The European Union's goal is to provide a general framework as a reference for the priority areas of reforms and further action, to get identified based on the needs of the country and include the adoption and implementation of the adequate legislation for the integration interests. In this regard, cut distinctions between the short and medium term priorities are already made, which Kosovo is expected to reach within one to two years and within three or four years next to proceed with further steps of integration. Kosovo is committed to live in good neighborly relations, in an European environment, where freedom, peace, democracy prevails, where all citizens of Kosovo live freely, equally and in harmony with each other, where at the same time such thing cuts routes to EU. Kosovo is already part of the European agenda and this is continuously pursuing opportunities within the framework of processes that the European Union is addressing each sector, where all these issues remain to us as a country to realize, because our future in Europe depends on being implemented by these. Kosovo's approach with the EU now formally as: through the roadmap for visa liberalization and by the signing of PSA agreement in June 2013, but these agreements are not sufficient to be an integral part of the EU, so it requires taking strict measures jointly dealing with the rule of law, an impartial and professional staff, democratic governance, provision of better public services, construction of public administration more transparent and comprehensive, continuing reforms of local self-government etc. Now after independence, the country is making progress in establishing democratic institutions in fulfilling their

obligations, recommendations, challenging problems and although they have remained much to be done especially in the creation of practicing strategies to have a perspective for Kosovo. Also cooperation and harmonization is required as a necessity for the EU on the creation of sound institutions, the formation and functioning of the legal state where these together provide a formula of integration and development. At the end we can say that the future of Kosovo now after all these efforts, stimulating and sometimes disagreement between some missions of various representatives, Kosovo has managed to be on the same track competing with countries of the region not at the same speed, but through this road such positivity is seen also within the EU countries. Kosovo like never before in a good shape separates the European perspective with the Western Balkan countries, through a more successful policy in the region. Increased concentration of the EU presence in the country is actually bringing Kosovo good position. She is on a good path towards the European perspective, and is constantly making progress with knowledge and devotion to the transformation of the ongoing reforms towards European initiatives. Today the process of European integration affects the whole continent and is part of the world that changes in a quick and radical way and which needs a new form of stability. Europe is affected by other major continents, by relations with the Islamic world, disease and famine in Africa, unilateralist tendencies in the United States, the dynamic economic growth in Asia or the global relocation of industries and jobs. Europe must not only concentrate on its own development, but should also embrace globalization. The European Union has a long road - the market of ideas, unanimous life and it is a safe player on the stage of global politics and diplomacy. EU institutions have proved their worth, but they must cope with the growing number of tasks to be performed in a union, that constantly expands. The more member states the EU has, the centrifugal forces become a more threaten to tear it apart. Short-term interests can too easily remove or exchange long-term priorities as a whole. Therefore, anyone who takes part in this unprecedented adventure must assume its responsibilities and act as the institutional system of the EU to continue to function effectively. Any change in the present system must ensure that the diversity of Europe should be respected and that it is the most precious asset of Europe's nations. Reforms must also concentrate on the decision-making process. Insisting on unanimous agreement would simply lead to paralysis.

The only system that will work is a political and legal system, based on majority voting, with checks and balances built in. The Constitution, which was approved, and is a ratification subject, by the 25 heads of states or governments in October 2004 in Rome, tried to answer the need for simplification of agreements and the decision making system of EU more transparent.

Citizens need to know 'who does what in Europe'. Only then will people support the idea of European integration and feel motivated to vote in European elections. The Constitution clarifies the powers and responsibilities of the EU, its member states and regional authorities. It becomes clear that European integration is based on two types of legitimacy: the will of the people expressed directly and legitimacy of national governments, which provide a framework within which European societies operate. No matter what the constitutional system shall be established EU countries, based on their discussions, it must be approved by each of them by parliamentary vote or national referendum. In order to facilitate the debate, the European Commission began to reach out to its citizens through Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.