



ALBANIAN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITAS - FABREFACTA - OPTIME
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE DEAN

Tirana on, 02.02.2024

International conference on:

**“WESTERN BALKAN’S CHALLENGES IN STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW
AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND CRIMINALITY”**

Organized by:

Faculty of Social Sciences, Albanian University, Tirana, Albania

Place and date of organization:

Tirana International Hotel, “Scanderbeg” Square, Tirana, Albania.
26 - 27 April 2024

Object of the conference:

Western Balkans is the only part of Southern-eastern Europe which has not joined the Union yet, even though the block has affirmed the European future for all these countries. Nevertheless, irrespective of recent approaches toward integration into the European Union, also due to significant differences and other obstacles, there is a support for vis-a-vis approach or merits-based performance of each country. On the other side, irrespective of differences, even though sometimes not minor, the main obstacles for admission are related to fulfilment of membership criteria determined by Council of Europe in Copenhagen in 1993, which were further detailed by European Council in Madrid in 1995, and continue to be the same, in their type and content, beside non-significative differences in the way they are developed and special characteristics of respective countries. The entire region with a former communist past inherits numerous problems, but the most difficult problems to overcome remain strengthening of rule of law, fight against corruption and criminality, in general.

From the point of view of rule of law, most concerning problems are violation of check and balance principle, violation of constitutional equilibrium, frequent failure of law enforcement process to protect the public interest, protection, respect and promotion of human rights, existence of independent, unbiased, professional and responsible of judicial power, elimination of discrimination for vulnerable groups, implementation of international law obligations, etc. Meanwhile, corruption remains in the highest levels compared to the EU countries and in many cases presents systemic features and in dimensions that violates the essence of rule of law and protection of public interest in general. Corruption, due to its special nature, violates not only respective social relations, but also the general capacity of state to fulfill its mission including a decrease of the capacity to fight criminality and many other issues. Efforts to fight corruption and criminality in the Western Balkans and especially in the Republic of Albania are in an important phase, where law enforcement structures have considerably boosted capacities and the response of judiciary to these phenomena is really promising. Likewise, legal framework approved in Albania regarding special structures against corruption and organised crime and the example of work of respective bodies can be considered as a model beyond the Republic of Albania. Nevertheless, challenges to set the missing EU standards continue to exist for the entire WB, not only Albania, i.e. it is necessary to work hard and have an all-inclusive approach to transform the current situation and meet the EU membership requirements. Among the things, in order to face such challenges is necessary to have a developed educational system and study programs which ensure not only human resources, but also create social conditions for a natural EU integration and not a forced and formal integration.

This conference shall have a plenary panel and three special panels, divided according to three departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences: ***Panel of Legal and Political Sciences, Panel of Education and English and Psychology Panel.***

Attending the conference shall be invited guests from the following institutions:

- Special Prosecution against Corruption and Organised Crime,
- Supreme Court.
- Constitutional Court .
- Kosovo Constitutional Court.
- Kosovo Academy of Science.
- Albanian Academy of Sciences.
- University of Prishtina.

Likewise, attending the conference will be guests from University of Zagreb and other regional universities, well-known experts of Western Balkans affairs, representatives from University of Bologna, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia etc., as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Tirana. Participating with presentations at the conference will be scholars and academic staff members of higher education institutions in Albania and other countries that wish to participate, following the admission of their from the Scientific Committee of the conference.

All interested authors are encouraged to contribute and help in realisation of this conference with their scientific research works by sending an abstract of the full paper, poster or virtual

presentation in the English and Albanian language. Due to internationalisation purposes, we encourage presentations in English Language.

Participation and Publication:

Presentations at the conference shall be subject of a preliminary blind peer review process by members of the Scientific Committee and other persons assigned by the Committee and shall be published in the Book of Proceedings, as well as in the journal Albanian University "Optime" with a consideration for a potential cooperation with a SCOPUS indexed journal where the publication shall be carried out based on individual merits of each work presented and accepted at the Conference and shall subject of journal its own admission criteria.

Participation at the conference shall be free of charge and those who would like to receive a hard copy of conference proceedings shall be required to pay a fee of 10 Euro/ copy.

Admission criteria of paper:

Each paper proposal that will be accepted for publication shall undergo the peer review process by two experts from the relevant field of study of the paper. The paper shall be published if both reviews are positive. If one review is positive and the other one negative, the article is sent for review to a third reviewer, who shall decide on acceptance or refusal of the paper. Thus, the responsibility for selection of scientific papers is an exclusive competence of anonymous reviewers. The publication costs in journals not belonging to Albanian University, shall be covered by contributors themselves (authors), according to the volume of each paper or from the affiliated institution in accordance to Journal criteria itself.

Each paper shall be following language standards. Papers may consist of scientific works, reviews, original creations or translations.

Structure of scientific presentations shall be as following:

- (1) Title up to 15 words;
- (2) Author(s) (name, surname); affiliated institution; electron address (es);
- (3) Data on the author(s), 4-6 lines, as a text;
- (4) abstract (Albanian, English), 200-250 words and 4-6 keywords
- (5) text of the paper (accompanied with shortened references during the text).
- (6) Standard length for articles 8 computer pages.
- (7) Full references at the end of text according to alphabetic order of authors surnames;
- (8) Each paper shall be submitted in the word format.

[Note 1: Summary/abstract shall include: theme/topic of this work, research questions, theoretical approaches, methodology/concrete applied methods, findings/results and conclusions]

Orienting topics for conference panels:

Panel of the Department of Legal and Political Administrative Sciences

1. Impact of constitutional reform in the Republic of Albania in 2016 for strengthening fight against corruption and criminality.
2. Constitutional defence of economic, social and cultural rights.
3. Role of the President of Republic in maintaining the balance between the three powers.
4. Important constitutional issues of recognition and implementation of foreign national and international decisions, including those 'quasi' judicial.
5. Limitation of Human Rights in the democratic society and role of courts for to guaranty their respect and defense.
6. The approach of the procedural, criminal substantive law in relation to principles of the European Union Law.
7. The need for criminal policies that serve a restorative and reparative justice.
8. Professionalism, responsibility and impartiality of a judge as a milestone for a fair process.
9. Discretion of public bodies between functions and violations of the separation of powers.
10. Reasoning of judicial decisions according to the ECHR standards.
11. Right to Security of a Person.
12. Individual complaint and protection of constitutional rights by the Constitutional Court.
13. Independence of prosecutor and the legal character of instructions of the Head of Prosecution Office according to CPC of the Republic of Albania.
14. Constitutional and procedural views of the principle of proving someone's guilty beyond any reasonable doubt.
15. Normative Act and its nullity.
16. Legal meaning of the group of interest and 'Actio Popularis'.
17. Hierarchical relations between constitutional norms in regards to constitutional justice.
18. State immunity in the practice of international arbitrage courts.
19. Status of the European Arrest Warrant in the EU candidate countries that have signed a Stabilisation Association Agreement.
20. Principle of presumption of innocence and transfer of burden of proof in rem proceedings.
21. Legitimacy of 'ratione personae' for the individual complaint of conditioned subjects regarding constitutional rights.
22. Constitutional adjudication of social objectives.
23. Computer and procedural automation of justice: challenges in preserving human nature of justice and to guaranty the right to a fair process.
24. Possibility of making 'erga omnes' decisions from Supreme Courts, as an instrument that boosts judicial economy and efficiency in controlling and disciplining judicial practice.

25. Constitutional challenges of the fight against cross-border crimes and the need for investigation via joint cross-border investigation groups.
26. The retroactivity of the most favorable criminal law during execution stage of the criminal decision.

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Panel of the Department of Education and English:

1. Recognition and Implementation of Law on Pre-university Education by Teachers.
2. Theoretical and Empirical Approaches (pedagogical, psychological, social) in the field of care for children or persons with special needs.
3. Implementation of law in social care institutions for children.
4. Rights of children in the pre-university education.
5. Improvement and Implementation of Strategies and Social Policies in the Field of Education.
6. Educational Policies in Albanian, an Approach to a Global Education.
7. School and its Role in the Society.

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Panel the Department of Psychology:

1. Rule of Law and Mental Health among the Population.
2. Role of Psychologist during Integration Processes.
3. Approaches of the development of criminality and importance of recognition of psychogenic factors.
4. Biopsychosocial Models in Development Processes and Systematic Impact on Individuals.
5. Cultural Approaches of the Integration Processes and Slowness in Changing Mentality.
6. Recognition of violence and Prevention of Violent Acts.
7. Social Justice System and Mental Health.
8. Media Effects on Behaviour.
9. Human Development, Technological Development and Behaviour.
10. Social and Subjective (psycho-emotional) Welfare.
11. Psychological Perspective on Corruption.
12. The importance of emotional stabilization for the achievement of psychophysical and social well-being.

13. Behavioural Approach to Phenomenon of Corruption
14. Psychopathology of corruption
15. Cognitive Theory of Corruption

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Key dates:

Deadline for submission of abstracts	30 March 2024
Announcement for acceptance of the abstract	2 April 2024
Deadline for submission of final presentation	10 April 2024
Conference Date	26 – 27 April 2024

Approved:

THE DEAN

Prof. Assoc. Dr. Jordan DACI