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Rruga e Elbasanit, Fakulteti i Historisë
dhe i Filologjisë
1000, Tiranë

Tirana, 12. 12. 2020

**The International Scientific Conference, organized by the Institute of European Studies, in
the framework of ICCA "Integrity Week" successfully finalized its work
on 8-9th of Decembre 2020**

On Decembre 8, 2020, was held the International Scientific Conference "ALBANIA AND THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: 30 YEARS TOWARDS DEMOCRATIZATION"

About 20 participants shared ideas on European Union development and enlargement strategies; as well as the path of integration and democratization of the Albanian society and institutions.

During the opening session, **The Head of the Institute of the European Studies, Prof. dr. Aljula Jubani**, thanked all those who have contributed to the organization and progress of the Conference and said: "30 years ago the students became a strong voice in the soul of society, dared to extend the dream beyond the horn to touch the horizon of democracy and justice, because justice is a fundamental virtue.

In fact, the former communist countries constitute an object of study that provokes numerous scientific debates. In all these countries, although the attempt to escape the dictatorial communist system is clearly evident, in general, this was not anticipated, nor was it accompanied by a well-thought-out model, nor by a clear ideology to overcome the transition, for en route to what Mandela called the "Long Walk to Freedom."

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Among other things, she recalled the words of a Franciscan on the 30th anniversary of Albania's independence: "Father Anton Harapi issued a call for culture: are we spiritually deprived?" Aware that Albanian life without the spiritual factor does not exist "as it should be, nor as it should be", he called on the leaders of ideas to be snatched from this soul journey and to return to those ontological ideas that underlie civilization and culture European. Apparently we are here again today, trying to return to the hearth to which we belong, Europe.

H.E. Luigi Soreca, Ambassador of European Union in Albania, addressed the representatives of the University of Tirana and its students, describing them as "future citizens of the EU." Ambassador Soreca addressed the youth and academics that this journey has some great truths that you should know and use as opportunities that are offered, capacities that are realized and contribute as a necessity to reflect on those objectives that we have ahead to achieve at the right time and space, a member Albania. The Ambassador focused on what is happening and what should happen to the student youth who described the future and security of this process. Ambassador Soreca addressed



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the representatives of the University of Tirana and its students, describing them as “future EU citizens” Ambassador Soreca said that students need to be heard and empowered even more, to be the impetus for development and integration. In his welcoming and very encouraging speech the EU Ambassador addressed the students appealing that “if you want to bring your country into the EU, make your voice heard, contribute through inclusion and participation in society. Be the change you want to see!”

Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, prof. dr. Evis Kushi, affirmed that education remains a priority, aiming at further reforms, as well as trying to include the education sector in the country's integration process, in order to align it with EU quality and standards, ensuring for inclusiveness and an innovative approach and oriented towards European values. Related to the HE sectors, the work will focus on the reforms for research and innovation, for vocational education and training, as well as for international cooperation, while current challenges relate to the Pact for the University, and to the connection of educational institutions to the labor market, aiming at improving the curricula and boost youth employment. During 2021-2024, Albania will hold the Secretariat of the Bologna Process, working intensively with the three main commitments of the process, and supporting the design and harmonization of higher education policies in line with European standards. Additionally, all financial, human and legal possibilities for the establishment of the National Erasmus+ Agency in the country will be examined, and work will begin on the initiative of the European universities in the Western Balkans region, supporting home universities in the process of internationalization and becoming part of the European alliances.

The Rector of the University of Tirana, prof. dr. Artan Hoxha, in his greeting speech, the Rector of the University of Tirana highlighted that National Youth Day reminds us of an important moment in the development of the history of Albania and moreover for the developments of democracy in Albania. The Rector of the University of Tirana noted that despite the fact that 30 years cannot be considered much for the development of a country "Albania has gone through important stages, great efforts and continuous efforts to realize the aspirations of December 1990"

Prof. dr. Artan Hoxha stressed the importance of the University of Tirana, stating that UT should not only be at the forefront of all transformations, ideas and development of the country from an academic point of view, but above all should be at the forefront of developments. He closed his speech by emphasizing that the conference was "one more opportunity to see the past with a perspective of the future."

Ms. Jutta Gützkow, Head of Council of Europe Office in Albania, stated in her speech that Albania and Europe have travelled together. As a representative of an organization of common values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law, she highlighted the work of the CoE in monitoring the implementation of those standards in Albania. Related to the cooperation activities, they are implemented with the aim to support the reform agenda of the member states. CoE is working very closely with the Albanian authorities and civil society in the field of judiciary, fighting corruption and organized crime, anti-discrimination and protection of rights of vulnerable groups, including the empowerment of Roma, freedom of expression of media, and education for democratic citizenship. CoE is also working closely with the EU for the country's preparation for opening the accession negotiations. Ms. Gützkow discussed on the role of the Albanian society for the democratization, particularly the role of the young people. Demonstration are important means to get one voice heard. Beyond the universities, students' engagement should be also for development commitment, for society at large, getting involved in the democracy. And the democracy itself, is



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more than simply voting and demonstrating at the streets, likewise, EU integration is more than membership of a country. Democracy and United Europe require participation, engagement, involvement of people and organizations, even though it is not easy in such a polarized political context.

Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Sokol Dedja PhD, The European integration process is long and with procedural difficulties, as it requires an in-depth domestic transformation. Regarding accession negotiations, the first phase of pre-screening has been completed and now Albanian institutions are preparing the second phase. At this stage, the Albanian legislation is compared with the European acquis, shortcomings are identified, and the main planning document is drafted for the necessary steps to fill the existing gaps. Institutional preparations have also foreseen the wide involvement of non-state actors in the process.

During the conference, a series of papers of special interest stood out:

Prof. Raul Caruso: Development strategies in the European Union are in line with the developments of society, but also of biodiversity and climate change. The biggest changes do not occur from strong crises or major events, which are overestimated. What really changes our society and our markets are the gradual and successive developments. "Impact Investing" as a global movement is focusing attention that business can not only focus on profit, but also on a sustainable social and environmental development. So, businesses that also value the social impact of their activity, linking the purpose of profit with the good it brings to society. The future of Albania in the European Union, the future of the economy in Europe, is still to be written. Businesses will be asked to improve the quality of life in society, the only way, especially given that we are going through one of the biggest crises. Therefore, an economy with the right social impact is a must.

Gentian Elezi PhD: The new Enlargement methodology 2020 aims at providing more credibility and dynamism to the European integration process of the Western Balkan countries, after a stagnation period in terms of substantive impact of reforms. Although it is not correct to speak about EU failure in the region, the adopted approach so far has not produced the expected results yet, raising some concerns regarding the new methodology.

Auron Dodi: The Albanian program of international media, such as Deutsche Welle, continues to play an important role in achieving European standards in Albania. Germany became, in 1992, the first European country to start broadcasting in Albanian, following the analysis of the German press and statesmen. The first steps of the multi-party system were difficult for Albania and Germany understood this. For almost 3 decades, DW has been informing about what is silent or incompletely reflected in the regions where there are Albanians. This media reports independent of other interests, bringing information from the Balkans, analysis from Cologne, Bonn, Berlin for the Balkans and Albanians, for a public that for the first time in contact with a democratic system. In the polls, it turns out that Albanians are critical of the Albanian media and that they lack credibility. DW also protects and honors bold journalism through the Global Media Forum. DW offers models of European standards in Albania, as a transmitter of information, independent of interests that restrict freedom.

Dr. Gjyla Çeliku: Tito's goal was to create equality for all nations living in Yugoslavia, regardless of the numerical size of the population and the territorial area of the republic. Once the political



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platform was created, the implementation process began immediately, starting with the decentralization phase of state institutions. With the 1974 Constitution, the last of this political system, the six republics gained the status of 'nation states'. So, all republics have had equal status at the federal level, being represented by an equal number of delegates, regardless of the number of inhabitants and the size of their territory. It was evident that, in this way, "the smaller Yugoslav nations were favored." In this way, the Socialist Republic of Macedonia would gain equal status with other republics, and the constitution would recognize the Macedonian identity, so Macedonians have gained the status of a nation (read: Slavic) in the Yugoslav Federation. On this occasion, it should be noted that, in order to the long-standing nationalist appetites, especially of the Serbs. Macedonia is in trouble with Bulgaria right now and in the future with Serbia.

Prof. dr. Aljula Jubani: The morality and ethics of the communist system annihilated an essential element of the human being, as a social being, denied free will. So man emerging from a communist system finds it impossible to construct principles of social morality independently of dictatorship. This behavior reminds us of the issue of the Aristotelian "mime", where the public must experience the same sensations as the game played in front of him by the actor: tragic, comic or political. As Hegel says, all great upheavals initially have a tragic character, from which heroes and myths arise. But if this people repeats this event for the second time, it turns into comedy and then that people is destined to turn into a people of comedians. But it was again a German playwright and philosopher, like Brecht, who, in the early twentieth century. XX overturned the concept of "mimesis" by which he warned the people not to fall into the trap of comedy, so that people could learn from their history and what happened was confirmed shortly afterwards and which unfortunately ended in a worldwide tragedy.

In post-communist countries, the Aristotelian mimesis still appears today, where people imitate and follow the leading actor, without being able to pass through its analytical filter according to the principle of Brehtian aesthetics. Prof. Sami Repishti writes about the mentality created in the dictatorship that "... has survived the regime that created it ... that produces a society with infantile attitudes ... and that is manipulated with the ease of a trained circus animal."

Dr. Majlinda Keta dhe. Olta Murataj PhD: The University of Tirana is marked in the history of the democratic revolution of the Albanians in the 90s as a model of the academic environment, students and academic staff where protests against the regime of the time were conceived and enabled. The symbol city of the students, "Qyteti Studenti" (Student City), became the first public agora for democracy and the philosophical motto of the Albanians "We aspire Albania like Europe". Do students of the University of Tirana (UT) maintain this democratic and Europeanizing integrity 30 years later? How are these two standards of the UT expressed to students today? What is the profile of our students as contributors and negotiators of the democratic and Europeanization processes at the UT? What are the achievements of student university democracy as well the problematic phenomena and challenges with them in the future? All these issues have been addressed through the method of evaluating current theories of democracy in education, evaluating legal and structural changes during the period 2016-2020, (the period between two elections at UT after the Law on Higher Education in 2015), by comparing interviews with December 1990 protagonists and senators elected by students in this time frame; also through the evaluation of various data on participation in university elections, in the Erasmus+ Program and national studies on ethics in the Albanian education system.



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Prof.dr. Migena Leskoviku: Today more and more, in relation to the right to education, there is a need for Public Legal Education, a need that was first expressed in 1993 at the World Conference on Human Rights, organized by the UN in Vienna, where all States Parties were called upon to include the concepts of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in all formal and informal education curricula. This Conference called on the UN to take further active steps to promote human rights, with a view to "the full development of the human personality in a spirit of peace, mutual understanding and respect for democracy and the rule of law". The UN-adopted resolution stressed that such education should be introduced at all levels of formal education and non-formal education.

Dr. Elsa Skënderi-Rakiplari: The present paper examines through a critical approach the European narrative in the Albanian Parliamentary discourse. The corpus of parliamentary minutes indicates that the European narrative is built by evoking several frames, among which the political frame, life quality frame and the cultural identity frame.

Dr. Doris Malaj discussed the challenges of the democratization process in the last 30 years in Albania. The main question was whether the aspirations and demands of the students of 1990 - we want Albania same as Europe - could be considered realized in terms of the democratic format that the Albanian political system presents. She concluded that the Albanian democratic format represents liberal shortcomings and moreover could be considered a delegating democracy, as the mechanism of horizontal control is not guaranteed.

Elena Polo (PhD Cand.) held a presentation on the role of youth in the country's negotiation and membership processes, seeing them as key contributors and beneficiaries, in a complex multidimensional, cross-sectorial, inclusive and transformative process, particularly for a young society. Young people must become an integral part of the integration and reforming processes, being well-informed and aware of their contribution and role in the negotiation process, but also of the opportunities, alternatives and beneficiary programs after membership. Evidences show that there are two main directions to intervene and move faster in terms of the relation of the Albanian youth to the EU: (1) education and labor market policies of the European level, and (2) involvement of young people in the social and political life of the country, through increased cooperation, activism, and volunteering as youth initiatives..

In the framework of Integrity Week, ISE held, on 9. 12. 2020, the debate table with students: ALBANIA TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE IMPORTANCE OF (POLITICAL) INTEGRITY.

The discussion with the students took place introducing key elements related to the personal and professional integrity. Discussion of the first part focused on the conception of integrity as a personal non-technical skill, which should be developed through maintaining the balance between the individual internal stability and the external forces, thus ensuring for a political integrity as decent citizens, and for a professional integrity, as actors of the labor market.



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
UNIVERSITETI I TIRANËS
INSTITUTI I STUDIMEVE EVROPIANE



ORGANIZON
KONFERENCËN SHKENCORE NDËRKOMBËTARE

SHQIPËRIA NË RRUGËN E INTEGRIMIT EVROPIAN 30 VJET DREJT DEMOKRATIZIMIT

8 dhjetor 2020

Seanca e parë:
**Çelja e punimeve
të konferencës**
(ora 09:30-10:00)

Seanca e dytë:
**Strategji të zhvillimit
dhe të zgjerimit
të Bashkimit Evropian**
(ora 10:00-11:30)

Seanca e tretë:
**Shoqëria dhe
institucionet shqiptare
në rrugën
e demokratizimit**
(ora 11:30-12:30)

Moderator: **Aljula Jubani**

Evis Kushi, Ministre e Arsimit, Sportit dhe Rinisë
Artan Hoxha, Rektor i Universitetit të Tiranës
Jutta Gützkow, Head of Council of Europe Office

Moderator: **Elena Polo**

Sokol Dedja, Zëvendësministër për Evropën dhe Punët e Jashtme
"Rrugëtimi evropian i Shqipërisë dhe përgatitjet institucionale për negociatat për anëtarësim"

Raul Caruso, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
"Integration in the light of the EU green new deal: sustainability as development path"

Vilma Bello, Komisioni i i Edukimit dhe Mjeteve të informimit Publik, Kuvendi i Shqipërisë
"Strategji të zhvillimit të arsimit në kuadër të integrimit në Bashkimin Evropian"

Gentian Elezi, Instituti i Studimeve Evropiane
"Metodologjia e re e Zgjerimit 2020: Dështim i politikës së kushtëzimit në Ballkanin Perëndimor?"

Auron Dodi, Deutsche Welle
"Me fokus në tranzicionin e Shqipërisë: evoluimi i raportimit shqip të Deutsche Welle-s"

Gjyla Çeliku, Universiteti i Tetovës
"Maqedonia e Veriut dhe sfidat e saj eurointegruese"

Moderator: **Endira Bushati**

Aljula Jubani, Instituti i Studimeve Evropiane
"Modele etike të një shoqërie pasdiktatoriale"

Majlinda Keta, Olta Murataj, Fakulteti i Shkencave Sociale
"Studentët e UT si promovues të vlerave të demokracisë aktive. Zgjedhje, zgjidhje, sfida"

Migena Leskoviku, Fakulteti i Historisë dhe i Filologjisë
"Roli i arsimit në promovimin e standardeve të integritetit dhe të drejtave të njeriut, si vlera themelore në një shoqëri demokratike"

Doris Malaj, Instituti i Studimeve Evropiane
"Sfidat e procesit të demokratizimit në Shqipëri"

Elsa Skënderi-Rakiplari, Fakulteti i Historisë dhe i Filologjisë
"Narrativa evropiane në Parlamentin shqiptar: një analizë kritike e diskursit"

Elena Polo, Instituti i Studimeve Evropiane
"Roli i të rinjve në proceset negociuese dhe anëtarësuese të vendit"

Ermir Gjinishi, Instituti i Studimeve Evropiane
"Sfidat e religjionit në Evropën bashkëkohore"

Jetmire Aliu, Universiteti i Tetovës
"Kulturat evropiane si bazë integrimesh"