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КОН ОДРЖЛИВА И ПОВРЗАНА ИДНИНА НА ЗАПАДЕН БАЛКАН

DREJT NJË TË ARDHMEJE TË QËNDRUESHME DHE TË NDËRLIDHUR TË BALLKANIT PERËNDIMOR

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND CONNECTED FUTURE OF THE WESTERN BALKANS

Abstract

This paper explores the critical interplay between sustainability, connectivity, and regional stability in the Western Balkans, a region marked by a complex history of conflict and a challenging path toward Euro-integration. The main aim is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic landscape, highlighting the impact of EU integration process within its Enlargement Policy, influence of ongoing conflicts on current developments and the imperative for sustainable practices to foster growth.

The main objectives include an analysis of the existing barriers to Euro-integration, the opportunities for regional cooperation, and the necessity of enhancing connectivity through infrastructure development.

The objectives include exploring different influences and their impacts, evaluating the present challenges and opportunities for development, and offering insights into actionable strategies for policymakers. Among the links between sustainability, connectivity and integration, this research seeks to contribute valuable perspectives on fostering a cohesive and resilient future for the Western Balkans.

Key findings reveal that while significant progress has been made in some areas, persistent socio-political tensions and regional and potential ethnic tension, as well as further challenges threaten overall stability and integration efforts.

The paper underscores the importance of a cohesive approach to regional development that prioritizes sustainability and connectivity as essential pathways for achieving long-term EU integration.

Comprehensive and effective outcome of addressing these issues can realistically bring authorized authorities and international stakeholders to the level of practice and direct all actors to further cooperation in creating a stable and prosperous future for the Western Balkans, ultimately contributing to broader European stability.

***Keywords:** sustainability, connectivity, Euro integration, conflicts, regional development perspectives*