

Administrative and territorial reform in Albania and the issue of decentralization (Comparative overview of relevant international legislation)

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Abstract

This paper aims to examine the new administrative-territorial reform in Albania, to refer initially to an overview of the administrative-territorial reform in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with the purpose to study the positive and negative effects in order to prevent possible adverse effects. It will be followed by the treatment of administrative-territorial division in Albania, with a particular focus given to the recommendations of the European Union and the Council of Europe, to continue with the problems requiring an undertaking of administrative-territorial reform in Albania. An important part of it are the criteria applied to the design of the new map of the administrative-territorial reform analyzed in conformity with EU models that are more appropriate to implement the concept of reform in Albania. The conclusions present the real situation of the territorial administrative reform and its effects.

Keywords: administrative-territorial reform, decentralization, local government, administrative units, European Charter of local autonomy.

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