

The Political Participation of National Minorities in the Enlargement Process: the Case of Albania and FYR of Macedonia

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Abstract

In the last decade an increasing number of authors have studied the EU transformative power in Central Eastern Europe. In this paper I will analyse the impact of the enlargement process in the political participation of national minorities in Western Balkans. With the term “impact” I mean the absorption of formal and informal rules, procedures, norms and practices and I am going to analyze the relation European Union/Western Balkans as unidirectional i.e. the transposing of EU rules on accession countries. For this reason the EU requirements concerning the right to political participation of national minorities in the concerning countries, will be analysed. In the second part it will be analyzed how the EU requirements on the national minority participation has been ‘translated’ in Macedonia and Albania. In this paper I will combine a review of the academic literature on the topic with the illustration of practical case study from the Western Balkans.

Keywords: EU enlargement, Western Balkans, political participation, FYR of Macedonia, Albania.

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