



## Research Article

© 2024 Juliana Gjinko

This is an open access article licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

### Prospects for integration and Obstacles to democracy - EU's role in the Albanian political crisis

**Juliana Gjinko**

*University of Tirana – Tirana, Albania*

*ORCID Id: 0000-0003-0875-0028*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2478/ejels-2024-0006>

#### Abstract

More than three decades after the totalitarian regime collapse, Albania is still categorized as a hybrid democracy despite having made consistent strides toward becoming a liberal democracy. Most local political leaders have remained antagonistic towards liberal democratic principles. In 2019, relations between the European Union (EU) and Albania were at a special stage of development. After a difficult period and tensions in the EU, the European Council decided to postpone the decision to start membership talks with Albania and North Macedonia. Apart from this issue, Albania had other challenges in 2019, including institutional and political conflict, justice reform, the fight against corruption, and the consolidation of democratic structures. This article examines the intricate connections that Albanian political representatives and institutions maintain with foreign organizations and entities. It specifically highlights the role that the EU Delegation played in mediating the political and institutional crises of 2019. Although the external incentives models provide a useful foundation for understanding Albania's Europeanization process, other factors that may be relevant and encourage the ongoing democratization and rule adoption are indicated by the country's low membership credibility.

**Keywords:** democratic transition, crises, integration, EU conditionality.

Full Text: [PDF](#)



This work is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](#).

European Journal of Economics, Law and Social Sciences ISSN 2519-1284 (print) ISSN 2510-0429 (online)

Copyright © IIPCCCL-International Institute for Private, Commercial and Competition law