

Abstract

The European Union (EU) stands as a model of legal and political integration, profoundly shaping the legal landscapes of its member states. For non-member states like Kosovo, aspiring to integration necessitates a thorough examination of the EU's influence on their legal systems. This research delves into the intricate relationship between the EU's legislative framework and Kosovo's legal system, exploring the consequences, challenges, and opportunities inherent in this dynamic interaction.

One significant outcome of adopting EU legislation is the harmonization of Kosovo's legal framework with European standards, aiming to strengthen the rule of law, enhance human rights protection, and improve institutional functioning. However, aligning Kosovo's relatively young legal system with the extensive EU *acquis communautaire* presents formidable challenges, requiring substantial efforts in legislative drafting, capacity building, and administrative reforms.

Despite challenges, the integration process offers opportunities for Kosovo's development. Enhanced cooperation with EU member states can provide technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and access to grants, fostering economic, infrastructural, and societal growth. Moreover, integration serves as a catalyst for comprehensive reforms within Kosovo's legal and institutional frameworks, promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

This research contributes to the EU's external relations literature by examining the impact of EU legislation on a non-member state. It offers insights into Kosovo's challenges and provides policy recommendations for smoother harmonization. Beyond Kosovo, this study sheds light on how EU influence can impact the legal autonomy and sovereignty of non-member states, addressing an area of increasing global relevance.

Methodologically, this study employs qualitative analysis, comparative case studies, and legal document analysis to comprehensively understand EU influence on Kosovo's legal framework. The thesis unfolds in eight chapters, examining Kosovo's legal framework, the historical evolution of EU enlargement policy, EU legislation's impact on specific legal areas, challenges and benefits of implementation, and broader implications for Kosovo's legal autonomy and sovereignty.

In conclusion, this research underscores the complex dynamics of EU influence on Kosovo's legal landscape, emphasizing the importance of addressing challenges and seizing opportunities for the country's development and integration.

Key words: EU legislation, impact, transposition, legal framework