

Europe and the integration process

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Abstract

People in different country, may find that globalization and transnationalization of the nation also offer opportunities. Globalization in its literal sense is the process of transformation of local or regional phenomen into global ones. It can be described as a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society and function together.

Supporters of free trade claim that it increases economic prosperity as well as opportunity, especially among developing nations. It also enhances civil liberties and leads to a more efficient allocation of resources. Economic theories of comparative advantage suggest that free trade leads to a more efficient allocation of resources, with all countries involved in the trade benefiting. In general, this leads to lower prices, more employment, higher output and a higher standard of living for those in developing countries.

The EU represents one of the greatest experiments in political and economic history. For the first time nations have chosen to surrender aspects of their national sovereignty to a central body that has a responsibility to ensure that they act for the good not only of themselves but of other nations as well. All of us can be part of EU in every single moment by travelling without visas, using euro, making business or applying european law.

The EU provides the first example of a truly *supranational* body where the ambitions of nations curbed by a need to co-operate in order to succeed. This body helped bringing incredible political and economic stability to Europe. I would like to underline the force of globalization movement and the Euro impact, which is now a fact against all arguments.

Key words: Globalization, free trade, supranational, european.

Introduction

The EU represents one of the greatest experiments in its political history. For the first time nations have chosen to surrender aspects of their national sovereignty to a central body that has a responsibility to ensure they act for the good not only of themselves but of other nations as well. Those who support the concept of the EU are called pro-Europeans or Europhiles.

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People who are opposed to the European Union come from many different shades of opinion. They are described as Euro-sceptics, anti-Europeans or Euro-realists. They hold opinions that range from disagreements over certain areas of EU policy to the belief that the EU should be disband.

The European Union¹ was established to ensure that the great European powers that had been at war for hundreds of years would never again enter into armed conflict with each other.²

By utilizing its supranational institutions and policies in an effort to encourage an overarching “European” identity that can encompass multiple ethnicities and nationalities, the EU is attempting to reconcile this ambiguity. Simultaneously, by working to establish this transnational identity, the EU also helps advance its goal of further economic and political and are aimed at eliminating barriers to the free movement of people, goods, and capital integration.³ In their regulatory function, borders are a hindrance to both these processes, leading the EU to work toward reforming the practices of governmentality within its member states by creating a supranational ensemble of laws, regulations, policies, and institutions that supersede those of its member states.

By pursuing policies that de-emphasize borders between nation-states, the EU endeavors to eliminate the function of borders as transforming, “territorial” passages, where one moves from the identity of a citizen to that of a foreigner, and replace them with a fluid transnational space in which an EU citizen may move from country to country while remaining first and foremost a “European”.

The process of Europeanization “is fundamentally reorganizing territoriality and peoplehood, two principles of group identification that have shaped modern European order’s subjects living in a transnational space, residents of the EU demonstrate practices that challenge the idea of ethnically-defined national territories while simultaneously reinforcing and utilizing these territories as markers of difference.

Illustrative of transformations and accommodations that are occurring throughout Europe in the wake of the EU’s continued the expansion of its powers and institutions.

¹ Abeles, Marc. 2000 Virtual Europe. *In An Anthropology of the European Union*. Irene Bellier and Thomas M. Wilson, eds. Pp. 31-52. Oxford: Berg

² Andreson, Sheldon. 2001 A Cold War in the Soviet Bloc: Polish-East German Relations 1945-1962. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

³ Indeed the EU’s four fundamental “freedoms” are the free movement of people, capital, goods, and service.

The European Union

Many of the things that the EU does, bases on the principle of supranational. In order for this to work, member states have to agree (normally through signing a treaty) to hand over sovereignty to the EU. Certain areas, such as defence, taxation or currency should not be handed over to a supranational body because to do so would undermine the nation state.

People in different positions, however, may find that globalization and transnationalisation of the nation also offer opportunities.

For them, such as migrants finding employment in countries that are better off or political activists with transnational contacts with movements abroad, globalization opens up a space in which they can build connections to improve their lives and better represent their interests. They actively participate in building these links which, in turn, sustain them economically, socially, culturally and which allow them to manoeuvre around the global forces that otherwise may be more constraining than enabling.⁴

There are social groups that are not only able to take some control over the processes of globalization that affect their lives, but that actively engage in defining, contesting and redefining discourses of globalization. They wage their battles much less with a localism and defensive agenda, and rather enter political struggles with alternative views of what globalization should mean and how it should be shape in their favour.⁵

One may also argue that the European Union acts as an external force to the extent that, just like the IMF or the World Bank, or any other supranational agency, it prescribes a wide range of actions for national governments, whether in the areas of finance, industrial policy, or welfare. The EU is no more of a “voluntary” club than are the IMF or the World Bank: in order to get economic assistance, in order to survive, really, countries must abide by certain rules, which come with their own set of sanctions:

People who have been able to take advantage of new ‘European’ connections, primarily see the EU as a field of action, and possibilities, established by laws, democratic principles and not in the least, rich resources.

Considerable, if not yet systematized, effort has been made to assess who the winners and losers are of the post socialist transition and, to the extent that the distinction can be made.

⁴ Bessenyey-Williams, Margaret (2001) ‘Exporting the Democratic Deficit: Hungary’s Experience with the EU Integration’, *Problems of Post-Communism*. 48(1): 27-38.

⁵ Burawoy, Michael et al (2000) *Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections and Imaginations in a Postmodern World*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

I would somewhat argue that the three-partite framework of global ethnography provide us with a more nuanced sociological picture than that provided by the winner/loser paradigm. First of all, the winner/loser paradigm operates with a one dimensional view of human beings, usually reducible to species of the homo economics.

Studies informed by the loser/winner dichotomy can excellently assess economic life trajectories through the quantitative analysis of employment, earnings, and property ownership data, among others, however, it fails to account for experiences in the political, cultural, and social areas of life--to start with a list of crude categories.

How could one convey the subtleties of political gain or loss in status, for example, through this binaries? Both political gain and loss in status will depend on one's place of residence, gender, ethnicity, age, level of education, and a host of other even-harder-to quantify factors.

Even if we remain within the economic, focus, however, the winner/loser paradigm will have a hard time integrating experiences that have to do with a change in opportunities, a transformation of space of manoeuvre.

The true definition of an organization is one that is organized. A business that is not organized should be known as a chaotic one.

Globalization effect

A successful organization is the product of organized individuals all aiming for the same goal; all affecting each other simultaneously through their actions. They share the same resources and they all play on the same team. An efficient organization gains knowledge and produces more than would be possible through a mass of single individuals alone. It functions on the same principle that governs the growth and organization of our individual bodies.⁶

Globalization has created a new scenario where capacity is no longer the constraining factor for any business. Huge capacities are available across geographical borders across product categories. Managements need to focus on the intangibles such as brand building and human resources rather than building capacities to expand markets. The phenomenal overcapacities available especially in high population countries with cheap labour creates price pressures which makes it detrimental for companies focused on capacity expansion.

Globalization has also created new levels competitiveness where price advantages alone may not be able to create the market advantages. The customer value-benefits vary across the borders. Organizations need to create products that satisfy the diverse

⁶ Balibar, Etienne. 2004 *We, The People of Europe? Reflections on Transnational Citizenship*. Trans. James Swenson. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

needs of global consumers demanding a certain level of ethnic and geographical adaptation to meet local expectations and needs. The products can no longer be uniform and mass-produced. Customization to market requirements and even to the level of individual customers is the pre-requisite. Some of the premium car companies have successfully adopted customization to meet customers' individual needs across the globe and created markets where none existed.

The most visible symbol of European integration, the euro launched as a "virtual currency" on January 1, 1999, followed by the introduction of banknotes and coins at the start of 2002. The euro area has expanded from, Its is the second most actively traded currency in foreign exchange markets worldwide, and is used in more than one-third of all foreign exchange transactions.

Thanks to the euro's rising international status and the sheer size of the euro area economy, economic policies within EMU increasingly have a global impact, and the euro area has become a pole of stability for Europe and the world economy. With a credible macroeconomic framework and a sound financial system, the euro area has been contributing to a more orderly evolution of the global economy, even during this period of economic turbulence. A deep and integrated money market, essential for an efficient monetary policy, ensures an even distribution of central bank liquidity and a homogeneous level of short-term interest rates throughout the single currency area.

European Union and candidate members

Now days entrance in the European Union is a far more complex process undertaking the previous extensions of this particular organization. The volume and complexity of the *acquis communautaire* is too big and the applicability very necessary.⁷

EU foreign policy might function because of effective tools that can be used for countries that are potential members of EU in the future. In other words the most successful and powerful aspect of EU foreign policy is becoming a motivation. Western Balkans is the region where the expansion of EU could be used as a European foreign policy success. This success will be measured by the implementation of the appropriate instruments such as EU trade agreements, economic assistance, investment, technical assistance, liberalization of visa and other initiatives of EU membership, although this might cause a conflict with current interests of some member states. In order to stabilize the Balkans and to become more democratic, moderate elite of the region should strengthen and reactivate the economy. The expansion is the result not only of the attractiveness of countries aspiring for membership, but also a way to boost the EU power in the international arena. If the foreign policy of the European Union will

⁷ Borneman, John and Nick Fowler 1997 *Europeanization*. Annual Review of Anthropology 26:487-514.

be taken seriously or not considered as an important international factor will depend on the fact if it will bring or not stability and democracy in the Western Balkans.

The process of integration of 10 former Communist countries of Central Europe⁸ passed through three different periods was.

Albania as well as with Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina run against them to become EU members, and in this process each country has its own characteristics.⁹

In fact strands of such project were located on the Association and Stabilisation Pact which was created as a political project for the react and stimulate those countries which were very close to European integration. The motto "It is better to export stability than to import instability" was materialized through legal instruments such as agreement with EU.

Copenhagen's criteria

There were not any institutionalised criteria to enter in the EU, because countries that first got close to EU had a market economy and stable democracy. The situation changed after Copenhagen Summit of August 1993. The summit fixed necessary criteria for membership, making this expansion distinct from its predecessor. There are set four criteria, where the first three assigns the state's responsibility and the fourth criteria has to do with the context of the overall consistency of enlargement, deepening of the internal cohesion of the European Union.

1. The first criteria is the politic one which is related to the institution that guarantees a stable democracy, the principle of legality, human rights, respect and protection of minorities. At first glance this requirement seems too general but In fact actually, encompasses the most necessary features that should be a n EU candidate country. In fact issues as institutional stability and democracy are established toward respect for human rights and protection of minority shows that initially it is required the elimination of such sensitive issues which have emerged even before in the moment of association in EU.

The political criteria caused difficult interference in the legislation of the candidate countries. For example, eg the issue of the death penalty in Turkey or Albania, or the protection of minorities that form the ethnic mosaic of Central Europe.

It must be admitted that the Western Balkan countries as well as Central Europe, due to common history, during the pre-EU adhesion period experience a weakness not only

⁸ Magocsi, Robert Paul 2002 Historical Atlas of Central Europe, 2nd Edition. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

⁹ The European Commission. 2002 Enlargement of the European Union: Guide to the Negotiations Chapter by Chapter. Brussels.

in market economy, civil society and public institutions but a weakness democracy in its entirety. This situation certainly can not be considered overcome, from a purely formal point of view, only with the evolution of constitutional and legislative areas.

2. Economic criteria, conditions of this package is not less important than the political criteria. It requires the existence of a functioning market economy and ability to react towards the market competition and pressures within the Union. Referring to the history of particular countries' economic expansion, this criterion represented the premise on which are focused on meaningful efforts by the EU, to make more rapid economic transition and to create real market conditions. The objective is to make possible for candidate states to resist the competitive impetus coming from member states within the Union Market.

3. The third objective calls institutional ability of candidate countries to assume obligations arising from membership in the European Union. This criteria follows chronologically, either logically the first two. The creation of a true democracy and a functioning market economy are necessary conditions but not the only ones to cohabitate within the Union. It is necessary to create such a national system to make possible the absorption of *the acquis* in the internal order of the candidate countries.

This criteria is actually the most complex one. It concerns a dynamic process, as a result of the fact that in recent years Europe has grown and *acquis communitare* is expanding. Never has been easy for the candidate countries to follow the dynamism and to model their system through constant automatic accordance forms.

Another aspect that has made difficult and complex the implementation of the third criteria relates to the enormous amount of legislative measures that candidate countries had to implement in the internal order. This difficulty has obliged the European Commission to create human resources and technical assistance programs with the ultimate goal of absorption of the *acquis* in the national legislation of each candidate country.

4.The fourth criteria is related with a need of general character. This criteria is not related with the responsibility of every associated countries, but that is a target for EU Member States and Community institutions. This is the criteria that determines the need to calculate the prospects of expanding inside the EU. Direct consequence of the fourth criterion is that the expansion can not happen if it causes paralysis and inhibitory function of of European integration path.

European integration is not stopped just to the economic and trade aspect. This trend in the integration processes is called Europeanization of legal and institutional fields.

Judicial cooperation and the fulfilment of criteria

Although in its beginnings the European Union was created as an organization which achieved

economic integration, later political and integration challenges were taken from founding states. For this reason it is not wrong to say that cooperation between judicial authorities at European level begun with the creation of the EU.

There can't be good cooperation if the national legal systems do not recognize judicial decisions of one country or another. In this sense, mutual recognition is the foundation for a fruitful criminal collaboration. EU member states have primarily built their relationship on the basis of mutual trust and willingness. Obviously this is the belief which gives a judge of one member country of any other member country, knowing and implementing his foreign decision as if it were given by the judge of its national.¹⁰ Through mutual recognition parties move forward in the approximation road of legislation and iron out the problems that may arise from differences between the judicial systems of EU countries.

To create the foundations of the faith, the Albanian judiciary is trying to guarantee a minimum procedural standard but also the spirit of cooperation with judicial authorities of EU member states.

Integration process

Relation of the judiciary system with the implementation of the economic criteria is as important as the fulfilment of political criteria. It guarantees not only human rights, rule of rule of law, but an effective system of social justice helps the economic development of a democratic country. "The best ministry of economy is a good minister of justice. It is proved that the decisions that give the judicial system can retard or accelerate, make possible to run parallel with the economic development of the EU country.¹¹ Integration process provides freedom of goods and its central philosophy is to reach as early as possible economic integration between Albania and the European Union. Approximation methodology of Community legislation recognizes two types:

- A) The legislative method
- B) The method of pro-European interpretation of the law.

If the first method is the expression of the lawmakers will through the election of the *acquis communautaire* acquisition in the domestic legal system through harmonization,

¹⁰ As a requirement of EU membership, member states must implement the EU's entire body of laws and regulations, the *acquis-communitaire*, and agree through treaty provisions that the requirements of the *acquis-communitaire* supersede those of national law.

¹¹ Malmberg, Mikael af and Bo Strath eds. 2002 *The Meaning of Europe*. Oxford: Berg.

its second method is totally in the hand of the judiciary. On the actual stage of the Albania-EU relations is understandable that Albanian courts can not address the European Court of Justice, when is the need for interpretation of EU treaty provisions on a specific issue, because this is right that only member status courts have only. At this situation courts of candidate member state must have enough courage and legal professional skills to make a pro-European interpretation of the laws. Specifically in a court of common conflict when dealing with provisions directly applicable, domestic law should be interpreted in accordance and in light of the obligations undertaken in the EU agreements (MSA) and the most prominent principles of jurisprudence of European Court of Justice.¹²

The same explanation could be made in the case of the criteria related the judicial system. Approximation is one of the conditions but it's not sufficient. On one hand, it would depend on legislative policies that will follow the parliament and the priorities set in the context of the commitments undertaken in the integration process. On the other hand it has to do with the correct application of law and professionalism in the spirit of Community law, thus fulfilling an obligation taken on an international agreement of a particular kind.

Respect for human rights can only be achieved through an efficient legal system and independent judicial system based on a clear division of powers.

For many reasons Judicial reform should be faster and more dynamic, being adapted to the needs of Albania's European integration. Must be reflected in all the above European standards which are a necessary element of a judicial "community." As shown and last experiences of countries that joined the EU, the European Commission in its audit reports, gives a great appreciation, a judiciary which meets all European standards.

EU integration process aims

Among the most prominent goals of the integration process we can mention:

- Economic, political and institutional stability in the country and the region.
- A suitable situation for political dialogue and development of closer relationships.
- Creation of a functioning economic market which will gradually establish a free trade zone between the Community and Albania.
- Approximation of national law with the *acquis communautaire*.
- Increased regional cooperation in the every important social and political areas.
- Strengthening of democracy and the rule of law.

¹² Pagden, Anthony, ed. 2002 The Idea of Europe: From Antiquity to the European Union. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

These are, in general terms the so-called Copenhagen criteria, the package of regulations which must meet all the countries aspiring to EU membership. They are included in the text of the MSA agreements, in the form of political criteria, economic, legal. For all these reasons we say that integration process aims not only economic integration but it is so multidimensional and includes all areas of social life.

Because of the purpose, importance, and its legal power it will be considered a particular type. De facto, the commitments undertaken by Albania through the integration process, will condition the whole social life, and reforms to be undertaken in the future of our country. Now all our legal, economic or political initiatives are conditioned, and oriented to be forced to comply with the EU legislation.

European Union, has created relationship or is in negotiations with all Western Balkan countries, having as main purpose the integration of countries into the bloc. How to achieve this, it will be seen from the achievements and efforts to meet the commitments undertaken in time, quantity and texture. This cooperation should be expressed through free trade arrangements, joint action plans to fight border crime, the interaction on other issues of justice and organized crime.

Conclusion

Lobbying—attempting to influence the outcome of legislation or administrative rules and regulations is a legitimate part of any democratic system, whether it is carried out by individual citizens or companies, civil society organizations and other interest groups, or firms working on behalf of third parties.

As the European Union continues to grow and evolve, the role of lobbying is also expanding dramatically. In the past decade, EU jurisdiction has broadened to include areas of consumer, social, and environmental policy, and the advent of the euro has raised numerous economic and monetary issues within the euro zone. Studies estimate that approximately 80 percent of national laws in the European Union originate at EU level.

Clearly, the thought of globalization has a different connotation depending on one's reference point. This reality makes it difficult for other non-Western society to accept Western organizational design.

Therefore, today's organizations need to understand global etiquette. Many argues globalization now make us more interdependent of each other. It forces countries to

examine their laws, social norms, values, and other mechanisms for framing human behaviour.¹³

Other maintains that managers must improve their communications, values, and negotiation skills in this global environment. Furthermore, some suggests that countries now exist in a world community where they must (a) create common values, (b) ensure that the collective interest of all people are considered in the management of international issues, and (c) develop multilateral mechanisms of governance that are effective.¹⁴ Therefore, Western organizations need to showcase virtues in order be accepted by the whole international community.

13 2000 Agendas in Conflict: Nation, State and Europe in Northern Ireland Borderlands. *In* An Anthropology of the European Union: Building Imagining and Experiencing the New Europe. Irene Bellier and Thomas M. Wilson, eds. Pp. 137-158. Oxford: Berg

14 Shore, Chris 2000 Building Europe: The Cultural Politics of European Integration. London: Routledge.