



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PERCEPTION OF ALBANIA AND EU INTEGRATION

A STUDY UNDER “YOUNG TOWARD EUROPE” PROJECT

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: IPA2014/AL18-5

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March 2020





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BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The opening up of Albania and its accession as member states to the EU have brought new dimension to youth issues. Being influenced by different national and European stakeholders, decision makers in Albania has re-established youth policy mechanisms by adopting relevant policy documents and creating bodies responsible for youth related issues. The first youth strategy belongs to 2007 – 2013 and actually Albania is implementing the Youth Strategy 2014 – 2020 which tackle the key policies of the Albanian Government for the youth sector and their involvement in the community, such as employment, education, health and culture. As well the National Youth Action Plan approved for the first time on 6 May 2015 is considered as an important turning point in the way politics deals with youth.

While the Government is engaged in EU related reforms, there is a lack of comprehensive information and public debate and dialogue about the EU integration and accession process and related reforms, its benefits and costs among key target groups, its real impact on the Albanian society and life of Albanian citizens.

“Young toward Europe” is a project funded by IPA II European Union Integration Facility 2014 “Support to civil society organisations for the implementation of capacity building actions to increase policy dialogue and awareness on European integration process” - IPA2014/A118 and implemented by the “Mesdheu Center - Mediterranean University of Albania” in a partnership with the Bulgarian School of Politics “DimitryPanitza” and EDA Institute in Albania during Dec 2018- June 2020.



The overall goal of the project is to raise public awareness and disseminate information about the EU accession and integration process, EU values and key institutions among young people of the Republic of Albania by providing a forum for information generation and sharing, reaching out to thousands of citizens, and youth in particular, in 9 cities across the country, Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodra, Peshkopia, Korça, Berat, Vlorë, Gjirokastër.

Since the Albanian receive the EU Potential Candidate Status different information campaigns on EU integration topics has been launched within the country. But they have been mainly designed to specific youth issues such as youth and entrepreneurship, environment, mobility, youth participation etc., and are implemented in big cities and especially devoted to young activists. They have not reached the local young people or marginalised ones. While our project intends to offer a holistic EU information and awareness campaign that will be devoted at the large young people public.

This study is based on a survey with high school student about their perception on EU integration, EU values and key institutions. In order to measure their perception on European Union Integration Mesdheu Center and EDA Institute organized a survey with participants from age-group 16-18 years old in high schools of Tirana, Albania.

This survey was completed electronically for the period of February- March 2020.

WHAT IS THE EU?

The European Union is an international structure created by treaties, ratified by member states. The amount of these treaties replaces the constitution. The completely new feature in the EU, which distinguishes it from the usual types of international organizations, is that its members have relinquished some of their sovereign rights, in favor of the EU, and have given to the EU the power to act unexpectedly. In the applies of these responsibilities, the European Union is able to adopt sovereign acts which have the same binding force on Member States as the laws of particular countries.

The cornerstone for the European Union was laid by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman in a statement dated 9 May 1950, today Europe Day, in which he announced the plan previously worked out with Jean Monet, to bring together the coal and steel industries and markets into a common community. As stated, this would be a historic initiative for a vital and organized Europe which was necessary for civilization and without which peace in the world would not be possible to guarantee. Schuman's plan came to fruition with the conclusion of the Treaty on the Coal and Steel Community, ECSC, signed by six member states Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands and Luxembourg, on 18 April 1951, in Paris and it's entry into force on July 23, 1952. Meanwhile, on March 25, 1957, the Treaty of Rome was signed, which established the European Economic Community- EEC and the European Atomic Energy Community - EURATOM. These Treaties entered into force on 1 January 1958.



The Maastricht Treaty was a further step towards the political unification of Europe. The treaty was signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992 and entered into force only on 1 November 1993. The delay came due to a number of obstacles encountered in the ratification process by member states. The Danish voted twice in the referendum, while in Germany they needed legal action. The treaty brought a new stage in the process of creating an increasingly close Union among the people of Europe. It contained the instrument of creation of the European Union. Although it did not bring this process to an end, it was the first step towards a European Constitutional system. Further developments came with the Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice, which entered into force in 1999 and 2003, respectively. The aim of these reforms was to maintain the Union's capacity to operate in terms of enlargement from 15 members to 27 members. For this reason both Treaties focused on institutional reform. As a result, on 5 December 2001 in Leaken, Belgium, the Presidents of States and Governments adopted the Declaration on the Future of the European Union. The EU pledged to become more democratic, transparent and effective and pave the way for the Constitution. The first step in achieving this goal was to create a European Convention headed by a former French President, Valerie Giscard d'Estaing, with the task of formulating a draft of a European Constitution. On 18 July 2003 the President, on behalf of the Convention, submitted the draft Treaty formulated by the Convention to the President of the European Council. The bill, with some changes, was approved by the Heads of Government and State on May 17 and 18, 2004, following the admission of 10 new members on May 1, 2004, and the European Parliament elections in mid-June 2004.

The Constitution aimed to turn the European Union and the European Community into a new European Union, based on a Constitutional Treaty. Only the European Atomic Energy Community would continue to exist as a separate entity, albeit closely linked to the European Union.

But this attempt at a Constitution failed in the ratification process. Following positive votes in 13 of the 25 member states, the Treaty was rejected in referendums in France, 54.68% against with a turnout of 69.34% and in the Netherlands, 61.7% against with a turnout of 63%. After a two-year reflection period, a new reform package was launched in the first half of 2007. This package reflected a move by the idea of a European Constitution under which all Treaties would be reviewed and brought to a heading common, in a Constitution, in the Treaty establishing a European Constitution. Instead, a Reform Treaty was introduced, like the Maastricht, Amsterdam, and Nice treaties. They made fundamental reforms to existing treatments to strengthen the EU's capacity to act inside and outside the EU, to increase democratic legitimacy and to increase the effectiveness of EU actions. Following the tradition, this reformed Treaty was called the Lisbon Treaty.

The treaty was prepared very quickly, mainly due to the fact that the Heads of State and Government had set out in detail, referring to the conclusions of the European Council meeting on 21 and 22 June 2007 in Brussels, and to what extent the changes negotiated during the Intergovernmental Conference of 2004, would be incorporated into the body of the existing Treaty. Their method of work was not common, because they did not limit themselves to giving the main directions to be implemented by the Intergovernmental Conference, but they themselves drafted the structure and content of the changes that were to be made and very often; they themselves formulated the text for approval. The main contentious issues during this conference were:

- Defining the boundaries of competencies between the Union and the Member States,
- The future of common security and foreign policy,



- The new role of national parliaments in the integration process,
- Inclusion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Law of the Union and
- Possible progress in the field of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

In conclusion, the Intergovernmental Conference, convened in 2007, had very few maneuvering opportunities. It gave her the full power to technically implement the required changes. The work of the Intergovernmental Conference was completed on 18 and 19 October 2007 and received political approval from the European Council, which met formally in Lisbon. At the time, the Treaty was officially signed by the heads of state and government of the 27 member states on December 13, 2007 in Lisbon.

But the ratification process of this Treaty again encountered many difficulties. Although the Lisbon Treaty was successfully ratified in France and the Netherlands, it was opposed by the first referendum in Ireland, on 12 June 2008, 53% against with a 53% turnout. The citizens of Ireland were invited to vote again in 2009, and this time, the Treaty won broad support of 67% in favor, in a turnout of 59%. The success of the referendum in Ireland paved the way for the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in the Czech Republic and Poland. The President of the Czech Republic, Klaus, conditioned his signature on the instrument of ratification with the guarantee that the Benes decrees of 1945, which did not take into account claims to Czech lands that had previously been German, would not have been affected by the Lisbon Treaty and in particular, the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be included in the EU Treaty. Once a solution to these demands was found, the President of the Czech Republic signed the instrument of ratification on 3 November 2009. Thus ratification was completed in all 27 Member States and the Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December 2009.

The Lisbon Treaty merges the European Union and the European Community into a single European Union. Everywhere the word Community is replaced by the word Union. The Union today replaces the European Community.

However, Union law is shaped by these three Treaties:

1-Treaty on European Union - This Treaty (TEU) is fully restructured into the following 6 sections:

- General Issues
- Democratic principles
- Issues of Institutions
- On expanding cooperation
- General issues of EU external action and on common foreign policy
- And security.

2-Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) This treaty was developed on the basis of the Treaty established by the European Community. It has almost the same structure as the Treaty on the European Community. The main change concerns EU foreign policy and the inclusion of new chapters, especially on energy policy, legal police co-operation in criminal matters, space, sports and tourism.

3-Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community -The Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC- EURATOM Treaty) has been amended at various stages. These changes are included as annexes to the Lisbon Treaty.



EU ENLARGEMENT PHASES

The European Union currently has 27 members. These include, of course, the six founding members of the Economic Community, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, France and Italy. As of January 1, 1973, it includes the United Kingdom (which withdrew from the European Union on January 31, 2020 - Brexit), Ireland and Denmark, without Greenland, which in 1982 voted against staying in the EU. Norway voted against joining the EU in 1972. Expansion continued in the south with the unification of Greece in 1981 and in 1986 it was supplemented by the membership of Spain and Portugal. The next wave of enlargement occurred in 1995 with the unification of Austria, Finland and Sweden. A second referendum in Norway met the fate of the first, voters opposed EU membership. On May 1, 2004, 10 other countries joined the EU. The Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Central and Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and two Mediterranean countries such as Malta and Cyprus. Two years later, on January 1, 2007, Bulgaria and Romania were admitted. On July 1, 2013, Croatia was the 28th country to join the EU. With this enlargement, the EU included 28 countries and approximately 480 million inhabitants.

Negotiations are ongoing for Turkey's accession, which submitted its application for membership in 1987. But Turkey's relations with the EU date back much earlier. Since 1963, Turkey and then the European Community have entered into an association agreement which contains membership references. In 1995, an agreement on customs union was signed between them. In Helsinki in December 1999, Turkey was granted the status of a

candidate country for membership by the European Council. In December 2004, on the recommendation of the Commission, the Council gave the green light to start membership consultations.

Other candidates include Northern Macedonia, which was granted candidate status in 2005 but without a date for the start of membership negotiations. Albania is also a candidate country for EU membership. The European Union decided to open accession negotiations with Albania in March 2020. The EU is working intensively to expand towards the Western Balkans. The same methodology is followed as has been tried before by member countries. The overall framework remains an expanded association stabilization agreement to monitor the progress of the Balkan countries. The first step is the European Partnership, established with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, while Montenegro has launched membership negotiations. The role of the European Partnership consists in assisting the Balkan countries to prepare for membership within a certain framework, developing action plans with deadlines for reforms and details of the conditions and means to be used to address the required conditions needed to fill by these countries to further integrate into the EU. In addition to enlargement, the Treaty contains a clause for withdrawal from the EU. This clause allows a member state to withdraw from the EU. What is required is an agreement between the EU and the country that requires withdrawing, which provides for measures to be taken in the context of a country's withdrawal. The UK's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020 came after a wide-ranging referendum in the UK in June 2016, in which 52% voted to leave and 48% voted to remain in the EU. The British government officially announced the country's withdrawal in March 2017, starting the Brexit process. The withdrawal was delayed after a vote-rigging in the British Parliament. Following the general election, Parliament ratified



the withdrawal agreement. From January 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020 is considered a transition period during which the United Kingdom and the EU will negotiate their future relations. The United Kingdom remains subject to EU law and remains part of the EU customs union and the common market during the transition, but is no longer part of EU bodies or political institutions. The United Kingdom is also marking the first time a country has left the EU.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE PROGRESS OF THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1923 - 1959

A Peaceful Europe - the Beginnings of Cooperation

1926 - The first Pan-European Congress is held in Vienna.

1929- Prime minister of France's Aristide Briand calls for a federation of European states, in a speech to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

1946 - Winston Churchill calls for the creation of the United States of Europe, in a speech at the University of Zurich.

1948 - The European Organization for Economic Co-operation is established to administer massive US economic assistance through the Marshall Plan. Coordination of all movements dealing with the unification of Europe joins the Committee for the Unification of Europe. The meeting takes place in The Hague.

1949 - NATO is founded

1950 - Schuman's statement, inspired by Jean Monet, France's foreign minister, proposes that Germany, France and other European countries wish to join them to join coal and steel sources.

1951- Representatives of Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Germany and six countries with observer status (the United States, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and United Kingdom), met to explore the possibility of creation of a European Defense Community. The Treaty of Paris for the Establishment of the Coal and Steel Community is signed.

1952- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands sign the Treaty establishing the European Defense Community in Paris. The EDC treaty enters into force. Jean Monet is appointed President of the High Authority.



1955 - The Council of Europe adopts the European emblem, a 12-star blue flag.

1957 - A Treaty is signed in Rome establishing the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.

1958 - A conference held in Stresa, Italy lays the foundations for a common agricultural policy, the CAP. The European Court of Justice, based in Luxembourg, is established.

1959-Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain-establish EFTA, the European Free Trade Association.

1960 - 1969

A period of economic growth

1960-OEEC becomes OECD

1963 - De Gaulle doubts Britain's political will to join the Community and says no to Britain's membership.

1966 - After a seven-month "empty chair" crisis, France returns to its seat on the Council, promising to vote unanimously on important issues.

1967-Britain reapplies-De Gaulle is skeptical; he has a negative attitude towards its membership.

1970 - 1979

A growing community - the first expansion

1972 - Denmark, Ireland and Britain sign the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities. A referendum was held in Norway to meet with the European Communities, but some opposed it.

1975 - The Council of Europe decides to convene a European Parliament directly elected by the Europeans.

1979 - Spain's accession talks with the European Union open. The European Monetary System enters into force. The first direct elections for the European Parliament are taking place.

1980 - 1989

Europe's changing face - the fall of the Berlin Wall

1981 - Greece becomes the 10th member of the European Union

1984 -AltierSpinelli presents the EU creation project to the European Parliament.

1985 - Jacques Delors, Frenchman, is appointed President of the European Commission. The Schengen agreement between Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands on border control is signed.

1986 - A Single European Act is signed amending the Treaty of Rome, expanding the range of issues on which a majority vote is cast. Spain and Portugal become part of the European Community.

1988 - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gives a Euroskeptic speech in Bruges, Belgium.

1989 - The Berlin Wall remains.

1990 - 1999

A Europe without borders

The 1990s are also the decade of the two treaties: the Maastricht Treaty and the Amsterdam Treaty.

1991 - Communism falls with the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

1992 - The Treaty on European Union is signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Finance of the Member States in Maastricht.

1994 - Norwegians hold a referendum in response to a question about joining the EU.

1995 - Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the EU.

1997 - The Treaty of Amsterdam is signed by the Foreign Ministers of the 15 member states.

The European Council convened in Amsterdam reached a consensus on the project "for a new phase of economic and monetary union" and adopted a resolution on economic growth and employment.



EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

The Treaty of Rome described the structure of the institutions of the European Economic Community, the EEC as well as the constitution of a state, and by signing the Treaty of Rome the states agreed to gradually integrate economically and politically. Today the European Union has judicial, executive and legislative institutions.

1. *The European Court of Justice* is the EU judicial body. It comparatively fulfills the role of what similarly is the Supreme Court in the United States or in other states of the world. The court consists of 15 judges who serve a term of 6 years. The main function of the court is to resolve conflicts related to articles that establish the organization and based on the laws adopted on the basis of the Treaties. The European Court of Justice examines cases raised by member states, other EU institutions and corporations which base their appeal on the articles of the Treaties establishing the European Union. Its decisions are forced the crease to all the courts of the Member States which have to set aside national law if it is in conflict with European law. If the states do not implement its decisions, the court may impose fines on the offenders.

2. *The executive function* of the European Union is between the European Commission, the Council of Ministers, and the European Council. The commission is the soprano part of the executive branch within the institutional structure. It consists of Commissioners appointed by each of the Member States by the national governments of the Member States but

1999 - On January 1, the Euro begins as a common currency in banking transactions.

2000 - 2009

Further expansion

2000th-Place in Brussels the opening session of the intergovernmental conference for the start of accession negotiations with Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria.

2001 - The Treaty of Nice is signed, amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaties on the Formation of European Communities.

2001 - A European Council convened in Laeken, Belgium, decides on a European Constitution, signed in December 2004 by heads of state. It was rejected by referendums in France and the Netherlands in 2005. 10 new countries join the EU in 2004.

The Lisbon Treaty signed in 2007, also new members - Bulgaria and Romania.

In 2009 enters into force of the Lisbon Treaty

2010 - Now days

A challenging decade

The global economic crisis is hitting Europe. The EU helps some countries face their difficulties and establishes the 'Banking Union' to provide safer and more reliable banks. In 2012, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Croatia becomes the 28th EU member in 2013.

January 31, 2020 Brexit takes place; the United Kingdom leaves the EU opening a new discussion on the continuation of the EU integration process and political stability.



FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

These values are set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. (TEU) The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, respect for human rights, including respect for the rights of individuals belonging to national minorities. These values are common to all member states, in a society ruled by pluralism, tolerance, justice, solidarity, equality between husband and wife, and there is no discrimination.

- 1- EU aims to promote peace, values and well-being of all people living in it.
- 2- The EU offers its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders where freedom of movement is guaranteed, accompanied by appropriate measures for external borders, asylum, immigration, prevention of organized crime and the fight against it.
- 3- EU creates an internal market. It works for sustainable development in Europe based on balanced economic growth and stable prices and a competitive society. The EU promotes scientific and technological development.
- 4- EU Fights against social exclusion and discrimination. It promotes social justice, equality between men and women, solidarity between generations and children's rights.
- 5- Promotes solidarity between member states, social and territorial cohesion.
- 6- It has created an economic and monetary union whose base is the Euro.
- 7- EU in relations with the other institutions promotes and protects the values and interests of himself and his citizens. It contributes to peace, security and sustainable development, respect for international law, including the UN Charter.

they are obliged to act in the interest of the EU as a whole and independent of their country of origin. There are currently 28 representative commissioners from all member states. The commissioners prepare the draft budget of the Council every year and propose policies to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. The Commission is chaired by a President who is elected by the European Council and then approved by the European Parliament.

The Council of Ministers consists of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Ministers of Agriculture and other Ministers from each member state. They review and approve decisions taken by the European Commission and each Minister is accountable to the state he represents. Member States' votes are proportional to the state's population.

3. *The European Parliament* in formal terms is the EU legislature. Elections to the European Parliament are held every 5 years. Members of the European Parliament are organized according to ideological lines rather than national lines. The European Parliament controls about a third of the budget - the part that does not include the budget for agricultural policy (which is a very significant part of the budget) and foreign aid. Parliament also has the right to amend or overturn legislation passed by the Council which may reject Parliament's decisions by a single unanimous vote. The Maastricht Treaty gives Parliament the right to veto decisions of the Council of Ministers. The treaty also allows Parliament to approve the President of the Commission as well as the Commission as a whole and to oblige the Commission as a whole to resign if two-thirds of the Parliament votes.



ALBANIA AND EUROPEAN UNION

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe sent observers to the spring elections of 1991. Albania has functioned as a pluralist parliamentary democracy since then. The Albanian parliament was given the "status of special guests" on November 25 1991, in addition to the observer mission findings, and the subsequent political developments. In 1992, EU and Albania signed The Trade and Cooperation Agreement. In 1999 Albania benefits from the Autonomous Trade Preference with the EU and in 2000 there were extension of customs-free entry into the EU market for "made in Albania" products.

Alongside other Western Balkans countries, Albania was identified as a potential candidate for EU membership during the Thessaloniki European Summit in June 2003. In 2009, Albania submitted its formal application for EU membership. In its Opinion on Albania's application (in 2010), the Commission assessed that before accession negotiations could be formally opened, Albania still had to achieve a necessary degree of compliance with the membership criteria. Meanwhile in December 15, 2010, Visa-free entry for Albanians in the Schengen area enters into force.

In October 2012, Commission recommended that Albania be granted EU candidate status, subject to completion of key measures in the areas of judicial and public administration reform and revision of the parliamentary rules of procedures and in June 2014, Albania was awarded candidate status by the EU. In 2018 the Council set out the path towards opening accession negotiations in 2019, depending on progress made in key areas such as the judiciary, fight against corruption and organized crime etc. but was almost

one year later that EU ministers reach a political agreement to start accession talks with Albania and Northern Macedonia.

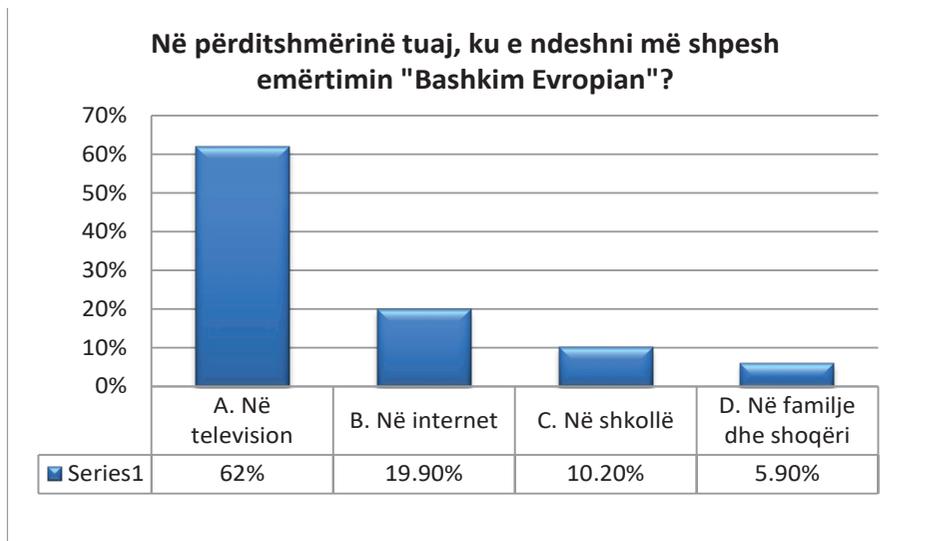
The EU Council of Ministers agreement for opening the negotiations in late March 2020 is a very good news and requires commitment from the Albania Government in fulfilling all the conditions in due time and start the negotiation of chapters as soon as possible.



SURVEY ANALYSES "HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PERCEPTION OF ALBANIA AND EU INTEGRATION"

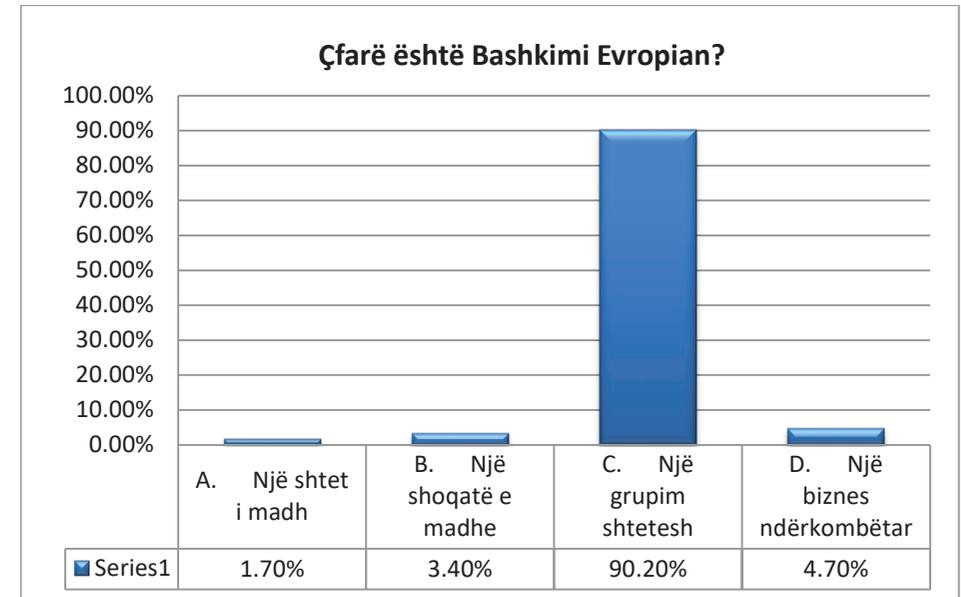
This study is organized based on the survey with participants from the age-group 16-18 years old in high schools of Tirana, Albania. The survey measures high school student's perception of EU integration, EU values and key institutions. The survey reached out 520 direct youth beneficiaries from many high schools. Referred to gender quality received from respondents where 63.4% were female and 36.6% male. 19% of responders were from age-group 16-17 years and 81% of responders were from age-group 17-18 years. This survey was completed for the period of mid Feb - March 2020.

The graphs below represent an overall summary for each question.



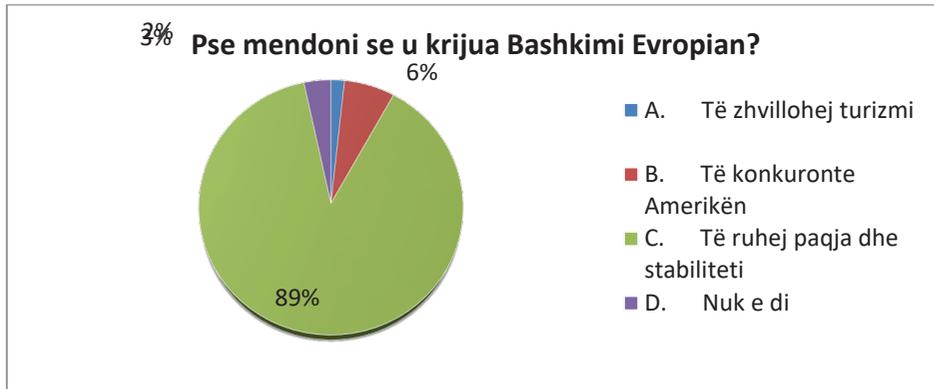
Graphic 1: In your everyday life, where do you encounter the term "European Union" more often?

62% of responders encounter the term "European Union" more often in TV and only 5.9% of them encounter it in daily life discussing with their family of friends.



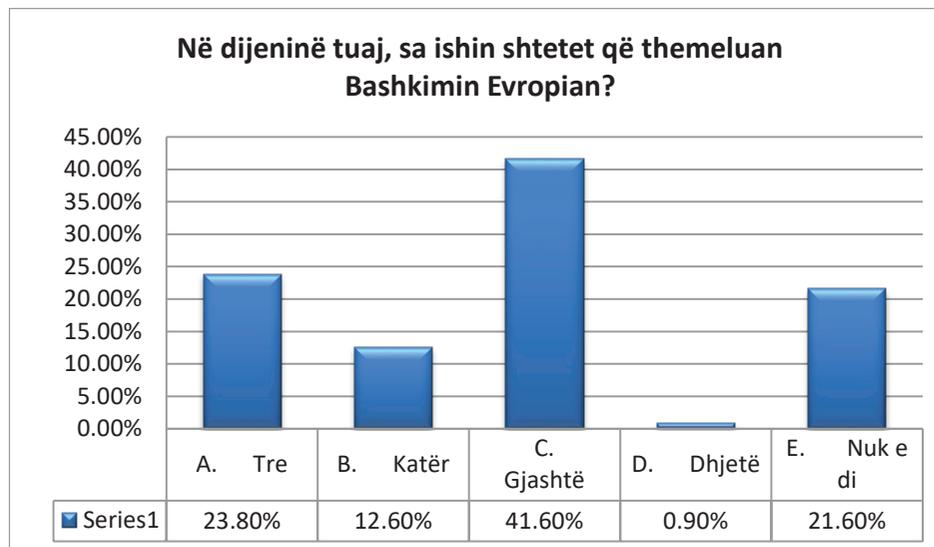
Graphic 2: What is the EU?

Regarding answers 90.2% of responders declare that "European Union" is a group of states, 4.7% thinks it is an international business, 3.4% thinks it is a large NGO and only 1.7% thinks it is a big state.



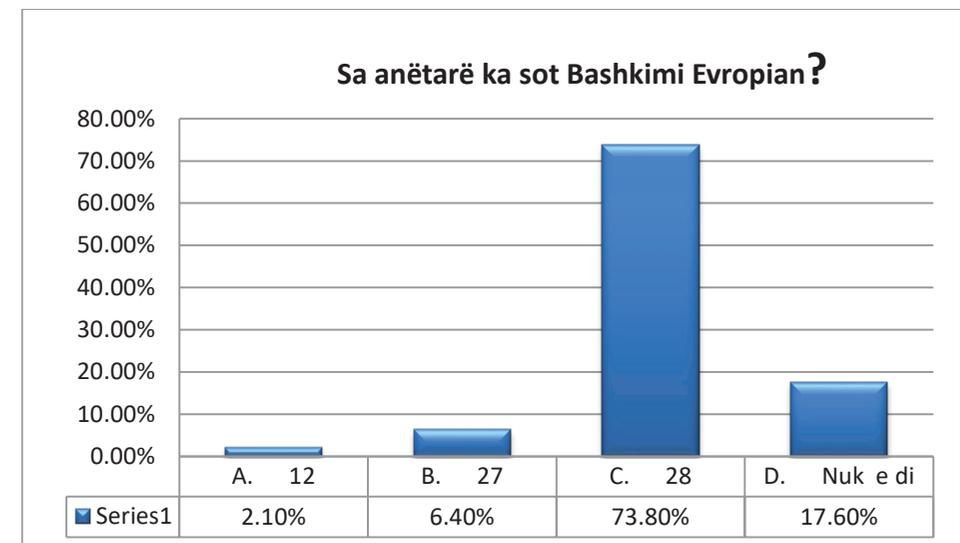
Graphic 3: Why do you think the EU was created?

89% of answers from responders are for “peacekeeping and stability”, 6 % of them think that European Union was created to challenge USA, 3 % don’t know why and 2% says EU was created to develop tourism.



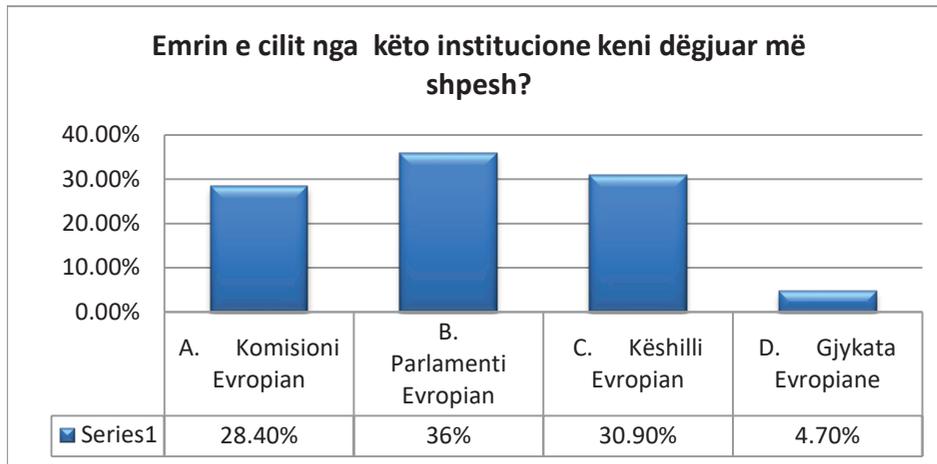
Graphic 4: In your knowledge how many countries founded the EU?

The right answer is given only by 41.6% of responders. 23.8 % of them think that the European Union was founded by 3 countries, 21.6 % don’t know, 12.6% think there were 4 founding states and 0.9% believes there were 10 founding countries for EU.



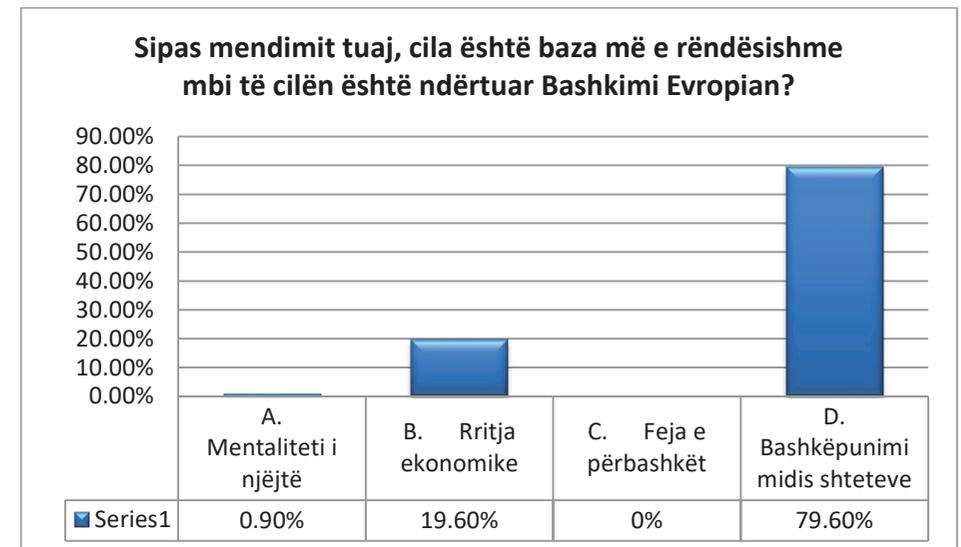
Graphic 5: Which is the correct number of the EU members?

6.40 % of responders have given the right number 27 member states. After Brexit the countries number is changed from 28 to 27, but still most of high school students of Albania thinks there are 28 member states and 17.6 % of them declare that they don’t know the right number.



Graphic 6: Which names from these institutions have you heard more often?

European Parliament seems to be more known for responders, 36% on them and European Court seems to be the institution that in almost unknown for high school students, only 4.7% of responders have heard the name of this EU institution.



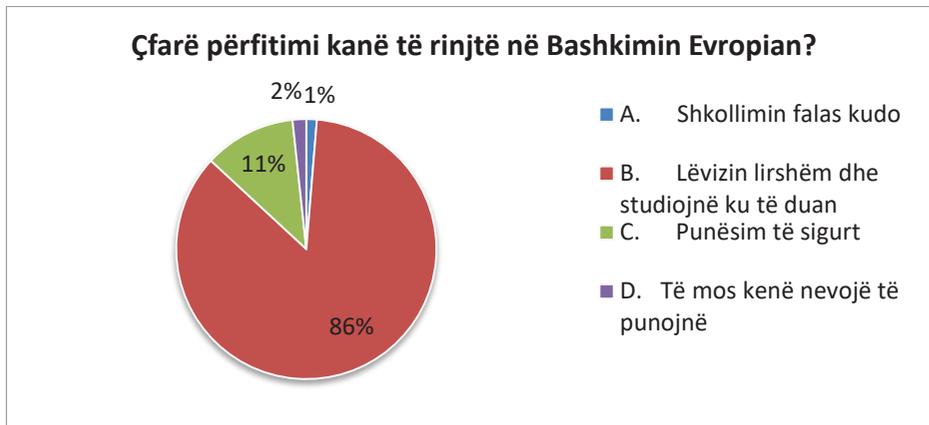
Graphic 7: In your opinion, what is the most important element on which the "European Union" is built?

79.6% of responders believe that the most important element on which EU is built is collaboration through countries, and 0.9% believe it's from the same mentality.



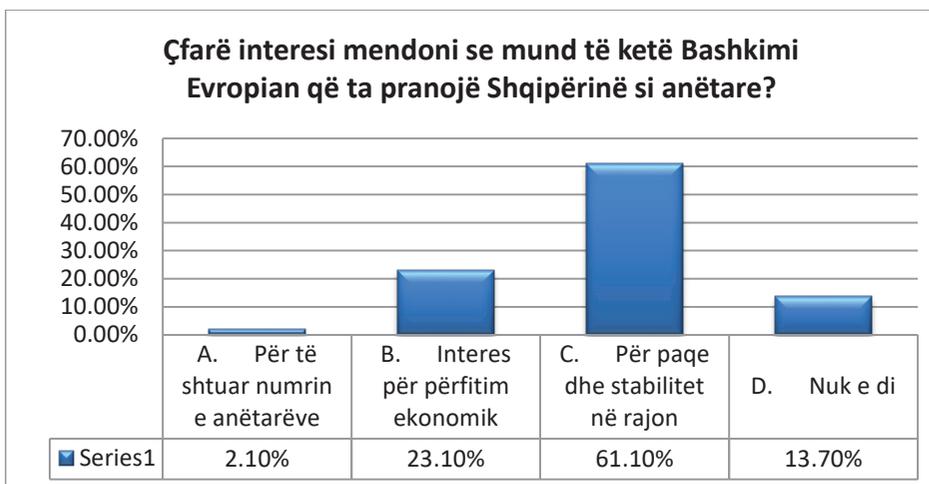
Graphic 8: Which is the capital of the EU?

85% of the responders were correct, 11% think is Berlin and 4% think it is Paris.



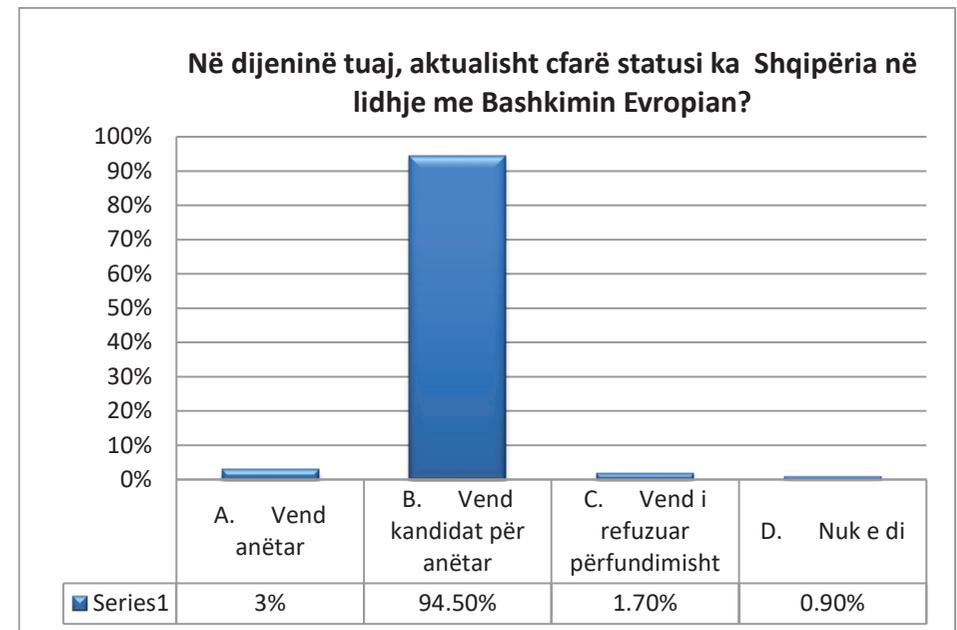
Graphic 9: What benefits does the youth have in the EU?

86% said move freely and study where they want, 11% said secure employment, 2% said they won't need to work and only 1% said free education everywhere.



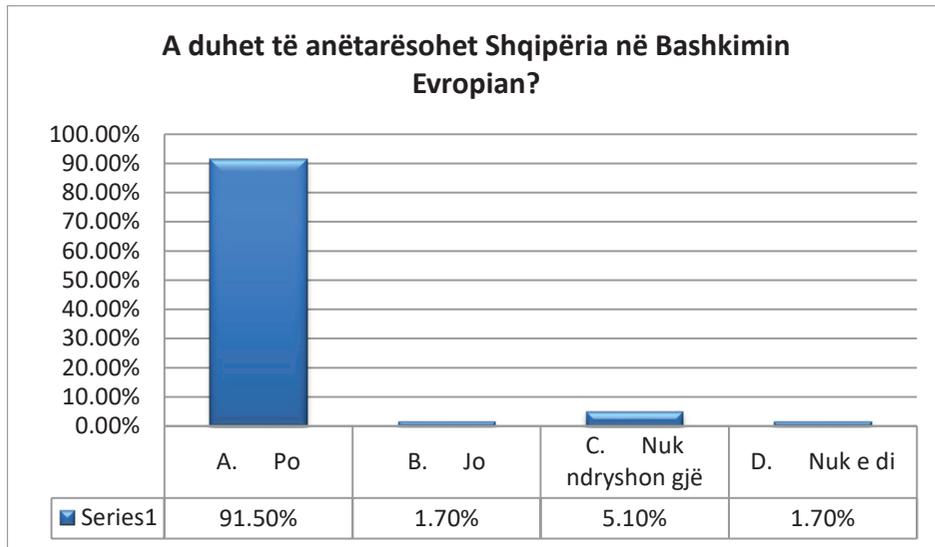
Graphic 10: What interests might the EU have if they accept Albania as a member?

61.10% said peace and stability in the region, 23.10% said the economic benefits, 13.70% don't know and 2.10% said to add the member's number.



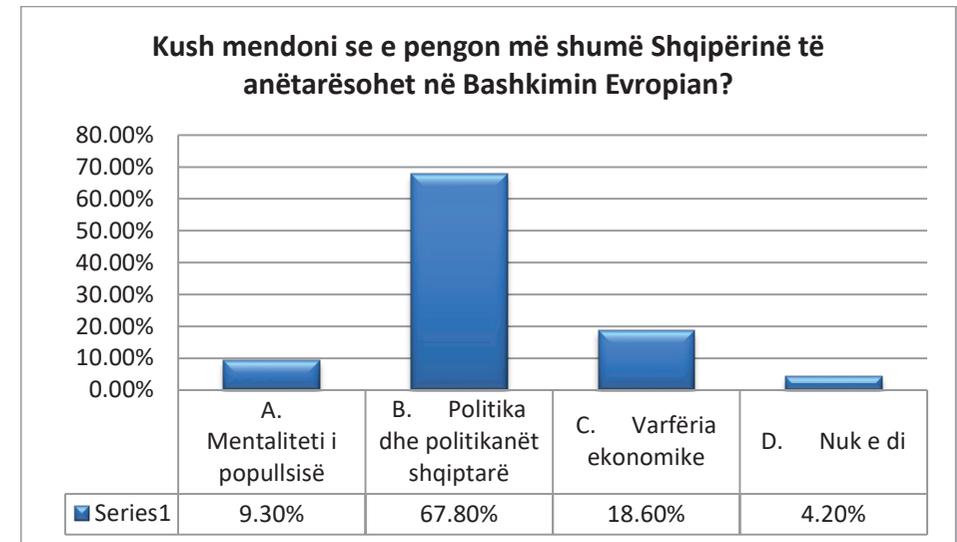
Graphic 11: In your opinion, what status does Albania currently have?

94.50% were right in saying the candidate status for membership, 3% said a member country, 1.70% said a definitely refused country and 0.90% do not know.



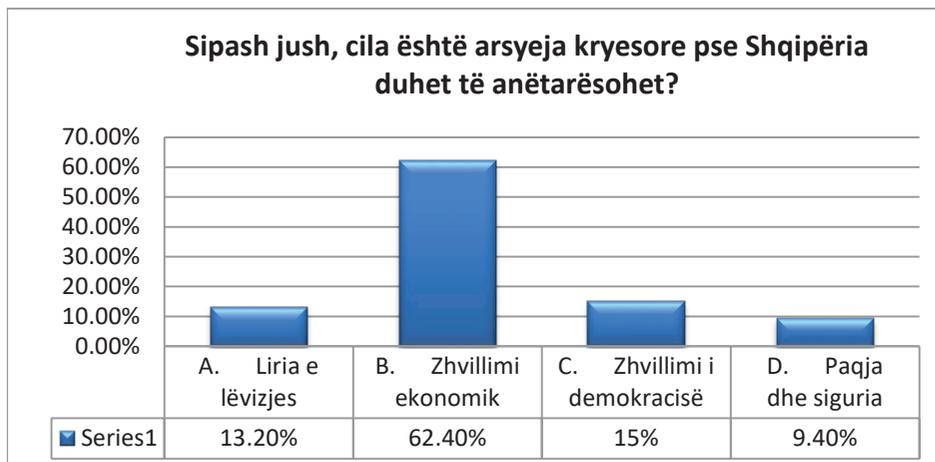
Graphic 12: Should Albania be a part of the EU?

62.4% said the economic development, 15% said the democratic development, 13.2% said the freedom of movement and 9.4% said peace and security.

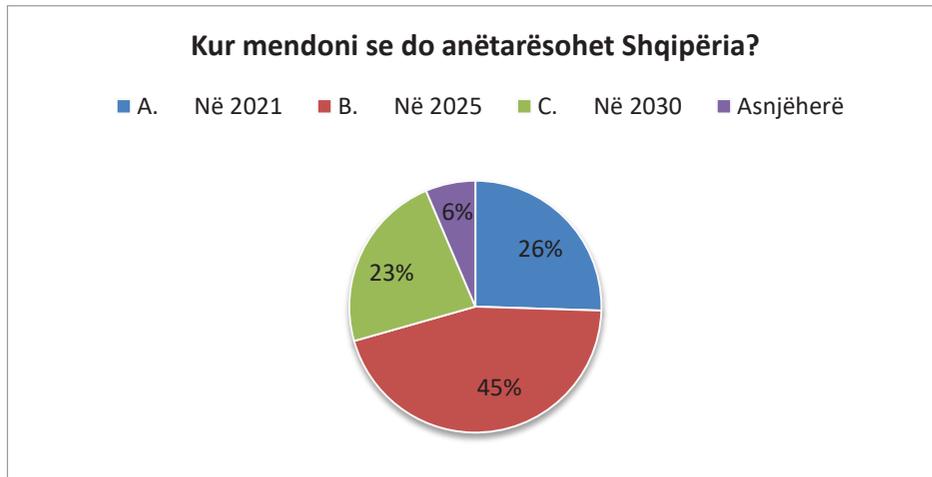


Graphic 14: Who do you think is the biggest obstacle for Albania's membership in the EU?

67.8% think the Albanian politics and politicians, 18.6% think the poverty, 9.3% said the mentality and 4.2% do not know.

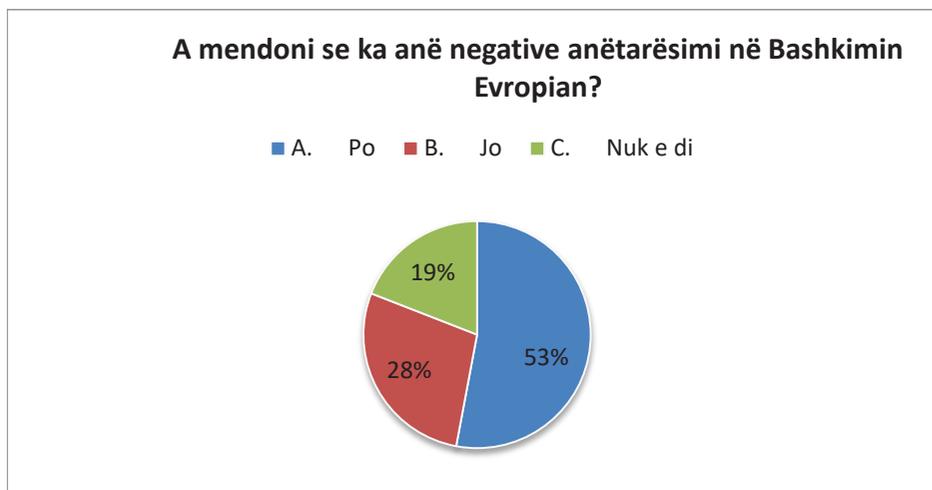


Graphic 13: According to you, what is the main reason why Albania should be a member of the EU?



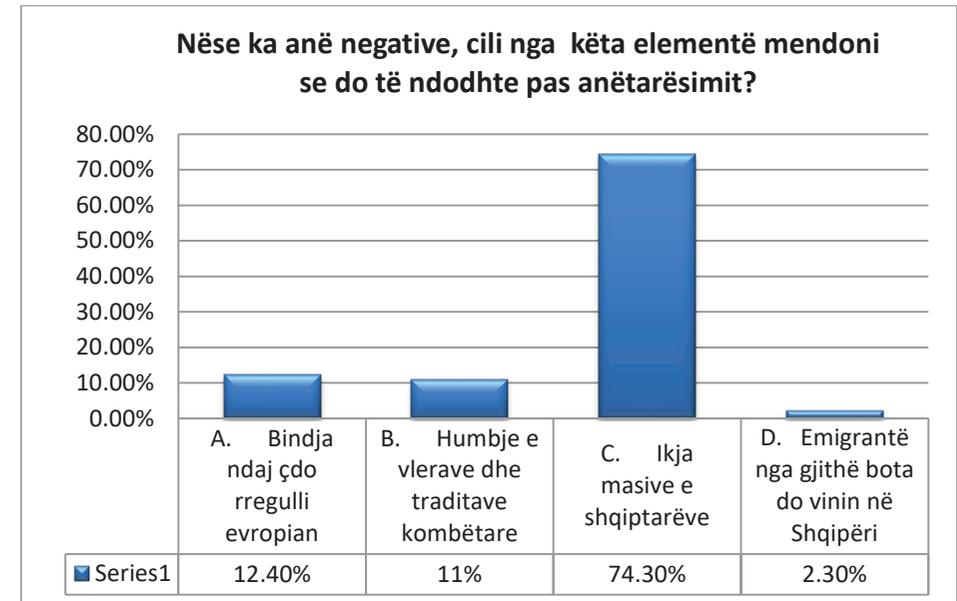
Graphic 15: When do you think that Albania will be a member of the EU?

45% of responders said in 2025, 26% said in 2021, 23% said in 2030 and 6% said never.



Graphic 16: Do you think there is a negative side in being a member of the EU?

53% are skeptical and said yes and 28% said no.



Graphic 17: If there are negative sides, which of these elements do you think would happen after the membership?

74.3% think there will be a massive emigration towards the EU countries, 12.4% said a total obedience to the EU regulations, 11% said a loss of the national traditions and culture and 2.3% think there will be foreign citizens coming in Albania.



CONCLUSIONS AND REKOMANDATIONS

Results from this study are an indication to the state of arts in which Albanian high School students are informed about EU processes and Albania and EU processes. Based on the study and answers of students, one can draw the following conclusions and recommendations.

1. The main information resource that youth in Albania have regarding European Union is TV and they do not encounter it in discussions with friends or family. European Parliament seems to be more known for them and the European Court seems to be the institution that in almost unknown.
2. Youth in Albania has clear and general information regarding the creation of EU, reasons of its founding but not for the correct number of the founding countries. As 90.2% of responders declared that "European Union" is a group of states, 89% of answers from responders are for "peacekeeping and stability" but less than half of them (only 41.6%) have given the right answer and 21.6 % declares to do not know the correct number of the founding countries.
3. Brussels is known even for Albanian youth as the capital of the EU.
4. After Brexit the countries number is changed from 28 to 27, but still most of high school students of Albania thinks there are 28 member states, this showing the lack of information regarding this topic in Albania. Even though 79.6% of responders believe that the most

important element on which EU is built is collaboration through countries.

5. Free movement is the main benefit that the youth believe they will have being part of the EU and sadly only 1% believes the free education everywhere will be the main benefit.
6. Almost everyone had knowledge of the Albania current status for membership and almost everyone is sure that Albania should be a part of the EU. Meanwhile, for more than half of responders, peace and stability in the region seems to be the main interest for the EU if they accept Albania as a member country. On the other hand the main reason why Albania should be a member of the EU for our students would be the economic development.
7. Most of the youth believes that Albania will be a member of the EU in 2025, 26% said in 2021, 23% said in 2030 and 6% said never, and the biggest obstacle for Albania's membership in the EU right now is the Albanian politics and politicians.
8. Still, half of responders are skeptical about the membership and most of them think it will bring a massive emigration towards the EU countries.

While since 2006 Albania Government have implemented in pre university curricula education on the EU, but the information therein is often fragmented, not progressive, too general and lacks of both consistency and complementarily with the other subjects that are taught. EU topics generally constitute at most a small part of the curriculum and all too often the focus lies on geography and the history of EU integration and less on how the



institutions function and on how they relate to national institutions. This makes it difficult for learners to build a comprehensive picture of the EU and the individual citizen's role therein, which does not lead to the development of a sense of European identity.

Fostering citizenship education and promoting education on the EU in schools by means of both formal and non-formal methodologies helps improving democratic culture and political literacy at both EU and national level.

ANNEX 1. SURVEY QUESTIONS

"Young Toward Europe" është një projekt i financuar nga programi IPA i Komisionit Evropian- IPA II European Union Integration Facility 2014.

Qëllimi i projektit është të rritet ndërgjegjësimi i publikut mbi procesin e pranimit dhe integritimit në BE, vlerat dhe institucionet kryesore të BE-së për të rinjtë e Republikës së Shqipërisë. Projekti zbatohet nga "Qendra Mesdheu –Universiteti Mesdhetar i Shqipërisë në partneritet me Institutin "Edukimi Drejt të Ardhmes" dhe Shkollën Bullgare të Politikave" Dimitry Panitza".

Ky pyetësor po realizohet në kuadër të një studimi për të matur perceptimin e nxënësve të shkollave të mesme për integrimin në BE, vlerat dhe institucionet kryesore të Bashkimit Evropian.

Të dhënat e pyetësorit janë personale dhe anonime.

Në secilën pyetje, zgjidhni vetëm një nga përgjigjet.

1. Në cilin grup-moshë bëni pjesë?
A. 14-15 vjeç B. 16-17 vjeç C. 18-19 vjeç
2. Gjinia:
A. Femër B. Mashkull
3. Ku përditshmërinë tuaj, ku e ndeshni më shpesh emërtimin "Bashkim Evropian"?
A. Në television B. Në internet
C. Në shkollë D. Në familje dheshoqëri



1. Çfarë është Bashkimi Evropian?
A. Njështet i madh B. Një shoqatë e madhe
C. Njëgrupimshtetesh D. Një biznes ndërkombëtar
2. Pse mendoni se u krijua Bashkimi Evropian?
A. Të zhvillohej turizmi B. Të konkuronte Amerikën
C. Të ruhej paqja dhe stabiliteti D. Nuk e di
3. Në dijenine tuaj, sa ishin shtetet që themeluan Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Tre B. Katër C. Gjashtë
D. Dhjetë E. Nuk e di
4. Sa anëtarë ka sot Bashkimi Evropian?
A. 12 B. 20
C. 28 D. Nuk e di
5. Emrin e cilit nga këta institucione keni dëgjuar më shpesh?
A. Komisioni Evropian B. Parlamenti Evropian
C. Këshilli Evropian D. Gjykata Evropiane
6. Sipas mendimit tuaj, cila është baza më e rëndësishme mbi të cilën është ndërtuar Bashkimi Evropian?
A. Mentaliteti i njëjtë B. Rritja ekonomike
C. Feja e përbashkët D. Bashkëpunimi midis shteteve
7. Cili konsiderohet si kryeqyteti i Bashkimit Evropian?
A. Parisi B. Brukseli
C. Berlioni D. Viena
8. Çfarë përfitimi kanë të rinjtë në Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Shkollimin falas kudo B. Lëvizin lirshëm dhe studiojnë ku të duan
C. Punësim të sigurt D. Të mos kenë nevojë të punojnë
9. Çfarë interesi mendoni se mund të ketë Bashkimi Evropian që ta pranojë Shqipërinë si anëtare?
A. Për të shtuar numrin e anëtarëve B. Interes për përfitim ekonomik
C. Për paqe dhe stabilitet në rajon D. Nuk e di
10. Në djeninë tuaj, çfarë statusi ka aktualisht Shqipëria në lidhje me Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Vend anëtar B. Vend kandidat për anëtar
C. Vend i refuzuarpërfundimisht D. Nuk e di



11. A duhet të anëtarësohet Shqipëria në Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Po B. Jo
C. Nuk ndryshon gjë D. Nuk e di
12. Sipash jush, cila është për ju arsyeja kryesore pse Shqipëria duhet të anëtarësohet?
A. Liria e lëvizjes B. Zhvillimie konomik
C. Zhvillimi i demokracisë D. Paqja dhe siguria
13. Kush mendoni ju se e pengon më shumë Shqipërinë të anëtarësohet në Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Mentaliteti i popullsisë B. Politika dhe politikanët shqiptarë
C. Varfëria ekonomike D. Nuk e di
14. Kur mendoni se do anëtarësohet Shqipëria?
A. Në 2021 B. Në 2025
C. Në 2030 D. Asnjëherë
15. A mendoni se ka anë negative anëtarësiminë Bashkimin Evropian?
A. Po B. Jo C. Nuk e di

16. Nëse ka anë negative, cilin nga këta element keni frikë se do ndodhte pas anëtarësimit?
A. Bindja ndaj çdo rregulli evropian
B. Humbje e vlerave dhe traditave kombëtare
C. Ikja masive e shqiptarëve
D. Emigrantë nga gjithë bota do vinin në Shqipëri

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