

WESTERN BALKAN AND THE EU : THE RISK OF FUTURE

Sead Osmanovic

Faculty for international economy, UDG, Podgorica, Montenegro

Email: sosmanovic@udg.edu.me

Abstract

Is there a better word to concentrate us on the relation between Western Balkan and European Union than the word risk, which would be able to fully express the essence of the relationship and the processes between these entities? In my opinion terms which are usually used to describe this relationship, such as integration, union, accession seem too shallow, one-dimensional, non-vital, not fully in-touch with reality... The context in which these words are used is more mechanistic, and I believe it is necessary to use holistic approach here. I am using the word “risk” in this paper in order to reveal the essence of changes in future Western Balkan within EU – that is something that will happen in close or distant future. Use of this term had double purpose. First, we cannot look at the processes of European integration of Western Balkan and whole Europe with ideological determinism. We cannot say that something is risky if outcomes are known in advance. This means that the paper is stressing the uncertainty of integration processes. Second, I understand the risk as orientation to the future. In other words, risk is a part of the system of values in the society oriented to future. The purpose of this is to point out the need that processes of EU integration should be understood as the way to abandon our traditional orientation to the past. We need to look into future. I want to stress out the importance of several challenges we need to face with, if we want to preserve our spirit and our culture in this new environment and new community. It is the process of much stronger and deeper intellectual movement of our spirit, instead of improving only “administrative capacities”.

Key words: *Risk, dignified spirit, the idea of Europe, courage of spirit.*

