

# IMPROVEMENTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CITIZENS AWARENESS TOWARDS EU INTEGRATION

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## **Abstract**

European Integration has been one of the main objectives of the government policy. In June 2006 Albania signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, which was ratified on January 2009 by the 25 EU member states of the time<sup>1</sup>. Albania has been implementing its obligations under the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) and had made crucial efforts towards the process of Integration. Nevertheless, the awareness of citizens regarding domestic laws and the enforcement of the law remains a crucial problem in Albania legal system. Some steps were taken during the years to improve enforcement of the law but the overall functioning of the national legal system still remains weak. The lack of people awareness helps the existence of informal activities by the citizens, which will reflect in the growth of corruption or in resolving the issues by people's manners and not by engaging state institutions. Strengthening law enforcement remains a government priority and also an essential requirement toward the path of EU membership. Proper access to justice for vulnerable groups is a big problem, because of both the overall weaknesses in the judiciary, and the poor execution of the court decisions. Many problems of the legal system of Albania helps that both this issues to have ground to coexist, such as the lack of implementation of the legislation and a generally low understanding of what constitute a violation of one's rights by the citizens. In this paper I would like to present the steps that Albania government had made regarding this issues and what else should be done in order to increase law enforcement and people awareness of law as we aspire for full membership in the European Union.

**Keywords:** *EU Integration, Law Enforcement, Citizens Awareness, Execution, Government Policy.*