

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING AND INTEGRATION IN ALBANIA AND MOLDOVA

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Abstract

Transformation is a process closely connected with reforms in the property-rights regime, but retransferring the ownership has been the core of this process in all post communist countries. The main objective of this article is to analyze the economic and integration reforms in Albania and Moldova. This article is about economies and societies in transition. The end of the East-West conflict – as has in the meantime become fairly clear – has by no means led to the end of history and a peaceful world. It gave only room for new confusions, which projects the world as a conglomerate of ideas, ideologies and facts whose analysis withstands rational logic. The term transition will be used in two contexts. On the one hand, to understand the structural transformation of the post- communist economies and societies in South-Eastern Europe and, on the other, to understand the more evolutionary changes adopted by the Balkan economies in their effort to respond to the logic of full economic integration in the European Union (EU). In the first case, we have radical discontinuity and in the second, a notable adaptation. In both cases the transition process seems to be inevitable. The need for understanding this transition compels an examination of the serious external and internal challenges faced by the economies in question. My central contention is that the currently unfolding and future economic restructuring and integration in the Balkan countries can only be meaningfully thought through, and I suggest implemented, within the context of the European market. It is clear that these regional economies cannot escape this simple proposition: the nature and character of their economic restructuring and economic integration will be determined by an economic rationality and logic produced outside the geographical boundaries of the Balkan peninsula.

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