

The Western Balkans on Their Way to the EU?

Edited by Siniša Kušić and Claudia Grupe

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reviewed by Theodore Lianos*

This small volume contains five essays on various aspects of the economies of countries in the western Balkans. The interest of these essays lies not so much in the economic situation of the countries included in them but rather the analysis of the factors that would make their accession to the European Union possible.

The contents of this volume are as follows. The first essay by Paulina Biernacka is about the impact of the Bosnian state structure on the economic relations between the European Union and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The second essay by Daniel Goler examines problems of regional development in Albania. The third essay by Vedra Horvat is a brief discussion of the need for better distribution and management of human resources and human capital in the countries of south-eastern Europe. The fourth essay is by Isa Mulaj and discusses the development prospects of Kosovo and its trade performance and foreign direct investment during the United Nations administration. The fifth and last essay by Sinisa Kusic and Claudia Grupe examines various aspects of intra-regional cooperation in the western Balkan countries and its development effects.

This small volume includes information and some statistics about the western Balkan countries. However the exposition is purely descriptive and has no analytical interest. There is no theoretical support for the arguments presented or for the statements made in the various parts of the book. Of course the lack of theoretical foundations and the absence of theory in general does not make this volume useless. On the contrary, the reader who is interested in learning about the existing economic situation in western Balkans will find this book very useful.

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