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# European Policies, transitional and consolidation processes

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### Abstract

Democratic transitions are an empirical minority of all major political transformations. Ongoing and completed democratic transitions of European policies will be on the focus of this paper. The biggest EU enlargement completed in 2004 and the last one in 2007 has been hailed as the most significant EU accomplishments. The eight Central and East European countries that joined the EU have been the most successful examples of democratic consolidation and transition to a market economy in the entire post Communist region. This paper poses the question of the impact of EU accession process on democratic consolidation and the consequences of EU membership on the quality of new democratic regimes in these countries. In the first part of the paper, I will make an introduction to the European policies from the first enlargement until the most recent one. In the second part, I will focus on dilemmas faced by the new, post Communist members of the EU. These dilemmas reveal the tension between requirements of EU membership and continuation of post Communist transformations aimed at improving the quality of democracy and securing a faster economic growth. In the third part of the paper I will deal with the Albanian example and its road towards EU membership.

**Keywords:** Transitional and consolidated processes, EU criteria, post Communist countries, Albania case, East European countries.