

Gender policies in Albania from a European perspective

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Abstract

Traditionally, the Albanian society was dominated by men. In between two world wars, efforts were made in improving the position of women in society, but the results were poor. During the communist regime, through a top down approach considerable results were achieved in women's participation in social, economic and political life. A real gender movement in Albania started only after the 90s, with comprehensive reforms for country's democratization. Regardless the difficulties during the transition period, the Albanian women reached high levels in education, labor market and public life. In the framework of the European integration process, the Albanian governments followed and implemented gender equality policies, consistent with the European legislation and international conventions. Through a qualitative and quantitative approach in the present study, we will be describing and analyzing the efforts and achievement of the Albanian government after the 90s, in implementing the international principles of gender equality, as a fundamental right of sustainable society development. The study is concentrated on state policies, legal framework, undertaken actions and the progress achieved in the framework of gender equality. It supports the domestic legal framework, international conventions and strategies, domestic statistics and analysis of Albanian and foreign scholars. As Albania officially just opened the negotiations for EU membership, the study's purpose is to understand Albania's path to gender policies in the framework of its integrating policies.

Keywords: gender equality, women empowerment, gender quotas, legal framework