

## **The European Union's Western Balkans Enlargement as a Challenge for the Future Integration on the European Continent**

### **Abstract:**

The enlargement of the European Union towards the Western Balkans remains an unfinished process. Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and Northern Macedonia, perhaps also Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, have perspective for membership. For this to happen, however, they must meet specific challenges.

The 2018 will perhaps be referred to as a breakthrough since after many years Brussels has returned to summit meetings with the countries of the Western Balkan region and it has been presenting a new integration agenda and the prospect of EU membership of Serbia and Montenegro in 2025. This seems to be the last moment to include these countries, which are in the orbit of the Union's interests. This is even more important for the EU as other players (China, Russia, Turkey) are also involved in this part of the continent.

**Keywords:** Western Balkans, EU enlargement, European integration, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo.