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ERASMUS – JMO – 2025 – 2028 MODULE
UNIVERSITY OF GJIROKASTRA
EU EDUCATION FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

EU4EduGovRegAl

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

Lecturer: Dr. Arjan GJINI

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OPEN FORUM OVERVIEW: EU4EduGovRegAl

Academic Transformation: Strengthening European Union studies through innovative teaching, interdisciplinary approaches, and research on EU governance.

Institutional Capacity Building: Supporting the modernization of public administration by promoting European standards of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Regional Engagement and European Awareness: Enhancing awareness of European integration and fostering cooperation among institutions, students, and regional stakeholders.

Sustainable Academic and Institutional Networks: Establishing long-term collaboration between universities, local governments, and international partners to support Albania's European integration process.

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🎯 FORUM OBJECTIVES

- 🇪🇺 Understanding EU Governance Principles
- 🏛️ Analyzing EU Institutions
- 🛰️ Promoting Active Citizenship
- 🤝 Connecting EU Governance with Albania
- 🏆 Applying Knowledge Practically

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INTRODUCTION AND IMPORTANCE (THE SOCIAL CONTRACT)

Electoral Systems in Europe: How is the Vote Transformed into Power?

EU Standards and Albania's Challenge on the Path to Integration

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WHY ELECTIONS ARE MORE THAN COUNTING VOTES

Elections as a "Social Contract" between citizens and the state

Moral legitimacy: Only free votes give governments the authority to reform

🇦🇱 For Albania:

Electoral reform = a concrete step toward the EU

Trust in voting = the foundation of European integration

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THE EU STANDARD: VENICE COMMISSION

The EU does not impose a system, but requires "Good Practice"

Pillars: Pluralism,

Administrative Integrity,

Financial Transparency

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THE THREE MODELS OF POWER

Majoritarian System (Winner-Takes-All)

Logic: Whoever gets even one vote more wins everything

Examples: United Kingdom, France

Message: Strong stability, but major loss of minority votes

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PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM (THE MIRROR OF THE NATION)

Logic: 30% of votes = 30% of seats

Examples: Albania, Spain, Netherlands

Message: Maximum fairness, but risk of fragmentation (complex coalitions)

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MIXED SYSTEM (THE GERMAN HYBRID)

Logic: Two votes – one for a candidate, one for a party

Message: "The best of both worlds" (direct link + fairness)

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THE ENGINEERING OF THE VOTE

Electoral Threshold: The Stability Filter

Why thresholds (3%, 5%)? To avoid parliaments with dozens of small parties

Risk: High thresholds may "burn" the will of millions of voters

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SEAT ALLOCATION MATHEMATICS: D'HONDT VS SAINTE-LAGUË

How are remaining seats distributed?

D'Hondt method (Albania):
Favors larger parties to form governments

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THE POWER OF THE VOTER

Closed Lists: MP as a "Party Soldier"

Party decides the ranking; voters choose only the party

Criticism: MPs obey party leaders, not citizens

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OPEN LISTS: PREFERENTIAL VOTING

Possibility to change the party ranking

Message: Direct accountability, but internal party competition

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ADMINISTRATION AND STANDARDS

Who Counts the Votes? (OSCE/ODIHR)

Political (partisan) vs technocratic (professional) administration

EU standard: Commissioners must obey the law, not parties



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PROCESS INTEGRITY: BEYOND ELECTION DAY

Accurate voter lists (no "ghost voters")

Campaign finance: Who pays for ads? Tracking illicit money

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ODIHR REPORT: THE "CERTIFICATE OF MATURITY"

Without a positive OSCE/ODIHR report, EU chapters do not open

Vote buying and pressure on administration: the "red line"

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NEW TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Digitalisation: E-Voting and I-Voting

Estonia model: Voting from home with a click

Albania: Electronic identification (PEV) to prevent double voting

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VOTING AT AGE 16?

Austria and Germany:

Why give young people a voice earlier?

Civic education begins in school

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DIASPORA VOTING: THE INEVITABLE STANDARD

- How can Albanians abroad vote? Mail vs technology
- Constitutional obligation and integration logistics

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ALBANIA AT THE FINAL TEST

Transition from "militant" to "technocratic" administration

Technology without trust is not enough

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MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS: YOU ARE THE "GUARDIANS"

Electoral integrity protects your dignity

Participation is the only cure against apathy

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CONCLUSION:

A Functioning Democracy, Elections in the EU are not just procedures –
they are quality standards for democracy
Vote → real representation → better policies

EU electoral systems ensure a balance between stability and representation
The European Parliament is the clearest example:

👉 Directly represents over 400 million citizens

👉 Functions based on free and transparent elections

🎯 👉 "Strong democracy does not come from a perfect system,
but from fair rules and honest implementation."

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CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS. SPACE FOR DISCUSSION.

THANK YOU

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