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

EU4EduGovRegAl

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

CoR

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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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS:

The Voice of Territories in the European Union

From Brussels to the Citizen – Multilevel Governance

👉 European Committee of the Regions https://cor.europa.eu/

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WHY REGIONS? THE DISTANCE BETWEEN DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION

KeyKey point: The success of the EU depends on the Brussels–territory distance

CoR as the guarantor of "Proximity Democracy"

👉 "A citizen from a region (Gjirokastra) → a decision in Brussels"

Example:; Municipality applies for funding

CoR gives its opinion

Commission approves the program

Funds are implemented on the ground

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A STRIKING FACT: 70% OF LEGISLATION

70% of EU laws are implemented by municipalities and regions

Regions are the real "builders" of Europe

👉 "The further the decision is from the citizen, the weaker the implementation."

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MANDATE AND STRUCTURE (THEME 8.1 & 8.2)
WHO ARE WE? ELECTORAL "HARD" LEGITIMACY

329 members who must hold an electoral mandate (Mayors, Regional Presidents)

Unbreakable link: If you lose local elections, you lose your seat in Brussels

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PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY (WHO ACTS?)

DECISIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO THE CITIZEN

THE EU INTERVENES ONLY WHEN NECESSARY

👉 "DECISIONS MUST BE TAKEN WHERE THEIR EFFECTS ARE FELT."

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PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONALITY (HOW MUCH INTERVENTION?)

- The EU should not use a "hammer" to crack a "nut"
- Protection of local autonomy from excessive bureaucracy

👉 "Cohesion is not just a policy – it is equality of opportunity."

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THE OPINION PROCESS (THEME 8.3)
THE 6 SPECIALIZED COMMISSIONS (LABORATORIES OF EXPERTISE)

COTER, ENVE, ECON, CIVEX, NAT, SEDEC

Role of the "Rapporteur": Analyzes the cost and impact of legislation on their region

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IMPACT CYCLE: FROM DRAFT TO LAW

How regions shape EU legislation:

1. 1.Initiation (European Commission) Drafting of new EU legislation based on policy needs
2. Consultation (European Committee of the Regions) Regions and cities provide opinions and propose amendments
3. Rapporteur Phase A regional representative analyzes the impact on territories and drafts recommendations
4. Adoption of Opinion (CoR Plenary); Formal opinion voted and adopted
5. Negotiation (Parliament & Council); Amendments from regions are considered during legislative negotiations
6. Final Law (Implementation in Regions); EU law is adopted and implemented by local and regional authorities

👉 Commission → CoR → Parliament/Council → Regions

🎯 "From local reality to European law – regions help shape decisions that affect their citizens."

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GUARDIAN OF SUBSIDIARITY AND THE "YELLOW CARD"

Right to challenge laws before the Court of Justice (CJEU) if local powers are affected

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COOPERATION AND TERRITORIAL DIPLOMACY (THEME 8.4)
HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION: INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION

Regions do not wait for the state; they create networks among themselves

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INSTRUMENTS: INTERREG AND EGTC

EGTC: When municipalities from different countries form a single legal entity.

🌍 INTERREG : 👉 Is a European Union program that finances cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation projects between regions and municipalities.

The essence of the program: Connects regions from different countries to solve common problems
Promotes economic, social and territorial development

Supports concrete projects in: tourism; environment; infrastructure; innovation.

🎯 "INTERREG turns borders from barriers into bridges of cooperation."

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OUTERMOST REGIONS (ORS) – A GEOSTRATEGIC ASSET

How remote islands make the EU a global maritime power

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COHESION POLICY AND INNOVATION (THEME 8.5)
THE "FUEL" OF DEVELOPMENT

Reducing inequalities between developed and less developed regions

👉 "How does CoR impact real life?"

A tourism project in Southern Albania funded by the EU

Reconstruction of a local road

Cross-border program with Greece

e.g. ADCCAM2ZERO. Adopting CCAM 2ZERO through ADRION Programmed Partnerships. Supporting a greener and climate resilient Adriatic-Ionian region

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SMART SPECIALISATION (S3)

Triple Helix: University – Business – Administration cooperation

Gjirokastra: Tourism, Heritage, and Digital Innovation

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DATA-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE (DASHBOARDS)

Real-time performance measurement

A fast-learning administration

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CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE

Green and Digital Transition in Regions

Circular economy and smart infrastructure (Smart Cities)

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THE EUROPE OF REGION

The success of a state is not measured by the power of its capital, but by the strength of its regions

Good governance is human and tangible

👉 "Europe begins in your municipality."

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ALBANIA AND THE PATH TOWARD EUROPEAN COHESION

Challenges for Albanian municipalities: analytical capacity and medium-term planning

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CONCLUSION: ALBANIA AND THE EUROPE OF REGIONS

ALBANIA IN THE EUROPE OF REGIONS: FROM BENEFICIARY TO ACTOR

Key Points:

Albanian municipalities are key actors of European integration on the ground

Cohesion policy offers real opportunities for regional development

Cross-border cooperation is a strategic advantage for the South

Strengthening local capacities is essential to benefit from EU funds

👉 "Be part of the change in your territory."

👉 "European integration does not start in Brussels – it starts in our municipalities."

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

THANK YOU

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