Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

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

EU4EduGovRegAl

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Lecturer: Dr. Arjan GJINI

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

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.

www.eurajonet.al Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

FORUM OBJECTIVES:

Understand EU governance principles

Explain EU institutional structure

Explore EU values and standards

Connect EU governance with Albania

www.eurajonet.al Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

From Technocratic Assembly to a Supranational Democratic Actor.
Why the European Parliament Matters

The European Parliament is:

- the only EU institution directly elected by citizens
- the democratic voice of European society
- a key actor in EU legislation and governance

Today it influences policies affecting more than 450 million citizens.

www.eurajonet.al Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

THE PARLIAMENT EVOLVED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER TIME:

1950s – Consultative Assembly

1979 – First direct elections

1992 – Maastricht Treaty expands powers

2009 – Lisbon Treaty strengthens legislative authority

Result: Parliament becomes co-legislator in EU governance.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORU

THE DEMOCRATIC ROLE

The Parliament represents:

Citizens of EU Member States

- democratic legitimacy in EU decision-making
- public debate at the European leve

It aims to reduce the democratic deficit in European integration.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM



THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Two theories explain the rise of the Parliament.

Neofunctionalism

- integration creates spillover effects
- supranational institutions gain power

Intergovernmentalism

- states remain the primary actor
- powers delegated strategically.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

POLITICAL GROUPS

Members sit according to political ideology, not nationality.

Major political groups include:

- European People's Party (EPP)
- Socialists and Democrats (S&D)
- Renew Europe
- Greens / European Free Alliance

Coalitions are necessary for legislation.

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Most legislative work happens in specialized committees.

Functions:

- examine legislative proposals
- propose amendments
- appoint a rapporteur responsible for reports

Committees provide technical expertise.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
PEN FORUM

INSTITUTIONAL GEOGRAPHY

The Parliament operates across three cities:

Strasbourg. • plenary sessions

Brussels • committee meetings and political groups

Luxembourg • administrative services

This reflects historical and political compromise.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

CORE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

The Parliament has three main powers:

- legislative authority
- budgetary control
- democratic oversight

Together they shape EU governance

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

Most EU laws follow the Ordinary Legislative Procedure.
Steps: Proposal from the Commission
Examination by Parliament and Council
Amendments and negotiations
Adoption of legislation
Both institutions must agree.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

THE ROLE OF TRILOGUES

Many legislative agreements occur through trilogues.

These are informal negotiations between: • Parliament • Council. • Commission

Advantages: • faster decision-making

Criticism: • reduced transparency.

www.eurajonet.al Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

EU legislation takes different forms.

Regulations • directly applicable in all Member States

Directives • require national implementation

Decisions • binding for specific actors.

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM



BUDGETARY POWER

The Parliament shares responsibility for the EU budget.

Key powers include:

- approving the annual budget
- supervising budget implementation
- influencing long-term financial priorities.

Budget control is a major political tool.

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

ELECTION OF THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT

After European elections:

European Council proposes a candidate

Parliament votes to approve the President

Commissioners undergo parliamentary hearings.

This strengthens democratic accountability.

www.eurajonet.al Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

MOTION OF CENSURE

The Parliament can dismiss the Commission through a motion of censure.

Requirements: • two-thirds majority vote

Although rarely used, it represents a powerful control mechanism.

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

OPEN FORUM

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

The Parliament exercises continuous oversight through:

- parliamentary questions
- investigative committees
- hearings of EU officials
- policy debates

These tools ensure accountability.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

THE PARLIAMENT IN GLOBAL POLITICS

The Parliament plays a role in international relations.

Activities include:

- election observation missions
- parliamentary diplomacy
- approval of international agreements.

It also promotes democratic values worldwide.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

THE PARLIAMENT CLOSELY MONITORS ENLARGEMENT.

Key tasks: • reviewing progress reports
• supporting democratic reforms
• engaging with national parliaments.

It plays an important role in accession negotiations.

Simulation: Albania in the European Parliament

If Albania joins the EU: Estimated seats: 9–11 Members of Parliament

Representation principle: degressive proportionality
Small states receive relatively stronger representation compared to population size.

Funded by the European Union

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM

CONCLUSION:

The European Parliament has transformed into:

- a central actor in EU governance
- a democratic forum for European citizens
- a co-legislator shaping EU policy

Its future role will depend on:

- citizen participation
- institutional reforms
- the evolution of European integration.

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al; gjirokastra@eurajonet.al

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
OPEN FORUM



DISCLAIMER:

THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) ONLY AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OR THE EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EACEA). NEITHER THE EUROPEAN UNION N OR THE FUNDING AUTHORITY CAN BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM..

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

THANK YOU

www.eurajonet.al

Email: agjini@uogj.edu.al