

Assisting state-building in the Balkans: The Case of Macedonia

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Abstract

Once the conflict was resolved in Macedonia in 2001, the country entered its normal path to state consolidation and democracy. The EU mission in Macedonia is a success but this is just the first step towards the EU accession. The priorities of this country are primarily the fight against crime and the independence of justice and, in the same time, the adoption of social and economic reforms with assistance from the European Union. Sometimes, the reform of public administration and the increase in state capacity are enough to push a country to meet the consolidated state criteria. Macedonia undertook these reforms both at domestic and foreign pressure and works continuously for assessing the statute of EU full membership.

Key words: state building, stabilization, EU conditionality, ethnic pressure