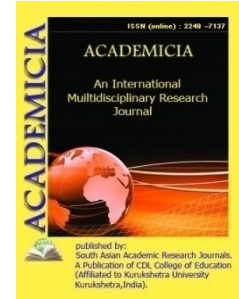




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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND WESTERN BALKANS

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ABSTRACT

The article shows the current economic situation in the Western Balkans, gives an assessment of the economic development of the countries at the present time, the development prospects. The "shadow" component that emerged in the 1990s plays a major role in the country's economic life. The unemployment rate in Albania is relatively low for the region. The role of SMEs in economies remains relatively small. In the countries of the third group there is a high level of social protection for society, but the social dialogue between entrepreneurs and their employees is poorly developed. Despite these improvements, per capita income levels are expected to remain 6.5% below pre-pandemic projections through 2022. Tourism-dependent economies, particularly Albania and Montenegro, will continue to struggle with restrictions on international travel.

KEYWORDS: *Western Balkans, Pandemic, Integration, Macroeconomic Indicators*

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