



*The Influence and Effects of EU Business Law
in the Western Balkans*

1st EU Business Law Forum

Dragan Gajin:
**Implementation of EU Internal Market
Law in the Western Balkans**
(abstract)

Széchenyi István University | Faculty of Law and Political Sciences |

Centre for European Studies

15 – 16 June 2017 | Győr | Hungary

The conference is carried out within the research stream of “Jean Monnet Module on EU Business Law” (EUBLAW) funded by the Erasmus+ Programme



Implementation of EU Internal Market Law in the Western Balkans

While the level of progress in EU accession differs from country to country, the entire Western Balkans is at some stage of joining the EU. This inherently puts them in a similar position when it comes to trade regime with the EU as well as concerning the obligations to harmonize legislation with the EU acquis.

In addition to trade agreements with the EU, all Western Balkans countries also have a mutual trade agreement – Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). This agreement, seen as a kind of an entrance hall to the EU which all Western Balkans countries need to pass on their path to the EU, is an extra element in the harmonization of legislation.

The sheer volume and constant evolution of the EU internal market legislation is not the only issue Western Balkans countries are facing. From a practical point of view, at least equally important problem is the situation where a country is supposed to adopt (and apply) EU legislation which does not entirely fit in the local context. An example of are EU competition rules, which all Western Balkans countries have adopted in one form or another.

These rules were in the EU drafted (and are being implemented) considering the internal market context and safeguarding the internal market is one of their proclaimed purposes. And, if such rules are applied by a non-EU country at a different level of economic development than the block, the result may be inadequate. This particularly in case of a protracted accession process, with no clear indication of its conclusion.