

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSIT COUNTRIES IN ENSURING EU ENERGY SECURITY: THE CASE OF UKRAINE**

**Fatri Morina**

Lecturer/European University of Tirana  
**ALBANIA**

**Përparim Fuga**

Lecturer/European University of Tirana  
**ALBANIA**

### **ABSTRACT**

Energy security is one of the main components of national and international security; as a consequence its guarantee should be among the main objectives of states and international institutions. The main focus of policies and also of scientific researches has been mainly related to energy security in importing and exporting countries, leaving thus in a second plan the energy projects of transit countries. European Union countries are characterized from a high dependence from imported energy. Ensuring energy security must be a high priority for EU. The purpose of this article is to analyse the role and importance of energy transit countries in ensuring energy security in the EU. Given that the EU is highly dependent on imports of energy producing countries, mainly Russia, it is necessary for the EU to handle a particular priority diversification of energy sources. This article analyses the role of Ukraine as a transit country in ensuring EU energy security. The Ukraine crisis demonstrated the 'fragility' of EU to guarantee their energy security.

**Keywords:** Energy security, European Union, Ukraine.