

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*This paper analyses the effects of societal and demographic factors on the levels of interpersonal violence in ethnic Albanian context. It further explores the concept of intentionality which lies in the distinction between the intent to injure and the intent to 'use violence'. The paper starts with the postulation that violence is often culturally determined; and, in Albania, cultural specificity and tradition are sometimes given as justifications for particular social practices that perpetuate violence. By using person perception method, it examines in a methodical way to which extent cultural norms are nowadays responsible for the violent and criminal behaviour of various segments of the ethnic Albanian population. Is violence in Albanian context a structured phenomenon closely linked to the Albanian customary laws, e.g., the Kanun of Lek Dukagjini, or is it simply a product of social confusion, lack of norms and poverty? The research particularly looks at honour crimes linked to oppression of women and revenge killings. The conclusions drawn in this paper are empirically founded and based on a cross-national public survey with ethnic Albanian respondents from Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia (N=864). The survey was carried out during 2006 and was supported by a grant from the CERGE-EI Foundation under a program of the Global Development Network.*

**Key words:** Albania; Kosovo; Macedonia; Kanun of Lek Dukajini; cultural norms; revenge killing; honour crimes; gender subordination.