



Department of Political Science
and International Relations

ANNUAL REPORT

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019



Annual Report

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019

Contents

A. Organization & Management.....	4
Study programs offered by the Department	6
B. Resources	8
Finance	11
IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources	12
C. The Curriculum.....	30
Graduate Teaching.....	327
Graduate Students' List of Theses.....	38
List of Incoming & Outgoing Students	38
Research Areas and Research Groups	39
List of Publications.....	42
Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events	433
Projects	43
E. Support, Resources & Representation	44
List of Students' Internships.....	44
Participation in Academic Events	44
Student Best Success Stories	53
Office Holders	58
Acknowledgements	58

A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Epoka University's Department for Political Science and International Relations (PIR) was founded in 2008, being one of the first departments of Epoka University accredited by the Albanian national higher education authorities. The PIR offers degrees in three study cycles, including Bachelor, Master, and PhD. The language of all study programs is in English. The studies are fully compliant programs with the requirements of the higher education in Albania as well as with the Bologna process and European Credit Transfer System.

The PIR's mission is to train a new kind and highly skilled leaders by setting standards in academic content and quality of teaching. Only a short period of time is required to effect great change in this day and age. In this light, the PIR's faculty and staff are committed to:

- equip students with the skills they need to deal with contemporary issues,
- provide advanced academic training to students, and
- promote research at the highest level.

Today's societies face great structural changes. One development, among others, is of central importance: the emergence of new forms of governance within state and society. There is an increased demand for innovative problem solving across all sectors. Facing these challenges, future leaders from all countries and societies, dealing with public affairs in state administration, in business and in civil society need to be better educated and trained. PIR devotes itself to this task. In Tirana, Albania, students are only a short distance away from an extraordinary range of opportunities, many of them tailored to suit the interests of the students and professionals.

PIR aims to significantly advance its student numbers and teaching, learning environment, research and management of the department. In doing so, PIR imagines itself to be the venue for the study of political science and international relations in Albania. To achieve this vision, PIR commits to increase student numbers, maintain and increase the quality of enrolled students, internationalise student body further, strengthen the quality of teaching, learning and research, and increase the satisfaction of our students and staff. This will enable PIR to move to a position where we can differentiate ourselves uniquely and convincingly.

Achievements have been made in the students, staff, networks, teaching, research, and brand/market standing. The PIR graduates and alumni have had high employability rate. Number of them has continued their master studies with scholarships awarded by some west European or North American universities. PIR's Staff members have grown in number and quality. New faculty members have been hired and existing lecturers with masters have obtained their doctorate degrees and a professor with doctorate degree has obtained his associate professorship. In terms of networks, the PIR has expanded its partnerships with other universities. Its sound teaching quality is one of the academic strengths of the PIR and its relevance relies on ability to continue to deliver outstanding education and teaching. The professors completed their PhD studies in Albania, France, Germany, and UK. Substantial majority of academic staff is consisted of members who are fluent in English and proficient in Albanian. The

professors specialize in Political Science, International Relations and security studies, Conflict Resolution, Democratization, and Diplomacy. They have managed research projects and published papers in peer reviewed journals with impact factor. Nevertheless, it remains more to be done as regards improvement of research reputation of PIR. The PIR's brand/market standing or image has been reinforced and enhanced as there has been general improvement of the Epoka University's and of Albania's image as the venue for obtaining a quality higher education. The PIR takes pride in these achievements and it gives a confidence that the department will continue to grow and prosper over the next years.

Study programs offered by the Department

Department of Political Science and International Relations offers programs in Bachelor, Master and PhD level.

Bachelor program in Political Science and International Relations is a three-year English taught program. It covers the four major sub-fields in the discipline: comparative politics, international relations, political theory and Albanian politics. The program's main objective is to provide a balanced education. In addition to courses that orient them to the field, students are given the opportunity to conduct extensive research on such contemporary issues as the European Union, political economy, democratization, human rights, gender and identity politics. The program offers a wide range of elective courses in order to allow students to specialize in various areas. Faculty members, all of whom have obtained their degrees from distinguished American or European universities, are in constant interaction with colleagues and institutions in many countries of the world. In addition, the program ties serve as a bridge for students interested in enrolling in master or PhD programs in universities abroad. Each year several students receive scholarships from U.S. and European universities for graduate studies.

Epoka University's Department of Political Science and International Relations awards Master of Science degrees by providing advanced academic training to students and by promoting research at the highest level. It welcomes students who wish to study for the fully compliant program with the requirements of the higher education in Albania as well as with the Europe's Bologna process and European Credit Transfer System. The programs are approved and accredited by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Republic of Albania. Epoka University's Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations offers a two year advanced academic training at the Master's level. The language of the program is in English. The academic program covers major subfields in the discipline: comparative politics, international relations, public administration and political theory. The program's main objective is to provide a balanced education committed to diversity. In addition to courses that orient them to the field, students are given the opportunity to conduct extensive research on contemporary issues such as the European Union, political economy, democratization, human rights, gender and identity politics. Some of the main modules are Academic Reading and Writing, Economic and Political Integration and EU, Nationalism and Ethnic Studies, Issues in Political Theory, Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions, Political Theories, and several other subjects included in a pool of elective courses. The last semester is devoted to thesis preparation. Beside English being the language of instruction, international academic staff also brings further quality to the master program. Epoka University's platforms, such as mobility and exchange to other Universities, forums, talks, mobility, lectures and symposia offers ample space for scientific exchange and the transfer of knowledge into politics and to the broader public. Using a multidisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes research methods drawn from economics and the social sciences, students and faculty examine a wide range of international and national policy issues.

Epoka University's Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations offers one year academic training at Master's level. The language of the program is in English. The Professional Master's degree program is an interdisciplinary program of study with a concentrated time for completion in a year time. The academic program in the first and second semester includes courses on comparative politics, international relations, public administration and political theory. The second semester is also devoted to master thesis preparation.

Professional Master program includes 60 credits. It includes two semesters, and the thesis is written in the second semester. With the graduation, students earn Level 7 of Vocational Qualification in accordance to the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework. The Professional Master program aims to train professionals in the field of political science and international relations. The program equips people with the skills they need to deal with contemporary issues. The program provides its students with qualifications needed in the increasingly interlinked world. Department graduates find career opportunities at home and abroad in the private as well as the public sector.

The PhD Program in Political Science and International Relations aims at following the universal approaches in the disciplines of both Political Science and International Relations and also handling academically the conditions and problems peculiar to Albania, Balkans, and European Union and wider. The aim of the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations is to prepare academicians and experts with specialized knowledge in their fields of interest. The subfields include International Relations, Political Science, European Studies, Balkan Studies and Albanian Politics.

The PhD Program on Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University provides profitable courses, which are expected to increase the choices of students and to lead them to specialize in the areas selected by them. While the students are taking courses in the areas like Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries, Debates on Current International Issues, Politics of European Integration, Political Economy of Western Europe, European Union Law etc., the Program will urge them to develop critical thinking towards their expected works in these areas.

PhD program includes 180 credits and runs for at least three years. It includes at least 6 semesters with 2 semesters of study and four semesters for writing of the PhD thesis. During the first year of Ph.D., it is required to complete 6 courses (60 ECTS) and during the next two years, thesis work or final dissertation (120 ECTS) should be submitted, and this will result in the completion of a total of 180 ECTS. The Ph.D. study program for full-time students lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of eight semesters 8 (four academic years) and for part-time students, it lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of twelve semesters (six academic years). Candidates must submit the dissertation within that time frame, unless they can invoke truly exceptional grounds (for instance a medical emergency) to justify deferring submission. Under certain circumstances, it is possible to spend time away from Tirana to pursue research. With the graduation, students earn Level 8 of General Qualification in accordance to the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff

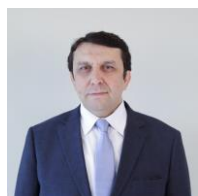


Dr. Islam Jusufi
Head of the Department

Islam Jusufi is Lecturer and Head of the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations at Epoka University, Tirana, Albania. Studied Politics at University of Sheffield and International Relations at Universities of Amsterdam, Bilkent and Ankara. He held fellowships at the Wilson Centre, Washington DC; EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris; ERSTE Stiftung, Vienna; UNESCO, Paris; Centre for Policy Studies, Budapest; and NATO, Brussels. His research interests relate to international, European and Balkan politics and security studies. He is appointed as alternate of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government in the Council of Europe.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti
Lecturer



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan
Lecturer



Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
Lecturer



Dr. Reina Shehi
Lecturer



Dr. Ari Weinstein
Lecturer



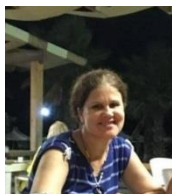
MSc. Jubjana Vila
Assistant Lecturer

Jubjana Vila (Zeka) is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University, Tirana, Albania. She earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Minor degree in Economics, a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations. Her areas of interests include international relations, foreign policy, conflict studies, Balkan politics and EU politics. She is teaching courses of foreign policy, global governance, political psychology and research methods.

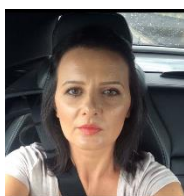
Part time Academic Staff



Prof. Dr. Gergji Sinani
Political Ideology



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ardjana Braja
Italian I, II, III



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Gishti
French I, II, III



MSc. Nensi Gjetani
German I, II, III



MSc. Ada Cara
Advanced English
Developing Reading and Writing Skills in English

Academic Visitors (2016-2017)



Prof. Mircea Brie
University of Oradea, Romania



Dr. Istvan Polgar
University of Oradea, Romania

Administrative Staff



Nertila Duraj
Department Coordinator

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

Did not receive information yet

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

Epoka is located on the Tirana-Rinas road, on the 12th kilometre. The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m². The 2017-2018 academic year is being conducted regularly in the premises of two buildings with a total area of 14352 m².



Master-Plan of the Campus.



Location of the campus on the Tirana-Rinas road



E-building

This building (E-building) has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process.



Classrooms E-building



Auditoriums in E-building

In September 2013, the construction of A-Building the “Cultural Social Object of Epoka University” was completed. In addition to classrooms, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, libraries, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc. Below is shown a current picture of the building.



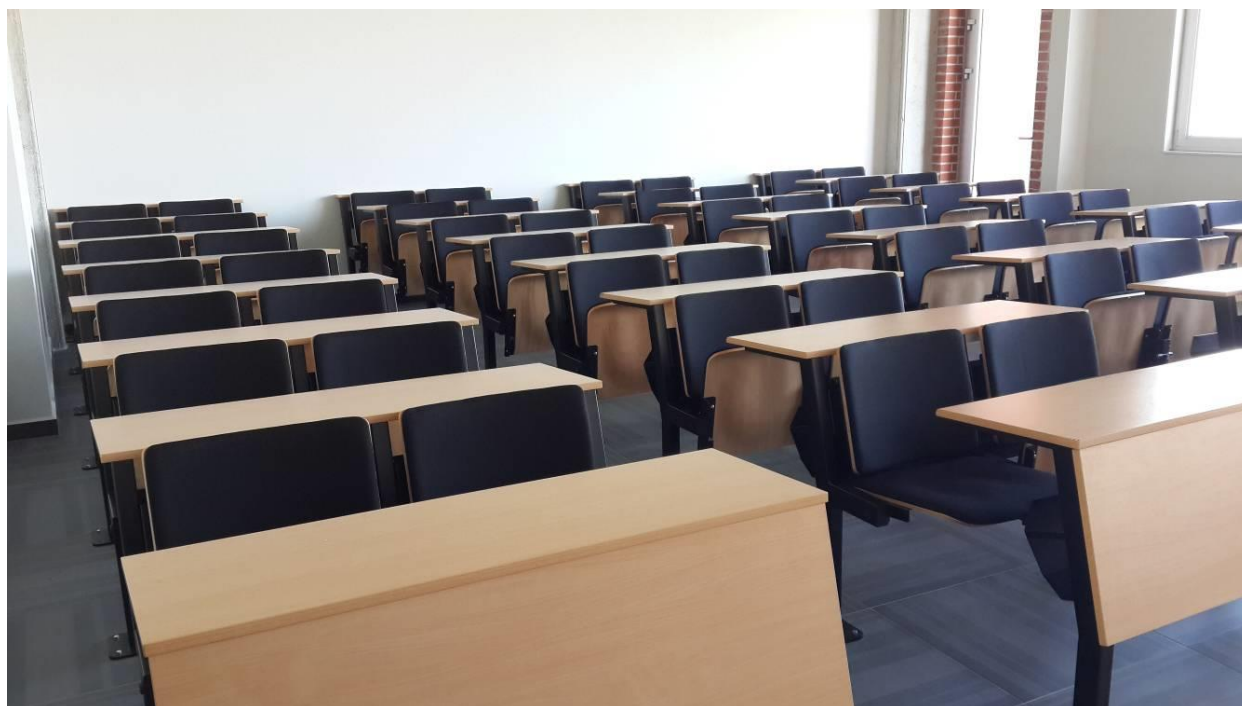
A-building, Cultural and Social Object



A-building, Cultural Social Object



Classrooms in A-building



Classrooms in A-building

Measurable indicators:

Table 1: Premises of Epoka (that are also used for the purposes of PIR study programs)

Premises for the Faculties	Quantity	Surface	m²/student
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	5	752	0.40
Classrooms for seminars	17	1545	0.82
Premises for promotion activities	1	128	0.07
Classrooms for course/professional practice	2	258	0.14
Laboratories for courses	3	233	0.12
Informatics laboratories	2	174.6	0.12
Internet Room	2	151.8	0.12
Library Hall	1	322	0.17
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	85.2	0.05
Student information office	2	71	0.04
Corridors/halls	25	2707.4	1.44
Sports premises	5	463	0.25
Premises for service to third parties	1	56	0.03
Restrooms (WC) for students	54	327.2	0.17
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	35	212.1	2.16
Premises for personnel:	Quantity	Surface	m²/person ratio

Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	5	285.5	40.79
Office for the Administrator	1	25.4	25.40
Offices for the Department Coordinators	2	60.6	20.20
Offices for departments/research centres	12	328.5	27.38
Offices for the academic personnel	40	620	6.33
Office for the Finance Office	2	37	18.50
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	50	50.00
Meeting rooms	2	75	0.77
Premises for service personnel	11		30.33
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30	1.30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast-food/ restaurant	1	337	0.17
Total	234	9335.3	

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Epoka Campus uses 17 classrooms: (E-B10, E-B11, E-211, E-212, E-213, E-311, E-312, E-313, A 117, A118, A119, A120, A127, A128, A129, A130, A131), 5 auditoriums: (E-012, E-110, E-214, E-314 and A-005) a conference room (E-B01), three computer laboratories (E-011, E-015, A-126), an electronic lab (E-010) and a civil engineering laboratory. There are 3 internet rooms as it is reflected in the table above, but Epoka offers wireless internet throughout its premises. The facilities used are equipped with central heating-cooling systems, video projectors, smart boards and sound systems, The capacities used are given in the tables and the photo gallery above and below.

Table 2: Classrooms used during the 2018-2019 academic year

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E B10	75	56
2	E B11	104	60
3	E 211	64	36
4	E 212	81.32	72
5	E 213	81.72	72
6	E 311	63.46	40
7	E 312	81.32	48
8	E 313	81.72	40
9	A 117	138.0	35
10	A 118	138.0	35
11	A 119	138.0	35
12	A 120	138.0	35
13	A 127	72.41	56
14	A 128	73.53	56

15	A 129	73.71	56
16	A 130	72.02	56
17	A 131	72.02	56
total	17	1548.23	836

Auditoriums used during the 2018-2019 academic year

No.	Name of Auditorium	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E 012	131.54	66
2	E 110	130.82	136
3	E 214	154.32	150
4	E 314	154.32	134
5	A 005	145.2	65
total	5	716.2	551

Laboratories used during the 2018-2019 academic year:

Name	Laboratories	Surface (m2)	Capacity
E 011	Informatics Laboratory 2	96.64	42+1
E 015	Informatics Laboratory 1	77.93	40+1
A 126	Informatics Laboratory 3	75.12	42+1
E 012	Electronic Laboratory	132	20+1
I 001	Civil Engineering Laboratory	283	40



Informatics Laboratory 1



Informatics Laboratory 2



Informatics Laboratory 3



Conference Hall 1

Epoka has a conference hall with an area of 128 m² and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used for social, cultural and various national and international forums and conferences. The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. A new conference hall with an area of about 400 m² and a capacity of 300 persons is under construction on the premises of the “Cultural Social Object” building.



Conference Hall 2, under construction



Eagle Meeting Room



Diversity Meeting Room



Library

ICTC Office Services

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions.

ICTCO works on the projects for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel.

ICTCO provides the following services:



Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps staff and students to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users, and trains the staff about how to use turnitin.

- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructor can login on LMS using the provided official email account.
- **Library Automation System (Koha)** - Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.
- **DSpace**– The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content, including master and PhD theses as well as papers presented in the conferences. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania (<http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania>). We also give services to other international journals to publish their publications (<http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378>) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

- **Webmail (Google account)** – Epoka University is using Google Apps for Education services and all students and academic and administrative staff are provided with an email address under “epoka.edu.al” domain which is a Google account. Besides official communication which is achieved through this email address, this account can be used for authentication to other online systems offered by university.
- **Google Classroom** – A more interactive service offered by Google as part of Google Apps for education in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials on cloud. By using Google Classroom, course materials can be integrated with other Google services where assigned users can collaborate. Students and instructors can access this service using the provided account.

Education Information System (Curriculum) – an Epoka website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabuses.

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers. The staff and students can access the campus only with their smart

cards. This system allows tracking the presence and absence of the staff and the students. The e-wallet (payment related) application is active for staff but has not started yet for students.

Help Desk: ICTCO is also responsible for the maintenance of PC Lab computers in respect to software and hardware. Its staff monitors the personal computers within the frame of distribution of duty and authority and brings the issues to a conclusion. At the same time, ICTCO plans servers and cabling services of the University. Staff can open ticket via help.epoka.edu.al for their ICTCO related problems and follow the process from here. They can share their opinions on every subject related to information technologies and informatics with help@epoka.edu.al and they can also write their complaints and suggestions for a better campus life.

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription of Microsoft Program which is called DreamSpark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka family members can download software through www.dreamspark.com website at no cost. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staffs and students which includes all office applications for free.

Network

Wireless: Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members in the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere in campus.

Wired: Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room and a library where PCs serve students and staffs with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classrooms, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use for wired internet and electricity for their laptops.

Digital Signage: There are four TVs in the campus that are used to inform Epoka members about latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)



Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)

Recognizing the needs of campus community, Epoka has made a strategic decision to replace its aging, cumbersome, and vendor-supported student, instructors, and staff systems with a modern, nimble and effective internally built system that includes admissions, enrolment, registration, financial aid, student, instructor, and staff accounts, and advising in one platform.

EIS is developed by ICTCO at Epoka University. From the user interface, EIS is an online interactive system where users can log in using the provided official email account. It is a modular system organized by roles and respective units at the university and the information is stored in a centralized database. All users have access to their personal information, can update general details and CV and they can manage job related tasks and activities according to their role and job position.

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that, students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. They can also access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the “warning zone” for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.
- **Instructors:** Academic staff including full-time and part-time lecturers can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Instructors/Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize

grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.

- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty administrators. Coordinators and administrators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under respective department.
- **Admissions and Registrar's Office:** The Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by Admissions Office, is managed by Registrar's Office.
- **Finance:** The Finance Office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.
- **Human Resources:** The Human Resources Office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.
- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curricula and course syllabus.

All users have access to their personalized reports according to their roles and respective units. Faculties and units are liberated from tedious manual tasks. EIS supplies them with new and most updated information that will empower them to make informed decisions based on data.

EIS can be continuously updated with new modules according to the university needs. EIS can be accessed via: <https://eis.epoka.edu.al> and users can log-in by their Epoka Mail account credentials.

Measurable indicators:

Table 3: Data on IT services

number of PCs for graduate students	120
number of PC furnished labs for graduate students	4
number of PCs for academic staff	87
number of PCs for administration	53
number of printers	15
number of photocopying machines	15
number of head projectors	1
number of video-projectors	27
number of scanners	10

LIBRARY

The Epoka University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents.

With its 100-seating capacity, our library has 400 square meters area of use. The Library is composed of entrance, book and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do their research.

Epoka University is a member of Balkan Libraries Union which was founded on 29 July 2009 with the participation of 10 institutions from 6 Balkan countries.

The library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, academics and administrative staff. Under the Department of Library and Documentation, the library has a total of about 7500 printed books.

Digital Databases

Epoka University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 2,000 academic journals. JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations.

Every member of Epoka staff can have access to JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

The Library works on the open shelf system enabling students and staff to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book, the visitor follows these steps:

1. Through the catalogue search computers in the library; the visitor searches author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.
2. To get the book, the visitor can go to the shelves with the classification and location numbers of the books appearing on the screen as a result of search.

Regulations

Students of Bachelor, Master and PhD study programs as well as academic and administrative personnel are members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules.

Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books; they are only allowed to use and copy the materials inside the library. Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Table 4: Circulation Rules

Resource	Patron	Loan period(days)	Maximum number of check-outs(items)
Book	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	15	3
	Graduate students	15	5
	Staff	20	5
Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students Graduate students Staff	3	3

C. The Curriculum

Undergraduate Teaching

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 111	Introduction to Political Science	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 133	Political and Diplomatic History	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 105	Introduction to Law	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 103	Introduction to Political Sociology	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 131	Introduction to International Relations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
*ENG 107	Core English	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
*ENG 109	Developing Reading and Writing Skills	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
* According to entry test APTIS proficiency level.															
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 105	Theories and Concepts of Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 135	Introduction to International Development	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 107	Historical Approaches to the Study of Politics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 102	Political Communication	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 104	Key Themes in the History of Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 116	Constitutional Law	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 132	Introduction to International Security	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 162	Introduction to Public Administration	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
*ENG 106	Advanced English	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
*ENG 109	Developing Reading and Writing Skills	E	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
* According to entry test APTIS proficiency level.															
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 134	International Relations in Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 108	Empire and Modern Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 164	Public and Government Relations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 136	States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Third Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 201	Research Methods in Social Sciences	C	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 261	Government, Politics and Public Policy in Albania	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 101	Introduction to Economics I	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 203	Politics and Institutions in the EU	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 205	Introduction to Comparative Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective I (Foreign Language)	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
FL 201	Turkish I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 203	German I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 205	Italian I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 207	French I	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 235	Europe: Politics and Ideas	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 207	Introduction to Game Theory with Political Applications	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 263	Public Opinion Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 231	US Foreign Policy	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 233	Politics of the USA	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 208	Political Psychology	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 204	Politics and History of the Balkans	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 230	Ethics and International Affairs	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 206	Parties, Elections and Policy Making	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
ECO 102	Introduction to Economics II	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective I (Foreign Language)	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
FL 202	Turkish II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 204	German II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 206	Italian II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 208	French II	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 230	Ethics and International Affairs	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 208	Political Psychology	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 260	Government Administration	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Third YEAR															
Fifth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 311	Democracy and Democratization	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
PIR 361	Public Policy Making and Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 333	Foreign Policy Analysis	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
XXX	Elective I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX	Elective III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	320	0	0	402	28	750	30

Elective Courses															
BUS 335	Human Resources Management	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 303	Political Leadership	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 331	Theories of International Relations	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 301	Political Ideologies	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 305	Environmental Politics	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 301	Turkish III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 303	German III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 305	Italian III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 307	French III (Diplomatic Language)	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 337	Regional Development and Governance	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 335	International Organizations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 307	Information, Technology and Political Power	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Sixth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 362	Public Administration in Democratic States	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	80	6	150	6
PIR 338	Diplomatic Correspondence	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
*PIR 300	Graduation Thesis														
*PIR 316	Final Comprehensive Exam	F	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	350	80	750	30

* According to the required minimum CGPA at the end of the fifth semester.

Elective Courses															
PIR 304	International Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 336	Crisis Analysis and Management	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 366	State and Local Government	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 340	Global Governance	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 310	Political Behavior	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 364	Urban Policy and Politics	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 342	International Terrorism & Threat Perception	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Graduate Teaching

FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PM in PIR program)

First YEAR																
First Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30	
Elective Courses																
ECO 421	Development and Growth I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
ECO 433	Economic Integrations and EU	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 411	Political Behavior and Participation	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 413	Nationalism and Ethnic Studies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 415	Issues in Political Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 417	Justice, Democracy and Citizenship	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 419	Political Integration and the European Union	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 421	Political Parties in the Developing World	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 431	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 433	Politics, Religion and Globalization	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 435	International Insitutions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 443	Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 461	Effective Management in the Public Service	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 463	Public Administration and Policy Process	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 465	Economics and Politics of Public Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
Second Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
PIR 462	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 400	Micro Thesis	F	Compulsory	6	0	0	6	6	96	0	0	200	79	375	15	
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30	

Elective Courses															
BUS 426	Strategic Management	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 432	Language, Nationalism, and Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 404	Ethics in the Age of Globalization and Multinational Corporations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 428	Border Politics and Immigration Policies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 434	Politics of Development: Middle East & Africa	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 436	Politics of Development: Eurasia & Far East	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 448	International Politics of Environment	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 460	Public Management and Administration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 430	Human Resources/ Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (MSc in PIR program)

First YEAR																
First Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
BBB	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
Semestral Total				12	0	0	9	9	192	0	0	400	158	750	30	
Elective Courses																
ECO 421	Development and Growth I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
ECO 433	Economic Integrations and EU	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 411	Political Behavior and Participation	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 413	Nationalism and Ethnic Studies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 415	Issues in Political Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 417	Justice, Democracy and Citizenship	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 419	Political Integration and the European Union	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 421	Political Parties in the Developing World	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 431	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 433	Politics, Religion and Globalization	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 435	International Insitutions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 443	Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	

PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 461	Effective Management in the Public Service	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 463	Public Administration and Policy Process	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 465	Economics and Politics of Public Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 462	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BBB	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BBB	Elective III	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30

Elective Courses															
BUS 426	Strategic Management	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 422	Development and Growth II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 432	Language, Nationalism, and Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 404	Ethics in the Age of Globalization and Multinational Corporations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 428	Border Politics and Immigration Policies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 434	Politics of Development: Middle East & Africa	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 436	Politics of Development: Eurasia & Far East	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 440	International Political Economy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 448	International Politics of Environment	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 460	Public Management and Administration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 430	Human Resources: Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 464	Strategic Planning and Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

Second YEAR															
Third Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
AAA	Compulsory I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
AAA	Compulsory II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BBB	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BBB	Elective II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
				3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	30
Compulsory Course Pool															
PIR 501	Research Methods in Social Sciences	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 591	Political Theories of International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 561	Comparative Public Administration	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

PIR 567	European Public Policy	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Elective Courses															
PIR 503	Political Geography	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 505	The Political Economy of Money	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 507	Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 509	Gender and Development	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 511	Political Ideology	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 515	Democracy: Theory & Practice	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 533	Strategy and International Relations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 543	European Foreign and Security Policy	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 563	Comparative Welfare Policy and Analysis	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 500	Thesis	F	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	660	42	750	30
Semestral Total				3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	660	42	750	30

FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

PhD STUDY PROGRAM IN

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
XXX xxx	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
Semestral Total				9	0	0	9	9	144	0	0	306	300	750	30

Elective Courses -First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 801	Research Methods in Social Science	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR811	Political Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 815	Democracy Theory and Practice	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 821	World Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 823	The United Nations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 825	International Relations Theory	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 833	Democratization in the Europe	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 835	Comparative Political Studies on the Balkan Countries	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 843	International Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 863	European Security and Defense	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10

Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
XXX xxx	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
XXX xxx	Elective III	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
Semestral Total				9	0	0	9	9	144	0	0	306	300	750	30

Elective Courses -Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 814	Comparative Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 826	International Terrorism	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 830	Nato in the 21st Century	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 832	The United Nations: Human Rights, Peace and Security and Development Policies	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 838	Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 844	Politics of European Integration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 848	European Union Law	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 860	International Organizations	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 882	Economic Development Policy Analysis and Industrialization	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10
PIR 884	Political Economy of Western Europe	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	100	250	10

Writing of the Desertation Stage															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 800	Thesis	F	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
Semestral Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Ajla Maksuti*
Russian Annexation of Crimea: Democratic Peace Theory Applied
Supervisor: Dr. Islam Jusufi
2. *Anda Kruetani*
Terrorism and Violent Extremism: How Albania should face these threats?
Supervisor: Dr. Niuton Mulleti
3. *Denisa Caushi*
Albania as Hybrid Regime: Feckless Pluralism or Dominant Power Politics?
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi
4. *Entela Salliu*
Brain Drain in Albania
Supervisor: MSc. Jubjana Vila
5. *Ermira Hupi*
Challenges and obstacles of Western Balkan countries towards Integration in European Union: Case of Albania
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti
6. *Greta Shima*
Transformation of the Political Crisis in Albania: The role of media
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi
7. *Kasandra Topalli*
Violence Against Women in Albania
Supervisor: MSc. Jubjana Vila
8. *Klajdi Ballanca*
Why Japan, not China, is the dominant power of Asia
Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
9. *Klea Vogli*
Global Interdependence
Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
10. *Oligerta Kula*
Capital Punishment: Justice bringer or justified crime, Albanian public opinion toward death penalty
Supervisor: Dr. Islam Jusufi
11. *Sonar Mesi*
Albanian Political Dialogue in the past two decades and EU framework
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Eljod Hoxha*
PM PIR
TV Media in Albania: Regulation, Financial crisis and motivation of journalists
Supervisor: Dr. Islam Jusufi
2. *Bevli Hoxha*
MSc. PIR
Brexit Negotiations and consequences of Brexit to Albanian's Integration in EU
(June 2016 – June 2018)
Supervisor: Dr. Islam Jusufi
3. *Ermal Manja*
MSc. PIR
Civil Society as necessary condition and badid for building democracy
Case study: Albania
Supervisor: Assist. Prof. Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
4. *Sabina Gylsheni*
MSc. PIR
The role of civil society in democratization and European Integration (Case of Albania)
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Ornela Kulla : Master of Science in PIR, EpokaUniversity
University of International Studies of Rome, Rome, Italy
Spring Semester, 2018-2019 academic year

Research Areas and Research Groups

The PhD Program in Political Science and International Relations (henceforth “PIR PhD”), is conducted in the form of Research Groups.

The model of Research Groups is inspired by the Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Albania (Article 79/1, Law no. 2015/80, dated 22.07.2015). The Law stipulates that HEIs which offer PhD study programs, draft scientific research and development projects for these studies. Article 79/4 of the same Law stipulates that the number of PhD students is determined by the base unit and the research project of each PhD student is determined based on the research projects of the latter. At the same time, Decision of Council of Ministers no. 112, dated 23.02.2018 on determining the criteria for obtaining the Doctorate stipulates that PhD study programs are carried out in the form of research groups, which are led by the academic staff holding the “Professor” and “Associate Professor” academic titles.

The formation of the Research Groups under PIR PhD contributes to the alignment of the work of Epoka University as outlined in the:

- “National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, 2017-2022” in ‘improvement of the practices for recruitment of research and academic staff’;
- "Framework Strategy and Action Plan of Epoka University 2018-2022" in the achievement of the vision of the Epoka University “to be a leading university in our country in the areas of education, research and development, as well as service to society”; and
- “Strategic Plan 2017-2022 of the Department of Political Science and International Relations” in providing a “high quality environment for research”.

The PIR PhD’s main research objectives are to provide well evidenced research on the developments in Albania and wider in the Balkans and Mediterranean regions. The aim of the research groups is to prepare academicians and researchers with specialized knowledge in their fields of interest. Epoka University supports financially the scientific publications of its researchers and lecturers. Epoka University's platforms, such as forums, talks, lectures and symposia offer ample space for acquiring research knowledge.

The PIR PhD has the following two research groups:

1. “International and European Studies”:

a. About: This Research Group titled “International and European Studies” intends to contribute to EU integration process of Albania; to help the regional cooperation projects and initiatives under the EU frameworks, mainly supporting Albanian participation, benefits and contribution; and to give especially contribution to improve good neighborhood policy of Albania in order to maintain peace and stability in the Western Balkan countries and to strengthen friendship and cooperation among them. Sub-research areas include the following: Albanian integration process in the EU in the current stage of developments, from candidate status to opening of the full accession negotiation; Western Balkans regional cooperation process based on EU policies and Berlin process, as the prerequisite for better preparation of this regional market to be integrated in EU; Good neighborhood policy between Albania and the countries around it in political, diplomatic, strategic, economic and cultural fields based on EU foreign policy line, values, principles and interests. The activities planned include: Open lectures with politicians, diplomats, academicians on above mentioned sub-research areas; Organizing forums with the

participation of students, professors from Epoka University and outside in order to initiate debate and critical approaches regarding the most sensitive issues of integration, regional cooperation and neighborhood policy; Workshops on developing diplomatic skills based on EU diplomacy, its tradition, culture, experiences and structure in order to contribute to preparation of Albanian negotiation teams for EU accession negotiation process; Regional Scientific Conference on Western Balkans and its challenges toward EU integration with the participation of partner universities, researchers and scholars from Western Balkans, EU and USA.

b. Organization of the research group: The research group has a faculty chair and members. This research group is directed by Faculty Chair, who is a lecturer in PIR PhD with academic title of Associate Professor or Professor. The members are the PhD students in PIR PhD.

c. Faculty chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti.

d. CV of Faculty chair: <http://eis.epoka.edu.al/cv/fullcv/139>.

e. Contacts: lbashkurti@epoka.edu.al

f. Activities: The Research Group conducts research for purposes of the preparation of the dissertations of the PhD students. It also does research for other purposes, such as research projects and publications. In addition, it organizes seminars, informal talks, lectures, workshops on topics related to the research of the research group.

g. Membership: The Research Group is open to PhD students registered to PIR PhD.

h. PhD candidates and their theses:

- Ali Zaimi: “Participation of Citizens in Decision- making Process: Albania Case”.
- Alisa Limaj: “Public Private Partnership in Albania and its new role in Local Governance”.
- Albana Cekrezi: Tentative, to be determined after the completion of theoretical PhD courses
- Geri Pilaca: Tentative, to be determined after the completion of theoretical PhD courses
- Alban Nako: Tentative, to be determined after the completion of theoretical PhD courses

i. Other staff members who contribute to the research: Dr. Reina Shehi; Dr. Niuton Mulleti; Dr. Islam Jusufi; MSc Jubjana Vila-Zeka.

2. “Political Science and Public Administration”:

a. About: This Research Group titled “Political Science and Public Administration” is for the study of political behavior and political participation. It aims to contribute consolidating democracy via raising awareness and strengthening democratic culture among youth and wider society via education, and social activities and aims to provide an academic support to increase efficiency and effectiveness of public service provision at local and national levels and to collaborate with public agencies to contribute finding solutions for local environmental problems. For these purposes, the research group studies socio-cultural issues, and political and voting behavior. The group also studies the public administration and governance, contributing to improve quality of public service provision at national and local levels through collaborations and partnership among public authorities, municipalities, private sectors and NGOs. In addition, it studies the democratization processes in the country and wider.

b. Organization of the research group: The research group has a faculty chair and members. This research group is directed by Faculty Chair, who is a lecturer in PIR PhD with academic title of Associate Professor or Professor. The members are the PhD students in PIR PhD.

c. Faculty chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Ozcan.

d. CV of Faculty chair: <http://eis.epoka.edu.al/cv/fullcv/73>.

e. Contacts: sozcan@epoka.edu.al

f. Activities: The Research Group conducts research for purposes of the preparation of the dissertations of the PhD students. It also does research for other purposes, such as research projects and publications. In addition, it organizes seminars, informal talks, lectures, workshops on topics related to the research of the research group.

g. Membership: The Research Group is open to PhD students registered to PIR PhD.

h. PhD candidates and their theses:

- Eglantina Farruku: “Child Security in Albania”.
- Gazmend Aga: “The impact of Religion on Individual’s Political Behaviour: The Case of Post-socialist Albania”.
- Ines Stasa: “An Agenda for Democracy: Transformative Justice as a Leading Norm to Frame Political Development or a Normative Space to Political Gains? “ (Case of Western Balkan Countries).
- Hysni Skura: Tentative, to be determined after the completion of theoretical PhD courses
- Dea Bashkurti: Tentative, to be determined after the completion of theoretical PhD courses

i. Other staff members who contribute to the research: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj; Dr. Ari Weinstein.

List of Publications

- Islam Jusufi. (2019). Reconceptualising the security in discourse: inclusive security and popular protests. *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*, 13(4). DOI: 10.1080/17447143.2018.1552701. Indexed by: Emerging Sources Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics (Web of Science); Scopus.
- Islam Jusufi. (2019). When Informal Institutions Change. Institutional Reforms and Informal Practices in the Former Soviet Union. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 71(2). DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2019.1584456. Indexed by: Social Sciences Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics.
- Islam Jusufi and Arnold C. Dupuy, “Albania's sovereignty discourse and European integration”, paper presented at 2019 International Conference of Europeanists, Sovereignties in Contention: Nations, Regions and Citizens in Europe. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, June 20-22, 2019.
- Islam Jusufi. “Cyber security and its impact on the sovereignty in the Westphalian states of the South: the case of Albania”, paper presented at State of the Art of Cyber security and Cyberconflict Research Conference, 27-29 September 2018, Zürich.

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Name Surname	Event	Date
Dr. Islam Jusufi	State of the Art of Cybersecurity and Cyberconflict Research Conference, ETH Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland;	27-29 September 2018
Dr. Islam Jusufi	Teaching Mobility under Erasmus + to University of Oradea, Oradea, Romania.	22-28 March 2019
Dr. Islam Jusufi	26th International Conference of Europeanists, Council for European Studies, Madrid, Spain	20-22 June 2019
MSc. Jubjana Vila	Meeting - COST Action CA17119 "EU Foreign Policy Facing New Realities: Perceptions, Contestation, Communication and Relations",	13 March 2019
MSc. Jubjana Vila	Workshop - How to Get your Paper Published in an International Journal organized by the East European Politics & Societies and Cultures Journal, Zagreb, Croatia	14-16 June 2019

Projects

Name Surname	Projects
Dr. Islam Jusufi	COST project: ENTAN – European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network, https://www.entan.org .
MSc. Jubjana Vila	COST Action CA17119 "EU Foreign Policy Facing New Realities: Perceptions, Contestation, Communication and Relations"- Management Committee Member and Working Group Member.

E. Support, Resources & Representation

List of Students' Internships

Name	Surname	Company
Dragana	Kurti	Mane TCI
Enxhi	Lipa	Albanian Parliament
Denisa	Caushi	Albanian Parliament
Blerina	Dashi	Albanian Institute for International Studies
Ajsela	Toci	Albanian Helsinki Committee
Denisa	Caushi	Albanian Helsinki Committee
Klea	Vogli	Albanian Helsinki Committee
Lois	Turkeshi	Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Participation in Academic Events

1. Open Lecture: Environmental Groups and Movements in Albania



Open Lecture: Environmental Groups and Movements in Albania

Mr. Ened Mato, the director of Ecovolis in Albania was invited by the Department of Political Science and International Relations to held an Open Lecture on November 22, 2018. He was a guest at the Environmental Politics class, and talked about Environmental Groups and Movements in Albania. Mr. Mato explained the involvement of youth in activism and taking care of the environment. He told us the fields in which Ecovolis operated and different campaigns this NGO

has organized. He explained better the relations between an environmental NGO and governmental bodies in Albania, how different campaigns took place and what are the reasons he got involved in environmental campaigns in the first place.

2. Open Lecture: Representation and Civil Society in Albania



Open Lecture: Representation and Civil Society in Albania

At November 22, 2018 Department of Political Science had the pleasure to have as a guest lecturer Mr. Aldo Merkoçi, the executive director of MJAFT! Movement. The topic of his open lecture was Representation and Civil Society in Albania. Mr. Merkoçi has a long experience as an activist in civil society in election matters and voting. It was about the election process in Albania from 1991 until 2017 and the role of civil society in these matters. He shared with students of first grade of Political Science and International Relations and Law Department his experience and advices to raise awareness in the mentioned cases.

3. PIR Students Visiting the Regional Council of Tirana



PIR Students Visiting the Regional Council of Tirana

On 27-th of November 2018, students of Political Science and International Relations department were invited to attend a presentation at the offices of the Regional Council of Tirana.

Ms. Emirjona Huti, the Advisor of the President of the Council, launched the meeting with a general overview of the institution, its role and competencies as a second-level local governance, and its cooperation with international organizations on regional development. Ms. Huti also explained the effects of 2016 territorial and administrative reform on this level of governance.

In the second part, Ms. Migena Kukli presented Tirana Regional Council's draft-budget for 2019. Ms. Kukli explained the budget drafting process, funds allocation and preparation of the expenditure plan in public administration. At the end of the presentation, the speakers welcomed the questions of the students.

4. European Union Training



European Union Training

On December 14th, 2018, two bachelor students from the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the Epoka University, Anda Kruetani and Klea Vogli, conducted a training at Turgut Ozal College in Tirana. This training focused on the importance of European Union, its institutional structures and 28 member countries. The target group included 8th grade students. Both of the students and the trainees delivered an interactive and well-informed discussion.

5. Open Forum: The Role of the Parliament in the Albanian Society



Open Forum: The Role of the Parliament in the Albanian Society

The Political Science and International Relations department organized today an open forum about the role of the Albanian Parliament in our society. The guest speaker of this forum was Ms. Eglantina Gjermeni, a member of the Parliament and former minister of Urban Development and Tourism. During the forum, Ms. Gjermeni shared with us her experience as deputy and minister and also as a lecturer. She explained the role of the Parliament in the Albanian Society and its importance. In the lecture it was explained the role of each commission and what cases they usually handle. The lecture was followed by questions by the students.

We would like to thank all the participants and especially Ms. Gjermeni for their contribution.

6. Open Seminar in International Relations Theory



Open Seminar in International Relations Theory

On 18 February 2019, Epoka University's Department of Political Science and International Relations organized International Relations Theory open seminar. The open seminar was part of the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations and it featured essay presentations by the first year PIR PhD students. The presentations included essays that applied a particular International Relations theory on concrete cases that relate to Albania. The presentations, which were followed by specific discussions, were:

- "Hobbes and the 1997 Civil War in Albania" by Geri Pilaca;
- "Albania: From communist hegemonic influence to national Realism" by Dea Bashkurti;
- "The level of Europeanization in Albania" by Albana Cekrezi;
- "The Realist approach of Enver Hoxha on the denunciation of Warsaw Treaty" by Alban Nako.

7. Dr. Islam Jusufi spoke at University of Oradea, Romania



Dr. Islam Jusufi, the Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University, gave a public lecture at the University of Oradea, in Oradea, Romania, in the framework of Erasmus + teaching mobility arrangement between Oradea University and Epoka University.

The lecture was titled "The Outlook of the Western Balkans in 2019". The lecture addressed the following questions: What shapes current political dynamics of the Western Balkan states? Which issues matter to them? How have their paths changed? Who and what has changed them?

All of these questions were reviewed under the three important pillars: 1. Post-Ethnic politics, 2. Liberal democracy, and 3. Institutionalization.

The lecture participants included students and academic staff members of the University of Oradea.

The Department of Political Science and International Relations wishes to thank the hosts at the University of Oradea's Department of International Relations and European Studies, particularly to Professors Ioan Horga, Mircea Brie, and Istvan Polgar, for their hospitality and honor that Dr. Jusufi enjoyed during his visit to University of Oradea.

8. Epoka's Political Science students in Study Visit to Athens



Epoka's Political Science students in Study Visit to Athens

Epoka University's Department of Political Science and International Relations organized its second annual Study Visit, this time on 3-7 April 2019 to Athens, Greece.

The visit was designed to expose Political Science and International Relations (PIR) students to the world of policy practice. The study visit was attended by PIR students, with the participation of the academic staff of the PIR Department. The visit consisted of intensive four days of cultural visits and meetings at the Greek Parliament and at Panteion University's Institute of International

Relations. The visit to Parliament included guided English tour on the history of the Parliament as well as visits to plenary hall and other facilities of the Parliament. At the Institute, the group was welcomed by Harris Papasotirou, the Professor of International Relations at Panteion University, who spoke to students on latest as regards the Greek domestic and foreign politics. The talk was followed by an informal exchange when students were able to comment and ask relevant questions. Besides the meetings with institutions, the visit was composed of intensive visits to important cultural sites in Athens, in Corinth and in Ioannina.

The Department of Political Science and International Relations thanks to students and academic staff who took part in the Study Visit.

9. "Leading the future" Workshop 2019



"Leading the future" Workshop 2019

Epoka University's Department of Political Science and International Relations organized its third annual "Leading the Future" Workshop, on 17 April 2019. The workshop welcomed a diversity of high school students from different cities of Albania. The workshop included two main modules: the first module was a "Simulation of UN Security Council Meeting" by Dr. Timothy Hagen, and the second one consisted of "A toolkit of 12 Essential Conflict Resolution Skills" delivered by Dr. Reina Shehi. The workshop offered interactive experiences to build key skills for tomorrow's leaders, including skills in negotiation, problem-solving, peace-building, and clear, effective communication.

All participants received certificates for their participation and contribution to the workshop. The Department of Political Science and International Relations thanks all participants and organizers of the activity.

10. PIR organizes Graduate Student Workshop



PIR organizes Graduate Student Workshop

The Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University organized the 2nd PIR Graduate Student Workshop on Friday, 3 May 2019. The workshop brought together academicians, practitioners, and graduate students in Political Science and International Relations.

The first session of the workshop was delivered by the guest speaker Mr. Derand Krasniqi and the guest lecturer Prof. Dr. Aleksander Kocani. Mr. Krasniqi, senior Protection Assistant at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), raised good concerns regarding migration and refugee status focusing on the role of Albania and UNHCR in this regard. Prof. Dr. Kocani, a distinguished professor of research methods and political science, explained and compared different approaches to research methods in social sciences.

The second session of the workshop included presentations and discussions on PhD students' research on different topics in Political Science and International Relations.

11. Department of PIR organizes "PIR Convention: World Diplomacy Dialogue"



The Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University, organized the "PIR Convention: World Diplomacy Dialogue 2019" on 10 May 2019.

In this annually organized international convention, the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow come together in a cross-generational and cross-cultural discussion on world diplomacy. The students had opportunity to meet and listen to high-profile speakers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti; The Swedish Ambassador to Tirana H. E. Mr. Johan Ndisi; Mr. Sabri Kiçmari, former ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Austria and Australia; and Ms. Ms. Alba Brojka, Secretary -General of United Nations Association of Albania. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti explained the role and importance of diplomacy in world politics. H. E. Mr. Johan NDISI, offered an overview of the role, duties and responsibilities of an ambassador. Mr. Sabri Kiçmari discussed and raised some important concerns on Kosovo-Serbia dialogue. Ms. Alba Brojka gave her insights on the role of European Union as a global normative actor.

Student Best Success Stories

1. Mr. Klajdi Ballanca takes part in the "Western Balkans Meet Japan – A Bridge Into the Future" youth exchange



Our third-year student of Political Sciences and International Relations, Mr. Klajdi Ballanca was one of the selected few to be part of the "Western Balkans Meet Japan – A Bridge Into the Future" youth exchange, organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with RYCO. The aim of the exchange under the name MIRAI (meaning future in Japanese), was to deepen the participants' understanding of Japan and its policies, to promote mutual understanding through an intellectual and cultural exchange and build a basis for future friendship and cooperation between Japan and the WB.

During the one week stay in Japan, Mr. Ballanca and 16 other students from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia, while in Tokyo had the pleasure to visit the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a series of lectures and workshops, JICA Global Plaza, Edo-Tokyo Museum and Sophia University, where they talked, exchange experiences and ideas with Japanese students. They visited the Peace Memorial Park and Museum in Hiroshima and listened to the moving story of one of the survivors of the atomic bomb, in the words of Klajdi, "no one left the room the same." In addition, they witnessed the beauties of Miyajima Island. In Kyoto they visited the famous Golden Pavilion, Kinkaku-ji, Sanjūsangen-dō temple and had the chance to practice Zen meditation, experiencing traditional Japanese culture at its finest.

On the last day of the program, the WB group was invited by the Ambassador in Charge of the Western Balkans at the MOFA of Japan, Mr. Jun Saito to present their Action Plans and to share their thoughts about the entire experience. "Being part of the MIRAI Program is an opportunity

like no other, especially if you have an interest on Japan. Keep an eye for next year's announcement, it is truly something you don't want to miss," said Mr. Ballanca.

2. Nehar Shala, Epoka's Political Science student takes part on Model UN in Thailand



Nehar Shala, the 2nd year Bachelor student of Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University attended Asia Youth International Model United Nations (AYIMUN) on 3-6 November 2018, in Bangkok, Thailand.

AYIMUN is a platform where youth mentality in leadership, negotiation and diplomacy is developed in a Model United Nations. AYIMUN aims to engage youth leaders from all over the world and to provide a platform to share perspectives in opinions with the theme “Human security agenda in the globalized world”. AYIMUN aims to enhance capabilities and to develop networks, also improve communication and diplomatic skills of the participants.

From 18,235 applicants in total, only 1066 of them had the chance to attend this conference. It was the largest organization ever held by the Model United Nations. In this conference, Nehar represented Lithuania in front of the International Monetary Fund Council, on the theme of Crypto currency, the advantages and disadvantages, and how these currencies affect the local, regional and global economy.

3. Ms. Ajsela Toci, Teaching Assistant and Master Student participates at “Broadcasting Democratic Consciousness”



“Media education contributes to people’s empowerment and a shared sense of responsibility in society, and as such is part of citizenship and human rights education (Gruenwald Declaration of UNESCO 1982).”

Our Master of Science student and a Teaching Assistant of Political Science and International Relations, **Ms. Ajsela Toci** was one of the selected participants to be part of the study session: “Broadcasting Democratic Consciousness” organized by Human Rights Education Youth Network and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

The aim of this study session was to equip the participants with the capacity to use media literacy educational tools in youth work and human rights education, promoting critical-thinking and cyber-hygiene, transitional cooperation and networking. Three of the main priorities of the study session focused on: access to rights, youth participation and establishing inclusive and peaceful societies.

During one week stay in Strasbourg, Ms. Ajsela and 40 other students from Georgia, Armenia, Belarus, Italy, Barcelona, Finland, Northern Republic of Macedonia, Russia and Azerbaijan, had the opportunity to work together on different human right concepts, group work activities and design workshops with the theme on Countering Narratives against the Hate of Oppressive Narratives. They had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Petite France, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Arts and also various institutions such as: Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights and European Parliament. The Alsace region is surrounded by a diversity of parks, gardens and other nature attractions.

“Being part of this study session was one of the best experiences of my life, especially having the opportunity to live in Strasbourg and tasting a little bit of the French culture,” said Ms. Toci.

4. Ines Stasa participates at 2019 IPSA (International Political Science Association) Colloquium on Diversity and Democratic Governance



Ines Stasa, PhD Student of Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University participates at 2019 IPSA (International Political Science Association) Colloquium on Diversity and Democratic Governance, held in University of Sarajevo, on 12-15 June 2019. Ms Stasa is presenting a paper on transitional justice with title: "Transitional Justice compared: Albania and Germany “, an article that she has co-authored with Islam Jusufi, Hasan Bello, Sara Malosmani, and Ralf Wustenberg.

5. Political Science and International Relations graduating students were among the best of graduation class 2019 of Epoka University



The graduation ceremony for the 2019 Class of Epoka University held on 3 July 2019, featured awards for best achievers among the graduating students. Two graduating Political Science and International Relations students Anda Kruetani and Greta Shima were among the eight highest achievers of graduation class 2019, out of all 430 graduating students of Epoka University. The Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University congratulates all of its graduating students for their graduation and wishes them further success in their life journeys.

Office Holders

The department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration and management over the past year:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti
MSc. Ervin Sulika
Dr. Islam Jusufi
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan
Dr. Reina Shehi
Dr. Niuton Mulleti
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Prof. Dr. Gjergji Sinani
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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ardjana Braja
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Gishti
MSc. Nensi Gjetani
Dr. Ari Weinstein
MSc. Ada Cara

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