



Department of Political Science
and International Relations

ANNUAL REPORT

1 September 2021 – 31 July 2022



Annual Report

1 September 2021 – 31 July 2022

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A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Dr. Reina Shehi
Head of Department

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 leader 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, internationalist 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 rates. 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 confidence that the department will continue to grow and prosper over the next years.

Study programs offered by the Department

The 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 with 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 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 two 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. Reina Shehi

Head of the Department

Lecturer

Dr. Reina Zenelaj (Shehi) teaches Conflict Resolution and Diplomatic Language at Epoka University, Tirane/ Albania. She is currently the head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University where she has been a faculty member since 2011. Before that, she was the Director of the Center for European Studies at Epoka University from 2016-to 2019. She has an interdisciplinary research orientation and her academic works cover topics of international mediation, foreign policy, conflict resolution, and peace studies. In addition to her research and teaching activities, she is involved in several EU projects. She is a frequent speaker/ lecturer at the Neighbourhood Enlargement and Regionalism in Europe Jean Monnet Module led by the University of Tartu, Estonia. In July 2012 Kellogg School of Management granted her the Dispute Resolution Research Centre Scholar Award.

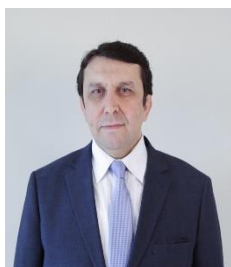


Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Dean of Faculty

Lecturer

Dr. Lisen Bashkurti is the President of Albanian Diplomatic Academy in Albania. Prof. Bashkurti has been a Chancellor in a number of Universities in the Balkan Peninsula. He is also the Global Vice President of Sun Moon University in South Korea. As a distinguished scholar of international relations he has received many international awards including: A “Gold Medal” for his research on US-Albanian Partnership,” “Four Silver Medals” for his great contribution during his service as Albania’s Ambassador to Hungary (1992-1993); appointed as “Peace Ambassador” from the International Peace Foundation, United Nations (2009). He is the author of more than 18 books that cover a range of issues including: International Affairs, Negotiations and Conflict Resolution, International Diplomacy, Multilateral Diplomacy and Diplomatic History. He is an honorary professor in many prestigious European Universities and an honorary fellow to a number of prominent International Institutions.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan
Lecturer
(Administrative Leave)



Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
Lecturer

Dr. Avdi Smajljaj, from 2007 to 2011 has completed PhD in Political Sciences at University Duisburg-Essen in Germany. From 2003 to 2005 has completed Master studies in European Studies at the University of Hamburg in Germany. While from 1998 to 2003 has completed Bachelor studies in Political Sciences at the department of Political Science in IIUM in Kuala Lumpur.

He has worked time to time as a political advisor to the government in Kosovo. He is lecturing at Epoka University since 2012. In 2019-2020 he was a visiting scholar lecturing at the department of Political Science at the IIUM in Kuala Lumpur. He has presented in several international conferences and published a number of articles, among other: Smajljaj, Avdi, 2020, Populism in e never ending and multiple system transformation in Kosovo the: case of Vetevendosje, Journal of Contemporary and Central Eastern Europe, Routledge, Taylor and Francis, Vol. 28, Issue 2-3, pp. 199- 223; Smajljaj. A. & Shukri, S. 2020, Populism and Muslim Democracies, Asian Politics and Policy, Wiley Library, Vol.12. Issue 4, pp. 575-591; Smajljaj, Avdi, 2020, Ethnicity based constitutional structures – the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, Journal of Balkan and Black Sea Studies, pp.109-138. Recently has published a chapter in an edited book: Smajljaj, Avdi (forthcoming 2022). Populists solo in government, oscillating between the normalization of the previously blamed establishment and failure to govern: the case of Vetevendosje in Kosovo. In: Heinisch, Reinhard. (ed.) Diverse voices of populism – New insights from the European “Periphery”. Chapter 5. Nomos. His research interests are political parties, democratisation, populism, foreign policy, European integration, public policy.



Dr. Jubjana Vila

Head of the CES Department

Lecturer

Jubjana Vila is the head of the Center for European Studies and Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University. 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 PhD in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey. Since 2020 she is the Managing Editor of the Journal of European Social Research. Her areas of interests include international relations, foreign policy, conflict studies, EU and Balkan politics. She is teaching courses of international relations, EU politics, foreign policy, political psychology and research methods.



Dr. Sadullah YILMAZ

Lecturer



MSc. Ada Cara

Assistant Lecturer

Ada Cara has around 8 years of work experience in the field of language learning and educational projects, mainly focused on Albania. She graduated from University College London in the UK with a Master's degree in Education and International Development under the prestigious Chevening scholarship funded by the FCDO. She holds a BA in English Language and a Master of Science in Language Teaching both from the University of Tirana, in Albania. Her research focuses on corruptive practices in higher education, quality of education, education and politics of migration and education in conflict-affected countries. She joined Epoka University in 2019, as part of the Political Science and International Relations Department, and later in October 2021, she participated in co-designing the first National Network on Youth, Peace and Security as part of a project funded by the USAID. In November 2021, she was invited to be a guest editor on a random basis for Emerald Publishing Group, Journal of Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning, for reviewing manuscripts and articles as need be.



PhD. Dea Haxhiu (Bashkurti)

Assistant Lecturer

Dea Haxhiu is Assistant Lecturer at Center for European Studies, at Epoka University since 2018. She is fourth year PhD student in Epoka University, at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. Dea has finished Master of Science in Public Law and the bachelor's degree in University of Tirana, Faculty of Law. During the years as research assistant and assistant lecturer, she has participated in numerous international conferences, summer school and has several publications in national and international journals.



MSc. Erjon Saliasi

Assistant Lecturer

Full time Academic Staff from other department at Epoka University



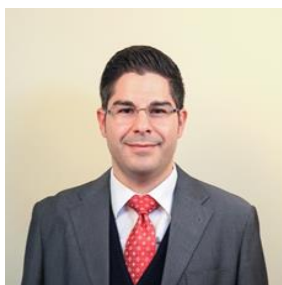
Dr. Niuton Mulleti

POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC HISTORY
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE
EUROPEAN FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY



Dr. Heliona Miço

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Xhimi Hysa
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Dr. Alba Gërdeci
PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW



MSc. Jonida Balliu
INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS I
INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS II

Part time Academic Staff



Dr. Endrit Shabani
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN DEMOCRATIC STATES
RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES



Dr. Isa Erbas
ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING



MSc. Nita Himaduna
EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE



MSc. Bujar Nishani
EUROPEAN FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY



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



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Gishti

French I

French II

MSc. Ardit Lena

German I

German II

Teaching Assistant (2021-2022)

Iris Buciqi

Luisa Tare

Dragana Kurti

Enxhi Begvarfaj

Erida Metaj

Academic Visitors (2021-2022)

Name Surname (Title)	Title	Sending University	Host Department at Epoka University	Cycle	Mobility Period
Istvan Polgar		University of Oradea	PIR	Erasmus+	23.09.2021 - 02.10.2021
Brie Mircea		University of Oradea	PIR	Erasmus+	23.09.2021 - 02.10.2021
Brie Mircea		University of Oradea, Romania	PIR	Erasmus+	22.04.2022 - 29.04.2022
Istvan Polgar		University of Oradea, Romania	PIR	Erasmus+	22.04.2022 - 29.04.2022
Ioan Horga	Prof.	University of Oradea, Romania	PIR	Erasmus+	16.06.2022
Ralf Wustenberg	PhD	Europa Universitat Flensburg	FLSS	Erasmus+	06.09.2022 - 16.09.2022
Zaineh Barakat	PhD	Europa Universitat Flensburg	FLSS	Erasmus+	06.09.2022 - 16.09.2022
Sipos Sorin		University of Oradea	PIR	Erasmus+	20.09.2022- 29.10.2022
Brie Mircea		University of Oradea	PIR	Erasmus+	20.09.2022- 29.09.2022
Istvan Polgar		University of Oradea	PIR	Erasmus+	20.09.2022- 29.10.2022

Administrative Staff



Alma Pupli
Department Coordinator

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

-Income and various financing for **BA in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2021-2022
Tuition fees for and during studies	79,347.5
TOTAL	79,347.5

-Expenditures for **BA in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

	2021-2022		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	34,483	20,478	4,673
Total	34,483	20,478	4,673

-Income and various financing for **Msc in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2021-2022
Tuition fees for and during studies	24,322.5
TOTAL	24,322.5

-Expenditures for **Msc in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

	2021-2022		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	23,782	14,123	3,223
Total	23,782	14,123	3,223

-Income and various financing for **PM in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2021-2022
Tuition fees for and during studies	3,711.25
TOTAL	3,711.25

-Expenditures for **PM in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2021-2022 academic year:

	<i>2021-2022</i>		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	2,378	1,412	322
Total	2,378	1,412	322

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

The Department of PIR is entitled to use all the resources and infrastructure of Epoka University.

The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process. Through the year, students and lecturers have used different classes in D-Building.

For departmental activities and events, the PIR Department extensively uses the meeting rooms as well as the Conference Hall, which has a capacity of 99 people. The conference Hall is used for the PIR Department's social, cultural and various national and international forums and conferences.

Students and staff also benefit from IT resources as well as from Library that is very rich in terms of resources for the needs of the students and staff of PIR Department. According to the information received from the library, students can access 619 different kinds of books. They are also able to use JSTOR and SCIENCEDIRECT in the premises of the university to receive more information regarding the Scientific Research they will need during their courses.

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	Practical	Laboratory	Total		Lecture	Practical	Laboratory	Seminar	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
LA W 105	Introduction to Law	C	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
*E NG 107 *E NG 109	Core English Developing Reading and Writing Skills	A	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	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						

Cod e	Course Name	e Ty pe	y /Elect ive	Th eor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al	Cre dits	L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot he r	T ot al	E C TS
PIR 102	Political Communication	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 104	Key Themes in the History of Political Thought	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 116	Constitutional Law	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 132	Introduction to International Security	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 162	Introduction to Public Administration	B	Comp ulsor y	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	12 5	5
*E NG 106 *E NG 109	Advanced English Developing Reading and Writing Skills	A	Comp ulsor y	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	12 5	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	32 0	0	0	402	28	75 0	30

* According to entry test APTIS proficiency level.

Semestral Pool of Courses

PIR 134	International Relations in Political Thought	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 108	Empire and Modern Political Thought	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 164	Public and Government Relations	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 136	States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5

Third Semester

COURSES		Co urs e Ty pe	Comp ulsor y /Elect ive	Weekly Course Distribution				Ep oka Cre dits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						E C TS
Cod e	Course Name			Th eor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al		L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot he r	T ot al	
PIR 201	Research Methods in Social Sciences	A	Comp ulsor y	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	12 5	5
PIR 261	Government, Politics and Public Policy in Albania	B	Comp ulsor y	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	12 5	5

EC O 101	Introduction to Economics I	C	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 203	Politics and Institutions in the EU	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 205	Introduction to Comparative Politics	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
XX X	Elective I (Foreign Language)	D	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
Semestral Total				20	0	0	20	20	32 0	0	0	402	28	75 0	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Co urs e Ty pe	Comp ulsor y /Elect ive	Weekly Course Distribution				Ep oka Cre dits	Semestral Course and studying hours						E C TS
Cod e	Course Name			Th eor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al		L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot he r	T ot al	
FL 201	Turkish I	D	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
FL 203	German I	D	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
FL 205	Italian I	D	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
FL 207	French I	D	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 235	Europe: Politics and Ideas	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 207	Introduction to Game Theory with Political Applications	C	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 263	Public Opinion Analysis	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 231	US Foreign Policy	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
PIR 233	Politics of the USA	B	Comp ulsor y	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	12 5	5
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Co urs e Ty pe	Comp ulsor y /Elect ive	Weekly Course Distribution				Ep oka Cre dits	Semestral Course and studying hours						E C TS
Cod e	Course Name			Th eor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al		L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot he r	T ot al	
PIR 202	Modern Political Thought	B	Comp ulsor y	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	12 5	5

PIR 204	Politics and History of the Balkans	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
BA F 222	Public Finance	C	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
EC O 102	Introduction to Economics II	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XX X	Elective I (Foreign Language)	D	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
Cod e	Course Name			Theor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al		L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot her	T ot al	
FL 202	Turkish II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 204	German II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 206	Italian II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 208	French II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Pool of Courses															
PIR 230	Ethics and International Affairs	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 208	Political Psychology	C	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
Cod e	Course Name			Theor y	Pr ac t.	L a b.	T ot al		L ec t.	Pr ac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot her	T ot al	
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
XX X	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XX X	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 309	Professional Practice	D	Compulsory	0	6	0	6	3	0	96	0	29	0	125	5
Semestral Total				17	6	0	23	20	272	96	0	361	21	750	30
Elective Courses															

BU S 335	Human Resources Management	C	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	C	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
Cod e	Course Name			Theor y	Pr act.	L a b.	T otal		L ect.	Pr act.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot her	T otal	
PIR 300 PIR 316	Graduation Thesis Final Comprehensive Exam	E	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
PIR 338	Diplomatic Correspondence	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 362	Public Administration in Democratic States	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	80	6	150	6

XX X	Elective I	B	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
XX X	Elective II	A	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
Semesteral Total				16	4	0	20	18	25 6	64	0	350	80	75 0	30
Elective Courses															
LA W 304	International Law	B	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 336	Crisis Analysis and Management	A	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 366	State and Local Government	A	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 340	Global Governance	B	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 310	Political Behavior	B	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 364	Urban Policy and Politics	A	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6
PIR 342	International Terrorism & Threat Perception	B	Electi ve	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	15 0	6

Graduate Teaching

FACULTY OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (MSc in
PIR program)-proposed curriculum

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Cod e	Course Name			Theor y	Prac t.	L a b.	T otal		L ect.	Prac t.	L a b.	Sit e W.	Ot her	T otal	
EN G 401	Academic Reading and Writing	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BB B	Compulsory II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BB B	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BB B	Elective II	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
Compulsory Course Pool															
PIR 415	Issues in Political Theory	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 431	World Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Elective Courses															
EC O 421	Development and Growth I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
EC O 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	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

PIR 413	Nationalism and Ethnic Studies	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 417	Justice, Democracy and Citizenship	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 419	Political Integration and the European Union	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 421	Political Parties in the Developing World	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 433	Politics, Religion and Globalization	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 435	International Institutions	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 443	Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 461	Effective Management in the Public Service	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 463	Public Administration and Policy Process	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
PIR 465	Economics and Politics of Public Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	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.	Sem. W.	Other	Total	
PIR 462	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
BB B	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5
BB B	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	4	0	0	10	39	18	7.5

BB B	Elective III	C/ D	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	19 2	0	0	40 0	15 8	75 0	30
Elective Courses															
BU S 426	Strategic Management	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
EC O 422	Development and Growth II	C	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
BU S 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 432	Language, Nationalism, and Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 404	Ethics in the Age of Globalization and Multinational Corporations	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 428	Border Politics and Immigration Policies	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 434	Politics of Development: Middle East & Africa	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 436	Politics of Development: Eurasia & Far East	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 440	International Political Economy	C	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 448	International Politics of Environment	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 460	Public Management and Administration	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 430	Human Resources: Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	7.5
PIR 466	Social Media and Data Analysis	D	Elect ive	3	0	0	3	3	4 8	0	0	10 0	39 .5	18 7.5	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.	Sit. W.	Other	Total	
AA A	Compulsory I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
AA A	Compulsory II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BB B	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BB B	Elective II	D	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
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				Epo ka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
PIR 500	Thesis	E	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

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

First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epo ka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		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 Institutions	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				Epo ka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Le ct.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Oth er	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

PhD STUDY PROGRAM IN

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

First Semester															
COURSES	Course Type	Compulsory / Elective	Weekly Course Distribution			Epok a	Semestral Course and studying hours							ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total	Credits	Lect.	Practical	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			Epok a	Semestral Course and studying hours							ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total	Credits	Lect.	Practical	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			Epok a	Semestral Course and studying hours							ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total	Credits	Lect.	Practical	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			Epok a	Semestral Course and studying hours							ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Practical	Lab	Total	Credits	Lect.	Practical	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				Epok a	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theo ry	Prac t.	Lab .	Tota l	Credi ts	Lect .	Prac t.	Lab .	Site W.	Othe r	Tota l	
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. Dejan Çullafiq- The impact of Ahmet Zogu's reforms on the modernization of Albania: Did the reforms undertaken by Ahmet Zogu contribute to the modernization of Albania? - Supervisor: Dr. Niuton Mulleti.

Ahmet Zogu is considered as one of the most important political figures in the history of Albania. The contribution he gave in the formation, consolidation and development of the first modern Albanian state has been immense. He undertook a series of reforms to modernize the Albanian state based on the western states of that time and to emerge from the extreme backwardness in which Albania found itself in the 1920s - 30s caused by the 500-year Ottoman occupation. In this research I will analyze the content of the three major reforms undertaken by Ahmet Zogu, the reasons why these reforms were necessary and the result of the reforms to see if they contributed to the modernization of interwar Albania. They are the Agrarian Reform, the Legal Reform and the Education Reform of 1933. It will be a qualitative and quantitative research with information taken from secondary sources like articles and books. At the end of the analysis, I concluded that the reforms undertaken, in addition to the Legal Reform that managed to bring modern elements to Albania and the secession from the Ottoman legislation, overall failed to change the status quo in interwar Albania.

2. Gledis Hajdari- Third party intervention in ethnic conflicts in Kosovo and Rwanda. - Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila.

Tackling ethnic conflicts is a delicate matter in case the ethnic groups in conflict are not able to negotiate a solution themselves third-party intervention might be required. This comparative case study explores the ethnic conflicts in Kosovo and Rwanda and analyzes the third-party intervention in the stalemate/crisis stage for both conflicts. This qualitative research based on an analysis of secondary data, reveals three main components that make up the third-party conflict intervention; actors, objectives and motives of intervention. Both Kosovo and Rwandan ethnic conflicts represent cases of intervention practices by international organizations like UN and NATO, whose main purpose is to promote peace and stability and protect fundamental human rights around the world. However, the result of this study explains that there is a difference between the two cases since one has been intervened in by the NATO troops in a peace-enforcing operation while in the other there is a certain disregard by the international organization focusing on peace-keeping. This fact led to the containment of the conflict in Kosovo by the military intervention, and leading to a genocide unfolding in Rwanda because of a limited peace-keeping intervention. The importance of this study rests in the fact that it provides a comprehensive analysis of the three conflict intervention components and identifies reasons that attract intervention towards some conflicts more than others.

3. Ingrit Melani- Political leaders' rhetoric in times of crisis. -Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi.

This study aims at analyzing and explaining the rhetoric political leaders use in times of crises, while also exploring if they follow similar patterns of rhetoric when they

communicate with the public. It is conducted in the form of a case study: Albania's current prime minister, Edi Rama's rhetoric is analyzed in three different scenarios: the 2019 earthquake that hit Albania; the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic and the 2022 oil crisis in Albania as a consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Regarding the two first crises, attention is also given to the reconstruction plan of the damaged buildings, and the vaccination process against Covid-19, which both occurred later in time. Four components are studied: meaning making of the crisis; populism versus cosmopolitanism; attacks towards the opposition; humor and empathy, through a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research. The study finds that Rama's language differs among the three in degrees, while populism remains a strong feature.

4. Krist Bejko- How effective is digital democracy in promoting democratic values in Western EU countries? (Case study Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands) -Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi.

The research work for my Bachelor thesis intended to evaluate the significance of digital democracy's contribution on enhancing citizen participation within the EU context.

In my personal knowledge there are still studies to be done to thoroughly evaluate the consequences of digital democracy in active citizen participation as one of important democratic values. That was my reason to undertake this study.

My research is inductive in nature as it aims to analyse an observed phenomenon, such as in my case, digital democracy.

The data gathering is done by collecting documentation in the form of journal articles or other sources that focus on digital democracy activities and political participation that appear generally and already practiced in various EU countries.

The research will explore the outcome of digital democracy applications, by having as its focus a straightforward question:

"How effective is digital democracy in promoting democratic values in Western EU countries?"

The literature I have considered covers: the concept of democracy and assumed influences of ICT on democratic processes, specifically – citizen participation. The findings suggest that the implementation of digital democracy has still problems, at least for the countries being studied.

The thesis may be considered important because it defines the role of ICT in increasing citizen participation in democratic processes within a context of benefits, and obstacles to citizen participation in democratic developments.

The most significant aspects exposed by my review of literature were that there is no complete universal model of democracy and that there are specific inputs coming from law, culture and technological construction which work mutually to structure online discussion; that the pursuit of applying ICT's ability to enhance democratic processes will be affected by established democratic practices, established governance practices and the overall political environment of each country.

5. Marko Meraj- Kosovo and open Balkans: An economic and political prosperity or a failure? -Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj.

In this thesis I am going to explain the new initiative Open Balkans, the relation it has with Kosovo, and if it will be a prosperity or failure for Kosovo's foreign policy and economy.

I will use a mix of qualitative and quantitative research through statistics, articles, data, and other websites. The main argument of the thesis will lie on the aspects of politics and economy and statements from leaders of the Western Balkans. In this thesis I will explain the reason why Kosovo refuses to join the OB and the political and economic consequences that it will make. In my results of this thesis, I will explain the political and economic situation of Kosovo with other Western Balkans states and how the OB affects both these perspectives. I will also provide a critical perspective regarding if Kosovo should join OB or not, taking under consideration data, statistics, and future claims that lead towards the benefits or disadvantages of this new initiative. Even though these are only hypotheses, it will give a new perspective if the OB is a prosperity or failure for the Republic of Kosovo. A final finding in this thesis is made through the rational choice theory, where a cost-benefits analysis is made to give an answer to Kosovo's losses if it joins OB. These losses include the economic influence of Serbia and the non-recognition of sovereignty.

6. Megi Allbani- The role of the media in Albania in influencing the public opinion regarding the Russo- Ukrainian war. -Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila.

The core centre of this study has been on analyzing the effects that the media in Albania poses towards its audience, thus constructing the question of "What has been the role of the media in Albania in shaping the public opinion regarding the Russo-Ukrainian War?" Whether the media has had the capacity and power to influence and further shape the public's opinion on the Russo-Ukrainian, examining two news platforms "Syri.net" and "Euro News" over the past three months (February – May 2022). It is based on qualitative and quantitative analysis from the news platforms studied as well as the survey findings. The results showed that there is an inconsistency pattern with what was being published (from the two media platforms analysis) versus with what the people had grasped throughout these 3 month period regarding the Russo – Ukrainian War. More importantly people tended to rely more on what they perceive as important rather than what is being portrayed as important and crucial by the media

7. Shysti Bushati- Albanian image abroad: Improvement of the identity, image and diplomacy. -Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti.

In the thesis the image and the national identity of the Albanians is being addressed as a topic, among the matters on how to improve this identity or Image and the diplomatic aspect of the country. I have touched on how the media and other forms of visual entertainment industries such as movies has portrayed and may have negatively impacted the image of Albania and the Albanian people. Among the findings the best alternatives or options among them was the usage of cultural diplomacy among many other similar forms related to this type. And from the interviewed on the survey it has turned out that many of the given arguments above coincided also with the opinion or perception that the foreigners had, was partly influenced by the media. Most of the surveyed who had connection with Albanians in terms of friendships had formed a positive perception about them. From the

survey I have understood how important and beneficial it can be in cases of this Albanian communities working and associating themselves with the other citizens of this countries, it can have a positive impact in general for the Albanian image. The example mentioned in the text is the case of the Albanian Diaspora in cooperation with the Albanian government to project a positive image.

8. Xhuliana Markeçi- The significance and the limitations of Human Rights in Albania. - Supervisor: Dr. Eglantina Farruku.

This research is concerned with analyzing and evaluating the significance of human rights in Albania with the goal of understanding and assessing how much human rights matter in a society that has already experienced isolation and a life deprived of fundamental rights. Since the beginning of human civilization, human rights have been an unseparated part of its development. Human rights exist because we exist, and every individual is born with them and is entitled to them, despite their religion, gender, belief, ethnicity, and nationality. After the fall of communism, the Albanian government restored the importance of human rights in the country through the implementation of national and international legislative frameworks. Since then, Albania has made remarkable progress, however, when compared to the evaluation of the international community, the protection of human rights faces issues with the application of the mechanisms, thus creating a huge gap between the implementation of the laws in theory and their enforcement in practice. By gathering data from the international organizations' reports that highlight the violations of human rights in Albania and comparing them with the actual domestic mechanisms and instruments, this research aims to reveal: What is the significance of human rights and their limitations in Albania?

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Arwa Mufaku*

PM PIR

Positions of Arab Countries on the Recognition of the Independence of Kosovo.

Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Kosovo's declaration of independence created "a unique case", as described by Richard Holbrooke, the former US Envoy for the Balkans, which is evident in the global division between two camps of West and East in terms of recognition of independence of the youngest European country. This polarization is reflected in the relationship and the level of rapprochement at the international and regional level with both the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, and an indication of Kosovo's diplomatic efforts and endeavors to mobilize more support for their cause. It is crucial to analyze the national interest in the foreign policy of Arab countries towards Kosovo in light of international alliances and actors affecting the decision-making processes, on the basis of national interest from the perspective of the realist theory. Therefore, this thesis categorizes a large number of Arab countries into different groups to explore the factors of recognition, frozen recognition, reasons for rejection and potential cases of recognition. This study highlights the role and efforts of the Kosovar diplomacy in an attempt to evaluate its initiative to reach out to the Arab countries, and whether this diplomacy succeeded in building a clear approach towards the countries of the region in order to add more recognitions in the face of a fierce Serbian counter-campaign.

2. *Kristian Pano*

MSc. PIR

The Impact of the Russia- Ukraine War on the Western Balkans and the Security Dilemma.

Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Due to Serbia's positive connections with Russia, the Western Balkan region is experiencing greater unease as a result of the just starting conflict in Ukraine and the Russian invasion. Therefore, the purpose of this paper will be to determine whether the conflict between Russia and Ukraine resulted in a security dilemma in the Western Balkans. In addition, it aims to determine how much the security dilemma might intensify ethnic tensions in the Western Balkans. The framework is primarily centered on realist theories of international relations and their subcategories, such as structural realism, which is further divided into offensive and defensive realism, as well as the security dilemma and its impact on regional conflicts. This paper adopts a qualitative methodology for its data collection, analysis, and justification. The crisis and conflict are between Ukraine and Russia nevertheless, the security dilemma is happening between Russia and NATO. The possibility of this conflict spreading and affecting the Western Balkans, which have a significant Russian influence, is not remote or unthinkable. Serbia is heavily affected by Russia, as evidenced by its posture and position in this conflict. The failure to impose sanctions against the Kremlin despite condemning the aggression is a clear sign of their relationship. Despite the present trend of cosmopolitanism and the establishment of strong international organizations to uphold peace and stability worldwide, the anarchic state of states is still clearly apparent today as seen by the now raging violent conflict. States that do not belong to strong military alliances and organizations find it easier to find themselves in a security dilemma that could quickly escalate into an active conflict.

3. *Anda Kruetani*

MSc. PIR

Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans: Is there a need for a regional response?

Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most persistent forms of crime, as well as one of the most strongly damaging to the entirety of human rights. It, by nature, often involves the crossing of borders and, as such, immediately becomes at least a bilateral problem. The Western Balkans region has recognized the existence of human trafficking mostly from the late 1990s onwards as a direct result of the conflicts, wars and insurgencies in the six countries. In addition, trafficking in the region has been connected to loosely organized criminal groups which work across the borders within and outside the region. While the countries are recognized to have made significant progress in the fight against the trafficking of human beings, much remains to be done in order to achieve the complete eradication of the phenomenon. This paper raises and seeks to answer the question of whether a regional response is the appropriate way to successfully fight the crime.

4. *Sadije Mullaymeri*

MSc. PIR

Albania's Democratization Progress from a Political Culture approach.

Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajlaj

This study has a modest contribution in the discourse of democratization process for the post-communist countries from a perspective of political culture. Through the empirical analyses and findings in this research, I intend to find out the correlation that political culture has on the development of democratization process in Albania. Albania is an uncommon case study for studying democratic consolidation since the country has a distinct political history, a sui generis case. This indicates that the country's history over the previous few decades has been marked by multiple government transitions from autocratic to democratic, with each losing democratic qualities and so failing to consolidate democracy.

Furthermore, I am convinced that in order to proceed toward a consolidated democracy, we must first identify the variables that have the potential to influence the process. My objective is to focus solely on Albania's progress over these years of transition in order to expose variables such as political culture.

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Ingrid Melani: Bachelor in PIR, Epoka University
Dr. Isa Erbas University of International Studies of Rome, Rome, Italy
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Gledis Hajdari: Bachelor in PIR, Epoka University
University of International Studies of Rome, Rome, Italy
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Lorena Koleci: Bachelor in PIR, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Sindi Mara: Bachelor in PIR, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Erida Metaj: Master of Science, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Kristian Pano: Master of Science, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Fall Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Ani Lulja: Bachelor in PIR, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Spring Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Dragana Kurti: Master of Science, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Spring Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Iris Buçiqi: Master of Science, Epoka University
University of Europa Universitat Flensburg, Germany
Spring Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Hysni Skura: PhD in PIR, Epoka University
University of Oradea, Rumania
Spring Semester, 2021-2022 academic year

Marco Riccardi: University of International Studies of Rome, Italy
Master of Science, Epoka University
Spring semester of 2021-2022 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.

In the frame of Erasmus Exchange Agreement between the two universities, the department of PIR organized an open lecture on October 12, 2021, with Prof. Dr. Ralf K. Wüstenberg & Dr. Zeina Barakat from Universität Flensburg, Germany. The professors met the PhD Students, where they discussed their PhD dissertation and shared their opinions and their knowledge.

Also, the department of PIR organized an open lecture on February 28, 2022, with Dr. Istvan Polgar & Assoc. Prof. Mircea Brie from Oradea University, Romania. The professors met the PhD Students, where they discussed their PhD dissertation and shared their opinions and their knowledge.

On September 12th, 2022, the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences in cooperation with the European Wasatia Graduate School on Peace & Conflict Resolution and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Tirana, organized the conference on "Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation in Albania". This event aimed to discuss political peace in the country from its capability to expose the truth of the past regime, offer mechanisms of justice to the victims and finally enable societal peace by means of reconciliation.

To do so, the conference firstly brought together in a public panel recognized personalities who shared their professional perspectives and experiences on the topic. The panel chaired and moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, EPOKA University included Ms. Flutura Aça, member of the Albanian Parliament; Mr. Simon Miraka, the General Director of the Institute for the Integration of Former Political Victims (2002-2013); Mr. Bekim Blakaj, Executive Director of the Humanitarian Law Center in Kosovo and Ms. Admirina Peci, journalist.

Following this session, the conference continued with a book presentation by Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj, lecturer in the Department of Law at EPOKA University. The book is titled “Tradition, a Brief History of Bloodfeud in Albanian Kanun” and gives a new perspective on the phenomenon of blood feud.

After the presentation of Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj, the conference continued with two last sessions, as a PhD workshop. This Workshop gave the opportunity to PhD candidates from the Department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University and Department of Peace and Conflict Resolution at Flensburg University to present their PhD proposals and findings so far. Several candidates gave their presentations on topics with a focus on Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation all over the world. Additionally, they were able to engage in a brief discussion with the Doctors and researchers in the audience in regard to their proposals.

The department of PIR organized a collegium meeting with prof. Dr. Endrit Shabani and the PhD students to discuss their PhD dissertation, to make the students feel more confident and reduce their insecurities.

List of Publications

Dr.Reina Shehi:

Islam Jusufi, Reina Zenelaj Shehi, Jubjana Vila

Women as an emerging actor in peace and security: The impact of UNSCR 1325 in Albania Journal of Regional Security, vol. 17, iss. 1, pp. 111-140, 2022

<http://scindeks.ceon.rs/issue.aspx?issue=16221&lang=en> – 2022

Dr. Avdi Smajljaj:

Smajljaj, Avdi (forthcoming 2022). Populists solo in government, oscillating between the normalization of the previously blamed establishment and failure to govern: the case of Vetevendosje in Kosovo. In: Heinisch, Reinhard. (ed.) Diverse voices of populism – New insights from the European “Periphery”. Chapter 5. Nomos.

Dr. Jubjana Vila:

- Jusufi, Islam, Reina Zenelaj Shehi, and Jubjana Vila Zeka (2022). Women as an Emerging Actor in Peace and Security: The Impact of UNSCR 1325 in Albania. Journal of Regional Security, 17 (1): 111–140.

PhD. Dea Haxhiu:

Conference "Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation", 2022

Abstract:

In liberal democracy the state organization is mostly defined by constitution. The main purpose of a constitution is seen as a limit on the authority of the government. In all liberal democracies all over the world governmental authority is legitimately exercised only in accordance with written, publicly disclosed laws adopted and enforced in accordance with established procedure. Meaning of the term “Rule of Law” is derived from the French phrase ‘La Principe de Legality’ or in English ‘the principle of legality’ which refers to a government based on principles of law and not of men. One of the basic concepts of liberal democracy is rule of law. Rule of law is widely considered a principle under which all persons, institutions and entities are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated and equally enforced. Rule of law requires several measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making processes, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency. The rule of law limits the arbitrary power of those in authority.

Conference on European Studies 2022 titled “Developments and Challenges in the European Integration Process: The Role of Identity and Intercultural Communication in a Transnational Perspective”.

Abstract

Title: Comparative analysis of the progress and obstacles of implementation process of Justice Reform in Albania and the successful case of Romania.

The article will be based on a comparative analysis of both countries and understanding the success of the justice reform in Romania therefor becoming European Union Member State. Meanwhile, the analysis of the prolonged process of implementation of Justice Reform in Albania, as a main condition by the European Union. The countries aspiring to become member state of EU must consolidate the judicial institutions and policies under the principle of Union Law. Rule of law requires several measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of

powers, participation in decision-making processes, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency. The rule of law limits the arbitrary power of those in authority. The comparative analysis between two countries can lead to lessons learned by the success of Romania and highlighting the cause of the prolongation of the justice reform in Albania.

MSc. Ada Cara:

Cara, Ada, Reforming Teacher Education in Post- Apartheid South Africa to Achieve Quality in Education. (September 21, 2022). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=>

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Dr. Reina Shehi:

16/05/2022 – 21/05/2022 – University of Tartu, Estonia

Invited Guest Lecture & Keynote Speaker

Guest Lecturer: Course “Political Systems of the EU Member States” led by Stefano Braghiroli

Topic: " EU as a Promoter of Democracy or Stabilitocracy in the Western Balkans: Party Development and Party System Dynamics"

Invited Panelist: NearEU awareness seminar “Rethinking EU's Enlargement: From Western Balkans to Eastern Neighbourhood”.

Keynote Speech: Graduate Conference: The Interaction of Interests & Norms in EU conditionality: The Perspective of Western Balkans

09/06/2022 – 17/06/2022 – Budapest, Hungary

Invited Speaker & Panelist

Political Communication in Southeast Europe Invited Speaker: Media effects on Conflict Transformation: A case study of Albanian Political Crisis Panelist: Media and Polarization

22/06/2022 – 22/06/2022 – PhD Program in Peace and Conflict Resolution, University of Flensburg, Germany

Invited Guest Lecturer Justice and Reconciliation Seminars/ FIRST SERIES JUNE 22

Public Online lectures with the Cooperation of ICES and the European Wasatia graduate school for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Topic: The Elusive relationship of Transitional Justice & Reconciliation in Albania

Dr. Jubjana Vila:

- “Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation” Conference, 12 September 2022 – Organizing committee and session chair

- 8th International Conference on European Studies (ICES'22) “Developments and Challenges in the European Integration Process: The Role of Identity and Intercultural Communication in a Transnational Perspective” to be held at Epoka University, Tirana, Albania, on September 21-23, 2022. – Conference Chair

PhD. Dea Haxhiu:

Organizing Committee, at the conference "Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation “organized by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences at EPOKA University, European Wasatia Graduate School on Peace & Conflict Resolution at Flensburg University, in Germany, 2022.

Participant at the conference "Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation “organized by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences at EPOKA University, European Wasatia Graduate School on Peace & Conflict Resolution at Flensburg University, in Germany, 2022.

Organizing the Conference on European Studies 2022 titled “Developments and Challenges in the European Integration Process: The Role of Identity and Intercultural Communication in a Transnational Perspective” organized by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Epoka University, and Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and Communication Science, Oradea University held at Epoka University, Tirana/ Albania.

Participant at the Conference on European Studies 2022 titled “Developments and Challenges in the European Integration Process: The Role of Identity and Intercultural Communication in a Transnational Perspective” organized by the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Epoka University, and Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and Communication Science, Oradea University held at Epoka University, Tirana/ Albania.

Participant at the COST Summer School “Model European Union Mainz” (MEUM) 2022, 22-25 June 2022 in Mainz, Germany.

Staff Mobility, Erasmus+ Agreement at Oradea University, Oradea Romania, May 2022.

Projects

Dr. Reina Shehi:

Team Member: Jean Monnet Module on “EU Integration of Western Balkans: Patterns and Issues” (WB-EU Path)

Dr. Jubjana Vila:

- Erasmus+ Program Jean Monnet Module Grant

Module title: “EU Integration of Western Balkans: Patterns and Issues” (WB-EUPath)

Role: Module Leader

Abstract of the papers you have published or attended conference with

Implementing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace, and Security in practice is emerging as a priority for Albanian security politics, in which the Government of Albania is endeavouring to act by increasing compliance with the norms promoted by the Resolution. This article reflects on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 by focusing on the discourse on mainstreaming the women, peace and security norms in Albanian society. It finds that the UNSCR 1325 contributed to the increase of genderrelated content in Albanian political, academic and civil society elite discourse, albeit selectively. Albanian political, academic and civil society actors appear to have been less responsive to the responsibilities of the UNSCR 1325, predictably due to the fact that Albania is not a conflict or post-conflict country, the status of which the Resolution primarily addresses. In conditions that Albania has been more responsive, the focus has been more on issues of gender equality in general rather than being guided by the specific norms of the UNSCR 1325

E. Support, Resources & Representation

List of Students' Internships

N/A

Participation in Academic Events

‘Reconciliation on the focus: Reassessing the Contact Hypothesis in Kosovo’ paper in the 2nd ENTAN Conference



The ENTAN Conference gathered distinguished academics from all over Europe and beyond to discuss upon the possibility of implementing the model of Non-Territorial Autonomy as a solution to the stabilization of a multi-ethnic state and much more.

Amongst all the professors, researchers and scholars, Oriana Bani, a recent graduate from Epoka stood as a panelist to present her findings on the topic.

"I felt immense privilege and gratitude for being able to experience a conference of such importance as a guest speaker, able to present my arguments and give my contribution. I want to thank my mentor professor, Reina Shehi who had a great influence on the paper ‘Reconciliation on the focus: Reassessing the Contact Hypothesis in Kosovo’ and I want to thank EU- COST ENTAN Network for providing me this opportunity."

Prof. Dr. Ralf K. Wüstenberg & Dr. Zeina Barakat from Universität Flensburg, Germany.



We would like to thank Prof. Dr. Ralf K. Wüstenberg & Dr. Zeina Barakat for their time and devotion! It was a very energetic discussion and pleasant one!

Building Partnership for Youth, Peace and Security- UNYAA Project



The new United Nations Youth Association Albania (UNYAA) project organised its first Introductory meeting with its partners from civil society organisations and various universities, including representatives from the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University.

The new project aims at advocating for the introduction of a Youth mainstreaming component, within Albania's Action Plan as a non-Permanent Membership at the UN Security Council (2022-2023 Mandate). Among the topics discussed during the meeting with the partners the most important include security issues, peace and education, youth organised crimes, youth unemployment and defining the basic concepts through various workshops and seminars on peace and security.

Our Department is excited to be a partner in this project, where members will jointly design the National Network on Youth, Peace, and Security. Students and academics are more than welcome to join us in this new initiative.

Contact Point from the PIR department: Ms. Ada Cara acara@epoka.edu.al

For more information on the project please follow the UNYAA website link: <https://www.unyaa.al/>

or the Project one-pager: <https://bit.ly/One-Pager-YPS>

Open forum titled "Woke" Movement and the left totalitarian in the current situation in the US, guest speaker: Dr. Ernest Nasto



On January 11, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations organized an open forum titled "Woke" Movement and the left totalitarian in the current situation in the US. At this event, we were pleased to have with us as a guest speaker, Dr. Ernest Nasto, a researcher of American Politics.

For one hour, Dr. Nasto provided our students with an insightful elaboration on the topic. He initially focused on the essence of "Woke", a movement that entered the American political dictionary in 1860 and gained national recognition in 2014 with the "Black Lives Matter", as an alert towards the suppressing characteristics of the existing system. The roots of the "Woke" movement, as our guest mentioned, were found in the antiliberal philosophies of Karl Marx who moved suppression from the individual to the group level; Friedrich Nietzsche who brought the concept of relative truth; Jean-Paul Sartre who put human existence as primary; Michel Foucault

who claimed that suppression is found everywhere. All these philosophers emphasized that it is the role of the revolutionist to fight for social justice against this concept. The Marxist ideas of suppression were later brought from an economic to a cultural perspective by Gramsci. The latter influenced the movement of critical race theory which seeks to examine the intersection of race and law in the US and to challenge the liberal approaches to racial justice.

Dr. Nasto additionally explained the current characteristics of this leftist movement and its consequences. He firstly listed several features starting from the lack of recognition for the merits of the current system to the non-acceptance of debate, the disapproval of human imperfection, and the cancel culture. These elements, as he described, had brought a violation of the freedom of speech, especially in the American universities that used to be mediums of freedom and a refusal of reality. Dr. Nasto concluded by stating that this movement was not healthy for American democracy.

Following his discourse, this speaker engaged in a brief discussion with the participants who shared their different perspectives on the "Woke" movement and its expansion beyond the United States.

We would like to thank Dr. Nasto for his time and devotion! It was a very energetic and pleasant one!

"Whistleblowing in Politics", guest speakers: Mr. Dyrmishi, Mr. Xhemollari, and Mr. Qiraxhi



In cooperation with the “Civic Resistance” organization, the Department of Political Science and International Relations held an activity on the topic “Whistleblowing in Politics”. The activity consisted of two separate phases: a training and a debate between the students.

The training took place on February 1, 2022, and we were glad to have with us as guest speakers Mr. Arjan Dyrmishi, an expert in the field of whistleblowing, and Mr. Rigels Xhemollari, president of "Civic Resistance". The event began with Mr. Dyrmishi who presented to the participants the

basics of whistleblowing. He initially explained the terminology of the concept by defining whistleblowing as an act committed to report wrongdoings based on the belief that this will serve the public interest. Then he proceeded to elaborate on whistleblowing as a tool used to fight corruption and build integrity. While discussing the benefits of this act, Mr. Dyrmushi also talked about the risks that might follow after and how the whistleblower is protected legally. He concluded his part by sharing stories of well-known whistleblowers internationally. After a short break, the training continued with Mr. Xhemollari who focused on whistleblowing from a civil society's perspective. He introduced the participants to cases in which the Albanian civil society had served as a whistleblower and he emphasized the significance of such a role for the proper political functioning of a government. Additionally, Mr. Xhemollari focused on the struggles that civil society faces when trying to report misconduct.

At the end of the event, the guest speakers engaged in a short discussion with the participants who stated their opinions on whistleblowing.

On February 4, 2022, the students who took part in the training had the opportunity to apply the knowledge they acquired in a debate. They were separated into two groups, pro and against whistleblowing, and through 90 minutes they shared well-constructed arguments and counterarguments. In the end, a winning party was chosen and part of the panel who evaluated the debate was a representative from Civic Resistance, Mr. Migen Qiraxhi.

We would like to thank Mr. Dyrmishi, Mr. Xhemollari, and Mr. Qiraxhi for their time and contribution!

Master's program of European Studies at the European University of Flensburg, Germany

EPOKA UNIVERSITY | **Europa-Universität Flensburg**

Master European Studies

Informative Session

DATE AND TIME:
MARCH 17, 2022
12:30pm (CET)

Speaker:
Astela Veis
EUS Ambassador
M.A. Student

astela1.veis@studierende.uni-flensburg.de

On March 17, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations in collaboration with Ms. Astela Veis, a Graduate student of Epoka University, Ambassador of European Studies in Albania, organized an online information session to introduce the Political Science and International Relations students of Epoka University with the Master's program of European Studies at the European University of Flensburg, Germany.

This information session aimed to give the Political Science and International Relations students an insightful elaboration on the European Studies Master Program at the European University of Flensburg, Germany. This session included information on regards of programs curricula, their importance, and relevance to today's world. Following this review, Ms. Veis talked more about the location of the university, its world-class qualifications, admin requirements for student applicants, exchange programs, internships all over Germany, double degree programs, and living parameters in one of the most developed countries in the world. She shared with our students her personal experience first as an Erasmus exchange student from Epoka University and now as a master's student in Flensburg.

In the last part of the session, Ms. Veis answered all the questions of the students interested in this study program.

We would like to thank Ms. Veis for the time and devotion! Wishing her all the best for the future and welcoming her to other fruitful activities!

'Make it Visible'



On March 24, 2022, 'Human Right Defenders' Club in collaboration with "Barazi ne vendimmarje" held a workshop titled "Human Rights and Media" with special guests; Mr. Robert Budina director and screenwriter, Ms. Alida Tota, and Mr. Renaldo Salianji journalists. The event was created as a discussion space to promote the principles of the protection of the fundamental rights of citizens, the importance of media independence, and freedom of expression, to build a strong democracy.

The workshop started with the presentation of the 'Make it Visible' movement, its goals, and its importance as a movement supporting whistleblowers and exposing wrongdoings. The second part of the workshop consisted of a 'Kahoot' game which was used as an ice breaker with mini-quizzes that tested the information students had regarding human rights and media. It continued with the presentation of 'Katrori I Pushtetit', a mini serial that had a mission to show to the public the importance of media as the fourth branch of democracy and how crucial the freedom of media is. Directed by Robert Budina and Mateo Cingu, this serial has just been introduced to the Albanian public. Supported by the European Union, within the "Make it Visible" initiative, at the center of the series are investigative media, politics, business, and crime. A great confrontation of conscience with right and wrong, which will be narrated through another angle, that of the media, to reveal the other side of the coin because as they also quote the saying of Joseph Pulitzer: "A cynical, mercenary, demagogic media, over time, will produce a public as worthless as itself."

In this framework, students had the chance to discuss with the guests how human rights and media freedom are being or not respected in Albania. Participants engaged in the discussion had the opportunity to give their own opinions and share their analyses with regard of what is the overall relationship between the media, the public, and politics in Albania.

Open Forum on "Women in Career" with special guest Mrs.Sonila Meco, a political journalist

EPOKA UNIVERSITY

Sensitive Society Club

WOMEN IN CAREER

OPEN FORUM
With:
Sonila MEÇO
Journalist and Presenter

MONDAY
APRIL 01, 2022

11:30
AM

EPOKA UNIVERSITY
CONFERENCE HALL

Media & Politics in Albania - A visit to Euronews Albania



On the 16th of May, 2022 Department of Political Science and International Relations organized a visit to Euronews Albania in the framework of the Political Communication course. In this context, the main aim of this visit was to give to students a better insight into how media influences politics and vice versa, the impact media has on the political agenda setting, government communication, and how media in Albania plays its role as the fourth branch of democracy.

Euronews Albania is a television channel that broadcasts news in the Albanian language from Albania, Kosovo, and Northern Macedonia under the well-known logo of Euronews. The broadcasting of the shows started on November 21, 2019, and in a very short time managed to gain the trust of viewers with the innovations, it brought to the Albanian audiovisual media, attracting the attention of different age groups, making Euronews one of the most followed media in the country.

Students were welcomed by Ms. Loneta Progni and Mr. Renaldo Salianji, journalists and presenters of the 'Miremengjes' morning program at Euronews, who shared with our students their experience in the field of journalism and media and explained the notion of 'media framing' and shared with the students Euronews policies regarding news broadcasting and the way news is delivered to the public. In this framework, students had the chance to discuss how journalists' rights and media freedom are being or not respected in Albania. Participants engaged in the discussion had the opportunity to give their own opinions and share their analyses with regard of what is the overall relationship between the media, the public, and politics in Albania.

Study Visit at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



On May 26, 2022, our students of the Department of Law and Department of Political Science and International Relations visited the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The said visit was organized in the context of the course “Public International Law”, delivered during the third year of their studies. The course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts and instruments of international law and the international legal system, such as the sources and subjects of international law, sovereignty and jurisdiction of states, the use of force, and the relationship between international law and the domestic law of states.

The students were welcomed by Mr. Valter Ibrahimi, former ambassador, and Ms. Shpresa Shahaj of the Directorate of International Law at the Ministry. They shared with the students their extensive experience in the foreign service and focused on some of the most recent activities and policies of the Ministry. Ms. Shahaj delivered a very interesting lecture on “Treaty Law” sharing with the students not only the relevant legal framework and technical aspects of treaty making but also information on Albanian work and experience in this area. Mr. Ibrahimi shared with the students his vast experience in negotiation of treaties and highlighted among other the important role that Albania has and is supposed to play in developing further regional relations in the Western Balkans.

Such visits are considered important for linking theoretical knowledge obtained during course hours with practical knowledge from experts working in the area. The said visit was organized by the course instructor Dr. Alba Gerdeci.

At the end the students received a tour of the Ministry.

PIR PhD candidate, Ines Stasa presents her PhD research at LSE workshop

The PhD Candidate of PIR Department at Epoka University, Ines Stasa was elected to present her research at the PhD workshop Transitional justice in the Western Balkans: Emerging research and theory building.

This workshop was organised jointly within the scope of the research project ‘Justice Interactions and Peacebuilding: From Static to Dynamic Discourses across National, Ethnic, Gender and Age Groups’ (JUSTINT), funded by the European Research Council (ERC, No. 772354), and in collaboration with the LSEE, a Centre for Research on South-Eastern Europe, both based at the European Institute at London School of Economics and Political Science.

Ines presented an outline of the PHD thesis on "Transitional Justice in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia", and received constructive feedback by Prof.As.Dr.Denisa Kostovicova, a leading scholar on transitional justice in the Western Balkans.

Attached the agenda of the PhD workshop Transitional justice in the Western Balkans: Emerging research and theory building: epoka.edu.al/mat/flss/AGENDA_PhD_workshop_May-27.pdf

NearEU MOOC awarded as e-course of the year In Estonia



We are thrilled and proud to announce that the MOOC “Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms” has won the title of “E-course of the year 2022”, given out by the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocation Education.

The course Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms has been developed by Anna Beitane, Stefano Braghiroli, Andrey Makarychev, Maili Vilson, Kristel Vits, Reina Shehi (Zenelaj), Nikoleta Dukanovic, Iryna Maksymenko, Shota Kakabadze and Mari-Liis Sulg. The course has been developed within the Jean Monnet NearEU module; a 3-year project coordinated by Dr. Stefano Braghiroli. Dr. Reina Shehi is a partner to the overall project and all staff and students of the Department of Political Science and International Relations & Center for European Studies are direct beneficiaries of the module activities and outputs. The project is supported by the European Union's Erasmus + program.

Epoka University congratulates the project consortium for this achievement.

For more information on the module, please see: <https://sisu.ut.ee/neareu1/home-0>

Open lecture: “Media in the post-truth era, learning to distinguish the truth” by Dr. Irena Myzeqari



On June 13, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations of EPOKA University organized an open lecture titled “Media in the post-truth era, learning to distinguish the truth” At this event, we were pleased to have Dr. Irena Myzeqari as a guest speaker.

Dr. Myzeqai provided our students with an insightful elaboration of the topic. She began by explaining the importance of news and how we can distinguish the truth in media in the post-truth era, focusing on communication as an important tool used in political and social life. She then presented important concepts such as Algorithms in social media, Bubble Filter, and Echo-Chamber, referring to situations in which beliefs are amplified or reinforced by communication and repetition inside a closed system and insulated from rebuttal.

Participants engaged in the discussion had the opportunity to give their insights and share opinions and analyses regarding the importance of communication through media and how much it affects our everyday life.

"The MAGA MOVEMENT and right-wing totalitarianism in the current American political situation", with special guest Dr. Ernest Nasto.



On June 16, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations organized an open forum titled "The MAGA MOVEMENT and right-wing totalitarianism in the current American political situation". At this event, we were pleased to have with us a guest speaker, Dr. Ernest Nasto, a researcher of American Politics.

Dr. Nasto provided our students with an insightful elaboration on the topic. He initially focused on the essence of "Maga", as a movement and right-wing totalitarianism, and explained "Trumpism" as a notion that is part of the American dictionary since 2016, during Donald Trump's presidential campaign, together with the motto: "Make Amerika Great Again".

Dr. Nasto additionally explained the causes of the 'Trump' phenomenon, the similarities, and differences with the historical rights movement, and the triumph of conservatism understood as the political identity of the white population against conservatism as a set of certain principles and practices. Furthermore, he tackled the developments after the 2020 elections, the threat to the stability of American democracy, the impact on America's role in the world, and future perspectives, also provided students with a comparison with today's Albanian politics.

Following his discourse, Dr. Nasto engaged in a brief discussion with the participants who shared their different perspectives on the "Maga" movement and its expansion beyond the United States.

We would like to thank Dr. Nasto for his time and devotion!

Open lecture: "Human Rights and The World Orders", with special guest Prof. Dr. Ioan Horga



On June 16, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations of EPOKA University organized an open lecture titled "Human Rights and The World Orders". At this event, we were pleased to have Prof. Dr. Ioan Horga from the University of Oradea, Romania, who visited EPOKA on the framework of the Erasmus+ Mobility Program funded by the European Commission.

Prof. Horga provided our students with an insightful elaboration of the topic. He started his analysis with a historical framework and explained how we moved from the bipolar world order during the Cold war, to the hierarchical and democratic world order after 1990, also analyzed the way Western theories of international relations have been used by scholars to explain the new world order after 2010.

Participants engaged in the discussion had the opportunity to make questions and share their opinions regarding the topic.

Research Projects

N/A

Industry Projects

N/A

Community Projects

N/A

Student Club Projects

N/A

Student Best Success Stories

N/A

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. Reina Shehi-
Dr. Niuton Mulleti
Dr. Jubjana Vila
Dr. Avdi Smajljaj
Dr. Sadullah Yılmaz
MSc. Ada Cara
MSc. Erjon Saliasi

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In addition to the Office Holders listed above, the department would like to thank all the students of the 3 cycles of study of department of Political Science and International Relations, academic staff of Faculty of Law and Social Sciences and the administrative staff of Epoka University. Your hard work and dedication throughout this whole academic year is highly appreciated.

**Department of Political Science and International
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