



Department of Political Science
and International Relations

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2022- 2023



Annual Report

Academic Year 2022- 2023

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A. Organization & Management

1. 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 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.

2. 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. The educational workload for these three years is 180 ECTS. Each semester, students are expected to cover at least 30 ECTS credits. The students that have successfully completed a total of 180 ECTS shall be entitled to graduate from the program and shall be conferred the diploma of Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations.

Bachelor program 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 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. Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations consists in 90 ECTS of taken courses and a 30 ECTS Master Thesis. The students that have successfully completed a total of 120 ECTS shall be entitled to graduate from the program and shall be conferred the diploma of Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations.

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 with the European and Albanian Qualifications Framework.

B. Resources

1. 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 Neighborhood 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.

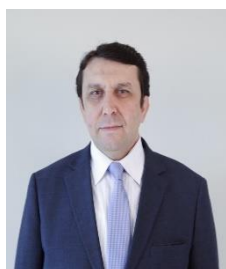


Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Dean of Faculty

Lecturer

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti is the President of Albanian Diplomatic Academy in Albania. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bashkurti has been the Chancellor in several 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



Assoc. Prof. Dr. David J. Felsen
**Vice-Rector for International Relations
Lecturer**



Dr. Sadullah YILMAZ
Lecturer

Sadullah Yılmaz, born in Gökçebey, Turkey on 01 April 1969. He is married and has 3 kids. Sadullah gained Albanian citizenship in 2012.

During 1986-1990 he graduated from the Aegean University (Ege Üniversitesi) in Izmir, Turkey in the major of the department of Navy, Marine.

During 2001-2004 he earned the Bachelor's Degree (4 years) in Linguistic and Turkish Literature in the University of Prishtina.

In the same university he graduated in the Masters of second cycle on Linguistic and Turkish Literature during 2005-2018.

Meanwhile he got his PhD in the European University of Tirana on "Pedagogy-Psychology" During 2011-2018.

Since 1992 he has been working in the Mehmet Akif and Turgut Özal Colleges in Albania (1992-2000, 2002-2012) and in Kosovo (2000-2002).

His work experience is as following:

2012-2013 Lecturer and the Head of Admission Office at University College Bedër.

2013-2014 Director of the Yunus Emre Institution in Prishtina, Kosovo.

2014-2015 Director of the Yunus Emre Institution in Teheran, Iran.

2015-2016 Director of the Compassion Help Center.

2015-2019 Turkish language lecture and Dean of Students (2018-2019) at Epoka University, Tirana.

2019-2020 Turkish language lecture and Vice Dean of Faculty of Humanities at the University College Bedër, Tirana. Also, he is a part-time lecturer at Epoka University.

2020-2021 Turkish language lecture and Dean of Students at Epoka University, Tirana. Also, he is a part-time lecturer at the University College Bedër, Tirana.

2021 – Ongoing. He is currently working at the Epoka University, Tirana as Dean of Students and a Turkish language 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.



MSc. Naida Ertekin

Assistant Lecturer

Part time Academic Staff



Dr. Endrit Shabani



MSc. Aldo Bumçi

Teaching Assistant Staff



Ingrid Melani



Iris Buçiqi



Marko Meraç



Shysti Bushati

Administrative Staff



Ervin Sulika
Faculty Administrator



Alma Pupli
Coordinator

Academic Visitors (2022-2023)

Name Surname (Title)	Title	Sending University	Host Department at Epoka University	Cycle	Mobility Period
Sipos Sorin	Prof.	University of Oradea	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	20.09.2022- 29.10.2022
Istvan Polgar	Prof.	University of Oradea	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	20.09.2022- 29.10.2022
Stefano Braghiroli	Dr.	University of Tartu	Staff Mobility for Training Faculty of Law and Social Sciences	Erasmus+	08.07.2023 - 13.07.2023
Anna Beitane	Ms.	University of Tartu	Staff Mobility for Training Faculty of Law and Social Sciences	Erasmus+	08.07.2023 - 13.07.2023
Brie Mircea	Prof.	University of Oradea	Staff Mobility for teaching / PIR	Erasmus+	14.07.2023 - 24.07.2023

2. Finance

The revenues from:	Study program Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations Year 2022-2023
Local/Central government	
Non-Public Funds:	
Grants on researcha and contracts	11,067.57
Consultations, services	
Tution fees for and during studies	59,194.37
Sponsorships	
Training services (life-long qualifications)	
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	
Commercial activities (cafeterias, fast-food, residential quarters)	
TOTAL	70,261.94

The revenues from:	Study program Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations Year 2022-2023
Local/Central government	
Non-Public Funds:	
Grants on researcha and contracts	6,527.03
Consultations, services	
Tution fees for and during studies	17,811.59
Sponsorships	
Training services (life-long qualifications)	
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	
Commercial activities (cafeterias, fast-food, residential quarters)	
TOTAL	24,338.62

The revenues from:	Study program Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations Year 2022-2023
Local/Central government	
Non-Public Funds:	

Grants on research and contracts	851.35
Consultations, services	
Tuition fees for and during studies	3,096.44
Sponsorships	
Training services (life-long qualifications)	
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	
Commercial activities (cafeterias, fast-food, residential quarters)	
<i>TOTAL</i>	3,947.79

The revenues from:	Study program PhD in Political Science and International Relations Year 2022-2023
Local/Central government	
Non-Public Funds:	
Grants on research and contracts	2,554.05
Consultations, services	
Tuition fees for and during studies	4,646.18
Sponsorships	
Training services (life-long qualifications)	
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	
Commercial activities (cafeterias, fast-food, residential quarters)	
<i>TOTAL</i>	7,200.23

3. IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

The Department of Political Science and International Relations is entitled to use all the resources and infrastructure of EPOKA University.

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions. ICTCO works on the project for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel and provides the following services:



Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps users to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop their understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and trains the staff about how to use Turnitin.
- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructors can login to LMS using the provided official email account.
- **Library Automation System (Koha)** - Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.

- **DSpace**– The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka University can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania (<http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania>). We also give services to other international journals to publish their publications (<http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378>) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

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

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

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers. The e-wallet application is active for staff but has not started yet for students.

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

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription to the Microsoft Program which is called Dream Spark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staff and students, which includes all office applications for free.

Network:

- **Wireless:** Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members on the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere on campus.
- **Wired:** Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room and a library where PCs serve students and staff with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classrooms, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use wired internet and electricity for their laptops.
- **Digital Signage:** There are four TVs on campus, which are used to inform Epoka members about the latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)



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

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

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that,

students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. Also, in the system, they can access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the “warning zone” for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.

- **Instructors:** Academic staff, including full-time and part-time lecturers can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.
- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty coordinators. Coordinators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under the respective department.
- **Admissions and Registrar’s Office:** Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by the Admissions office is managed by Registrar’s office.
- **Finance:** Finance office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.
- **Human Resources:** Human resources office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.
- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

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

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

Physical Infrastructure

The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m². Through the year, students and lecturers have used different classes in D- Building. This building has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process. In addition to classes, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, libraries, internet cafés, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc.

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.

Premises of the Faculty

Premises for the Faculties	Quantity	Surface (m²)
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	3	210
Classrooms for seminars	5	284
Premises for promotion activities	1	128
Classrooms for course/professional practice	1	52
Laboratories for courses	1	52
Informatics laboratories	1	95
Internet Room	1	95
Library Hall	1	400
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	33.6
Student information office	2	71
Corridors/halls	11	553
Sports premises	4	2100
Premises for service to third parties	1	56
Restrooms (WC) for students	19	94.7
Total Surface		3925.2
Ratio m²/students	3925.2 m2 /154 std = 25.49 m2 per student	
Premises for personnel:	Quantity	Surface
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	1	27.5
Office for the Administrator	1	22.5
Office for Vice Rector	1	31.5
Offices for the Department Coordinators	1	22.5
Offices for departments/research centres	4	90
Offices for the academic personnel	5	112.5
Office for the Finance Office	2	37
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	13
Meeting rooms	1	27.5
Premises for service personnel	4	10
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast food/restaurant	2	537
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	4	32
Total Surface		1231.5
Ratio m² per person	1231.5 m2 /73 pers= 16.87	

Library

The EPOKA University Library, which is located on the first floor of A- Building in the EPOKA University Campus, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents. With its 100-seating capacity, our library has

a 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of entrance, book and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do research. EPOKA University is a member of the Balkan Libraries Union which was founded on 29 July 2009 with the participation of 10 institutions from 6 Balkan countries. Our library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, administrative and academic staff. Under the Department of Library and Documentation, the library has a total of about 7500 printed books.

Digital Databases

EPOKA University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 2,000 academic journals. JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations. Every member of EPOKA staff can access JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

Our library works on an open shelf system enabling you to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book you are looking for, you should follow these steps:

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

Regulations

Students of Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree and Master Students and academic and administrative personnel are the members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules. Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books, they are only allowed to use and copy the materials in the library. Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Circulation Rules

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

Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students Graduate students Staff	3	3

C. The Curriculum

1. Undergraduate Teaching

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (BA in PIR program)																	
First YEAR																	
First Semester																	
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 111	Introduction to Political Science	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 133	Political and Diplomatic History	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
LAW 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		
BAF 101	Introduction to Economics	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 109	Developing Reading and Writing Skills	A	Compulsory	2	0	2	4	3	32	0	0	61	0	125	5		
Semestral Total				18	0	2	20	19	288	0	0	402	28	750	30		
Second Semester																	
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
LAW 116	Constitutional Law	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 104	Key Themes in Political Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 122	Politics and History of Balkans	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 130	International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 124	Comparative Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
ENG 106	Advanced English	A	Compulsory	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		
Second YEAR																	
Third Semester																	
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 201	Research Methods in Social Sciences	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 271	Government and Politics in Albania	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 225	International Organizations	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 203	Politics and Institutions in the EU	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 227	Comparative Politics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
XXX	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		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 241	Turkish I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 243	German I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 245	Italian I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 247	French I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
Fourth Semester																	
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 220	Democracy and Democratization	A	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 212	Information, Technology and Political Power	D	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5		
PIR 202	Modern Political Thought	B	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 206	Parties, Elections and Policy Making	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
XXX	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		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 242	Turkish II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 244	German II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 246	Italian II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
PIR 248	French II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
Third YEAR																	
Fifth Semester																	
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS		
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total			
PIR 351	Politics of Human Rights	B	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		
PIR 309	Professional Practice	D	Elective	0	6	0	5	3	0	80	0	0	45	125	5		
XXX	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		
XXX	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5		

Semestral Total				17	6	0	22	20	272	80	0	332	66	750	30
Elective Courses															
BUS 335	Human Resources Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 303	Political Leadership	C	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
PIR 317	Politics of Inequality	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 341	EU Law	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 339	Political Communication	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
PIR 337	Regional Development and Governance	C	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						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
PIR 330	International Security	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	80	6	150	6
PIR 362	Public Administration in Democratic States	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	80	6	150	6
*PIR 300	Graduation Thesis	E	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
*PIR 316	Final Comprehensive Exam														
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				17	4	0	21	19	272	64	0	350	64	750	30
Elective Courses															
LAW 304	Public International Law	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 336	Crisis Analysis and Management	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 366	State and Local Government	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 340	Global Governance	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 310	Political Behavior	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 368	Populism	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 342	International Terrorism & Threat Perception	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
PIR 370	History of European Integration	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

2. Graduate Teaching

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (MSc in PIR program)															
First YEAR															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
PIR 405	Academic Reading and Writing	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 409	Current Issues in International Relations	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	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
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 417	Justice, Democracy and Citizenship	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 419	Political Integration and the European Union	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 421	Political Parties in the Developing World	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 433	Politics, Religion and Globalization	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 435	International Institutions	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 443	Human Rights and Humanitarian Interventions	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 451	Peace and Security	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
PIR 420	Research Methods in Social Sciences	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

XXX	Elective II	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective III	C/D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				22	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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 430	Human Resources: Managing People in Times of Global Change	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 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 440	International Political Economy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 448	International Politics of Environment	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 450	Regional Politics	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 464	Strategic Planning and Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 466	Social Media and Data Analysis	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 480	EU Integration and Transformation of Western Balkans	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 482	E-Politics	D	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 Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
PIR 567	European Public Policy	C	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 555	World Politics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	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
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
PIR 503	Political Geography	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 509	Gender and Development	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 511	Political Ideology	C	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 553	Human Security	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PM in PIR program)															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX	Elective III	B/C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30

Elective Courses																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
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	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 449	Conflict Resolution & Diplomatic Language	C	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	
Semestral Total				22	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30	
Elective Courses																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
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 402	Internship	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
PIR 400	Micro Thesis	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	
Semestral Total				22	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30	
Elective Courses																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
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	
PIR 480	EU Integration and Transformation of Western Balkans	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5	

3. Curriculum Changes

Changes in the Curriculum of the Study program Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations																
Course/Module	Se	EC	We	Th	Fri	Sa	Su	Teaching at auditorium and site work	Total							

					Lecture			Seminar			Exercises/ Laboratories			Forms of continuous control and professional practice sessions, conducted in the auditorium			Professional practice, site practice or internship	In auditorium	Independent work	Total	Exams
					ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work					
1	Course was ECO 101/ ECO 102- Introduction to Economics I/ Introduction to Economics II	II	5	3	5	48	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	77	125	2
	Course changed BAF 101- Introduction to Economics	I	5	3	5	48	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	77	125	2
2	Course was PIR 162- Introduction to Public Administration	II	5	4	5	64	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	61	125	2
	Course has been removed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Course was PIR 102- Political Communication (compulsory)	II	5	3	5	48	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	77	125	2
	Course changed PIR 339- Political Communication (elective)	V	5	3	5	48	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	77	125	2
4	Course was BAF 222- Public Finance	I V	5	3	5	48	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	77	125	2
	Course has been removed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Course was	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Course changed PIR 351- Politics of Human Rights	V	5	4	5	64	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	61	125	2
Total																					In total there were 25 ECTS change which make a total of 13,9% change.

Study program Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations																					
Course/ Module		Semester	ECTS	Weekly hours	Teaching at auditorium and site work													Total			Exams
					Lecture			Seminar			Exercises/ Laboratories			Forms of continuous control and professional practice sessions, conducted in the auditorium			Professional practice, site practice or internship	In auditorium	Independent work	Total	
					ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work	ECTS	In auditorium	Independent work					
1	Course was PIR XXX-Compulsory I	I	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	139.5	187.5	2
	Course changed PIR 567-European Public Policy	I	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	139.5	187.5	2

2	Course was PIR XXX-Elective I	II I	7 .5	3	7 .5	4 8	13 95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	13 9.5	1 8 7. 5	2
	Course changed PIR XXX-Elective I	II I	7 .5	3	7 .5	4 8	13 9.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	13 9.5	1 8 7. 5	2
Total In total there were 15 ECTS change which make a total of 12,5% change.																					

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

1. Students' List of Theses

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

Student: Ani Lulja

Thesis Title: Citizenship and the Transformation of Political Community: Albanian Case.
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: This research focuses on citizen participation and its role in the transformation of the political community in Albania. Data was collected through a survey to examine voting behavior, forms of citizen involvement and political engagement. The survey results consists of a high voter turnout, mentioning the importance of voting for citizen involvement. However, the majority of citizens show a feeling of apathy and lack of engagement from the political process, by highlighting problems such as limited opportunities and lack of trust. There is a need for accountability and transparency to address citizen needs. It also shows that youth participation is important since they are the ones who can protests, raise issues that are affecting the society. The research concludes that citizen participation is essential for enhancing democracy and it can be realized by overcoming the obstacles in Albania. For a positive transformation within the political community, it is important to foster public trust, build lines of communication and a strength relationship between the government and citizens.

Student: Gledia Hajrulla

Thesis Title: The Pathway to Turkey's EU Membership: Evaluating the Opportunities and the Obstacles.
Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Thesis Summary: The present research focused on recent changes in Turkey's relations with the European Union (EU), particularly the effects of Turkey's EU accession path. The investigation and evaluation of Turkish culture, politics, and foreign relations concentrated on seven major themes, involving: how Turkish citizens and the Turkish government perceive the EU and EU membership; the significance of religion in Turkey; the architecture of Turkish democracy; the situation of human rights in Turkey; Turkish education strategy; the Turkish economy; and Turkish foreign policy. Each one has changed over the period of the negotiations for EU membership. Analyzing the interactions between Turkey and the EU throughout the accession process indicates that Turkey made significant adjustments to its policies, but it is also evident that the enactment of the new legislation has met with only inconsistent accomplishment. Many of these modifications have improved Turkey's resemblance to modern state prototypes in Europe. Nevertheless, as negotiations have progressed, Turkey has developed a significantly more pessimistic attitude toward the EU and membership due to a variety of factors, some of which are connected to the accession process. The EU's treatment of Turkey has played a significant role in Turkey's decision to review its relationships, build tighter ties with non-Western nations, and grow increasingly dubious of its traditional partners.

Student: Ivana Gjelošhaj

Thesis Title: The Psychology of Obedience to Political Authority: The Case of Albania.
Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: The purpose of this research is to understand the perception that Albanian citizens have towards obedience to political authorities. Obedience has been a highly studied concept in different fields such as philosophy, psychology and politics. In politics a level of obedience is necessary to maintain order and stability within the state and that is described as constructive obedience. However, obedience can also be destructive as in the case of following orders without questioning them or falling victim to state propaganda. The most extreme cases have been seen in totalitarian and authoritarian regimes throughout history. This is the reason why civil disobedience is seen as important in protecting freedoms and avoiding authoritarianism. This research focuses on the case of Albania. In order to get data, a survey was conducted among Albanian citizens to get an understanding of their perception towards obedience to political authorities. From the data it is concluded that Albanians have a mostly positive perception of obedience and a negative perception of disobedience. The main finding of the research was the correlation between obedience, education and income level. People with higher income and higher education level preferred less dominant leaders and were less willing to accept authoritarian tendencies of the government. Furthermore, although most respondents were willing to react in the case of the passing of an unjust law by the parliament, the actual level of civil disobedience was low. Lastly, Albanians perceived the Albanian society as obedient to political authority and chose the communist regime legacy as the main reason. Given the importance of destructive and constructive obedience in the political culture of a state, further research is needed to better understand these concepts in the context of Albania.

Graduate Students' List of Theses

Student: Endri Ngresi

Thesis Title: How the Democratic Development in Albania has Affected, the Rule of Law, Human Rights, and Human Development from 2013 to 2021, and How Albanian Citizens Perceive the Changes?

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: Living in a new Democratic regime, most of us, we, the people who live in Western Balkan country like Albania, we may wonder: Does democracy enhance the quality of our everyday life? Numerous researchers have accepted that it does, even though recent researchers have raised their question about this. As transitional democracy Albania is yet suffering from many diseases in economic, politic, and social aspects, and are mostly characterized by lacking progress in further development. This research study focus on finding the correlation of democracy in Albania with, rule of law, human rights, and the human development based on the global Indexes from 2013 to 2021. The focus of this study goes further into describing how Albanian citizens perceive the democratic development of Albania, the development of rule of law, the development of human rights, and human development in the last 8 years. Through calculated measures from a time period of 8 years, and from the responses of Albanian citizens, we will be able to test the null hypothesis (H_0): Democratic Development in Albania, has increased the Rule of Law, increased Human Development, and has increased Human Rights. The examination is reached out through correlation matrix methods, OLS regression analysis, SPSS analysis, and content analysis. Primarily from the investigations of this study resulted that democracy development in Albania has a negative correlation with development of the rule of law, according to the global Indexes data. There was found a non-statistically significant positive correlation between democratic development in Albania and human rights, including human development.

Secondary the investigations of this study resulted that Albania citizens do not agree with the fact that democracy has developed in last decade, nor they agree with the development of rule of law

over the last 8 years, neither do they agree with the fact that human rights or human development in Albania have increased over the last 8 years.

Student: Ersilda Prenga

Thesis Title: The Influence of Russia in the Western Balkans: The Case of Kosovo after Independence.

Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Thesis Summary: Western Balkan is an important region for Russia in addressing itself as the main player and increasing its influence and power over the states of this region. Russia's view on Western Balkan is also related with competing with other actors that can be USA, NATO, EU, in the way of minimizing their role and increasing the role of Russia in WB region. This thesis focuses on exploring the way that Russia influences Western Balkan. It will give a focus on capabilities and instruments that Russia has on influencing the region. In particular this thesis focuses on the case of Kosovo. The influence that Russia has in Kosovo since Kosovo declared its independence, the threats that Kosovo faces from Russia on its security issues, and the way that Kosovo deals with these challenges coming from Russia.

Student: Jon Çobani

Thesis Title: The Rise of Chinese Influence in Albania: The Political Maturation of Albania when Dealing with its Historical Ally.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: When we first started this research, I noticed that there were a significant number of studies focused entirely on China's Belt and Road Initiative in the African continent and reshaping African politics, yet very few is being said about the Chinese increasing influence in the Western Balkans. The Rise of Chinese Influence in Albania: The Political Maturation of Albania when Dealing with Its Historical Ally, which is the title of this essay, came to me as a very intriguing idea. This idea of a far eastern country influencing the Balkans for the first time is both exciting as a prospect but also concerning when considering the past or which country is the one that is spreading all that influence. A common misconception regarding China in global politics is that the Chinese state is working towards what some pundits in the West call it 'global dominance'. I believe that this is an incorrect assumption. China first and foremost lacks the military capabilities of the United States regarding the capacity of projecting power. In this study the findings I had gathered, show that China has operationalized its vast economic power to influence the politics of the Western Balkans towards their national interests. This hypothesis is based on the theory of political economics where economy is used as a factor to influence a country's politics, but also contemporary geopolitical theory. The expectation was that the influence of China is not as malign and negative as it is often portrayed, however there is a clear national interest centered approach where China is only looking only for their own interests and bottom line, while caring little for implicit negative effects that its economic investments might have in the respective countries. Albania was chosen as the main area of research because Albania has become quite the battleground of influences from both the East and West in recent years.

Student: Endi Tirana

Thesis Title: Geographical Gender- Based Violence. The Case of Albania.

Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: Violence because of gender is a global issue preventing social progress, equality, and human rights. Understanding geographical trends of gender-based violence is critical for developing effective prevention and intervention techniques. With the use of this research technique, gender-based violence against women will be thoroughly studied with the goal of giving information for targeted policy responses. The technique investigates the spatial dimensions, regional differences, and localized dynamics of gender-based violence by taking a geographical perspective. In order to pinpoint high-risk regions and geographic clusters, it analyzes data from recorded cases, community surveys, and published research. The study also looks at how social settings, cultural norms, and geographic factors interact with gender norms to support violence against minority gender identities, women, and girls. The approach shows the particular difficulties experienced by disadvantaged groups within certain geographical locations by examining the intersectionality of gender-based violence with other types of social inequality, such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. As a result of the empirical data produced by this study methodology, complete preventative frameworks that address the underlying causes of gender-based violence may be developed. Researchers want to contribute to the elimination of gender-based violence in all its manifestations by using this strategy. The technique stresses participant anonymity and confidentiality to ensure honest and objective replies, and it includes the collecting of empirical data using self-administered surveys.

Data analysis includes aggregating data, calculating percentages, detecting patterns and trends, and investigating the intersections of gender, race, and class in connection to gender-based violence experiences. Throughout the surveys, ethical issues are stressed in order to preserve participant privacy and well-being.

Student: Eni Daka

Thesis Title: The Philosophy and Rhetoric of Politics: From Idea to Identity and Remaining Challenges.

Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: This thesis presents a comprehensive exploration of the intricate dynamics at the intersection of political philosophy, statehood, voting behavior, and global challenges in contemporary politics. The central question is whether logic or rhetoric dominated recent politics, setting the stage for an in-depth analysis of factors shaping decision-making throughout all its history so far. The research begins with an examination of the philosophy of politics, investigating the relation between logic and rhetoric in ancient, mediaeval, and modern times. It then delves into the evolution of the state as a philosophical concept throughout history, including its representation in modern times and the role of rationality in current political and voting behaviors. Two case studies will serve as center pieces for answering the research question: the Global-National response to the COVID-19 pandemic as the first case study, where we venture in post-modern politics and also examine the transformation beyond nation-state with the EU Model; And the Regional-National reconciliation efforts being put in the Western Balkans region as the second case study, investigating the relation between reconciliation and nationalism in the WB, encompassing theoretical considerations and practical steps taken so far from regional, and national efforts.

Student: Enxhi Begvarfaj

Thesis Title: The Legacy of Albanian Communist- Era Movies: Their Role in Shaping Post-Communist Perceptions of the Regime.

Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: Cinema in general has proven to be quite a useful tool in generating emotional responses to certain topics and events and in shaping people's perceptions and understanding of history and political regimes. As a result, it was used as a means of propaganda during the communist regime in Albania, for the political elite to establish its power and promote the communist ideology and remains to this day, popular among the domestic audience. This research specifically is concerned with the role of Albanian communist-era movies in shaping the perceptions of those who were born after the demise of the regime as they did not experience the reality of the time themselves. Therefore, this mixed-method study aims to answer the research question "How do Albanian communist-era movies shape the perceptions of people born after the fall of communism regarding the communist regime in Albania?" The study contributes to the literature by providing insight into the complex relationship between Albanian communist-era movies and these perceptions.

Student: Erida Metaj

Thesis Title: The Role of Regional Organizations in Conflict Settings: A Comparative Perspective on the Role of OAS, ASEAN, SAARC, AU, EU, PIF.

Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: After the process of de-colonization and the end of the Cold War there was a shift in the international arena as the states were provided with more autonomy. Such changes were followed by the increased role of regional organizations as important actors in international relations, and more specifically in peace and security spectrum. This has brought the importance of evaluating the role these organizations have had in conflict handling processes such as prevention, management, settlement and peacebuilding. Therefore, this study will compare the involvement of seven regional organizations, OAS, ASEAN, SAARC, AU, EU, PIF and ECOWAS in conflict settings within their respective regions. The study will conduct a comparative analysis using qualitative research methods from existing books, handbooks, research papers etc. A large N study will be conducted by taking the cases of two conflicts within each region studied. The purpose of the study will be to find out which of the conflict handling processes, tools or mechanisms were used by the regional organizations in handling those conflicts, and whether the final outcome has been successful.

Student: Estel Smakaj

Thesis Title: The Interaction Among Regional Intergovernmental Organizations and Regional Security: Case of EU and NATO.

Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: This study examines the shared security perspective of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and explores the nature of their cooperation, which has been a subject of criticism and debate among scholars, policymakers, and experts in the field. The relationship between the EU and NATO has been traditionally viewed as complementary, and this study delves into the intricacies of this dynamic. It thoroughly analyzes the main challenges faced by both organizations, traces the development of their relationship over time, and examines the most significant threats encountered.

By examining the evolving nature of cooperation between the EU and NATO, this study aims to provide valuable insights into how regional intergovernmental organizations can effectively collaborate in addressing shared security challenges. It also underscores the importance of striking a balance between autonomy and complementarity to ensure the collective security and defense of their member states. While the EU has historically relied on NATO for its military capacity, it has

gradually pursued greater autonomy. This dispersion of responsibilities brings both advantages and disadvantages to the two organizations.

Using a qualitative research approach, this study aims to achieve an in-depth understanding of the topic.

Student: Françeska Picari

Thesis Title: Fact- Checking Media.

Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: The media has long been considered as one of the pillars of democracy, because it has a first-rate significance in informing and engaging the citizens, however the most important problems are being supplied inside the exceptional of the information this is published, and the misinformation of the citizens. In recent years, the spread of misinformation on social media, including patently false political “fake news”, misleading hyper-partisan news, and other forms of inaccurate content, has become a major source of social concern and academic research. The use of professional fact-checkers to identify and label false or misleading claims is one of the most prominent approaches to combating disinformation that technology companies are currently using and has received considerable attention in academia. However, these methods cannot keep up with the huge amount of content that is posted daily on social media. In this paper, we discuss the current state-of-art methods for detecting fake news, the need for fact-checking systems, and the potential impact of these methods on the resilience of disinformation in Albania.

Student: Luisa Tare

Thesis Title: Berlin Process and Open Balkans Initiative, Impact on the Albanian Integration in European Union.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: In today's interdependent and increasingly interconnected world, collaboration across regions has become crucial, especially for developing nations. Numerous regional attempts have been made to close the vast gap between the expectations and realities for the Western Balkans' future in Europe in response to the EU enlargement weariness. The Berlin Process and Open Balkans are now two efforts that stand out and, in a sense, compete in the Western Balkans. The European viewpoint and the development of regional collaboration are highlighted by both efforts, the paper analyzes the real potential of these two initiatives. There is employed content and comparison analysis for that objective. This study examines the primary themes and characters included in the initiative's public declarations and evaluates how closely they adhere to and relate to the regional European integration processes. For the purpose of comparison, the paper utilized content and comparative analysis. It's critical to remember that the benefits of these initiatives can vary depending on the degree of participation, the rate of implementation, the overall geopolitical context, and domestic policies from the perspective of Albania and how both have aided the process of EU integration. We are currently examining whether or not the Open Balkan initiative, which was introduced as a complementary measure to assist the Berlin Process in becoming more focused on the Western Balkans, was successful for Albania and what the benefits were in the long run.

Student: Xhoiseit Shabani

Thesis Title: Mediating Conflicts in Europe and Beyond: The Role of the EU.

Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: Even though the European Union (EU) can be described as a "peacemaker in the international arena," there is still work to be done in the field of mediation. Consequently, this study investigates the EU's function as a mediator and explores whether the EU is more proactive in mediating conflicts within its region versus internationally. The explanation of the concept of mediation and the EU's effectiveness indicators comprises the theoretical framework that defines mediation as a field and explains the EU's role and the specification of the indicators throughout the literature and institutional data. To empirically calculate and compare the efficacy of regional and international conflicts, qualitative and quantitative case studies and literature studies are conducted. The qualitative research consists of finding and analyzing all the conflicts in which the EU has participated as a mediator between 1990 and 2020, while the quantitative analysis compares the success rates in terms of percentages. The thesis points out that the EU is more proactive in mediating conflicts within the European Region than internationally, thereby defining the EU as a regional organization as opposed to an international organization in the field of mediation. It highlights the dearth of literature and emphasizes mediation. Due to a lack of internal consensus and the difficulty of gaining the trust of all parties, it is challenging for the EU to increase its global influence in mediation.

PhD Students' List of Theses

Student: Albana Çekrezi

Thesis Title: FREEDOM AND DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE: PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF ALBANIAN MATURA STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan

Thesis Summary: The classification of Albania as a flawed democracy with fragile civil liberties, political rights, and the insufficiency of internal democratization mechanisms revealed the need for an internal and bottom-up process of democratization. Education, considered an internal factor, affects the quality of citizenry, political culture and values in a sustainable manner. Albania inherits a communist past when indoctrination and centralization in education were common. In such a context, this study aims to explore Albanian Matura students' perceptions and experiences of freedom and distributive justice as two key values of democracy, in the school environment. A questionnaire, used as an instrument, was completed by a sample of 1846 Matura students of the 2020-2021 academic year. Quantitative methods and descriptive and inferential analysis were used to answer the research questions and to test the hypothesis. The findings in this study, based on respondents' self-reporting answers, revealed that experiences and perceptions of freedom differ based on type of school, gender, geographic area (location) and directorate. In addition, all types of freedom under study demonstrated a positive correlation between experience and perception. Regression analysis revealed evidence linking experiences of freedom with perceptions of freedom, the highest being that of freedom of action, in which 8.5 % of variation in perception is explained with experience ($B=.297$), followed by freedom of choice 6.2 % ($B=.232$), and freedom of expression 3.5% ($B=.125$). Perceptions and experiences of principles of distributive justice differed based on type of school, gender, geographical area and directorate. In addition, equality and need are significantly related with a positive correlation between experiences and perceptions. Experiences of equity are negatively correlated with perceptions of equity. Regression analysis demonstrated evidence linking experience with perception; for equality 4.3% of variation in perception is explained by experience ($B=.150$), for need 4.6 % ($B=.120$), and inversely for equity it is explained by 1% ($B=-.089$). The findings expose school sociodemographic characteristics and school experience related to freedom and distributive justice. A proper understanding of freedom and distributive justice from the new generation is significant for the civic (political) culture with

education used as an internal democratization factor.

Student: Ali Zaimi

Thesis Title: Participation of Citizens in Decision-Making Process: Albanian case.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: Citizen participation is an opportunity given to individuals to influence public decisions and is known as a component of the democratic decision-making process due to the positive effect on the quality of democracy. In literature as well as in practice, the forms of citizen participation start from general consultations and send comments to the draft law by electronic mail to direct negotiations based on strategic deals for partnership; from public debates to the bodies led by civil society organizations (CSO).

This research focuses on participation of citizens in decision making and its impact on democratization and development process in Albania by examining the forms, obstacles to and opportunities for citizen participation. It aims to define the key patterns of decisions-making process in Albania by including the features of the interactive decision-making models and the citizens' participation models in the decision-making process.

The original contribution of this research is an empirical analysis of citizens' participation in Albania. The primary research includes the surveys conducted during the summer 2018 and fall 2019 with civil servants and citizens in the decision-making process. The study highlights several issues such as: i) the policy actors engaged in different stages of the decision-making process; ii) the degree and level of citizen's involvement in public decisions making process; iii) increasing transparency and accountability of government to build effective citizen participation and iv) bringing a solution to this problem in further research and action in this direction.

Based on empirical research, the thesis finds that Albanian citizens are aware that their voice is not heard or taken into consideration by the responsible authorities in the decision-making process in Albania due to the lack of a control mechanism during the decision-making process and misfit of interest between decision making authorities and citizens. In conclusion, citizens should be an integral part of the decision-making process, and when faced with a lack of service, institutions must act immediately to resolve this issue.

In conclusion, citizens should be an integral part of the decision-making process, and when faced with a lack of service, institutions must act immediately to resolve this issue.

Student: Geri Pilaca

Thesis Title: The Europeanisation of Albania and North Macedonia: A comparative analysis of the period 2000- 2019.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: The main purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the field of Europeanisation and European Integration in the Western Balkan, as the potential region to join the European Union. For this purpose, Albania and North Macedonia were used as case studies to measure the progress of Europeanisation through the policy adaptation process in these two countries, from 2000 to 2019. Following this approach, the thesis has developed the main research question: 1) Has the Europeanisation regarding the policy adaptation been reached out on same levels in Albania and North Macedonia during the period 2000-2019? Consequently, the thesis developed the following hypothesis: 1) While Albania and North Macedonia are found at the same stage of the Accession process by the year 2019, it doesn't necessarily make the case for both countries to have the same results regarding policy adaptation in the whole spectrum of the Accession criteria.

The thesis employs a comparative analysis based on the “Small-N” case-based approach, aiming to find the similarities and differences in 3 (three) indicators: 1) Political System; 2) Judiciary; and 3) Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation. These indicators are assessed on their Europeanisation progression based on the “three-degree approach” of policy adoption (verbal, legal, and substantive) based on the work of Elbasan (2013). Through this research design, the thesis provides a new approach in the application of Europeanisation literature in the context of the candidate countries and beyond. In particular, the use Elbasan’s (2013) three-degree level of policy adoption measurement in the practice of measuring the Europeanisation on concrete countries through the use of a comparative analysis.

The results of the analysis indicate that the Europeanisation of the policy adaptation process in Albania and North Macedonia has been tumultuous and at approximate levels of difficulty but retaining particular differences. In the political system, the most distinctive differences are reflected by their political composition and political maturity. In the Judiciary, the most distinctive differences are reflected by the extension of reforms in this sector and the efficiency of the system. Lastly, in the Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, the most distinctive differences are reflected by the bilateral relations established with the neighbours.

Overall, both countries have shown to progress over the years, by addressing several issues, however, considering that North Macedonia has resulted to reach out the EU accession milestones quicker than Albania, and in parallel also the Europeanisation in two of the three variables, it may indicate that it will move at the similar pace even during the accession negotiations phase but taking into consideration that the solving of the issue with Bulgaria will play a role prior to the signing of the accession Treaty.

In conclusion, the results serve as reference points that can be useful to predict the dynamics regarding the said indicators of the Europeanisation of these two countries. However, the approach taken for the comparative analysis cannot be considered as the sole model to assess Europeanisation.

2. List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Incoming Students 2022-2023

Name	Surname	Sending University	Host Department at Epoka	Program at EU	Incoming Semester	Academic Year	
Beatrice	Stancato	University of International Studies of Rome	Political Science and International Relations	MSc Political Science and International Relation	University of International Studies of Rome	2022-2023	Erasmus+

Outgoing Students 2022-2023

Name	Surname	Department at EPOKA	Program at EPOKA	Host University	Country	Academic Year	Out-Going semester	Method
Riviera	Mëhilli	PIR	BA PIR	Europa University of Flensburg	Germany	2022-2023	Spring	ERASMUS+

3. 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 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.

4. Course Instructor Evaluation Survey Results

Fall Semester

Assessment of results of student evaluation surveys 2022-2023 academic year, Fall Semester

The lecturer evaluation survey report includes data from 3 cycle programs listed as following:

1. *Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations*
2. *Professional Master & Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations*
3. *PhD in Political Science and International Relations*

The Bachelor program consisted of 22 open courses. 18/22 courses were evaluated with a score above 3.50/4.00. 4/22 course were evaluated with a score above 3.00/ 3.50.

The highest scored course was 3.95 out of 4.00 and the lowest one was 3.21 out of 4.00 points.

The Master of Science program offered 9 courses for the fall semester. 2/9 courses were evaluated with a score above 4.00. 6/9 courses were evaluated with a score above 3.50/4.00. Only one course was evaluated with a score of 3.13 points.

The highest scored course was 4.00 out of 4.00 and the lowest one was 3.13 out of 4.00 points.

The Professional Master program offered 4 courses for the fall semester. Only one course appears to be 4.00. 3/4 courses were evaluated with a score above 3.50/4.00.

The highest scored course was 4.00 out of 4.00 and the lowest one was 3.52 out of 4.00 points.

The PhD program does not have any results as no courses were opened for the Fall Semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Key Point

All lecturers scored very high and the assessments appear to be over optimistic. Other forms of assessment need to be attached to receive a deeper and more constructive feedback.

Spring Semester

Assessment of results of student evaluation surveys 2022-2023 academic year, Spring Semester

The lecturer evaluation survey report includes data from 3 cycle programs listed as following:

1. *Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations*
2. *Professional Master & Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations*
3. *PhD in Political Science and International Relations*

The Bachelor program consisted of 23 open courses for the spring semester. 3/23 courses were evaluated with a score of 4.00 points. 18/23 courses were evaluated with a score above 3.50/4.00. 2/23 courses were evaluated with a score above 3.00/ 3.50.

The highest scored course was 4.00 out of 4.00 and the lowest one was 3.32 out of 4.00 points.

The Master of Science program offered 4 courses for the spring semester. 4/4 courses were evaluated with a score of 4.00 points.

The highest and the lowest scored course was 4.00 out of 4.00.

The Professional Master program offered 4 courses for the spring semester. 4/4 courses were evaluated with a score of 4.00 points.

The highest and the lowest scored course was 4.00 out of 4.00.

The PhD program does not have any results as no courses were opened for the Spring Semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Key Point

All lecturers scored very high and the assessments appear to be over optimistic. Other forms of assessment need to be attached to receive deeper and more constructive feedback.

5. Quality of enrolled and graduated students

Bachelor Study Program

Title of study program	Academic Years	Enrolled for the first time in the first year (a)	Entrance CGPA	Students transferred for Cohorts (b)		Students transferred for Cohorts (b)	Total: (a)+(b)
				Year I	Year II		
Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations	2022-2023	10	4/4	0	0	0	10
Total		10					

Incoming Transfer

Type of Transfer	Number of Students
Transfer from outside country.	0
Transfer from inside country.	0

Students that terminated their studies have the possibility of transferring to other universities.

Entrance Year	Number of students that terminated studies
2022-2023	0

Graduated Students during academic years.

Academic Year	Number of students graduated.	GPA
2022-2023	7	2.94/4

Master of Science Study Program

Title of study program	Academic Years	Enrolled for the first time in	Entrance CGPA	Students transferred for Cohorts (b)	Students transferred for Cohorts (b)	Total: (a)+(b)
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		the first year (a)		Year I	Year II		
Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations	2022- 2023	5	3.01/4	0	0	0	5
Total 5							

Incoming Transfer

Type of Transfer	Number of Students
Transfer from outside country.	0
Transfer from inside country.	4

Students that terminated their studies have the possibility of transferring to other universities.

Entrance Year	Number of students that terminated studies
2022-2023	0

Graduated Students during academic years.

Academic Year	Number of students graduated.	GPA
2022-2023	11	3.29/4

Professional Master Study Program

Title of study program	Academi c Years	Enrolle d for the first time in the first year (a)	Entran ce CGPA	Transferred students during years (b)			Students transfere d for Cohorts (b)	Total: (a)+(b)
				Yea r I	Yea r II	Yea r III		
PM in Political Science and Internation al Relations	2022- 2023	2	2.8/4.0	0	-	-	0	2
Total								2

Incoming Transfer

Type of Transfer	Number of Students
Transfer from outside country.	0
Transfer from inside country.	0

Students that terminated their studies have the possibility of transferring to other universities.

Entrance Year	Number of students that terminated studies
2022-2023	0

Graduated Students during academic years.

Academic Year	Number of students graduated.	GPA
2022-2023	1	3.94/4.0

6. List of Publications

Dr. Avdi SMAJLJAJ

- Smajljaj, Avdi 2023. Populist alone in government: the case of Vetevendosje in Kosovo, in: Heinisch et.al. Diverse Voices on Populism – New Insights from the European “Periphery”, Nomos, Baden-Baden
Building Ukraine from within: A sociological, institutional, and economic analysis of a nation-state in the making, by Anton Oleinik, Stuttgart, ibidem-Verlag, 2018 ...
Avdi Smajljaj
European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology, 1-4, 2023

Dr. Jubjana VILA

- Vila, J. (2023). Regional organizations and ethnic conflict prevention: The EU and Kosovo conflict. *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, 23(2), 144-157.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sena.12397>

Dr. Reina SHEHI

- Jusufi, I., Shehi, R. Z., & Zeka, J. V. (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.
- SHEHI, R. (2022). Democracy, Crisis and Destabilization. *Imgelem*, 6(11), 393-412.
- Cerkez, A., Shehi, R. Z., & Kabashi, F. (2022). The Elusive Relationship of State Power and Societal Peace: Reflections on the Case of Kosovo. *Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai Sociologia*, 67(2), 39-62.

7. Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Dr. Avdi SMAJLJAJ

- Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to University of Tartu (5 days)
- ECPS - European Centre for Populism Studies

Mapping European Populism

Panel V

Populist radical right/left parties and far-right movements in the Balkan countries

Date/Time: Thursday, May 26, 2022 / 15:00-17:00 (CET)

Dr. Jubjana VILA

- Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to University of Tartu (5 days)
- STSM - ENTAN Cost Action: Non-Territorial Arrangements and Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict BiH Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- WB-EUPath Jean Monnet Module – 1st Public Panel Chair.

Dr. Reina SHEHI

- Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to University of Tartu (5 days)
- Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to University of Fulda (5 days)
- STSM - Etan Cost Action: Non-Territorial Arrangements and Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict BiH Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

09/2022 Tirana, Albania

- Security Dilemma and Regional Security: Threats and Challenges in the Western Balkans, International Conference on European Studies, Developments and Challenges in the European Integration Process: The role of Identity and Intercultural Communication in a Transnational Perspective

05/2023- Oradea, Romania

- Dynamics of Regionalism in Western Balkans: A quest for Regional Identity, Jean Monnet International Conference: The Legitimacy of New Regionalism in the European Integration Process

05/2023, Iasi, Romania

- The logic of EU normative power in the Western Balkans, EURINT International Conference: Challenges and Future Prospects for a Resilient Europe

8. Projects

Dr. Jubjana VILA

- EU Integration and Transformation of Western Balkans: Patterns and Issues (WB-EUPath) Jean Monnet Module Leader.

- Member of Cost Action CA17119 - EU Foreign Policy Facing New Realities: Perceptions, Contestation, Communication and Relations (ENTER).

Dr. Reina Shehi

- 09/2020-07/2023 – Tartu, Estonia
PROJECT MEMBER- Jean Monnet Module Project “Neighbourhood Enlargement & Regionalism in Europe”, Institute for Political Studies, University of Tartu Contribute as guest lecturer in Jean Monnet Module Courses, guest speaker, keynote speaker at Jean Monnet Module Project conference , local organizer of project awareness seminar and contributor of E-book on didactics of preparing and running simulation exercises.
- 09/2023- 06/2026- Tirane, Albania PROJECT MEMBER- Jean Monnet Module Project “EU Integration of Western Balkans: Patterns and Issues”, Center for European Studies, Epoka University Course leader “ History of European Integration”, organizer of seminar and public panel on EU integration of Western Balkans, contributor of practical guide on Western Balkans Path to EU and organizer of final project conference
- Member of Cost Action CA17119 - EU Foreign Policy Facing New Realities: Perceptions, Contestation, Communication and Relations (ENTER).
- Member of Cost Action CA18114 - European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network (ENTAN)

E. Support, Resources & Representation

1. List of Students' Internships

N/A

2. Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

CONFERENCE "Truth, Transitional Justice & Reconciliation" in Albania



There can be no JUSTICE without TRUTH and there can be no RECONCILIATION without JUSTICE.

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 Ačka, 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.

Mrs. Acka spoke on how the political elites in Albania through the years have infringed the truth which is necessary for the transition. Mr. Miraka offered his personal experience as a prosecuted individual during the dictatorship period in Albania. He highlighted the hardships of the past and

the main problems in terms of the transition to democracy. Specifically, he stressed the lack of retribution towards the criminals of the time and compensation for the victims as concerning problems of the transition. Furthermore, Mr. Miraka put an emphasis on the need to reminisce on the past as a cruciality for a safe and secure future. Mr. Blakaj, on the other hand, centered his talk on the need to get recognized as a precondition for justice. Then, as he mentioned, there is a necessity for the existence of a single narrative recognized by all for the process of reconciliation to go forward. This can be achieved, according to Mr. Blakaj, by educating the people in the truth since education can act as a tool to memorize the past. Finally, the last panelist, Ms. Peci was given the opportunity to present her perspective on the topic as a media representative. She explained that there had been little to no media coverage on the process of transition in Albania for a long period of time and this position had been slightly changing in the last five years. Nevertheless, the longevity of such indifference according to her did harm the truth before and during the transition. Moreover, she addressed the problems of losing this truth as the witnesses were dying without telling their stories, as well as the absence of any remorse interviews by those who committed the crimes.

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. Dr. Shkurtaj in her presentation explained the content and main points of her work. She began by giving information on the definition of Kanun as an ancient code, its origins and different variations that have existed. Then, she elaborated on the main points of Kanun as related to the blood feud where she pointed out the moral aspect behind this act and the steps needed to be carried out to finalize it. More importantly, Dr. Shkurtaj talked about the position that the Albanian government has taken towards Kanun through the years. She explained that during the Ottoman Empire, the rules of Kanun were highly influential and allowed to be followed by the people, while during the communist period its influence and practice decreased greatly. However, according to her, nowadays while Kanun, and specifically blood feud, are again influential and the state has opened war against them. In her elaboration she also emphasized that it must be taken in consideration that Kanun originally was a means of stopping feuds between people and preventing future conflicts in a time when state did not exist. Additionally, she mentioned that values of truth, hospitality and honor presented in one of the most well-known Kanun are indeed Albanian values.

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.

We would like to thank Prof. Dr. Ralf Wuestenberg - Director of European Wasatia Graduate School for Peace and Conflict Resolution Dr. Tobias Rüttershoff- Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Albania, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti, Ms. Flutura Acka, Mr. Simon Mirakaj, Mr. Bekim Blakaj, Ms. Admirina Peci, Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj, the PhD candidates, and all the participants for their time and contribution!

New Academic Year in Political Science and IR: Visit to the "House of Leaves"



On October 18th, 2022, the department of Political Science and International Relations of EPOKA University organized a visit to the Museum of Secret Surveillance “House of Leaves”. The building of the museum was previously used as an investigation center by the former “State Security” during the Albanian communist regime. Nowadays it serves as an important piece of history that reminds us of the dark past that should not be forgotten.

The museum was divided into different rooms and sectors, each describing and showing different aspects of surveillance during the regime. With the help of the museum guide, students were able to get more information about the origin of the “House of Leaves” and its later uses. One of the most interesting sectors was the one of surveillance equipment. The regime would spend big portions of its budget to buy the latest equipment such as cameras, microphones, recorders etc. to spy on its people or foreigners while the majority of the population was suffering in poverty. The Albanian communist regime, as most totalitarian regimes, was a built-on paranoia and fear of an enemy. And even if the enemy didn’t exist, it had to be created. For this purpose, many people were tortured and killed as “political enemies”. One of the rooms in the museum showed a long list of all the innocent people that were victims of the regime. In total around 18.000 people were imprisoned and 5.500 executed. The heart-breaking stories of victims of the regimes that were shown in short documentaries left a big impact on us viewers that are fortunate enough to not have lived in that time period. Also, the museum showed how propaganda was created: from movies and magazines to undercover agents used to denounce the Yugoslavs as corrupt and Albanians as real socialists.

The visit was followed by a discussion with Prof. Avdi Smaljaj, Prof. Dea Bashkurti and the students of the department regarding the legacy of the communist regime in Albania and the dangers of totalitarianism. The visit and the discussion were very valuable for us students of PIR because it helped us apply the knowledge that we have gained in our courses to real life events. Museums such as the “House of Leaves” are significant not only for us students of the field but for every Albanian citizen so that we don’t forget our dark past. The consequences of the communist regime can be seen every day in Albania, from the authoritarian tendencies of our governments to the lack of a culture of freedom and democracy. By reminding ourselves of the crimes and horrors of communism we Albanians have one more reason to protect and cultivate values of liberal democracies. After all, those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Roundtable Discussion_ The Future of Cooperative Security in the Western Balkans from the public opinion perspective



On November 9th, 2022, the Department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University held a round table discussion titled “The Future of Cooperative Security in the Western Balkans from the public opinion perspective” with representatives from the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance (CSDG), which, with the support of the political foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Tirana, have implemented the Albanian Security Barometer.

The fourth edition of this Barometer was published in 2022, as an effort to evaluate potential security threats to the Albanian state, and how different external events, within the context of Western Balkans, determine the views of Albanians on security and protection. Dr. Jubjana Vila, Head of the Center of European Studies highlighted the aspect of whether regional cooperation is the end itself or means to the end. Dr. Niuton Mulleti, Head of the Department of Law emphasized the importance of the Western Balkans’ path towards EU membership. Dr. Reina Shehi, Head of the Department of Political Science and IR stressed how security matters and findings contribute to gender inequality issues and protection of women and children.

The security perceptions were measured on a regional level in the form of a survey, emphasizing how regional cooperation can help preventing further threats to not only the Albanian, but to all Western Balkan states. According to the representative of CSDG, security policy expert, Dr. Mentor Beqa, Western Balkan countries must approach each other through reassurance, transparency and prevention initiatives, establishing collective security, cooperative security and collective defense.

The barometer showed corruption as the highest form of threat perceived by Albanian citizens, followed by high percentages in potential conflicts in the region as a consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Serbia was perceived as the most threatening country, while the relations with Turkey were seen as the most secure ones. The perceptions of Serbs are alarming data for regional cooperation, which can be strengthened only through genuine cooperation. When asked about the

obstacle that is decelerating regional cooperation, Albanians listed first political leaders and political parties' agenda of respective countries, and the lack of transparency in their agreements.

Representatives of CSDG recommended a strengthening of already existing mechanisms in the Balkans, such as regional security forums. "The future is operative" states Dr. Beqa. While also being asked by students, representatives highlighted the importance of the help of international organisations in overcoming tensions among Balkan states. The EU enlargement agenda, including initiatives such as CEFTA, the Berlin process, the SAA agreement, have been principal contributors to the improvement of relations between states in the Balkans. NATO ensures collective defense, however Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia are not member states. The contribution of the US was also heavily acknowledged, as otherwise cooperation institutions within Western Balkans lack funds for capacity building.

More information about the Albanian Security Barometer 2022 can be found here: <http://csdgalbania.org/albanian-security-barometer-2022/>.

More information about the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance can be found here: <http://csdgalbania.org/>.

Discussion with Mr. Derand Krasniqi, Protection Associate at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency



On November 11th, the department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University held a discussion with Mr. Derand Krasniqi and third year Bachelor's students. Mr. Krasniqi holds a very extensive resume, with notable works in both governmental and non-governmental organizations, currently serving as a Protection Associate at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The discussion was held under the framework of the Career Path Series, where the department of Political Science and International Relations seeks to help young students with internship and job opportunities, as well as motivation.

As a former EPOKA student, Mr. Krasniqi's discussion with the students took the form of a conversation, where students could join and express their opinion easily. Mr. Krasniqi started the conversation by asking students first their name, age and hobbies. Then, they proceeded to talk about future job positions students aimed to seek. The answers were diverse – from those who wanted to become researchers, domestic policy experts and arbitrators – to those who were still indecisive. As the conversation was set in a less formal tone, the students engaged extensively and shared not only their hopes, but also their concerns. Mr. Krasniqi offered his insights, motivating students to not lose focus on the field as everything would gradually come at them. He shared memories from his experience, as a drop out from the University of Agriculture to now a successful Associate in one of the most important branches of the United Nations in Albania. Mr. Krasniqi gave words of hope and strength to students, in whichever field they preferred. He encouraged them to work consistently and to make use of their hobbies in their everyday life, as himself, who found motivation in his hobby for sports. Eventually, the discussion concluded with remarkable words from Mr. Krasniqi – to always keep going, no matter what. We thank Mr. Krasniqi for his valuable advice, his shared experience, his humbleness and ability to engage in conversation with students at such ease.

Career Path Series - Open discussion with Mr. Arbër Salihu and Mr. Besart Bucinca



On December 2nd, 2022, the department of Political Science and International Relations organized a discussion with Mr. Arbër Salihu and Mr. Besart Bucinca, both graduated at EPOKA University in 2014. Mr. Salihu is currently an Administrator at Comodita Home Albania, while Mr. Bucinca is a site inspector at Novus Energy Kosovo. The discussion was organized under the frame of the Career Path Series, where students are offered the opportunity to discuss on job possibilities as well as advice from successful graduates of EPOKA University.

The discussion started with a brief presentation of both hosts. Mr. Salihu explained to students his path after graduating from EPOKA University and pursuing jobs in Germany, in the US and then in Kosovo and Albania. Remarkably, Mr. Salihu encouraged students to always be open to get out of their comfort zone and be as practical as possible when learning new tasks, as one of his first positions was a procurement specialist after being offered a job opportunity at a bar in Germany. "Identify your possibilities and use them, because you may never know when they come in handy" were Mr. Salihu's words, accompanied with a warm approach towards students. This ease in confidence and will to learn even in unknown environments made Mr. Salihu today a successfully

experienced administrator in business, with experience in procurement, sales, logistics, marketing and administration.

Mr. Bucinca gave details on how he initially started as a documents' translator for construction companies and eventually became a safety and then site inspector. Changing drastically from his Bachelor's studies, as his previous friend Mr. Salihu, Mr. Bucinca's advice was for students to always prioritize how they feel about the environment they work in. "It is of much importance to like the job that you do" were Mr. Bucinca's words, as perhaps for many students their future jobs might be in a different path from their studies. As such, Mr. Bucinca calmed students' concerns on this matter, pushing them to go forward in what they could do best. Today, Mr. Bucinca is one of the two OSHAA verified safety inspectors in Kosovo, marking a very important milestone for this career in construction.

Both hosts stumbled upon the importance of practicality when choosing different internships and jobs, but always seeking for more. As both of them come from different backgrounds from their actual studies, they gave students a real-life example on how to approach career plans and goals with a much lighter but also determined mindset. Also, hosts addressed the importance of having connections and networks as big pushers towards success. We thank Mr. Arbër Salihu and Mr. Besart Bucinca for their ease at communicating, their much helpful and needed advice, and their humbleness, and we wish them success in future endeavors.

PhD Dissertation Defense Jury for the PhD candidate, Mr. Ali Zaimi with supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti



PHD THESIS SHORT SUMMARY

PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN DECISION- MAKING PROCESS: ALBANIAN CASE

Citizen participation is an opportunity given to individuals to influence public decisions and known as component of the democratic decision-making process due to positive effect on the quality of democracy. In literature as well as in practice, the forms of citizen participation start from general consultations and send comments to the draft law by electronic mail to direct negotiations based on strategic deals for partnership; from public debates to the bodies led by civil society organizations (CSO).

This thesis focuses on participation of citizens in decision making and its impact on democratization and development process in Albania by examining the forms, obstacles to and opportunities for citizen participation. It aims to define the key patterns of decisions-making process in Albania by including the features of the interactive decision-making models and the citizens' participation models in the decision-making process.

This thesis consists of nine chapters:

- Chapter one provides an overview of participation as a process and the benefits of citizen participation in decision making especially on the issues affecting the quality of life in general.
- Chapters two and three outline the main principles of participation focusing on the Public Participation Guide and elements provided by IAP2 and provide a comprehensive literature review on the democratic participation and transformation in transition economies.
- Chapter four offer an overview from a legal and political perspective of citizen' in the decision-making process in Albania, emphasizing the system's strengths and deficiencies.
- Chapter six and seven explore citizen participation through in-depth empirical research of civil servants and citizens in the decision-making process.
- Chapter eight focuses on the barriers encountered for an effective civic engagement in the decision-making process in Albania and provides suggestions how to improve civic engagement.
- Chapter nine provides a conclusion of the main findings and some recommendations for future research

The original contribution of this research is an empirical analysis of citizens' participation in Albania. The primary research includes the surveys conducted during the summer 2018 and fall 2019 with civil servants and citizens in the decision-making process. The study highlights several issues such as: i) the policy actors engaged in different stages of the decision-making process; ii) the degree and level of citizen's involvement in public decisions making process; iii) increasing transparency and accountability of government to build effective citizen participation and iv) bringing a solution to this problem in further research and action in this direction.

PhD Dissertation Defense Jury for the PhD candidate, Mr. Geri Pilaca with supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti



PHD THESIS SHORT SUMMARY

“THE EUROPEANISATION OF ALBANIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PERIOD 2000-2019”

The main purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the field of Europeanisation and European Integration in the Western Balkan, as the potential region to join the European Union. For this purpose, Albania and North Macedonia were used as case studies to measure the progress of Europeanisation through the policy adaptation process in these two countries, from 2000 to 2019. The thesis employs a comparative analysis based on the “Small-N” case-based approach, aiming to find the similarities and differences in 3 (three) indicators: 1) Political System; 2) Judiciary; and 3) Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation. These indicators are assessed on their Europeanisation progression based on the “three-degree approach” of policy adoption (verbal, legal, and substantive), based on the existing Europeanisation literature.

“The credibility of 2023 local elections in Albania” Debate



On Thursday, April 20, 2023, the Department of Political Science and International Relations organized a debate on “The credibility of 2023 local elections in Albania.”

The activity was held in the framework of the “Parties, Elections, and Policy-making” course lectured by Dr. Aldo Bumçi and it gathered students from the three years of Bachelor's. The main aim of the debate was to keep the students engaged and informed on a current topic belonging to the country's domestic affairs and help them enhance their debating skills while interacting with one another.

The debate consisted of a 70 minutes session through which the participants grouped in two opposing sides shared their well-constructed arguments and counterarguments. Each party displayed good preparatory work, and strong commitment.

We would like to thank all the students for their contribution!

Research Projects
N/A

Industry Projects
N/A

Community Projects
N/A

Student Club Projects
N/A

3. Student Best Success Stories

N.A

4. 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

5. Acknowledgements

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.

6. Annexes

Annex No.1 Summary Tables

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