EPOKA UNIVERSITY | Department of Political Science and International Relations

ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2023- 2024

Annual Report

Academic Year 2023- 2024

Contents

A. Organization & Management

1. Introduction

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

The PIR's mission is to train a new kind and highly skilled 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 master's have obtained their doctorate degrees and a professor with doctorate degree has obtained his associate professorship. In terms of networks, 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 its 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 factors. 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 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 of 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 offer 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's 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 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 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 of 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.

Dr. Niuton Mulleti
Vice-Rector of EPOKA University
Lecturer
Niuton Mulleti was born in Shkodër, Albania, in 1981. With a Bachelor and Master's degree in International Relations awarded respectively by Gazi University in Ankara, Turkey, and Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, from 2004 to 2008, he worked at the (Central) Bank of Albania, firstly as a Specialist and then as Head of Division coordinating the process of the approximation of Bank of Albania's legislation and procedures with the acquis communautaire. In 2016 he completed his PhD degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at the HEIP-Centre d'Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques (CEDS) in Paris, France.
Since 2008, Mr. Mulleti has been working at EPOKA University in Tirana, Albania, initially as a Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, and since 2017, as Acting Head of the Department of Law. His research interest areas are EU Law, EU Foreign and Defence Policy and Theories of European Integration.

Dr. Sadullah YILMAZ
Dean of Students
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 9 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 on 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 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

MSc. Taqi Stojani
Assistant Lecturer
Mr. Taqi Stojani is a MSc holder in English. From 2022 he is a full-time staff member at EPOKA University, Tirana, Albania.

Taqi graduated from the University of Tirana, Albania as an English teacher in 1990.
Since 1990, for about 35 years, he has constantly been working in the field of education, teaching English at either the high school level or university level.

From 1996-2004 Taqi worked as an English teacher in Turkey, 2004-2022 he worked as an English teacher in Turkish Colleges in Tirana, Albania.
Since 2022, he has been a full-time lecturer at Epoka University, Tirana, Albania.

Having participated in several educational programs, Taqi has good experience in guiding and teaching international students. He is guided by clear philosophies in education; describing learning objectives, concepts, ideas, or skills that students can grasp and apply. Throughout his teaching career, he has had the opportunity to interact with students at all stages of life, from high school through college and university, both in the classroom and one-on-one settings.

During the last 20 years, Taqi has participated in many international seminars and conferences, focusing especially on the field of education and scientific research.

Areas of expertise: worldwide cooperation in education, scientific English in engineering, expert in education at higher institutions, application of scientific English in different departments, leaders in departments for specific purposes.

Part time Academic Staff

Dr. Endrit Shabani   MSc. Aldo Bumçi   MSc. Dea Elmasllari

Teaching Assistant Staff

Ingrit Melani

Marko Meraj

Shysti Bushati

Ivana Gjeloshaj

Administrative Staff

Morena Shima
Faculty Administrator

Alma Pupli
Coordinator

Academic Visitors (2023-2024)

Name Surname (Title)	Title	Sending University	Host Department at Epoka University	Cycle	Mobility Period
Ralf Wustenberg	Prof. Dr.	Europa Universitat Flensburg	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	27.10.2023 - 02.11.2023
Zaineh Barakat	Dr.	Europa Universitat Flensburg	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	27.10.2023 - 02.11.2023
Daniele Battista	Dr.	University of Salerno	Political Science and International Relations	Visiting Scholar	05.03.2024 - 03.05.2024
Ralf Wustenberg	Prof. Dr.	Europa Universitat Flensburg	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	03.09.2024 - 10.09.2024
Zaineh Barakat	Dr.	Europa Universitat Flensburg	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	03.09.2024 - 10.09.2024
Federica de Matteo	Ms.	University of International Studies of Rome	Political Science and International Relations	Erasmus+	07.10.2024- 11.10.2024

2. Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

- *Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations*

-Income and various financing for **BA in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tution fees for and during studies	59,350.14
TOTAL	**59,350.14**

-Expenditures for **BA in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	130,565.16	10,747.03	6,754.81
Total	**130,565.16**	**10,747.03**	**6,754.81**

- *Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations*

-Income and various financing for **Msc in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tution fees for and during studies	14,891.44
TOTAL	**14,891.44**

-Expenditures for **Msc in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	53,042.10	4,030.13	2,533.06
Total	**53,042.10**	**4,030.13**	**2,533.06**

- *Professional Master in Political Science and International Relations*

-Income and various financing for P**M in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tution fees for and during studies	548.66
TOTAL	**548.66**

-Expenditures for P**M in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	4,080.16	537.35	337.74
Total	**4,080.16**	**537.35**	**337.74**

- *PhD in Political Science and International Relations*

-Income and various financing for **PhD in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tution fees for and during studies	4,186.77
TOTAL	**4,186.77**

-Expenditures for **PhD in Political Science and International Relations** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	16,320.65	1,612.05	1,013.22
Total	**16,320.65**	**1,612.05**	**1,013.22**

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 the 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. Besides 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 the Registrar's office.
- **Finance:** The 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 m 2. 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 (m^2)
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 m^2/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 m^2 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 on 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 for the 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 in 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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name (COURSES)	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
XXX	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
	Semesteral Total			17	6	0	22	20	272	80	0	332	66	750	30

Elective Courses

Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
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 *PIR 316	Graduation Thesis Final Comprehensive Exam	E	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
XXX	Elective I	B	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
XXX	Elective II	A	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
	Semesteral Total			17	4	0	21	19	272	64	0	350	64	750	30

Elective Courses

Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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

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 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
	Semesteral 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	
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						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
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

Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Epoka Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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						ECTS
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	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						ECTS
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	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						ECTS
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	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						ECTS
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	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						ECTS
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	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

Second 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 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

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

1. Students' List of Theses

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

Student: Ines Hoti
Thesis Title: Unveiling Personality Dynamics: Enver Hoxha and the Spectrum of Leadership Traits
Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: In this study, the authoritarian leader of Albania, Enver Hoxha, is examined for characteristics of Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD). The research employs descriptive and qualitative analyses, drawing on psych–biographical approaches, to evaluate Hoxha's behaviors concerning the nine Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – 5 (DSM-5) diagnostic criteria for NPD. The results show that Hoxha significantly aligned with the disorder, exhibiting six of the nine traits of NPD. Furthermore, one characteristic was largely comparable, and two of them were somewhat similar. The research additionally highlights Hoxha's intense paranoia, which is a typical yet non-diagnostic aspect of NPD and was evident in his severe state control and defensive tactics. Considering numerous limitations such as possible source biases, the study adds to our knowledge of the narcissistic characteristics of autocratic leadership by providing insightful information about Hoxha's psychological makeup. These findings provide a paradigm for examining and resolving the actions of authoritarian leaders, with consequences for political psychology and international relations.

Student: Lidja Lapi
Thesis Title: Berlin Process & Open Balkan - A comparative analysis
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: This dissertation provides an in-depth comparative evaluation of two major regional integration efforts in the Western Balkans: The Open Balkans and the Berlin Process. The research utilizes a mixed-methods strategy, merging quantitative data analysis with qualitative methods to explore the goals, execution strategies, and results of these efforts. By conducting a thorough examination of current literature, expert interviews, and statistical analysis of pertinent data sets, the research aims to illuminate the efficiency and influence of these initiatives on regional collaboration and the European Union (EU) integration journey of Western Balkan nations. This study fills in the gaps in the literature and advances our understanding of the forces influencing the political and economic environment of the Western Balkans. It is driven by the urgent need to assess the role of regional integration projects critically, especially in light of EU expansion efforts. The research attempts to evaluate the contributions, limits, and consequences of the Open Balkans and Berlin Process efforts for regional stability, reconciliation, and EU accession progress. The comparative analysis's conclusions highlight both the Open Balkans and Berlin Process programs' commonalities and uniqueness. Although both programs have been successful in promoting communication and collaboration among Western Balkan nations, their effects on regional integration and EU membership differ. Despite its lofty objectives, the Open Balkans Initiative has difficulties with legitimacy, inclusion, and coordination that reduce its efficacy in dealing with intricate regional issues. The Berlin Process, on the other hand, has succeeded in promoting

communication, improving connection, and mobilizing resources, but it has failed to resolve underlying political conflicts and structural flaws. This study's conclusion emphasizes the significance of having a sophisticated grasp of the dynamics of regional integration in the Western Balkans as well as the necessity of inclusive and cogent actions to forward the goal of European integration. The study intends to educate decision-makers, scholars, and interested parties engaged in regional cooperation projects and EU enlargement policy by offering insights into the advantages and disadvantages of the Open Balkans and Berlin Process Initiative.

Student: Noelia Greca
Thesis Title: The bilateral agreement between Italy and Albania: The impact on the Albanian state and society
Supervisor: Dr. Niuton Mulleti

Thesis Summary: Italy and Albania signed a significant agreement in Rome on November 6, 2023, intending to address and control migrant flows coming from the Mediterranean Sea towards the Italian state. This thesis explores the implications and content of this protocol, focusing on how it affects the Albanian nation and its citizens. The agreement is first-of-its-kind as it will potentially bring thousands of people to the Northwest of Albania, not only for reception but also for asylum processing and evaluation. It is referred to as first-of-its-kind, as it falls under an EU and a non-EU member state, where everything will be under the Italian supervision, including legislation. One of the main features of this research is also the extraterritoriality process, as an international trend on handling irregular migration. The study begins by a background of the setting where this protocol is signed, along with the controversies that it brings, such as breaches of law, security and human rights, stating the main research question that will guide the study. To collect data, methods of qualitative research including secondary data and document analysis will be used. To offer context, the study goes through theoretical and conceptual frameworks, analysis of the protocol and compares this case with the Italy-Libya and UK-Rwanda agreements that reflect outcomes that should be considered in the Italian Albanian setting. The primary focus of this study is forecasting and theoretical analysis, which may limit its capacity to track the agreement's long-term impacts or provide an accurate understanding. According to the thesis, socioeconomic implications, capacity building and resource allocation, migration policies, political opportunities, and challenges of social cohesion and integration of asylum seekers are all factors that the protocol might impact.

Student: Riviera Mëhilli
Thesis Title: Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Communist Albania: A Critical Analysis of Memory Spaces
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: This study critically examines the role of memorial museums in the transitional justice process of post-communist Albania. Focusing on three museums in Tirana—the House of Leaves and Bunk 'Art 1 & 2—the research investigates how these sites contribute to reconciliation and reckoning with Albania's repressive communist past. Through content analysis of official documents, interviews with museum representatives, and a comparative survey of visitors and non-visitors, the study explores the effectiveness of these memory spaces in addressing political violence and shaping public perceptions of the communist era.

Graduate Students' List of Theses

Student: Altea Bani
Thesis Title: The Challenges and Opportunities of Albania in the EU Accession Process
Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Thesis Summary: This thesis explores the intricate process of Albania's bid for European Union (EU) membership, highlighting how recent reforms, shifts in political leadership, and socio-economic conditions influence its integration efforts. Despite substantial EU assistance—including financial support, judicial reforms, and anti-corruption measures—Albania continues to face significant obstacles that affect its progress toward meeting EU accession requirements. Key issues include political corruption, organized crime, and socio-economic instability.

The primary aim of this research is to assess how recent changes in policy and political leadership impact Albania's pursuit of EU membership and to identify shortcomings in current strategies that need to be addressed. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative analyses. This includes a thorough review of recent legislative changes, an evaluation of political shifts, and an analysis of socio-economic data. The methodology features case studies, policy reviews, and assessments of current developments to gauge their effect on Albania's EU integration.

The results demonstrate that while legislative advancements and anti-corruption efforts have positively influenced Albania's EU membership prospects, persistent issues such as political instability and economic challenges continue to obstruct progress. The research identifies critical gaps in existing strategies and proposes targeted recommendations to overcome these hurdles.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to a more nuanced understanding of the factors affecting Albania's EU accession process. By providing fresh insights and practical recommendations, this thesis aims to enhance strategies for achieving EU membership. The findings offer valuable information for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners involved in EU integration and regional stability, providing actionable solutions to improve Albania's chances of joining the European Union.

Student: Daniela Dudi
Thesis Title: Understanding the Geopolitical Influences of External Powers on Conflict Resolution: The Case of Kosovo and Serbia
Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Thesis Summary: This thesis explores the intricate dynamics of the Kosovo-Serbia negotiations, emphasizing the geopolitical influences exerted by external powers such as the European Union (EU), the United States (US), and Russia. The central focus is the Franco-German plan's impact on conflict resolution between Kosovo and Serbia. Initiated in 2006, the negotiations have successfully addressed several bilateral issues impacting daily life, such as cross-border trade and personal documentation. However, a comprehensive political settlement remains elusive. The first negotiation phase, guided by UN Security Council Resolution 1244, failed due to Belgrade's refusal to recognize Kosovo's independence, leading to Pristina's unilateral declaration in 2008. Supported by the US and most EU member states, Kosovo's independence was orchestrated through the Ahtisaari Plan, which included significant concessions from Kosovo, such as the establishment of Serb-majority municipalities with enhanced autonomy. Subsequent EU-facilitated talks from 2011 focused on practical issues, fostering cooperation without directly addressing Kosovo's status. These discussions culminated in the 2013 Brussels Agreement, which ambiguously aimed at "normalization" of relations but left Kosovo's status unresolved. Efforts to

integrate Kosovo Serbs into Pristina's governance faced significant resistance, exacerbated by Serbia's parallel institutions and influence over Kosovo Serb politics.

Attempts to revive talks under US auspices during the Trump administration, including proposals for land swaps and mutual recognition, faced strong opposition from several European nations and internal political challenges within Kosovo and Serbia. The EU's role as a mediator has been complicated by its internal divisions, with five member states not recognizing Kosovo's independence, and the need for US cooperation remains critical. This thesis employs the realist theory of international relations to analyze the strategic interests of the US, EU, and Russia in the Kosovo-Serbia conflict. It argues that these external powers' involvement reflects broader geopolitical contests and highlights the limitations of technical negotiations in achieving a durable political settlement. The study concludes that addressing the core issue of Kosovo's status is essential for future negotiations to progress meaningfully and for establishing lasting peace and stability in the region.

Student: Derandi Krasniqi
Thesis Title: Social Contract in Multilingual and Multiethnic States: A Comparative Study of Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo
Supervisor: Dr. Niuton Mulleti

Thesis Summary: This paper explores the governance implications of granting rights to a multilingual and multiethnic society. It is a real-world comparative approach analysis of three governing models: Kosovo (UNSCR1244), Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Swiss Confederation. Although they have different compositions regarding ethnicities, history, culture, linguistics, and cultural groups, these other state structures will be analyzed based on the main features of national identity, historical developments, and legal guarantees. The paper explores the impact of governance systems on the Social Contract, using the case study of Kosovo in the post-conflict region of the Western Balkans, along with comparative examples from the Swiss Confederation (Confederation Helvetica) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Switzerland's inclusive governance approach, legal guarantees, power-sharing, and commitment to dialogue have contributed to its long-standing peace and stability. In contrast, Bosnia and Herzegovina's ineffective governance system has led to divisions, conflict, and the marginalization of ethnic and cultural groups. The paper concludes that inclusive governance, equitable legal guarantees, and power-sharing mechanisms are essential for promoting coexistence and maintaining peace in multilingual and multiethnic societies. The primary analysis will be developed through a comparative assessment of the historical background of each entity, legal guarantees, and the role of national identity constructivism criteria in the effectiveness of well-functioning multiethnic and multilingual societies.

Student: Dragana Kurti
Thesis Title: Dynamics of Social Movements in Hybrid Regimes: A Case Study of Albania
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: This study examines how hybrid regimes limit the impact of protests by focusing on their transformation into social movements and the dynamics involved. Specifically, the research focuses on the Albanian context, analyzing two key protests in 2018: student protests against the Law on Higher Education and protests to protect the National Theater. Through a review of existing literature, indicators of transformation and impact are collected to address the

research questions: What potential do protests in Albania possess to evolve into social movements? Additionally, what is the influence of social movements within the framework of a hybrid democracy? The findings reveal that while protests in Albania may transition into social movements, their impact is constrained by the limited political opportunities within the existing structure.

Student: Ervis Jangulli
Thesis Title: NAKBA: Unearthing Israel-Palestine Conflict and its Current Dynamics
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: Before diving into the dynamics of the conflict to investigate the blatant human rights violation and UN accords by Israel, a detailed account of the literature regarding the conflict and the key stakeholders is required to understand it. The establishment of Israel as a state was the product of power politics between the then-colonial powers. The division sparked religious sentiment and never-ending the fight between the Abrahamic religions. The narrative of both sides, Muslim Arabs and the Jews of Israel, does not share a mutual ground of acceptability. The existing scholarship has either tried to shape the conflict as an ethnic or attempted to present the violent side of Muslim resistance. There is a massive gap within the literature regarding the atrocities and the violation of Israel, which this paper tries to fill through investigation.

Student: Ingrit Melani
Thesis Title: Women on Women Security: the Perceptions of Ukrainian War Refugees in Albania on Russia's Aggression in Ukraine
Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: This thesis explores how women war refugees from Ukraine perceive Russia's aggression in Ukraine, with an emphasis on women's views on security. Feminist security studies promote a gender-sensitive approach to comprehending and resolving security concerns by highlighting the many ways in which women encounter and interpret threats, as such perceptions have been understudied. The study examines how women face different dangers and experiences, highlighting the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to security. The study's foundation is a thorough literature analysis that addresses feminism, human security, feminist security studies and the particular circumstances surrounding Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The thesis uses interviews with women refugees from Ukraine residing in Albania since the beginning of the war, using a qualitative research design in the form of content analysis to learn about their distinct viewpoints on security and the effects of war. Findings show how gender does influence these women's perspectives on women's roles during the war, in militarization, in the negotiation process in a post-war society, in understanding state support and in the general conceptualization of womanhood. It proves how threats women encounter during wartime are often part of the private realm, rather than the public, and that state support is lacking to fulfill the fuller securitization of their needs. Issues such as increased sexual and domestic abuse, financial burdens as primary caretakers of their children in cases of mothers, increases in the rates of divorce, traumas connected to separation and fleeing, feelings of betrayal and shame, and difficulties in adapting after fleeing are persistent in these women's experiences.
An understanding of the traditional concept of security, such as physical security, is a consistent perception of these women, but also accompanied by understandings of other broader forms of security, such as economic or psychological ones. Also, the study brings light to a lack of

nationalistic sentiment in the interviewees, which can be further studied. Therefore, the study brings to light the frequently ignored voices of women and adds to the literature a new perception on security and war, while emphasizing the need for more efficient state mechanisms and a deeper focus on underlying and internalized motives behind gendered stereotypes of women's perceptions.

Student: Iris Buçiqi
Thesis Title: Mapping Civil Society Organizations/ Networks as Means of Regional Cooperation in Reconciliation: The Case of Western Balkans
Supervisor: Dr. Jubjana Vila

Thesis Summary: Based on the context of the armed conflicts in the 1990s and persistent post-conflictual issues among the Western Balkans, this study focuses on the involvement of regional civil society organizations and/or networks (RCSO/Ns) in the reconciliation process. In particular, the research maps the role of RCSO/Ns in advancing and promoting reconciliation across the region. To comprehend this role, the work employs existing indicators and categorizes them in accordance with its three main sub-questions. These sub-questions, that guide the piece, include: i) What is the approach of RCSO/Ns towards reconciliation? ii) What are the capacities of these actors to act? iii) What is their work in the field of reconciliation? In such manner, this mixed-methods research explores how civil society contributes to transformative processes in these post-conflict societies. Furthermore, it seeks to investigate the outcomes and challenges of RCSO/Ns on reconciliation and provide comparisons between these actors' experiences. The findings of this research work support scholarly knowledge and provide useful practical implications in regional reconciliation efforts across the Western Balkans.

Student: Marko Meraj
Thesis Title: Understanding the Impact of Geopolitical Shifts on Territorial Conflicts and Regional Security in the Western Balkans
Supervisor: Dr. Reina Shehi

Thesis Summary: This study aims to address rising security concerns all over Europe and beyond, since the war in Ukraine and its potential implications on territorial conflicts in the Western Balkans. This focus is derived from the theoretical discussion that argues that territorial conflicts create difficult barriers to the construction of balanced interstate relations and resolving them can reduce the possibility of military conflict. The paper examines how current geopolitical shifts and interests and strategies of major actors, including the United States of Am erica, Russia, China, and Türkiye, intervene in the role that territorial conflicts play on regional dynamics, affecting war or conflict resolution efforts. The paper brings a mapping of seven territorial conflicts in the region and assesses the territorial dispute value on how critical each stands for interstate peace and regional security. The value of each territorial conflict is operationalized through three variables: power and significance, economic interdependence, and common value relation. Regional security measured through the presence and level of territorial conflicts is conceptualized as a result of cooperative versus conflicting relations to geopolitical actors based on the actual geopolitical configuration. Following the realist perspective, the paper shows that the larger the competition between the great powers in the region, the greater the autonomy of the small states and their ability to manipulate the powers and to extract military and economic aid in the region. In addition to this, it provides insightful findings on the role of the EU, neo liberalism, and constructivism in

addressing territorial conflicts in the Balkans. It highlights the nuanced relationship between the EU and countries like Serbia, acknowledging that while the EU's influence is signific ant, it does not always lead to immediate compliance.

Serbia's strategic approach to EU relations underscores the importance of EU membership as a long-term goal. Furthermore, the results emphasize the relevance of constructivism in understanding how Balkan countries perceive territorial disputes. It acknowledges the diverse nature of these conflicts, which go beyond mere economic considerations to include cultural, symbolic, and linguistic aspects of national identity.

Student: Shysti Bushati
Thesis Title: Albanian Diplomatic Image: An analysis on USA and Turkey
Supervisor: Dr. Niuton Mulleti

Thesis Summary: The reason of writing this paper is to analyze the complexities that come as a result of the ongoing tensions between USA and Turkey as two influential countries, and the aim is to present how Albania has managed to maintain strong ties with both these countries. The analysis is to find whether this is based on Albania's diplomatic capabilities as well as the credibility of its diplomatic image in the world stage or whether there are other factors that play an important role in this matter. The paper will examine the historical relations that the countries have had through certain periods, and the main focus will be the post-cold war era setting. The relations of the countries will be interpreted through the international relations theories (Realism, Neorealism, Liberalism, Constructivism), as well as other concepts will be utilized in understanding their actions such as soft power theory, diplomatic image, and image projection. These elements will be utilized in terms of understanding the importance of the interaction between these countries and to further analyze the position of Albania in this situation. The paper will show the relations between the US and Albania interpreted through the liberal theory, but it will also be later explained through underlying realist principles. In the case of relations between Albania and Turkey, they will be explained through the constructivism lens, however according to the findings as in the case of US, it will be shown that this theory represents a façade for the actual prevailing individual interest, as explained by the realist approach. Overall, the paper will present the dominant influence that both Turkey and the United States of America will try to exert over the Balkan region as a result of Albania's geostrategic position in the region.

Student: Pamela Xixi
Thesis Title: Professional Ethics in Public Administration in Albania
Supervisor: Dr. Avdi Smajljaj

Thesis Summary: Throughout this study, I have compiled a diverse array of documents illustrating how professional ethics establish the benchmarks for carrying out the inherent duties of a role within an ethical framework. Often, they address not only the professional competencies and capabilities but also delve into specialized subjects pertinent to each field. The thesis will illuminate the pivotal role of professional ethics in administration. However, it will primarily emphasize how the responsibilities of professional ethics encompass identifying the moral standards and values, making assessments, and defining principles that define individuals in their capacity as representatives of a specific profession. Professional ethics contribute to the development of norms, standards, and specific criteria for various types of professional activities.

PhD Students' List of Theses

Student: Alban Nako
Thesis Title: Perceived Electoral Fraud and Political Polarisation in Post-Communist Albania
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan

Thesis Summary: This dissertation examines the intricate relationship between electoral fraud and partisan polarisation in post-communist Albania, a nation where democratic institutions are still grappling with the legacies of authoritarian rule. Over the past three decades, Albania's electoral system has evolved amid persistent challenges, with electoral fraud emerging as a critical barrier to democratic consolidation and public trust. This study seeks to unravel the complex dynamics that link electoral fraud to the deepening political divisions within the country.
Employing a robust mixed-methods approach, this research integrates historical institutional analysis with a comprehensive survey of Albanian voters. This unique methodology allows for a deep exploration of how perceptions and personal experiences of electoral fraud fuel partisan polarisation. The study meticulously traces the evolution of electoral fraud from Albania's first multi-party elections in 1991 to the recent 2021 elections, shedding light on how fraudulent practices have distorted electoral outcomes, entrenched political loyalties, and exacerbated societal divisions.
The dissertation's findings reveal that electoral fraud in Albania is not merely a procedural flaw but a deeply ingrained political strategy that reinforces partisan identities and undermines democratic engagement. This study significantly contributes to the broader discourse on post-communist democratisation by highlighting the crucial link between electoral integrity and political polarisation. Importantly, it offers both theoretical insights and practical recommendations for strengthening electoral processes in transitional democracies, thereby providing a roadmap for policymakers and practitioners.
In this comprehensive examination, the dissertation underscores the pressing need to address electoral fraud in Albania. The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated, as it directly impacts political stability and democratic resilience.

Student: Dea Haxhiu
Thesis Title: Justice Reform in Albania and its Impact on Democracy (2016-2023)
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ervin Karamuço

Thesis Summary: The instruments of the judicial system are the Constitution and national, international, and European law that the country has adopted and ratified. Law quality and democratic legislation are on one side. The rule of law is the instrument of this quality law and democratic legislation to determine above all and for everything. All should be equal before the law. No one can escape the responsibility to respect the law. The study analysis is divided into two spheres. The theoretical analysis focuses on justice reform, beginning with the constitutional reform in 2016, the vetting process, and the new judicial institutions that have contributed to the consolidation of the rule of law, balance of power, accountability, and transparency as foundations of liberal democracy. Implementation analysis, which analyses the effectiveness of the justice reform through 2016-2023. The challenges have prolonged the justice reform leading to debatable outcomes. The methodology is conducted through interviews, analysis of formal documents, academic contribution, and data highlighting the uncertainty of the contribution of justice reform in the Albanian judiciary.

Student: Hysni Skura

Thesis Title: The Role of Religious Communities and Interfaith Harmony in Promoting Social Peace: A Case Study of Albania

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti

Thesis Summary: This thesis aims to contribute to the study of religion, religious communities, religious leadership, and interfaith harmony in Albania, as key factors in building a moderate and inclusive society by fostering and promoting religious, humanitarian, and social peace values as the main foundation for societal development. It assesses Albanian society's perception of the role and correlation between religion, dialogue, interfaith harmony, and the process of building social peace in the Albanian reality. Additionally, the study objectively evaluates the extent to which religious communities in Albania have contributed to the preservation and construction to peace. Within the framework of achieving the main objectives of this work, several research questions and a primary hypothesis have been developed. This hypothesis and research questions enable readers to better understand how religion, religious communities, and interfaith harmony in Albania influence the promotion and development of social peace and peace-building.

The thesis employs a mixed methodology, including qualitative and quantitative methods. This mixed approach provides a broader perspective on the subject, combining qualitative data from interviews, observations, and surveys with quantitative data from reviewed literature. It also utilizes the Likert scale correlation coefficient, statistical distribution of percentages, and survey research design. Additionally, the ANOVA statistical data analysis platform is used to determine the significance of the interaction between variables. In the process of realizing this thesis, a comprehensive review and evaluation of a wide range of literature have been conducted, assessing various aspects such as religion, politics, interfaith dialogue, etc., and their correlation, analyzing the works of pioneer authors such as Galtung, Lederach, Abu Nimer, Elbasan, etc.

The findings of this thesis suggest that while religion may significantly influence internal and international events, it is essential to approach religious knowledge with an understanding of the context in which it exists. Understanding the role of religion in a globalized world can provide insight into how it impacts local policies and interinstitutional relationships within the country. Among other things, this thesis demonstrates that raising awareness of interfaith dialogue among people should be approached in various ways, with the help of all relevant actors, not just educational institutions. This study suggests that educational leaders, policymakers, religious communities, and society as a whole should continuously invest in interfaith harmony and dialogue as they are key elements in societal development and the promotion of social peace.

Student: Ines Stasa

Thesis Title: Transitional Justice in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia in a Comparative Framework

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Özcan

Thesis Summary: This thesis aims to enhance transitional justice studies with a focus on the Balkan peninsula, by providing a comparative analysis of the extent of transitional justice mechanisms in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. With the fall of military dictatorships in Latin America in 1980s, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new states in 1990s, the concept of Transitional Justice (TJ) saw a significant rise in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This was further propelled by the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), the prolonged breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992) as well as the fall of the communist dictatorship in Albania (1990).

The emergence of new states and the state-building processes that followed the political and social changes also brought new challenges and conflicts, although they marked the end of significantly repressive political regimes. Considering that the implementation of TJ has undergone several changes over time and dependent of the different settings in which it was employed, it is necessary to conduct extensive comparative research to determine the extent to which TJ differs in post-communist and post-conflict nations.

The analysis undertook in this study will attempt to demonstrate the significance of TJ, as it goes well beyond the finite period of transition and creates an ongoing and sustainable connection to the past. Transitional Justice stands for much more than just the addressing of human rights violations and the ensuring of legal justice and the rule of law; it also involves other elements, particularly those related to peacebuilding. When considering TJ, it is important to view it as a long-term and sustainable process rather than a "quick fix" or temporary solution. When it comes to Kosovo, it is crucial to frame the importance of how we relate to that context.

It is not just about setting up tribunals, but also about establishing a meaningful relationship with the people in affected communities. By doing so, we can gain a deeper understanding of their experiences and needs, and work towards a more effective resolution of the issues at hand.

In line with this, it has developed three main hypotheses: (1) The limited achievement of lustration law in Albania has conditioned the current status of transitional justice; (2) The state-building process has contributed to the evolution of Transitional Justice in Kosovo; (3) The power-sharing process as a TJ pillar in North Macedonia has fueled TJ in the country.

By utilizing a mixed methods approach, data was collected through elite interviews, conducted in the three countries with 44 representatives from academia, politics, media and civil society. Other data are collected from a public survey that was specifically conducted for the analysis of Albania, as a case study of this dissertation.

To conclude, two hypotheses are fully upheld in terms of limited achievement of lustration law and its implications with the current status of transitional justice in Albania; and the contribution of state building in Kosovo to the evolution of transitional justice. The third hypothesis related to the power-sharing process in North Macedonia as a fueling mechanism to the evolution of transitional justice is partially upheld.

2. List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Incoming Students 2023-2024

Name	Surname	Department at EPOKA	Program at EPOKA	Sending Institution	Academic Year	In-coming semester	Method
Quentin	Delporte	PIR	BA PIR	Université Catholique de Lille	2023-2024	Fall	ERASMUS+
Mikol	Zadra	PIR	BA PIR	University for Foreigners of Perugia	2023-2024	Fall	ERASMUS+
Giacomo	Barone	PIR	M.Sc. PIR	University of International	2023-2024	Spring	ERASMUS+

				Studies of Rome				

Outgoing Students 2023-2024

Name	Surname	Department at EPOKA	Program at EPOKA	Host University	Country	Academic Year	Out-Going semester	Method
Iris	Nika	PIR	BA PIR	University of International Studies of Rome	Italy	2023-2024	Fall	ERASMUS+
Ines	Hoti	PIR	BA PIR	University of Tartu	Estonia	2023-2024	Fall	ERASMUS+
Mateo	Zogu	PIR	M.Sc. PIR	University of Applied Sciences Fulda	Germany	2023-2024	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. List of Publications

Dr. Reina SHEHI
1. Pano, K., & Shehi, R. Z. (2024). A Study on State and Societal Security Dilemma: Great Power Dynamics and Regional Challenges in the Western Balkans. *Europolity: Continuity & Change Eur. Governance*, *18*, 137.

Dr. Avdi SMAJLJAJ

1. **Paper in Scopus platform**- Smajljaj, A. (2024). The erupting volcano: the role of the Ukraine frozen conflict and ongoing war in transforming international and European order. Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research.
2. **Paper-** SMAJLJAJ, A. (2023). THE IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON THE WESTERN BALKANS CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. Analele Universității din Oradea. Relații Internationale și Studii Europene (RISE), 15(Suppl.), 317-326.
3. **Book Review-** Smajljaj, A. (2023). Building Ukraine from within: A sociological, institutional, and economic analysis of a nation-state in the making: by Anton Oleinik, Stuttgart, ibidem-Verlag, 2018, 481 pp., € 45.90 (paperback), ISBN: 9783838211503.

Three articles are under review in three journals.

Dr. Jubjana VILA

Toci, A., & Vila, J. (2024). Education for Democratic Citizenship: The Case of Kosovo. Europolity: Continuity & Change in European Governance, 2024, Vol 18, Issue 1, p189-210. http://doi.org/10.25019/europolity.2024.18.1.7

MSc. Taqi STOJANI

1. T. Stojani, V. Lino & Hajrulla, D. (March 2024). "English Research Writing in Economics Studies. Statistics on Scientific Results'', International Journal of Advanced Natural Sciences and Engineering Researches (IJANSER), 7(11), preprint, https://doi.org/10.59287/as-ijanser.568

1. Stojani T., & Hajrulla, D. (2024). "Improving student's thinking processes and take responsibility for their own learning outcomes in universities'', International Journal of Advanced Natural Sciences and Engineering Researches (IJANSER), 7(11), preprint, https://doi.org/10.59287/as-ijanser.568

2. Stojani,T.; Lino, S., "Interested in the effects that access to technology has on student learning, especially when it is intertwined with the process approach to writing.", Preprints.org, November 2023 DOI: PPR: PPR98085 …………….

3. Stojani,T.; Lino, S., "Interested in the effects that access to technology has on student learning, especially when it is intertwined with the process approach to writing.", Preprints.org, September 2023 Journal: Publisher: The 2023 issue of Electronic Letters on Science and Engineering was published. You can see on https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/else/issue/78618 DergiPark Akademik, Microsoft CMT, September 2023, e-ISSN: 2148-2683, https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ejosat. ICAENS-ICIAS Avrupa Bilim ve Teknoloji Dergisi,

6. **Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events**

Dr. Reina SHEHI
1. October/2023, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania
   The missing link between crisis management strategy and a transformative human security approach in Albania during and post COVID-19, International Conference International Security in the Post-Pandemic Era: Threats and Opportunities
2. II CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE PATRIMONIO Y CONFLICTO
   The Elusive Relationship of Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Communist Albania. Granada a 12 April, 2024 Reina Zenelaj Shehi, Riviera Mehilli, Dea Elmasllari
3. Patterns of Geographic Gender Based Violence: Politics, Culture and Development Issues Reina

Zenelaj Shehi1 Endi Tirana2 Ajsela Toci3 https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3297-442X https://orcid.org/0009-0001-6456-5786 https://orcid.org/0009-0000-7616-0885

Dr. Avdi SMAJLJAJ

1. International Roundtable
   From exclusive borders to inclusive frontiers in the western Balkans
   May 30, 2024
   Oradea, Romania
   Avdi Smajljaj - Assessing the EU's capacities as a stabilizing actor in the Western Balkan stabilitocracies
2. The International Conference
   Sources of history and their interpretation by historians
   June 20-23, 2024
   Oradea, Romania
   Avdi Smajljaj - The role of political ideologies in interpretation of history and the need to westernize the study of Albanian history
3. Teaching mobility
   24-30 June 2024 at University of Oradea
4. COST Action Meeting at University of Wroclaw, May 21, 2024
5. COST Action Meeting at University Sabanci, Istanbul, 19-20 September 2024

Dr. Jubjana VILA

1. Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to University of Flensburg (5 days)
2. Erasmus Plus Teaching Mobility to Technical University Darmstadt (5 days)
3. STSM - COST Action CA22149: Research Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Transhistorical Deliberative Democracy (CHANGECODE), Topic- Deliberative Practices in Post-Communist Countries: Albania and Hungary Compared, Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary, 25.05.2024-03.07.2024.
4. WB-EUPath Jean Monnet Module – 2nd Public Panel Chair.
5. Panelist in the Open Discussion 'Universities for EU: Role of Academia and Students in EU Accession', organized by the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania, and hosted by the Department of Political Science and International Relations at EPOKA University.

MSc. Taqi STOJANI

EL RUHA 11. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, ISBN - 978-625-367-286-7, February 7-9, 2024 "ENGLISH RESEARCH WRITING IN ECONOMICS STUDIES. STATISTICS ON SCIENTIFIC RESULTS'', Taqi Stojani, V. Lino, & Desantila H, pp.336, Irsad Publications – 2024 Issued: 29.02.2024 proceedings EL RUHA P. BOOK Conf 2024.pdf

February 7-9, 2024 "COOPERATION OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTORS FOR THE CARE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT', V. Lino, T. Stojani, & Desantila H, pp.336, EL RUHA 11. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, ISBN - 978-625-367-286-7 Irsad Publications – 2024 Issued: 29.02.2024 proceedings EL RUHA P. BOOK Conf 2024.pdf

July 21-23, 2023 / Hakkari, Turkey, "English technical and professional writing, writing about the outdoors, and online instruction", ISBN 168-12-10325-42-14, https://www.discoveranatolia.org/hakkari

November 10-11, 2022, Italy "The Relationship between English Learning and Research Writing", participant at 15th International Conference Innovation in Language Learning Edition Florence, Italy, ISBN 979-12-80225-42-9, ISSN 2384-9509, https://conference.pixel-online.net/ICT4LL/files/ict4ll/ed0015/Conference%20Proceedings.pdf

Erasmus+ Mobility Teaching Planned
Period of the Activity: from [13/05/2024] to [17/05/2024]
University of Applied Sciences in Tarnow (Akademia Tarnowska) – PL TARNOW02

7. Projects

Dr. Jubjana VILA

1. EU Integration and Transformation of Western Balkans: Patterns and Issues (WB-EUPath) Jean Monnet Module Leader.
2. Cost Action CA22149 / Research Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Transhistorical Deliberative Democracy (CHANGECODE) – Working Group Member

E. Support, Resources & Representation

1. List of Students' Internships

<u>**Professional Practice**</u> in the Bachelor Study Program in Political Science and International Relations

No.	Student Name	Institutions/ companies/ entities	Period
1.	Enea Çani	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	29.11.2023- 26.01.2024
2.	Ermelinda Qemali	Diplomatic Mission Peace Prosperity (DMPP)	20.10.2023- 09.02.2024
3.	Frensis Kallari	Tyres Group Albania (TGA)	18.12.2023- 22.01.2024
4.	Lidja Lapi	Albanian National Olympic Committee	16.09.2023- 08.01.2024
5.	Megi Brahimaj	Armed Forces Academy	12.10.2023- 01.02.2024
6.	Noelia Greca	Confindustria Albania	11.01.2024- 20.02.2024
7.	Quentin Jean-Marie Francis Delporte	Departement du Nord (exchange student)	Exchange Student
8.	Riviera Mehilli	Albanian Helsinki Committee	23.11.2023- 21.12.2023
9.	Ines Hoti	Bank of Albania	17.07.2023- 28.07.2023

<u>**Professional Internship**</u> in the Master of Science Study Program in Political Science and International Relations

No.	Student Name	Institutions/ companies/ entities	Period
1.	Daniela Dudi	Support Command of the Albanian Armed Forces	02.05.2024- 31.05.2024
2.	Ingrit Melani	Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)	18.09.2023- 03.11.2023
3.	Marko Meraj	Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)	11.09.2023- 03.11.2023
4.	Otion Beho	Uni Trade AS	13.05.2024- 28.05.2024
5.	Shysti Bushati	Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)	18.09.2023- 03.11.2023

2. Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

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.

**Department of Political Science and
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