

ANNUAL REPORT

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019



Annual Report

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019

Contents

A. Organization & Management.....	4
Study programs offered by the Department	5
B. Resources	6
Finance.....	10
IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources	11
C. The Curriculum.....	11
D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research.....	15
List of Publications.....	15
Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events	15
Projects	15
E. Support, Resources & Representation	16
List of Students' Internships.....	16
1. Participation in Academic Events.....	16
Student Best Success Stories	24
Office Holders	25
Acknowledgements	25

A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Based on the Ordinance of the Minister of Education and Sports No. 116, dated 13.03.2017 "On the opening of the main unit and the institutional re-organisation of Epoka University", starting from the 2017-2018 academic year, the Department of Law has been established as part of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. It started its academic activities during the 2018-2019 academic year by building upon the solid academic tradition of EPOKA University.

The mission of the Department of Law, through the integrated second cycle program in Law is to prepare specialists in the field of law, future qualified leaders to contribute in the advancement of justice and the welfare of society; capable to engage in position in the judiciary, juridical bodies, prosecution, advocacy, notaries, bailiff, arbitration, central and local state administration, various institutions of state authorities, as well as in private sector.

Our integrated second cycle study program is the only bilingual Law program in the country with English and Albanian as languages of instruction, and it has a strong emphasis on International and EU Law. The curriculum of the program has an inter-disciplinary approach with courses offered in collaboration with the other Departments from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences as well as from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences.

Our students will have the opportunity to be participate in numerous mobility programs in the framework of Erasmus+ program as well as other bilateral agreements. They will also have the chance to experience the rich campus life at EPOKA and benefit from the internship programs.

The Department is committed to be an active unit which aims to resolve legal, social, economic, domestic and international political problems that are of a particular interest to society.

Study programs offered by the Department

Department of Law offers only one study program, the integrated study program in Law.

Pursuant to the Ordinance of the Minister of the Education, Sports and Youth No. 412, dated 18.09.2017, the Integrated second cycle study program in Law to be offered by the Department of Law under the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of EPOKA University has been licensed.

The Integrated second cycle study program in Law is a full-time study program, with a duration of 5 (five) academic years with 300 ECTS, and it is a bilingual program with Albanian and English as languages of instruction.

The study program enrolled its first cohort during the 2018-2019 academic year.

The integrated second cycle study program in Law offers to students the opportunity to gain analytical capacities and the basic concepts of law, legal terminology, legal theories and necessary procedures to deal with the theoretical and practical problems in the field of law.

The integrated second cycle study program in Law offered by our Department is in full compliance with the requirements of the Albanian Higher Education Law and after the completion of this 5-year program, students are conferred a Master of Science degree.

Students who graduate from the integrated second cycle study program in Law can become judges, prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, state lawyers, private or state bailiffs, as well as lawyers in the central and local state administration, after they have completed the state exam in law.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff



Dr. Niuton Mulleti

Acting Head of the Department

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 covering issues related to Bank of Albania's foreign relations as well as European Integration, with a particular focus on the approximation of Bank of Albania's legislation and procedures with the *acquis communautaire*. Since November 2008, Mr. Mulleti has been working at Epoka University initially as Head of the Rector's Cabinet and since 2017, as Head of the Institutional and Legal Affairs Office. Mr. Mulleti is also a Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Epoka University. In 2016 he completed his PhD degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at the HEIP-Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Strategiques (CEDS) in Paris, France. His research interest areas are Theories of International Relations, EU Foreign and Defence Policy and EU Law.



Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj

Lecturer

Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj is an academic lawyer and public notary, living in Tirana (Albania). She accomplished the full Masters' Degree diploma in Biology at Tirana University in 1997. During 2002-2011 she worked as a Court Expert and Technical Adviser at the General Prosecutor's Office in Liguria Region (Italy) and simultaneously she obtained the second full Master's Degree diploma in Law, in 2009. In 2011 she obtained an LLM in international and national Taxation Law, at Genoa University. In 2012 she moved to Abruzzo Region (acting as a managing authority) in Italy, where she kept the position of Senior Project Manager of E.U.Funds (Instrument of Pre-accession), Cross Border 2007-2013 Program. She won the public competition and established her notary office in Tirana in 2013. During the years 2013-2017 she held the position of Adjunct Lecturer of Fiscal and Taxation Law at New York University in Tirana. In 2018 she obtained the PHD in Legal Anthropology at the Academy of Albanological Studies. Since October 2016, she kept the position of Introduction and Business Law adjunct lecturer, and since October 2018 she is a full time lecturer at "Epoka" University, in Roman, Civil and Taxation Law.



Dr. Alba Gërdeci

Lecturer

Dr. Alba Gerdeci has been working at Epoka University, in Tirana, Albania, as of 11 years, holding various administrative positions. As of 2013, she has directed the International Relations Office, drawing, negotiating and ensuring implementation of international agreements with partner institutions in different parts of the world, particularly those located in Europe, US and Canada. During the time in office, she has managed communication with more than a hundred partner institutions, processed around 150 student exchange programs and 150 staff exchange programs. As of 2017, she has been assigned at the same time as the

Head of Rector`s Cabinet, responsible for contributing to the proper conduct of both internal and external communication, as well as ensuring the compliance of all acts, documents and operations of the University with both the national legislation on higher education as well as with the legal acts of the University.

Dr. Alba Gerdeci received her Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Tirana in 2019. She has a Master of Second Level in Business Administration from Epoka University and an Integrated Diploma in Law from the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana. As of 2010, she has been teaching law courses at the undergraduate level delivered to non-lawyer audiences such as: Introduction to Law, Business Law, International Law and Constitutional Law. The language of instruction of these courses was English. During the 2018-2019, she was responsible to deliver the Criminal Law course at the newly established Law Department of Epoka University.

Her research areas include human rights, international law, humanitarian intervention, responsibility to protect and the United Nations.



Dr. Sadullah Yılmaz
Lecturer

Part time Academic Staff



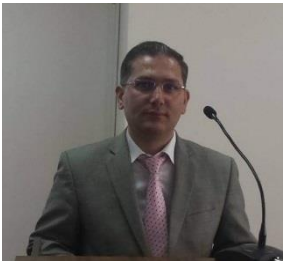
Dr. Erjon Hitaj
Introduction to Law



MSc. Heliona Miço
Public Law



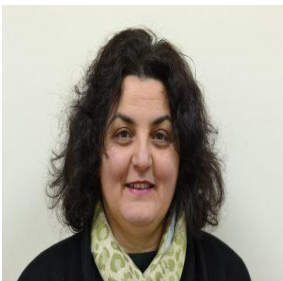
MSc. Enkelejd Alibeaj
Public Law



Dr. Hasan Bello
History of Political- Legal Institutions



Dr. Goce Naumovski
Constitutional Law



Dr. Ilirjana Kaceli
Philosophy of Law



MSc. Ada Cara
Legal English

Academic Visitors (2018-2019)



Prof. Vincenzo Carbone
University of International Studies, Rome

Administrative Staff



Nertila Duraj
Department Coordinator

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

NA – Did not receive information.

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

Department of Law is entitled to use all the resources and infrastructure of Epoka University. Through the year, students and lecturers have used different classes in both E and A- Buildings. According to the information received from the Library, students can access 76 different kind of books. They are also able to use JSTOR and SCIENCE DIRECT in the premises of the university in order to receive more information regarding the Scientific Research they will need during their courses.

C. The Curriculum

Integrated second cycle study program in Law

Viti i pare / First Year			
Semestri i pare / First Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënie	
LAW 101	E drejtë publike/Public Law	shqip	5
LAW 103	Histori e institucioneve politiko-juridike/History of Political-Legal Institutions	shqip	5
LAW 109	E drejtë romake/Roman Law	shqip	5
PIR 111	Hyrje në shkencat politike/Introduction to Political Science	anglisht	5
ECO 101	Hyrje në ekonomi I/Introduction to Economics I	anglisht	5
ENG 107/ENG 109	Anglishte bazë ose Zhvillimi i aftësive të lexuarit dhe shkruarit/ Core English or Developing Reading and Writing Skills	anglisht	5
Totali semestral			30

Semestri i dyte/ Second Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënie	
LAW 102	E drejtë civile I/Civil Law I	shqip	5
LAW 104	E drejtë penale I/Criminal Law I	shqip	5
LAW 106	Filozofi e së drejtës/Philosophy of Law	shqip	5
LAW 108	Bazat dhe metodat e arsytimit dhe shkrimit ligjor/Fundamentals and Methods of Legal Reasoning and Writing	shqip	5
LAW 110	Anglishte ligjore/Legal English	anglisht	5
LAW 116	E drejtë kushtetuese/Constitutional Law	anglisht	5
Totali semestral			30

Viti i dyte/ Second year			
Semestri i trete/ Third Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies^e	
LAW 205	E drejtë civile II/Civil Law II	shqip	5
LAW 207	E drejtë e detyrimeve I/ Law of Obligations I	shqip	5
LAW 209	E drejtë administrative I /Administrative Law I	shqip	5
LAW 211	E drejtë penale II/Criminal Law II	shqip	5
LAW 213	E drejtë e punës dhe e sigurimeve shoqërore/Labour and Social Security Law	shqip	5
LAW 215	Kërkim dhe shkrim akademik/Academic Research and Writing	anglisht	5
Totali semestral			30

Semestri i katert/ Fourth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies^e	
LAW 202	Teknikë legjislative / Legislative Technique	shqip	5
LAW 204	Kriminalogji-Penologji / Criminology-Penology	anglisht	5
LAW 206	E drejtë familjare/Family Law	shqip	5
LAW 208	E drejtë e detyrimeve II/ Law of Obligations II	shqip	5
LAW 210	E drejtë administrative II/ Administrative Law II	shqip	5
LAW 212	Të drejtat e njeriut/ Human Rights	anglisht	5
Totali semestral			30

Viti i trete / Third year			
Semestri i peste/ Fifth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies^e	
LAW 301	E drejtë procedurale civile / Civil Procedure Law	shqip	5
LAW 303	E drejtë procedurale penale / Criminal Procedure Law	shqip	5
LAW 305	Etikë ligjore / Legal Ethics	anglisht	5
LAW 307	E drejta tregtare / Commercial Law	anglisht	5
LAW 309	Sociologji e ligjit / Sociology of Law	anglisht	5
LAW 311	Kontratat administrative / Administrative Contracts	shqip	5
Totali semestral			30

Semestri i gjashte/ Sixth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda		
LAW 302	E drejtë financiare/Financial Law	shqip	5
LAW 304	E drejtë ndërkombëtare publike /Public International Law	anglisht	5

LAW 306	Drejtësi administrative/Administrative Justice	shqip	5
LAW 308	Institucionet dhe politikat e BE-së/ Institutions and Policies of the EU	anglisht	5
LAW 310	E drejtë e tokës/Land Law	shqip	5
LAW 312	E drejtë e falimentimit/Insolvency Law	shqip	5
Totali semestral			30

Viti i katert / Fourth Year			
Semestri i shtate / Seventh Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies	
LAW 401	E drejtë e BE-së /EU Law	anglisht	6
LAW 403	E drejtë ndërkombëtare e biznesit / International Business Law	anglisht	6
LAW 405	E drejtë ndërkombëtare private/Private International Law	anglisht	6
LAW 407	Alternativat e zgjidhjes së konflikteve dhe arbitrazh/Alternatives of Conflict Resolution and Arbitration	anglisht	6
LAW 409	Pronësi intelektuale ndërkombëtare/International Intellectual Property	anglisht	6
Totali semestral			30

Semestri i tete / Eighth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies	
LAW 402	E drejtë ndërkombëtare e konkurrencës/International Competition Law	anglisht	6
LAW 404	E drejtë tregtare e BE-së/EU Commercial Law	anglisht	6
LAW 408	E drejtë kontraktore evropiane/European Contract Law	anglisht	6
LAW 410	Klinikë ligjore/Legal Clinic	shqip	6
XXX	Me zgjedhje/Elective	shqip/ anglisht	6
Totali semestral			30

Viti i Peste / Fifth Year			
Semestri i nente/ Ninth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies	
LAW 501	E drejtë penale ndërkombëtare/International Criminal Law	anglisht	6
LAW 503	E drejtë ndërkombëtare e mjedisit/International Environmental Law	anglisht	6
LAW 505	Çështje bashkëkohore të së drejtës/Contemporary Issues in Law	anglisht	6

XXX	Me zgjedhje/Elective	shqip/ anglisht	6
XXX	Me zgjedhje/Elective	shqip/ anglisht	6
Totali semestral			30

Semestri i dhjete/ Tenth Semester			
Lendet			ECTS
Kodi	Lenda	Gjuha mesimdhënies	
LAW 502	Praktikë mësimore/Internship	shqip	6
XXX	Me zgjedhje/Elective	shqip/ anglisht	6
XXX	Me zgjedhje/Elective	shqip/ anglisht	6
LAW 504	Teza/Thesis	shqip/ anglisht	12
Totali semestral			30

	Lende me zgjedhje	Gjuha mesimdhënies	ECTS
LAW 414	Barazia gjinore dhe ligji/Gender Equality and Law	anglisht	5
LAW 412	E drejtë kushtetuese e BE-së/EU Constitutional Law	anglisht	6
LAW 416	Ligji dhe teknologjia/Law and Technology	anglisht	6
LAW 418	Ligji dhe politika / Law and Politics	anglisht	6
LAW 420	Shteti i së drejtës/Rule of Law	anglisht	5
LAW 422	Ligji, politika dhe media/Law, Politics and Media	anglisht	6
LAW 424	E drejtë e mjedisit/Environmental Law	anglisht	6
LAW 426	E drejtë e konsumatorit/Consumer Law	shqip	6
LAW 428	E drejtë ndërkombëtare e të drejtave të njeriut/International Human Rights Law	anglisht	5
LAW 506	E drejtë tatimore-doganore/Tax and Customs Law	shqip	5
LAW 507	E drejtë e traktateve / Law of Treaties	anglisht	5
LAW 508	Pronësi intelektuale/Intellectual Property	shqip	5
LAW 509	Të drejtat evropiane të njeriut/European Human Rights	anglisht	6
LAW 510	E drejtë e sigurimeve/Insurance Law	shqip	5
LAW 511	Psikologji juridike/Legal Psychology	anglisht	5
LAW 512	E drejtë e detit/Law of Sea	anglisht	6
LAW 513	Mjekësi ligjore/Forensics	shqip	5
LAW 514	E drejtë penale evropiane/European Criminal Law	anglisht	6
LAW 515	E drejtë kushtetuese e krahasuar/Comparative Constitutional Law	anglisht	6
LAW 516	E drejta dhe politikat Sociale / Law and Social Policies	anglisht	5
LAW 517	Mbrojtja sociale/Social Protection	shqip	5
LAW 518	E drejtë ndërkombëtare dhe e BE-së mbi emigrimin /International and EU Immigration Law	anglisht	6
LAW 519	E drejtë e prokurimit publik/Public Procurement Law	shqip	6
LAW 520	E drejta për edukim dhe legjislacioni arsimor/The Right to Education and Education Legislation	shqip	5
LAW 521	E drejtë bankare/Banking Law	anglisht	5
LAW 522	Kontabilitet dhe auditim/Accounting and Audit	shqip	5
LAW 524	E drejtë e krahasuar e sistemeve ligjore/Comparative Legal Systems Law	anglisht	5

LAW 525	E drejtë administrative evropiane/European Administrative Law	anglisht	6
LAW 526	E drejtë penale e krahasuar/Comparative Criminal Law	shqip	5
LAW 527	E drejtë kibernetike/Cyber Law	anglisht	5
LAW 528	Kriminalistikë/Criminalistics	shqip	5
LAW 529	E drejtë evropiane e konkurrencës / European Competition Law	anglisht	6

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Students' List of Theses

NA

List of Publications

Gelanda Shkurtaj “The treatment of the executory contracts in Insolvency Law”, e ISBN: 978 1 78811 552 0 (<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/a-treatment-of-executory-contracts-in-insolvency-law>)

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Dr. Alba Gërdeci - Kick off meeting of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy”, January 30- February 1, 2019

Dr. Niuton Mulleti - CEU Erasmus+ International Staff Training Week, May 6-10, 2019

Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj - ASEAN PPP Summit: Public-Private Partnership 2019 – June 16, 2019

Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj - 7th International Conference on Sustainable Development, Rome, Italy - 4-5 September, 2019

Projects

NA

E. Support, Resources & Representation

List of Students' Internships

NA

1. Participation in Academic Events

1.1 Participation at the kick-off meeting of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy”



During January 30 – February 1, 2019, Ms. Alba Gerdec, lecturer at the Department of Law participated on behalf of Epoka University at the kick off meeting of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy”. The aim of this action is to bring together all actors to discuss and reflect on deliberative democracy experiments, with particular focus on the role of the citizenry regarding constitutional changes, which traditionally are the sole responsibility of elected officials, in collaboration with experts.

During the activity, Ms. Gerdec shared with members of the network, the Albanian legal framework regarding political participation, constitutional changes and referendums, highlighting some of the recent initiatives of the government to enhance citizens participation in decision-making such as the Open Governance Partnership in 2011, approval in the 2014 of the Law on the Right to Information and Law on Notification and Public Consultation and the E-governance platform.

This Action is chaired by Université catholique de Louvain.

1.2 Dr. Niuton Mulleti participated at the 2019 CEU Erasmus+ International Staff Training Week



During May 06-10, 2019, Dr. Niuton Mulleti participated at the 2019 Erasmus+ International Staff Training Week organized by the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary in the framework of the Erasmus+ mobility agreement signed between EPOKA University and CEU.

The International Staff Training Week began with an introduction to higher education in Hungary, and internationalisation practices. Participants were also provided with extensive information about CEU and the latest institutional developments.

The second day of the event focused on external pressures – attacks on academic freedom and ways to face them, as well as on the costs and benefits of the internationalisation of universities. Experienced CEU officers shared their experience on how to keep calm and grounded in times of turmoil, and how to turn challenges into opportunities concerning the internationalisation of universities.

The third day focused on participants' professional development as international educators in the form of an intercultural communication training, whereas the following day was devoted to Erasmus+ operational questions, partnership building, and the international student cycle aiming at ensuring a great student experience.

The program included presentations and group discussions lead by CEU experts, as well as invited guest speakers. The last day of the program was devoted to meetings between participants and their counterparts at CEU aiming at sharing experiences and exchanging best practices in the respective areas.

1.3 Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaaj gives an open lecture to master students of "La Sapienza" University, Rome

On Friday, June 14th, 2019, Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaaj, lecturer of Department of Law, representing "Epoka" University, had the opportunity to give an open lecture to the master students of University of La Sapienza, Rome, via skypecall. Topics discussed were regarding Albanian tax law. Dr. Shkurtaaj had a very interactive discussion with Italian students, who seemed very interested in the topics. At the end of the lecture, both parties expressed the interest to have more cooperations of the same type in the future.

1.4 Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaaj at ASEAN PPP Summit: PPP 2019

Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaaj was part of ASEAN PPP Summit: Public-Private Partnership 2019 held in Bangkok at June 16, 2019. She participated with the titled "Public and Private Partnership in Albania. The Legal Framework from The Legislative Provisions to the Risk of Management", abstract of which is written below:

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN ALBANIA. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FROM THE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS TO THE RISK OF MANAGEMENT

Gelanda SH.

Julinda K.

Epoka University, Albania

gshkurtaaj@epoka.edu.ak

Lecturer

Abstract

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are frequently used in Albania, mainly in the form of concession, as the "engine" to make work the public sector in the field of investments. It is estimated that recently, there are more than 170 PPP-s only in the infrastructure sectors in Albania. The focus in this policy was given by the European Union, and the process is based in a legal framework, which, in few years has been amended frequently with the aim to make increase the investments fields, stakeholders and benefits. It is to be emphasized that Albania has set up an ad hoc public institution, called the "Agency on the Treatment of Concessions".

There are examples of PPP-s contracted and implemented in Albania, considered as success story, but studies revealed that they lack of specific comparative analyses in Value for Money with public procurement, social assessment and high critical risks in 'corruption and lack of "respect of law"'. The old rules of controlling the PPP-s implementations are no more correctly applying. The PPP-s mechanism now is being used as a method to sustain government corruption through the partnership with private investors which are closed to the main political force or alley. The main problem stands at the fact that, throw this mechanism the government is stipulating contracts on infrastructure, including areas which are part of the historical inheritance. It is needed a strong

legal framework, where should not be allowed the interference of the political interest, which by using this means not only charges the state budget and the economy, but can be even a precedent on misusing the inheritance and public economy for small group of interests.

Keywords: PPP-s, Concessions, Public policies, Legal framework, State Corruption, Public Debit.

1.5 Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj at 7th International Conference on Sustainable Development, Rome

Dr. Gelanda Shkurtaj participated at 7th International Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rome, Italy at 4-5 September, 2019 with a paper titled “Kanuns in Albania and bloodfeud according to Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini”.

Abstract

In societies where it has been known and applied, bloodfeud is described as a possibly outdated and uncivilized mechanism, but often effective to limit violence. Indeed, both in form and substance the phenomenon itself is hard to be perceived and understood by the modern citizen of every country of the world, including Albania, where it is still active in some regions in respect of “Kanun”. In fact, the Albanian term 'Kanun' describes the body of traditional norms/standards and rules governing society in the field of criminal, civil and procedural laws. Its application or merely its existence in moral and legal standards makes a society safer, certainly referring to a society where the power of central authority, namely of the state, either did not exist or lacked. The greatest anthropological dilemma is just there, why does Kanun work in a modern state? In societies where blood feud has been present as a regulatory element of social conflicts it is accepted that its abolition or decline occurred only when another subject (the state), took over to intervene in these conflicting relationships, and to provide the resolution and regulation of social and economic relations through enforcement of rule of law, or the public order. And the question arises by itself: why the Albanian state did not take over the blood feud solution by use of public order? The Kanun does not recognize the state or the state does not recognize the Kanun? Why? It is not easy to get into such historic and social dilemmas, but a modest effort should be made. The answer to this fact should be found by the history of Albania. As a questioning remark, the reason for the long life of Kanun, rather called as self-regulatory law of the society, is due to the historic absence of a state on the side and interests of its citizens.

Keywords: Kanuns, Bloodfeud, Legal bases and theories, Modern state, etc..

2. Events organized for the students of Law

2.1 Peace Forum: Debating Europe 100 Years after World War I



Peace Forum: Debating Europe 100 Years after World War I

The Faculty of Law and Social Sciences has organized today the **University Peace Forum** titled “**Debating Europe 100 Years after World War I**”. One century ago, the world was transformed by one of the most notorious events to take place in the history of mankind: World War I. Europe was a battlefield where the military, the political and social all clashed with each other, altering the dynamics in the international arena and leaving behind an ongoing legacy. Today we commemorate the centenary of this Great War and its legacy which will continue to shape the future of Europe and world politics.

We had the pleasure to have among us, **Prof. Dr. Georg Kastner**, Chair of Central History, University of Andrássy Budapest and two graduate students from Epoka University, Sara Malosmani and Ines Stasa. This forum was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti, Dean of Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. Prof. Bashkurti, a well-known expert on diplomacy and peace addressed the audience with his speech on “History of War and Diplomacy of Peace”. Prof. Bashkurti highlighted the major events that led to the beginning of the WWI, along with influential states that shaped history. The Treaty of Versailles, “Europe of Peace” and “EU Project”, were heavily discussed as European ideas of peace. Prof. Bashkurti concluded with one final remark “*History is the living past and is very much present in our lives*”.

The other part of the discussion was followed up by Prof. Dr. Georg Kastner, keynote speaker at the forum. Prof. Kastner based his remarks in three keynote questions:

- 1- Is there a system of relations between Southern and Eastern countries?
- 2- How are these relations described nowadays?
- 3- Have these relations increased or stagnated?

The professor brought us the experiences of war and peace of Central European countries and concluded by reference to the relations with European Union.

Throughout the last century students of Political Science and International Relations have also sought to understand and explain what World War I brought to the international system and contributed via their studies to a more sustainable and peaceful world system. In this regard, the forum involved the works of two graduate students from the department of Political Science and International Relations.

Sara Malosmani, master student and teaching assistant at Epoka University discussed the position of Albania during the WWI and Ines Stasa, PhD student, explained the importance of legitimacy and power in terms of order and peace, predictability and understanding the issue in the Balkans. The forum concluded with the final remark that history repeats itself and it is important to draw out lessons from it.

2.2 Open Lecture: Representation and Civil Society in Albania



Open Lecture: Representation and Civil Society in Albania

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

2.3 The panel on "Justice Reform: Progress and Challenges" was held at EPOKA University



The panel on "Justice Reform: Progress and Challenges" was held at EPOKA University

The Panel on "**Justice Reform: Progress and Challenges**" was held on March 13, 2019, under the auspices of the Department of Law and the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, in cooperation with the Institute of Political Studies (ISP), in the framework of the project titled "Justice Reform: With Citizens and For Citizens ", funded by the Open Society Foundation for Albania.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ervin Karamuço from ISP and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences at EPOKA University were participants in the panel. The presentations delivered by panelists focused on the current performance of justice reform in Albania, with a particular focus on the issues and challenges that this process continues to face.

The Panel concluded with a Q&A session with participants in this event.

2.4 The panel on "Administrative-Territorial Reform: Progress and Challenges" was held at EPOKA University



The panel on "Administrative-Territorial Reform: Progress and Challenges" was held at EPOKA University

The Panel on "Administrative-Territorial Reform: Progress and Challenges" was held on April 26, 2019, under the auspices of the Department of Law and the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of EPOKA University, in cooperation with the Institute of Political Studies (ISP).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Afrim Krasniqi and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ervin Karamuço from ISP as well as Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti and Dr. Niuton Mulleti from EPOKA University participated in the panel.

Prof. Krasniqi delivered a detailed presentation on the findings of a study carried out by ISP concerning the current performance of the administrative-territorial reform in Albania, with a particular focus on the issues and challenges that this process continues to face. The said presentation was followed by discussions and exchange of opinions among panelists.

The panel concluded with a Q&A session with participants in this event.

2.5 Prof. Vincenzo Carbone from UNINT holds lectures at the Department of Law



Prof. Vincenzo Carbone from UNINT holds lectures at the Department of Law

In the framework of the Erasmus+ staff mobility agreement signed between EPOKA University and the University of International Studies (UNINT) in Rome, Italy, prof. Vincenzo Carbone visited EPOKA during May 26, 2019 to June 09, 2019.

On this occasion, prof. Carbone held lectures during the LAW 406 "Albanian Tax Law" course where he provided a detailed overview of the legal aspects of the Italian taxation system as well as during the LAW 104 "Criminal Law I" course where his lecture focused on the Directive (EU) 2017/1371 "On the fight against fraud to the Union`s financial interests by means of criminal law".

2.6 Open lecture with Mr. Sokol Berberi



Open lecture with Mr. Sokol Berberi

First year students of department of Law has the pleasure to meet Mr. Sokol Berberi, lecturer at the school of Magistrates and at the same time, former member of the Constitutional Court. He gave an open lecture in the daily subject of "Fundamentals and Methods of Legal Reasoning and Writing" course. The lecture was highly interesting for the students and they also had the opportunity to directly discuss different issues with the writer of their book.

Student Best Success Stories

NA

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. Niuton Mulleti
Dr. Gelande Shkurtaç
Dr. Alba Gërdeci
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Ozcan
Dr. Sadullah Yılmaz

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Your contribution is highly appreciated!

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