

Epoka University

Department of Law

Strategic Plan 2024-2028

I. 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-organization 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.

2. Mission

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.

2. Vision

The Department of Law vision is: i) to present to the students a contemporary program with all the necessary knowledge for the most academic and professional preparation in the field of law, ii) to develop critical thinking in students and iii) to make them understand the importance of their role in society.

3. Study programs offered by the Department

The 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.

4. Employment Opportunities

The study programs offered by the Department of Law are in full compliance with both the current demands of the labor market and the expected developments of the Albanian economy as a developing economy, which aims to integrate into the single European market. The Department of Law program aim to prepare:

- lawyer / specialist in public administration institutions (central / local);
- lawyer / specialist in international institutions;
- lawyer / specialist \ legal consultant in the private sector;
- assistant lawyer / notary assistant as well as qualification for participation in the bar exam;
- research / teaching assistant at HEI;
- lawyer, notary, prosecutors, judges

5. Vision: Where the Department wants to be by 2028?

The Department of Law Strategic Plan is aligned with Epoka University's overarching vision of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. By strengthening institutional capacities and fostering robust collaborations with industry, academia, and public institutions, the Department of Law seeks to position itself as a leader in legal education that is both innovative and socially responsive. It aims to create an academic culture that promotes critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and interdisciplinary collaboration, thereby equipping students and faculty with the competencies required to respond effectively to emergent legal and societal issues.

II. Priority Areas — Themes

Looking ahead, this Strategic Plan will provide continuity and reaffirm our continuing commitment to excellence in the following four themes:

Theme 1: Provide a high-quality environment for teaching and learning

The Law Department at EPOKA University aims to provide a dynamic, student-centered learning environment that fosters critical thinking, practical legal skills, and academic excellence. The department will modernize teaching methodologies, enhance faculty qualifications, and expand extracurricular learning opportunities, ensuring alignment with EPOKA University's Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Goal 1.1: Strengthen Department Expertise and Innovative Teaching Approaches

Measure 1 : Implement Department development programs focused on interactive, casebased learning and clinical legal education

Measure 2: Organize legal pedagogy workshops on moot courts, legal clinics, and technology-enhanced legal studies.

Measure 3: Encourage interdisciplinary approaches in legal education, integrating subjects like human rights, sustainability, and digital law.

Measure 4: Promote department participation in international legal education networks.

Measure 5: Facilitate access to digital case law platforms and legal research databases.

Goal 1.2: Department Advancement and Retention

Measure 1: Encourage department members to pursue higher academic titles (PhD, Associate Professor, and Full Professorship)

Measure 2: Retain experienced legal scholars while recruiting adjunct department with practical legal expertise.

Measure 3: Establish a department mentoring system to support career progression.

Measure 4: Partner with international institutions for joint PhD supervision programs.

Goal 1.3: Enhance Research Productivity in Legal Studies

Measure 1 : Encourage department publications in high-impact journals on legal reform, human rights, constitutional law, criminal law, private law and more.

Measure 2: Increase participation in international legal research collaborations.

Measure 3. Align research priorities with national and EU-funded legal projects.

Measure 4: Organize research methodology workshops focused on legal writing.

Measure 5: Develop a publication incentive program for department members.

Measure 6: Apply for Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ legal research projects.

Goal 1.4: Optimize Use of Adjunct Academic Staff

Measure 1: Leverage the expertise of practising lawyers, judges, and policymakers as guest lecturers and adjunct academic staff.

Measure 2: Develop structured agreements with law firms, courts, and civil society organizations to involve professionals in teaching.

Measure 3: Formalize agreements with legal institutions for study visiting or staff exchanges.

Measure 4: Establish a visiting professor program with international law schools.

Goal 1.5: Expand Global Engagement in Legal Education

Measure 1: Strengthen international partnerships for student and academic staff exchanges

Measure 2: Develop joint courses with European and regional universities.

Measure 3: Increase Erasmus+ and academic exchange agreements

Measure 4: Organize annual international law summer schools.

Measure 6: Support students and academic staff in attending global legal forums.

Goal 1.6: Strengthen Access to Modern Teaching Infrastructure

Measure 1: Improve classroom technology, IT resources, and legal research facilities.

Measure 2: Ensure access to digital law libraries, legal databases, and online case repositories.

Measure 3: Conduct annual academic staff training on advanced legal research tools.

Measure 4: Upgrade the moot courtrooms with modern technology.

Measure 5: Expand access to international law journals and digital platforms.

Goal 1.7: Ensure a Multidisciplinary and Contemporary Curriculum

Measure 1: Align the law curriculum with global legal trends and regulatory changes.

Measure 2: Emphasize practical training through case analysis and legal simulations.

Measure 3: Conduct annual syllabus reviews with academic staff and external legal experts.

Measure 4: Update course materials to include contemporary legal challenges.

Theme 2: Enroll, educate, graduate, and provide placement assistance for a high-quality and diverse student body

The Department of Law is committed to fostering an inclusive, innovative, and student-centered academic environment. Through a comprehensive approach that begins with attracting high-potential students, continues with high-quality education and real-world practice, and culminates in robust career support, this goal serves as the cornerstone of our educational and social mission.

Our unique five-year Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Law offered bilingually in Albanian and English is complemented by a fully functional Legal Clinic, where students engage directly with real legal cases under professional supervision. This hands-on experience equips them with both advanced theoretical knowledge and practical skills that position them competitively in national and international legal markets.

We aim to cultivate a vibrant student community supported by strong partnerships with public institutions, law firms, and NGOs, ensuring that every student follows a successful path toward graduation and professional placement.

Goal 2.1: Increase Enrolment of High-Quality and Diverse Students

Measure 1 : Develop a stronger outreach program for EPOKA's prospective students.

Measure 2: Organize open days, campus tours, and high school visits throughout Albania and the region.

Measure 3: Design targeted campaigns highlighting the Law program's strengths, alumni success stories, and career outcomes.

Measure 4: Promote the Department on social media and education-focused platforms using multilingual content.

Goal 2. 2: Increase academic staff involvement in recruiting prospective students

Measure 1 : Assign academic staff members for outreach events.

Measure 2: Encourage professors to participate in webinars, high school lectures, and mock trials.

Measure 3: Involve academic staff in mentoring incoming students and providing public talks in secondary schools.

Goal 2. 3: Maintain and strive to improve funding for scholarships

Measure 1 : Advocate for an increase in merit- and need-based scholarships.

Measure 2: Partner with law firms and NGOs to offer sponsored scholarships.

Measure 3: Promote scholarship opportunities clearly in brochures and online platforms.

Goal 2. 4: Launch an annual activity for high school students

Measure 1: Organize a National Law Simulation Day or High School Legal Debate Tournament to generate early interest in law.

Measure 2: Include interactive workshops with academic staff, students, and alumni to mentor and inform high school participants.

Goal 2. 5: Deliver High-Quality Academic and Personal Development Opportunities

Measure 1 : Provide global study opportunities for students.

Measure 2: Strengthen Erasmus+ and bilateral exchange programs.

Measure 3: Sign new MOUs with law schools abroad and international legal institutions.

Measure 4: Encourage participation in international moot courts and legal competitions.

Goal 2. 6: Provide opportunities for students to increase their knowledge in extracurricular activities and internships

Measure 1: Establish a Law and Society Club to host guest lectures, legal research groups, and case-study workshops

Measure 2: Facilitate internships with courts, law firms, public institutions, international organizations, and NGOs

Measure 3: Create an "Internship Week" with student presentations, panels, and employer sessions.

Goal 2. 7: Implement Student Feedback and Evaluation Systems

Measure 1: Conduct anonymous semester surveys and focus groups to gauge satisfaction

Measure 2: Establish a Student Advisory Committee to maintain open communication with department leadership

Measure 3: Use feedback to drive continuous curriculum and service enhancements.

Goal 2. 8: Enhance Graduation Rates through Structured Support

Measure 1 : Introduce structured academic planning tools and personalized graduation pathways

Measure 2: Encourage regular check-ins with academic advisors to track credit accumulation and timely degree completion

Measure 3: Organize pre-graduation orientation sessions to ensure administrative and academic readiness.

Goal 2. 9: Celebrating Graduation Milestones

Measure 1 : Host formal graduation ceremonies recognizing academic achievements and student contributions.

Measure 2: Publish a Graduation Yearbook featuring student profiles and future aspirations.

Measure 3: Create platforms for graduates to reflect on their academic journey and share feedback.

Goal 2. 10: Strengthening Industry Collaboration for Career Development

Measure 1: Formalize partnerships with law firms, public institutions, and private companies to enhance job and internship pipelines.

Measure 2: Invite legal professionals to participate in career talks and resume-building sessions.

Measure 3: Organize an annual Legal Careers Day featuring employer booths, workshops, and mock interviews.

Goal 2. 11: Engage Alumni to Support Current Students and Establish Comprehensive Career Services

Measure 1 : Develop a digital platform for alumni networking and mentorship.

Measure 2: Host alumni-student events such as mixers and guest lecture series.

Measure 3: Encourage alumni to contribute through internships, mentoring, and scholarship donations.

Measure 4: Maintain an online career portal for job postings, internship opportunities, and employer profiles.

Measure 5: Collaborate with the Career and Alumni Office to deliver skills development workshops focused on professional communication, negotiation, and job search strategies.

Goal 2. 12: Track Graduate Employment Outcomes

Measure I : Launch follow-up surveys six and twelve months after graduation to gather employment data.

Measure 2: Use findings to inform curriculum design and career readiness initiatives.

Measure 3: Publish annual placement reports to increase transparency and accountability.

Theme 3: Provide a high-quality environment for research and project development

The Law Department aims to increase research output, improve academic staff engagement in legal scholarship, and enhance research visibility. By strengthening research capacity and fostering an environment conducive to high-impact academic work, the department aligns with EPOKA University's Strategic Plan 2024-2028, contributing to the university's research and project development goals.

Goal 3. 1: Increase Research Output and Impact

Measure 1: Increasing research output published in high-impact journal indexed in SSCI and Scopus

Measure 2: Launch research clusters focused on emerging legal issues, such as human rights, digital law, and international justice.

Measure 3: Develop research incentives, including funding support, reduced teaching loads, and publication rewards for high-impact research.

Goal 3.2: Promote Research Visibility and Impact

Measure 1: Develop a digital repository on the Law Department website showcasing academic staff publications, research projects, and policy contributions.

Measure 2: Organize annual research showcases where academic staff present their latest findings to students, policymakers, and legal professionals.

Goal 3. 3: Strengthen Department Engagement in Research Networks

Measure 1: Create a database of international legal research networks and encourage academic staff to become active members.

Measure 2: Encouraging department staff to join international and European Research Networks.

Measure 3: Establish partnerships with universities, law firms, and institutions to increase joint research collaborations.

Goal 3. 4: Expand Knowledge Dissemination and Public Engagement

Measure I: Increase academic staff participation in legal conferences, workshops, and international symposia.

Measure 2: Utilize EPOKA University's platforms (forums, public lectures, symposia) for legal debates and knowledge exchange.

Goal 3. 5: Foster a Supportive Research Environment

Measure 1 : Introduce research mentorship programs, where senior academic staff guide junior researchers in academic writing and publishing.

Measure 2: Ensure access to high-quality research resources, including international legal databases, journals, and legal research tools.

Measure 3 : Establish a balanced workload policy to support academic staff in managing both teaching and research commitments.

Goal 3. 6: Encourage Collaborative Research and Joint Publications

Measure 1 : Promote cross-department collaborations on legal research topics with the economics, political science, and international relations departments.

Measure 2: Facilitate joint publications between department and or academic staff members to increase research impact and collaboration.

Goal 3.7: Encourage Department Member to apply International and European Funds

Measure 1: Launch interdisciplinary joint research projects involving multiple department or academic staff members annually.

Measure 2. Facilitate academic staff applications for research grants or international legal projects.

Measure 3: Establish recognition and reward programs for lecturers involved in policy advisory roles, consultancy, and international projects.

Goal 3.8: Encourage Department Member in Applying in Local Project Development

Measure 1: Encourage lecturers to actively engage as experts in research projects, consultancy, and policy initiatives within their fields at the national level

Measure 2: Encourage lecturers to engage in project development to increase societal impact and the Department of Law visibility.

Theme 4: Provide an environment fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

Building upon its nine years of experience in the empirical study and teaching of legal subjects, the Department of Law acknowledges the imperative to adapt its educational mission to the demands of an increasingly complex and technologically advanced global environment. Anchored in the strategic theme, "Provide an environment fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship this plan reflects a deliberate and forward-looking approach to legal education.

Goal 4. 1: Integrate Innovation and Entrepreneurship into Legal Education

Measure 1: Revising or introducing courses focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Measure 2: Increasing the enrollment of students enrolled in innovation-oriented legal modules.

Measure 4: Offering interdisciplinary courses in departments such as business and administration, computer engineering, economics, or banking and finance.

Goal 4. 2: Enhance Department Capacity in Innovation-Driven Teaching and Research

Measure 1 : Number of academic members attending innovation and legal technology training or workshops.

Measure 2: Enhancing the number of Department-led research projects or publications in law and innovation.

Measure 3: Participation in national and international academic networks or consortia related to legal innovation.

Goal 4.3: Foster a Legal Entrepreneurship Ecosystem within the Department

Measure 1: Establishment and activity level of an entrepreneurship/legal innovation hub or clinic.

Measure 2: Supporting students to participate in competitions, hackathons, or incubators.

Measure 3: Developing partnerships with external start-up incubators, legal tech firms, or innovation centers.

Goal 4.4: Promote Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Problem-Solving

Measure 1: Increasing the number of joint projects or interdisciplinary initiatives involving law students and other departments.

Measure 2: Participating in conferences, roundtables, or workshops organized on topics like AI & Law, Tech Regulation, or Digital Economy Law.

Measure 3: Engagement metrics (e.g., participation rates, feedback scores) from interdisciplinary events.

Goal 4.5: Strengthen Community Engagement and Institutional Partnerships

Measure 1 : Expanding the partnership with tech companies

Measure 2: Staff and students engage in online learning platforms or post-graduate specialization in emerging legal fields.