

Name of the Project: Support to Transitional Justice

Implementation partners University of Prishtina Transitional Justice Resource Center and Community Building Mitrovica

Financially supported by The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina

Budget: 1,000,000 NOK

MA study program: Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Peace Building

Objective of the project:

The overall objective of this project is to develop initiatives and innovative educational practices aimed at strengthening the role of higher education institutions in Kosovo as agents of social innovation and changes. Through this program we seek to promote the social responsibility of higher education institutions faced to the subjects of great interest such as the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Peace building. Through this program the University of Prishtina, will enable education of students as a way to contribute towards sustainable peace based on the values of human rights, as a key factor for peace building. With the knowledge gained from this study program, students in the future could be the promoter of the above values in their workplace and their professional careers.

Innovative aspect:

Since the end of the conflict despite the need in Kosovo High Education Institutions there was not and still there is no MA study program on Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Peace Building. This will be the first time that three thematic subjects (transitional justice, human rights, and peace building) are included as common subjects at the University of Prishtina.

Practical placement of the students will be obligatory and the UP will engage in MoU s with international and national NGOs to place the students

Teaching will be done through co-teaching, whereby 80% of the teaching will be undertaken by UP faculty staff and 20% of the international professors.

Another innovation is that in the teaching process the representatives of CSOs will be providing lectures as well (practical aspect).

Justification:

Kosovo has had a difficult and painful past. The scars of 1999 conflict and long time of repression still impact the life of Kosovo citizens. The Kosovo conflict resulted in large scale deaths, thousands of missing persons, political prisoners, victims of sexual violence, and other violations of human rights, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The legacies of unaddressed war crimes, missing persons and conflict-related property disputes affect the relations between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo. Despite international and national efforts in improving the human rights environment and respect of differences still two decades after the conflict the division between communities is present. The legal framework accommodating the highest human rights standards is in place, national human rights institutions are established; however still there is a general need for awareness raising and capacity building and human resources with scientific expertise on human rights transitional justice and peace building processes. On 2015, Kosovo has signed the Stabilization Association Agreement with the European Union. With the

signing of the SAA the EU made transitional justice part of the Kosovo accession demands. However, the EU progress reports on Kosovo regularly point out the lack of human resources to undertake and lead professionally the peace building and integrative process. As Kosovo society moves ahead with its state building and integrative efforts there is a need for the Kosovo HIEs to respond to the societal needs. On 17 February Kosovo president has initiated the establishment of the Truth Commission for Kosovo. Experience has shown that the most successful transitional justice processes are the ones undertaken by local populations that have undergone the conflict. Nowadays the parliament of Kosovo is in the process of drafting and adopting a Resolution of how to address the legacies of the past. As such there is a real need for building the human resources that have knowledge on these processes that will facilitate the overall inclusion of the all communities and society as a whole. That is why with this project a cohort of experts in human rights, transitional justice and peace-building scientific expertise through implementing a joint MA program by the University of Prishtina in cooperation with University of Oslo.

Content of the curriculum will include (but not limited) the courses on international human rights law, humanitarian law, counter-terrorism law, international courts and tribunals, transitional justice, protection of refugees and Internally displaced Persons (IDPs) the law of the United Nations, legal aspects of the ex Yugoslav conflict, international criminal law, gender equality law, courses on conflict resolution, on multiculturalism etc. The M.A. Program will comprise theoretical and practical courses, workshops, and seminars which provide a substantial interdisciplinary grounding in fields such as human rights and transitional justice, and comparative and historical courses, in which the students are exposed to key cases dealt with by different countries at different periods of time. Special emphasis will be given to the EU mediated Prishtina-Belgrad dialogue and its resolution.

Project activities

1. Assessment of the current curriculum at the UP
2. Design the course syllabuses
3. Design the overall study program
4. Develop course materials
5. Accredite the program
6. Recruit students
7. Practical placement of the students
8. Theses
9. Graduation ceremony

Partners University

Faculty of Law, University of Prishtina- applicant
University of Oslo

Other Universities

University of Graz
WUS Austria
Geneva Academy
University of Ulster

Associated organizations

Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo
Human Rights Centre UP

Human Rights Centre Belgrade
UNDP
UNWOMMEN
Council of Europe
Academy of Justice Kosovo
Kosovo Institute for Public Administration
Kosovo Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims
Community Building Mitrovica
Fond for Humanitarian Law, Prishtina and Beograd

This program will be offered to graduates of B.A. programs in political science, international relations and other academic disciplines related to the fields of human rights and transitional justice. The program is offered for the students in the region and international students. The program will be conducted in English language.

The M.A. Program offers 20-25 academic courses with legal experts from Kosovo, Oslo and the region, including courses on international humanitarian law, counter-terrorism law, international courts and tribunals, transitional justice, the law of the United Nations, legal aspects of the ex Yugoslav conflict, international criminal law, international human rights law etc.

The faculty is comprised of top academics and practitioners, including past and present members of the UN Human Rights organizations as well as past and present legal advisers to governments and international organizations such as the UN, EU and the ICRC.

The Program offers an excellent study program in very interesting contexts, Kosovo with its long history of conflict and diversity, and the State of Kosovo as the newest state in the world confronting difficult international law and human rights challenges, provide an immeasurably valuable context for our students.

The program includes two main components: theoretical coursework, which provides substantial interdisciplinary understanding, as well as comparative and historical coursework, in which theoretical knowledge will be applied to compelling cases from different time periods.

Structure

The MA study programme has 120 ECTS and covers two academic years including the MA theses and will be implemented into two phases. The program spans three consecutive semesters and one semester thesis writing and practical placement.

Credits

The M.A. in Human Rights and Transitional Justice consists of 120 credits.

Courses (proposal)

Introductory Courses (required)

1. Kosovo (Balkans) and International Law

2. Introduction to the Kosovo legal framework

Core Courses (at least four required)

1. Transitional Justice in Practice (Kosovo)
2. Transitional Justice
3. International Humanitarian Law: Contemporary Challenges, Contemporary Conflicts
4. Human Dignity in Comparative Perspective
5. International Criminal Law
6. International Human Rights Law
7. International Law
8. Public Law and Human Rights
9. Transitional Justice Colloquium: International, Comparative, and Regional Perspectives
10. Human Rights and Democracy
11. Law's Empire: Colonialism, Culture, and Law
12. Narratives of Justice: Law and Literature
13. The History of Public International Law
14. The Role of International Law in Resolving the Ex Yugoslav crises
15. Accountability and International law

Elective Courses

You can choose from more than 10 additional courses on human rights and transitional justice, and peace building have the option to complete an M.A. thesis.

1. The Laws of War
2. Introduction to Transitional Justice
3. The Law of the United Nations
4. The Role of NGOs in promoting human rights and Transitional Justice
5. Environmental Law and transitional Justice: Local and Global Perspective
6. Public International Law & Economics
7. International Criminal Law Tuesday
8. Transitional Justice in western Balkans
9. Religion and Human Rights
10. Terrorism, Counter Terrorism and Human Rights
11. Introduction to Kosovo Law
12. Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Transitional Contexts
13. Institutional Reform, Rule of Law and Constitution-Making
14. Social Transformation and Transitional Justice
15. The law and ethics of transitional justice

Thesis

Write and complete the thesis during the 2 year of studies.

II. Proposed modules:

Module 1. Human Rights:

Module 2. Transitional Justice

Module 3. Peace building and reconciliation

For the three modules obligatory courses are:

- International Public law
- International Human Rights Law
- Gender Equality and non-discrimination



Aferdita Sylaj Shehu
Executive Director
Community Building Mitrovica