



ERMA
Alumni
Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

by the

ERMA ALUMNI NETWORK TEAM

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The official alumni network of the **European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in Southeast Europe (ERMA)**, part of the Global Campus Alumni, the official alumni association of the European Union's Global Campus of Human Rights

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ABOUT THE ERMA ALUMNI NETWORK (EAN)

The **ERMA Alumni Network (EAN)** as the official action of the European Regional MA Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA) links more than 530 graduates from over 37 countries to its *alma mater* and *vice versa*. It is a member of the [Global Campus Alumni Association \(GCA\)](#) created by the [Global Campus of Human Rights \(GC\)](#), with the aim to connect the alumni associations of the regional Master Programmes all over the world. Key actions of EAN are **connecting, engaging and empowering** the ERMA alumni.

Through the **connection** of the alumni, the EAN ensures continuous networking of its members, thus forming a global network of skilled human rights and democratization experts. In this sense, EAN acts as an important interlocutor in the communication and information-sharing among the graduates and facilitates various networking opportunities. The EAN and ERMA promotional activities also boost the visibility of the graduates and of the Programme and further strengthen the intrinsic value of the ERMA academic title, as well as raise awareness over the existence of generations of quality human rights professionals in the Southeast European region and beyond.

The **engagement** of the alumni, on the other hand, gives the alumni quality opportunities to get involved in the activities of the ERMA Programme and the GC and their alumni networks, respectively. Recognizing the high quality and human value of the graduates, EAN regularly provides space for its members to display their knowledge and expertise, and inspire and motivate young people to pursue further careers in the field of human rights and democracy. In this sense, the EAN members take part in ERMA and GC teaching, research, policy, networking as well as academic events.

Finally, alumni **empowerment** means that through its activities, EAN boosts alumni skills, expertise, and visibility and at the same increases their employability and self-employability. By empowering its graduates and reconnecting with their *alma mater*, EAN also contributes to the **academic development of the Programme**. Sharing of know-how and expertise of its successful alumni ERMA and EAN incorporate the most updated academic, administrative and managerial practices in its educational mission.

In this regard, the results of the EAN Census in 2017 and the alumni's willingness to take part in the EAN's activities inspired further work and development of the network in 2019 in line with the long-term goals and actions of the **EAN Vision and Strategy**. In 2019 we worked on providing our Alumni with more chances to engage with the EAN and ERMA activities and use the ERMA global network for their professional advancement. Additionally, EAN took part in various awareness-raising events and campaigns with the aim to publicly display important human rights questions and appreciate the graduates' professional achievements and their remarkable human rights-related work. Via GC and GCA, EAN heavily focused on the promotion and visibility of alumni globally and offered them educational, employment and networking opportunities within the ERMA partnership networks. Last but not least, a new 2019 Census for ERMA/GC graduates was carried out, again displaying the high quality and potential of EAN.

Below, are presented EAN's main activities and projects in 2019.

EAN RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES 2019

1. ERMA ALUMNI BBQ – Networking over good food and fun!

On June 14th EAN organized the first **ERMA Alumni BBQ** at the garden of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Sarajevo (CIS). More than 40 alumni from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region enjoyed good food and music and could catch-up, network and establish new friendships. A lot of inspiring stories and life moments were shared, together with photos of the most meaningful ERMA memories. The atmosphere was additionally spiced up with the Human Rights Quiz, where alumni refreshed their ERMA knowledge and celebrated the landmark moments in the history of human rights and democracy. Special THANKS to all alumni involved in the organization of the networking event. See you at our BBQ event in 2020!



More of the good vibes at <https://bit.ly/2QrOP4F>.

2. ALUMNI CURRICULA & ERMA OPEN LECTURES - Welcome back!



In the academic year, 2018/2019 alumni who are involved in the regular **ERMA Curricula** were Ms. Alina Trkulja, University of Sarajevo (2010/2011); Mr. Federico Giulio Sicurella, University of Milan (2006/2007); Mr. Mario Hibert (2004/2005), University of Sarajevo; Mr. Nenad Markovic (2002/2003), Ss. Cyril and Methodius University; Mr. Dennis Gratz (2001/2002), Member of Parliament of the Federation of B&H; Mr. Afrim Hoti (2001/2002), University of Prishtina; Ms. Amila Madžak (2016/2017), University of Sarajevo; Ms. Marija Ivanović (2017/2018), University of Sarajevo and Ms.

Aida Salihović Gušić (2017/2018), University of Sarajevo.

Nonetheless, inspired by the 2017 Alumni Census showing that 41.3 % of our alumni continued with another academic programme after graduation and the variety of fields of expertise among the alumni (more than 25), EAN completed the successful pilot project the **ERMA OPEN LECTURES** and included *Prof. Antonija Petričušić*, University of Zagreb (2002/2003) with four hours lecture on *Legal Instruments of Minority Rights Protection*.

In the future, EAN will continue the OPEN LECTURES to establish a deeper connection with its alumni and to connect them with the students, and use the expertise and research interest of its graduates to further strengthen the ERMA's academic offer.

3. ACADEMIC RESEARCH & POLICY – Our thoughts to the world!

The new **GC Policy Observatory** project initiated by ERMA, aiming to provide guidance and expert opinion in response to urgent human rights issues became part of the GC core activities. Under the supervision of the ERMA A&D Unit, the overall coordination of the second edition in 2019 was done by Mr. Davor Marko (2005/06), while the policy brief from the SEE region dedicated to the *Freedom of Assembly of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina* was done by Ms. Masha Durkalic (2017/2018): <https://bit.ly/35s2Xiq>.



The ERMA alumni with the support of the academic staff were active in the research component of the GC, contributing to several research studies and the open knowledge repository. Under the GC Research Programme, in the **GC Human Rights Journal** in 2019 was published the *Ambivalent Role of Diaspora Engagement for the Homeland in the Balkans*, a research paper presented at the **GC Global Classroom 2018** by

Alibašić Mubina, Davidović Emilija, Kapetanović Sabiha and Zejnilović Edima, coordinated by Mr. Adriano Remiddi: <https://bit.ly/36sbi78>. Additionally, the **GC Global Classroom 2019** research on *Online Assemblies between Freedom and Order: Practices in Southeast Europe* presented in Buenos Aires, Argentina and conducted by Andrea Jovanović, David Savić, Edo Kanlić, and Goran Stanić was coordinated by the 2009/2010 alumna Kristina Cendic. More at <https://bit.ly/2sQBM3D>.

In 2019, ERMA also issued the hard copies of the **Democracy and Human Rights in Southeast Europe: Selected Master Theses** awarding three best dissertations of the 2017/2018 cohort on the basis of their outstanding scientific quality and originality. The works are authored by Šeila Muhić, Emina Bašić and Lamija Tiro: <https://bit.ly/2MU8iIT>. At the GC level, the **Best Thesis Award** and publication in the GC Repository was given to Dragana Stefanovska for her MA thesis: *United Nations' Doublethink: Economic Sanctions and Human Rights Protection*, available [here](#).

4. EAN and MIREES Alumni International Association (MAiA) – The story continues!



The ERMA Alumni Network (EAN) and MIREES Alumni International Association (MAiA) have signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation** with an aim of formalizing the already fruitful cooperation between these two alumni networks coordinated by the *University of Bologna*. The Memorandum enables strengthening the visibility of both MA programmes and their graduates, with the goal of contributing to the advancement of their professional experience, employability, and self-employability by sharing quality information, opportunities, practices and mentoring between the networks. For more information please visit <https://bit.ly/2QOjt7d>.

5. FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY OF LGBTI PEOPLE IN B&H – Breaking taboos!

On June 20th, the discussion ***Freedom of Assembly of LGBTI People in Bosnia and Herzegovina*** took place at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS) of the University of Sarajevo. The discussion was organized by the ERMA programme with the support of the GC and CIS. The discussion was an announcement and forerunner of the forthcoming **first pride march** in Bosnia and Herzegovina held on September 8th in Sarajevo. Part of the panelists were ERMA alumni: Ms. *Ena Bavčić* 2012/2013, member of the Organizing Committee of the Pride March in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ms. *Masha Durkalić* 2016/2017, author of the analysis of the policies *Conquering the Right of Assembly of LGBTI people in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Towards the First Pride March*. More at <https://bit.ly/2ZTIYJA>.



6. ERMA PROMOTION AND VISIBILITY – Our message to the world!



Proud of the astonishing work and contribution of the EAN graduates in every corner of the world, in partnership with GC, EAN decided to share the alumni stories with the world in order to reach out, inspire and engage as many young people as possible, and motivate them to pursue quality human rights education in order to become advocates for human rights and democracy. The promotion of the personal and professional **alumni stories via visuals and video messages** to the wider public via

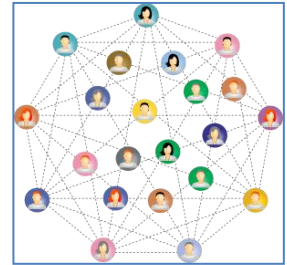
social media and our website is helping the Programme to attract more prospective students, disseminate the results of its longstanding successful work and spread the alumni voices to the world.

Additionally, in May 2019, EAN had a **promotional mission to the Faculty of Political Science of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje** to promote the new call for applications and attract talented Macedonian students. The promotional event was supported by our alumni professor and IAC member *Prof. Nenad Markovic*. If interested, check some of the testimonials, promo materials and events at our [FB Page](#).

Let's spread the good word and inspire young people to join our community!

7. ERMA ALUMNI NETWORK – Networking and opportunities platform!

By providing timely and updated information, EAN strives to **inform its members about career opportunities and helps to enlarge the available choices on the regional and global labor market.** Using the capacity of its professional networks and the membership in the largest global network of human rights professionals, with the help of carefully selected media, EAN timely transmit information about jobs, internships, training, fellowships and other opportunities for personal and professional growth of its members. As one of the platforms for information, EAN created a special **Facebook Group and Instagram Profile** as a tool for information sharing not only by the network but also from its graduates with the objective to grow in an interactive virtual information-sharing hub. Moreover, via the **EAN mailing list** and the **GCA newsletter** on a monthly basis EAN shares various opportunities in the field of human rights and democracy.



Feel free to join and share through our [Facebook Group](#), [Register on the GCA Website](#) or write us an email at alumni@erma-programme.eu. Sharing is caring!

8. THE GLOBAL CAMPUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (GCA) – Your global family!



The **Global Campus Alumni Association (GCA)** is the **largest international alumni association of human rights professionals in the world.** It is a network of seven alumni associations of human rights master programmes gathering **more than 3,000 experts, activists, and professionals spread throughout the world.** The members are alumni from the master programmes that graduated from the Global Campus of Regional Human Rights Master Programmes (GC) funded by the European Commission. EAN is a **member** of the organization since its founding and it is represented by the EAN alumni relations manager, Mr. Marjan Icoski (2014/2015), the EAN focal point, Ms. Amila Madžak (2016/2017) as a GCA Board Member and Ms. Marija Ivanović (2016/2017) as EAN representative. EAN also participates and facilitates all activities and fully supports the GCA to build connections and coordinate joint projects open to all alumni of every regional Master Programme, such as the Human Rights Professionals Database, the Mentoring Programme, the Hubs and Ambassadors projects, the Board of Opportunities and the Initiative Hub.

Information about registration and opportunities at <https://globalcampusalumni.org/>.

9. ALUMNI DATA AND STATISTICS – We, in numbers!



Processing information about the whereabouts, expertise, occupation, and success of the alumni is one of the cornerstones of EAN's work. EAN is actively engaged in collecting data about its graduates and cares to produce statistical studies about its members, celebrates and takes pride in the alumni's achievements. The **emailing database** created at the beginning of 2017 gives the opportunity to better connect all alumni and to create a more cohesive and closer network. The international, the global and multicultural dimension of the Programme is shown in the **Country Representation Study**. Up to 2018/2019 EAN has representatives **in more than 37 countries**.

Furthermore, the tremendous quality and potential of the network are presented in the abovementioned **2017 Census** where the ERMA alumni show remarkable results and achievements. In 2019, the EAN team conducted another Census to gather information of the ERMA/GC graduates from the 2013/14 generation onwards as a time of the establishment of GC. Once again, the **2019 Census** outcomes confirmed the quality of the ERMA/GC alumni, the impact of ERMA on their personal and professional lives, as well as their willingness to participate in the EAN activities. Hence, 86.7 % of the respondents are employed and have expertise in more than 25 professional fields. More than 80 % consider that ERMA had a meaningful impact on their professional and personal lives, while around 90 % think that the EAN is doing great work and want to participate in future activities.

The full report of the 2019 Census can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/37WVkJCe>.



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