

Univerzitet u Sarajevu



University of Sarajevo



Study program:  
European Regional Master's Programme in  
Democracy and Human Rights in South  
East Europe (ERMA)

**Professor Zdravko Grebo**  
**Center for Interdisciplinary Studies**

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**PUBLISHER:**

**University of Sarajevo – Center for interdisciplinary studies – Prof. dr. Zdravko Grebo“, Zmaja od Bosne 8,  
Sarajevo**

**EDITOR:**

**Center for interdisciplinary studies UNSA**

**Sarajevo, June 2021.**

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## **1. GENERAL**

### **1.1. The Name of the Programme**

European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA)

### **1.2. The Type of the Programme**

Academic Programme

### **1.3. The Level of the Programme**

Master's Degree - II Cycle Programme

### **1.4. The Aim of the Study Programme**

Human rights, including the right to human rights education, are part of international standards and widely accepted legal norms. A large number of countries have committed to complying with them. In doing so, they promised to protect and promote the rights of all their citizens and residents. Educating people about their rights, based on international legal standards, will ensure that they will be responsible citizens who will think straight, take care of their own and other people's rights and needs, and fulfill them through democratic means. As emphasized in the draft UN Declaration on Human Rights Education, as well as the Council of Europe's Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, such training and education are of key importance for the promotion of universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, in accordance with the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. Human rights education strengthens the right to peace and development, that is, the rights of people and nations to be protected from aggression, and other illegal uses of armed force, and mass impoverishment. The recent past proves that the lack of protection along with conflicts and serious violations of human rights, together with the difficult transition to a democratic society can destabilize the entire region with dire consequences and impact on the entire European continent, and it is important to promote understanding, tolerance and peace through active action in the field of education. and promote democracy and human rights. The responsibility of good education is the formation of researchers, experts and innovators without whom there is no prospect for growth and development. Human rights today constitute the common heritage of humanity. Accordingly, human rights education is a means of accessing that heritage through a universal commitment to the dignity and worth of every human being. As Article 2 of the Draft Declaration states, education and training on human rights includes education: (a) on human rights, which includes providing knowledge and understanding of norms and principles of human rights, values that support them and mechanisms for their protection; (b) through human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and students; (c) for human rights, which includes empowering people to enjoy and realize their rights and to respect and support the rights of others. The objectives of the program were developed in accordance with these principles and principles. The European Regional Master of Democracy and Human Rights is an important initiative, both for the University of Sarajevo and for the region. It is jointly organized by the University of Sarajevo and the University of Bologna, with the participation of 9 partner universities and over 40 lecturers from all over the world, and is financed by the European Union and the Agency for Development and Cooperation of the Republic of Italy. Annually, about 30 young people from all over Southeast Europe and beyond, obtain a master's degree from this study. The participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this program is an important expression of commitment to European integration and belonging to the European academic space. Through it, new connections are established and strengthened in the region and Europe both among lecturers, higher education institutions and among students. The continuation of the implementation of this program and the training of future experts in the field of human rights and democracy in Southeast Europe is the primary goal of this program, and it is of inestimable importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina and our higher education, as well as the region.

### **1.4. The Proponent of the Programme**

The programme is implemented by the University of Sarajevo. The University of Sarajevo delegates the organization of the programme to the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and also delegates the teaching to professors and assistants from several faculties of the University of Sarajevo.

## **1.5. Scientific/artistic Areas the Study Programme Belongs to**

Considering that human rights must be observed through at least several fields of study, from law and political science, sociology, philosophy and social sciences in general, the program adopted an interdisciplinary approach to these studies.

## **1.6. Organization and Duration of the Programme**

**I semester:**

**First part: six thematic courses 30 ECTS**

- Foundations of Human Rights and Democracy
- Nationalism, Identity and Conflict
- Democratization and EU Integration
- International Human Rights Norms and Standards
- Mechanisms for Human Rights Protection and Implementation
- Research Methodology

**II semester:**

**Second part: Six weeks long Internship 10 ECTS**

**Third part: Mobility in Italy, Thesis writing and Defence 20 ECTS**

The curriculum consists of 6 thematic courses (which include lectures, seminars, visits to various organizations and institutions, educational trips, and regular consultations with tutors), internships, and preparation and defense of the final thesis. The programme carries 60 ECTS and can only be studied as a full-time student.

In the first semester from November to June, students attend classes by lecturers from 11 partner universities and members of the Global Campus for Human Rights, of which the program is a member, as well as experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, with the support of tutors. The language of instruction is English, and attendance at lectures is mandatory. Final exams are held after the completion of each individual course and in the first half of June, before the beginning of the mandatory internship. Considering that human rights must be observed through at least several fields of study, from law and political science, sociology, philosophy, and social sciences in general, the program adopted an interdisciplinary approach.

In addition to lectures and seminars, students also visit state institutions, and international and non-governmental organizations active in the field of human rights and democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both in Sarajevo and in other cities of BiH through two study visits. During the first semester in Sarajevo, there are seminars and workshops organized by the Program's academic tutors, as well as guest lecturers. These activities are aimed at questioning human rights violations, inequality, violence against women and children, social marginalization and exclusion, and encouraging solidarity, mutual understanding, and the importance of personal commitment to human rights through the creation of effective contacts with defenders of human rights, as well as victims of violations. human rights.

In the first part of the second semester, from mid-June to the end of July, students do an internship in one of the selected international or non-governmental organizations and research institutes that work in the field of human rights and democracy throughout Southeast Europe. During that period, students already have theoretical knowledge and are ready for a new, for some the first work experience in their life, through which they will be able to use what they have learned in practice. According to the Statute of the program, the internship is done in a country other than the country the student comes from. This decision was made explicitly for the purpose of promoting diversity and developing intercultural competencies, which are considered crucial for experts who want to work in the field of human rights and against their violations, as well as familiarization with the broader context of the region. The organization is selected based on the research and professional interests of students. After completing the internship, organizations, and students are required to submit evaluations.

The mobility of students in Italy takes place during September / October. During their stay in Italy, at the University of Bologna, students finalize their final theses under the supervision of one of the lecturers of the ERMA program and with the assistance of one of the tutors. During their stay, students are accommodated in one of the residential centers of the University of Bologna for 31 days (a total of 30 nights). They visit cities and various educational and cultural institutions (Bologna, Venice, Florence). By living together in Italy, they acquire intercultural and cross-cultural competences.

Public defenses are held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of October before a three-member commission. Master's students are awarded double diplomas: University of Bologna and the University of Sarajevo.

### **1.8. Minimum number of ECTS Credits Required to Complete the Programme**

The curriculum consists of 6 courses (which include lectures, seminars, visits to various organizations and institutions, educational trips and regular consultations with tutors), internships, and preparation and defense of the final thesis. The course carries 60 ECTS points and can only be studied as a full-time student.

### **1.9. Language of instruction**

The language of instruction is English.

### **1.10. Selection Process for the Enrollment**

The ERMA Programme is open to candidates who have high academic achievements and results in disciplines relevant to human rights, especially: law, social and political sciences, and humanities, and who hold a diploma from an accredited university. The diploma of previous education must be from studies that lasted at least 4, i.e. 3+2 years (I and II cycle in accordance with the Bologna process), i.e. carry a minimum of 240 ECTS points.

Classes are held in English, so fluency in English is a prerequisite for admission to the program. All applicants must provide proof of language proficiency. The Master's program recognizes the following international language certificates:

1. TOEFL – min. 560 for the written test, 220 for the computer-based test, and not less than 83 for the online test (IBT).
2. BRITISH COUNCIL IELTS: minimum 6.5 and not less than 6.0 in individual subsections.
3. CAE, CPE new Cambridge tests.
4. Applicants whose mother tongue is English and those who had classes in English during their university education confirm their competence through transcripts and certificates issued by their universities.

The selection of candidates is carried out by the Teaching Scientific Council of Studies in September of the current year, based on the application form and the following documents that applicants are required to submit when applying for the program (in English):

1. Completed application form
2. University diploma (BA and MA) – original and English translation where necessary
3. Transcript of grades (BA and MA) - original and English translation where necessary
4. Appropriate certificate of knowledge of the English language
5. Photocopy of passport - first page
6. Certificate of citizenship
7. Birth certificate
8. CV

### **1.11. Qualifications upon Completion of the Programme**

Master's students are awarded two diplomas: the University of Bologna and the University of Sarajevo. Academic title and professional title after completing the second cycle: professional degree - master's degree in human rights and democracy.

### **1.12. The Analysis of Employment Possibilities After Graduation**

The rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy, economic growth and development, sustainability, respect for cultures and diversity are the basic postulates on which every modern state is based. The process of joining Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union brings comprehensive changes and reforms, and as such, it necessarily requires an interdisciplinary approach, because only in this way is it possible, on the one hand, to shape, that is, enable the adoption and application of the *acquis* of the European Union in BiH, in a way that respects diversity, and follows contemporary development trends. That process undoubtedly needs the constant support of young experts and researchers in order to incorporate the results of those researches into transition and development processes. Students who complete this study will be an indispensable resource in terms of human potential in the field of policy research and analysis, an interdisciplinary research method that is an indispensable condition for the preparation of relevant public policies. The labor market in the governmental and non-governmental sector, in international organizations, will be enriched with experts who have excellent knowledge of current social issues, possess analytical skills and adaptability to different social contexts. Masters in democracy and human rights are trained for various business opportunities in:

- International organizations active in the field of democracy and human rights
- Government institutions and agencies
- Non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of democracy and human rights
- Research institutes engaged in research in this field

### **1.13. The Programme's Vertical Mobility**

According to Article 1, paragraph (3) of the Study Rules for the I, II cycle of studies, integrated, professional and specialist studies at the University of Sarajevo, the second cycle leads to the degree of Master or equivalent after the completion of the first cycle of studies; it lasts one or two study years, and is evaluated with 60 or 120 ECTS points so that in total with the first study cycle, it carries 300 ECTS points, which ensures vertical mobility for enrollment in the third study cycle

### **1.14. Skala bodovanja i ocjenjivanja**

Each individual course syllabus contains the grading scale, in accordance with the goals and outcomes of the course.

### **1.15. Quality Assurance**

The study programme's quality and success will be assessed through internal and external observation and assessment by an official committee and the students.



## **2. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1. Learning Outcomes at the Study Programme Level**

The structure of lectures, internships and lecturers are defined in such a way as to emphasize the common awareness among the participants that the democratic development and promotion of human rights, as well as their protection and implementation in the region depend on several interdependent factors, and that active civic action and information is the key to their realization. In this sense, students are expected to acquire the following knowledge, skills and competences:

#### **A. KNOWLEDGE**

After attending the lectures and meeting the requirements for taking the exam, students will:

- Know and understand the intellectual history of the fundamental concepts of human rights, democracy and political theory, fundamental international laws on human rights, key paradoxes and problems that have shaped the self-understanding of the modern political community and that dominate contemporary debates about the moral and political foundations of the global political community, key critical perspectives related to the understanding of human rights and democracy in the context of citizenship, nationalism and modern politics, and the basic theories supporting economic and social rights.
- Know the theories and forms of nationalism and related concepts, including the nation, sovereignty and self-determination, have knowledge of the conflicts during and after the breakup of Yugoslavia, with a focus on causes and consequences, know the connections between identity, conflict and reconciliation, understand the ways in which democracy can worsen conflict in plural societies, but also to provide institutional and other resources for its management and resolution; furthermore, students will learn how integration, territorial pluralism and power sharing can be successfully used to resolve conflicts in plural societies. They will have knowledge of the basic principles and difficulties related to building a state in multi-ethnic and multinational societies; they will be familiar with the framework for the protection of minority rights in Europe in general and especially in Southeast Europe, they will have knowledge and understanding of basic religious rights and freedoms, with special emphasis on the challenges of religious pluralism in contemporary societies, and they will be familiar with the various ways in which religion, identity and ethnicity are interconnected. In the end, students will know and understand migration theories and policies, and will be able to analyze the cases and dynamics of Balkan migrations in the last three decades.
- Students are expected to acquire knowledge about the types of political regimes and processes of democratic transition and consolidation with a focus on Southeast Europe. They are expected to demonstrate analytical skills in assessing contemporary trends of democratization and autocratization. At the same time, students will be familiar with the operation of the EU enlargement policy and the way in which the EU tries to lead the political-economic transformation of the region, which is characterized by incomplete conflict resolution and (long) lasting processes of state building.
- Students will acquire knowledge about the main norms and standards of human rights at the universal and European level. They will know the main economic, social and cultural rights. Students will know and understand certain legal standards of children's rights, women's rights and refugee rights within international human rights law. Students will also gain knowledge about norms and standards related to environmental rights and challenges in Southeast Europe. They will have an understanding of the main challenges when it comes to the implementation of these rights in the context of South East Europe.
- Students will have knowledge of the main institutions, mechanisms and procedures for the protection and enforcement of human rights at the universal and regional level. Students will know and understand the functioning of European mechanisms for the protection of human rights, especially at the level of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the EU, the basic principles of international humanitarian law as well as the mechanisms of transitional justice. Furthermore, students will learn how to define torture and separate it from other similar practices, they will learn about the mechanisms for preventing torture and enforced disappearance, and they will know the basic characteristics of genocide according to international law.
- They will have knowledge of the theoretical and methodological foundations of research in the social sciences, an understanding of the key strengths and weaknesses of various research methods and data collection techniques, and they will master the conventions of academic writing.

#### **B. SKILLS AND COMPETENCES**

After completing the courses and meeting the requirements for taking the exam, male and female students will:

- Have a critical understanding and the ability to analyze contemporary problems of human rights and democracy at the global and regional level; expertise in the intellectual history of the development of the ideas of human rights, democracy and political theory; open critical perspectivism.
- Have the ability to critically assess and analyze emerging (re)nationalism and the ways in which states form us as national beings, the ability to critically assess integration, territorial pluralism and power sharing from a theoretical perspective and past and current examples of these ethnic conflict management strategies, the ability to critically assessment of the instrumentalization of religion for political purposes, the ability to analyze the implementation of minority rights in Southeast Europe, the ability to recognize the causes and consequences of migration in Southeast Europe and analyze cases from a political and sociological perspective
- Students are expected to build the competencies needed to navigate between the theoretical and empirical aspects of democratization. They will be able to use the main instruments / indices for regimes (Bertelsmann Stiftung Index, Nations in Transit, etc.) and assess key political trends. They will also be able to assess the dynamics and analyze the main social and political issues related to the countries of the Western Balkans and their accession to the European Union.
- Will be able to identify violations of economic, social and cultural rights at the universal and regional level and develop measures to solve the problem at the political or legal level. They will acquire the ability to analyze issues related to women's rights, children's rights and refugee rights, referring to the main international legal documents. They will be able to analyze and report on violations of children's rights, women's rights and refugee rights. Students will acquire the competence to analyze the contradictions surrounding development and the environment from the perspective of human rights.
- Will have the ability to critically analyze the work of the main institutions, and the functioning of mechanisms and procedures for the implementation of human rights at the universal and European level in the mentioned areas. They will have basic skills of analysis and advice on how to use mechanisms and procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of Southeast Europe. Students will be able to understand and critically analyze problems related to torture and disappearances, as well as other special issues related to the protection of human rights in conflict and post-conflict environments, and will be able to use this knowledge in future work in the field of human rights protection.
- Will have the ability to develop theoretically correct and methodologically sustainable research projects, the ability to produce research reports, and developed skills in academic writing and application of scientific research methods.

## 2.2. The List of Obligatory and Elective Courses

The table 1 contains the list of courses with ECTS credits and number of hours.

Semester	Course	Lectures	Course leader	Overall hours (ECTS)
I	<b>1. FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY</b>	1. PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS 3. FOUNDATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS 4. THEORETICAL BASIS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS 5. MODERN THEORIES OF DEMOCRACY 6. THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF CITIZENSHIP: STATES, NATIONS, CITIZENS	Prof. dr. Asim Mujkić, University of Sarajevo	<b>Ukupan broj sati: 60</b>  Predavanja: 52 Seminari i radionice: 4 Posjete: 4  <b>ECTS 5</b>

I	<b>2. NATIONALISM, IDENTITY AND CONFLICT</b>	1. NATIONALISM, SELF-DETERMINATION AND DISSOLUTION OF YUGOSLAVIA 2. IDENTITY, CONFLICT AND RECONCILIATION 3. DEMOCRACY IN PLURAL SOCIETIES 4. RELIGION AND THE STATE 5. PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE 6. THEORIES AND POLICIES OF MIGRATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE	Prof. dr. Nebojša Vladislavljević, University of Belgrade	<b>Hours: 60</b> Lectures: 52 Seminars and workshops: 4 Field trips/visits: 4  <b>ECTS 5</b>
I	<b>3. DEMOCRATIZATION AND EU INTEGRATION</b>	1. PATTERNS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND AUTOCRATIZATION IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE 2. HISTORY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION 3. ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE WESTERN BALKANS 4. THE RULE OF LAW IN THE WESTERN BALKANS 5. CONTEST POLICIES IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE 6. DEMOCRATIZATION UNDER CONTESTED STATESHIP: THE CASE OF KOSOVO	Prof. dr. Nikolaos Tzifakis, University of Peloponnese Greece	<b>Hours: 60</b> Lectures: 52 Seminars and workshops: 4 Field trips/visits: 4  <b>ECTS 5</b>
I	<b>4. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS AND STANDARDS</b>	1. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS 2. RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL LAW 3. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW 4. CHILD RIGHTS IN SE EUROPE 5. MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS 6. PROTECTION AND REFUGEE RIGHTS 7. ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND CHALLENGES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE	Prof. dr. Marco Borraccetti, University of Bologna	<b>Hours: 60</b> Lectures: 52 Seminars and workshops: 4 Field trips/visits: 4  <b>ECTS 5</b>
I	<b>5. MECHANISMS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>	1. UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM 2. EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM 3. EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: LEGAL SUBJECTS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE 4. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: PEACE AND CONFLICTS 5. UNDERSTANDING TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES 6. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE 7.	Prof. dr. Wolfgang Benedek, Karl Franzens Univerzitet, Grac, Austria	<b>Hours: 60</b> Lectures: 52 Seminars and workshops: 4 Field trips/visits: 4  <b>ECTS 5</b>

		GENOCIDE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW		
I	<b>6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b>	<p>Lectures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION</li> <li>2. ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH</li> <li>3. CRITICAL STUDIES OF DISCOURSE</li> <li>4. DATA MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL METHODS</li> </ol> <p>Seminars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH</li> <li>2. INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING</li> <li>3. DEVELOPMENT OF MA THESIS PROPOSAL</li> <li>4. MA THESIS WRITING</li> <li>5. WRITING A BRIEF POLICY ANALYSIS</li> </ol>	Prof. dr. Federico Giulio Sicurella, Univerzitet u Milanu	<p><b>Hours: 52</b></p> <p><b>Lectures: 32</b> <b>Seminars and workshops: 20</b></p> <p><b>ECTS 5</b></p>
II	<b>INTERNSHIP</b>	<p>Internship lasting 6 weeks in selected NGOs, MVOs, think tanks and research institutes throughout Southeast Europe. Students must do an internship in a country other than their country of origin/citizenship.</p>		<p><b>6 weeks: 240 working hours</b></p> <p><b>ECTS 10</b></p>
II	<b>FINAL THESIS PREPARATION AND PUBLIC DEFENCE</b>	<p>During their stay at the University of Bologna for 31 days (30 nights), students finalize their thesis and have organized visits to cities and institutions in Italy. During that period, they finalize the final thesis, after which they return to Sarajevo to defend the final thesis and attend the final ceremony.</p>		<p><b>ECTS 20</b></p>
				<p><b>OVERAL 60 ECTS</b></p>

### **2.3. Information about the Programme's Structure and the Requirements for Enrolment in the Next Semester**

In the application of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in the master's study proposal "One Health", the starting point is the agreement, accepted throughout the European area of higher education, that the work required to master one academic year of study amounts to 60 ECTS points. The student gets 40 ECTS points from the organized classes, and 20 ECTS points from the work on the final paper.

The Master's study consists of six compulsory courses, an internship, and a final thesis.

The first semester includes six compulsory subjects with a total of 30 ECTS.

The second semester includes an internship with a total of 10 ECTS points and a final master's thesis with 20 ECTS points.

### **2.4. Completion of the Programme**

The student will complete the studies by passing all the exams and writing the final thesis. The student chooses their thesis supervisor based on their interest and the instructor's research area. The thesis topic must be closely connected with the area of nutrition. The possible topics for final theses are suggested by the professors. However, the student can suggest their own thesis title to the professor they wish to work with.

The thesis supervisor can also be an instructor who has not been teaching at the specialist study, but the thesis topic is related to the programme's field. The suggested professor needs to possess adequate skills and competencies in order to be a thesis supervisor. The choice of the thesis supervisor is approved by the Academic Council of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

The students submit their thesis applications on the prescribed form. After the application's approval by the Council, the Council forms the Thesis Defence Committee. The members of the Committee must be professors ranging from the assistant professor to full professor. The Committee consists of the president and two members, or their substitutes. One of the members of the Committee is the thesis supervisor.

The student may change the topic of their thesis once, at the latest 30 days after the approval of their first topic. The students defend their theses with the public presentation.

All the other issues pertaining to the organization of the classes and the study programme – the students' rights and obligations, application process and the enrolment – shall be regulated by the Law, the Statutes, the Rules for the First and the Second Cycle, the Integrated Study Programmes, Professional and Specialist Study Programmes at the University of Sarajevo