



Protection of Fundamental Rights in the EU

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Course description

The aim of the course is to provide an overview how the organization originally pursuing the economic integration of European states and seeking the elimination of barriers of trade has become a political entity protecting fundamental rights and articulating fundamental values applicable both to its own institutions and to its Member States. In this vein the course provides an introduction to the EU's institutional- and legal system and takes account of the process which made it inevitable for EU law to guarantee an adequate level of protection of fundamental rights. The course analyses in detail the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union in ensuring an EU level of protection of fundamental rights, discusses the place and role of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and takes account of the institutions and mechanism of fundamental rights protection available in the EU and complements that with the eventually available political tools. The course briefly discusses the EU human rights policy manifested in its external relations and role in the accession negotiations

Competences

The primary objective of the course is to enable the students to gain a horizontal understanding and appreciation of the system of fundamental rights protection in the European Union. Gain a through insight to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Students will be also familiar to fundamental rights policy of the EU and its agencies and offices responsible to carry these tasks.

Schedule

- **Seminar 1-2.** The protection of fundamental rights as 'general principles of EU law', The role Court of Justice of the European Union in establishing fundamental rights scrutiny of EU law
- **Seminar 3-4.** EU Charter of Fundamental Rights I.



- **Seminar 5-6.** EU Fundamental rights protection – scope and standards of protection
- **Seminar 7-8.** Relation between EU fundamental rights protection and the ECHR
- **Seminar 9-10.** EU Fundamental rights policy - the internal and external dimension. The role of the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the Fundamental Rights Agency in EU protection of Fundamental Rights
- **Exam**

Assesment

Students are expected to do the coursework properly, regularly attend the classes and not to be absent from more than one class. Students who are to receive grades are required to prepare one 5 pages long essay on a specific topic during the term and sit for an exam at the end of the term.