

The Law Faculties of the following Universities are Members of SEELS



University of Tirana



University "Džemal Bijedić" of Mostar



University of Sarajevo



University of Zenica



Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek



University of Rijeka



University of Split



University of Zagreb



Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje



University of Montenegro



University of Belgrade



University of Kragujevac



University of Nis

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SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN
LAW SCHOOL Network

Promoting European Values in Higher Legal Education

Who We Are

The South East European Law School Network (SEELS) is an academic network that brings together 13 distinct Law Schools from South Eastern Europe. Our mission is to foster excellence in legal science and education through regional collaboration and European integration. We are creating synergies between our members with a wide range of activities such as summer academies, graduate schools, research projects and conferences.

By collaborating with universities from the EU, international donor organisations and legal professionals we open new fields of engagement for our members.

Where We Work

All countries of the region are taking part in the process of integration and approximation. Croatia was the first country of the SEE region to join the EU in July 2013, others are in the process of negotiations and already signed Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the European Union and the Member States.

As a result, the fulfilment of the Copenhagen Criteria and the adoption of the *acquis communautaire* (the EU's body of legislation) are currently and on a mid-term perspective the main challenges for SEE countries. Undoubtedly, the rule of law plays a crucial role in this endeavour because it provides the firm basis on which European integration develops. A strong legal education system is a main prerequisite for a successful approximation to the EU. Over the last decade, the SEE countries have carried out fundamental reforms in that field with the aim of raising the level of general education and professional qualifications.

Aiming to support these processes, SEELS was established in March 2011 with the support of the GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Legal Reform. Presently, 13 law faculties from Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Albania are members of the network.

As the first formalised and institutionalised trans-border network of its kind SEELS aims to serve as a successful model for intensified regional cooperation between the SEE countries enabling legal professionals throughout the region to acquire a uniform set of skills and expertise.

What We Do

SEELS embraces all legal disciplines and fields with regional or cross-border dimension within its three-pillar-approach: Education, Research and Publishing.



EDUCATION

We aim to further harmonise curricula across the SEE region and to organise and offer postgraduate and doctoral courses as well as summer schools. At the same time we support the exchange of lecturers and students among the participating law schools and invite leading international academics and practitioners to South Eastern Europe. Besides, SEELS designs programmes of executive training for different legal professions.

Examples of our current activities:

- 2nd French-German-Balkan Itinerant Summer University – on the EU integration dynamics and the implementation of the Copenhagen Criteria in the region
- SEE-EU Law Net Summer Academy 'EU Open Markets' – focusing the legal dimensions of the European Single Market in South Eastern Europe

RESEARCH

We facilitate intensified academic legal research in the region by connecting leading academics in the fields of common interest and organises joint conferences, research programmes and forums. Thereby, the academics of the region are linked with their counterparts from the leading European or other international law schools and research institutes.

Examples of our current activities:

- Scholarship opportunities at outstanding international research institutions

- SEE-EU Graduate School of Excellence in European and International Law - provides young academics from Germany and South Eastern Europe outstanding framework conditions during their PhD studies
- Conferences on diverse legal topics of relevance to current developments in the region

PUBLISHING

We provide quality and easy accessible regional publications on relevant legal topics, publish proceedings, analyses, findings and research papers from organised legal research forums and other events. SEELS also publishes the SEE Law Journal, which is the first regional law journal in English language in South East Europe. It offers legal researchers and practitioners a discursive space for scholarly exchange on the issues of legal reform and harmonisation on the domestic level in direct relation with questions regarding regional cooperation as well as European integration.

Examples of our current publications:

- Legal Perspectives of Gender Equality in South East Europe
- European Union Law Application by the National Courts of the EU Membership Aspirant Countries from South-East Europe
- Promotion of Scientific Research and Education in European Integration and Policy
- New Perspectives of South East European Private Law