

SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence
in European and International Law (Ed.)

**South Eastern Europe and
the European Union –
Legal Aspects**

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Preface

This publication is the first volume of the series of papers of the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law. The series is a compilation of articles from authors of different partner law faculties in Germany and South Eastern Europe.

The Europa-Institut of Saarland University is the leading partner of the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law, along with the law faculties of: the University of Belgrade (Serbia), Montenegro (Podgorica, Montenegro), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Skopje (Macedonia), Tirana (Albania) and Zagreb (Croatia), and the South East European Law School Network. The project is supported and sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and aims to promote the outstanding capabilities in research and teaching in the field of European and International Law.

The SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law will improve not only the cooperation between Germany and the South East European countries but also the cross-border regional and local cooperation in the areas of teaching and research as well as the development of common structures and strategies. The Cluster of Excellence seeks to explore new avenues in the transfer of knowledge; sharing expertise and experiences will strengthen the profile of each partner and the network as a whole. Therefore, the Cluster will implement various measures and activities aspiring to achieve the set goals: eLearning modules, a model curriculum, a graduate school, a number of research projects, summer schools, library cooperation and various publications.

This collection of papers can serve as a forum for academic staff and young academics of the partner faculties in the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence to publish their research results on relevant questions in European and International Law. In addition to the traditional areas of law, specific areas of interest include: the integration of SEE countries in the European Union, issues of legal reform and implementation of the *acquis communautaire*, best practices in legal reform, and approximation of legislation in the region of South Eastern Europe and

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the EU. The series will be published on a yearly basis and is peer-reviewed by the Editorial Board.

The SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law • Series of Papers 2015 encompasses twelve papers of academic staff and junior researchers from the law faculties in Belgrade, Osijek, Rijeka, Skopje and Tirana. This issue covers a broad variety of topics and illustrates the wide range of topics connected to European and International Law. Particular topics in this volume discuss e.g. refugee law, company law, and comparative law. Most notably, several of these published papers constitute adaptations of the presentations held at the Cluster of Excellence's Launch Conference at the Europa-Institut in Saarbrücken in November 2015.

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We are confident that the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law • Series of Papers will raise the interest in European and International Law and contribute to the achievement of the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law's goals.

Saarbrücken, December 2015

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