

Straniak Academy

for Democracy and Human Rights

1 to 14 September 2019, Ulcinj, Montenegro

Information for applicants

Dear students and recent graduates,

It is our pleasure to invite you to apply for the **Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights**, which will take place from **1 to 14 September 2019 in Ulcinj, Montenegro**.

The Academy was established in 2013 by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights – Research Association based in Vienna. Actually, cooperation partners of the Academy are the Faculties of Law of the Universities of Vienna and Ljubljana, as well as the Bundeswehr University Munich.

The main facilitator of the Academy is the Hermann und Marianne **Straniak Foundation**, Sarnen (Switzerland). The Foundation contributes, inter alia, to the promotion of the goals, ideas and values of the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular in East and Southeast European countries. This year, the Academy is also supported by various organisations and law firms from Austria and Germany. Furthermore, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs provides support.

Aim and concept of the Academy

The goal of the Academy is to **promote academic education on democracy, the rule of law and human rights in the Western Balkans**, which is the regional focus of the Academy. The Academy establishes a link connecting theory and practice, promoted through an **interdisciplinary and interactive format**. To keep up with political, legal and social changes and to ensure the Academy's continuous relevance for future professionals, one part of the Programme sets its focus on current topics of European and international importance.

Who teaches?

Lecturers of the Straniak Academy are **experienced professors, regional and international experts and practitioners with various academic backgrounds**. Many lectures are held by two lecturers, one from an EU Member State and one from the Western Balkan region or other countries. Through this concept of **“tandem teaching”** the lecturers elaborate a topic from different perspectives and approaches, and this way provide a wider and differentiated understanding. The **students** will not only have the opportunity to listen to presentations, but also be actively involved in the lectures and invited to participate in discussions, working groups, round tables and a **role play** on an actual and

challenging topic. In addition, the students will get insights into the every-day work of practitioners and experts, lawyers, diplomats and representatives of the civil society.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Straniak Academy is open to **advanced students and recent graduates with different academic backgrounds** who are especially interested in democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The target group are in particular students and new graduates from the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia), Slovenia and Austria. Students coming from other countries (in particular the Black Sea and the Caucasus region) and other EU States are also welcome to apply, however preference will be given to applicants from the above-mentioned focus region.

Programme and schedule

The intense **two-week programme** offers a wide range of lectures and workshops on the most **important topics in the field of democracy, the rule of law and human rights**. The first week concentrates on the core concepts and instruments to ensuring these fundamental principles and values. The second week deals with specific issues.

The programme consists of five parts:

Part 1: Fundamental principles and values

Part 2: United Nations (UN)

Part 3: Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Part 3: Council of Europe (CoE)

Part 4: European Union (EU)

Part 5: Selected human rights issues

In addition, one day will be dedicated to a **role play** on an actual challenging topic in order to come to convincing and satisfying agreements or decisions. Thereby, students will have to represent different international, domestic and/or private actors, to participate in negotiations and/or judicial decision-making and to work out contracts, agreements, position papers and/or judgements.

All lectures will be held in **English**. The **programme of the Academy 2019** will be uploaded in June 2019 on the website of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights:

<http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en/straniak-academy-democracy-and-human-rights-0>

The **lessons** will take place daily in the morning and in the afternoon. On some evenings, evening discussions will be organised with experts and practitioners.

Free time

During the lunchbreaks, students will have the opportunity to relax on several beaches, which are very close to the hotel complex, where all students and lecturers will be accommodated. Two

afternoons will be partly free of lectures for relaxing and learning. An optional excursion is foreseen on the first Saturday in order to explore the famous old Venetian town of Budva.

Certificates and credits

The Straniak Academy is an intense academic programme. At the end of the second week, the students take an **obligatory final exam** in order to receive a diploma. The preconditions for a positive evaluation are to reach more than 50% of the maximum points for the exam (multiple choice questions and short open questions) and to participate actively during the two weeks.

The **ECTS points** depend on the plan and programme of the students' respective faculties and universities. Students will have to inform themselves on the necessary procedures and documents at their faculties. In Austria, the recognition of ECTS varies from faculty to faculty (from 6 to 11 ECTS). The Straniak Academy team will provide in that regard all necessary support in organisational and administrative matters to the students.

Fees and other costs

The **registration fee** for the Straniak Academy on Democracy and Human Rights is **EUR 200** for participants from the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) and economically comparable countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Slovenia; others please explain in your application), and **EUR 400** from all others EU and CoE Member States.

The **Straniak Academy covers the costs for accommodation during the two weeks** (half board including breakfast and lunch) **and costs for the courses** (including coffee breaks). **Travel costs** are not covered and have to be borne by the participants themselves.

Venue

Students and lecturers will be accommodated in the hotel complex "Palata Venezia"," and "Kulla E Balshaje", both situated side by side at the wonderful historic fortress of Ulcinj, with a famous panorama over the bay of Ulcinj:

<http://www.hotelpalatavenezia.com/>

<http://www.hotelkullaebalshajve.com/>



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The lessons and workshops will take place in the conference room of the hotel “Palata Venezia” with a wonderful terrace and enough space for working groups. The hotel has a separate beach underneath the fortress, which also can be used during the two weeks.

How to apply?

If you are interested to participate, please visit our website <http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en/straniak-academy-democracy-and-human-rights-0>, where you will find all the relevant information and documents (Programme and Application form). Please download the documents and fill in the **Application form**. Send it via email, together with your CV and a motivation letter in one PDF document until 21 July 2019 to the Straniak Academy team to:

hannes.tretter@univie.ac.at and dajana.bjelovuk@univie.ac.at

The Straniak Academy team will inform you about the **selection results until 26 July 2019**. The **registration fee** has to be payed not later than **02 August 2019** (day of payment will be considered), this way confirming your participation. Please note that due to organisational reasons and fairness, candidates who do not transfer the registration fee in due time, **will be excluded from the list of participants without notice and a candidate from the waiting list will be invited instead**. The Straniak Academy team will inform the waiting list candidates until **11 August 2019** the latest. The selected candidates from the waiting list will have to pay the registration fee not later than **21 August 2019**.

Deadlines to be observed:

Application deadline	21 July 2019
Selection of candidates	26 July 2019
Payment of the registration fee = confirmation of participation	02 August 2019
Contacting waiting list candidates	11 August 2019

Payment of the registration fee (waiting list candidates)	21 August 2019
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Selection criteria

The Selection Committee of the Straniak Academy will select **25 participants** after close consideration of the following **criteria**: motivation-letter of the candidates, academic achievements and stage of the respective studies, academic background, practical experience, gender proportion, and regional proportion.

Cancellation

The cancellation of the application has to be **submitted in writing**. The already paid participation fee can only be partially **refunded**:

- Cancellation more than 4 weeks before the Academy (but not later than 2 August 2019): 70% of the registration fee will be refunded.
- Cancellation 3 weeks before the Academy (but not later than 09 August 2019): 50% of the registration fee will be refunded.
- Cancellation less than 2 weeks before the Academy (from 16 August 2019 on): no refunding possible.

The Academy's team:



Prof. Hannes Tretter, Director

Professor for Fundamental and Human Rights Law, University of Vienna (ret.)
Co-Founder of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), Vienna



Prof. Vasilka Sancin, Deputy Director

Professor for International Law, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee, Head of the Department of International Law and Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana



Prof. Christina Binder, Deputy Director

Professor for International Law and Human Rights at the University of the Bundeswehr in Munich, Germany, as well as at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna



Dajana Bjelovuk, MA, Coordinator

Researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), Vienna

For all additional questions, please visit our website and do not hesitate to contact us:

Dajana Bjelovuk

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights-Research Association

A-1010 Vienna, Freyung 6/2 (Schottenhof)

Tel. +43 (0)1 4277 27432

Mail: dajana.bjelovuk@univie.ac.at

Website: <http://bim.lbg.ac.at>

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