



**European Humanities
University**

International conference

**“European Education on values and humanity”
(EEVH)**

Humanitarian knowledge, human rights and “good” governance”: state, academic and human rights advocacy institutions in Lithuania for promoting human rights and education of professionals from CIS countries and the countries of Eastern Partnership

September 19-23, Vilnius, EHU



**NORDIC
SUMMER UNIVERSITY**



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**J. Althusius
Institute**

Nowadays, the need to strengthen the components of value perception and at the same time practical implementation of humanitarian and social knowledge, to change the paradigm of methods used in public administration, as well as in professional and social activities, to form new models of behaviour in the direction of real democracy, participation and culture of human rights is becoming increasingly obvious.

The experience of democratic reconstruction based on constitutionalism, the rule of law, as well as the cultural, linguistic and geographical ties of Lithuania with the surrounding nations, the high scientific and pedagogical potential of the universities of this country can be used more widely to prepare a new generation of specialists who can change the development of their countries in the direction of “good” governance, human rights, democracy and constitutionalism.

Surveys among lawyers and other specialists in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, and Russia show that there is great interest in obtaining European education among those who have already graduated in their countries and are engaged in professional activities. At the same time, knowledge of foreign languages still remains a problem; therefore, teaching in Russian with the development of competencies in other languages is especially urgent.

European universities in the field of teaching international and European law have formed approaches to the development and implementation of programs based on the idea of humanizing vocational education by including human rights law as an end-to-end element of such programs, with the goal of creating a new elite that is fundamental to the democratic foundations of public order, the rule of law and constitutionalism.

Only combined efforts of academic and state institutions as well as the involvement of civic initiatives and individual experts / teachers can create an educational space in which the transfer and accumulation of knowledge, skills and value approaches will take place for those who in the future will transform legal systems of their countries.

EHU has unique experience and a body of professionals working in the field of formal and non-formal education of representatives of various professional groups in human rights. Three projects that have been implemented in recent years - Training of lawyers in international law (together with the Norwegian Human Rights House Foundation), J. Monet Chair “Teaching EU Constitutional Law in Eastern Europe” (with the support of the European Commission), and the joint project Nordic Summer University - EHU, - serve as the basis for the development of programs in the field of constitutionalization of public order. From 2007 to the present, EHU, together with a network of Human Rights Houses, the Constitutional Court of Lithuania, the Belarusian Human Rights House and other organizations in Lithuania and Belarus, works on the transfer of theoretical knowledge in the field of humanities to those who do practical work in the field of promotion and protection of human rights. The J. Monet Chair project formed the basis for the dissemination of knowledge in the sphere of EU constitutionalism. The Nordic Summer University - EHU project, implemented since 2013, has organized 2 three-year research cycles - “International Relations and Human Rights” (2015-2018) and “Patterns of Dysfunctions of Modern Democracy” (2018-2021), which brought together researchers from the Nordic countries, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, and Poland.

A community of professionals united by the understanding of the importance of promoting human rights and the skills of applying humanitarian knowledge in professional and public life has formed among the students and alumni of EHU, most of who return to Belarus after completing their studies.

In Belarus today many of EHU alumni work in the field of protection and promotion of human rights and environmental protection, and / or collaborate with organizations and activists that aim to promote humanitarian values and a culture of human rights.

EHU initiates a wide project to train specialists who, sharing the values in the field of human rights, constitutionalism and public administration, after studying the basics and mastering the skills of effective public administration based on human rights, will apply them in their legitimate professional practice and / or civil activity.

EHU invites Lithuanian academic, state and public institutions **to work together** to create programs that will help students from former Soviet Union countries learn new skills and abilities that they will apply to increase respect for human rights and understanding of each person's responsibility to participate in governance at the national level, as well as to empower the individual to act in order to develop the capabilities of each individual and to help prevent the stigma of social apathy, marginalization, intolerance and violence in society.

The first step towards the establishment of the consortium "European Education on values and humanity", the purpose of which is effective cooperation in the field of transferring knowledge, experience and best practices in the field of university education, will be a **conference**, which will serve as a common platform for discussion.

The conference simultaneously finalizes the project of J. Monnet Chair in the field of teaching the constitutional law of the EU and ensures its further development in new forms and on new platforms.

The conference will result in the agreements, as well as a list of recommendations, documents and plans for cooperation in the field of transferring knowledge, experience and best practices in the field of university education within the consortium "European Education on values and humanity", as well as the community of students and alumni of EHU "Humanities university and humanitarian practices".

The conference will be held at several venues where parallel events will take place, united by the common goal of humanizing educational projects. One of the side events of Nordic Summer University - EHU - Coordination meeting of the NSU Board and research projects (circles) coordinators (FM3/2019) will be held from September 20 to 23. For the other three events, the conference will end on September 21.

On the first day the meeting of these parties is planned:

- Representatives of EHU and other Lithuanian universities (Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius University, Vytautas Magnus University)
- Representatives of state institutions (Human Rights Division of the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Constitutional Court, Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson)
- Members of the J. Monnet Chair
- International organizations (Belarusian Human Rights House)
- Representatives of Nordic Summer University – EHU project (Board Members 2019 (4 people), New Board Members 2020 (4 people), Coordinators of the existing Study Circles (1/each Circle) (6 people), Coordinators of the Study Circles 2020-2022 (2/each Circle) (6 people)

A welcome dinner and a meeting of the participants from the first and second day of the conference will also be held.

On the second day of the conference these parties participate:

- EHU representatives
- Members of the J. Monnet Chair
- Lithuanian and Belarusian NGOs and experts (Belarusian Human Rights House, Documentation Center, Viasna, Human Constanta, Ecodom, BISS, Association of Belarusian Journalists, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Center for Strategic Studies BISS, Public Organization “Nash Dom” and EHU alumni)
- Nordic Summer University – EHU

On the third and fourth day the work will continue with

- Nordic Summer University – EHU

Friday, September 20

9:00 – 18:00 NSU meeting

THE CONFERENCE “EUROPEAN EDUCATION ON VALUES AND HUMANITY”

1st day

12:30 – 13:00 Registration/welcome coffee

13:00 – 13:30 Opening of the conference

Welcome speech of the Rector of EHU, Professor Sergei Ignatov.

“European Education on values and humanity” (further EEVH): presentation of the new initiative. Goals and framework of the conference. Liudmila Ulyashyna, Oleg Bresky

13:30 – 15:00 Round Table “The role of human rights education for cooperation between countries and the development of democratic governance institutions”.

English

Chair: Liudmila Ulyashyna, PhD, Adviser, International Law in Advocacy Program
Human Rights House Foundation, Norway

13:30 – 13:50 Vytautas Valentinavičius, Head of Human Rights Division of the Seimas Ombudsmen’s Office

The Role of Human Rights in Educating Professionals – the state of play. The Seimas Ombudsmen’s insights

13:50- 14:00 Vytautas Šlapkauskas, professor of the Faculty of Public Security, Mykolas Romeris University . **Constitutionalism education as a form of communicating European values to the younger generation**

14.00-14.10 Aušrinė Pasvenskienė, vice-dean of the Faculty of Law, Vytautas Magnus University **Human Rights Education in the Digital Era**

14.10-14.30 Olga Romanenko, director of the Belarusian Human Rights House, alumni of the EHU **Experience of the Belarusian Human Rights House in human right education for civil society and professional groups**

14:30 – 15:30 Lunch

15:30 – 17:00 **Discussion (2nd part of the Round table) and mapping of the “European Education on values and humanity” initiative.**

17:00 – 18:00 Results of the project J. Monnet Chair (1st session)

Chair: Inesa Stolper, coordinator of the Department of Social Science

Presentation of the books:

“Introduction to the European legal tradition”

European Union Cohesion Policy Law

“Constitutional law of the European Union”

"Institutional Law of the European Union"

18:30 – 20:30 Dinner

Saturday, September 21

9:00 – 18:00 NSU meeting

THE CONFERENCE “EUROPEAN EDUCATION ON VALUES AND HUMANITY”

2nd day

8:30 – 9:00 Registration/welcome coffee

9:00 – 10:00 Humanitarian/Value-based and human rights education: values/targets, needs/challenges and opportunities

Co-Chairs: Jolanta Bieliauskaite, Head of the Social Science Department of EHU, Liudmila Ulyashyna, PhD, Adviser, International Law in Advocacy Program Human Rights House Foundation, Norway

EHU graduate on the role of the student clinic, newsletter and moot-courts in improving the effectiveness of knowledge - **Kristina Koryagina**.

“ILIA By” program for human rights and professional communities of Belarus - EHU graduate, **Natalya Matskevich**

Theory vs practice: is there a conflict. EHU student Maria Karpovich

Center “Humanitarian University and Humanitarian Practices”: Presentation of ideas and proposals for the coordination of common actions – **Alexey Loyko**. Human Rights Center “Viasna”, Minsk

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Participants:

Raisa Mikhailovskaya Documentation Center, Vilnius

Alexey Loyko, Human Rights Center “Viasna”,

Marina Dubina, Ecodom Public Association, Minsk, YSU graduate

Alena Chekhovich, lawyer of Human Constanta, Human Constanta, Minsk Yana Goncharova, communications specialist Human Constanta

Julia Stasyuk, member of the Human Constanta team, office in Brest

Natalya Matskevich, lawyer, Minsk, YSU graduate

Daria Lipkina, lawyer, Minsk, YSU graduate Sabina Brilo, YSU graduate, BAJ journalist

Harry Pogonyailo, lawyer, Helsinki Committee, Minsk

Dmitry Chernykh, lawyer, Helsinki Committee, Minsk Andrey Bastunets, President of the BAJ, Minsk

Petr Rudkovsky, Director of the Center for Strategic Studies BISS

Olga Karach, Our House, YSU graduate Kristina Koryagina, YSU graduate, independent expert Alexander Orekhov, lawyer, teacher of BSU Karpovich Maria, Student Center “Humanitarian knowledge - into practice”, Minsk

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 - 12:30 **Work of students in the groups**
11:30- 13:30 **Results of the project J. Monnet Chair (2nd session)**
Chair – Oleg Bresky

11:30-11:40 O. Bresky - EU Constitutional Law at Eastern European Universities.

11:40– 11:50 O. Studneva - The Law of Cohesion Policy of the European Union.

11:50 – 12:00 A. Limante - presentation of a part of the textbook of EU Economic Constitution
L. Ulyashyna - presentation of a part of the textbook of Human Rights

12:10 – 12:20 A. Vashkevich - EU Institutional Structure

12:30 – 12:40 P. Ravlusevicius EU integration and exit from the EU

12:40 – 12:50 I. Stolper The rule of law in the practice of the Court of Justice of the EU.

12:50-13:30 A. Schmit - System of the judiciary and control in the EU

13:30 – 14:00 Coffee break / Lunch

14:00 – 14-45 Summing up the launch of the initiative. Discussion of the strategy of using and continuing the project in creating the Monet Module and the Human Rights Based Public Administration Master's program and the Humanitarian University and Humanitarian Practices Center / Humanitarian Knowledge in Practice

14.45- 15.00 **Closing of the conference**

Sunday, September 22

09:00-13:00 NSU meeting

Monday, September 23

09:00-17:00 NSU meeting with EHU Representatives