



LegAL *Digest*

Annual Digest of the Jean Monnet Module
“Legal Approximation Laboratory”

NEWS



Photo: NEO+ Armenia

Two papers by LegAL participants have been selected for publishing!

The international team of editors of the Book Series of the Association of European Studies for the Caucasus has selected two articles prepared by LegAL participants for publishing. The papers reflect the results of the students' LegAL projects. They will appear in a volume focusing on the challenges of implementing EU norms in law and politics in the South Caucasus. The book will be published by the *ibidem*-Verlag. Congratulations to our authors: Meline Avagyan, Marianna Chobanyan, Parandzem Paryan and Rouzanna Vardanyan!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Weekend School “Theory and Methodology of Legal Approximation” (2-4 and 9-11 October 2020, Zoom) is approaching! Register [here](#) to discuss the topical issues of legal approximation with our invited speakers! Apply by 30 September 20!
- LegAL is recruiting the second cohort of participants! Register [here](#) by 15 October 2020! [Details](#)

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



**New Jean Monnet
project funded!**



**NEW VISION
UNIVERSITY**

In 2020-2022, in cooperation with the BSU Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, LegAL will implement the new Jean Monnet Project “Comparing EaP Countries’ Strategies and Solutions in the Area of Approximation of Domestic Legal Systems with the EU *Acquis* / **Comparing Approximation Strategies and Solutions (COMPASS)**!” The project

will provide students with opportunities to participate in international COMPASS

Simulations and contribute to the compilation of the COMPASS Database.

Partners: New Vision University (Georgia), Europa-Institute of Saarland University (Germany), National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” (Ukraine) and Brusov State University (coordinator, Armenia).



MAJOR EVENTS

Opening Ceremony

The Module was opened on 15 October 2019 with the participation of invited speakers Mr Alen Mkrtychyan, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Mr David Avakian, The European Union Delegation to Armenia, Ms Lana Karlova, National Erasmus + Office in Armenia, Prof. Thomas Kruessmann, President of Association of European Studies for the Caucasus, Prof. Tigran Torosyan, Head of the UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Political Science and representatives of the administration of BSU. The

speakers welcomed the first cohort of the LegAL students, highlighted the recent developments in EU-Armenia relations and the importance of legal approximation processes in the context of proper implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA. Dr Anna Khvorostiankina, academic coordinator of LegAL, presented the components of the Module and its work programme and underlined the necessity of cooperation between academia and practitioners in the field of legal approximation.



Photo: NEO+ Armenia, <https://erasmusplus.am/>

Guest Lecture at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

On 7 October 2019, Dr Anna Khvorostiankina delivered a guest lecture **“EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and Europeanisation of Armenian Legal Order”** to graduate students of the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”, Ukraine. The lecture was organized in cooperation with the KMA Centre of Excellence in European Studies and Prof. Roman Petrov. In her presentation, Dr Khvorostiankina analysed the legal approximation commitments under the EU-Armenia CEPA in the

context of the mechanisms of Europeanisation through EU external agreements, as well as discussed recent constitutional developments in Armenia. In addition, the opportunities provided by the Jean Monnet Module to international students were presented to the participants of the lecture.



Presenting the Module to a wider audience

On 22 October 2019, Legal Approximation Laboratory was presented to the Vanadzor academic community during the Erasmus+ Info Day organized by the National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia at Vanadzor State University, Lori Region. Dr Anna Khvorostiankina made a presentation focusing on the particularities of preparing a Jean Monnet application using the LegAL Module as a case-study.



Photo: NEO+ Armenia, <https://erasmusolus.am/>

On 18 November 2019, Dr Khvorostiankina attended the Jean Monnet Kick-Off Meeting in Brussels. At the Meeting, she had an opportunity to briefly introduce LegAL to the international academic community during the session, which gathered together academic coordinators of JM activities related to the European Commission priority “A Stronger Europe in the World”.



Photo: EACEA

On 7 November 2019, Dr Khvorostiankina presented LegAL to the Armenian academic community during the Erasmus+ Info Day in Yerevan organized by the NEO+ Armenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia. On 14 February 2020, the JM Info Session was organized at BSU in cooperation with Ms Lana Karlova, NEO+, and Ms Kristine Gevorgyan, YSU.



Photo: NEO+ Armenia, <https://erasmusolus.am/>

On 21-22 November 2019, LeIAL was presented at the Eastern Partnership Networking Forum in Legal Education (Tbilisi, Georgia) organised by the Europa-Institute of Saarland University, Germany. [EaP Networking Forum](#)



is a Joint project between 21 faculties from universities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine coordinated by the Europa-Institut of Saarland University and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. The project aims to innovate teaching methodologies and foster research in European and International Law.

LegAL COURSE 2019-2020

People and Spaces



In its first cohort of participants, LegAL 2019-2020 gathered together talented, motivated, critically engaged, forward-looking and open-minded graduate students and young professionals. The students represented different disciplines (Law, Political Science, Human Rights, Public Administration, Linguistics) and universities of Armenia.



With the support of the BSU local coordinators of the Fostering University-Enterprise Cooperation and Entrepreneurship of Students project co-funded by Erasmus+, Ms Ani Hovsepyan and Mr Levon Babamyan, starting from November 2019, the classes of LegAL had been organised in a unique space – SMART Caffe – stimulating co-working, facilitating team-building and informal communication and creating a cosy learning environment. Before moving to Zoom....



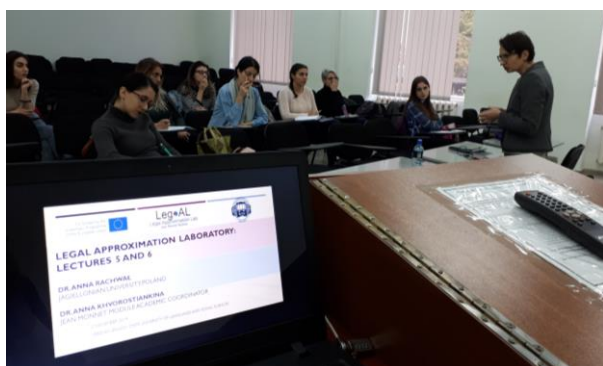
Our Guest Lecturers



The first guest lecture within the Jean Monnet Module “Legal Approximation Laboratory” was delivered during the Opening Ceremony by the guest speaker Prof. Thomas

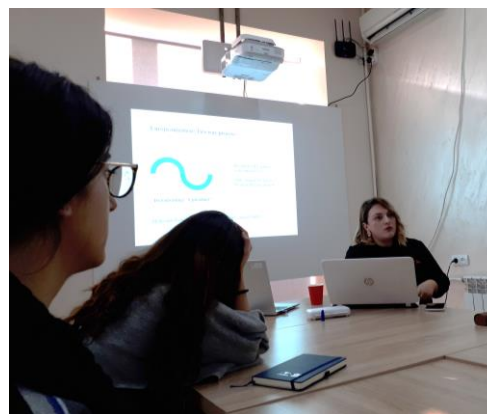
Kruessmann, President of the Association of European Studies for the Caucasus. Prof. Kruessmann discussed the relevance of European Studies in the context of legal approximation processes in the South Caucasus.

In the sub-course “Issues in EU Law”, a guest lecture was delivered by Dr Anna Rachwał, Jagiellonian University, Poland. Dr Rachwał

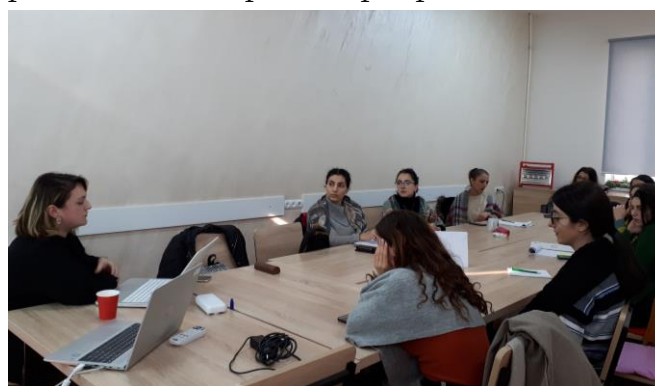


introduced LegAL participants to the topical issues of EU Consumer Protection Law, its correlation with the relevant provisions of Polish legislation and implementation in practice.

In the sub-course “Theory and Methodology of Legal Approximation”, the topic of Europeanisation of the legal system of Georgia was presented by Prof. Dr Gvantsa Davitashvili, New Vision University, Office of the Public Defender, Georgia. Prof. Davitashvili presented recent



developments in the Georgian legal order discussing them within the theoretical framework of the mechanisms of Europeanisation. Participants of the Module initiated a lively discussion comparing the processes of legal approximation in Armenia and Georgia. The lecture enriched the sub-course with both practical and comparative perspectives.



LegAL Class Events

LegAL is not only formal lectures! It is also celebrating important occasions, networking during informal lunch-breaks and meeting to discuss ground-breaking projects! More inspiring moments to come in 2020-2021!

30 NOVEMBER 2019

CEPA'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY

The participants of LegAL met to celebrate the Second Anniversary of the signing of the EU-Armenia CEPA and the start of the second LegAL sub-course!



7 DECEMBER 2019

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF LISBON

The LegAL class of 7 December 2019 touched upon several important dates: International Human Rights Day (10 December) and the anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty (signed on 13 December 2007, in force since 1 December 2009). We discussed the current challenges of Human Rights protection and strengthening the Rule of Law in the EU and beyond its borders, as well as the mechanisms for the promotion of these fundamental values by the EU internally and through external action. In addition, the profiles of the new top official of the EU (in office from 1 December 2019) were presented and the new European Commission priorities were discussed.



29 AUGUST 2020

RESEARCH GROUP MEETING

A group of LegAL participants met to discuss the progress with the research project focusing on the issues of approximation of Armenian legislation with the EU Directive 2006/54/EC on the Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Matters of Employment and Occupation. The project is based on participants' course work and will lead to an international publication!



RESEARCH

Completed projects

In 2019-2020, Dr Anna Khvorostiankina finalised a research project “*The process of legal approximation with the EU acquis in Armenia in the context of Armenia’s membership in the Eurasian Economic Union*”. The research findings will be published in a scholarly article.

Another finalised project is a chapter titled “EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement: A New Instrument of Promoting EU’s Values and General Principles of EU Law” for a book reflecting the results of an international research project under the coordination and editorship of Prof. Roman Petrov and Prof. Stefan Lorenzmeier. The book will be published by Springer.

Research in progress

Two projects are currently in progress:

- (1) An innovative textbook on EU Studies presenting the EU and its neighbours through the prism of the concept of “values”. The textbook is elaborated by a group of established international scholars under the coordination and editorship of Prof. Oliver Reisner, Ilia State University, Georgia, and Dr Anna Khvorostiankina, LegAL academic coordinator. The project is implemented by the Association of European Studies for the Caucasus and funded with the Jean Monnet Support to Associations grant.
- (2) A scholarly article analyzing the performance of the EU-Armenia Political Dialogue from the perspectives of cohesion, relevance and resilience of the EU EaP policy.

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With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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Publication date: 1 September 2020