

# Straniak Academy

for Democracy and Human Rights

**4 to 17 September 2016, Ulcinj/Montenegro**

## **Information for students**

**Dear advanced students and new graduates,**

It is our pleasure to invite you to apply for the *Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights*, which will take place from **4 to 17 September 2016 in Ulcinj/Montenegro**.

The Academy was established in 2013 by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights - Research Association (BIM-FV) in Vienna in cooperation with the Faculties of Law and Social Sciences of the University of Vienna and the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University in Montenegro.

The Foundation's objectives comprise, inter alia, the promotion of the goals, ideas and values of the European Convention of Human Rights, in particular in East and Southeast European States.

The name of the Straniak Academy refers to the Hermann and Marianne Straniak Foundation, in Sarnen/Switzerland, being the main facilitator of the Academy. This year's Academy is additionally supported by the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Association for Social Justice (Verein für Soziale Gerechtigkeit), Vienna, the Humboldt Society for German-Montenegrin cultural exchange, and additional companies and law firms.

### ***Aim and concept of the Academy***

The goal of the Academy is to promote academic education on democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Western Balkan region as a specific regional focus. The Academy establishes a link connecting academia and practice, promoted through an interdisciplinary and interactive format. To keep abreast with political, legal and social changes and to ensure the Academy's continuous relevance for future professionals, one part of each year's programme sets its focus on specific themes.

### ***Who teaches?***

Lecturers of the Straniak Academy are experienced professors, regional and international experts and practitioners with various academic backgrounds. Each lecture is, in general, held by two lecturers, one from an EU Member State, and one from the Western Balkan region or other countries. This concept of "tandem teaching" allows to discuss a topic from different perspectives and approaches, thus offering a wider and differentiated understanding. The students will not only have the opportunity to listen to presentations, but will also be actively involved in the lectures and

invited to participate in discussions, working groups, a role-play and evening talks. In addition, the students will get insights into the every-day work of practitioners and experts, such as lawyers, diplomats and representatives of the civil society.

### ***Who is eligible to apply?***

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

### ***Programme and time management***

The intense two-week programme offers a wide range of lectures and workshops on the most important topics in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, beginning with the core concepts and instruments during the first week, and elaborating specific issues during the second week. The programme consists of five parts:

Part 1: Introductory lectures about democracy, rule of law and human rights

Part 2: United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Part 3: Council of Europe

Part 4: European Union

Part 5: Selected human rights issues

In addition, one day will be dedicated to find a solution to urgent international issues, this year it will be the current refugee drama in Near East, the Mediterranean and the Balkans, whereby students will take part in a role play, representing different States and actors.

All lectures will be held in English. The syllabus of the Academy 2016 will be uploaded in April 2016 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 take place with experts and practitioners.

### ***Free time***

During the lunchbreak, students will have the opportunity to relax on several beaches, which are very close to the hotel. Two afternoons will be free of lectures, as well as the weekend. Being very near to the Albanian border, Ulcinj is famous for its multicultural atmosphere and wonderful sandy beaches. An excursion will be organised during the weekend to Cetinje, the mountain of Lovćen and

the wonderful historic towns of Kotor and/or Budva for those who wish to take part. The excursion is optional and has to be covered by the students. (ca. 30 EUR per person).

### ***Certificates and credits***

The Straniak Academy is an academic programme. At the end of the second week, the students will have to 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.

It is possible to gain ECTS points dependent 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/universities. In Austria, the recognition of ECTS varies from faculty to faculty (from 7 to 11 ECTS). The Straniak Academy team will provide all necessary support in organisational and administrative matters to the students.

### ***Fees and other costs***

The registration fee is **EUR 150** for advanced students and new graduates from the Western Balkan region and Croatia, **EUR 250** from EU and other countries (exemptions can be arranged on demand). 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 "Palata Venezia", situated in the wonderful historic fortress of Ulcinj, with a famous panorama over the bay of Ulcinj:

<http://www.hotel-palatavenezia-montenegro.com/>



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The lessons and workshops will take place in the newly built conference room of the hotel with a pleasant working atmosphere. The hotel offers a fitness studio and a pool, which are free. In addition, one part of the sandy beach underneath the fortress is reserved for guests of the hotel and 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, together with your **CV** and a **motivation letter IN ONE PDF DOCUMENT** until **15 June 2016** to the Straniak Academy team:

[hannes.tretter@univie.ac.at](mailto:hannes.tretter@univie.ac.at), [ijelic@yahoo.com](mailto:ijelic@yahoo.com), [n.radovic@univie.ac.at](mailto:n.radovic@univie.ac.at)

The Straniak Academy team will inform you about the **selection results until 30 June 2015**. The **registration fee** has to be payed not later than **15 July 2016** (day of payment will be considered), 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 contacted instead. The Straniak Academy team will inform the waiting list candidates until **22 July 2016** the latest who will have to pay the registration fee not later than **5 August 2016**.

Application deadline	15 June 2016
Selection of candidates	30 June 2016
Payment of the registration fee	15 July 2016
Contacting waiting list candidates	22 July 2016
Payment of the registration fee (waiting list candidates)	05 August 2016

### ***Selection criteria***

The Selection Committee of the Straniak Academy will select between **30 and 35 students** after close consideration of the following **selection criteria**: motivation of the candidates, academic achievements and stage of the respective studies, academic background, practical experience, gender proportion, regional proportion.

### ***Cancellation***

The cancellation of the application has to be submitted in writing. 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 before the Academy: 70 % of the registration fee will be refunded.
- Cancellation 4 to 3 weeks before the academy: 50% of the registration fee will be refunded.
- Cancellation 2 weeks or less before the Academy: no refunding possible.

### ***The Academy's team:***



**Prof. Hannes Tretter, Director**

Associate Professor for Fundamental and Human Rights Law at University of Vienna and Scientific Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), Vienna



**Prof. Ivana Jelić, Deputy-director**

Associate Professor for Public International Law, Human Rights Law and Diplomatic and Consular Law at the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University of Montenegro



**Nina Radović, Coordinator**

Researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Assistant to Professor Tretter at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna

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

Nina Radović

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### ***Partners and Sponsors of the Academy***



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