

Straniak  Academy
for Democracy and Human Rights

4-17 September 2016

Ulcinj/Montenegro

Final Report

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Introduction

The Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human rights is an academic programme designed for advanced students and young graduates who wish to deepen their knowledge and gain new insights in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law from a European and international perspective and to discuss current human rights related topics with their fellow students, professors and experts. The Straniak Academy is implemented by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights-Research Association (BIM-FV), Vienna in cooperation with the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna and the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University of Montenegro.

The programme was initiated in 2013 and has been taking place yearly during two weeks of September in Montenegro. The idea for such an academy was born during the visits of Hannes Tretter, professor for Fundamental and Human Rights Law at the University in Vienna and Scientific Co-Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), in the course of a Twinning project in Montenegro and guest lectures at the University of Montenegro. During the conversations with prof. Ivana Jelić, professor for Public International Law, International Human Rights Law and Diplomatic and Consular Law at the Faculties of Law and Political Science in Podgorica, the need for a human rights related academic programme in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region was recognised. The signing of memoranda of understanding between the respective faculties and the BIM-FV in 2013 was the first step towards the establishment of the Academy.

After now four years of successful implementation, the Academy is already a well-known and recognised institution, which enhances the understanding of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and thus spreads European values among new generations.

The fourth Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights (hereinafter the Academy) was organised from 04 to 17 September 2016 in Ulcinj in the Hotel Palata Venezia.

The intention of the following report is to provide a detailed description of the Straniak Academy 2016, to share the impressions and to reveal the plans for the future. The report presents the purpose and goals, the Straniak Academy team and the lecturers of the Academy as well as its partners and donors. Furthermore, the report explains the application procedure and criteria for admission, provides a summary of the lectures and topics and outlines the highlights of this year. In addition, the report reflects the Academy's overall achievements, results and impact on the Western Balkan region and beyond.



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Aim of the Straniak Academy and target group

The main goals of the Academy are (i) to promote academic knowledge on democracy, human rights and the rule of law focusing on the Western Balkan region, (ii) to raise awareness about the importance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law among the younger generations and (iii) to create a bridge between academia and practice through an interdisciplinary and interactive format which brings students, scientists, researchers and practitioners together.

The Academy contributes to strengthening a common European identity by fostering an open-minded attitude of new generations, especially in regard of the diversity and plurality of different national, ethnic, religious and cultural identities in the Western Balkan region. This is especially achieved by promoting respect, tolerance and equality, which are the main pillars for peaceful and respectful co-living and mutual understanding.

To meet these goals, the students study and spend their time together, discuss current developments in the Western Balkan region and beyond and exchange their views and opinions. This way, the Academy contributes to overcoming the barriers created by the past conflicts, which are often reproduced and taken over by younger generations. Educating young people to become open-minded and engaged citizens who know the meaning of democracy and human rights is a precondition to create healthy societies, in which the citizens are ready to overcome past conflicts and to look into a peaceful, free and democratic common future in the European Union.

The target group of the Straniak Academy are advanced students (3rd or 4th year of studies) as well as new graduates who have a solid academic background and some practical experience. Due to excellent applications received also from younger candidates (first or second year of studies) and also more experienced PhD students, the Straniak Academy decides also to invite some of them to take part. This practice proved to be very enriching for the discussions during the lectures.

Although participants from the Western Balkan region are the main target group, they are mixed up with participants from Austria and other EU Member States as well as with participants from the Caucasus region and occasionally beyond. Those compositions open the opportunity for manifold, sometimes also controversial! discussions, perspectives and exchange of experiences, which enables the students to learn from each other.

The Straniak Academy team

The Academy is organised by the Straniak Academy team: prof. Hannes Tretter, Director of the Academy, prof. Ivana Jelić, Deputy-Director of the Academy, and Ms. Nina Radović, Coordinator of the Academy.



Prof. Hannes Tretter, Director

Associate Professor for Fundamental and Human Rights Law at the University of Vienna and Co-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 Faculty of Law and Faculty of Political Science of the University of Montenegro, Podgorica



Nina Radović, Coordinator

Assistant to prof. Hannes Tretter, currently enrolled at the Law Faculty in Vienna, previously studied International Development and Romance Philology (French language and literature) at the University of Vienna and the University Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Partners and donors of the Academy

As the name of the Academy suggests, the main partner and facilitator of the Straniak Academy is the Hermann and Marianne Straniak Foundation, chaired by the lawyer Mr. Christoph Liebscher. The foundation was established in 1974 in Sarnen (Switzerland) and supports inter alia the synthesis of philosophies and ideas of eastern and western cultures and the promotion of the goals, ideas and values laid down in the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular the freedom of thought. In 2015, the Hermann and Marianne Straniak Foundation became a strategical partner of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. Together they are making an important contribution to strengthening democracy in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

Another main partner of the Straniak Academy is the Central European Initiative (CEI), a regional intergovernmental forum committed to supporting European integration through cooperation among its Member States. The CEI is supporting the Straniak Academy since 2014.

In 2016, the Straniak Academy gained an additional important partner, the Association for Social Justice (Verein für Soziale Gerechtigkeit).

Further supporters and donors of the Straniak Academy 2016 were the Association of Friends of the Law Faculty (Verein der Freunde der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät), the law firms: Noll and Keider, Grilc Vouk & Skof, Schönherr Rechtsanwälte, Rohregger Scheibner Bachmann Rechtsanwälte, the Humboldt Association in Montenegro and last but not least the Hotel Palata Venezia in Ulcinj.

Application procedure and selection of participants

The application procedure started during the summer semester 2016 and lasted from April until the end of June 2016. In order to apply, the students were asked to fill out the application form and to send it together with their CV and a motivation letter including optional recommendation letters to the Straniak Academy team.

The call for applications was published on the websites of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University of Montenegro. The call was also announced and shared with partner organisations, networks and other universities, especially with the

faculties in the Western Balkan region: Belgrade, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Tirana, Skopje and Ljubljana. The call was also published via different internet platforms and social media (facebook, SEELS network, Mladiinfo.com, ELSA and other networks). This way the call reached a broad public. Due to the big success of the previous years, the last years' generations also spread the information about the Straniak Academy among their colleagues.

The Straniak Academy team received applications from Austria and the Western Balkan region, but also from other EU Member States and other countries. In 2016, the Academy received ninety-nine applications altogether. The response from students coming from the focus countries, Austria and the Western Balkan region was very good: twenty-five from Austria and thirty-three from the Western Balkan region (six from Albania, five from Bosnia and Herzegovina, four from Kosovo, three from Macedonia, seven from Montenegro, five from Serbia, two from Slovenia). This year, the Straniak Academy team received only one application from Croatia due to the fact that the examination period at the faculties in Croatia took place during the same time as the Academy.

The applications were especially well prepared this year. In particular the applications of students from the Faculty of Law in Vienna had a high quality profile, which made the selection procedure challenging.

The Straniak Academy team had the difficult task to select the best students according to the following selection criteria:

- to respect the regional focus on Southeast European states and particularly the Western Balkan region;
- to select students approaching the finalisation of their studies and/or young graduates having an academic background in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
- to bring together students from different academic backgrounds and disciplines, enhancing different perspectives on the topics;
- to respect an equal gender proportion;
- to pay special attention to the motivation of the candidates, including their academic achievements, personal engagement and practical experiences in the respective fields.

In order to encourage students from the focus region to apply, the registration fee for participants from the Western Balkan region, especially non-EU Member States, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia was only 150 EUR. The registration fee for participants from EU Member States and other countries was 250 EUR. The intention of the Straniak Academy is to offer equal possibilities to all students in order to take part. Of course, the financial background is not the same for everyone. The Straniak Academy is sensible to these issues and always tries to find a possibility to enable the participation to all selected candidates, according to the Academy's capacities and individual needs.

The participants of the Straniak Academy 2016 were (by alphabet):

Family name	Name	Country	University
BAN	Masa	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana/Faculty of Law
BEGISHOLLI	Blerta	Kosovo	University of Salzburg/European Union Studies

BEKTAS	Derja	Austria/ Turkey	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law
BONERTZ	Fabian	Germany	University of Regensburg/ South-Eastern-European Studies
BOSKOVIC	Nikola	Montenegro	University of Montenegro/Faculty of Political Science
BRANDALIK	Matea	BiH	University of Vienna/Political Science and Oriental Studies
BRÜGGER	Nathalie	Switzerland/ Austria	University of Bern and University of Vienna/Philosophy
BUDISA	Vedrana	BiH	University of Banja Luka/Faculty of Law
DELIC	Diana	Montenegro	University of Montenegro/Faculty of Political Science
DURSTMÜLLER	Felix	Austria/ Italy	University of Vienna/Faculty of Political Science and University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
GLAVINAS	Athanasios	Greece	Democritus University of Thrasce and University of Bonn/Faculty of Law
GUÇE	Armando	Albania	University of New York Tirana/Political Science and International Relations
HUREMAGIC	Haris	Austria/BiH	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law and Institute of Slavonic Studies
KAMOLLI	Mandrit	Albania	European Inter-University Centre (Italy) – The University of Nottingham (UK)/ European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation (Joint Degree)
KOLMAN	Katja	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana/Faculty of Law
KRAMML	Johannes	Austria	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law
KREMENOVIC	Tatjana	Austria/BiH	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law
LIPOVINA	Boris	Montenegro	University of Montenegro/Faculty of Political Science
MAYER	Matthias	Austria	University of Vienna/Romance Studies (Spanish language and literature with a focus on political discourses)
PRÜGER	Karin Christine	Austria	University of Vienna/ Faculty of Law
SCHICK	Simona	Germany	University of Applied Science Fulda/Social Rights
STEINBERGER	Agnes	Austria	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law University of Oslo (Erasmus +)

STEINKOGLER	Petra	Austria	University of Vienna/International Development
USKOKOVIC	Jelena	Serbia	University of Belgrade/Faculty of Political Sciences, Department for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law
VELJOVIC	Luka	Montenegro	University of Montenegro/Faculty of Law and University of Maribor/Faculty of Law (exchange programme)
WEHMEYER	Verena	Austria	Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg/Faculty of Law
WOLFF	Xalessa	Germany	University of Bremen, University of Belgrade, Kaliningrad State Technical University/Integrated European studies (interdisciplinary bachelor combining the disciplines of sociology, political science and cultural history)
XHANARI	Nertiol	Albania	European University Flensburg and Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences/Social and Political Sciences; Dual Master Degree in European Studies (Institute for International Management); Public Administration-Economics
ZÖCHLING	Julia	Austria	University of Vienna/Faculty of Law

Before the start of the Academy, the participants got in touch with each other via social media to discuss useful organisational matters and travel arrangements. A “Straniak Academy 2016” group was created on Facebook, which has also been used actively after the Academy. The participants are using the Facebook group to stay in touch with each other, to upload photos taken during the two weeks and to exchange interesting information and news. Thus, they are creating networks, which is one of the main goals and great achievements of the Academy.

The opening of the Academy took place on Sunday, 04 September 2016. After the students had been welcomed by the Straniak Academy team in the new conference room where also the lectures took place, the group proceeded to the terrace of the Hotel Palata Venezia for the official part of the opening ceremony.

Lecturers and tandem teaching

The didactic concept of the Academy, “tandem teaching”, proves to be very successful and will be continued in the future. Tandem teaching means that two lecturers – one from Austria or another EU Member State and one from the Western Balkan region – prepare and hold their lectures together. This means that the lecturers have to get in touch with each other several weeks before the start of the Academy and to prepare their lectures jointly. Such a way of teaching brings together lecturers from different countries and academic backgrounds and encourages the exchange of different didactic approaches and views. This way, the students have the privilege to listen to different perspectives of

the same topic, which broadens their horizon and encourages them to analyse a topic from different angles.

The lecturers of the Straniak Academy are professors and experts in their respective fields. This year, twenty-two lecturers participated in the Straniak Academy, coming from Austria, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and even Israel.

This year, prof. Ivana Jelić, the Deputy Director of the Academy, gave her lectures during the first week and could not be present during the whole two weeks of the Academy due to personal reasons. Like in the last year, prof. Vasilka Sancin from the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, who has become a special partner of the Academy, was present during the two weeks and provided valuable support.

All the lecturers held their lessons with great enthusiasm and shared their knowledge, expertise and experience with the students. They motivated them to deepen their interest and passion for their respective subjects and initiated interesting discussions with the young people.



Photos from left to right: prof. Hannes Tretter and prof. Ivana Jelić, prof. Davor Derenčinović and prof. Vasilka Sancin, prof. Davor Derenčinović and Christof Tsochogl; Ajša Hadžibegović holding lectures outside.

Programme of the Academy

The programme of the Straniak Academy distinguishes itself from other summer schools especially by its tandem-teaching approach and the commitment to offer an intense academic programme, ensuring high-level academic education in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The topics were grouped into thematic fields, allowing a systematic approach and creating a gradual composition of the topics, while starting from philosophic ideas and concepts of democracy and human

rights. Then an overview of international and European instruments and their development was given and specific human rights related issues and current topics were elaborated. The subjects discussed during the lectures were:

Part 1: Introduction

- The meaning of democracy, rule of law and human rights and their coherence
- The powers in a modern democracy and the functioning of the system of checks & balances
- Concepts and standards, strengths and weaknesses of modern democracies

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

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The development, actual status and challenges of the UN Human rights protection system
- The UN Charter, transitional justice, individual criminal responsibility and universal jurisdiction (ICTY, UNICTR, SCSL, Khmer Rouge Tribunal, ICC, national courts)
- Bosnia and Hercegovina today – challenges and perspectives
- Responsibility to protect (R2P)
- The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – its history and mission & OSCE in practise

Part 3: Council of Europe

- Introduction to the human rights regime of the CoE
- European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights
- Protection of Minorities by the CoE

Part 4: European Union

- The fundamental rights framework of the EU: Treaty of Lisbon, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR)
- The relationship between the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) before and after the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- The role of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Part 5: Selected human rights issues

- Freedom of expression, independence and pluralism of the media as preconditions for a living democracy
- Data protection and access to information
- Prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment including CPT, OPCAT, NPM and the rights of prisoners and other people restricted in their personal freedom
- Women's and children's rights
- Combating trafficking in human beings
- Independence and impartiality of the judiciary and procedural rights & right to personal liberty and security
- The concept of good governance and the fight against corruption
- The principles of equality and non-discrimination including hate speech, and underlying ideologies like racism, anti-semitism, xenophobia, islamophobia and homophobia
- Human Rights and the environment
- Human rights and corporate social responsibility

- Social rights and poverty reduction

The detailed programme of the Straniak Academy 2016 is included in Annex I to this Report.

Role-play

Since three years, a role-play is an integral part of the programme. It opens new ways of learning and teaching by active participation and involvement of every student. The topics are chosen by the Straniak Academy team according to the current political developments. The role-play offers the possibility to the students to experience what it means to work on solutions for worldwide problems and current issues by using their diplomatic skills and knowledge acquired during the lectures. In the previous two years the topics of the role-plays were: solving the Ukrainian crisis (2014) and negotiations to stop the terror and crimes against humanity committed by the ISIS (2015).

This year, the topic of the role-play was the current refugee drama. Two students each who represented different countries and the European Commission tried to find common agreements and a solution to solve the crisis according to international and CoE/EU human- and refugee rights standards. During the preparations the countries developed their opening statements based on the official political strategies of the respective countries. During the role-play which was led and moderated by a chair (UNHCR), the countries – usually represented by their prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs – brought forward their positions and tried to defend them in the course of the negotiations. During unmoderated caucuses, countries with similar positions came together and formed lobby groups while focusing on common standpoints. Finally, they tried to consolidate their positions in the final negotiation round and to include them in the final document. The role play was observed and followed by lecturers – professors for human rights and international law and an assistant who helped the students elaborate the final declaration. This year the experts took the role of observers and followed the learning by doing approach. The experience of this year proved however that a more active role of the experts – like during the previous years – is important considering the fact that most of the students had never taken part in a role-play before and that they have different academic backgrounds. Therefore, the structure of the role-play will be different in the future, whereby the lecturers will firstly provide an introduction and explain the relevant legal framework, including European and international instruments necessary for fruitful negotiations, and secondly have a more active and guiding role during the role-play in general.





Photos: preparation of the negotiations and diplomatic talks, which finally let to a common agreement.

Exploring Ulcinj, Lovćen, Kotor and Stari Bar

Organising the Straniak Academy in Montenegro is not only a great opportunity to gain knowledge on human rights related topics and to meet interesting people, but also to get to explore the Montenegrin coast, the wonderful mountains and Mediterranean towns alongside the coast and to broaden the cultural horizon.

Organising the Academy at different locations within the country offered a possibility to get to know different places, which was and is very nice for the lecturers who teach at the Academy every year. The first Academy took place in Budva in 2013, then moved to Igalo in 2014 and was organised in Ulcinj at the very south of Montenegro for the last two years. As in the previous year, the Academy was hosted by the Hotel Palata Venezia, which provided a spacious and brand new conference room for the lectures.

Holding the Straniak Academy in Ulcinj meant getting to know Montenegro from a special side, where different ethnic groups, especially Albanians and Montenegrins, have lived and live together in mutual peace and understanding for years. Ulcinj reflects the history of the Mediterranean region in a very specific way – namely as part of a common European history. People often ignore that Europe's heritage and culture, its social, political and economic development was and still is influenced by this region, which has to be understood as part of the Mediterranean region in a wider sense, connecting the Orient with the Occident. The Sea was and still is not only a medium for transportation and commerce but also for crosscutting linkages between the different cultures.

Ulcinj was mentioned for the first time by the Roman scholar Plinius the older in the year 144. Over the centuries the town at the South Adriatic coast became a place where people of different origin, language, culture and religion lived together: Illyrians, Romans, Albanians, Macedonians, Greeks, Mongols, Turks, Venetians, Montenegrins and Serbs. While being part of the Balkans Ulcinj has had a turbulent past and was ruled and conquered by several rulers. In 1880, Ulcinj became part of Montenegro as a result of the Berlin Congress, after the Serbs and Montenegrins regained it from the Ottoman Turks between 1876-78. Insofar, Ulcinj mirrors the history of different cultures.

The Academy not only offered the possibility to get to know Ulcinj and the Montenegrin coast in the south, but also to go on a cultural and sightseeing tour in order to explore other parts of the country and to experience the rich historic and cultural heritage of Montenegro. The excursion, which is always organised on a Saturday after the first week of lectures, has become an integral part of the programme and a tradition of the Academy. This year, the excursion led the participants to the Mountain of Lovćen, the Bay of Kotor, including a longer visit of the Venetian town of Kotor and finally to the old Venetian and Ottoman town and fortress of Stari Bar.

After a bus ride and several stops to enjoy the panoramic view of Sveti Stefan and the Bay of Budva (Budvanska rivijera), the way lead us through the national park to the mountain of Lovćen. The 420 stairs led to the very top of the mountain where the mausoleum of the famous poet and Prince-Bishop of Montenegro Petar II Petrović Njegoš is situated (1657 m). From the panorama platform, the students enjoyed the unforgettable view over the mountains and the former capital of Montenegro, Cetinje on one side and the Bay of Kotor on the other side. On clear mornings, the view even reaches to Albania and the open sea. The trip took us further to the picturesque Venetian town of Kotor, while we drove all the way down the adventurous and very narrow road with twenty-five serpentines which were built during the rule of the Habsburgs. During the bus ride, the students enjoyed the amazing view over the Bay of Kotor which is a special region that is protected by UNESCO. Kotor is one of the most beautiful towns in Montenegro, surrounded by fortifications built during the Venetian period. The centre of Kotor is known for its narrow streets leading to wonderful squares and precious palaces, which used to be inhabited by noble families. In its rich past the city was ruled by various conquerors: the Bulgarian Empire, the Serbian Empire, the Ottomans, the Venetians, the Habsburgs, whose influences are visible at every corner – the architecture and historic monuments, but also in the special mentality and openness of the people living in Kotor. At the end of the trip, the participants had the possibility to visit the fortress of the Old Town of Bar, which was built during the early middle ages. Stari Bar is known for its sunsets that paints the old fortress in warm orange and purple red colours. The excursion was well received by the students. It was a great possibility to get to know each other better and to refill our energy for the upcoming week.



Photos: Students in Kotor and at the top Lovćen

Final exam

As the Straniak Academy team is striving to offer an academic base, an obligatory final exam is organised on the last day of the Academy. Last year the Straniak Academy team decided to make an exception and offered the test as a facultative choice for those students who needed a diploma. This experiment led to the fact that some of the students did not take their obligation to participate in the lectures seriously, so that the facultative choice was not an option any longer.

The exam is composed of questions referring to the topics discussed during the lectures. In order to prepare the exam, the lecturers were asked to provide at least two questions covering their topics. The final exam is usually finalised by prof. Tretter and prof. Jelić. This year, prof. Sancin prepared the exam together with professor Tretter.

What was new this year? The questions were composed in a more difficult way, due to the high level of the students' knowledge and their competences. The questions were not only composed as multiple-choice questions which was the usual habit in the previous years. Attention was particularly given to in-depth understanding of the topics, the reflection and interlinkages between the theoretical concepts and international human rights mechanisms and current topics, so that the questions required well-elaborated answers and examples. Some of the questions were: *What does it mean that – according to the European Court for Human Rights (ECtHR) – the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is a “dynamic” and “living instrument”, which rights have to be interpreted “in the light of present day conditions” in order to be practical and effective? What does it mean that media is called as and has the function of a “public watchdog”?* In addition to the quality of the answers, the students got additional points for their active participation during the lectures.

This year, the students were very ambitious. They studied hard even after the exhausting lectures and some of them stayed in the seminar room even after midnight so that it was no surprise that the results of the exam were very satisfying. The best student of the Straniak Academy 2016 was Nathalie Brügger (AT), closely followed by Haris Huremagić (AT). Katja Kolman (SLO), Maša Ban (SLO), Mandrit Kamolli (ALB), Julia Zöchling (AT), Boris Lipovina (MNE), Karin Christine Prüger (AT) and Tatjana Kremenović (AT) also achieved excellent results. Congratulations to all of the Straniak students for their outstanding achievements, devotion and active participation during the whole two weeks! It was a pleasure to work with you!

Due to the academic character of the programme, it is possible to get ECTS according to the rules and procedures of the respective home faculties and universities. The Faculty of Social Sciences in Vienna and the Law Faculty in Linz allocated eleven (11) ECTS for the Straniak Academy, while the Law Faculty in Vienna approved seven (7) ECTS. Even though the rules and procedures of the respective faculties and universities might differ regarding the number of ECTS, the Straniak Academy should be recognised by all faculties and universities given its academic character.



Studying hard for the exam.

Closing ceremony and diplomas

The closing ceremony took place after the exam. The students were invited to a goodbye drink on the terrace of the hotel Palata Venezia. The Straniak Academy team, prof. Hannes Tretter, director of the Academy, and prof. Vasilka Sancin held short speeches, thanking everyone for the great work and amazing experience. The Straniak Academy also had the pleasure to welcome the Austrian ambassador Mr. Johann Fröhlich who joined for the closing ceremony and who also addressed the students. Subsequently Mr. Gani Resulbegović's short address note followed where he mentioned what a nice experience the Academy also was for the hotel. After the speeches, drinks and dinner were served and photos were taken. The expressions on the faces revealed the mixed emotions on the last day: at the same time a sentiment of happiness and sadness, because the two weeks went by so fast. During these two weeks, the students acquired a lot of new knowledge, broadened their horizons and had the chance listen to presentations of top experts, while also having the chance to lead interesting discussion with them. They got to know Montenegro and formed close friendships and networks, which is one of the major benefits of the Straniak Academy.

On the following day, the Straniak Academy team together with prof. Vasilka Sancin handed over the diplomas and certificates to the participants and celebrated the special moment with the students on a terrace of the Hotel Palata Venezia. . Then the time came to say goodbye to each other.

The participants are still in contact with each other, the two weeks were just the beginning of new friendships!





Photos p.16 and 17: Closing ceremony; speeches by the Austrian ambassador, Mr. Johann Fröhlich, prof. Hannes Tretter and prof. Vasilka Sancin; Students at the terrace of the Hotel Palata Venezia; Handing over the diplomas and farewell.

Evaluation of the Academy by the students

The Straniak Academy team did its best to make the Academy a successful and pleasant experience for all, students as well as lecturers. In order to be able to respond to suggestions for improvement, the participants are asked to share their opinion and evaluate the Straniak Academy every year.

The regular exchange of opinions and feedback is of utmost importance for the Straniak Academy in order to be able to include constructive suggestions in the programme, and to respond to the critique and individual requests, thus constantly continuing to improve. To hold a feedback round after the first week has already become a tradition, which allows students to share their impressions with the Straniak Academy team and to express their wishes and proposals for the second week. The majority of the students was very satisfied with the programme and the didactic methods. The holistic approach was very well received, as well the tandem teaching. Most of the students underlined that the Academy was a great opportunity to acquire new academic knowledge, to learn from the best in the field and appreciated the committed work of the Straniak Academy team and all the lecturers very much. They were grateful for the opportunity to have been chosen to take part and took the Academy seriously, which was also visible in their commitment and active involvement.

A novelty was that the Straniak Academy team distributed anonymous evaluation sheets to every student right at the beginning of the Academy. The memory and the impressions were fresh, so that the students could provide more clear and detailed answers, which in the end provided a more objective overall view. During the previous years, the evaluation sheets were usually distributed on the last day. The questionnaire is composed in a way that the students have the possibility to evaluate each topic and lecturer by indicating their assessment from 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent) and to include comments about every lecture. The questionnaire included not only general questions about the organisation and the structure of the programme, but also detailed questions about every single lecture concerning the expertise and competences of the lecturers, the methodology, the working atmosphere and the new knowledge acquired.

In the following, the most frequent suggestions mentioned in the questionnaire are summarised:

Role-play

- The role-play day was exhausting. It should be shorter or be organised during two days.
- The material for the preparation of the role-play should be distributed several weeks in advance, as well as instructions given on rules and procedures (how to write position papers, how to prepare for diplomatic negotiations—length of the speeches, procedural matters...), so that the students have enough time to think about how to prepare for the role-play in the best possible way.
- The aim of the role-play and the expected outcomes have to be clear. Students have to know what is expected from them, in order to be able to prepare.
- A big problem was the missing input from the experts who did not provide enough guidelines. The lecturers did not take a proactive role and did not guide the process in a sufficient way. Instead, the lecturers should have given an introduction in international refugee law first, especially because not everyone has a legal background. This would have enabled the participants to refer more to international rules and tools.
- The organisation of the role-play needs to be improved.

Material for the lectures

- Material should be sent before the beginning of the Academy (the power point presentations and a scriptum) so that students can prepare themselves in advance, which could enable them to profit more from the lectures. This would be particularly beneficial for those students who do not have a background in law. In addition, it should be made clear that everyone has to download the international documents and/or bring a compilation of the most relevant international declarations (book or scriptum) with them.

Lectures

- Sometimes less is more! The topics were presented very quickly because the programme covers too many topics. Instead, less topics should be included, which would allow more in-depth analyses and discussions that are more fruitful. The need to discuss the topics in a more profound way was mentioned several times.
- Some of the presentations contained too many historic details, which should be avoided in order to uphold the concentration. Instead of providing a huge amount of information on power point presentations, it would be more interesting to discuss a situation or a case (for example, situations or cases the OSCE had to deal with in the past...). This way, the students could link theory with practice in a better way.
- Lectures organised outside of the conference room were very well received!
- More interactive work and group-work should be planned in the future, for it is a great experience to share the knowledge and views with colleagues from different countries.
- The ICTY expert and practitioners should be given more time. Practical experience is always very interesting! Whenever possible, the lecturers should combine theoretical background and their practical experience, which was well combined in the lecture on data protection and access to information.
- Lecturers should prepare the power point presentation together and not provide two separate presentations for the same topic, which sometimes leads to an overload or overlapping of information.

Test

- More information and transparent guidelines should be provided about the test (what kind of questions – only multiple-choice or open questions – which is important to know, so that the students know how to study for it. Instead of organising a written exam, some students suggested that an oral exam would be more pleasant or writing an essay, which would be less stressful and at the same time allow a more intense reflection of a topic.

Location

- The location was perceived as intellectually stimulating and beautiful. The bad internet access was however a big problem.

Time management

- The Academy should last three weeks instead of two. There would be more time to deal with the topics and to enjoy Montenegro!
- More free time, especially during the first week, should be planned for the future. All free time was used for the preparation of the role-play, some students worked until midnight, so that they were not able to concentrate on the following days.

The Straniak Academy team will consider all the suggestions for the future. However, the suggestion to send the presentations and the material several weeks in advance will not be possible. To prepare the lectures and to send the presentations before the start of the Academy is not a realistic task for the lecturers, who in general prepare and adapt their lectures shortly before the beginning of their lectures.

In addition, the suggestion for more free time will not be taken into consideration, because the programme was already changed in a way that the students have much more free time than the first generation. The academic character of the Academy has to be respected which also means a certain number of lecturing units.

General achievements and impact of the Academy

One of the main goals of the Academy is to encourage young people to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in their countries. Especially in the Western Balkan region – which is still experiencing a transformation process of the former political, economic and ideological regimes – the task to promote democracy by educating and encouraging young people seems more important than ever.

The experience of the last twenty years proves that most of the states of the Western Balkan region – especially Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also the current EU accession candidates (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and even the new EU Member States (Croatia, Bulgaria and Rumania) – are still facing numerous problems: corruption, hindered access to justice due to inefficient administrative structures and non-transparent procedures, discrimination, restricted freedom of expression and freedom of the media, high unemployment rates, weak civil societies and missing transformative power within the societies, to name just a few. These circumstances, of course, affect the everyday lives of the citizens and especially the younger generations. Instead of giving them the possibility to use their potentials in their own countries, the highly skilled young people seek solutions elsewhere, which leads to brain drain and a huge loss of potentials.

The transformation process depends on two factors: the willingness to dismantle the past on one side, and to introduce new mechanisms that would allow overcoming the deadlocked structures on the other. Analysing and understanding the current problems goes hand in hand with deconstructing the narratives of the past from different perspectives in order to work out sustainable solutions for the countries and their citizens. As already mentioned in the previous reports, the younger generations play an important role in these processes. They are the future leaders and experts who will determine the way and orientation of their countries. Education is an important part in these transformation processes. Only education and awareness raising will enable the younger generations to stop repeating and reproducing the same old discourses and to start to work out sustainable solutions. Only then their countries will become functioning democracies. This is why providing a high quality education in democracy, the rule of law and human rights is of utmost importance.

The Straniak Academy is going to continue to provide support in that regard. In 2016, the overall objectives of the Straniak Academy, namely to promote academic education on democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to raise awareness about the importance of these topics was fully met. The special format of the Academy– the combination of theory and practical experience, the interdisciplinary and interactive teaching methods and the principle of “tandem teaching”– contributed to achieve these goals. The fact that so many students from different countries of the Western Balkan

region, the EU Member States and other countries had the possibility to meet each other, get to know each other and work together intensively during the two weeks, contributed to overcoming deeply rooted prejudices and stereotypes. The participation in a joint programme encourages mutual understanding, which is a precondition for a brighter future of the Western Balkan region.

It is also important to mention that the Straniak Academy strengthens the cooperation between the Faculties of Law of the University of Vienna and the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University of Montenegro, and other universities and faculties, such as the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, or the Faculties of Law and Political Science in Belgrade. Inviting lectures from different countries offers the possibility to meet old or new colleagues, which is also beneficial concerning future cooperation activities such as organising guest lectures and interexchange programmes for students and young graduates from the region, Austria and other countries.

Outlook to the future and special thanks

After the first successful implementation period from 2013-2015, the Hermann and Marianne Straniak Foundation decided – to our great pleasure – to continue to support the project for another three years, from 2016-2018. This year, additional partners (the Association for Social Justice) provided a considerable financial contribution without which the implementation would not have been possible. We hope to continue receiving additional support from the Central European Initiative (CEI) and are very positive that we will be able to ensure the rest of the needed funds for the implementation of the Academy in the years to come.

As mentioned in the previous report, the Straniak Academy team will consider the possibility to let the Academy go “on tour” in the Western Balkan region and even to create a similar cooperation programme in other regions – especially the OSCE region within the framework of the upcoming OSCE presidency of Austria in 2017. This idea has already been welcomed by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Integration, Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Finally, at the end of this report, we would like to express our thanks to all who contributed to make the Straniak Academy 2016 a very special experience:

- our partners and supporters, in especially Mr. *Christoph Liebscher*, president of the Straniak Foundation, and of course the Foundation itself;
- the Central European Initiative (CEI) covering a big proportion of the accommodation costs for the students;
- the Faculties of Law of the University of Vienna and the Faculties of Law and Political Science of the University of Montenegro;
- our lecturers who shared their expertise and experience with great passion and enthusiasm;
- our students who have shown great interest and desire to deepen their knowledge and promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and who actively participated and asked important questions during the Academy;
- Mr. *Gani Resulbegović*, his son *Ćazim Resulbegović*, and the whole staff of his hotel *Palata Venezia*, in particular Ms. *Dženita Bakić*, who accommodated us with great hospitality and did everything to make our stay in Ulcinj a very special experience.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU!

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE STRANIAK ACADEMY 2017!

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Straniak Academy

for Democracy and Human Rights

Programme

4 to 17 September 2016

Ulcinj/Montenegro

Sunday, 4th September

- 18:00-19:30 Welcome drink
Welcome by the leading team of the Straniak Academy
- *Hannes Tretter*
 - *Ivana Jelić*
 - *Nina Radović*
- Introduction of students and organisational questions
- 19:30 Welcome addresses and reception

Part 1: Introduction

Monday, 5th September

- 10:00-12:00 Initial lesson & discussion: What does democracy, rule of law and human rights mean? Is there a coherence of them? What are the powers in a modern democracy, how does the system of checks & balances work? (*Hannes Tretter* and *Ivana Jelić*)
- 12:00-15:00 Lunch and beach
- 15:00-19:00 Concepts & standards, strengths & weaknesses of modern democracies; Reality of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Western Balkan States (*Vedran Džihić, Marijana Grandits*) including break
- 19:30-20:00 Preparations for the role play (*Vasilka Sancin, Manfred Nowak*)

Part 2: United Nations and OSCE

Tuesday, 6th September

- 09:30-13:00 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the development, actual status and challenges of the UN Human rights protection system (*Ivana Jelić* and *Manfred Nowak*), including break
- 13:00-15:00 Lunch & Beach

15:00-18:00 The UN Charter, transitional justice, individual criminal responsibility and universal jurisdiction (ICTY, UNICTR, SCSL, Khmer Rouge Tribunal, ICC, national courts) (*Manfred Nowak* and *Vasilka Sancin* together with *Thomas Pittman* - ICTY Outreach Programme) including break

Wednesday, 7th September

09:00-10:30 Review and discussion: Bosnia and Hercegovina today – challenges and perspectives (*Vedran Džihic* and *Nina Radovic*)

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 Responsibility to protect (R2P) – Peace enforcement, humanitarian intervention & UN case studies (Bosnia and Hercegovina, Ruanda, Kuwait-Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Iraq, Syria) (*Vasilka Sancin* and *Manfred Nowak*)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – its history and mission & OSCE in practise (human dimension, conflict prevention, early warning, crisis management, mediation) (*Hannes Tretter* and *Vasilka Sancin*)

As of 15:30 Free time & Time for studying and preparing for the role play

Thursday, 8th September

09:30-13:30 Role play: How to overcome the current refugee drama – negotiations, trying to find alternatives to real developments and approaches according to international and CoE/EU human and refugee rights standards

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-19:00 Role play: How to overcome the current refugee drama – drafting of an agreement, release and presentation of the final agreement

Academic support: *Manfred Nowak, Vasilka Sancin, Yuval Shany, Jelena Jovanovic*

Part 3: Council of Europe

Friday, 9th September

09:00-12:00 Introduction into the human rights regime of the Council of Europe, including European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) (*Hannes Tretter* and *Ivana Jelic*), including break

12:00-13:30 Protection of Minorities by the CoE (*Ivana Jelic* and *Hannes Tretter*)

13:30-15:00 Lunch & Beach

Part 4: European Union

15:00-19:00 The fundamental rights framework of the EU – Treaty of Lisbon, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR), the relationship between the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) before and after the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the role of the EU

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) (*Hannes Tretter* and *Vesna Knežević Predić*), including break

Saturday, 10th September

Excursion to Lovćen, Kotor and Stari Bar (optional)

Sunday, 11th September

Free time & time for studying

11:00-11:30 Concert: Oren Fader - guitar (International Music Festival Ulcinj) – Hotel Palata Venezia

17:00-18:00 Concert: Gjylie Pelingu - soprano, Oren Fader - guitar, Barry Crawford - flute, Eleanor Valkenburg - soprano (International Music Festival Ulcinj) – Hotel Palata Venezia

Part 5: Selected human rights issues

Monday, 12th September

09:30-11:00 Freedom of expression, independence and pluralism of the media as preconditions for a living democracy (*Hannes Tretter* and *Vasilka Sancin*)

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-13:00 Data protection and access to information (*Aleksa Ivanović* and *Christof Tschohl*)

13:00-15:00 Lunch & Beach

15:00-18:00 Prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment including CPT, OPCAT, NPM and the rights of prisoners and other people restricted in their personal freedom (*Hannes Tretter* and *Vasilka Sancin*), including break

18:30-20:00 Evening discussion “Are civic movements and social media shaping a new power within contemporary democratic societies?”
Panellists: *Lana Vukmirović-Mišić* (Harrison Solicitors), *Nina Radović* (BIM); *Christof Tschohl* (AKVorrat), Moderation: *Olivera Komar*

Tuesday, 13th September

09:30-11:00 Women’s and children’s rights (*Vasilka Sancin* and *Ajša Hadžibegović*)

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-13:00 Combating trafficking in human beings (*Vasilka Sancin* and *Davor Derenčinović*)

13:00-15:00 Lunch & Beach

15:00-16:30 Independence and impartiality of the judiciary and procedural rights & right to personal liberty and security (*Davor Derenčinović* and *Christof Tschohl*)

16:30-17:00 Break

17:00-18:30 Combating corruption and the concept of good governance (*Davor Derenčinović* and *Olivera Komar*)

Wednesday, 14th September

09:30-13:30 The principles of equality and non-discrimination & Combating discrimination and hate speech, and underlying ideologies like racism, anti-semitism, xenophobia, islamophobia and homophobia (*Katrin Wladasch, Mehmed Dječević*), including break

As of 13:30 Lunch & Beach, Time for studying

Thursday, 15th September

09:30-11:00 Human Rights and the environment (*Hana Mullerová and Maja Kostić-Mandić*)

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-13:00 Human rights and corporate social responsibility (*Karin Lukas and Vladimir Savković*)

13:00-14:30 Lunch & Beach

14:30-16:00 Social rights and poverty reduction (*Karin Lukas and Nikola Dožić*)

As of 16:00 Time for studying

Friday, 16th September

Free time & Time for studying

13:00-14:00 Lunch

16:30-19:30 Multiple-choice test

19:30 Farewell addresses and reception

Saturday, 17st September

10:00 Handing-over certificates to the students, farewell

Annex 2 Lecturers

The teachers were among others:

Davor Derenčinović is Full Professor of Criminal Law, the Head of Department for Criminal Law and Vice-Dean for International Cooperation and Science at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. He is a researcher and lecturer at prestigious academic and scientific institutions: Istituto Superiore Internazionale di Scienze Criminali, London School of Economics, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht etc. Prof. Derenčinović is Head of Doctoral Studies in Criminal Sciences at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb and the founder and director of the course “Crime Prevention Through Criminal Law and Security Studies” at Interuniversity Center in Dubrovnik. He is the director of life-long learning module for legal practitioners “Criminal Code in Practical Application” and a member in several editorial boards such as the Yearbook of the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences etc..

Mehmed Dječević is Teaching Assistant and Researcher at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Montenegro, where he researches mainly in social psychology. He is a doctorate candidate in the department of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Montenegro, where he defended his master thesis in social psychology in 2010. He graduated in psychology at University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006. In addition, he attended gestalt psychotherapy and transactional analysis education for years. He contributes regularly to the international and domestic conferences and publishes.

Nikola Dožić is a Lecturer and Teaching Assistant in Department of Civil Law of the Faculty of Law University of Montenegro. His primary fields of interests are European private law and Consumer protection law, but he also deals with poverty reduction. Currently his research is focused on the topic of collective redress. His academic promotion is in the process. He has taken part in several international researches, as well as education at regional SEE level, mainly through SEELS Network.

Vedran Džihić is Senior Researcher at the Austrian Institute for International Politics and holds lectures at the University of Vienna. His field of expertise are socioeconomic and political transformation, conflict studies, international conflict management, European integration, EU enlargement. Since 2010, he is an Austrian Marshall Plan Fellow and Senior Fellow at the Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, USA.

Marijana Grandits started her engagement for Human Rights already as a student, fighting for minority rights and the right to development for the global south. Having served as a former Green deputy to the Austrian National Parliament Marijana Grandits is now a member of a regional commission at the Ombudsman Board in Vienna and a dedicated human rights consultant. As an educator Marijana Grandits raises human rights awareness through her lectures both in the Viennese and Venetian academic environments, the latter being related to her contribution to the European Masters Programme at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice. In 2015 she received the Bruno Kreisky Human Rights Award.

Ajša Hadžibegović is Programme Director of the NGO Civic Alliance in Montenegro. She has professional experience as trainer on peace education, conflict transformation, human and children rights, employability, inclusion, project management, training and presentation skills, communication and fundraising. She is also a member of the working groups for drafting the Strategy for Development of the NGO sector and the Law on Youth in Montenegro.

Aleksa Ivanović is a member of the Council at the Agency for Personal Data Protection in Montenegro. He worked for diverse international organisations such as the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and has profound experience in the rule of law and in the NGO sector. In addition, he was a member the

working group for drafting Montenegrin law on NGOs, working group for Preparation of the Draft Law on Discrimination, and the State Committee for Reducing Weapons.

Ivana Jelić, Deputy Director of the Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights, is Associate Professor at the Law Faculty and Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, University of Montenegro. She teaches public international law, international human rights law and diplomatic and consular law. She has profound working experience as consultant/expert with the CoE, EU, OSCE, OECD, ICRC, UNDP, and provided expertise on the harmonization of Montenegrin legislation with EU standards. Since 2012, she is a member and since 2014 a Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on the CoE Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in respect of Montenegro. She is a member to the UN Human Rights Committee, for mandate period 2015-2018. She published numerous scientific papers, among which three monographs.

Jelena Jovanović is teaching assistant Faculty of Political Science. Her primary fields of interests are human rights law, antidiscrimination law, diplomatic and consular law, European integration, European Union Law. In her work, she is particularly dealing with antidiscrimination rules in Europe, and citizenship. She has participated in a significant number of conferences in Montenegro and Europe. Jelena is also a media analyst at Arhimed.doo, and, among other things, in her position she deals with human rights in the Montenegrin media on daily basis.

Maja Kostić-Mandić is University Professor at the the University of Montenegro, Faculty of Law. She teaches Private International Law, Environmental Law and International Environmental Law and regularly publishes in these fields. Her main fields of interest are applicable law for contractual obligations, public participation in environmental decision-making and international commercial arbitration. Currently, she is preparing for publishing her textbook on Private International Law. For detailed CV and bibliography see <http://www.pravni.ucg.ac.me/o-nama.php?ID=91>;

Vesna Knežević Predić is Chair in public international law and law of international organizations of the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade. She is Head of The Faculty's Center for International Humanitarian Law and International Organisations and a member of the Commission for International Humanitarian Law of the Serbian Red Cross. Prof. Knežević-Predić acted as principle legal advisor to the Ministry of foreign affairs of Serbia and has rich expertise in international academic projects. She authored several books and published extensively in international and domestic journals.

Olivera Komar is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, University of Montenegro and teaches on contemporary political systems, introduction to political science, political communication, political behaviour, introduction to comparative politics, political marketing and public opinion. Since November 2012, she is Vice-dean for international cooperation at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro.

Karin Lukas is Senior Researcher and Team Leader of the Human Rights in Development Cooperation and Business Team at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. She holds lectures, trainings and presentations for various target groups on human rights and business, women's rights and development cooperation. She is a member of the European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe and works as consultant for UNDP, Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austrian Development Agency, OMV, etc.

Hana Müllerová is a Research Fellow in the Public Law Department, Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, where she specializes in Environmental Law. She received a PhD from the Faculty of Law, Charles University, in Prague, where she also currently works as an External Lecturer at the Department of Environmental Law. Prior to that, she worked for the Department of Legislation at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. She is the vice-chairwoman of the Czech Environmental Law Society. She has published in Czech and English on issues of the human

right to environment, the role of the ECtHR (and its 'margin of appreciation' doctrine) in environmental protection, the procedural environmental rights under the Aarhus Convention and animal law.

Manfred Nowak is Professor for International Law and Human Rights at the University of Vienna and Co-Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. Amongst many of his functions, he is Head of the Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights at Vienna University and Vice-Chairperson of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. Among his former functions, he was Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights at Utrecht University (1987-89), UN Expert on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia (1994-97), Judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo (1996-2003), Olof Palme Professor of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University (2002-2003), Chairperson of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratization (E.MA) in Venice (2000-2007) and UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004-2010).

Thomas 'Wayde' Pittman is the Head of Chambers at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (United Nations) in The Hague, Netherlands, where he has been employed since 2005. From 2010 to 2011, he served on loan to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon as Chef de Cabinet to the Registrar. He earned the Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of Nebraska in 1992 and an LL.M. degree cum laude in Public International Law from Leiden University in 2005. He served as a military judge in the European Judicial Circuit of the United States Air Force from 2001 to 2004 at the conclusion of his career in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Nina Radović is a Researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna and Coordinator for the Straniak Academy. She holds a master degree in Romance Philology (French language and literature) and a master degree in International Development. Currently, she is studying Law at the Law Faculty of the University in Vienna and is professor Tretter's assistant. Her main field of research/project related work is the current state of democratisation processes, human rights and civil society in the Western Balkan region. Previously, she worked for CARE Austria and the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of minority rights.

Vasilka Sancin is Vice-Dean for Quality Assurance, Head of the Department of International Law and a Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana. She is an Associate professor of International Law and teaches courses on public international law, law of armed conflict, diplomatic and consular law, international legal aspects of the EU law and international organisations at undergraduate and postgraduate level. She is also a Director of the Centre for International and Business Law in Ljubljana and a Conference Chair of two series of biannual scientific interdisciplinary conferences on R2P (Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice Conferences – www.r2pconference.com) and environmental issues (www.environmentlawconference.com).

Vladimir Savković is Vice Dean at the Faculty of Law of the University of Montenegro and Assistant Professor at the Department of Business and Corporate Law. As one of the negotiators, he is also intensively involved in the negotiation process between European Union and Montenegro in regard to the accession of Montenegro. He authored numerous scientific papers and regularly publishes at national and international level.

Yuval Shany is the Hersch Lauterpacht Chair in International Law and Dean of the Law Faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Currently, he is a member of the UN Human Rights Committee and a senior research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute. He has published a number of books and articles on international courts and arbitration tribunals and other international law issues. Yuval Shany is the recipient of the 2004 American Society of International Law book award and the 2008 European Research Council grant. Shany has taught in a number of law schools in Israel, and has been in recent years a research fellow in Harvard and Amsterdam Universities and a visiting professor at the

Georgetown University Law Center, Michigan University Law School, Columbia University Law School, the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney and Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London. He is a member of ESIL, ASIL and the ILA.

Christof Tschohl is Scientific Director of the Research Institute AG & Co KG in Austria, Of Counsel at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Lecturer in education and training of Austrian judges and prosecutors, Lecturer at the Danube University Krems and the University of Vienna. He is also Board Member of the 'Working Group on Data Retention Austria' (AKVorrat.at) and Board Member of the Austrian Computer Society (OCG). His fields of expertise are fundamental and human rights in the digital information society, technology and law, telecommunications law, media law and IT law, as well as fundamental rights in the judicial practice.

Hannes Tretter, the Director of the Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights, is Associate Professor for fundamental and human rights law at the inter-disciplinary Research Centre Human Rights of the University of Vienna, and Scientific Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM) in Vienna. He is also teaching at the Danube University Krems/Austria and as a Visiting Professor at the University of Montenegro. He was and is acting as human rights expert in various EU projects and as legal adviser in procedures before the European Court of Human Rights. Between 2007 and 2012 he was Vice-chair of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

Katrin Wladasch works as Legal and Socio-Economic Researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. Her main areas of expertise are anti-discrimination, diversity and access to justice and her work focuses on bringing the underlying principles into practise – in Austria as well as in EU accession countries. She is vice-president of the Litigation Association of NGOs against discrimination, member of the monitoring body for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Vienna and was founding board member of the NGO ZARA for civil courage and anti-racism work (1999-2013) and member of the human rights advisory board to the Austrian Ombudsman Office (2012-2014). She is lecturer at the University of Vienna, the Danube University Krems and the University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna and has been working as a human rights consultant and trainer since 1999.

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