



ICON-S Balkans Chapter Inaugural Conference Belgrade 2026

Union University Law School Belgrade
10-11 October 2026

PUBLIC LAW IN CHALLENGING TIMES: GOVERNANCE, RESILIENCE, AND EUROPEANIZATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PANEL SESSIONS I (1-8)

October 10, 2026
13:30 –15:00

Panel 1: **The Day After Authoritarianism**

Grand Hall

Chair: **Bojan Spaić**

Miodrag Jovanović

No Rule of Law for Enemies of Rule of Law?

Victoria Kristan

After Illiberalism: From Diagnosis to Jailbreaking

Denis Preshova

From Judicial Capture to Judicial Re-Capture: The Missed Opportunities
for Sustainable Rule of Law Reforms in North Macedonia

Panel 2: **Contemporary Trends in Constitutional Law and Practice**

Mid Hall

Chair: **Dragoljub Popović**

Tanasije Marinković

Trends in Constitutional Law Studies: Substance, Methodology,
Deontology

Arta Vorpsi

The Rule of Law under Structural Stress: From Normative Ideal to Operational Practice in Transitional Constitutionalism

Dorđe Gardašević

Separating Normalcy and Emergency: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives

Maja Nastić

Digitalization of Justice in Times of Crises: Between Resilience, Human Rights, and Democratic Governance in the Balkans

Darko Simović

Between Standards and Illusions: The Venice Commission and Its Limited Impact on Serbia's Constitutional Reform

Panel 3: **Book Panel: Europeanisation of Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: The Aarhus Convention in the Balkans**, edited by Bojana Todorović and Roberto Caranta

Classroom 1

Chair: **Bojana Todorović**

Discussants:

Roberto Caranta

Mirjana Drenovak Ivanović

Ana Knežević Bojović

Hristina Vojvodić

Panel 4: **Internal and External Influence on State Tax Politics**

Classroom 2

Chair: **Marton Varju**

Antonio Marinello

Tax Sovereignty in Times of Crisis

Svetislav Kostić

Reliance on Modern Technologies for the Purpose of Limiting the Potential for Abuse of Authority by the Executive Branch of the Government

Vladimir Tiutiuriukov, Lidija Živković

EU's Global Minimum Tax Reform (Pillar Two): its Influence and Challenges for the States of Western Balkans

Emma Niewald

Russian Political Financial Influence in the Western Balkans

Jelena Račić

The Right to Appeal in Public Procurement – The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Role of a “Positive Legislator”

Panel 5: **Imposed Consociationalism under Systemic Stress: Crisis, Resilience, and the Limits of Europeanization in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Classroom 3

Chair: **Mahir Muharemović**

Tahir Herenda

Consociational Deadlock vs. Multi-Level Integration: The State-Level House of Peoples as a Structural Stress Test for Europeanization

Filip Novaković

Can Courts Europeanize a Blocked Constitution? Constitutional Adjudication and the Limits of Judicial Transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Benjamin Nurkić

Militant Democracy in a Politically Divided Society – Evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panel 6: **Book Panel: The Rise of Constitutionalism: A Global Perspective,**
by Kostas Chrysogonos

Classroom 4

Chair: **Kostas Chrysogonos**

Discussants:

Jens Woelk

Maja Sahadžić

Antonios Kouroutakis

Panel 7: **Reimagining Accountability in Sustainable Development:
Governance through the Universal Periodic Review**

Moot Court Room

Chair: **Milica V. Matijević**

Bhanu Pratap

Universalism and Pluralism in Sustainable Development Governance:
A Critical Assessment of the UPR-SDG Nexus

Vesna Ćorić

Human Rights, Sustainable Development, and the Fragmentation
of International Law: Can the Universal Periodic Review Foster
Normative Integration?

Federico Falorni

The Global Diffusion of Proportionality and Its Relevance for SDG
Accountability Mechanisms

Alessia Preti

The Universal Periodic Review as an Accountability Mechanism
for the 2030 Agenda: Bridging Global and Subnational Governance

Panel 8: **Europeanisation and the Transformation of Public Law Institutions**

Library

Chair: **Ivan Jokanović**

Weronika Pietras

Constitutional Courts and the Limits of Europeanisation:
The Relationship Between EU Law and National Constitutional Orders

Gellért Nagy

Navigating International Waters with a Broad(ening) Scope –
An Examination of the European Union's Exclusive External Competence
in the Case Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union

Zuzanna Żurawska

Constitutional Identity as a Political Argument in Response to
Europeanization: Between Justified Pluralism and Strategic Resistance

PANEL SESSIONS II (9-16)

October 10, 2026

15:30-17:00

Panel 9: **How Authoritarianism and Corruption Killed the Rule of Law**

Grand Hall

Chair: **Miodrag Jovanović**

Luka Glušac, Gazela Pudar Draško

Holdover and Handover: Authoritarian Appointments in Serbia

Dejan Pavlović

The Barrage Fire on the Autonomy of Universities in Serbia

Marjan Kos

Anti-corruption Authorities and Rule of Law Resilience: Lessons from Slovenia

Türker Ertaş

Constitutional Design and Executive Dominance: Comparative Lessons from Russia, Poland and Turkey

Emma Niewald

Corruption-Related Protests in the Balkans: Novi Sad vs Kočani

Panel 10: **Contemporary Challenges to Public Administration**

Mid Hall

Chair: **Tamás Korhecz**

Jelena Jerinić

Remedying Populist Influences on Local Autonomy: Is There Room for a Legal Approach?

Vasilije Marković

Procedural Guarantees of Citizenship Deprivation: Between National Security and Human Rights Protection

Mădălina Voican

Digital Crisis and Democratic Accountability: Transparency Failures and Reform Pathways in Romanian Local Public Administration

Batuhan Ustabulut

Normalized Exception in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Executive Discretion of the OHR and the Rule of Law

Panel 11: **The Fight for Judicial Independence**

Classroom 1

Chair: **Đorđe Gardašević**

János Fazekas

The Hungarian Regime Change of 2026 and the Judiciary

Samo Bardutzky

Judicial Independence through Merit in the Selection of Judges
(Through Empirical Research)

Mohammadreza Dolatkhan

When Courts Hold the Line: Constitutional Resilience and the Rule
of Law in Southeast Europe

Fran Marko Stojković

Adjudicating Judicial Independence Beyond Backsliding

Nazarii Stetsyk

Judicial Dialogues and European Integration in the Balkans

Panel 12: **The New Clothes of Authoritarianism from Liberal Perspective**

Classroom 2

Chair: **Srđan Milošević**

Niko Jarak

“That’s (Not) How We Do It Here”: Assessing Authoritarian Legacy
in Post-Socialist States at the National and EU Levels – The Case of
Internal Judicial Independence in Croatia

Sava Vojnović

Mini-Publics in the Republic of Serbia – An Application of Deliberative
Democracy

Ana Vladislavljević

Populism and Its (Anti-)Democratic Potential: The New Form of Old
Anxiety?

Petar Mitrović

Gender-Sensitive Language in Serbia: A Minimalist Liberal Perspective

Maraia Tzvetkova

Resilience in the Western Balkans: Between Constitutional Governance
and Patronal Rule

Panel 13: **Vulnerability, Resilience and the Rule of Law: Conceptual Links across Criminal Law, Environmental Jurisprudence and Cultural Heritage Law**

Classroom 3

Chair: **Dalida Rittossa**

Darko Vinketa

The Fragile Subject: Vulnerability as Critique of the Liberal Legal Imagination

Sanja Barić

From Environmental Protection to Rights of Nature: Vulnerability as an Argument for a Shift in Constitutional Approach

Petra Perišić

Climate-Induced Vulnerability and the Protection of Cultural Heritage: Strengthening Preventive Obligations of States for Enhanced Resilience

Dalida Rittossa

Vulnerability Theory and Criminal Law: A Move Toward Strengthening Resilience through Victim Protection?

Panel 14: **Militant Democracy: New and Old Dilemmas**

Library

Chair: **Violeta Beširević**

Anita Blagojević, Ivana Tucak

Rethinking Militant Democracy through the Lens of Gender Equality Backsliding

Sarah Lattanzi

Online Free Speech and Democratic Turn: Philosophical Foundations and Legal Challenges in the EU and the Western Balkans

Anna Tsiftoglou

Political Party Ban in Greece – Thoughts after Supreme Special Court Decisions 9 and 10/2025

Christos Papastylanos

Who is the Guardian of Democracy in Greek Constitutional Order?

The Review of the Legislation Regarding the Ban of Electoral Lists by Greek Courts Since the Enactment of the Constitution of 1975

Aleksa Nikolić

External Militant Democracy: The Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panel 15: **Book Panel: The Dilemma of Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Governance, Citizenship, and European Integration**, edited by Maja Sahadžić, Tatjana Sekulić, Nevenko Vranješ, Jens Woelk

Moot Court Room

Chair: **Jens Woelk**

Discussants:

Joseph Marko

Maja Sahadžić

Tatjana Sekulić

Panel 16: **External and Internal Dimensions of Constitutional Identity**

Classroom 4

Chair: **Denis Pershova**

Bilyana Manova, Moritz Baumgärtel

Checking Blank Checks: The Incomplete Transformation of National Security Expulsion Regimes in Bulgaria

Goran Bašić

The Return of Ethnicity: The Limits of the Civic State After Multiculturalism

Petar Antić

Constitutional Identity Beyond Ethnic and Civic Dichotomies: A Minority Rights Perspective

Aleksa Damnjanović

Direct Democracy and Constitutional Identity – Is There a Connection in Central and Southeast European Post-Communist Democracies?

PANEL SESSIONS III (17-24)

October 11, 2026

12:30-14:00

Panel 17: The Authority of Constitutional Courts in Time of Change

Grand Hall

Chair: Jelena Jerinić

Tamás Korhecz

The Open-Ended European Accession Process of Serbia and the Independence of Judiciary – Legislative Efforts and Their Obstruction

Samir Forić

Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Semiotic Authority: Applying Constitutional Semiotics Approach to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Constitutional Conundrum

Boyan Kamenov

From Constitutional Arbiter to Constitutional Actor? The Expanding Role of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court

Matija Stojanović

The Problem of Constitutional Authority in Montenegro and the Role of the Constitutional Court

Kaja Stelmaszewska

Rule of Law Defense Beyond High Politics: Lessons from the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina's History Curriculum Decision

Nazarii Stetsyk

Constitutional Resilience between Wartime Challenges and European Integration: Lessons from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Panel 18: Book Panel: Turning off the Suicidal Nature of Democracy: Reflecting on András Sajó's book Militant Rule of Law

Library

Chair: Tahir Herenda

Discussants:

András Sajó

Daniel Smilov

Dragoljub Popović

Violeta Beširević

Panel 19: **Two Decades of the 2006 Constitution of Serbia:
Interpretations, Consequences, and Challenges**

Classroom 1

Chair: **Sanja Barić**

Dorđe Marković

Who Deals with Justice in Serbia? Two Decades Of (Un)interrupted
Judicial Reform

Aleksa Nikolić

Who Governs Serbia? Constitutional Architecture and the Transformation
of the System of Government

Aleksandar Cvetković

Who Holds Constituent Power in Serbia? Reconsidering the Role of
the People

Panel 20: **21st Century Challenges to Constitutionalism**

Classroom 2

Chair: **Luka Glušac**

Giacomo Amato

The Mountains Legislation During the Era of Transitions:
Comparative Aspects

Carolina Fabara

Governing Chinese FDI in the Western Balkans' Green Transition:
Aligning EU Accession Law, Environmental Standards, and Global
South Connectivity (with Lessons from Latin America)

Igor Milinković

Artificial Intelligence, the Rule of Law, and Democratic Resilience:
Governing Algorithmic Power

Zulfiye Yilmaz-Yamac

When Trust is Dismantled: Mental Health Politics as a Challenge
to Constitutional Resilience

Panel 21: **Book Panel: Gender Perspectives in Law –
the Springer Book Series**

Classroom 3

Chair: **Dragica Vujadinović**

Discussants:

Ivana Krstić

Ljubinka Kovačević

Marko Davinić

Bojan Spaić

Panel 22: **EU and Europeanization: Old and New Dilemmas**

Classroom 4

Chair: **Ana Knežević Bojović**

Darinka Piqani

The Architecture of a Resilient Judiciary: Any Role for EU Conditionality?

Ilaria Baisi

Strategic Autonomy and the Accountability Gap: EU Joint Procurement Between Crisis Governance, Resilience, and Differentiated Europeanization

Dan-Adrian Cărmădăriu

Europeanization Through Private Law: EU Consumer Law Beyond the Contract Paradigm

Alessandro Rosanò

Can Mutual Trust Survive Europeanization? Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law Challenges in the European Arrest Warrant System

Marton Varju

Old Rules for New Markets? Assessing the CJEU's New Case Law in Contemporary Public Service Markets

Panel 23: **Book Panel: Rotation of Power: A Theory of Democratic Competition,**
by Antonios Kouroutakis

Moot Court Hall

Chair: **Antonios Kouroutakis**

Discussants:

Martin Belov

Kostas Chrysogonos

Constantinos Stratilatis

Panel 24: **Values, Principles and Public Trust: Global and Local Perspectives**

Mid Hall

Chair: **Maja Sahadžić**

Damir Banović

The Judiciary's Role in Protecting Democratic Values, Principles, and Rights: The Context of the Western Balkans

Matija Miloš

Vantage Points of Value-based Constitutionalism

Alina Gentimir

Guardians of Trust: Judicial Independence and Public Confidence in Legal Systems

Srđan Milošević

European Values and the Serbian Constitution: Origins, Meaning, and Constitutional Significance

Attila Nagy

The Transformation of Public Law with Soft Law Agreements