



## 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: **Márton Varjú**

**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 Ertas**

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

### 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: **Dorđe 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 Papastylianos**

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 Preshova**

**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 Damjanović**

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: **21<sup>st</sup> 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

**Márton Varjú**

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 Room

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