

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Legal status of Non-Governmental Organisations	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Gintarė Pažereckaitė	Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University
Other(s): -	Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, Room 405, LT-10222, Vilnius
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Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)				
First, Second					

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module)	Language(s) of instruction
	is delivered	
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students						
Prerequisites: None	Additional requirements (if any):					

Course (module) volume in	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
credits			
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The general aim of the course is to analyse international, regional and, where relevant, national legal framework applicable to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), addressing contemporary challenges in their establishment and functioning from a legal point of view. The first part of the course provides comprehensive analysis of general issues concerning legal status of a NGO, including definition of a NGO, process of establishment, applicable rules and guarantees, their accountability, and relations with other actors, e.g. states and inter-governmental organizations. The second part of the course focuses on legal regulation of NGOs in the context of humanitarian action. Finally, through concrete examples the course addresses challenges currently faced by NGOs, in particular, in the Post-Soviet States region.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods		
Extensive knowledge and understanding of legal	Lectures, self-study, discussion,	Participation and work in the		
regulation of NGOs	analysis of practical examples	class, written examination		
Ability to critically analyse and evaluate the roles and	Lectures, self-study, discussion,	Participation and work in the		
activities of NGOs from the legal point of view	analysis of practical examples	class, written examination		
Ability to work individually and use legal databases	Individual or group presentation,	Participation and work in the class		
as well as other resources to deepen knowledge on	written analysis, group exercises			
activities of NGOs and their legal regulation				
Understanding of current challenges in the	Lectures, self-study, discussion,	Participation and work in the		
international community, which affect activities of	analysis of practical examples	class, written examination		
NGOs				

	Contact hours							Sel	Self-study work: time and assignments	
Content: breakdown of the topics	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments	

1. Historic and conceptual background, definition of	2	2	1		5	16	Reading, analysis of
NGOs in international law							practical examples
2. NGOs in national legal systems	1	1	0,5		2,5	8	
2. Rights of NGOs under international law	2	2	1		5	16	Reading, analysis of practical examples
3. Standing before judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, other means of participation in judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings	1	1	0,5		2,5	8	Reading, analysis of practical examples
4. Participation in international organisations, cooperation with international organisations	1	1	0,5		2,5	8	Reading, analysis of practical examples
5. Obligations of NGOs under international law, accountability	2	2	1		5	16	Reading, analysis of practical examples
6. Actions in time of crisis	3	3	3,5		9,5	26	Reading, analysis of practical examples
Total	12	12	8		32	98	

Assessment strategy	Weigh	Deadline	Assessment criteria
	t,%		
Independent research work,	50	During all the	Quality of research, ability to identify key issues, clarity and
analysis of practical cases		semester	structure of presentation, creative thinking.
and/or discussions during the			
course			
Written examination	50	Exam session	Knowledge of the material presented and discussed during the
		at the end of	course as well as ability to apply knowledge when analysing
		the course	concrete practical examples.

Author	Year of public ation	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publicatio n	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsary reading				
Ingrid Rossi	2010	Legal Status of Non-Governmental Organizations in International Law		Cambridge: Intersentia
Anna-Karin Lindblom	2005 (and later eds)	Non-Governmental Organisations in International Law		New York: Cambridge University Press
Heintze, Hans-Joachim, Thielbörger, Pierre (Eds.)	2017	International Humanitarian Action, NOHA textbook		Springer
Optional reading				
Claudine Barrat	2014	Status of NGOs in International Humanitarian Law		Leiden: Brill/Nijhoff
Roger Mac Ginty, Jenny H Peterson	2015	The Routledge Companion to Humanitarian Action		Routledge
Thomas G Weiss	2013	Humanitarian Business		Polity