



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Legal status of Non-Governmental Organisations	14469

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: lect. dr. Gintarė Pažereckaitė Other(s): -	Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, Room 405, LT-10222, Vilnius tel. (8 5) 2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First, Second	

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

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

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
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 regulation of NGOs	Lectures, self-study, discussion, analysis of practical examples	Participation and work in the class, written examination
Ability to critically analyse and evaluate the roles and activities of NGOs from the legal point of view	Lectures, self-study, discussion, analysis of practical examples	Participation and work in the class, written examination
Ability to work individually and use legal databases as well as other resources to deepen knowledge on activities of NGOs and their legal regulation	Individual or group presentation, written analysis, group exercises	Participation and work in the class
Understanding of current challenges in the international community, which affect activities of NGOs	Lectures, self-study, discussion, analysis of practical examples	Participation and work in the class, written examination

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

1. Historic and conceptual background, definition of NGOs in international law	2		2	1			5	16	Reading, analysis of 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	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Independent research work, analysis of practical cases and/or discussions during the course	50	During all the semester	Quality of research, ability to identify key issues, clarity and structure of presentation, creative thinking.
Written examination	50	Exam session at the end of the course	Knowledge of the material presented and discussed during the course as well as ability to apply knowledge when analysing concrete practical examples.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory 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