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University Twinning and  
Networking Programme

## Progress Report for the Renewal of a UNESCO Chair or UNITWIN Network

Title of the UNESCO Chair or UNITWIN Network as mentioned in the Agreement	<b>UNESCO Chair in Human Rights</b>
Chair/Network ID (if known)	794
Reporting period: YYYY-YYYY	2020-2022

## I. PROGRESS REPORT

### a. Summary of Main Achievements

- *In our previous progress report, we set out an agenda for our future. Gladly, we can confirm that we managed to keep ourselves to the proposed plans.*
- *We continued our teaching activity as the only Department providing human rights specialization on the MA level in Hungarian. We stayed committed to our postgraduate human rights specialist training, with which we support life-long learning.*
- *We established the International Studies Doctoral Programme within the Doctoral School of Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences. We offer advanced courses in human rights. Human rights related topics take up approximately 70% of all the Doctoral Programme's PhD works.*
- *We invited professors to held open lectures, as well as teach in our Doctoral Programme from internationally renowned universities. However, the pandemic diminished the possibilities of inviting foreign lecturers and holding in-person round-tables.*  
*In 2022, as a reflection onto the war in Ukraine, we invited our professors to discuss their views on the situation. Beyond the team members of the Chair, a talk by Eugenio Zaniboni, professor at the University of Foggia, Italy and a visiting professor at ELTE was held on 21 March, 2022. Also, we invited Menedék Association, a prominent NGO to discuss the difficulties of the asylum system in Hungary in relation to the current situation of Ukraine.*
- *The Doctoral School of Sociology invited Mátyás Bódig, a legal theorist and human rights scholar at the School of Law of the University of Aberdeen.*
- *We established a Working Paper Series, which supports the publication of human rights related papers.*
- *We stayed committed to our partnership to the Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in publishing the V4 Human Rights Review.*
- *Fundamentum, the only Hungarian Human Rights Quarterly is being published by the Department. It continues to deal with the most important issues of domestic and international human rights.*
- *Team members visited conferences and published in relevant human rights related fields. See a list of selected publications.*

**Balázs, Majtényi:** *Il nazionalismo esclusivista populista: I casi dell'Ungheria e del Regno Unito* In: Francesca, Zappacosta (szerk.) *Il senso umano delle cose: Ripensare la società oltre la pandemia* Rome, Olaszország: L'Asino d'oro (2021) pp. 181-194., 14 p.

**Csilla, Kollonay Lehoczky - Balázs, Majtényi:** *Social Rights, Social Policy, and Labor Law in the Hungarian Populist-Nationalist System.* COMPARATIVE LABOR LAW AND POLICY JOURNAL 42: 1 pp. 13-42., 30 p. (2021)

**Balázs, Majtényi - György, Majtényi:** *A Transnational Nation: Roma National Identity in the Making* In: Aline, Shierp; Jenny, Wüstenberg (szerk.) *Agency in Transnational Memory Politics.* New York (NY), Amerikai Egyesült Államok, Oxford, Egyesült Királyság / Anglia: Berghahn Books (2020) 362, p. pp. 284-306., 23 p.

**Ákos, Kopper - Zsolt, Körtvélyesi - Balázs, Majtényi - András, Szalai:** *The 'Insecurity Toolbox' of the Illiberal Regime: Rule by Law and Rule by Exclusion.* Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences 1: 2 pp. 216-242., 27 p. (2020)

**Beáta, Huszka:** *Minorities as citizens: The legal advocacy of language rights by the Hungarian minority in Romania.* NATIONS AND NATIONALISM 2021 pp. 1-16., 16 p. (2021)

**Beáta, Huszka - Zsolt, Körtvélyesi:** *EU Enlargement Policy and Human Rights.* In: Jan, Wouters; Manfred, Nowak; Anna-Luise, Chané; Nicolas, Hachez (szerk.) *The European Union and Human Rights: Law and Policy.* Oxford, Egyesült Királyság / Anglia: Oxford University Press (OUP) (2020) pp. 345-364., 20 p.

**Péter, Kállai - Alíz, Nagy:** *Parliamentary Representation of Nationalities and Kin-minorities – Hungary's Biased Electoral System.* EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES 17: 1 pp. 171-189., 19 p. (2020)

**Marie-Pierre, Granger – Orsolya, Salát:** *Framing justice claims as legal rights: how law (mis)handles injustices* In: Knijn, Turdie; Lepianka, Dorota (szerk.) *Justice and Vulnerability in Europe: An*

*Interdisciplinary Approach. Northampton (MA), Amerikai Egyesült Államok, Cheltenham, Egyesült Királyság / Anglia: Edward Elgar Publishing (2020) 270 p. pp. 90-107., 18 p.*

**Anna, Unger:** *Democracy and distrust In: Simon, Zoltán; Ziegler, Dezső Tamás EUROPEAN POLITICS - CRISES, FEARS, AND DEBATES. Paris, Franciaország: L'Harmattan (2022) 182 p. pp. 101-118., 18 p.*

**Zsolt, Körtvélyesi:** *TRANSCENDING THE INDIVIDUAL/COLLECTIVE MINORITY RIGHTS DIVIDE: A PROCEDURAL SOLUTION. INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW QUARTERLY 71 : 1 pp. 73-106. , 34 p. (2022)*

**Zsolt, Körtvélyesi - Balázs, Majtényi:** *Justifying supranational responses to the anti-constitutional challenge: Applying liberal multiculturalism as a background theory. GLOBAL CONSTITUTIONALISM: HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW 10 : 3 pp. 500-523. , 24 p. (2021)*

**Beáta, Huszka - Zsolt, Körtvélyesi:** *EU Enlargement Policy and Human Rights In: Jan, Wouters; Manfred, Nowak; Anna-Luise, Chané; Nicolas, Hachez (szerk.) The European Union and Human Rights: Law and Policy. Oxford, Egyesült Királyság / Anglia: Oxford University Press (OUP) (2020) pp. 345-364. , 20 p.*

**Zsolt, Körtvélyesi:** *Nation, Nationality, and National Identity: Uses, Misuses, and the Hungarian Case of External Ethnic Citizenship. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR THE SEMIOTICS OF LAW-REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE SÉMIOTIQUE JURIDIQUE 33 : 3 pp. 771-798. , 28 p. (2020)*

**Zsolt, Körtvélyesi:** *The Illiberal Challenge in the EU: Exploring the Parallel with Illiberal Minorities and the Example of Hungary. EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW REVIEW 16 : 4 pp. 567-600. , 34 p. (2020)*

## **b. Cooperation with UNESCO**

The Department is committed to support UNESCO's objectives of lifelong learning and human rights education for all. The Chair is active in teaching advanced courses of human rights on the MA, PhD and postgraduate level. With the research and education activity we aim to promote inclusive, just and peaceful knowledge societies as expressed in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy. We work together with other UNESCO Chairs in the frame of the European Masters Program in Human Rights and Democratization.

## **c. Collaborations with higher education institutions and other partners**

Our Department engages in activities that increase awareness of human rights. Our continued partnership in the European Masters Program in Human Rights and Democratization within the European Inter-University Centre, Venice/Italy remains one of our core activities.

We remain committed to our cooperation with the neighboring countries' universities. Therefore, as visiting lecturers we participate in the Central European Exchange Programme (CEEPUS).

We aim to enhance our international visibility within academic circles via inviting professors, colleagues for collaboration from internationally recognized universities. External lecturers from abroad, but also from other Hungarian universities are at the heart of our educational programmes.

As it was reported in our last progress report, stringent rules still apply to non-governmental organizations in Hungary. Still, our Department remains devoted to its cooperation with its previous partners. We are committed to stay in touch with activists and civil society figures who are welcomed to share their expertise and experiences with our students in public lectures or seminars and workshops.

We stayed also committed to stay in touch with our partners from the V4 countries, with whom we cooperated in the last years as part of the publication of V4 Human Rights Review.

Further collaboration with more distant world regions could be strengthened and expanded. Due to financial restrictions and the difficulties of hyper-bureaucratized travel and accommodation procurement we face difficulties in inviting guests outside of the European Union.

#### **d. Challenges and remedial actions**

The main challenges the Department faced in the last two years are the consequences of the pandemic. As all the universities around the world, we encountered several issues while moving to digital education. Student's access to education, as well as professor's capacities and digital competencies have been challenged.

We managed to respond well on the demanding circumstances and supported the needs of our students, to the greatest extent. We kept up with online training for both of our human rights MA specialization and the postgraduate training.

Most recently, Hungary, just as many other countries of the region, have been impacted by the war in Ukraine. The University offered visiting student status and a complete tuition fee waiver for the concerned students. Faculty of Social Sciences has opened 100+ seminars and lectures to the students. The free offline and online courses (held both in English and Hungarian) are available from March 7, 2022 in the framework of the Faculty's study programs, including our International Relations BA and MA programmes.

In this way, the Department of Human Rights and Politics also provides all the possible support for our students from the concerned region. Furthermore, we have offered two academic positions for professors from Ukraine.

As a result of the ongoing energy-crisis, ELTE had to take the necessary energy-saving measures, as well. The University made some changes in the structure of the academic year. We informed our students about the actual situation and made arrangements to carry out our research and educational activities undisturbed at this period, trying to maintain our excellence in teaching and research.

## II. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL

### a. Objectives

1. Remain an academic center devoted for the study of human rights.
2. Contribute to an internationally recognized professional education of social science experts in the field of human rights.
3. Increased participation in the Human Rights Specialization within our MA program, as well as in the postgraduate program.
4. Increased participation in the International Studies Doctoral Programme.
5. Integrate our research and training activity with our commitment towards the community.

### b. Workplan activities and expected outputs

#### *a) research and knowledge production*

The Chair is active in interdisciplinary research in human rights. Team members publish broadly in topics of human rights. Among others, team members have been awarded with the Hungarian young researchers' excellence program.

Anna Róza Unger, research fellow of the ELTE TÁTK Department of Human Rights and politics, is currently participating in the "OTKA" scientific research programme of the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Office with the project, titled "Direct democracy in Hungary: development, challenges, and perspectives (1989-2018)", No.: OTKA PD 131883. This is a state fund scientific programme that provides support for research, development and innovation.

Orsolya Salát, associate professor of the Department is currently participating in "The Shrinking Space for Civils Society in Europe" ERC project. Together with the Ludwig-Maimilians Universitaet Muenchen and the Universita Degli Studi di Torino our university takes part in the research. We also have two post-doctoral positions assigned to this research.

#### *b) publications*

We remain committed to Fundamentum, our human rights Quarterly. We go on with supporting the publication of working papers in our POLIR Working Paper Series. Furthermore, we launch as a short term goal in the upcoming months a new Student Paper Series to publish outstanding contributions from our students.

#### *c) websites and social media*

To embrace the technological challenges that the Chair faced during COVID-19 we developed our webpage: [www.polir.elte.hu](http://www.polir.elte.hu). We aim to popularize the website among our students, so that we could rely on it as their source of information about the Department and its research and educational activities. We have Facebook page dedicated to our human rights specialization Alumni, which we plan to update and promote in the future.

At the same time, we are aware of technological inequalities among our prospective students and collaborators. We aim to bridge these gaps and make our education accessible to all.

#### *d) teaching and lecturing*

Our team members all take their part in teaching in our human rights specialization and postgraduate training. Our associate professors are invited to lecture in the PhD program. At the same time, we engage

our PhD students in teaching on the BA level, courses often related to human rights subjects. Also, they are offered two teaching assistant positions per semester.

*e) training and institutional capacity development*

The last two semesters we hired four team members to the Department of Human Rights and Politics. Furthermore, we offered two positions for our colleagues from the impacted regions of war in Ukraine. We remain committed to engage our team members in human rights education in the renewal period.

*f) student mobility and exchanges*

We strengthen our interuniversity cooperations relying on the many new Erasmus agreements, that we signed in the last years. New bilateral agreements established with the following universities: Universitat de Barcelona; Universitat De Girona; Tallinn University; Niccoló Cusano University; MEF University; Università Degli Studi Roma Tre; Jagiellonian University; Università degli Studi di Trento; Université Catholique de L'Ouest

We stay committed to our CEEPUS partners as well. Also, we support our MA and PhD Students' mobility with all means reasonable.

*g) visiting professorships/fellowships*

The Chair is currently hosting Karolina Lendák-Kabók and Barbara Franz. Karolina is a Maria Skłodowska-Curie scholar whose research is focusing on social impacts of intermarriages.

Barbara Franz is a Fulbright Scholar during the Autumn 2022 semester and a Professor of Political Science at Rider University in New Jersey, USA. Her research interests include (forced) migration studies, reception and inclusion policies, the politics of xenophobia, discrimination and white nationalism.

*h) conferences and events, seminars and webinars*

*We encourage and support our team members to visit conferences, and relevant events, seminars and webinars as well.*

*i) networking and partnerships*

*In the next weeks, we have an event co-hosted by the University of Aberdeen's CISRUL program. We plan to have stronger cooperation with this program. Also, we encourage our team members to take their part in Erasmus staff and research opportunities and rely in their research on the CEEPUS network as well.*

*j) inter-university cooperation*

Our continued partnership in the European Masters Program in Human Rights and Democratization within the European Inter-University Centre, Venice/Italy remains one of our core activities.

### **c. Reflections**

The Chair provides the one and only Hungarian language human rights education on the MA level.

With providing our postgraduate study program, the human rights specialist training we welcome those who wish to pursue a career in international human rights, for instance those who plan to go on UN peacekeeping and/or political mission trips, or those who work for governmental or non-governmental

organizations dealing with human rights issues. By doing so, we contribute to lifelong learning, which is a particularly important objective to UNESCO.

Beyond the above listed actions, the Department engages in further activities that increase awareness of human rights problems in the general public by organizing public lectures and workshops. Our commitment to the non-governmental organizations enables our students to have a broader overview of the Hungarian human rights scenario.

Developing our international network by strengthening our previous collaborations would definitely contribute to the improvement of the Chair's activity.