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Facoltà di
Giurisprudenza



“Rule of Law resilience and conditionality inside and outside the EU”

International Conference
Trento, 19–20 June 2025
Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Sala
Conferenze “Fulvio Zuelli”



Event organized as part of Jean Monnet Module:
EU-Prox. Innovating European Studies:
Geopolitics and Sustainability of Enlargement



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Program

Thursday, 19 June 2025

14.15 Welcome address: *Paolo Carta*, Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Trento

14.30-15.00 Keynote speech: *Hanna Suchocka*, University of Poznań

15.00-17.00 First panel

The Rule of Law-methodology as a result of the reciprocal influence of the Rule of Law-crisis and the Rule of Law-conditionality

Moderator: *Luisa Antonioli*, University of Trento

1. European Union (EU): *Cristina Fasone*, LUISS University, Rome
2. Western Balkans: *Jovana Marović*, University of Belgrade
3. Ukraine-Moldova-Georgia (UMG): *Caterina Filippini*, University of Milan
4. Eastern Partnership, focus Armenia: *Anna Khvorostiankina*, Eurasia International University (Yerevan, Armenia)

Discussant: *Esther Happacher*, University of Innsbruck

17.00-17.15 Coffee break

17.15-18.45 Second panel

The Constitutional Courts in focus: political interference and resilience

Moderator: *Simone Penasa*, University of Trento

1. European Union (EU): *Tania Groppi*, University of Siena
2. Western Balkans: *Constance Grewe*, University of Strasbourg
3. Ukraine-Moldova-Georgia (UMG): *Halyna Dovhan*, University of Trento

Discussant: *Pietro Faraguna*, University of Trieste

Social Dinner



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Program

Friday, 20 June 2025

9.00-10.30 Third panel

Judicial Councils between institutional guarantee of independence and accountability

Moderator: *Jens Woelk*, University of Trento

1. European Union (EU): Frans van Dijk, University of Utrecht
2. Western Balkans: Gianluigi Pratola, Court of Cassation, Rome
3. Ukraine-Moldova-Georgia (UMG): Simona Granata-Menghini, Venice Commission TBC

Discussants: *David Pimentel*, University of Idaho; *Rada Sitar*, Universities of Maribor and Trento

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.30 Discussion and conclusions

Rapporteur: *Roberto Toniatti*, University of Trento



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Objectives

Guiding questions for the conference are how to make the Rule of Law-principle concrete or operational and how to assess it. Therefore, the interrelation between developing conditionality benchmarks in the enlargement process and the need for reacting to the Rule of Law-crisis within the EU is explored as it has led to the development of a common methodology by mutual influence. Within the broad topic of judicial reforms, the focus will be on judicial independence (and accountability) as well as – institutionally – Constitutional Courts and Judicial Councils.

Structure

A first panel will introduce the Rule of Law-principle and summarize the work of the Venice Commission in the fields of judicial independence, Constitutional Courts and Judicial Councils. It will also add a view on the Eastern Partnership countries, with a focus on Armenia. The second panel will be dedicated to the role of Constitutional Courts as guarantors of the Rule of Law-principle, while the third panel will focus on Councils of the Judiciary as self-governance bodies guaranteeing judicial independence.

In each panel, the three geographical areas, i.e. the EU Member States, the Western Balkans, and the “Trio” (Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia), will be represented and analyzed by one presentation each. All topics will be discussed from a comparative perspective (illustrating, for example, the Venice Commission Opinions, the European Commission's country reports etc).

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