

EMJMD Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSIG)

Background: Development and global relevance of PoSIG

PoSIG is a joint MA program developed to present the European benchmark in teaching Political Science at MA level. It results from observations about the MA curriculum development in Europe connected to the Bologna reforms of the last decades and claims to represent the all subjects of this multidisciplinary field of study. Normative, domestic and international dimension of politics in several policy fields and state levels need attendance to understand the reality of **Multilevel Governance as the European Integration approach** is representing.

To establish a Joint MA program based on this **holistic approach** was an aim resulting from cooperations within www.erasmus-network.eu. It was implemented by University of Salzburg, University of Ljubljana and University of Pavia with partners.

The **European model of Integration & Governance** has high relevance for the neighboring regions of the EU since the 1990s and the first PoSIG rollout in 2017 therefore was also including partner from the Western Balkan region (www.euro-ps.org).

As **first multilateral Joint Study consortium PoSIG received European Accreditation** based on the Yerevan declaration 2015 and showed the consortiums practical capacity to establish high quality standards from beginning for 9 partner universities in 3 Erasmus+ program and in 6 Erasmus+ partner countries.

Global developments (“My country first!”, Silk road initiative, Brexit, left/right populism...) lead to an increasing demand for PoSIG expertise even beyond the EU and EU neighborhood regions and encouraged to apply for the EMJMD grant project. The power of PoSIG’s Integration & Governance approach made the consortium also interesting for further enlargement as the EMJMD consortium includes also partner from Serbia and Montenegro.

The PoSIG model is expression of a **formative Bologna policy** in a discipline showing an integrative option for development of a discipline and also the **possibilities of HEI’s international cooperation**. Specialization in research fields and different methodology approaches is used as resource to **show the excellence of partner by using their complementarity** and presenting a **big picture** of the Political Science discipline. This is the necessary outcome of the discipline in the education of Experts needed to design and to implement **new strategies of Integration & Governance in the world**.

The **consortiums internal governance and quality assurance policy** by itself is an example for Integration & Governance of a **multilateral HEI consortium** offering a highly integrated study program.

This PoSIG approach showed also capacity for the regional integration of HEI in Political Science at Western Balkan but meanwhile also relevance for other post war/conflict regions in the world who are now represented in the PoSIG EMJMD consortium:

Black Sea Region

Central Asia

Middle East

Latin America

PoSIG Consortium

The PoSIG EMJMD consortium includes 10 Universities from 8 countries.

Four Erasmus program country universities covering basic education:

- University of Salzburg (PLUS)
- University of Ljubljana (ULJU)
- University of Belgrade (UB)
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM)

Six Erasmus partner country universities presenting Field Windows for Integration & Governance development:

- European University of Tirana (UET)
- University of Tirana (UTIR)
- FAMA College Pristina (FAMA)
- UBT College Pristina (UBT)
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
- Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)
- University of Montenegro (UoM)
- University of Prishtina (UP)

University of Belgrade, University of Prishtina and University of Montenegro are accredited in MA programs and accept the QA requirements of the European PoSIG accreditation. Their inclusion in the European Accreditation has already started and shall be available latest at the time of the first PoSIG EMJMD intake.

Associated partner are included in international teaching activities as Seminars of Excellence and the development of the program and to disseminate the PoSIG EMJMD opportunities to students in their region. It is intended to include associated partner also in the next expansion of the consortium after implementation of the first EMJMD grant student cohorts. The **9 associated partner from 9 countries of the world** representing different regions with need of expertise in Integration & Governance.

- ADA University – Baku, Azerbaijan
- Jerevan State University – Yerevan, Armenia
- Georgian Institute for Public Affairs – Tbilisi, Georgia
- Ivan Franko National University – Lviv, Ukrain
- Universidad Cesar Vallejo – Lima, Peru
- Universidad Privada Boliviana – Cochambamba, Bolivia
- Notre Dame University – Beirut, Lebanon
- Ben Gurion University of the Negev – Beerssheba, Israel
- American University of Central Asia – Bischkek, Kirgisia

The **consortium's internal governance** includes a Board of Coordinators, a Quality Assurance Board and a Students Board. The PoSIG-Board includes also non-academic stakeholder representing the labor market and associated partner from different regions in the world.

The **consortium is lead** by PLUS who recruits the **PoSIG Executive Director**. The consortium provides several central services for the partner to guarantee the same standards of teaching environment necessary for international teacher exchange and the implementation of a highly integrated curriculum.

The **joint infrastructure** includes students services, a PoSIG eLibrary, jointly used antiplagiarism software, Moodle course database, joint degree management database and a ePortfolio platform.

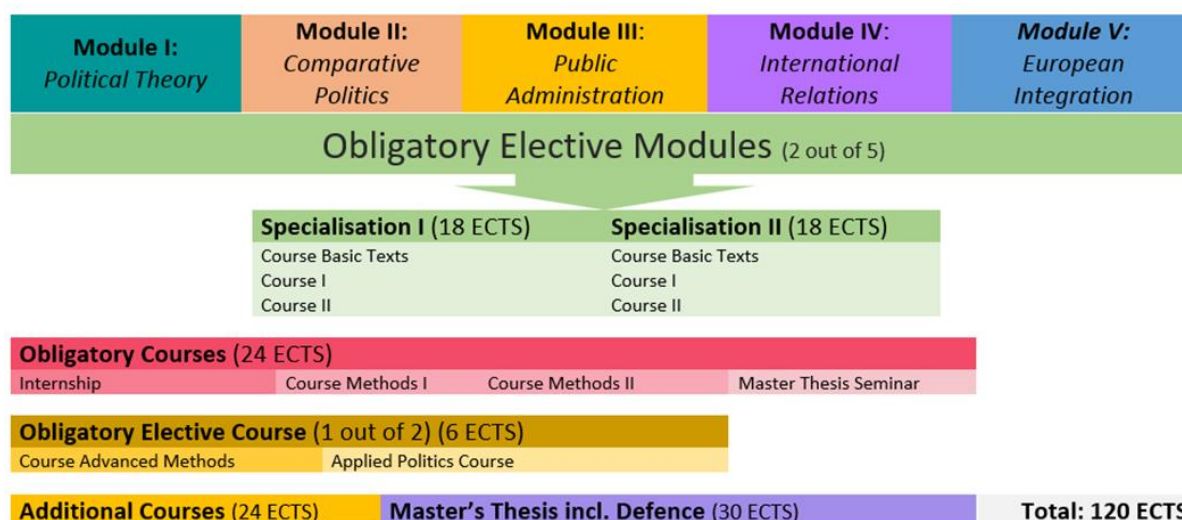
PoSIG curriculum and mobility track of students

It is one of **PoSIG's** intentions to **cover all dimensions of politics** on the one hand and to **support specializations in subfields of Political Science** on the other hand. This follows the disciplines' internal discussions about the **impacts of the Bologna process as conducted by www.erasmus-network.eu and the ECPR**. Because of this, the PoSIG program includes modules in

- Comparative Politics,
- European Integration,
- International Relations,
- Public Administration and Policy
- Political Theory

and a profound level of methodology teaching in Political Science.

Allowing the selection of **two** out of these five modules as obligatory **fields of specialization** in order to develop an individual academic profile is combined with the opportunity to complete courses from all the other modules as well.











Salzburg and **Ljubljana** as established members of www.erasmus-network.eu together represent the highest level of research and teaching in all five modules to be attended in the first year of the program and also in Methodology I+II. Students therefore receive the **basic education in the theory and methodology guided courses** at these two partner institutions in their first **PoSIG year**.

In the **second year**, the students can choose courses from modules at the Universities of **Belgrade** and **Skopje** and make **field experiences** within **Field Windows of up to 3 months at partner country universities** in Bosnia, Kosovo, Albania or Montenegro. These courses are offered according to the

specialization of these partners and represent the EU benchmark standard of teaching in this region (see details in 3.1.).

It is expected that students will use the second year to stay at universities in Belgrad and Skopje but also will use the big number of courses on specific subjects to follow their individual interest in specialization within the offered **Field Windows in partner countries**.

PoSIG mobility options		Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4
2nd Year	Springterm	Field window <3m: UTir or UET or SSST or UBT or UP or UoM			
	Winterterm	BG or UKIM	BG or UKIM	BG or UKIM	BG or UKIM
Mobility direction		 	 	 	 
1st Year	Springterm	PLUS	ULju	PLUS	ULju
	Winterterm	PLUS	PLUS	ULju	ULju

The **MA thesis project** of the students is under supervision of one teacher from the first year and one from second year teaching.

The joint degree will only be given after having completed all necessary courses and other contributions such as the internship and the MA thesis with its defense **at the universities a student has attended for at least one term** in his/her PoSIG mobility track.

Needs & Target group of PoSIG

The needs for the PoSIG EMJMD existing on different levels:

Needs of the Political Science discipline: As described in the introduction Bologna reforms in the last decades lead to an increasing specialization in research and curriculum development and criticism on this. The PoSIG model shows that specialization and excellence can be used as resource to use **complementarity & cooperation** to present **an integrated and interdisciplinary MA teaching program as European benchmark** for the European development of the discipline as well as for positioning of the European HE in this filed at the **global market**.

European model of Governance & Integration: Global political developments show that the European idea of integration and good governance need more support and relevance as soft power. **PoSIG provides an excellent MA program for students from the world** to understand and develop expertise in the design of good governance in a multilateral integrated world order. It is the European political but also academic responsibility to represent this **European modernization approach**.

With the associated partner of the EMJMD project from **Black Sea Region, Central Asia, Middle East and Latin America** PoSIG shall be able to extend its outreach regarding curriculum development in these regions and also to attract students from these regions to apply for PoSIG EMJMD placement.

Needs for PoSIG expertise at labor market: Experiences with enlargement processes in **neighboring regions** show that there is a lack of expertise on Integration & Governance in these countries and

even programs to support these regions cannot fully roll out their activities because these limits. The PoSIG consortium has a stakeholder database with about **80 non-academic labor market relevant national and international organizations** available with need of PoSIG expertise. This database results from Roadshow activities of the curriculum development period of PoSIG and is permanently updated with new labor market contacts.

Experience from first local PoSIG calls at the partner institutions after accreditation 2017 showed more than 50 applicants but allowed only placement opportunities for 12 mostly self-funding students. There are several conclusions resulting from this observation:

1. There is **higher request** for the international Joint MA PoSIG **than self-funding students** able to start the program.
2. The **required qualifications** from applicants are available as the delivered applications showed. The study success of the first small self-funding PoSIG cohort is excellent and therefore the **curriculum design fits** to the **students** selected and the **labor market**. Some students start first work contracts already during the second year of the MA program.
3. PoSIG calls **need boarder recognition and publicity** to reach the relevant student population as the EMJMD project shall allow.

Erasmus+ KA 107 exchange experiences with partner in Black Sea Region, Central Asia, Middle East and Latin America show that there is not only a need of the HEI for curriculum innovation as PoSIG is representing but also a **huge population of BA alumni prepared and motivated for international MA programs in Political Science**. International MA programs recruit the best students out of this population. Most of them from US universities because grants from European stakeholder often limited to one year or not covering the full costs.

The few existing EMJMD courses in Political Science offered only in specialized fields and do not represent the broad competence of the European discipline and academic potential up to now.

The **PoSIG EMJMD program** can take the **role as European benchmark program for the whole discipline** and make the **Integration & Governance** approach to a **European landmark in all parts of the world**.

The PoSIG consortium offers up to **30 placements per academic year**. The **PoSIG EMJMD grant project was applied in February 2019** and hopefully receives funding for **88 two year grants of students** in four cohorts of the program from **2020-2025**.

Contact: franz.kok@sbg.ac.at

Department of Political Science & Sociology

Rudolfskai 42

A-5020 Salzburg

www.uni-salzburg.at/pol

