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**The Development Concept for the Department of International Law at  
PHEI "Uzhhorod National University" and the Guidelines for  
Administering Education, Teaching, Methodology and Research in  
2015 – 2025<sup>1</sup>**

**Preamble**

Internationalization of culture, knowledge and research, evolutionary transformation of modern university education in Ukraine, introduction of lifelong education, information, computer, the Internet technologies and modern means of communication in education, teaching methodology and research necessitated the development of an appropriate system for the faculty at the Department of International Law to educate lawyers for international affairs.

The development concept for the Department of International Law is based on modern principles of administering education, teaching methodology and scientific research, which constitute the foundation for preparing and implementing medium-term and short-term action plans, taking management decisions for the successful functioning of the department.

The program target of the Development Concept for the Department of International Law is to develop the intellectual potential of the teaching staff at the department, to establish innovative foundations for administering education, teaching methodology and scientific research, to create conditions for professional training of students majoring in "International Law", to establish and develop the state-of-the-art Ukrainian school of international law at the PHEI "Uzhhorod National University".

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The structure of the Program "The Development Concept for the Department of International Law at PHEI "Uzhhorod National University" and the Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research in 2015 - 2025" (Hereinafter: "The Concept") contains the following sections:

## **Preamble**

- I. Status of the Department of International Law.
2. The Legal Basis for the Department's Activity
3. The Program Tasks of the Development Concept for the Department of International Law and the Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research
4. Principles of Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research at the Department of International Law
5. The Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research, Promoting Wider Appreciation of International Law
6. Scientific Research at the Department of International Law, UzhNU
7. Scientific Cooperation with Leading Domestic and Foreign University Centers of International Law
8. Mechanisms for implementation and the projected results of the program "The Development Concept for the Department of International Law at PHEI "Uzhhorod National University" and the Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research in 2015 - 2025"
9. Final provisions.

### **I. Status of the Department of International Law**

The Department of International Law and International Relations was founded in 1997 in the structure of the Uzhhorod State Institute of Computer Science, Economics and Law, which in 2004 was reorganized into the Transcarpathian State University of the IV accreditation level.

In 2013 due to the merger of Transcarpathian State University and the Public Higher Educational Institution "Uzhhorod National University" (hereinafter UzhNU) the department was renamed and acquired the status of the Department of International Law at UzhNU.

Department of International Law graduates and provides training in "International Law" majors (6.030202, 7.03040101, and 8.03040101).

The subjects of professional and practical training in international law majors, namely international (public) law, international private law, the European law, are taught exclusively by the faculty staffers who defended dissertation research majoring in "International Law" as well as by the faculty from UzhNU other structural units who have scientific degree not lower than Ph.D. (Candidate of Law).

The lecturers of international legal disciplines, fluent in two or more official languages of the United Nations, have completed internships at the leading domestic and foreign universities, have experience of diplomatic work in international organizations. The teaching staff has experience in research, teaching and practice in the field of international relations and foreign policy at international organizations, international institutions, the experience in protecting human rights, the rights and interests of individuals and legal entities in the international courts, and through publishing their copyright materials on international legal issues, including research and teaching methodology materials on the disciplines of "International Law".

## **II. The Legal Basis for the Department's Activity**

The regulatory and legal basis of the Concept comprises:

The Constitution of Ukraine;

The Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education";

The Law of Ukraine "On Scientific and Technical Activity";

The Industry Standard of Higher Education in Ukraine of 2013 "International law", area of knowledge - 0302 "International Relations", major "International Law" - 6.030202, 7.03040101, 8.03040101;

Ukraine's Legislation on labor, education, decisions of the government of Ukraine, legal regulations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Charter of PHEI "Uzhhorod National University";

Magna Charta Universitatum (18 September 1988) on establishing the European and world community of universities;

General Assembly resolution “The UN Decade of International Law»” (A/RES/44/23 as of 17 November 1989) on the necessity to "promote teaching, learning, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law."

### **III. The Program Tasks of the Development Concept for the Department of International Law and the Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research**

The need to develop the conceptual foundations for further development of the department of International Law at PHEI "Uzhhorod National University" is conditioned by the following objective factors:

- The general laws of developing the world university education, disseminating knowledge and education of the younger generations implies that in the modern world order the professionals majoring in "International law" should serve the interests of human rights protection, peace and security of peoples;
- The introduction of information, communication and innovative technologies in the university education and scientific research;
- Organizational and institutional conditions for further development and recognition of the department of international law at Uzhgorod National University as one of the leading national university centers of international law;

The Program Tasks of the Development Concept for the Department of International Law and the Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research are aimed at professional training of competitive specialists majoring in "International Law" that meet the following professional requirements:

- Have in-depth knowledge of international public law, international private law and the law of the European Union;
- Are able to do a legal analysis of international relations and foreign policy;
- Can work effectively in the relevant international and national environment in the interests of the independent and sovereign state of Ukraine;
- Are fluent in more than two official languages of the United Nations;

- Complement the system knowledge acquired in the field of computer science and modern information technology, skills of using software to operate in computer networks, improve the ability to create information data bases and to use the Internet resources.

#### **IY. Principles of Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research at the Department of International Law**

The Department is the basic structural unit of the university, which administers education, teaching methodology and scientific research in the field of "International Law" based on the priority of the following principles:

- 1) study, research, creation of a modern system of university knowledge for employability of graduates majoring in international law;
- 1) morality and intellectual independence of research and teaching activities of any political and economic power in the interest of the society needs;
- 2) the indivisibility and compliance of learning, teaching, and research with the society needs and demands that are constantly changing in order to achieve universal knowledge;
- 3) Freedom in research and teaching guaranteed by the governing bodies of the university, each within its jurisdiction;
- 4) openness and tolerance for the dialogue among teachers who are able to transfer their knowledge and are well equipped to have it improved by students eligible, able and willing to enrich their minds with that knowledge;
- 5) the continuity of higher education as the foundation of becoming a competent specialist in international law and personality development in the interest of serving the independent and sovereign state of Ukraine after receiving the university education;
- 6) consistency in administering teaching, learning, research in international law through the use of modern science, information technology;
- 7) scientific nature and predictability of teaching methodology, research of international law and the implementation of the results in learning, teaching, and studying international law;

#### **Y. Main Conceptual Guidelines for Administering Education, Teaching Methodology and Research to Promote Teaching, Learning and Wider Appreciation of International Law**

- organization of the educational process and introducing innovation based on modern teaching, information and communication technologies (forms, methods and approaches of educational technologies) and students' individual / self-study tasks (international law case-studies, project management method, training through cooperation experience, creative learning, analysis and study of the case-study decision-making of the international courts, team work, business games, presentations, etc.) which contribute to achieving a high level of knowledge and practical skills in international law as an academic discipline;
- training materials and manuals developed to meet requirements of the National higher education standards of Ukraine (2013) in the field of knowledge - 0302 "International Relations", direction "International Law" - 6.030202, 7.03040101, 8.03040101;
- an on-going update of the International Law Department website with the training materials for students and with the research achievements of the faculty;
- the use of modern information technologies in educational process (e.g., developing electronic textbooks on international law, online courses, electronic teaching systems, etc.);
- acquisition of competences and skills by international law students: social and personal, general scientific and general professional, specific professional skills and competences;
- development of the faculty's professional competencies within the system of continuing education, teachers' and researchers' academic mobility and implementation of research exchange programs at foreign and domestic universities in accordance with the standards of international law domain;
- reformatting the students' knowledge testing system;
- Department focuses on undergraduates' and post-graduates' scientific research within their study programs (research projects implementation and presentation in the foreign languages); training directed at students' participation in scientific conferences, competitions, master's thesis presentations in the foreign languages etc. regular workshops for the faculty members and graduate students of the International Law Department held under the title "The Topical Issues of the Modern International Law and International Relations";
- Credit-modular system development in administering the educational process, multimedia learning technologies used in lectures and tutorials, and students' study materials available through the University portal or handed out electronically;

- implementation of joint online training projects / grants together with the students from the Ukrainian and foreign universities, consultations, students' information exchange in educational process;
- supporting mobility and competitiveness of the University international law graduates by means of competitive educational system that meets the requirements of the labor market in Ukraine and beyond;
- improving teaching methods by holding regular scientific and methodological workshops, taking part in scientific conferences by the Department staff;
- scientific research of the International Law Department is closely connected to the study of the international organizations' practice and decision making procedures of the international judicial institutions;
- information and communication technologies support introduced into educational and scientific university processes enables the Department's staff to deliver such courses on professional, practical and international law as follows: "International Public Law", "International Private Law", "International Business Law", "International organizations", "The Law of the EU's External Relations", "Diplomatic and Consular Service", "Introduction to Scientific Research", "The Judicial System and Comparative Judiciary Law", "International Law", "Comparative Civil Law", "Introduction to "International Law", "Information and Analytical Activities in International Relations", "General History of the State and Law ", " History of Political and Legal Doctrines", " History of International Law", "Legal Basis for Touristic Activities", "Comparative Constitutional Law", "International legal mechanisms of human rights protection", "Contemporary Legal Systems", "Law of International Treaties", "Legal Regulation of Relations between Ukraine and the EU", "International Investment Law", "International Humanitarian Law", "International information law", "Topical Issues of International Private Law", "Law of International Organizations", "State Confessional Law", "Theory and Practice of International Law," "Fundamentals of Diplomacy", "Legal Regulation of Cross-Border Cooperation", "Liabilities and Sanctions in International Law", "Values of the European Civilization", "The World Trade Organization Rights," "International Law-Making Process", "International Justice", "International Legality and International Law and Order ".

## **VI. Scientific Research at the Department of International Law**

Scientific research and organizational activities are of primary importance to the Department of International Law. They are aimed at achieving creative results from international law research issues in order to obtain new knowledge, its implementation into modern educational process and to improve teaching, learning, research and teaching methodology.

The Department's scientific research is titled "Theory and Practice of Transformations in International Law."

Every Department lecturer's or Department professor's individual scientific plan is developed according to the scientific research issues of the International Law Department.

**The key points of the Department scientific research on the topic "Theory and practice of transformations in international law" are as follows:**

- Transformations in international law and problems of applying research methodologies;
- Historical and legal aspects of transformations in international law as a problem of investigation;
- Legal essence of transformations in international law: difficulties arising from the diversification in international law;
  - Problems of legitimacy of the use of force: international and legal norms and principles (Article 51 of the UN Charter; Chapter VII of the UN Charter).
  - Problem of efficiency of the international and legal adjustment mechanism of inter-state armed conflicts in the context of international law transformations.
  - Threat without borders and legal capacity to prevent global conflicts by means of international law facilities in accordance with transformation processes.
  - International law transformations and international and legal mechanism of global partnership formation.
  - Conceptual approaches to teaching, study and investigation of international law in higher educational institutions of Ukraine.
  - International and legal conceptions of global law, Internet law, cyber law and perception of corresponding transformations in international law.
  - Law for the EU and the system of modern international law.

- Legal consequences of forming legal system (*sui generis*) of European law for the EU in the context of international common law transformation.
- Issues of globalization processes international and legal regulation mechanism efficiency in the period of economic crises.
- Aggression of Russian Federation against independent and sovereign Ukraine: the problem of international and legal responsibility of Russia as the state – aggressor.
- Theory and practice of international law and foreign legislation application in judicial practice in relation to the annexed territories of the Crimea and indemnification of moral and material compensations.
- Theoretical bases of modern system of international relations and the subsystem of international law relationships.
- Modern challenges for bilateral relations of Ukraine and nearby Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Hungary: international and legal aspects.
- International and legal aspects of regional policy of Ukraine.
- International and legal regional inter-state armed conflicts adjusting mechanism efficiency (illustrated by the inter-state armed conflict between Russia and Georgia, Russia and Ukraine).
- International and legal mechanism of creation and functioning of economic zones.
- Regional aspects of Ukraine's accession to the EU and NATO prospects: international and legal aspects.
- European civilization values and international law.
- International law, religion and culture.

**VII. Scientific cooperation with leading domestic and foreign University center's of International Law is aimed at:**

- organizing the network of scientific links with leading domestic and foreign/international university center's of International Law;
- establishing and development of partnership relations with the Departments of International Law of higher educational institutions of Ukraine, scientific-research institutes and institutions of foreign countries.

**VIII. Mechanisms of implementation and projected results of implementing the program "Conceptual framework for development of the**

## **Department of International Law of UzhNU and priority areas of educational, methodological and scientific activity".**

The main condition for the realization and implementation of the program "Conceptual framework for development of the Department of International Law of UzhNU" is formation of legal and economic mechanisms in accordance with the regulations of the national legislation on higher education, scientific and scientific and technical activities according to the Standard of Higher Education of Ukraine 2013 "International Law" as well as with legislation of Ukraine on labor, Government decisions, regulatory legal acts of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Charter of the SHI "Uzhhorod National University", the Magna Charter of Universities (Magna Charta Universitatum (18 September 1888) on the formation of the European and world Commonwealth of Universities, the General Assembly Resolution "Decade of the UN International Law" (A/RES/44/23, 17 November 1989) about the need "to promote the teaching, learning, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law" and so on.

The essential components of the organizational and legal mechanism is a system of rights and obligations of the subjects and participants of the Concept introduction as well as a variety of methods, forms and functions of the Department of International Law, each of which can be directed at the organization of educational, methodological and scientific activity and the formation of a system of incentives in order to obtain a concrete creative result.

The main elements of the institutional implementation mechanism of the "Conceptual framework for the development of the Department of International Law of UzhNU" are:

- development and implementation of annual instructional curricula and research plans of the Department of International Law and effective monitoring their implementation;
- making regularly necessary amendments to the program "Conceptual framework for the development of the Department of International Law of UzhNU and priority areas of educational, methodological and scientific activities".

### **IX. Final provisions.**

- Implementation of this Conception is meant to contribute to the achievement of the program goals of increasing intellectual potential of the Department of International Law and creation of innovative foundations/mechanism for effective solving of the

tasks aimed at training qualified, competitive specialists in the specialty "International Law";

- achieving high academic reputation of the Department of International Law, business respect among employers, qualitative changes of international lawyers student contingent;
  - integration into the international scientific community;
  - introduction of effective criteria of scientific research: the scientific relevance of performed research, volume of scientific output, measured total or average number of publications per lecturer; prepared and defended dissertations; completed or commissioned scientific reports; writing textbooks and scientific articles, monographs, delivering new courses of lectures based on scholarly research achievements, conducting conferences, seminars, training courses as well as involving students in scientific research;
  - estimation of the efficiency of Department's scientists investigations in the field of International Law through the introduction of monitoring index number of citation as a normative indicator of assessment of researchers activity efficiency by means of access to track databases scientific citations: Web of Science, Sci Verse Scopus, a scientific publishing infrastructure "Scientific Periodicals of Ukraine", etc.
  - formation of organizational legal and economic conditions for the development and recognition of the Department of International Law of the PHEI "Uzhhorod National University" as one of the leading University center's of International Law.
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