

Yerevan, 14-25 August, 2023



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Jean Monnet Summer School 2023

“Current Challenges to International and EU
Law and Politics: The Security and Human
Rights Crises in the European Neighborhood”



Final Report



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From 14 to 25 August, Eurasia International University hosted an intensive Jean Monnet Summer School, rich in academic activities and social events.

Twenty-seven participants with multidisciplinary backgrounds from leading European and Armenian universities (European University of Frankfurt Oder, Freie Universität Berlin, Europe University of Viadrina, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, University College Dublin, University of Leipzig, University of Trier, London School of Economics and Political Science, Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, Goethe University of Frankfurt on Main, University of Passau, Nova University, EIU, YSU and Public Administration Academy) explored the topic of “Current challenges to International and European Law and Politics: The Security and Human Rights Crisis in the European Neighbourhood”.

The School was supported by the EU (Jean Monnet Module in Security and Fundamental Rights) and the DAAD.

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OPENING CEREMONY

The program was opened with the welcome speeches by Dr. Ruben Markosyan, Vice-Rector of EIU, and Mr. Parsa McJacob, Head of the EIU International Cooperation Centre. Dr. Anna Khvorostiankina, academic coordinator of the Summer School, introduced the planned academic and social-cultural activities.

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STUDENTS

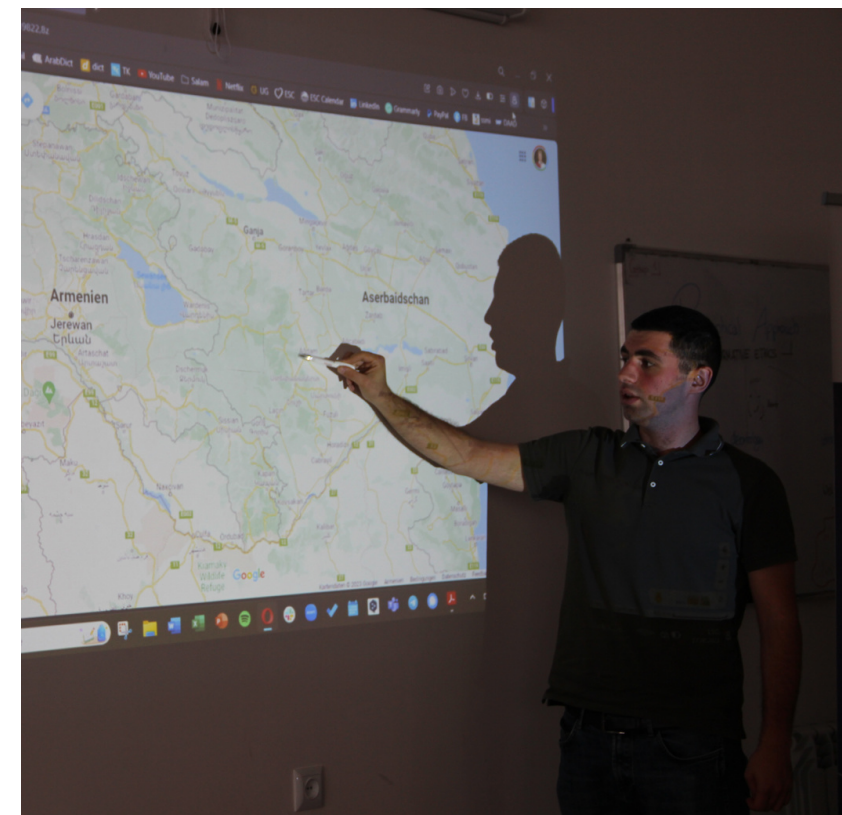


FIRST WEEK

The first week of the School (14-18 August) was focused on the current challenges the international legal order faces. In the interactive lectures and simulation exercises, the participants discussed issues related to International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Criminal Law.

Core lectures by Dr. Nawras Layous were supplemented with guest classes. Dr. Gevorg Melikyan introduced the students to “The Security Challenges in the South Caucasus and Hybrid Threats”. Mr. Igor Mirzakhanyan provided an in-depth analysis of violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights by Azerbaijan in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Azerbaijan’s aggression against Armenia.

Ms. Diana Karazyan and Ms. Anastasia Makaryan from the Office of the Representative of the Republic of Armenia in International Legal Matters presented the work of this governmental institution's work and the professional development opportunities available to Armenian and international interns.



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On 16 August, the participants visited the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia. The meeting with Vice-President of the Court Justice Vahe Grigoryan was focused on the issues of evolution of the constitutional justice in Armenia and the detailed analysis of judicial argumentation in the recent Decision of the Constitutional Court N 1680 on the compatibility of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court with the Constitution of Armenia.

Justice Grigoryan explained the rationale of the axiological arguments employed by the Constitutional Court with reference to the fundamental values enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of Armenia. It was underlined that Armenia, being founded by generations of genocide survivors, has a mission to contribute to the efforts of the international community to prevent and fight against genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression.

The perception of this axiological reasoning was facilitated by the introduction to the history of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 at the Genocide Museum. The visit to the Museum and the Genocide Memorial preceded the visit to the Court.

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The first week culminated in the full-day training session on Humanitarian Project Management run by Dr. Nawras Layous. The interactive exercises were supplemented with a conversation with a guest speaker, Ms Anahit Melkumyan, who presented the work of the SOS Children's Villages Armenia aiming to protect Children's Rights, in particular in conflict-related contexts.

Read More



SECOND WEEK

The second week of the Summer School (21–25 August) was focused on the role of the European Union as a global security actor and the contribution of the EU to the ongoing reforms in Armenia. Core lectures by Dr. Anna Khvorostiankina were enriched with the guest speakers' contributions.

Ms. Sossi Tatikyan provided a detailed analysis of the EU's CFSP and CSDP; following this introduction, under the facilitation of Ms. Tatikyan, the participants engaged in the in-depth case analysis exploring the EU's CSDP missions worldwide. Ms. Tatikyan's first-hand practical experience as an officer in some of these missions was an invaluable asset shared with the students.

Mr. Thomas Barrett, in his turn, discussed the implications of Russia's war against Ukraine for the EU through an interactive exercise.



SECOND WEEK

The second week featured two study visits.

On 22 August, the students visited the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia where they had a meeting with the Chair of the Standing Committee on European Integration Mr. Arman Yeghoyan. Participants discussed the development of EU-Armenia relations, the role of the EU in conflict resolution and domestic reforms, as well as the performance of the EaP policy.



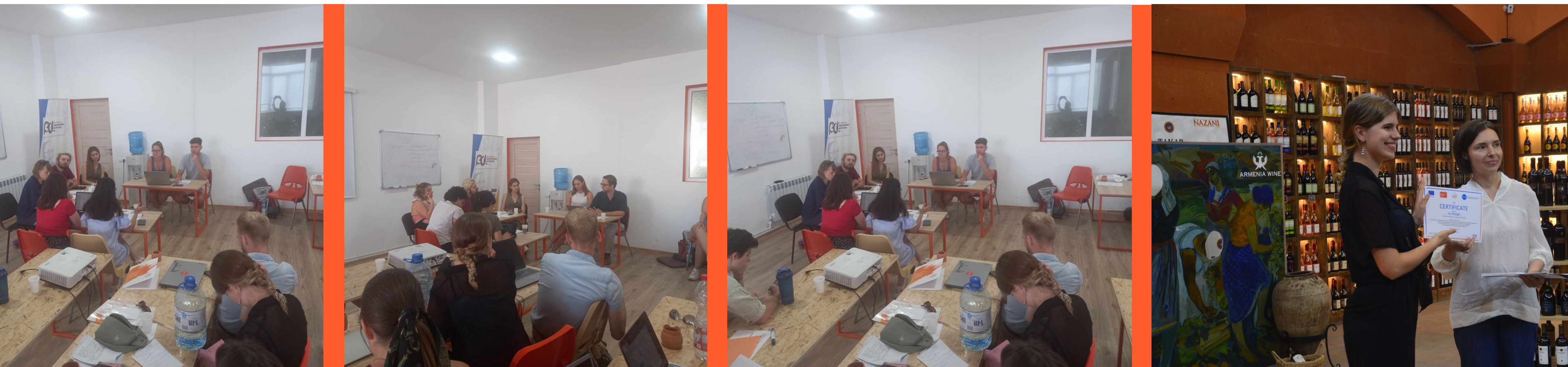
SECOND WEEK

On 23 August, the Summer School was hosted by the EU Delegation to Armenia. The students met with Mr. Jan Plešinger – Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation. The lively discussion was focused on the ongoing projects of the EU in Armenia, the role of the EU in the region, as well as EUMA, a non-executive, non-armed civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Mission of the EU in Armenia.



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The educational part of the second week culminated in a simulation exercise focused on the topical issues of the EU's and Armenia's policies. At the end of the School, participants were awarded certificates confirming the completion of the program with a workload equivalent to 3 ECTS.



SOCIAL-CULTURAL PROGRAM

The Jean Monnet Summer School was certainly not only about in-class learning and study visits. It had a very rich social-cultural program enabling the participants to dive into the local context and learn more about the Armenian history, nature and culture.

The program started with the Welcome event at the Masoor Art House where students had a chance to enjoy traditional Armenian singing by the internationally renown Nairyan Vocal Ensemble, participate in a pottery workshop and taste delicious traditional dishes. This visit was also a great opportunity to learn more about social entrepreneurship and women empowerment in Armenia.



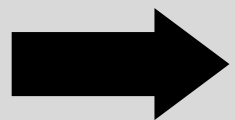
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The weekend of 19 and 20 August was allocated to two long-distance trips. On Saturday, the students visited the Hovhannavank Monastery, the Saghmossavank Monastery and the Kassagh river canyon.

On Sunday, they had a chance to explore the Geghard Monastery and Garni Temple, visit the Sevan Lake, Sevanavank Monastery and Noraduz Khachkars and enjoy a fish lunch. Additionally, on Saturday the students were introduced to the rich history of the Armenian language at the Matenadaran, the Institute of Ancient Manuscripts.



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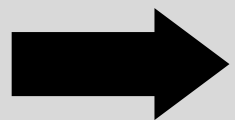


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On 21 August, participants had a cooking workshop to discover the art and technique of preparing traditional Armenian dolma and arishta. The workshop “products” were served as a dinner – in a warm and friendly atmosphere participants enjoyed the results of their hard work.



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The Closing event and the certificates awarding ceremony were organized at the Armenia Wine Factory. The students were introduced to the rich history of the Armenian winery tradition and enjoyed the wine degustation.

The Closing event was made unforgettable and touching by the students who shared their very warm feedback about the Summer School and presented symbolic gifts to the organizers. The EIU Team was extremely happy to cooperate with such motivated, knowledgeable, talented young people genuinely interested in Armenia and the region.

Undoubtedly, the personal and professional networks developed during the School are the most important and sustainable outcome of the program. Hopefully, they will bring new joint projects and collaborations. We wish our participants success on their professional paths and are looking forward to seeing them again in Yerevan in the future.



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Dr. Anna Khvorostiankina



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Thank you!

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