

Your excellencies, ladies and gentleman, colleagues and friends,

Welcome to coffee and conversation on cooperation with the Faculty of Law in the Aula of this building, a place of special importance to all of us who studied here and are now teachers.

The building was constructed in 1859 and we have been here since 1883. This building, which is the heart of our institution, was terribly hit by last year's earthquake, and is still waiting for reconstruction, but our institutional spirit is renewed day after day.

The main purpose of today's conversation is not to ask for help from you but, first and foremost, to inform you – at the beginning of our mandate – about our institution, as well as about our research and study opportunities.

Secondly, I would like to say that you can invite us to be and rely on us as a possible partner in scientific and study collaboration in the fields of law and public services.

And thirdly, I assure you that you can call us or come to the Faculty of Law in Zagreb at any time for a friendly talk about all the themes and issues connected with the rule of law, legislation, functioning of judiciary, public administration, and public and social services.

This event, which I hope is the first in the row of our regular pre-Christmas gatherings, is part of our Faculty's internationalisation strategy. This does not mean we do not have a comprehensive international cooperation. Neither it means we wish to transpose ourselves out of the national boundaries – we all know that law and public services are basically national disciplines. What we wish to do is to design a truly international environment for our students, teachers and other employees.

We are focused on students and think they deserve the best combination of national and international educational components. Some six thousand students are attending the Faculty of Law at this moment. We offer them as many as 21 study programmes at BA, MA and postgraduate levels, not to mention lifelong learning courses and some other possibilities to upgrade their knowledge, skills and competences.

The majority of study programmes are in law, while equally important are those in social work, social policy, public administration, and public finances.

Doctoral studies in law and social work are on top of our study offer. I wish to single out a joint three-year PHD degree in human rights, society and multilevel governance performed in association with the University of Padua, the University of Nicosia and Western Sydney University from Australia.

Furthermore, we have been developing a rich cooperation and mobility within the European University of Post-industrial Cities (UNIC), an alliance of eight universities from all over Europe, which includes a joint study programme in migration law and governance, participation of our students and teachers in several other study programmes, etc.

I have the pleasure of informing you that we wish to open our library, as the oldest and largest Croatian legal library with about 500 000 books and scientific journals from all over the world, to the domestic and international professional and general public.

And finally, all our seven scientific journals are already functioning as international journals, being well indexed and referenced in the Web of Science, Hein online, Scopus and other bases, having international editors and editorial board members, and relying on international authors and reviewers.

Vice-dean for international and interinstitutional cooperation and quality management Professor Iris Goldner Lang will inform you about all mentioned issues in more detail.

Finally, from my side, I would like to list some of cooperation possibilities. You might be interested in:

- Some of our research projects if they are in line with your strategic goals,
- Joint development of research and other projects as well as study programmes with partners from your countries,
- Joint organisation of conferences, advocacy and humanitarian events, and similar common activities,
- Cooperation in developing innovations and in transfer of knowledge from university to professional communities in Croatia and/or Europe,
- Developing student, teacher, and staff mobility lines,
- Organizing debates about EU policies in high education, science and technology,
- Regular information exchange in the fields and disciplines we cover at the Faculty of Law, etc.

Last but not least, I do hope we will have an opportunity to organize a common spring walk in and around our buildings aimed at introducing you to spatial and other interesting elements of our institution sometime in May 2022.

My colleague Professor Goldner Lang and I will be happy to answer all your questions.