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ERASMUS – JMO – 2025 – 2028 MODULE
UNIVERSITY OF GJIROKASTRA
EU EDUCATION FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

EU4EduGovRegAI

THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN GOVERNANCE AND IN THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Lecturer: Dr. Arjan GJINI

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OPEN FORUM OVERVIEW: EU4EduGovRegAl

Academic Transformation: Strengthening European Union studies through innovative teaching, interdisciplinary approaches, and research on EU governance.

Institutional Capacity Building: Supporting the modernization of public administration by promoting European standards of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Regional Engagement and European Awareness: Enhancing awareness of European integration and fostering cooperation among institutions, students, and regional stakeholders.

Sustainable Academic and Institutional Networks: Establishing long-term collaboration between universities, local governments, and international partners to support Albania's European integration process.

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🎯 FORUM OBJECTIVES

- 🇪🇺 Understanding EU Governance Principles
- 🏛️ Analyzing EU Institutions
- 📣 Promoting Active Citizenship
- 🤝 Connecting EU Governance with Albania
- 🏆 Applying Knowledge Practically

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INTRODUCTION – THE INDIVIDUAL VS. THE SYSTEM

The Role of the Individual: From Subject of Power to Co-Governor. Integrity, Ethics, and Digital Empowerment in the European Model.

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CRISIS OF TRUST AND THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

Why do we feel distant from institutions? Administrative hypertrophy.

Transition: From governance "for the citizen" to governance "by the citizen".

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THE INDIVIDUAL AS A "NATURAL AUDITOR"

- Radical transparency (Open Data) as a tool of oversight.
- The "glass system": When everything is visible, corruption cannot breathe.

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LEGAL SHIELD (THEME 15.1)

Dual Protection Network
Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU) + European Convention (ECHR).
Human dignity prioritized over state pragmatism.

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GLOBAL RISK – SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

Algorithms as "Black Boxes".

Risk of behavior manipulation through Big Data.

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EU AI ACT – ANTIBODY AGAINST LIFE AUTOMATION

Risk classification of Artificial Intelligence.

Ban on "Social Scoring" – Chinese model vs. European model.

👉 "The question is not what the state does for you – but what you do to control the state."

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INTERVENTION TOOLS (THEME 15.2)

European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

1 million signatures to change a law in Brussels.

Transnational direct democracy: You propose the agenda!

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PETITIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- The right to bypass political filters of your state.
- Citizens' voice in shaping every new EU law.

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TRANSPARENCY AND THE "FOURTH POWER" (THEME 15.3)

Radical Transparency – Regulation 1049/2001

Right to access secret institutional documents.

Information as a "common good".

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MEDIA AND ACTIVISM – WATCHDOGS

Investigative journalism as a filter of truth.

Protection against misinformation and "fake news".

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MORAL COMPASS (THEME 15.4)

Public Ethics – The "Concrete" of Institutions

Laws without ethics are walls that crumble.

Obedience to law vs. obedience to the boss.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST MANAGEMENT

When private interest "poisons" public service.

Integrity as an internal "filter" of the official.

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WHISTLEBLOWING – COURAGE TO SPEAK UP

Directive 2019/1937: Protection of whistleblowers.

No more retaliation: System protects those defending the truth.

Ethical dilemma:

👉 "Loyalty to a friend or to the taxpayer?"

→ In the European model: law and public interest trump personal ties.

🇦🇱 For Albania:

Integration is not just reform – it is a shift in the role of the individual.

Active citizen = real guarantee of democracy

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DIGITAL REVOLUTION (THEME 15.5)

Citizen 2.0 and Dashboards

Real-time budget monitoring via mobile phone.

"Government as a Platform."

Example: How to submit an official information request on EU portals in under 5 minutes.

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DIGITAL RESILIENCE – SHIELD AGAINST NUDGING

Digital literacy as national security.

How not to fall prey to algorithmic manipulation.

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ALBANIA AND THE "ISLANDS OF TRUTH"

Role of East StratCom and fact-checking networks in the region.

Protection of the integration process from geopolitical disinformation.

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CASE STUDY – WHY THE EU BANNED "SOCIAL SCORING"

Difference between freedom and mass control.

Protection of vulnerable groups from cold, automated judgment.

Audience engagement experiment:"Imagine your exam grade drops because you crossed a red light and the municipal algorithm notifies your university. Is this fair?"

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DRIVER OF THE LEGAL MACHINE

The system is the machine, you are the driver with a moral compass.

Without individuals with integrity, integration is just paper.

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CONCLUSION: THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL – THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MODERN GOVERNANCE

In the European model, the individual is not an object of power – but part of it.

Citizens have legal tools to protect themselves.

Citizens have digital tools to monitor power.

Citizens have a real voice in decision-making.

⚖️ The European Union has built, for the first time in history, a system where:

👉 Law protects the individual even from the state itself.

👉 Power is controlled not only by institutions but also by citizens.

🎯👉 "Democracy reaches its highest level when the citizen becomes a co-governor."

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CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS. SPACE FOR DISCUSSION.

THANK YOU

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