

Intensive course “Health, Law and Human Dignity in the European Union”

23.02.-27.02.2026

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

| Name | Academic degree | Academic position |
|--------------|------------------------|--|
| Laura Kadile | PhD in Law | Assistant Professor of Health law, Riga Graduate School of Law |

COURSE ABSTRACT

The intensive course will focus on health law and legal regulation in the European Union. It will cover the overall regulatory framework of the European Union, definitions and historical development, main principles, as well as broad overview of the various aspects of health systems in Europe. Intersections of health law and fundamental human rights will be covered within the course. The course will also involve the right to health as a fundamental right, the rights of patients and health practitioners, and the protection of vulnerable patients. It will also delve into end-of-life decisions and health law in times of emergency. Future challenges of the EU health law will be highlighted during the final stage of the course.

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

| Session | Session subjects and readings | Lecture/ Seminar |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Introduction to the course: What is Health law and Human Dignity in the European Union? Right to health as a fundamental human rights. | Lecture/Seminar |
| 2. | EU regulatory framework and Institutions. Health systems, Sovereignty and EU Governance. Human rights in Public Health. | Lecture/Seminar |
| 3. | Patient rights in cross border healthcare in European Union. Cross border healthcare from the perspective of healthcare practitioner. | Lecture/Seminar |
| 4. | Vulnerable patients. Mental health rights. Reproductive Rights. | Lecture/Seminar |
| 5. | End of life care. Right to die. Euthanasia and assisted suicide. Health law and human rights in times of Emergency and Crises. Future of European Health law. | Lecture/Seminar |

Recommended literature:

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| Orentlicher, David, and Tamara K. Hervey (eds), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Health Law</i> (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 June 2020), https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190846756.001.0001 |
| De Ruijter, Aniek, <i>EU Health Law & Policy: The Expansion of EU Power in Public Health and Health Care</i> , Oxford Studies in European Law (Oxford, 2019; online edn, Oxford Academic, 21 Mar. 2019), https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198788096.001.0001 |
| Hervey, Tamara K., and Jean V. McHale. <i>European Union Health Law: Themes and Implications of Law in Context</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. |
| European Journal of Health law |