



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

Health Law and Human Rights in the European Union

BIP No. 2024-LV01-KA131-HED-000207343-1

Coordinating institution: Riga Graduate School of Law (LV RIGA34)

Partner institutions: Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Comenius University in Bratislava

Virtual class date: 05 May 2026 (exact class time to be confirmed)

Physical mobility period in Riga, Latvia: from 11 May 2026 to 15 May 2026

This course is aimed at law students of participating institutions who are interested to learn the legal framework of health law in the European Union from a human rights perspective. The course covers the European Union's overall regulatory framework, including definitions, historical development and main principles, as well as an overview of various aspects of health systems in Europe from a comparative perspective.

Developed jointly by the partner faculty members it will be presented for the first time within Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme format, offering opportunity for students of several partner universities to **collaborate online and in-person in international environment during lectures, discussions, group presentations, social and cultural activities.**

The students – BIP participants will be selected by their home university and nominations sent to the Coordinating university Riga Graduate School of Law. **Inquiries and contact person for visiting student registration:** Ulla Zumente-Steele, RGSL Erasmus Institutional Coordinator, email: ulla@rgsl.edu.lv

Course outline in brief

Course title	Health Law and Human Rights in the European Union
Credit points	3 ECTS
Course level	Bachelor
Prerequisites	Preferably students have a background knowledge in EU law, Constitutional Law, Administrative law. Recommended English language skills B2.

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Laura Kadile	PhD in Law	Assistant Professor of Health law, Riga Graduate School of Law

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Silvia Capikova	PhD in Law	Assistant Prof., Comenius University in Bratislava
Federico Laus	PhD in Law	Assistant Prof., University of Bologna

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course provides an introduction to the legal framework of health law in the European Union from a human rights perspective. It covers the European Union's overall regulatory framework, including definitions, historical development and main principles, as well as an overview of various aspects of health systems in Europe from a comparative perspective.

The intersections of health law and fundamental human rights will also be covered. The course will also address the right to health as a fundamental right, the rights of patients and health practitioners, and the protection of vulnerable patients. To provide insight into the latest developments in this field, the second part of the course will also explore end-of-life decisions and health law in times of emergency. The final stage of the course will highlight future challenges of EU health law.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, a student has to participate in classes, also take part in the group presentation (comprises 40% of the grade), and pass the final exam (comprises 60% of the final grade).

1. Class participation

Students are expected to take active participation in lectures and seminars, as the structure of the lecture itself will include also interaction with students and discussions. In order to pass the course, attendance is a mandatory element of the course.

2. Group presentations

Group presentations will be essential element of the course. Groups will consist of 3-5 students and groups will be assigned by course responsible.

3. Final Exam

The final examination will be in-class written examination on the final day of the on-campus week. It will consist of open - ended questions. If a student fails the final exam, the student is entitled to take a re-exam.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	Overview of the EU legal framework and health systems	8
2.	Biomedical ethics, vulnerable patients, mental health and reproductive rights	8
3.	Cross-border healthcare, telemedicine	8
4.	Pharmaceutical law	4
5.	End of life care, health law innovations	4

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects
1.	Introduction to the course: What is Health law and Human Rights in the EU?
2.	Right to health as a fundamental human right
3.	EU regulatory framework and Institutions
4.	Health systems, Sovereignty and EU Governance
5.	Human Rights in Public Health
6.	Biomedical Ethics & EU law
7.	Vulnerable patients. Mental health rights.
8.	Reproductive Rights.
9.	Patient rights in cross border healthcare in EU.
10.	Cross border healthcare from the perspective of healthcare practitioner.
11.	E-health and telemedicine.
12.	Innovations in health law. Future of EU Health law.
13.	Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices & Human rights
14.	Group presentations I
15.	Group presentations II
16.	End of life care. Right to die. Euthanasia and assisted suicide. Health law and human rights in times of Emergency and Crises.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course has the following main learning outcomes:

Knowledge:

1. Students have obtained the basic theoretical knowledge about the EU health law system, the history, development and structure of the European Health law system.
2. Students are able to explain the functions of health law system within European Union and their interaction with human rights.
3. Students are able to understand the current issues and challenges in EU Health law and policy.

Skills:

4. Students are able to participate in class discussions and group presentations covering the course topics.
5. Explain, apply and analyse the principles of EU health law, being able to apply them, as well as interpret and analyse the legal framework.
6. Students have improved their argumentation and presentation skills.

Competencies:

7. Students understand the importance of the EU Health law system, the legal framework, being able to analyse and interpret it.
8. Students are able to analyse the facts and circumstances of a particular situation and to provide situation assessment and advice.
9. Students are able to identify individual further learning needs in order to become proficient in a particular field of expertise.

COURSE LITERATURE

Compulsory literature

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1.	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 , accessed 19 Dec. 2025.
2.	De Ruijter, Anniek, <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 , accessed 23 Dec. 2025.
3.	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.

Additional literature and sources

No.	<i>Author, year, title, publisher</i>
1.	Report. OECD (2025), Health at a Glance 2025: OECD Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/8f9e3f98-en .
2.	European Journal of Health law