

## EU Anti-Discrimination Law and Policy

CIVICA Honour Seminar of Central European University

22-26 June 2026, Vienna

### Course Directors, Instructors, and Speakers

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tba (Speaker) (EU Fundamental Rights Agency)

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### Course description

**Prerequisites:** Master's students should have good knowledge of English and must demonstrate familiarity with EU law, or at least with the EU institutional framework and main law and policy making processes.

This honour seminar offers a deep dive into the realities and practice of European Union (EU) Anti-Discrimination law and policy. The EU became active in this field already from the 1970s, with a strong focus on gender equality. From the 2000s onward, there has been an expansion in terms of protected grounds of discrimination and material scope.

This honour seminar will look at how EU policy and legal developments have taken place, by analysing the soft law documents, and the hard law instruments adopted by the EU institutions as well as the important role played by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in interpreting them.

This institutional and legal approach will be complemented with practical lectures looking at what happens on the ground in the domain of EU anti-discrimination law via NGOs working in the field and visits to institutions that implement or work with this domain, such as the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna or the Austrian equality body, the *Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft*.

The honour seminar aims to enhance the participants' ability to assess and address discrimination in the European context, through a better understanding of EU anti-discrimination law and policy. The program will equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, understand and evaluate relevant EU legal and policy frameworks, and design impact strategies in order to fight discriminatory rules and practices in Europe

### Learning outcomes

The honour seminar is designed to develop participants' knowledge of EU Anti-Discrimination Law and Policies as well as related concepts and theories. By the end of the seminar, participants should be able to:

- Identify relevant EU policies and legal instruments;
- Be familiar with the main cases and jurisprudential developments by bodies who apply and interpret the above-mentioned policies and legal instruments;
- Understand and apply EU anti-discrimination law concepts;
- Assess how policy works in the field of the fight against discrimination in Europe;
- Design effective strategies to enhance the protection from discrimination

### Main topics

- EU anti-discrimination law, The Treaties and General Principles, EU Charter
- EU anti-discrimination legislation
- Concepts under EU anti-discrimination law
- EU Anti-discrimination policy instruments and EU relevant bodies (FRA/EIGE)
- EU anti-discrimination – different grounds/cases
- EU anti-discrimination law regional/international human rights law (CRPD/Istanbul/ratification of ECHR/interaction between ECHR/CJEU)
- Making an impact: advocacy, enforcement

### Assessment

Each participant is assessed through a combination of the following:

1. Active participation: Participants are required to participate in all seminar classes, read all mandatory texts prior to the classes, and actively contribute to seminar discussions. Punctuality is expected.
2. Group work: The idea is to have a few small groups (depending on the overall class size) working on a combination of impact processes and substantive domain/instrument, such as litigating under EU anti-discrimination (eg equal pay), advocating for new EU legislation (eg Violence Against Women Directive), enforcing EU anti-discrimination law

(eg Disability) via equal opportunity bodies, developing anti-discrimination organizational policies, mainstreaming equality in other policy domains.

## Equality, diversity, engagement

The honour seminar is designed for MA students, who have prior knowledge of the EU and seek further develop expertise in the specific field of EU anti-discrimination law.

The seminar pays particular attention to the gender and ethnic diversity of its faculty and participants. Minority students are encouraged to apply.

## Format of the seminar

The honour seminar is composed of three different modules.

### 1. Lectures

The central element of this honour seminar are lectures, in which students are supposed to do the assigned readings ahead of the lecture. This will ensure an interactive character of in-class discussions.

### 2. Group project

The details of project development are discussed on the first day of the honour seminar.

### 3. Social and networking events

We plan few social and networking events, such as meetings with relevant policy actors in Vienna and/or cultural and other local institutions working with EU anti-discrimination law. Moreover, dinner is also planned.

## Online platforms

Course moodle on CEU website

## Dates and venue

The seminar starts in the early afternoon on Monday, 22 June 2026, and ends in the early afternoon on Friday, 26 June 2026.

The seminar will be held on the campus of Central European University in Vienna (Quellenstrasse 51).