



Microqualification (Minor): Political Transformations

Partners: Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CSMK), Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe (CAS SEE), University of Rijeka and the European Fund for the Balkans

Format: Lifelong learning programme | 30 ECTS | Feb–May 2026 Cohort: regional (SEE) students + professionals/activists/journalists

Programme snapshot:

Three core pillars:

- Engaged Democracy
- Rule of Law & Transnational Corruption
- International Relations & Social Theory (*foundational lens for the region's geopolitical realities*)

Electives (choose 3 of 8) across political sociology, geopolitics, international organisations, nationalism, populism, climate politics, emergencies/conflict, and development policies.

Delivery: opening immersion in February 2026 (Cres, Moise Palace), hybrid teaching during the semester, closing weekend in May 2026 (Rijeka).

Assessment: all courses Pass/Fail except the Challenge, which receives a mark and formal feedback (portfolio + presentation).

The Challenge (centre-piece of the program)

Undoing Autocracy: Designing Policies and Pathways for Democratic Transitions

. Teams develop evidence-based, actionable policy proposals for countries facing democratic backsliding.

● Three guiding tracks:

- (A) Engaged democracy (civic mobilisation, movement-building, local action)
- (B) Rule of law/anti-corruption (institutional repair, checks and balances)
- (C) International strategy (external anchoring, EU instruments, regional alliances)

. **Outputs:** problem statement & research memo; integrated final report; stakeholder presentation.



Who should join

- . Students (Erasmus, YUFE, regional MA/PhD) seeking credit-bearing, practice-oriented training in English.
- . Professionals/Activists/Journalists looking to co-produce policy with academic mentors and to strengthen regional networks and CVs.

When: Feb–May 2026 (opening retreat in Rijeka; closing on the island of Cres).

Selection: rolling shortlisting with diversity across SEE (activists, journalists, CSOs).

Call deadline: December 30, 2025 at midnight

Selection results: Mid-January 2026

Potential applicants may be invited to an interview.

Practicalities & timeline

Courses and Lecturers – Political Transformations Course	Lecturers
Challenge – Undoing Autocracy: Designing Policies and Pathways for Democratic Transitions	Challenge leads and all module instructors
Rule of Law and Transnational Corruption (<i>compulsory</i>)	Tena Prelec, Sonja Stojanović-Gajić
International Relations and Social Theory (<i>compulsory</i>)	Katarina Kušić
Engaged Democracy (<i>compulsory</i>)	Vedran Džihčić, Tena Prelec, Sonja Stojanović-Gajić
Political Sociology	Marko Kovačić
EU Policy: Integration, Enlargement, Conditionality	Tena Prelec, Sonja Stojanović-Gajić
International Organisations	Dejan Stjepanović, Tena Prelec