

D.1. Why does your organisation wish to undertake this Action?

Summary of the proposal

- Brief write up of the key points.
- Background and rationale of the proposal.
- Objectives, activities, main outputs, outcomes and impact including indicators of achievement.

Demonstrate evidence of academic added value, promotion of European Union studies and outline how the proposal impacts on the specific subject area of study at an international level. Please outline to what extent the proposal fosters the development of existing and new teaching and debating activities (including new methodologies, tools and technologies), how it demonstrates evidence of academic added value, how it promotes European Union studies at the host institution and gives greater visibility to this field of study at a national level. Please also provide a short overview of the state of play of EU studies in your Faculty/Institution/Country and indicate to what extent your project responds to an identified need to develop this field of study (Recommended 4000 characters).

The project "Enforcement of European Union Values in Ukraine" is designed to promote excellence in teaching and academic research in the field of European Union studies in Sumy State University (SSU).

The mission of the project is through EU studies, dissemination of the information, public dialogue and discussion, to contribute to the public perception of the EU values and their embodiment into Ukrainian judicial and law enforcement practice in particular.

Background and rationale of the proposal:

Ukraine's aspiration for European integration and obligation in accordance with EU-Ukraine Association Agreement make it necessary to bring the national legislation and law enforcement practice in line with European standards. Over the past two decades it has formed a significant body of legal rules based on these standards. However, a positive regulatory effect on practices was minimal, due to several factors, both legal and non-legal. Among other reasons for it is the discrepancy between the challenges facing Ukraine and stereotyped attitudes toward the law and human rights, inappropriate values laid down in the policymaking, existing in-formal rules and in-formal institutions, disrespect for the human dignity, manifestation of intolerance, weak civil society and the lack of solidarity within communities. Insufficient awareness about the EU, misinterpretation of its values, and the lack of pro-European-oriented professionals are also the important obstacles to successful implementation of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The complex of activity in the given project will contribute to solve problems mentioned above. Achievement of the aforesaid mission in this project will bring positive and long-lasting effects to the involved person and will facilitate the eradication of undesirable practice. The Department of International, European and Environmental Law of Academic and Research Institute of Law SSU consistently focuses its activities on training of pro-European-oriented specialists and promotion of EU values, particularly in Sumy Region neighbouring the Russian Federation. Commitment to improvement of this activity is also the reason to implement the project.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- to promote excellence in teaching and research in the sphere of EU law in general and the EU values and their legal protection in particular;
- to improve the quality of professional lawyers training with a focus on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
- to equip students, graduates, civil society organizations and the public at large with knowledge of EU law, promote understanding and perception of EU values, encourage of their enforcing in national practice;
- to promote innovation in teaching and research, including development of open online courses and using blended learning tools.

Tangible outputs of the project: development of new discipline (Values of European Union); publication of the collective scientific monograph, conducting promotion event, two annual workshops for academic, professional and civil society audience, and the debate on the issues of equality, non-discrimination and tolerance as an inherent elements of Europeanization; development of two open online courses on the virtual platform of SSU OpenCourseWare - for professional lawyers and for all interested persons.

Outcomes of the project:

- introduction of a new issue - studying of the EU values and their enforcement in Ukraine - in academic and research sphere of SSU and other universities in the region;
- enhancing employability and improved career prospects for young graduates, by improving the curricula proposed by the SSU, through delivering advanced knowledge and awareness about EU and prospects for EU-Ukraine Association Agreement;

increasing interest in understanding EU values and building a conviction on the need of their enforcement in Ukraine, leading to a more active civic position.

Innovativeness of the project lies in the reviewing conventional focus in the EU law studies in Ukraine, training law students value-based approach to law enforcement, improvement of teaching and research methodology. The academic added value is also determined by the development of two open online courses on the virtual platform of SSU OpenCourseWare, accessible for broad public and people in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine in particular. It is also to be noted that neither Academic and Research Institute of Law SSU nor staff member of the project personally have been participants of Jean Monnet Programmes.