Ten steps for designing new degree programmes or improving existing ones

1. Is there a need? Determine, consulting stakeholders, whether there is really a need for the proposed course of study.

2. Define the profile and the key competences. Find out what competences are actually useful for employment, personal culture and citizenship (see inside this guide for a list).

3. Define the learning outcomes indicating the most important competences with reference to the cycle level indicators; see inside this guide.

4. Decide whether to ‘modularise’ (course units can be of a random number of ECTS credits, or else of a set number, e.g. 5, hence “modularised”).

5. Define the learning outcomes and the key competences in each module or course unit (the lists of competences inside this guide will help).

6. See how those competences can best be formed and assessed, using a variety of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment.

7. Check that all the key generic and subject specific competences have been taken into account.

8. Describe the programme and the course units, indicating the learning outcomes in terms of competences.

9. Check for balance.

10. Implement, monitor and improve.
Subject Specific Competences for Law

1. Knowledge of current norms, statutes, regulations and other sources of law.
2. Knowledge of and ability to use correctly the hierarchy of legal sources.
3. Knowledge of major international treaties.
4. Capacity to apply a legal rule to a particular legal case.
5. Precise understanding of pre-trial and court-room procedure in lawsuits.
6. Understanding of criminal, administrative, disciplinary, and civil-legal procedures.
7. Ability to stipulate a contract and explain it legally and fully.
8. Skills to draw up legal documents.
9. Ability to understand professionally and explain legal norms in the process of their application.
10. Ability to produce effective written or oral legal decisions and advice.
11. Capacity to determine whether a legal conflict can be solved.
12. Capacity to identify the legal interests of the parties.
13. Knowledge of and ability to apply national and international instruments to protect and promote human rights.
14. Capacity to use necessary technology for information searches in juridical practice.
15. Capacity to understand the philosophical and theoretical foundations of the law and State, and to link them to their practical application.
16. Knowledge of and ability to apply the basic means of identification of criminals and anti-crime techniques.
17. Ability to analyse the juridical problems that may constitute an obstacle to Law enforcement.
18. Capacity to use alternative means of resolving conflicts and disputes (Mediation).
19. Knowledge of and ability to apply the law in the sphere of gender equality and juvenile justice.
20. Knowledge of political and legal fundamentals of the theory of civil society and the rule of law.

The most important General and Subject Specific Competences for Law

General competences:
1. Ability to apply knowledge in practice (GC1).
2. Ability to learn, including autonomous learning (GC8).
3. Ability to use logic and critical thinking for solving problems (GC2).
4. Ability to communicate in the official, state, Russian and foreign languages (GC12).
5. Ability to develop general knowledge (GC 7).
6. Knowledge of the professional field (GC10).
7. Ability to prevent and resolve conflicts (GC20).
8. Patriotism and preservation of own cultural values (GC21).
9. Ability to model, design and forecast (GC3).
10. Ability to innovate (GC6).

Specific competences:
1. Knowledge of current norms, statutes, regulations and other sources of law (SC1).
2. Knowledge of and ability to apply national and international instruments to protect and promote human rights (SC13).
3. Skills to draw up legal documents (SC8).
4. Precise understanding of pre-trial and court-room procedure in lawsuits (SC5).
5. Ability to understand professionally and explain the legal norms in the process of their application (SC9).
6. Capacity to identify the legal interests of the parties (SC12).
7. Understanding of criminal, administrative, disciplinary, and civil-legal procedures (SC6).
8. Knowledge of and ability to use correctly the hierarchy of legal sources (SC2).
9. Ability to analyse the juridical problems that may constitute an obstacle to Law enforcement (SC17).
10. Ability to produce effective written or oral legal decisions and advice (SC10).
11. Capacity to apply a legal rule to a particular legal case (SC4).
12. Capacity to determine whether a legal conflict can be solved (SC11).

Descriptors in terms of outcomes: as examples, BA and MA levels:

1. Bachelor – as a result of training the graduate is able to:
   1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of existing legal instruments and the basic sources of law.
   2. Demonstrate knowledge and ability to implement the laws needed for a specific case of national and international acts, aimed at protecting and promoting fundamental human rights.
   3. Implement skills in drafting legal documents specific to a particular subject of future work.
   4. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the proceedings in the pre-trial and court proceedings in the realization of a specific legal case.
   5. Provide the ability for professional understanding and clarification of the legal norms in the realization of specific legal acts.
   6. Demonstrate the ability to identify and articulate the legal interests of the parties in the protection of the rights of individuals and legal entities.
   7. Demonstrate the ability to navigate and use the criminal, administrative-judicial, disciplinary, civil procedure as part of their official duties.
   8. Demonstrate and use the ability to navigate the hierarchy and subordination of legal acts with a view to deciding on a specific legal case.
   9. Analyse legal problems in the realization of their rights and duties.
   10. Provide oral and written qualified legal opinion and advice in specific cases for individuals and legal entities.
   11. Apply appropriately industry-specific legal rules to a particular legal case (casus).
   12. Demonstrate the ability to determine ways of solving legal conflict between individuals and legal entities.

2. Master degree – as a result of training the Master is able to:
   1. Demonstrate knowledge of historical-legal significance of the current and other normative-legal acts, as well as basic sources of law of the modern period and other historical periods and their development trends.
   2. Demonstrate knowledge and ability necessary to identify national and international acts aimed at protecting and supporting common human rights as well as demonstrate the ability to generalize the knowledge and skills.
   3. Realize skills in drafting legal documents, professional-legal, pedagogical and scientific orientation.
   4. Demonstrate clear idea of the proceedings in the pre-trial court proceedings in the realization of a specific legal case and be able to predict the development of scientific and legal affairs.
   5. Professionally clarify legal norms, as well as during the educational process and scientific activities.
   6. Demonstrate the ability to elicit and formulate the legal interests of the parties in the protection of the rights of private and legal persons at the state level and in the interests of the political system of society.
   7. Demonstrate the ability to navigate criminal proceedings, administrative proceedings, disciplinary, civil and legal procedures as part of their official duties, as well as in the process of research and teaching activities.
   8. Demonstrate and use the ability of orientation in the hierarchy and subordination legal acts with a view to decide a specific legal case, as well as to realize scientific research.
   9. Analyse legal problems in the realization of rights and duties of officials and to consider the legal issues in the development of modern law and state.
   10. Produce oral and written qualified legal opinion and advice in specific cases for individuals and legal persons, also to clarify political and legal acts.
   11. Provide skills on the use of legal norms to a specific case (case), and to be able to generalize the results to legal practice.
   12. Demonstrate the ability to determine the solubility of a legal conflict between private and legal persons, state and public interests.

This leaflet is produced by the Consortium of the ISCA-HEA Tempus Project 530786-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-RO-TEMPUS-SM4L, with the support of the European Commission (DG EAC). It is the sole responsibility of the Consortium; the European Commission is not responsible for any use made of it.