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**The Needs of Teaching Institutions in Eastern Europe:
Specific Features and Initiatives**

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Dear Colleagues!

At the very beginning of my report I would like to make a reservation concerning relativity of its title. Firstly, in terms of geography. I do not possess exhaustive information on space law education in all countries of the East European region. Secondly, unfortunately most of the region's countries are not parties to principal space-related international instruments and they are not members of UN COPUOS. Thirdly, from geo-political point of view, the states of the former Soviet Union, in particular CIS states, as a rule are considered as a part of Eastern Europe despite the fact that some of them are not a part of Europe from purely geographic point of view. Therefore, my report is based on information related particular CIS countries, primarily those having the most significant space sector (RF, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, as well as other countries of the region: Poland, Romania, and Czech Republic because colleagues from those countries have been very active in our communication and have kindly provided me with relevant information.

Core education in the area of space law

Traditionally, educational programmes on space law are offered within the course of public international law at universities of the region.

International space law is treated as a subset of international public law. Therefore, relevant lectures on international space law are delivered as a part of international public law course. This course is included in curricula of the faculties of law, international law and international relations at region's major universities. Nevertheless, a number of hours allotted to international space law within the international public law course varies from 1 to 5-6 (normally, students majoring in international law have more international space law classes).

First table demonstrate some diversity of courses duration in the respective countries of the region.

countries	Faculties of law	Faculties of International relations
Czech Republic	2 hours	2 hours
Republic of Kazakhstan	1-2 hours	2-3 hours
Poland	2 hours	2 hours
Romania	3-5 hours	2 hours
Russian Federation	1-6 hours	1-6 hours
Ukraine	2-4 hours	2-6 hours
Uzbekistan	0-4 hours	-

Specialised courses of space law

In some countries, so-called specialised courses of space law are available besides the teaching of space law in scope of international public law.

Specialised courses of space law

- Czech Republic
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ukraine

For instance, in **the Russian Federation** relevant specialized courses are offered at four universities:

1. *International Space Law* course was launched in the Russian University of Friendship of Nations (Moscow) about forty years ago and it is successfully taught since that time. Now the 32-hour course is offered to 32 students, both Russian and international, including nationals of CIS countries. The share of foreign students is about 1/3 – 1/4.

2. The Moscow Institute of International Relations offers 16-hour specialised course in international space law. About 30 students, with an essential portion of international students, took the course in 2006.
3. The specialised course *Space Diplomacy* (16 hours) is introduced in the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow). It is offered to full-time (about 15 – 20 students) and part-time (about 50 - 60 students). Roughly a half of the course time is allotted to international space law issues.
4. Since 2001, a specialised course of space law is offered at Department of Law of the Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Equipment Manufacturing. Unlike to previous courses, it covers both international and national space law.

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You can see duration of different courses and quantity of students.

In **Ukraine**, specialised courses of space law are offered in three higher education institutions profiling in law:

1. A 41-hour course of international space law (introduced in 1986) is taught at the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University. It is mandatory for the students of all Institute's departments: international relations; international economic relations; international business and international information.
2. *Space law* course (26 hours) at the National Aviation University is offered to about 100 students.

3. *Space law* course (16-18 hours) at the Kyiv University of Law of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences – about 30 students.

In **Poland**, serious attention to space law is dedicated at the Warsaw University:

1. The Faculty of Law offers 30-hour course titled *International Space Law*. There is Division of Air and Space Law at the Department of International Law. About 35 students take the classes there.
2. The Institute of International Relations offers 30-hour monograph lecture titled *Air and Space Law*. Only this year there were about 45 students attending the lectures at the Institute.

In **the Czech Republic**, there is a special course of the Law of International Space (Areas) at the Charles University in Prague. This course is specialised for the Space Law, the Law of the Sea and the legal questions of Antarctica. This course consists of about 12 -- 13 hours and it is attended by approximately 800 students.

Space law education obtains solid basis in **Kazakhstan**. Like in other countries of the region, International Space Law was taught as a part of *International Public Law* course for students majoring in Law and International Law. However, since 2000 *International Space Law* was included into the State Educational Standard as a separate course for speciality *International Law*. Additionally, this course might be included into the curricula of such specialities as *Regional Studies*, *International Journalism*, *Oriental Studies*, and *History of International Relations*. It is based on teacher's discretion.

I did not manage to obtain other information on integrating of space law segment into the educational process in Eastern European countries while preparing this report.

Contents of Space Law educational courses

What matter is teaching: International Space Law or National Space Law?

- The majority of relevant educational courses are based on learning of **International** Space Law as a subset of International Public Law.
- Two institutions in Ukraine and one institution in Russian Federation are focused not only on international but also on **national** space law. They are educational institutions profiled in relatively narrow areas: transport law (National Aviation University of Ukraine) or aerospace equipment manufacturing (Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Equipment Manufacturing). As an experiment, national space law classes are offered at the Kyiv University of Law of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences. This university serves as a training facility for the International Center for Space Law in Kyiv.

According to our research, majority of relevant educational courses are based on learning of **International** Space law as a subset of International Public Law. We have managed to identify only two institutions in Ukraine and one institution in Russia whose curricula are focused not only on international but also on **national** space law. They are educational institutions profiled in relatively narrow areas: transport law (National Aviation University of Ukraine) or aerospace equipment manufacturing (Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Equipment Manufacturing). As an experiment, national space law classes are offered at the Kyiv University of Law of Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences. This university serves as a training facility for the International Center for Space Law in Kyiv.

Forms of instruction

Most of relevant educational institutions offer resident full-time instruction, resident part-time instruction or home study. Since early 2000s distance learning, a new form of instruction, was introduced, in particular, in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

Problems, needs, prospects, and initiatives

The lack of high level specialists for teaching of space law

In post-soviet states, the problem of formation of future space law teachers was very acute because the Soviet Union's space activities were managed from a unique centre. Therefore, all space law specialists have been concentrated in Moscow. While receiving own portion of space facilities by right of succession, new independent states have faced a need in relevant domestic specialists. Not only teaching at university level but also national space legislation drafting, dividing of space-related property, including intellectual property one, as well as legal support for space projects and programmes are principal goals of such specialists. As a respond to these challengers, the International Center for Space Law was established in Kyiv in 1998. Preparation of top specialists in the area of space law, primarily at candidate and doctoral level, is among the Center's priorities. Now one could note that Ukraine's educational needs in this field are satisfied mainly by the current Center's researches or people having its background. Specialists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Belarus and some others States express their interest in postgraduate studies at the Center. The project to create an educational and research complex on the basis of this Center and National Aviation University is under consideration now. The complex would cover all stages of space law studies – graduate and postgraduate, as well as would carry out scientific research, consulting, and legal expertise.

Normally, they prepare Ph.D. theses in the area of space law at departments (faculties) of law of the region's universities. However, number of such theses is rather limited during the last decade (one-two dissertations are under preparation in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Kazakhstan, Azerbaidjan; a little more – in Russia; up to ten – in Ukraine).

The audience of attendees

Who should possess knowledge in space law? The most general but the most exact answer: one who is able to utilize it in the most efficient way.

In all countries of the region regular and specialised courses of space law are taught to students majoring in law or international law.

This range is broader in Kazakhstan. Here space law as an optional course is offered to students majoring in regional studies, international journalism, oriental studies and history of international relations.

Basics of space law are introduced into curricula of some technical universities of the region profiled in relatively narrow areas.

The issue whether the course of space law should be a part of preparation of cosmonauts and specialists in space medical sciences and space biology is under consideration in the Russian Federation. However, no decision is adopted to the moment.

It is very important to convey the knowledge in space law to top managers and decision-makers in space field. Resident part-time instruction in the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation could serve as a positive example.

Non-formal education in the area of space law

For instance:

In Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, the National Centre for Aerospace Education of youth operates since 1996. It is designated as an initial stage of space education, dissemination of knowledge on space among youth, and its involvement in space projects. It provides teenagers with basic knowledge in space law. The Centre includes unique space museum (about 10,000 persons visit it annually) and aerospace classes (attended by 750 pupils).

Since 2005, annual student contests on space law are launched in Ukraine. They are designated to promote general interest to this area.

In Czech Republic, there are observatories and "houses of free time" hosting clubs for interested in the space activities audience (not only for teenagers). They learn on space law according to their age.

State-programme approach

Political will of the state institutions is an indispensable prerequisite for improvement of space law education. Statesmen should understand that such education will become a tool for more ambitious projects. Therefore, education should be treated as an important component of space activities as a unique system.

Kazakhstan should serve as a positive case. Education is among priorities of state programme *The Development of Space Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Years 2005 – 2007* approved by Presidential decree on January, 25 2005. Separate chapter is dedicated to education in the area of space activities. Moreover, methods of implementation, including amounts and sources of funding, are provided in the Programme. In particular, Presidential fellowships for studies in world's leading universities are granted. Such persistent efforts cause positive results: Kazakhstan is among few states which joined all five principal international outer space treaties. Therefore, what is the foremost aim of education in the area of space law? Most likely, it is primarily to foster awareness of each state's involvement into the establishment of international legal order in the space field.

In general. Space law education can serve a good example of a direct dependence between development of respective education and position of state as regards to space activities.