[Ethnic Diversity, Plural Democracy and Human Dignity: Challenges to the European Union and Western Balkans](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/otpd?@=8rpb#news_14399)



[Link to book information on publisher website](https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-97917-1)

The international conference "Ethnic Diversity, Plural Democracy and Human Dignity: Challenges to the European Union and Western Balkans" will be held on **November 4, 2022, starting at 3:30 pm CET at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb (Trg Republike Hrvatske 3, hall IV)**. The conference is organized by the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences, and the Croatian Association for Legal and Social Philosophy and Theory of Law and the State (Croatian IVR section).

For remote online participation, please contact [mario.kresic@pravo.hr](mailto:mario.kresic@pravo.hr).

[Conference Program (link)](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/_download/repository/Conference_Ethinc_Diversity_Plural_Democracy_and_Human_Dignity_4-11-2022_ver_5.pdf)

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**Topics**

Given their ethnic diversity, to what extent, and at what cost and benefit to human dignity, can European countries adopt and adapt plural democracy? The answer to this question will be offered from a variety of disciplinary perspectives within the framework of the integral theory of law and the state. The shared aim is to explain legal phenomena in the context of social issues and to identify, analyse and critique conceptualizations, problems and situations relevant to such issues. The discussion is rooted in the historical and contemporary European experience with special cases from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Latvia, Slovenia, Spain and Canada which are relevant for understanding the European problem. Solutions to the problem are sought through innovative interpretations of the rule of law, democracy and human dignity, which are followed by argumentation about how these concepts, when recognized as European legal principles, can be implemented in order to avoid ethnic conflicts.

At the beginning, it is necessary to define the problem at the centre of the discussion and explain how legal theory can be used to address it. Thereafter, discussion is opened for contributions aimed at understanding and solving the problem, divided into three thematic sections. The first section covers topics concerning the European principles which can help avoid ethnic conflicts: the principle of compulsory adjudication in interstate relations, the principle of democracy and principles regarding the recognition of individual and collective identities. These European principles are investigated by drawing on legal and political theories. The second section presents three ways of conceptualizing ethnic needs in multi-ethnic states: asymmetric federalism, democratic account and cooperative federalism. The third and final section elaborates on issues concerning the protection of minority rights: the role of judicial ideology in the protecting minority rights, citizenship, the EU mechanism for the protection of minority rights, and the importance of remembering tragic events that affecting minorities.