

Dr Darinka Piqani lectures EU law and conducts research in the field of European constitutional law at the Europa Institute of Leiden University.

Dr. Piqani graduated in 2004 with distinction from the Faculty of Law of Tirana University, Albania. During her studies she worked as a legal intern for the Albanian Helsinki Committee, did voluntary work for the Albanian Red Cross and was a member of the Albanian National Debate Association. Afterwards, she worked for one year as a practising lawyer in one of the leading law firms in Albania.

In 2006, on a full scholarship from the Soros Foundation, she obtained her LLM degree at the Legal Studies Department of Central European University (Budapest) in comparative constitutional law. Afterwards, she pursued her doctoral studies at the Law Department of the European University Institute (Florence) and in June 2010 successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled “Supremacy of EU Law and the Jurisprudence of Constitutional Reservations in Central Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans: Towards a ‘Holistic’ Constitutionalism”.

Since August 2011 she has taught EU law at the Europa Institute of Leiden University and since April 2014 at Leiden University College in the Hague. Dr. Piqani has also taught in the field of human rights law at the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University. She also worked as assistant to the editors of the Common Market Law Review. Since March 2015 she is visiting professor of EU internal market law at the Law Faculty of Université Catholique de Lille. She has served as an international expert for the Albanian Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education (October 2016- September 2021) and in 2020 as an international expert contracted by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency. In the period April 2021-August 2021 she has been a fellow in the IOM programme “Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania” assisting the Albanian Ministry of Justice in the process of EU approximation.