

MINUTES
of the
XLIV. ELPIS Conference
at KU Leuven
10.06.-12.06.2015

Participants:

Professor Dr. Bernard Tilleman, **Dean**,
Faculteit Rechtsgeleerdheid, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Adriana ALMASAN (**Bucharest**); Caroula KERVEGAN-ARGYRIADIS (**Cergy-Pontoise**); Malène MAGAARD (**Copenhagen**), Bernd OPPERMANN (**Hanover**); Arndt KÜNNECKE (**Istanbul**); Cumhur BOYACIOGLU (**Konya**); Amelie RENAUT-COUTEAU (**Le Havre**); Koen LEMMENS (**Leuven**), Daisy VAN MINSEL (**Leuven**), Paul SCHOUKENS (**Leuven**); Veerle TIMMERMANS (**Leuven**); Vasco PEREIRA DA SILVA (**Lisbon**), Miquel ROMAO (**Lisbon**); Pawel SADOWSKI (**Lublin**), Wojciech ZAKRZEWSKI (**Lublin**); Jens Peder LOMSDALEN (**Oslo**); David KOHOUT (**Prague**); Stéphane Pessina DASSONVILLE (**Rouen**), Sophie DE PRADIER (**Rouen**), Marine TOULLIER (**Rouen**); Michelle COMENALE PINTO (**Sassari**), Rosanna ORTU (**Sassari**); Regina VALUTYTE (**Vilnius**); Fernando GALINDO (**Zaragoza**).

Excused:

Slavomir RUDENKO (**Bratislava**); Ute WEINMANN (**Cergy-Pontoise**); Ingrid KRAMER (**Fribourg**); Chris BARTELDS (**Groningen**); Astrid VAN DORT (**Groningen**); Ingrid HÄHNEL (**Hanover**); Steffen PABST (**Leipzig**); Vasilka SANCIN (**Ljubljana**); Caroula APALAGAKI (**Thessaloniki**).

TOP 1 Preliminary

a) Introduction und Opening

The XLIII. Elpis conference was opened by Prof. Dr. Bernard Tilleman, Faculteit Rechtsgeleerdheid, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, with a warm welcome to all delegates. The chairman replied the welcome greetings and expressed the thanks of the ELPIS delegates for the splendid hosting to the Dean.

b) Agenda

The agenda suggested (cf. materials) was approved.

c) Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the last XLIII ELPIS conference in Reykjavik 11. – 14. June, 2014 were approved.

TOP 2 Reports, News and Presentations

A presentation of the University of Sassari (Sardenia) and of its law faculty was offered by **Professor Michelle Comenale Pinto** in order to present historical, scientific, teaching and exchange visions of the new ELPIS partner. Following his presentation, the partners were warmly welcomed to intensify their exchange measures in respect of Sassari.

A further presentation by **Professor Francesco Galindo** (Zaragossa), contained a scientific reflection on “Competences, learning styles and environment in a Faculty of Law. Several experiences”.

- For the tables of the presentation, please refer to the attachments!

The presentation was followed by a thorough discussion, containing academic as well as practical aspects.

The chairman gave an overview on other topics and recent developments, some of them connected to notion and experiences in the frame of Erasmus+ in its debatable function to support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organizations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe.

TOP 3 Presentation by Prof. Schoukens (KU Leuven)

Professor Paul Schoukens provided his presentation on “EFESE European Format for Exchange of Social Security Education. Objectives, activities & partners’ interaction”. He reported that the idea raised at the frame of the last meeting, and he proved its overwhelming elaboration of developing and exchanging common lectures.

- For the tables, text, video production and other files of the presentation, please refer to the attachments!
- For the homepage cf. www.efse.eu

The presentation was followed by a thorough discussion, containing academic as well as practical aspects.

TOP 4 Cooperation report

The following subjects were have been discussed:

- Prof. Oppermann complained the inflexibility of the compulsory curriculum under the German State Examination system which would practically refrain the utmost number of German universities from furnishing a real (compulsory) Bachelor/Master scheme. Most of these programs remain merely optional as long as a native student will be subject to the State Examination system. Professor da Silva referred to the phenomenon as a particular problem that appears in Germany and other countries with State Examination systems. However, German Universities are still more flexible than others concerning the optional courses and the European exchange programs. Possibly, a solutions as in England concerning the differentiation between barristers and solicitors would be an intermediate solution. Prof. Kohout recognized the problems of joint degrees in respect of different educational/professional systems of law jobs.
- In respect of the ELPIS network, it appears that the exchange of students has not increased but remains at an acceptable level, while scholars' exchange has encountered more difficulties. Prof. Valutyte analyses problems for the exchange of students concerning the motivation of bachelors to learn abroad, as they are interested in getting a diploma that enables them to practice in Lithuania. While there is mandatory mobility in three master programs at Vilnius, the master students have to choose between subjects that have not been taught at their university, the foreign format does not always serve the purpose required. Prof. da Silva locates the origin of these difficulties in the fact that the mobility increases inward and outward while the financial availability remains at the same level.
- Recent decreases of French outgoing students were analysed and shall remain matter of further action.
- Dr. Künnecke proposes to deepen the cooperation by exchanging domestic requirements in the curriculum. The ECTS may be completed in other universities where the mandatory courses are taken, the exchange of professors may be deepened by verifying the compatibility of the curricula. Ms. Magaard remarks that the student exchange works only for optional courses, not for mandatory courses since all courses being related somehow to the law. Thus Copenhagen University has looked for mobility opportunities, especially by introducing mandatory English language courses in the University, so the students may adjust to another language.
- Prof. Dassonville localizes difficulties for the integration of visiting professors in regional curricula, one or two hour courses could not make a problem, but extensive externalization of classes raises problems. Prof. Boyacioglu and Prof. da Silva each point on their integrated course models, the first in pre-existing classes, the latter in separate integrated courses of the foreign scholars. Another model is referred by Prof.

Galindo as “job shadowing” – one professor is delivering the lecture and the other professor merely assists. Prof. Lemmens points out the KU Leuven has a program on global law where the students meet with international professors (12 to 20), and each subject is taught by several professors. Prof. da Silva concludes that the problem is not the Bologna system but the selection of professors. Prof. Almasan and Prof. Oppermann also focus on the advantages of integrative models for foreign scholars at their faculties respectively.

TOP 5 Old and new programs of International Studies: Member reports

a) *Cf. Top 2.*

b) Presentation by **Professor Dr. Caroula Kervegan-Argyriadis** (University of Cergy-Pontoise) concerning the new Institute of the University for Political Sciences founded in 2014.

- Hand-out materials were distributed; see further the attachment on the institute of political science, cf. www.sciencespo-saintgermainenlaye.fr

This new program of the Institute of Political Sciences has seven courses in English and an introduction into French law; the subjects are covered in one semester, and the students benefit from a very open three-year program, having the third year studying abroad. The participation in the program may be covered by agreements. Prof. Ute Weinmann appears to be in charge of the new measures.

c) Prof. Oppermann informs that Lower Saxony (via Leibnitz University Hanover) has prohibited the payment of student tuition fees (only an enrolment fee of about 368,85 Euro per semester has to be paid in Hannover) and suggests finding a solution in the frame of the Erasmus Mundus group.

TOP 6 Bologna Declaration – recent development

Cf. Top 2 – 4 and Top 8 - 10. No further issues.

TOP 7 New and common products at ELPIS member faculties

Cf. Top 2, 5, 8, 10.

TOP 8 Seasonal Universities

There are various offers on summer schools, as from

- Leuven <http://www.law.kuleuven.be/education/exchange>

- Lisbon http://www.ideff.pt/en/ini_detail.php?zID=26&aID=466
- Vilnius
<http://www.mruni.eu/en/search/?q=Moot+Court&how=r&x=0&y=0>

TOP 9 *Common Elpis publication*

Offer by Hanover to provide Articles for the ELPIS publication “International Legal Studies, Volume 3” (Halle/Wittenberg 2015/16).

TOP 10 **Report on and further development of the ELPIS homepage**
www.elpis.eu

Prof. da Silva has prepared a paper designed for the Erasmus Mundus sub-network deemed to improve their homepage of the network. It appears efficient to service the ELPIS homepage respectively. A discussion on the paper took place.

In result, the following has been agreed upon:

In future, the ELPIS homepage will be serviced by Prof. da Silva and his staff. Prof. Oppermann will remain the owner of the domain, however, he will take efforts to submit the present use by “Rechenzentrum LUH” to the staff at Lisbon. Successively, Hanover will try to establish a new domain www.elpis-hanover.eu and exchange the content of www.elpis.eu on a step by step basis to its separate regional domain.

However, in future, the homepages of the Erasmus Mundus network and the homepage of the other ELPIS group should be more clearly separated.

Several delegates were focussing on the costs. The service by Lisbon must be free for the ELPIS members, or at least without substantial costs concerning web-design and maintenance of the web-site.

Under these conditions, Prof. da Silva’s proposal has been adopted by the majority of participants.

- Prof. da Silva announces another paper on the ELPIS homepage.

TOP 11 **Membership report and decisions**

a) **Inactive members:** It has been suggested by the chairman and several members not to imply pressure against non-active ELPIS members. Instead, only means of information and acknowledgement should be applied.

b) The **Selcuk University at Konya** and its law faculty were presented by **Professor Cumhuri Boyacioglu**.

Initially, bilateral agreements und ERAMUS+ appear reasonable. A step by step approaches in order to deepen the relations with the ELPIS members

could be taken. An ELPIS membership of Konya is envisaged on these grounds.

c) The chairman reports that **Prof. Rudenko (Bratislava)** has supported an ELPIS membership in respect of the Law Faculty of the **University of Ljubljana** (contact by **Professor Vassilka Sancin**). Prof. Lemmens seconds the proposal. The matter is postponed until a representative of Ljubljana will be invited and appears to the next meeting.

d) Others (not by agenda):

- * Prof. Kunneke proposes **University of Odessa**, a well-connected, advanced studies university to the attention of the delegates.
- * Prof. Oppermann informs that Leibniz University Hanover is intensifying contacts to the **State University of Sankt Petersburg** and expanding the relationship to the Law Faculty. The delegates gave room to the view that the ELPIS network would be interested in the relationship towards this partner.
- * Prof. da Silva suggests ways of expansion of the network outside Europe (US, Brazil). Prof. Valutyte raises a debate about the policy of future network expansions.
- * Prof. da Silva suggests the instalment of the institution of associated partnerships, i.e. for non-European members.

TOP 12 New common projects of the Elpis-network

The development has been discussed concerning cooperation with:

- a) Indonesia (UGM (Yogya) / Malaysia (UiTM Kuala Lumpur)
- b) Symbiosis International University in Pune (India)
- c) Universidade Católica de Brasília - UCB, Brasília, DF, Brazil :
Prof. Da Silva reported the evaluatory top marks UCB has received recently
- d) Faculdade Damas da Instrução Cristã, RECIFE, Brazil
- e) UNIPLAC (Brasília)
- f) Ho-Chi Minh, Viet-Nam: Prof. Oppermann reported his throughout experiences of a visit at the partner faculty in the frame of an IMPAKT kick-off meeting : University of Rouen leads a consortium of 20 members

TOP 13 Future administration of the Elpis network

After 17 years of Presidency, Prof. Oppermann express his initiative of resigning from the position of the chairman of the ELPIS group and proposes as the new chairman Prof. Vasco Pereira da Silva. Prof. da Silva expresses his gratitude for the honourable proposal, giving room for some reluctance, while adding that he may only accept if Bernd Oppermann remains close to the leadership.

Prof. Vasco Pereira da Silva was elected by all of the delegates present at the meeting.

Prof. da Silva accepts the position as new chairman and gives an outline of his future policy in ELPIS. He is congratulated by the attendants.

TOP 14 Future Conferences

For the next three ELPIS conferences, the following proposals have been made and been accompanied by broad acclamation of the delegates:

- 2016 Lisbon
- 2017 Sassari (or Lublin)
- 2018 Lublin (or Sassari)

TOP 15 Altera

Dr. Künnecke proposes the re-establishment of an ELPIS task force that will keep track of activities in between meetings.

Bernd Oppermann

Hannover, June 17, 2014