

**Minutes of the XXXIX ELPIS-Conference
at Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius
June 10 -12, 2010**

Participants:

Oancea, Dan (**Bucharest**); Hjort, Majken (**Copenhagen**); Bartelds, Chris (**Groningen**); Argyriadis-Kervegan, Caroula, (**Le Havre**); Papst, Steffen (**Leipzig**); Pereira da Silva, Vasco (**Lisbon**); D'Oliveira Martins, Guilherme (**Lisbon**); Oppermann, Bernd (**Hannover**); Hähnel, Ingrid (**Hannover**); Lomsdalen, Jens Peder (**Oslo**); Reien, Elisabeth (**Oslo**); Toullier, Marine (**Rouen**); Schoukens, Paul (**Leuven**); Galindo, Fernando (**Zaragoza**); Guillet, Nicolas (**Le Havre**); de Pradier, Sophie (**Rouen**); Weinmann, Ute (**Cergy-Pontoise**); Prélot, Henry (**Cergy-Pontoise**); Wennberg, Asa (**Stockholm**); Astrand Taylor, Mona (**Stockholm**); Ruotsalainen, Mirkka (**Turku**); Viliunas, Giedrius (**Vilnius**); Burokiene, Audra Dargyte (**Vilnius**); Vasariene, Dalia (**Vilnius**).

Excused: Comenius University (**Bratislava**); Istanbul University (**Istanbul**); Charles University (**Prague**); Maria-Curie-Sklodowskiej University (**Lublin**); Artistoteles University (**Thessaloniki**).

Personally excused: Fenge, Hilmar

1. Opening

The XXXIX ELPIS Conference was opened by the host of the Mykolas Romeris University- Vice-Rector for education assoc. Prof. Dr. Giedrius Viliunas and the Institutional Erasmus Coordinator Ms. Audra Dargytė Burokienė. By his substantial speech the Vice Rector gave summary of history, figures and policy of the host University which was followed by presentation about the Mykolas Romeris University of Ms. Dargytė Burokiene. In response, the ELPIS chairman, Prof. Dr. Bernd Oppermann, gave a warm welcome to the Elpis and Erasmus Mundus delegates, introducing one by one to the hosts and to the other conference participants. Last but not least, he offered the thanks of the ELPIS group to Mykolas Romeris University, represented by the Vice President, the Vice Dean of the Law Faculty and the Ermasmus Coordinator, which contributed by generous hosting, advanced conference facilities and a remarkable frame programme to their position in the ELPIS network.

TOP 1 Approval of the minutes, Agenda

The minutes of the XXXVIII Elpis-Conference in Hannover had been approved.

Prof. Majken Hjort (Copenhagen) and Prof. Toullier asked the chairman to insert an additional item of the agenda: with theme: Expansion of the Elpis network (Top 4/5).

TOP 2 Reports and news (chairman)

The chairman gave as well an account about that the fact that the application for the Erasmus Mundus II project with the title: *“European Legal Practice in a Global World”* LL.M. Eur (Leibniz University of Hannover, Université du Havre, Université de Rouen, Lisbon State University, Mykolas Romeris University, Symbiosis International University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University) unfortunately had not been granted by the EU-Commission.

Furthermore he reported about the successful amendment of the Erasmus Mundus contract concerning the replacement of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa with the Lisbon State University. Consequently up to now all Erasmus Mundus partner are authorized to send their students of generation 6 and the prospective generations to Lisbon State University.

Apart from that Prof. Oppermann reported about the continued (after the eligibility period) use of our Erasmus Mundus logo for the following generations being granted by the EU and EACEA.

Nevertheless from the beginning of generation 7 (2010 until 2012) there will be no EM grants for the students and no direct financial support of the European Commission for teaching staff mobility. Thus, beside the limited means of Erasmus/Sokrates/lifelong learning, it will be essential to develop other financial resources for financing or side financing ELPIS in future. Smaller items has bilateral scholarships for third country partners, or as grants for a legal clinic of our ELPIS students have been realised already beside the still running EM funds for generation 6. Nevertheless, all partners are invited to contribute!

TOP 3 Cooperation Report

a) Acknowledgement of grades and credits

A controversial discussion was concerning the acknowledgement of credits and grades.

Normally, the implementation of ECTS and grades ought to make teaching and learning in higher education more transparent and comparative in Europe. Long term objective of having in-

troduced the ECTS system across Europe should facilitate the recognition of all studies by being based on different parameters, such as student workload, learning outcomes and contact hours.

Some of the delegates, as the French EM delegates, pointed out that the quality standards of some universities are very different. Since their outgoing French Erasmus students charge their ECTS and grades being obtained abroad at our partners for their Bachelor of Law in France, the headquarters of their Faculty keep an eye on the results being achieved abroad. Sometimes these results are compensated to the negative or positive final outcome, which depends on the University their students had attended. Prof. Vasco da Silva had a different opinion about this matter, expressing the view that Portuguese institutions do not follow the principles of compensation. The University of Leuven, represented by Prof. Schoukens, pointed out that they follow as well the principles of compensation, because of the different level of quality at partner universities. Although some quite valuating components will remain in any case, Hanover gave the following – in view of transferring qualitative to quantitative categories critical – example:

ECTS grade	percentage	ECTS definition	German translation	German grade At none percentage assignment
A	best 10 %	excellent	Hervorragend	1,0 – 1,5
B	next 25 %	very good	Sehr gut	1,6 – 2,0
C	next 30 %	Good	Gut	2,1 – 3,0
D	next 25 %	Satisfactory	Befriedigend	3,1 – 3,5
E	next 10 %	Sufficient	Ausreichend	3,6 – 4,0
FXF		Fail	Nicht bestanden	4,1 – 5,0

b) Legal education under the Bologna “Bachelor/Master scheme” and parallel modes (= TOP 6).

Comparative degrees in Europe, equality of curriculums and more mobility for students had been the important aims of the Bologna declaration dated June 1999. Today, more than 10 years later, the recent development remains to be discussed. It has to be remarked that not all our states have applied the Bologna schemes for legal education, and of those who did so some tend to withdraw or to modify at least. Others delegates of ELPIS acknowledged that Bologna caused as well some negative aspects towards the attitude of the students to be specify thoroughly by the discourse. Thereby it should be distinguished, again, that the preconditions differ as in Germany where a strong lobby resists any changes of the traditional state examination. Its pure existence

could be interpreted to result likewise a governmental regulation of the traditional German legal education by feed-back effects on the curriculum of the law faculties, restricting freedom and flexibility of development. Another effect of the all important first state examination is likewise that the students have less time to go abroad. Such could be one of several reasons why the figures of outgoing German Erasmus students have been decreasing remarkably.

Explanations are not that evident, though, since a similar tendency astonishingly is arising at such country where a “Bachelor/Master” scheme crowns legal education. Prof. Hjort (University of Copenhagen) and Prof. Bartelds (University of Groningen) reported also about a less significant interest of their students to attend most of the European partner universities to learn new European languages.

Parallel, there seems to be an important tendency of attending American and other universities of the Western world market for education. Prof. Schoukens (University of Leuven) reported about a trend of lost of quality and that he has remarked two different types of students: one party prefers to pass the bachelor at their home institution, who are less flexible and want to study in a cosy atmosphere being acquaint with the run up of their studies. The other type of student seems to be very adventurous, he/she prefers to study outside of Europe – in Australia, Russia, South America, the further the better. Apart of that, a continuous lack of motivation to study at East Middle European universities was debated.

Another subject treated has been the parallel development of Bologna like structures in countries which still have traditional modes of education. Due to all experiences, this might be a nice model of sales management, but is not capable of changing the basic position of a non-Bologna system of education. This opinion has been appraised and debated controversially.

e) Statistics

It was agreed upon that the responsible Erasmus co-ordinators of the ELPIS network will try their best to send their overviews of incoming and outgoing students to Hannover. The (incomplete but available) Hanover statics took some attention in initialising the discussion on Top 3 and 6.

TOP 4/ 5 Structures and treatment of old selected members, expansion of Elpis network

The subject was discussed controversially again. A few ELPIS members have not participated at our annual meetings from the very beginning. Furthermore, other ELPIS participants have not so

much contact to these universities and even the exchange numbers of teachers and students might be problematical. Other partners not attending to the meeting, though, are active in exchange of scholars and/or students. For such reasons, it was suggested to send friendly letters to Panteon University (Athens), La Sapienza (Rome), Complutense (Madrid), and University of Dublin asking them about their opinion in respect of their ELPIS membership, and whether they are still interest in maintenance of membership in ELPIS. There could be also a very good bilateral relation without the ELPIS network. Vice versa, the ELPIS delegates stated their clear demand that they want to see the members at the annual meetings.

Apart from that there do exist some other Universities who have a deep interest in our network and who would like to cooperate with us presently:

- **University of Zaragoza (Spain)**
- **Sassari University (Sardinia)**
- **University Cork (Ireland)**
- **Maribor University (Slovenia)**
- **Istanbul University (Turkey)**

For Zaragoza, which is well known already to a few of the ELPIS partners, Prof. Galindo gave a brief presentation. After thoroughly discussing the matter,

University of Zaragoza, School of Law, became ELPIS member.

Further, it was agreed upon to contact the University of Sassari and the University of Cork to invite them for our next ELPIS conference in Oslo or Turku. The same counts for Maribor and Istanbul which will follow up with the matter as soon as there delegate comes to en ELPIS meeting.

TOP 6 Bologna Declaration, Recent Development

- see TOP 3 -

TOP 7 New and Common Products of ELPIS Faculties

Furthermore the delegates discussed about the offers of lectures in English at the single partner universities: Prof. Oancea reported that the University of Bucharest will introduce English lectures within the following academic year. Prof. Guillet and Prof. Argyriadis announced that the University Le Havre meanwhile offers a wide range of courses taught in English for instance:

Introduction to English Law,
 English (UK) Political Institutions,
 Introduction to American Law,
 Common Law, English Civil Law, Legal Language and Translation into English,
 Law in Practice etc.

The delegates of Rouen Prof. Toullier and Ms. de Pradier reported as well that they offer in addition to French and English as well courses of Spanish and German law (Anglo-Saxony Law). Prof. Pereira da Silva announced that Lisbon University is searching for law teachers, predominantly who are able to teach in English for intensive courses, Summer Schools. His faculties offer accommodation in a nice cosy hotel and an adequate compensation.

TOP 8 ELPIS homepage

- please, see www.elpis.eu -

The ELPIS members are invited to visit and/or to contribute on the homepage and on the news section

TOP 9: Summer Academies, Graduation Ceremony

a) GREIT Lisbon Summer Course (State University Lisbon)

Prof. Vasco Pereira da Silva announced the GREIT Lisbon Summer Course on European Tax Law from June 21 until 25, 2010 at Lisbon University. The Lisbon Summer Course will cover general topics of European taxation. The Course is structured in a manner that all participants, students and lecturers from many different countries have the possibility to enter into a detailed analysis of tax law and ECJ's case law. Prof. Pereira da Silva pointed out that the Summer Academy is free of costs for all students from the network and the Erasmus Mundus students from the consortium.

b) Summer Studies of International Human Rights Law, Vilnius Lithuania

Prof. Dalia Vasariene announced the next Summer Course "International Human Rights law" taking place at Vilnius from July 18 - 28, 2010. It deals with a two-week intensive program providing comprehensive exposure to International Human Rights Law. For further information, please contact the reservation deadline at: info@bringhumanrightshome.org.

c) Graduation Ceremony and Publication

The chairman pointed out that the next Graduation Ceremony of Erasmus Mundus generation 5 will take place on Friday, 5th November 2010. All members of the consortium are welcomed the most cordially in Hanover. Especially welcome to us are ELPIS members which can contribute a lecture of 30 minutes and/or an article on their favourite European (or anti-European) topic. The lectures will be published again in German, English, or French language.

TOP 10 - 11 New Projects and other Publications

Flyers and other information on projects and products of the ELPIS delegates have been exchanged at the meetings and by the materials distributed by Vilnius and by Hanover.

Two ELPIS publications have been advertised in the materials distributed by Hanover.

12 Miscellaneous

The mailing list was handed out for update and the corrected version will be sent by attachment to all participants.

TOP 13: Future Conferences and Costs

It was discussed upon whether to introduce future conference fees for the Elpis meetings. Some ELPIS members, e.g. University of Leipzig appear to have problems hosting ELPIS guests by finding sponsors or paying meals and accommodation by public funds. Thus, it would be helpful to have some extra fee money. This subject was controversially discussed. In respect of already practised flexibility of an ELPIS host in respect of the hotel accommodation (could be done by the host if money available, by the individual delegates, if not), further costs for the delegates would be not well accepted.

The prospective traditional ELPIS conference in 2011 ought to take place in Oslo, Turku, or Stockholm. The delegates promised to ask their corresponding decision making unit. The University of Prague has already offered to host the Elpis delegates in 2012. Prof. Oancea (University of Bucharest) will ask his colleagues in Bucharest whether his university will be ready to organize a conference in Bucharest in 2013. Thus we are able to establish the following plan for the prospective conferences:

- 2011 ELPIS-Conference at Oslo, Turku, or Stockholm*
- 2012 ELPIS-Conference at Prague*
- 2013 ELPIS-Conference at Bucharest*

Hannover, June 24, 2010

Ingrid Hähnel

Bernd Oppermann

Summarized information on activities of the Faculty of law of Zaragoza (Course 2009-10) Studies.

Law Degree

* Joint Programme: Law + Management and Business Administration

Departments.-

Public Law

Private Law

Company Law

Economic History and Structure - Public Economics

Another information

- Academic calendar:

Lessons begin on 20th september and last until 30th may.

Subjects:

Every subject has theoretic (2-4 hours weekly) and practical credits (1-2 hours weekly)

Attendance is not compulsory, but is highly recommended.

Course 2009-2010: 72 subjects to choose for the students

All the subjects are in spanish, only one is in english

Timetable:

There are 4 groups, two in the morning (from 9 to 15h.) and two in the evening (from 15.30 to 21.30h.). The Incoming students can choose the group that they prefer for every subject.

- Exams:

Students have two opportunities to take the exam for each subject.

Subjects of the first semester: end of january and beggining of september

Annual subjects and second semester: june and beggining of september

Library:

Timetable of the library is from 8.30 morning to 21.30 evening.

Each Faculty has the own library, and some of them have a wider time table during the exam period.

Services:

Information / Secretary

International Relations Office

Computer Room / Publishing and Copy Service

Center of European Documentation

School of Training Law

- Interchange Programmes (09/10) University and Faculty of Law:

- ERASMUS Student Mobility. IN: 849; OUT: 795

- ERASMUS Student Mobility Faculty of Law. IN: 95; OUT: 61

- ERASMUS Teaching Staff Mobility: 138 (Law: 18)

- Erasmus Bilateral Agreements: 1.012 (Law: 82)

- AMERICAMPUS Students. IN: 36, OUT: 27 (Law IN:4 OUT: 1)

- BANCAJA Students. IN: 19 OUT: 15 (Law IN: 1, OUT: 1)

- Erasmus Intensive Programmes (IP): 2

- Erasmus Thematic Networks: 3

- Jean Monnet: 1

- Leonardo da Vinci Pilot Projects: 3

- Minerva: 1

- TEMPUS-MEDA: 1

- Erasmus Mundus (Action 4): 1