

Minutes

of the

XLII. ELPIS Conference

at

Bucharest 21st / 22nd of June, 2013

Presence:

Dan OANCEA (Bucharest), Flavius BAIAS (Bucharest), Simina TAMASESCU (Bucharest), Adriana ALMASAN (Bucharest), Claudiu BUGLEA (Bucharest), Paul SHOUKENS (Leuven), Ingrid KRAMER (Fribourg), Bernd OPPERMAN (Hannover), Ingrid HÄHNEL (Hannover), Steffen PAPST (Leipzig), Denise WIEDEMANN (Leipzig), Malene MAGAARD (Copenhagen), Alejandro GONZÁLEZ-VARAS IBANEZ (Zaragoza), Caroula ARGYRIADIS-KERVEGAN (Cergy-Pontoise), Marine TOULLIER (Rouen), Sophie DE PRADIER (Rouen), Armelle RENAUT-COUTEAU (Le Havre), Arndt KÜNNECKE (Istanbul), Embla THORSOTTIR (Reykjavik), Mr. Aurelijus GUTAUSKAS (Vilnius), Astrid van DORT (Groningen), Wojciech ZAKRZEWSKI (Lublin), Pawl SADOWSKI (Lublin), Gonçalo MATIAS (Lisbon), Pedro PAIS DE VASCONCELOS (Lisbon).

Excused: Caroula APALAGAKI, Hilmar FENGE (Hannover), Andrea Robodka (Budapest), Jens Peder LOMSDALEN (Oslo), Vasco PEREIRA DA SILVA (Lisbon), Regina VALUTYTE (Vilnius).

TOP 1 Preliminary

Dean Prof. Flavius Baias warmly welcomed the guests and gave a brief outline of the University of Bucharest concerning history, facts and figures. The Faculty of Law especially ranks on the top of about 60 law faculties in Romania.

The opening session was continued by the Vice-Dean Prof. Almasan.

For behalf of the guests, Prof. Oppermann thanked the hosts and organizers of the Bucharest Conference for the excellent run-up and organisation. He has emphasized on the fact that Prof. Oancea (Bucharest) has been very active in the ELPIS network and that especially on his initiative and his non-bureaucratic course of action the University of Bucharest became member of the ELPIS within short time. Also, it has been pointed out that there is no self-evident duty of a new member of the network to invite the ELPIS round after relatively short period of membership already.

According to the tradition, the chairman introduced and welcomed the delegates of ELPIS individually. In the following, Prof. Oppermann gave a general summary of the following agenda of the conference.

- a) The proposal for the agenda was approved
- b) The minutes of the XLI. ELPIS Conference in Prague June 14 – 16 2012 have been approved.

TOP 2 Reports and news

The ELPIS II Master program “European Legal Practice LL.M. Joint Degree) has been accredited in 2012/3.

Furthermore, the Master Course is continuing eligible for the award of the Erasmus Mundus Brand name (EMBN), due to the high quality application of the State Univer-

sity of Lisbon in 2012. Thus the consortium (Lisbon, Rouen, France, Vilnius, Poona, Brazil) is allowed to continue using the Erasmus Mundus brand name for the promotion of its 2013 students' intake.

Prof. Almasan announced that the Faculty of Law offers a MA program in Professional European and International Business Law (taught in French), for further information please contact MA coordinator Prof. Simina Tănăsescu, simina-elena.tanasescu@drept.unibuc.ro

Bucharest offers another high level International conference on the amendment of the Romanian civil law code. The conference will take place Oct. 23rd – 25th 2013.

TOP 3

Cooperation report

a) **Student exchange, experiences and problems: Templates for Faculty Reports / Information sheet**

Ms. Astrid van Dort (Groningen) proposed to introduce a template for faculty reports and an information sheet of each ELPIS member university. Such templates would enable the ELPIS partners as well as their students to find all important information concerning students' exchange, news, language requirements, courses etc. at a glance without time's wasting. Within the next days you will receive the filled-in template of Hannover and the corresponding information sheet. Hannover will implement its information on the ELPIS homepage and kindly ask all members of the ELPIS network to accept Groningen's useful and time-saving templates and information sheet for your homepage.

b) **Exchange of scholars, experiences, problems**

Participants of the Erasmus Teaching Staff Mobility can receive partial (mostly 70 % of the travel costs, accommodation) from the EU, reimbursed from the corresponding International Office the teachers spend abroad. Since only 70 % of the costs are covered, only the very committed teachers are prepared to participate from time to time in the teaching staff exchange program. Thus it was discussed upon to establish tools for video lectures (long distance learning) within the universities of our ELPIS network. The pros and cons were discussed and agreed upon to install a database on the ELPIS homepage (www.elpis.eu) where the scholars intending to participate in teaching staff exchange mobility may inscribe their fields of expertise by indicating the time of their disponibility during the forthcoming academic year. Thus, the interested partner universities and their teachers have the possibility of gaining insights of offered and sought-after lesson plans of our partner universities by pressing by clicking the ELPIS homepage. Our network should benefit in all aspects of this from this pool of information and will move closer together in future.

c) **Distance learning**

Some institutions of our network do have excellent facilities to offer distance learning. This new facility was praised and highly valued in course of the discussion, although, it should not replace the old traditional way of teaching staff mobility but offer an additional tool for students and teachers.

d) **Bilateral contracts / language**

Although internationalization and student exchanges have a high priority in Europe, some of our partner universities are forced by government to balance incoming and

outgoing exchange students. Thus these strict government guidelines cut the number of exchange students in many ELPIS partner universities, especially the Scandinavians keep a strict eye on the balance of the student exchange and cancelled or immobilized long lasting and traditional bilateral agreements. Thus the corresponding coordinator has a double workload of worrying about too much or too less outgoing own outgoings, but as well to become anxious of not receiving enough incoming students from the favored partner/partners because the bilateral contract could be cancelled the next academic year. Following the new rules many partner universities have started to establish English Erasmus courses and reduced or even cancelled the offer of native speaking law courses at their faculty in order to not losing “clients” of the corresponding partner universities for the purpose of making the bilateral contract safe for the following academic year. Other universities i.e. Rouen follow a completely different policy by advertising and promoting terms abroad very successfully to their French students, especially in Eastern Europe. Thus, Université de Rouen has enough capacity and study places for foreign program students. So to say, our French partner “kill two birds with one stone” by succeeding in sending many students of their own faculty abroad who happily return with a lot of foreign experience and to welcome many foreign students from all over the world to enrich the University of Rouen with internationalization.

The bottom line is that many partner universities of the ELPIS network made their decision to enlarge the offer of English law courses for Erasmus students or even to establish only English Erasmus Courses for incoming exchange students. Such is appears attractive to the students and it is practical for us indeed, and we should not oppose for these reasons. However, the old ELPIS model of learning the language of the partner university visited, framing its legal culture thereby is about “going the way of the dodo bird”. There are good arguments for both sides. Therefore the development will be subject of our further concern.

e) Social networks and miscellaneous matters on cooperation

Furthermore, it was discussed upon to join or to use social network-platforms as *Facebook* or *Universitas 21*. The pros and cons have been discussed intensively. Facebook is the fastest-growing platform for social networking with over one billion active members monthly. By using Facebook as a business page the ELPIS network will be able to post information links, videos, photographs and last but not least ELPIS advertisement to all partner, students, law teachers all over the world in no time. Prof. Argyriadis-Kervegan reported the positive aspects of the social network Universitas 21, the growing global network of research-intensive universities, working together to foster global citizenship and institutional innovation through research-inspired teaching and learning, student mobility, connecting our students and staff, and wider advocacy for internationalization. All *Universitas 21* member institutions are research-led, comprehensive universities providing a strong quality assurance framework to the network's activities. Finally it was decided that the technical experts of the Erasmus Office in Hannover having set up the ELPIS homepage years ago will check how to join the mentioned above social networks and inform the partners afterwards. Apart from that all members ought to have access to the homepage by sending them the login data. Such measure might be good for practical reasons and even more enhance visibility.

f) Internships within the ELPIS network

Prof. Künnecke (Istanbul) raised the question about the placement of internships within the ELPIS network. Such an institution is not available at every partner university of the ELPIS network. Hannover has no regular faculty faculty of that kind. Our ELPIS office offers a few opportunities at law firms for some selected students who have excellent language skills and specialized knowledge in law. Most of the law firms can mentor only one or two students per semester with brilliant achievements.

Apart from that Hannover seems to develop a legal clinic from our former pioneer model where many Erasmus students or program students have the chance to obtain practical experience of the German law, please see:

www.jua.uni-hannover.de/legalclinic

Others may rely on better infrastructure. From Lisbon, internship fairs were reported. At Rouen, the faculty provides even a coordinator for internships.

It was proposed by Prof. Künnecke to establish as well on the ELPIS homepage a platform where the partners inform about their offers of internships. The computer experts in Hannover will do their utmost to install such a platform.

TOP 4/5 Bologna Declaration – recent development

Postponed to the next conference

TOP 6 New and common products at ELPIS member faculties

See TOP 1 and TOP 3

Others are postponed to the next conference or to the opportunity of round mails. *Please use our network or the "news" section of ELPIS home page for the spreading of such information!*

Post scriptum: University of Istanbul offers to colleagues interested in staff mobility seminars to be planned in their regular schedule in 2013/14. They would be open to different branches and topics of public and private law. Deadline will be August 15, please contact Dr. Selman Dursun, sdursun@istanbul.edu.tr

TOP 7 Membership report and decisions

Postponed to the next conference

TOP 8 Report on and further development of the ELPIS homepage www.elpis.eu

Please see TOP 3 d, e

TOP 9 Summer academies

- a) The representative of *Católica* (Lisbon) announced that in June 2013 the *Católica* Global School of Law offers the 2nd edition of the Tax Summer School. The program is fully lectured in English and all ELPIS students can participate in that course for free, please find detailed information and the download brochure: <http://www.fd.lisboa.ucp.pt/site/custom/template/ucptplfac.asp?sspageID=3373&lang=2>
- b) Prof. Gutaukas (Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius) announced the International Human Rights Summer School which will take place from 15th – 23rd July 2013 at the Mykolas Romeris University, Faculty of Law. The School covers introductory human rights principles and practices in 10 days for a total of 6 ECTS. Students will familiarize themselves with the concept of human rights and its implementation on the international and national level.
- c) Lisbon university announces that the new edition of the famous European /US summer school at Lisbon is in the state of development. In the meanwhile the ELPIS students are invited to visit the GREIT tax law summer university where they may participate free of fees.

TOP 10 **New common projects of the ELPIS network**

a) **Application for EM III by the University of Lisbon for the ELPIS II**

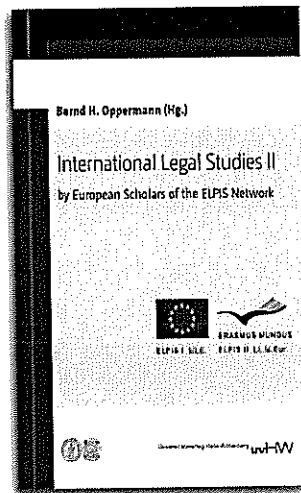
Post scriptum: As we were informed after the conference by our partners in Lisbon (State University) on July 23rd 2013, the attractive application for Erasmus Mundus Action 3 unfortunately was not granted by the EU.

b) **Graduation ceremony**

The graduation ceremony of the ELPIS II class 2011 – 2013 (LL.M. Eur.) and some of the ELPIS I MLE students will take place at Hannover, Nov. 8, 2013. This year, the round will be enlarged since the ceremony is part of a common conference on the 50th anniversary of the Elysée treaty which investigates legal, political, economic and social aspects of this European cooperation.

TOP 11 **Publication ELPIS network**

Finally, the second volume of the ELPIS publications has arrived: *International Legal Studies II by European Scholar of the ELPIS Network*, ISBN 978-3-86977-066-6, 1. Edition 2013, Universitätsverlag Halle-Wittenberg, 186 pages.



TOP 12 **Future Conferences**

- Ms. Embla Thorsdottir was applauded for confirming the invitation for the next ELPIS Conference at the beginning of June 2014 in Reykjavik.
- One of following conferences in 2015 or 2016 is expected to take place in Istanbul.
- At Hannover, an ELPIS conference is expected in 2015 or 2016.

Hannover, 29.07.2013

Ingrid Hähnel
Bernd Oppermann