

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **MARCH – MAY 2016**

Dear reader,

We are glad to present you the second edition of the South East European Law School Network (SEELS) quarterly Newsletter which will be, we believe, an informative and useful read. It is our idea to regularly produce these informative bulletins to reach the broadest audience possible, primarily in the SEELS Network but also wider and to keep you informed about our goals, activities, plans, successes and experiences.

SEELS, as a network, is dedicated to creating synergies and fostering excellence in science and education through regional collaboration. It is comprised of the 12 active Law Faculties from the University of Tirana, University of Sarajevo, University of Zenica, University “Džemal Bijedić” of Mostar, University Zagreb, University of Split, Jossip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, University of Rijeka, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, University of Montenegro, University of Belgrade and University of Nis. As a network representing approximately 1,100 teachers and researchers as well as 40,000 students, it works on the development and introduction of new joint programmes and activities in the area of education, further professional training, and on research and publishing in the field of law. In this manner the SEELS members are able to offer attractive and specialised courses and programmes and thereby facilitate regional mobility of scientists, students, researchers and lawyers.

Our permanent goal and strong belief is that the knowledge should be multiplied and communicated. We are convinced that only through informing and involving the widest of academic audience possible we can truly reach our goals and develop. On that note we would like to leave you with the content of this second SEELS quarterly Newsletter in hope that it will provoke interest for further knowledge in all things SEELS.

#### **SEE | EU CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

The Cluster of Excellence in European and International law is a 4 year project that is currently being implemented by SEELS and Europa-Institut from University of Saarland, while it is financially supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

In these past months the activities within this project were mainly focused on the several major components – organization and preparation of the summer school, the organization of the study stays and preparation of the workshops for E-learning.

### **“Human Rights and EU Harmonization in Accession Process” Summer School**

April was predominantly marked with the definition of the topics which were to be the focus of the upcoming summer school. In that sense a list of potential topics was prepared and disseminated among all SEELS members for ranking. The final results have shown that most of the members were interested in Human Rights and EU Harmonization which has defined this year’s main focus of the event. The ranking of topics also gave valuable input on key areas of interest shared by the member faculties which will be addressed in the future in the framework of the network. Upon completion of this the call for application was prepared and published. The summer school will take part from 17 to 31 of July in Saarbrücken, Germany.

### **PhD and Professors Research Stays at Europa-Institut**

The call for research stays was disseminated early in March and it caused significant interest among the academics within SEELS network. The project provides for a predefined number of individuals from the SEELS member faculties the chance to advance their research activities at the Europa-Institut. At the moment of the production of this quarterly some of the research stays have already been finalized while others are being organized, as this activity is planned to spread throughout the year.

### **E-Learning workshops**

E-Learning modules are to be developed jointly within the project in the upcoming period enabling thus all of the participants in the project to teach and learn regardless of time and place. The E-learning modules should be on the topic of EU and International law. In mid-December 2015 the first workshop on E-Learning was held in Saarbrücken, engaging major part of the project partner representatives to discuss the potentials of such modules for teaching and learning. In the upcoming period more workshops and trainings are going to take place.

### **Project Publications**

Within the project Cluster of Excellence in EU and International Law, two publications were prepared, published and disseminated: The “EU Selected Documents concerning South East Europe” and “South Eastern Europe and the European Union – Legal Acts”. Information about the publications was placed on SEELS website in early March and the dissemination of the books will be implemented in the upcoming period.

### **GRADUATES4ACADEMIA – SUMMER SCHOOL ON MIGRATION LAW**

This is the fourth in a row summer school which is organised in collaboration with Europa- Institut and financed by DAAD, and this year it will be held in Ohrid, Macedonia from 09 to 17 of September 2016.

Since the overall topic of the summer school “Challenges of Migration and Asylum – Legal Aspects” was defined well in advance, and thus the activities related to this project, in this period we were focused on the creation of the more structured programme of the event.

This meant that the general format of the summer school was completed and all partners were contacted and asked to nominate interested lecturers who would be able to teach and participate to it. Most of the proposed lecturers accepted the arrangement and at the moment the structure of the lectures themselves is being discussed. Based on this in the upcoming period a structured agenda of the programme will be prepared and communicated.

In addition a public call and announcement of the call was prepared and will be announced by the end of May or beginning of June while the selection of candidates is expected to be completed by the end of July.

It was also a period where some preliminary logistic activities related to the organization of the accommodation of the participants and the transport of the same.

### **SEELS NETWORK DATABASE PROJECT**

For the purpose of the design of the database and providing its content the Faculty of Law in Rijeka, as the main implementation body, asked the SEELS members to provide proposal for the main scientific publications to be included in the database as well as articles from the Journals the members are publishing. The data is being collected by the Faculty of Law in Rijeka and the proposal was disseminated to all SEELS members.

A repository of scientific production of legal scholars within SEELS Network has been established within the framework of SEELS Network Database project on March 15, 2016, and the implementing activities are under way ever since. The aim of the project is to create a collection that would enable a systematic collecting, processing and storage of scientific productivity of legal scholars within the SEELS network. The expected result would be a greater visibility of legal scientific publications and research papers to a larger circle of scholars. Thematic repository will include a variety of digital objects, with an emphasis on scientific work of scientists, conference papers, doctoral thesis, and conference proceedings

In the past period a newly established SEELS Networks database (SEELS NDB) was made available on the website: <https://seels.pravri.uniri.hr/>, which was created and launched successfully.

Being at an initial stage of the project implementation phase, this main page currently only presents a set of basic information about SEELS *Network database*. The process of collecting proposals of scientific publications that will be included and stored here is an ongoing activity, and will be developed in the upcoming period.

### **“LEGAL ENGLISH” PILOT PROJECT BETWEEN FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA AND BOSTON COLLEGE**

The SEELS Management Board approved the implementation of a pilot project between the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana and Boston College on the subject of Legal English language skills development. Organised through Skype sessions by students from the partnering faculties, the pilot project will provide relevant findings that might lead to its replication by other SEELS member faculties and English speaking law schools.

### **FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAMME COOPERATION BETWEEN FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA AND BOSTON COLLEGE**

Centre for SEELS was approached by Professor Dr. Joan Blum from Boston College, School of Law seeking our support to establish a contact to the University of Tirana, Faculty of Law. Prof. Dr. Blum expressed her interest to organize an intensive course for upper-level students on US law as well as opportunities to discuss teaching methods with faculty staff in the framework of the Fulbright Specialist Programme. Centre for SEELS facilitated the two parties in establishing direct communication lines.

### **“LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE” PROJECT**

#### **Initiation of the project and role of SEELS**

Together with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights in Vienna, SEELS is one of the key partners in the regional research project “Legal Protection against discrimination in South East Europe”, funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit’s (GIZ’s) Open Regional Fund – Legal Reform.

Officially launched with the kick-off meeting held in Skopje on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, this project has the objective to improve the methodological capacities of the relevant stakeholders to act against discrimination in SEE region. As an output of the project two main results are expected. Firstly, the state authorities dealing with anti-discrimination should be enabled to improve the enforcement of the protection against discrimination in their institutions, and secondly, the educational institutions and law faculties should improve the quality of education on anti-discrimination anchored in legal training.

Three core activities have been planned as an integral part of this project: conduction of national researches by team of experts; preparation of a regional comparative study; and production, publication and dissemination of a policy brief. The team of experts conducted the national research

based on methodology that has been jointly developed at the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2015, in Belgrade, and presented the key findings on the multiple public debates held.

SEELS' experts, conducting the national research were:

- Prof. Dr. Flutura Kola-Tafaj, Faculty of Law, University of Tirana,
- Prof. Dr. Maja Čolaković, Faculty of Law, "Džemal Bijedić" University of Mostar,
- Prof. Dr. Zlatan Meškić, Faculty of Law, University of Zenica,
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Midhat Izmirlija, Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo,
- Prof. Dr. Mario Vinković, Faculty of Law, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek,
- Prof. Dr. Nada Bodiroga-Vukobrat, Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka,
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Antonija Petričušić, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb,
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Elena Mihajlova, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje,
- Prof. Dr. Ivana Jelić, Faculty of Law, University of Montenegro,
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Ivana Krstić Davinić, Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade.

### **Public debates under the activities of the project**

During the second and third week of April multiple public debates in Albania (Tirana), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo), Croatia (Zagreb), Macedonia (Skopje), Montenegro (Podgorica) and Serbia (Belgrade) were organised by GIZ under the aforementioned project. During those public debates the experts who conducted the national researches on anti-discrimination presented their key findings. Many stakeholders of the respective countries attended the public debates and gave their contribution during the open discussions. Bearing that the national research is the first activity planned, on its basis a regional study and a policy brief are going to be prepared, published and disseminated in the following period.

The project is planned to be completed in August 2016.

### **REGIONAL PROJECT: "IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT OF COLLECTIVE REDRESS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE"**

The Management Board of SEELS approved the SEELS' involvement in the project "Improving enforcement of collective redress in South Eastern Europe". Upon the approval of the Management Board, activities were undertaken for organizing the kick off meeting. Centre for SEELS in

collaboration with GIZ Open Regional Fund for South East Europe - Legal Reform office in Skopje organized the one day kick off meeting aimed at further development of the project. It took place in Skopje on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. It was an opportunity for all the partners within the project to get better acquainted with the project structure and scope, to define the steering structure and models of cooperation as well as to agree on the issues of monitoring within the project itself. SEELS network was presented with 6 country representatives for each SEELS member country.

### **SEE LAW JOURNAL**

The newly established Editorial Board of the SEE Law Journal confirmed the Editorial Policy of the Journal.

On 15<sup>th</sup> of March the third Call for Papers for the SEE Law Journal was published on the SEELS website and SEELS Facebook page. All SEELS members were asked to share the Call on their respective websites and amongst the potential interested authors.

In the efforts to improve and make the SEE Law Journal more visible, especially bearing in mind that its future editions will be exclusively produced in electronic format, a detailed review of the SEE Law Journal subpage on the SEELS' website was made and a new structure of the subpage was introduced. It contains more detailed information on the journal, previous editions, editorial board, active calls etc.

### **FUNDRAISING AND EXTENDING PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **Proposal Submission: "Challenges for Europe's Societies, Neighbors and Partners"**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May the proposal "Challenges for Europe's Societies, Neighbors and Partners" was submitted to the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Besides the lead partner Europa-Institut, SEELS and the Law Faculties of Zagreb and Krakow form the core consortium. The project is aimed to build up capacities in the EU fundraising with particular emphasis to Horizon 2020.

#### **Spreading the word about SEELS**

In the period between March and May 2016, the staff of the Centre for SEELS has approached law schools in Europe and Northern America to seek for new collaboration potentials. Information brochures, flyers and activity reports have been sent to more than 50 law schools. Working meetings have been held among others with the Faculty of Law University of Passau (Germany), Humboldt University Berlin - Law and Society Institute (Germany), European Legal Studies Institute University of Osnabrück (Germany), the AIRE Centre (UK) and the Faculty of Law University of Paris Oest Nanterre La Defense (France).

### **Conference Participation**

SEELS has also participated in numerous events and conferences, all with the intention to increase the visibility and to generate new opportunities for collaborations:

- “Reform of the reformed legal education”, SEELS representatives meeting at the Faculty of Law in Sarajevo
- Walter Hallstein Colloquium “Current Challenges of EU Foreign Policy”, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
- Jean Monnet Symposium “How much Differentiation and Flexibility Can European Integration Bear?”, European Academy Otzenhausen, Germany
- Annual Meeting of the European Law School Association (ELFA), University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- DAAD Conference “Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks”, Berlin, Germany

### **Establishment of the SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network**

On the initiative of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network has been officially founded on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April in Bucharest, Romania. SEELS together with AIRE Centre and the American Bar Association have been approached to contribute as strategic partners to this endeavor.

Discussions on SEELS concrete involvement will continue during the summer months.

More information about the SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network can be found here:

<http://www.rcc.int/press/287/see-judicial-training-institutions-network-established>

### **INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP POOL**

#### **Regular monitoring and publishing of internships**

The Internship Pool is one of SEELS’ projects, which was a direct product of the “EU Opens Markets” Summer School, held in 2015. The summer school was held, and the project was initiated and maintained in collaboration with the Europa-Institut (Saarland University), with support of DAAD through the financial assistance of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

After the initiation of the project, the Centre for SEELS developed a subsection on SEELS’ webpage specifically for it, and regularly published internship opportunities for the students of SEELS’ members there. Furthermore, the Centre for SEELS regularly published the internship opportunities



Network  
South East European Law School

on the Facebook page of SEELS. As the number of published internship opportunities increased the Internship Pool as a project became more and more successful.

### **Scholarship Pool**

After the establishing of an Internship Pool SEELS recognized the potential of this platform and decided to further develop it, by adding a scholarship component to it. Namely, besides internship opportunities, now, scholarship opportunities are also monitored and published by the Centre for SEELS.

More information in regards to the Internship & Scholarship Pool can be found on SEELS' webpage:

[http://seelawschool.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=260&Itemid=977&lang=en](http://seelawschool.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=260&Itemid=977&lang=en)

and on the official Facebook page of SEELS:

[www.facebook.com/seelawschool](http://www.facebook.com/seelawschool)



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