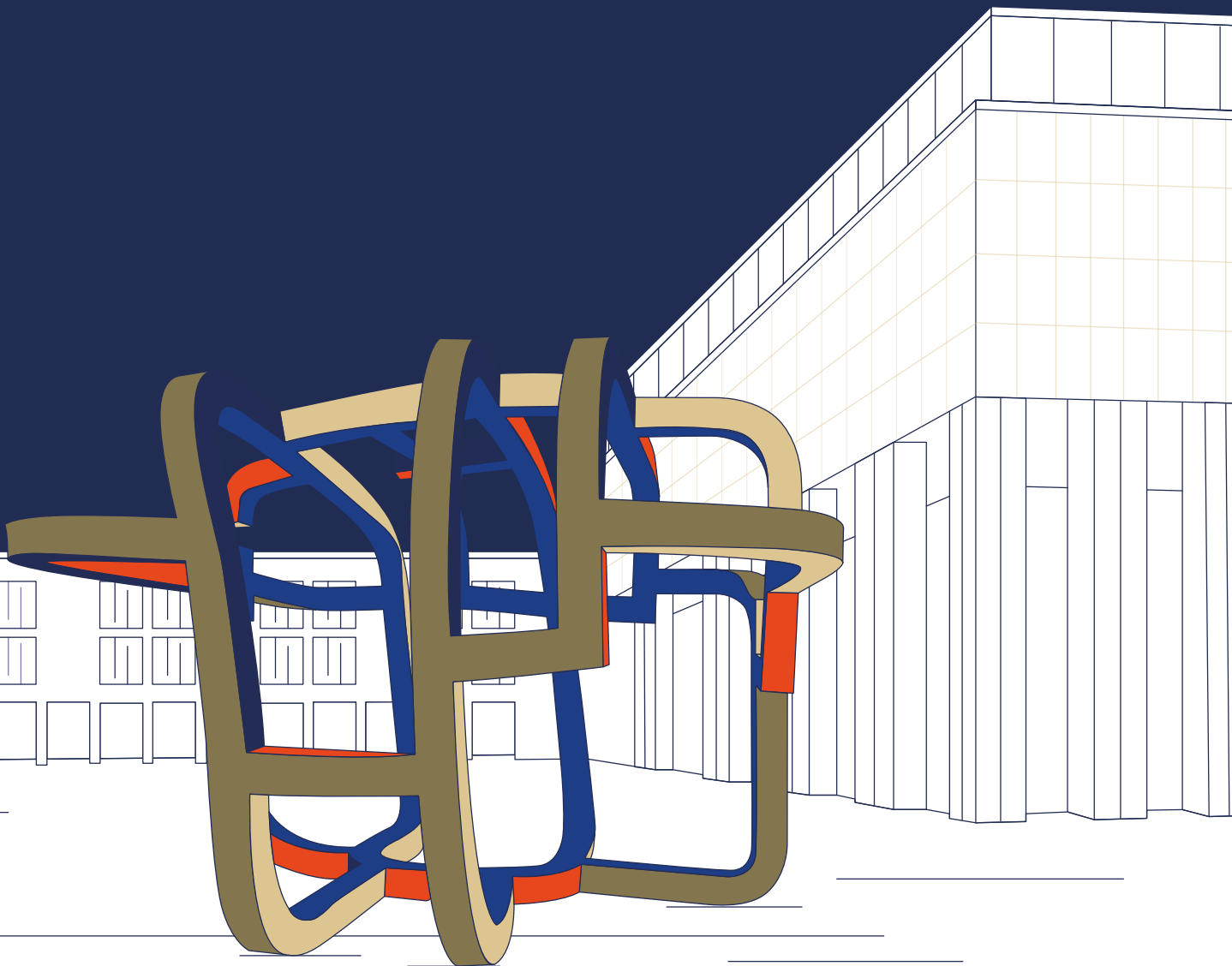


Annual Report

2021





ERA Annual Report 2021

2021 was a year of records and renewal at ERA.

We organised more events and welcomed more participants than ever before. Judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other legal practitioners from 83 countries took part in our programmes – mostly online due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jean-Philippe Rageade succeeded Wolfgang Heusel as Director in January and Jean-Claude Juncker took over from Jacques Santer as President of the Governing Board in November. Julia Laffranque joined us as Programme Director from February to October.

Our staff worked hard to deliver high-quality training seminars, conferences and e-learning resources in cooperation with our partners in all EU Member States. This Annual Report provides an insight into all this activity. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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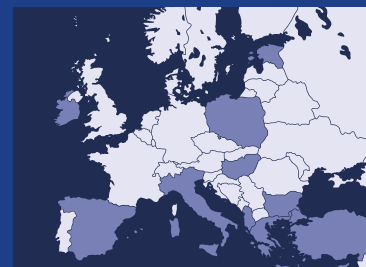
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Marc VAN DER WOUDE

*President of the General Court
of the European Union, Luxembourg
Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees*

Preface

Against the backdrop of Russia's military aggression against the Ukraine, it is important to remember the unique role of the European Union. It is by its very nature a peace project, as acknowledged by the Nobel Peace Prize, which it received in 2012. Armed conflicts between its Member States have become impossible and even unthinkable. Commercial or political controversies no longer lead to wars, but to discussions at the negotiating table. Treaties, protocols, regulations, directives, decisions and case law are Europe's new armour against war and trouble-seekers. The Union's force is a direct function of the rule of law, which it seeks to protect. Those who undermine that rule, aggress the Union.

This integration process based on negotiations and the rule of law started on a relatively small scale with a community on coal and steel and then rapidly expanded during the nineties, through the completion of the internal market, to almost every sector of the economy. It currently affects nearly all aspects of society. It is very difficult to define an area of law that Union law does not impact in one way or another. Whereas the law of the European Economic Community was a legal discipline, which could be identified and taught as such at law schools, this is no longer the case today. There are as many disciplines in Union law as there are in national law. Every legal discipline is bound to have a Union dimension.

Thirty years ago, ERA understood and anticipated this trend by providing legal training, not only in the core areas of Union law as they were at the time, such as internal market law, competition law, agricultural law or the law on the functioning of the EU institutions, but also in other branches of the law which most legal practitioners did not immediately associate with the Union. This comprehensive approach is reflected in ERA's organisational structure. Akin to a classic law faculty, its departments cover private, commercial, criminal and public law. Obviously, legal training concerning the Union dimension of all these legal disciplines is important in itself: without knowing the Union aspect of a legal discipline, one's knowledge is simply incomplete. This obvious finding, however, does not make ERA unique. There are at least three other reasons that explain its unique position in the legal training landscape.

First, ERA's specialised programme developers follow Union law in a very proactive manner. They identify the upcoming developments and stay in close touch with decision-makers and stakeholders. As soon as something important occurs in Union law, one may expect ERA to react immediately by offering the interested community the appropriate legal training dispensed by those who are very often the driving force behind these new developments. In many respects, ERA's training programmes reflect the state of Union law. Secondly, it is not only the content of the course that matters, but also its mode of delivery. ERA is more than a nice building in Trier. Its staff and trainers liaise with administrations and other organisations throughout the Union and provide training on the spot. They are the home delivery service of Union law, physically or digitally. Last and certainly not least, ERA plays an important role by making legal practitioners from all parts of Europe meet and discuss. Law is a normative and human activity that requires an exchange of insights and experience. ERA offers a platform that is essential for the mutual understanding between all those who practise Union law. It therefore offers a valuable contribution to the European integration process.

Of course, this process is not to everybody's liking. Some may resent Union law as too intrusive or as a loss of sovereignty. This preface is not the occasion to enter into a political debate. It suffices to say that Union law is there as a fact and a response to a bare necessity. For those who want peace and security on the old continent, the rule of law and mutual understanding offer the only solution. The many States in Europe's East and Southeast, exposed to threats of war, corruption and arbitrariness, know that all too well. Collectively the Member States and their Union are a force of peace, stability and prosperity that other States are eager to join. ★

02

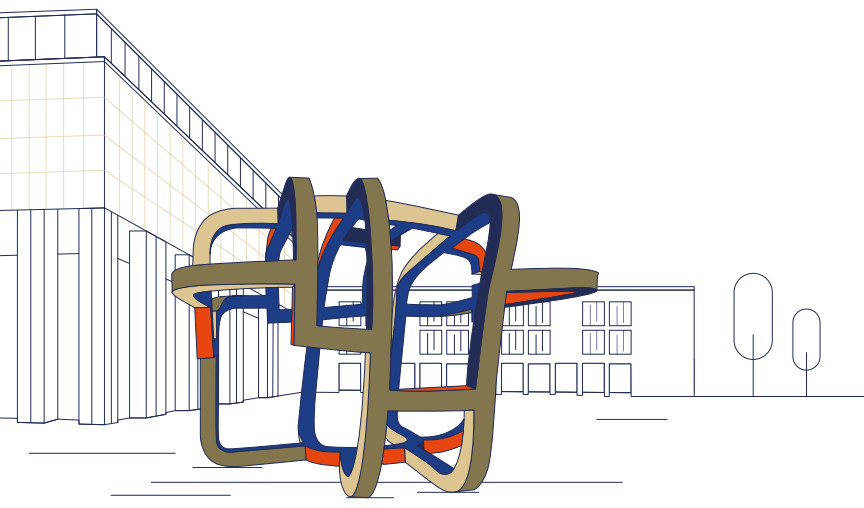
Message from Jean-Claude Juncker

It was a great honour for me to take over the leadership of the ERA Foundation in 2021. I was particularly pleased to take on this role because, as Finance Minister of Luxembourg in the early nineties, I worked intensively to support the establishment of ERA. I have succeeded Jacques Santer, who served as President of the Governing Board of ERA for 21 years, in a number of roles in my career and now it is a pleasure for me to complete the circle by leading this good-functioning Academy that I worked towards setting up all those years ago.

2021 was a year of intensive activity for ERA. The Covid-19 pandemic obliged it to offer many of its programmes online rather than face-to-face. It is all the more remarkable that it organised more events

and welcomed more participants than in any previous year. I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of the staff under the leadership of Jean-Philippe Rageade in his first year as Director of the Academy and to thank all ERA's supporters in these challenging times. ★

I was particularly pleased to take on this role because, as Finance Minister of Luxembourg in the early nineties, I worked intensively to support the establishment of ERA.





Jean-Claude JUNCKER

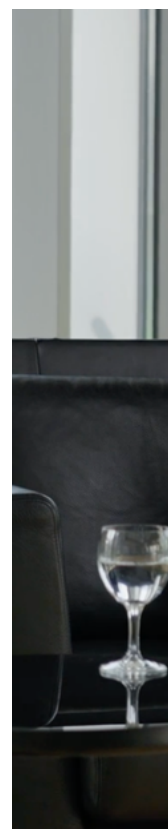
*President of the Governing Board
Former President of the European Commission
Former Prime Minister of Luxembourg*

03

Interview with the Director



Scan the QR
Code to watch
the filmed
interview



1. 2021 was ERA's busiest year ever, with the highest number of events organised and the most ever participants attending them. What explains all this activity?



With over 9000 practitioners of law attending over 200 events, it was certainly a busy year for ERA. It was also a year that was still strongly marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, and this goes a long way to explaining the increase in activity.

First, a number of events that had been scheduled to take place in 2020 were postponed to 2021. This mainly concerned seminars co-financed by the EU and organised in the Member States with local partners. We felt it was important that they take place locally, so rather than switch them online, we postponed them as long as it was not possible to hold face-to-face events due to the Covid restrictions.

Secondly, due to those restrictions, the majority of the events we organised in 2021 were still online. When we negotiated this reorganisation of our projects with the Commission, they asked us to organise more events than we had planned face-to-face, or to admit more participants than we would usually do. Pre-pandemic, we had to reject about half the applications we received for face-to-face events funded by the EU, but online there were no limits.

Thirdly, in terms of our open programme, each of our lawyers was able to organise more events online than they would normally do face-to-face. This was important, as the average number of participants per event is lower than before the pandemic, so we have to offer more events to reach the same number of participants.

These are challenging times to be working in the field of professional training. I am extremely grateful to all the members of our team for the extra effort they have put into ensuring that ERA continues to deliver at the highest level.

***The majority of the events
we organised in 2021
were still online.***



JEAN-PHILIPPE RAGEADE
Director of ERA

2. What other effects has the Covid-19 pandemic had on ERA?



In 2020, surprisingly, we ended the year with a surplus of nearly €1 million. This was because, on the one hand, our funding model is reliant on important operating grants from the EU and our host State of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany. On the other, the pandemic forced us to reduce significantly our activities for several months, and even to put our staff on short-time work. Our institutional funders understandably wanted to ensure that their money was being put to good use, and we immediately put in place an investment plan for these reserves. Another consequence was that in 2021 we decided not to take up a grant from Rhineland-Palatinate worth €350,000 dedicated to building maintenance. This is one of the main reasons why our financial result for the year is balanced despite all the additional activity.

3. The Conference on the Future of Europe was launched in 2021. How did ERA contribute to this process?



ERA's mission is both to train and to provide a forum for discussion among practitioners and policymakers on the development of European law. It was therefore essential that we be actively involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

We launched our own contribution just a few days after the official process got under way in May with a hybrid event gathering over 200 participants online and a small but very high-level group of participants – mainly members of the Court of Justice and General Court – in Trier. Vice-President of the European Parliament Katarina Barley and Vice-President of the European Commission Věra Jourová discussed “The Future of Legal Europe – will we trust in it?” It was also the opportunity to present a *Liber Amicorum* to my predecessor as Director, Wolfgang Heusel.

We then organised 14 online public debates on the future of European law in specific thematic areas, ranging from artificial intelligence to data protection to the rule of law. Over 1200 participants joined these events, which were facilitated by the leading experts in the respective field. For each topic, a report was submitted to the Conference on the Future of Europe. We hope that these contributions enriched that process and look forward to seeing the results.

4. *Last year was your first as Director of ERA. How was it different from your previous role as Programme Director?*



It is a change, yes, although it is anything but a leap into the unknown.

First, I've been with ERA since March 2005 as a member of the Management Team. I have witnessed, accompanied and contributed actively to all the major changes ERA has gone through since then. Secondly, I was appointed by our Governing Board in November 2019. The purpose of this early appointment was precisely to prepare myself as well as possible for this new role. I am very grateful that I was given this preparatory time, although the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020 slightly disrupted the plans for what should have been a smoother transition.

This being said, it is a different position from my previous role as Programme Director. After more than one year, I hope I understand ERA even better than before. For sure I have identified challenges or difficulties which I did not consider in the past.

The first year was very dense. We implemented a very high number of events in 2021. But the achievement of which I am most proud is the innovative and sustainable mobile working system that we introduced – in good cooperation with our works council – that benefits all our employees. It promotes the compatibility of family life and work for them and increases the attractivity and competitiveness of ERA as an employer for future staff.

Finally, I would like to stress that I was able to rely from the start of my new mandate on the good advice and broad experience of my predecessor, Wolfgang Heusel, and I am very grateful to him. The same applies for the former President of the Governing Board, Jacques Santer, who retired from his functions in November 2021 after more than 20 years in office. Their support has been crucial for me in the first year. The ERA staff, the other members of the Management Team, as well as our cooperation partners, were all supportive. I am very lucky.

5. *Your successor as Programme Director, Julia Laffranque, left ERA in October. What happened?*



Indeed, in November 2020, the Governing Board appointed Julia Laffranque as Director of Programmes and member of the Management Board. Julia started her new position at ERA in February 2021. Unfortunately, due to family reasons, she had to leave us prematurely in October. ERA is a family-friendly organisation and we have full understanding for her situation.

Julia remains close to us anyway. She is a member of the Board of Trustees and she was elected to the Executive Board of the Friends of ERA Association.

Her departure was announced internally in early July, which left some time to the remaining three members of the Management Board to ensure a smooth transition and to look for a qualified successor.

The latter was found and appointed at the Governing Board meeting in November 2021.

His name is Viktor Vadász. He is from Hungary. He was a criminal judge at the Metropolitan Court of Budapest and a member of the National Judicial Council. He was also the Director of the Hungarian Academy of Justice in 2013-2014. So Viktor understands our work, knows our target groups, is an expert in EU law. He meets all criteria for the position. And on the top of that he is a very pleasant person to work with.

Viktor started at ERA in January 2022 and all the team is very pleased to have him.



**JOHN
COUGHLAN**

*Director of Corporate
Communications*

**JULIA
LAFFRANQUE**

Director of Programmes

**LUC
DOEVE**

*Director of Finance
and Conference Services*

6. What are you most looking forward to at ERA in 2022?



2022 is a special year for the Academy, as we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. To this end, we are organising a big congress which will deal with sovereignty both of and in the Union. During this event, we will address the legal consequences of some concepts that moved to the centre of public debate in recent years, such as 'budgetary sovereignty', 'strategic sovereignty' and 'digital sovereignty'. It will be an important moment for ERA and an opportunity to thank all those, both institutions and individuals, who have enabled ERA to carry out its mission over the last 30 years and who – hopefully – will continue to support us in the years to come.

But beyond this anniversary, we have great ambitions for 2022.

One project that has been giving us a hard time for years is the creation of a new website. It seems that this time, after several failed attempts for very different reasons, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and a new website should be operational by the second half of 2022. This will be crucial as it should allow us to move forward on other projects that have been put on hold precisely because they were dependent on the launch of this upgraded website. If I had to choose one priority for 2022, it would be this one.

I should also mention the concretisation and deepening of some goals that we identified in our development strategy

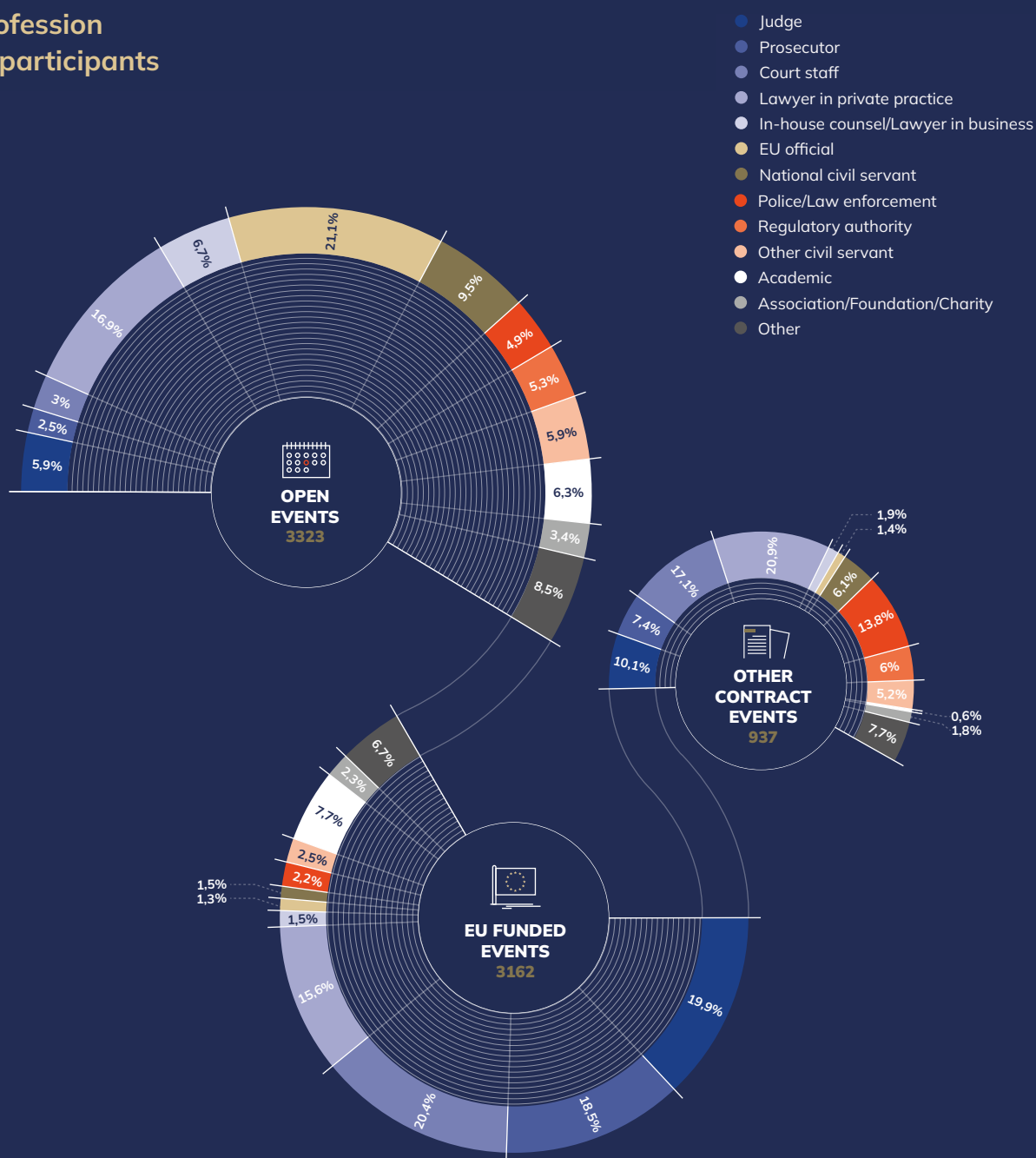
2021-2027, such as doing more for the young generation of legal practitioners or improving our presence in the Western Balkans States. Tangible progress is expected in relation to each of them this year. We will hold a renewed and enlarged edition of the so-called "Young European Lawyers Contest" and aim to sign cooperation agreements with associations of young legal professionals and law students. We will also invest in bilateral relations with key actors in the legal professions in the Western Balkans with a view to developing appropriate programmes for them. We are working on the launch of a Western Balkans Fund with the Friends of ERA Association.

Last but not least, in December 2021, ERA was successfully audited and awarded EMAS certification. EMAS is the acronym of the "EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme", a premium management instrument developed by the European Commission for organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance. Receiving the EMAS certification was a major success, considering that only 10% of the companies that apply for EMAS validation manage to do so on the first try. That being said, this marks only the first step to establish our environmental goals and strategies. Becoming "green(er)" will remain on our agenda for the years to come and will require fundamental changes in the way we work.

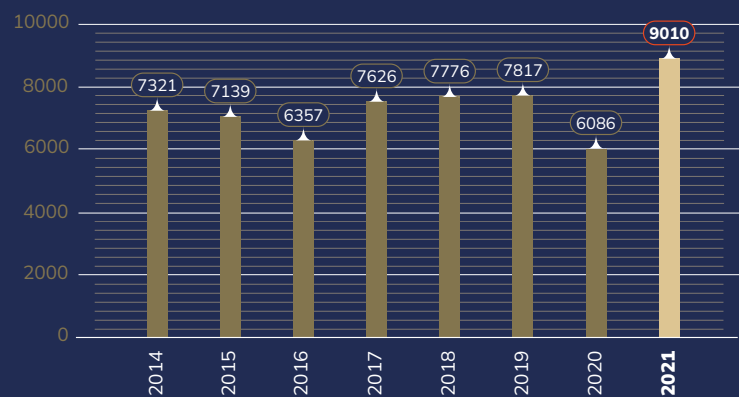
So there is plenty for us to look forward to in 2022! ★

04 ERA in numbers

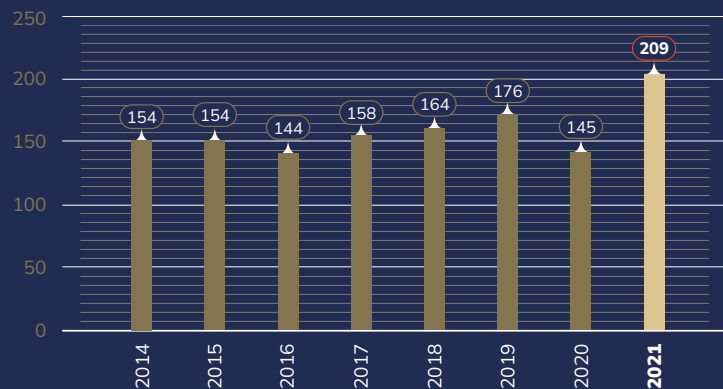
Profession of participants



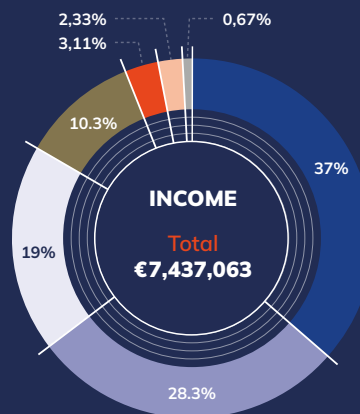
Number of participants



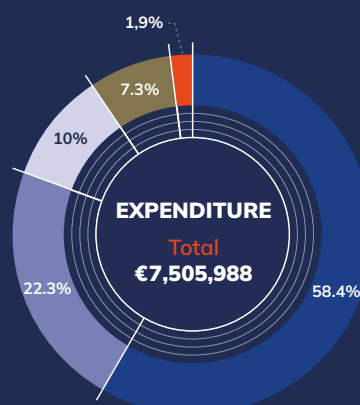
Number of events



Operating income and expenditure

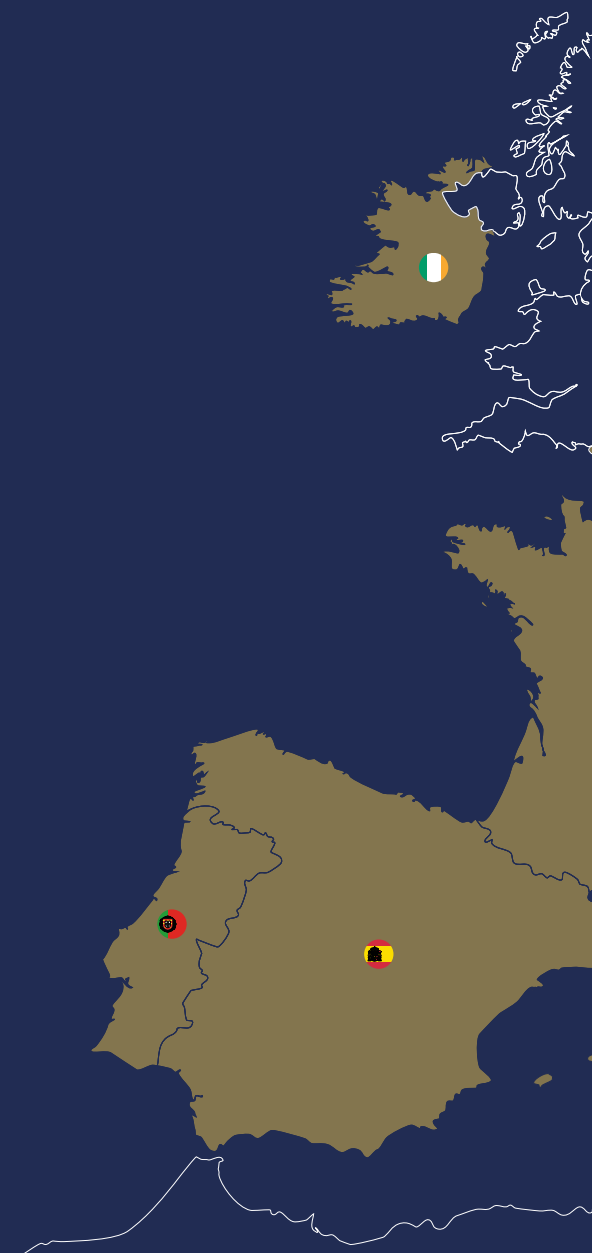
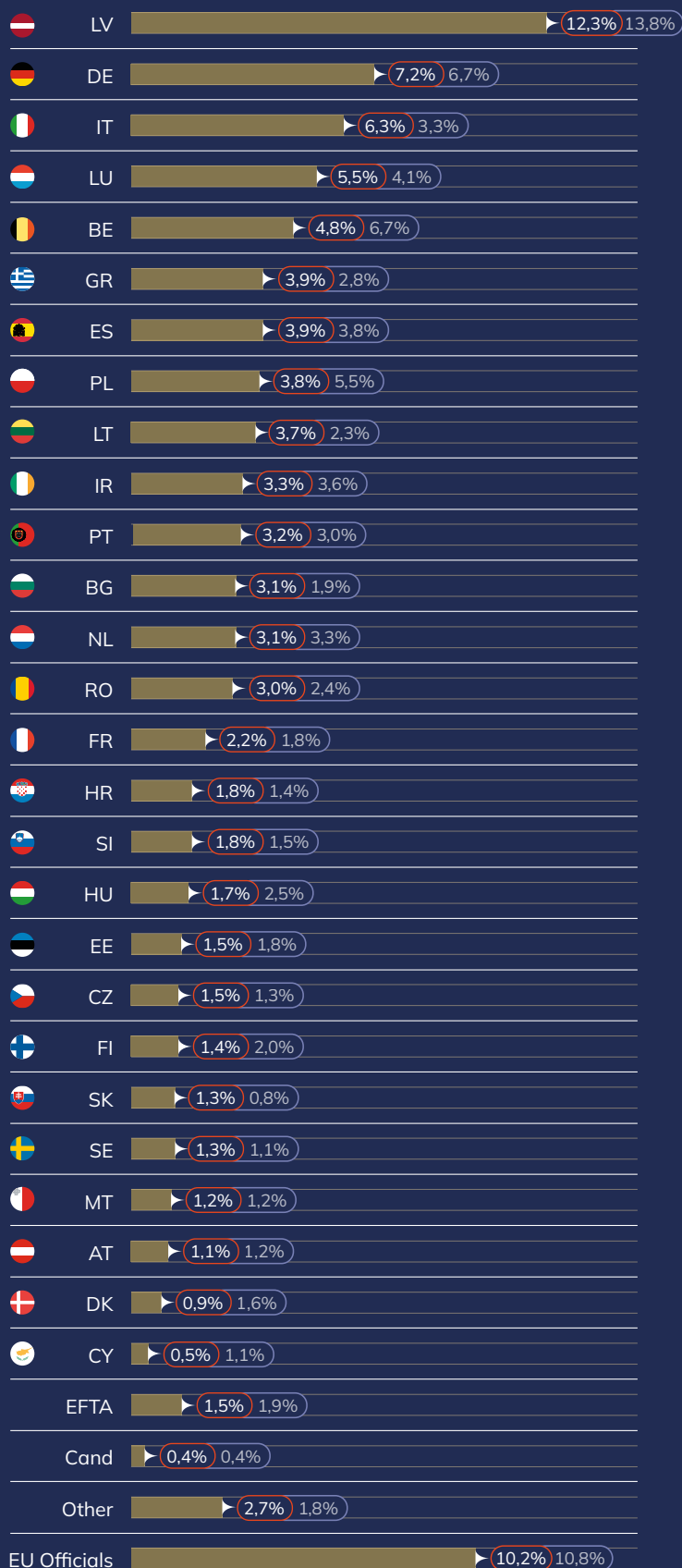


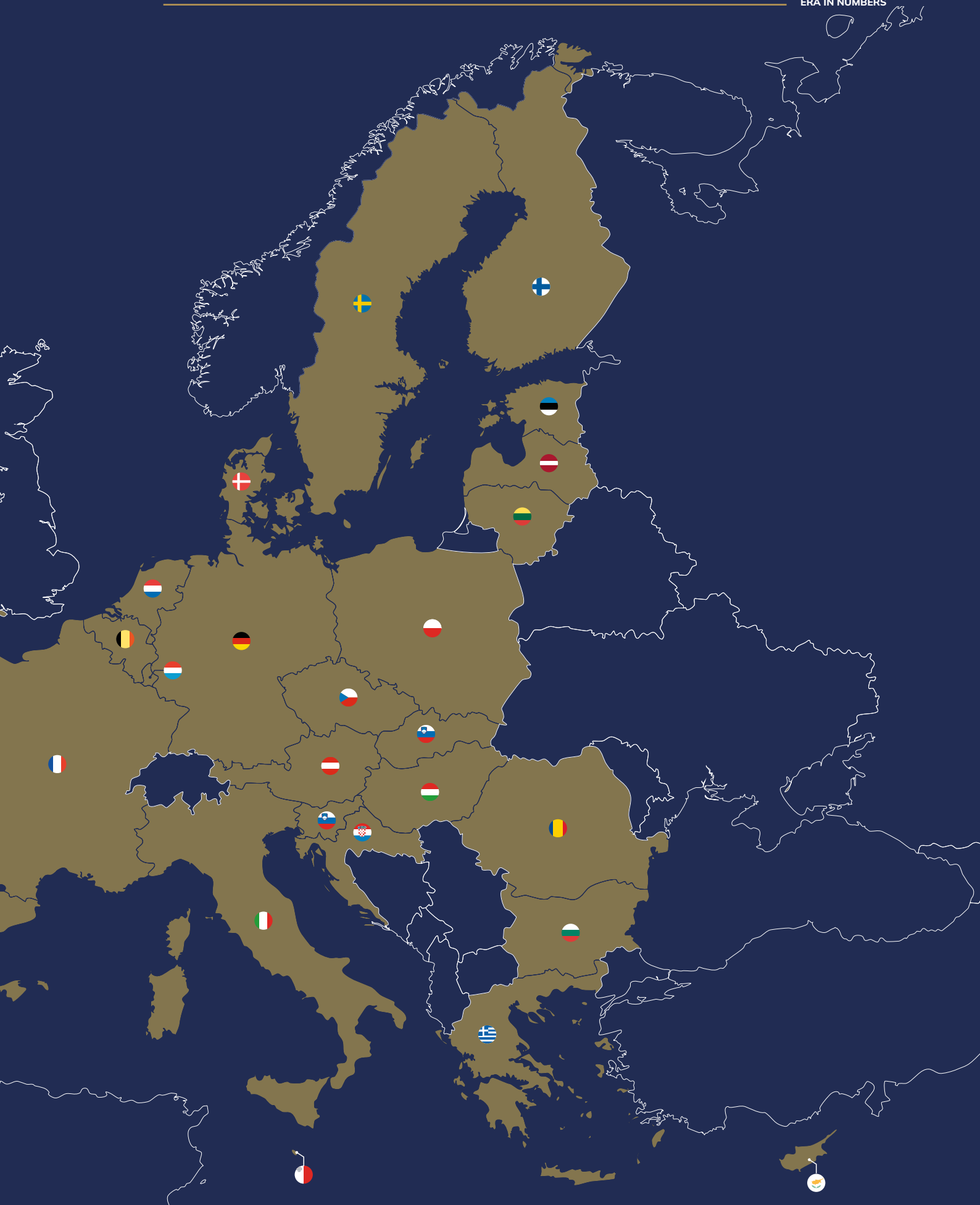
- EU operating subsidy
- EU-funded projects
- Participation fees and sales
- Rhineland-Palatinate subsidy
- Other projects
- ECC rental
- Other income

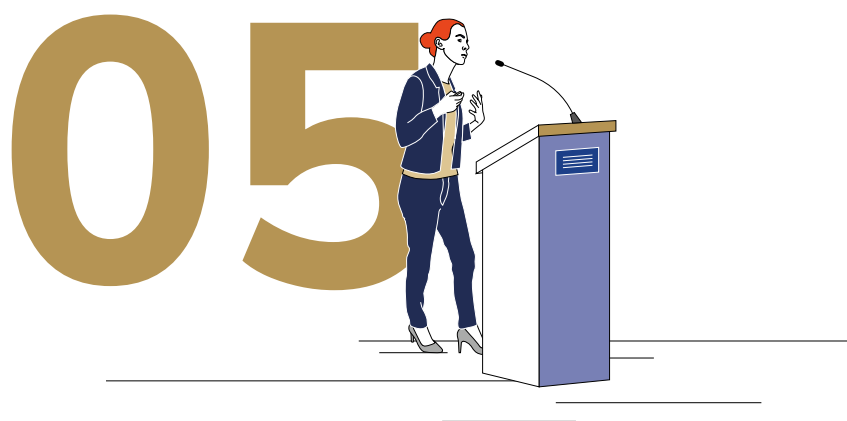


- Personnel
- Direct costs of training events
- Administration
- Equipment & facilities
- ECC running costs

Participants 2021 vs 2020







Conferences and legal policy debates

A comprehensive programme of annual conferences

The challenge for ERA over the years has been to maintain diversity and breadth in its conference programme despite the ever-increasing number of areas in which EU law applies and despite the growing “Europeanisation” of domestic law. Updating, deepening and enlarging the programme to match the growing training needs and expectations of legal practitioners have been a key element of our strategy – also during the pandemic.

Evidence of these programme developments can be seen in the increasing range of annual conferences, where the main aim is to cover the most recent developments in a specific area of EU law. In 2021, this successful formula covered, inter alia, border management, company law and corporate governance, copyright law, countering terrorism, financial supervision, food law, immigration law, insurance law, media law, patent law, trade mark and design, white collar crime, direct taxation law, successions law, VAT law and – for the first time – sustainable finance and financial innovation.

These highly technical events, aimed at specialists who wish to keep up-to-date in a specific field, can gather each year a high number of legal practitioners from all over Europe. This was the case in 2021 with the annual conferences on asylum law, consumer law, disability law, environmental law, family law, financial compliance (formerly anti-money laundering), pharmaceutical law, and State aid law, which all gathered more than 40 – some of them over 50 – delegates each. The same applies to the newly created annual conference on competition law.

*For the first time this year, **sustainable finance and financial innovation** were part of the growing range of annual conferences.*



The most attended events of the series in 2021 were the annual conferences on criminal justice which gathered 57 participants at Dublin Castle, the annual conference on public procurement law with 62 participants online, the annual conference on labour law with 64 participants online, the annual conference on data protection law with 72 legal practitioners from 18 countries online and the annual conference on social security law – which had been skipped the year before due to the pandemic – with 78 practitioners from 20 countries online. For all of these events, ERA regularly welcomes as speakers judges from the Court of Justice of the EU or the European Court of Human Rights, as well as high-ranking EU officials.

All in all, 1238 practitioners participated in the 31 annual conferences offered in 2021 – of which seven were implemented in a hybrid format, four in a face-to-face format, while the rest was conceived for an online audience only.

Events on very specific topics

Complementary to its annual conferences, ERA offers ad hoc events on various specific topics. For example, one well-attended conference on **digital technology in family matters** discussed the main trends in digital justice for international families worldwide and gave many practical examples. It included a debate on the current EU initiative e-Codex as well as legaltech and AI in family matters. While digitalisation can contribute to promoting family mobility and ease dispute resolution, family lawsuits often involve vulnerable parties and therefore require special attention within the digitalisation of justice. Another specific conference in the field of private law addressed **collective redress in the EU** and gave an in-depth analysis of the Directive on Representative Actions for the Protection of Collective Interests of Consumers which, after many years of negotiations, was finally adopted at the end of 2020. The conference served as a platform for exchanging views between representatives of the European Commission, judges from national courts and the Court of Justice, staff from consumer and business organisations, ministry officials, and litigators who lead mass damages cases involving consumer, data protection or shareholders' claims. The most controversial part of the debate related to the issue of litigation funding and financing which will be the key factor for the future success of this new legal act.

Another conference held in hybrid format in Trier dealt with the EU rules applicable to **posted workers**, that is, those employees who are sent by their employers to carry out a service in another EU Member State on a temporary basis. The event covered both the labour law and the social security law aspects. The challenges in practice relating to the scope of posting, the concept of remuneration, the prior declaration mechanisms or the value of A1 declarations as well as recent developments such as posting in international transport or the European Labour Authority's concerted and joint inspections were discussed by some 40 participants from 17 different countries.



In 2021 ERA continued its important work in the field of **data protection law**, for example by offering over 30 data protection specialists and EU civil servants the necessary guidance on how to apply the new Regulation 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. The conference addressed the impact of data protection rules on contracts, the rights of data subject and admissible restrictions, and in particular the legal issues around international data transfers to third countries and international organisations which gained increased practical importance after CJEU judgment in case C-311/18 (Schrems II).

2021 also saw ERA, together with – and at the initiative of – some judges from the Brussels Market Court, supporting the creation of the Association of EU Data Protection Judges (AEDPJ). The association which aims to gather members of the judiciary interested in data protection law of the EU or its Member States, will provide a forum for the exchange of information and views in relation to data protection law in the judicial context and to promote knowledge of data protection law and the practical management of data protection cases from the judicial perspective.

In the same legal area, in October 2021, ERA together with Europol's Data Protection Experts Network (EDEN) and the Italian Police organised the seventh EDEN conference on data protection and law enforcement in Rome. Under the title "Human after all – data protection in policing", experts from all over Europe and beyond together with some 220 participants from law enforcement, data protection authorities, ministries and the judiciary discussed issues such as artificial intelligence, facial recognition, machine learning, online risks for minors, data literacy and cybersecurity. Europol's Executive Director, Catherine De Bolle, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's Director, Michael O'Flaherty, and the European Data Protection Supervisor, Wojciech Wiewiórowski, spoke at this high-level conference. A special presentation was delivered by Brittany Kaiser, former business development director for Cambridge Analytica, who in 2018 testified before the British Parliament in the context of the data scandal regarding Facebook and Cambridge Analytica. In the same vein, ERA organised an event on the Law Enforcement Directive and the challenges and issues faced by practitioners in applying its provisions, including those faced by some Member States in properly transposing all of the measures. It also analysed third-country adequacy decisions, the fundamental rights implications of data transfers, as well as the implications of facial recognition and artificial intelligence within the context of the Directive.

Further such events in 2021 dealt with sexual and reproductive health rights, the EU staff regulations, as well as anti-money laundering for the judiciary and law enforcement. The digital economy and the impact of AI on our society were once again the topic of three major conferences in 2021 focusing respectively on human rights aspects, criminal justice and intellectual property. The field of banking and financial services law was also very well represented in our programme with specific conferences on – for example – market abuse and the regulation of payment, clearing and settlement systems. Of great practical relevance, the biennial event on access to documents in the EU provided knowledge not only on Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 but also on various practices of EU agencies, bodies and institutions, as well as an overview of recent case law of the CJEU. During this conference, transparency of the legislative process in the EU and protection of personal data with regard to access to documents were analysed in detail.

1238 practitioners participated in the 31 annual conferences offered in 2021 of which seven were implemented in a hybrid format, four in a face-to-face format, while the rest was conceived for an online audience only.





A platform for the discussion of legal policy

In line with its Statute, ERA does not confine itself to the dissemination of European law via training, but also serves as a European platform for the discussion of legal policy. In so doing, ERA attaches great importance to remaining neutral and independent, for example by not becoming directly involved in the drafting of specific legal policies. ERA's neutrality and independence have given it a role in a number of topical and fundamental debates at European level. The aim of such events is to stimulate reflection on future political developments in a field of law or, where future legislation is already at an advanced stage, to put forward practical considerations from legal practitioners and stakeholders for the evaluation of the proposed legislation.

ERA's involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe definitely belongs to this category. On 11 May 2021, two days after the Conference had been formally launched at a ceremony in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, ERA organised a webinar entitled "The Future of Legal Europe – will we trust in it?". At this webinar, which marked the launch of ERA's contribution to the said Conference, a panel of two key politicians – Vice Presidents Věra Jourová of the

Commission and Katarina Barley of the Parliament – discussed the aims and procedure of the Conference with an academic, Professor Peter-Christian Müller-Graff (Heidelberg), and with ERA's former director Wolfgang Heusel. In the following months ERA closely monitored and enriched the unfolding debate through a series of its own conferences and discussion fora with a particular focus on the legal aspects of the ongoing analysis and emerging proposals. All in all, ERA organised 14 two-hour webinars, the last three taking place in early 2022. The webinars covered very different topics, such as the protection of personal data, whether the EU could tackle the plastic problem in its entirety, artificial intelligence and financial transparency as a national security priority, why the rule of law is crucial for citizens, the difficulties in taxing digital giants, patient access to medicines and vaccines and how the EU could reach quality and equality, the future of remote working in the EU, etc. After each webinar a comprehensive report was drafted and uploaded on the official website of the Conference. This series of webinars was attended by more than 1,022 legal practitioners and citizens from all over the European Union. ★



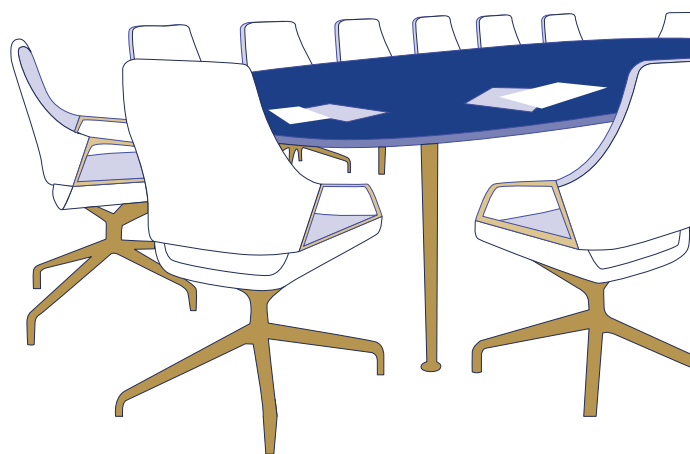
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Practical training courses and workshops

Legal training for young professionals

In terms of practical training ERA has considerably intensified its programme over recent years in order to meet better the needs of practitioners. This concerns in the first instance its series of intensive one-week summer courses aimed at young professionals and non-specialists. Major efforts are made to ensure these courses are always top-quality: all of them include case studies, practical workshops and role-playing to allow participants to put into instant practice the knowledge they acquire.

For the second year in a row, nearly all summer course programmes in 2021 were offered online either as morning or afternoon five-day courses. In so doing ERA was able to stick to its work programme of traditional summer courses covering, inter alia, antitrust law, EU staff regulations, family law, intellectual property law, public procurement law, rule of law, tax law, WTO/EU trade law, and the regulation and supervision of financial markets. Only the summer course on information technology law was offered in a purely face-to-face format and gathered nearly 40 participants, while the summer course on social security law was implemented in a hybrid format. It should be underlined that some of the well-established summer courses, for example on environmental law and on criminal justice, were very well attended online and it is thus considered to keep some of the summer courses online from 2022 – irrespective of the public health situation.



2021 also saw ERA resuming its summer courses on cross-border civil litigation and on labour law – which had been skipped the year before, as well as offering two additional comprehensive introductory one-week courses, respectively on consumer law and on fund regulation and compliance.

Nearly 500 practitioners from all EU and EFTA Member States, most Western Balkan States and other parts of the world (Brazil, Israel, Japan, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates) participated in these courses in 2021.

Large-scale training projects

The development of long-running, large-scale training projects is a very efficient means for ERA to achieve its mission of better promotion and dissemination of EU law among legal practitioners across Europe. These ambitious projects, which aim at broad geographical and professional coverage, usually share common features: (i) they are built on a large pan-European partnership generally composed of members of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and/or of national bars, which facilitates their implementation and ensures that awareness will be raised throughout the EU; (ii) they are often multilingual; (iii) they encompass more than training activities, as they are complemented by subsites offering training materials, a comprehensive library, audio and video podcasts, sometimes e-learning modules; and (iv) they are funded partly or entirely by the European Union. While these training projects are normally implemented face-to-face in Trier and in various Member States, ERA was able to continue implementing a large part of them – for the second year in a row – in an online format in 2021.

Among the most prominent examples of such projects in the ERA programme are the two long-running training programmes on “EU Anti-discrimination Law” and “EU Gender Equality Law”. These projects, bringing together some 600 judges, legal practitioners and academics from all EU Member States each year, have been implemented on behalf of and in cooperation with the European Commission under the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020”. In 2019, ERA was awarded two new four-year service contracts allowing it to continue its activities in this area. Eleven out of the fifteen seminars implemented in 2021 were held online. In so doing, ERA was honoured to cooperate in implementing five training events on EU anti-discrimination law with the Brussels Bar (Dutch language section), the Spanish Judicial School, the Slovak Bar Association, the Slovenian Judicial Training Centre and the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy. Three training events on EU gender equality law were implemented in cooperation with the Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates, the Italian School for the Judiciary, as well as the Supreme Court and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Estonia. In order to make the information provided at the seminars available to an even wider audience, an extensive online documentation (including PowerPoint presentations, e-learning courses, e-presentations, etc.) of the two series can be accessed for free on special ERA subsites. This documentation was extended and

updated extensively in 2021. Since the beginning of ERA's cooperation with the European Commission in the framework of the two series, the first of which has run since 2003, ERA has contributed to the training of over 9,000 legal professionals in the field of EU equality law.

In the same vein, ERA was able to continue the implementation of a major service contract with the European Commission's DG Competition awarded in May 2018. The project aims at providing the judiciary with an overview of the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU and the relevant secondary legislation, as well as the national legislation transposing the Damages Directive, and with the necessary tools to deal with State aid cases. This project – which is supported by the judicial training institutes from 23 Member States, the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ) and EJTN – must be seen in the context of ERA's long-standing commitment to the training of the judiciary on competition law since the entry into force of Regulation 1/2003. In addition to the 370 judges from 14 Member States who had been trained since the start of the project in 2019, ERA was able to train over 140 additional judges from four different Member States in the course of 2021.

A similar large-scale approach for other specific legal topics has been chosen with long-running, multilingual series of events throughout Europe over the last years, on topics such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, e-evidence, the prevention of child sex abuse material online, the enhancement of cross-border mutual legal assistance and recognition of decisions within the context of detention, as well as on procedural rights in the EU.

**Nearly 500 practitioners
from all EU and EFTA
Member States, most
Western Balkan States and
other parts of the world
participated in the Summer
Courses in 2021.**

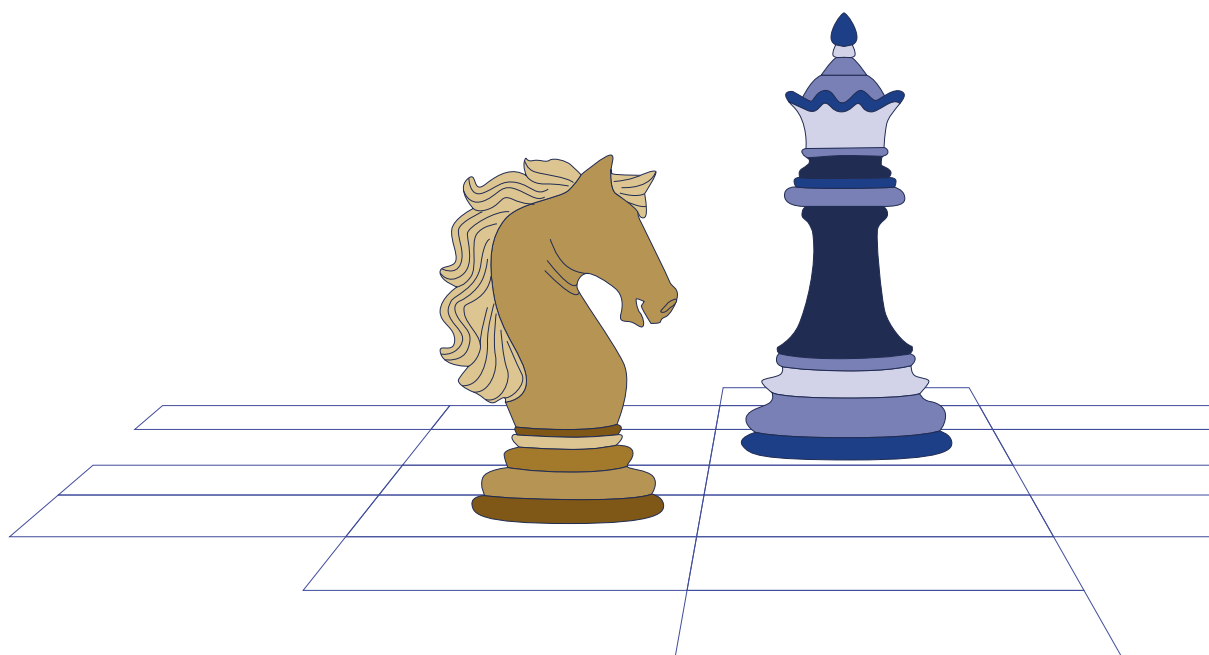
Advanced training for the judiciary

In 2019 ERA, the Italian High School for the Magistracy (SSM) and the Dutch Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR), with the support of the judicial training institutes from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Spain, launched an innovative training project for court coordinators in European law. This was the first series of joint training activities offered to court coordinators in the EU. The project focused on areas with particular relevance for these senior judges with advanced knowledge in EU law, namely fundamental rights, the preliminary ruling procedure and EU citizenship.

Within the project 120 court coordinators (judges) in European law received advanced practical training and enhanced their knowledge and competences in the application of EU law. Moreover, as they act as multipliers in their jurisdictions, they could pass on the knowledge acquired. The project provided a platform for exchange of information, knowledge and best practices, and created close contacts among court coordinators from the Member States that have active networks. The judges participating in this series of seminars originated from the following national networks: the “Network of judges-coordinators on European law” in Bulgaria, the “European Law Advisors’ Network” (ELAN) in Hungary, the “Gaius network” for Italy, “Eurinfra” in the Netherlands, the newly created “Coordinators for International Cooperation and Human Rights” in Poland, “EuRoQuod” in Romania, and the “European Network of Legal Experts” (REDUE) in Spain.

While the project actually started in late 2019, most events were postponed due to the COVID pandemic and took place eventually online in 2021. Since it was ERA’s firm intention to continue the work with and for the court coordinators in EU law, the Academy, together with SSR and SSM, applied for further EU funding and was awarded another grant to continue this training project from 2022 on.





Tailor-made training for lawyers in private practice

Lawyers in private practice belong to ERA's principal target groups for training and professional exchange. Large parts of ERA's open programme are of relevance for them – if not exclusively. Events of particular importance for private practitioners in 2021 included the "Annual Conference on European Family Law", the "Annual Conference on VAT Law", the "Annual Conference on Company Law and Corporate Governance". Practising lawyers also regularly take part in ERA's series of one-day events aiming to provide an update on the most recent case law of the European Court of Human Rights in various fields. In 2021, such training events took place online and covered the Court's case law on taxation law, on criminal matters, and on freedom of expression. One of the courses dealt with the recent case law of the European Courts on privacy and data protection law, while another focused on the protection of human rights in times of emergency – with a focus on Covid 19. Altogether these courses gathered 135 participants from all over Europe.

Large parts of ERA's programmes co-financed or fully-financed by the EU are also targeted at lawyers in private practice. For example, ERA, together with the General Council of Spanish Lawyers and the Polish National Council of Legal Advisers, and with the support of 15 national/local Bar associations, was awarded – for the third time in a row – a grant in 2020 to pursue its series of tailor-made seminars

for practising lawyers on practical aspects of litigation before the CJEU, which aims to improve lawyers' knowledge of the proceedings before the Court and therefore to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law. Another aim of this project has been to render the lawyers more knowledgeable and self-confident in the area of EU law and thus more effective in their submissions to the Court, which helps to guarantee real access to justice. The new project that started in 2021 is far more ambitious than the previous ones since it also creates multilingual training materials, including comprehensive original case studies (in English, French, German, Polish and Spanish) that will be used during training activities of this project. For the first time, it was also decided to distinguish between basic seminars for junior lawyers and/or lawyers with no previous experience in proceedings before the CJEU and workshops providing advanced training to lawyers who already have basic knowledge of CJEU proceedings and/or have acquired experience and skills in the field of EU litigation. All of the training events include a visit to the CJEU. All in all, 300 lawyers in private practice will directly benefit from this new training series.

The aim of this project is to render lawyers more knowledgeable and self-confident in EU law and thus more effective in their submissions to the Court of Justice.



In the same category, the “Young European Lawyers Contest” brought together teams composed of contestants from different European countries, in which the participants are challenged to apply their knowledge of European law in practical role-play scenarios. Faced with the uncertainty and restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the 2021 edition of the contest was conducted in a virtual reality environment. Under the watchful eye of a jury of leading European law practitioners, the participants’ avatars learned to work with peers from other legal cultures to build strong cases. The winning teams were awarded a prize by the Friends of ERA Association.

The positive feedback received from the contestants, the jurors, the CCBE and the participating bars of the last two editions of the contest has persuaded ERA to seek new EU funding and to enlarge the scope of this project in order to offer the opportunity for more national and regional bars to participate in this genuinely European project. Under a new grant awarded in the second half of 2021 under the Justice Programme 2021-2024, a consortium composed of ERA, the Slovak Bar Association, the Paris Bar, the Barcelona Bar (ICAB) and the Warsaw Bar has started implementing a more ambitious contest for young lawyers with the support of the CCBE and twenty further Bar associations and law schools from all over Europe. The new yearly Young European Lawyers Contest has been considerably enhanced: it consists of the organisation of three semi-finals at national level, followed by a three-day final taking place partly in Trier and – as a culmination – at the General Court of the EU where a moot court will be organised.

Another form of training implemented by ERA and targeted at the practical needs of lawyers in private practice is short courses related to specific EU law topics. Most of these courses originate from bilateral framework agreements that ERA has signed with various national and local Bars in Europe over the last years. Besides this cooperation with Bars, ERA also works frequently with associations or networks of individual lawyers or law firms. In 2021 it organised its ninth annual joint seminar in Brussels with the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA).

Last, but not least, it is often crucial for lawyers in private practice that their participation in one of ERA’s training events meets the compulsory professional development (CPD) requirements that have been introduced by many national bars and law societies. ERA makes every effort to ensure that participation by lawyers from all over Europe in its events is recognised under the various national schemes. Despite the diversity of regulations, attending a two-day ERA event meets the annual CPD requirements in most jurisdictions.

In-house training on request



Global Electronics Council (GEC) a series of online workshops for procurement and policy professionals introducing European public procurement law and how it can be leveraged for sustainability. The series comprised three events which were attended by over 150 participants from four different continents – Europe, Asia, North and South America.

ERA regularly implements training activities on behalf of EU institutions and agencies for their staff. For example, in 2021, ERA and EJTN successfully implemented 14 online training events providing specialised training services in the field of work of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). The events were implemented under the framework contract for services that ERA and EJTN had concluded with the EPPO in 2020. The four-year service contract consists in offering training to the members of the EPPO (European Delegated Prosecutors, European Prosecutors, case analysts, financial investigators, legal assistants as well as administrative staff of the EPPO). In 2021, the training focused on three main issues: PIF crimes, EU funding and English terminology. ★

Training requests from private and public actors at national and EU levels represent an important part of ERA's activities. ERA is particularly valued for its training expertise, its network of experts and its ability to deal with complex and very specific training requests. In that context, ERA continued the implementation of its training activities deriving from the four-year cooperation agreement with the Latvian Court Administration signed in January 2018, which provides for the organisation of 53 face-to-face and online seminars (and the development of e-learning courses) covering a broad range of EU law topics, such as company law, competition, insolvency, public procurement, State aid, IP law, financial crime investigation, e-evidence, fundamental rights, civil & criminal justice cooperation, and data protection. Some 2,650 Latvian judges, assistants, lawyers, prosecutors, investigators, insolvency administrators and policymakers will benefit directly from this project. In the course of 2021, 13 online seminars were implemented in English and Latvian and reached over 730 Latvian practitioners. The project is going to be prolonged into 2022.

As another example ERA was once again commissioned by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) – whose mission is to supervise the professionals and products of the Luxembourg financial sector – to organise a series of half-day seminars on company and banking law for its own staff. ERA also organised at the specific request of and in cooperation with the non-profit organisation

*In the course of 2021,
13 online seminars were
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730 Latvian practitioners.*

07



Development of training materials

In addition to implementing training programmes itself, ERA continues to develop standardised training materials and other resources that can be re-used by national training actors.

Case studies on EU (civil and criminal) justice instruments for court staff

In 2018, ERA and EJTN were awarded an EU grant for a joint project aimed at tackling gaps in training on EU law for court staff. The project adopts a practical methodological approach and proceeds with the development of training materials which will aid legal practitioners to apply actively the EU acquis in the area of civil justice and which will also be reusable in future training activities. Concretely, this project focuses on the European cross-border civil procedures and covers six legal instruments with practical relevance for court staff's work. For all instruments, practical case studies were developed by renowned EU law experts in the first quarter of 2019. Each case study includes the case scenario, the suggested solution and some methodological advice for using the case. To allow for the provision of language training, a manual on legal terminology in English covering the same instruments was also drafted by a linguistic expert.

The practical relevance of the developed training materials was discussed and assessed with twenty national experts from different EU Member States during a two-day coordinating meeting in April 2019. After this evaluation and up-dating of the materials the project consortium proceeded with the organisation of the seminar series. Nineteen 1.5-day legal seminars on specific aspects of cross-border civil litigation – based on solving the case studies developed – were implemented by the end of 2021 in 15 countries. 450 court staff members attended the eighteen legal seminars that were organised at national level by the project partners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, four of those seminars were held in an online format. In December 2021, a pan-European legal seminar with 26 court staff members from 13 EU Member States was held in Brussels.

In parallel to the organisation of these legal seminars, a series of thirteen training events is being implemented, employing the materials developed to offer both English language training and training on the above-mentioned EU cross-border civil procedures. Seven Legal English seminars were organised in 2021, of which five were offered in an online-only format and two seminars were held in Finland and Germany. One last language training event is planned in 2022. More than 250 court staff had the opportunity to participate in this event series.

This project is being supported by 22 national bodies responsible for court staff training in eighteen EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain). The partners translated (parts of) the training materials into their national languages – which represents a total of 15 EU official languages – for the implementation of the domestic legal seminars.

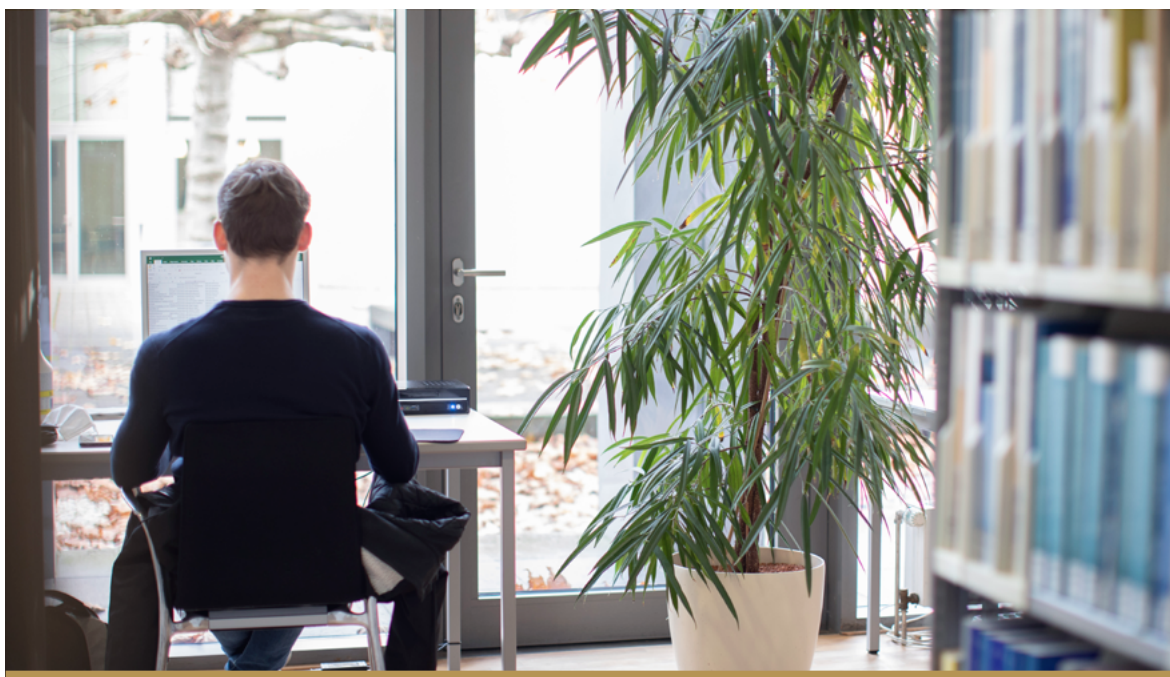
The training packages in all language versions and the manual on legal terminology in English will be freely available for future use on the project's subsite court-staff.legaltraining.eu and will thus enlarge the circle of the project's beneficiaries.

Complementing this project, in 2020, ERA and EJTN started implementing a second legal and language training project for court staff, this time in the field of European criminal law. This project comprises the creation of a standardised training package, consisting of practical case studies and a manual on legal terminology in English, in order to set up interactive seminars for court staff. In 2020, the standardised training package was established in English by two leading EU experts together with national experts from all project partners. By 2021, a series of nine national legal seminars and five language training events as well as a pan-European conference were conducted. Issues of European criminal law covered in the training events included the legal framework of mutual legal assistance and mutual recognition, especially regarding the application of the European Arrest Warrant and the use of the European Investigation Order. The language materials as well as materials from the national seminars and pan-European conference are publicly available from the project subsite (era-comm.eu/court-staff-criminal-law/). Like the aforementioned project in the area of civil justice, this second project for court staff in the area of criminal justice is being supported by seventeen national bodies responsible for court staff training in fourteen EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) and is co-financed by the European Commission.



250

More than 250 court staff had the opportunity to participate in a series of thirteen events.



Training modules on behalf of the European Commission's DG Environment

In 2021 ERA was awarded – for the third time in a row – another four-year service contract to continue a major project on behalf of the European Commission's DG Environment entitled "Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of EU Environmental Law", which aims to develop training modules on various topics of EU environmental law as well as to organise workshops for judges. For this project, ERA received the support of judicial training institutes, supreme administrative courts and judges' associations from nineteen jurisdictions (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain) as well as the support of the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union a.i.s.b.l. (ACA-Europe), the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) and the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ).

This project aimed at the judiciary, which ERA has been in charge of since 2013, has led to the development of comprehensive standardised training materials which promote interrogative and participative learning methods and are easily reusable. The entire

training packages are accessible online (www.era.int/judges&environmental_law) by any party or institution interested in organising future training in these areas of law. The materials are addressed to both end-users and training providers. The "user's pack" includes the traditional documentation with the related legislation and jurisprudence of the CJEU to be distributed to end-users in advance of the training in the form of an introductory e-learning course. Blended learning as a methodological tool ensures initial familiarisation with the scope and objectives of the training and a level playing field for all participants, whilst at the same time constituting a resource for future reference as it remains freely available after the completion of the training event. Although a significant part of the training relies on the provision of information on different legal instruments through presentations, the "user's pack" is complemented by workshop exercises (case studies, IT-supported training sessions, role-play) requiring the active contribution of the participants. In addition to the materials included in the "users' pack", training providers have access to the "trainer's manual", which explains how best to navigate through the materials available and how these may be integrated into future workshops by providing information on their structure, content and methodology.

After developing training modules on “EU Law on Industrial Emissions” and the “Interaction between the EIA and the Nature Directives” in 2013, “Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters” in 2014, “EU Air Quality and Noise Legislation” in 2015, “Biodiversity and Wildlife Trafficking” in 2016, “EU Water Law” and “EU Nature Protection Legislation – Focus on Site Protection” in 2017, “EU Nature Protection Legislation – Focus on Species Protection” and “EU Environmental Impact Assessment Law” in 2018, “EU Aarhus Acquis” and the “Industrial Emissions Directive” in 2019, “Combatting Waste Crime” and “Introduction to EU Environmental Law” in 2020, ERA designed two new training modules in 2021, respectively on “Introduction to the Main Areas of EU Environmental Law” and on “Air Quality Legislation”. Concerning the module on “Air Quality Legislation”, the materials were developed in two different formats and a total of seven languages. The first format encompasses only European law and had a workshop in English taking place in 2021. It will have another workshop in English, one in German, and one in French, taking place in 2022. The second format encompasses both European and national law and was tailor-made for five countries in the respective languages, organised in four workshops: (i) Bulgaria; (ii) Hungary; (iii) Czech Republic and Slovakia and (iv) Poland. The modules were developed in 2021 and all four tailor-made workshops will take place in 2022.

Also in the framework of this project, 2021 saw ERA conducting a needs assessment survey amongst national judges and prosecutors in the European Union, on both the content of future training modules and the ways of delivering them, including on the language regime. The questionnaire, which was made available in 22 languages, received some 1730 complete responses. Based on the analysis of the latter, ERA will make some proposals how to further improve the effectiveness of the programme, in particular relating to the alternative ways to deliver training modules, the possible forms of networking amongst participants, the potential challenges linked to their implementation and strategic actions towards a diversification of the training offer as well as ensuring its maximum uptake. A comprehensive report was presented in early 2022.

In 2021 ERA was awarded – for the third time in a row – another four-year service contract to continue a major project on behalf of the European Commission’s DG Environment entitled “Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of EU Environmental Law”.





Standardised training package on the EPPO

ERA is currently running an important training project on the EPPO. This project, which started in 2019, offers a series of training activities, such as dedicated national seminars and e-learning modules to national prosecutors, investigating judges and defence lawyers from all EU Member States to make them familiar with the EPPO and its proceedings.

The events are based on a standardised training package that was established by a group of long-standing experts on the EPPO and tested by numerous legal practitioners nominated by the project partners. The package of training material is composed of five modules giving a general Introduction to the EPPO, looking at the competences of and investigations by the EPPO, issues regarding prosecution and trial, and the EPPO's cooperation with institutions, third states and non-participating Member States. The training package consists of templates for lectures (PowerPoints) and workshops including case studies. The complete training package is publicly available in English from the project subsite (<https://era-comm.eu/training-on-eppo/>). Parts of the training materials are also available in several further languages such as Dutch, French, German and Italian. Judicial schools and other training providers are invited to make use of the material in their training on the EPPO. This project is co-financed by the European Commission under its Justice Programme and run with the support of EJTN, as well as 16 partners (judicial schools and Ministries of Justice) and the European Criminal Bar Association. ★

08 ERA Forum

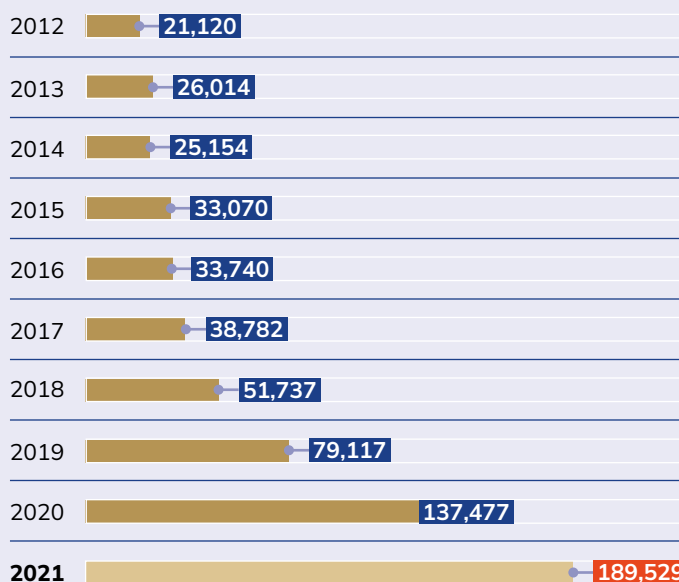
Journal of the Academy of European Law

ERA publishes a quarterly legal journal – ERA Forum – in cooperation with Springer (Berlin/Heidelberg) composed of articles based on the most outstanding presentations delivered at ERA's conferences. The journal's readership grew again in 2021 – registering 38% more article downloads compared to the previous year.

While it is natural for the readership to grow as the back catalogue of ERA Forum provides an ever greater pool of articles to read, this is not enough to explain the fact that the number of article downloads has quintupled in the space of five years. This huge increase can largely be put down to agreements between Springer and authors' institutions – often universities – that enable numerous articles to be made available for free as part of an "Open Access" arrangement. This has significantly widened the potential readership of the journal beyond its core subscriber base.

Among the articles published in 2021 that are free to download thanks to "Open Access" were: "Digitalisation before and after the Covid-19 crisis" by Kai Härmand, "Liability for AI: public policy considerations" by Herbert Zech, "Restrictive measures - sanctions compliance, implementation and judicial review challenges in the common foreign and security policy of the European Union" by Nadia Zelyova, "European Green Deal – the way to Circular Public Procurement" by Tünde Tátrai and Orsolya Diófási-Kovács, and "Participation by national parliaments in the EU legislative process" by Adam Cygan.

The authors included leading practitioners from the judiciary, private practice and public administration as well as top academics from across Europe. Some of the most downloaded articles were written by ERA's own lawyers.



Number of downloads of articles



Topics covered in 2021

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| → Anti-discrimination and equality law | → Disability rights |
| → Artificial intelligence | → EU legislative procedure |
| → Brexit | → EU Staff Regulations |
| → Climate change | → European Public Prosecutor's Office |
| → Conference on the Future of Europe | → Judicial training |
| → Covid-19 | → Patent law |
| → Data protection | → Public procurement |
| → Digital technology in civil and criminal cases | → Rule of law |
| | → Sanctions ★ |

09

e-Learning

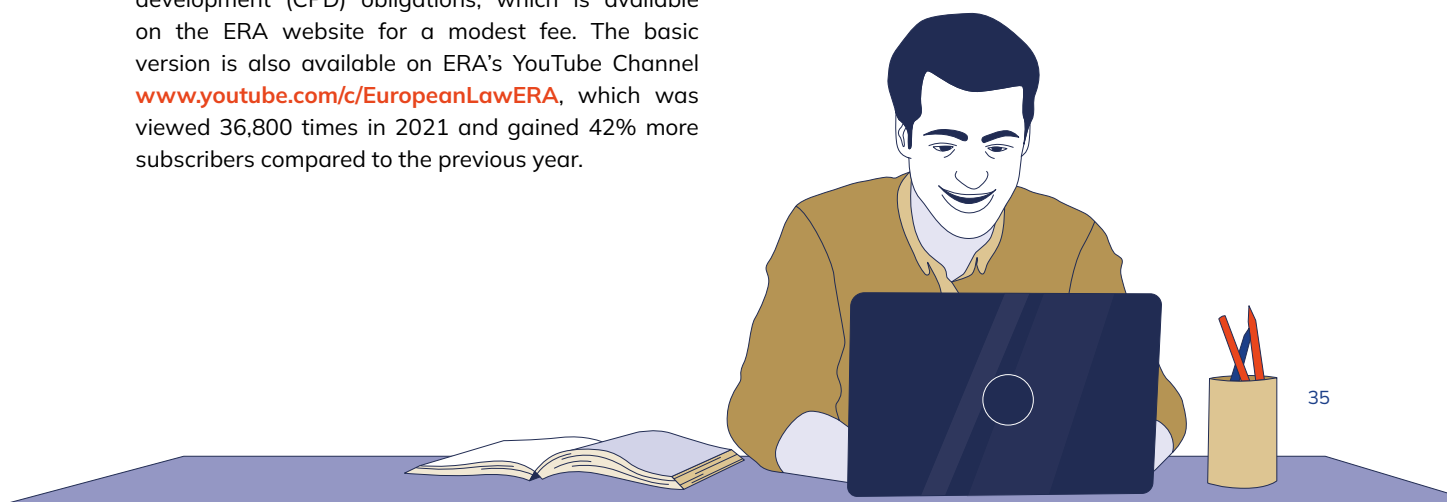
ERA was obliged by the Covid-19 pandemic to turn itself into a full-scale provider of distance-learning in 2020 and much of 2021. It was able to build on solid foundations thanks to the growing importance of this area of activity in previous years. In 2021, ERA continued to produce e-learning programmes and digital resources designed to leave a durable legacy from its live programmes. A complete overview is available at www.era.int/elearning.

e-Presentations

e-Presentations – film recordings of speakers at ERA events combined with embedded background documentation and a self-assessment quiz – provide one way to prolong the life of ERA's live programmes in different online formats. In 2021, 91 new e-presentations dealing with specific and current issues of European law were produced, bringing the total catalogue to 630.

For each e-presentation, there is a basic version available for free and a premium version with added functionality, including the possibility to obtain a certificate to meet continuing professional development (CPD) obligations, which is available on the ERA website for a modest fee. The basic version is also available on ERA's YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanLawERA, which was viewed 36,800 times in 2021 and gained 42% more subscribers compared to the previous year.

ERA produced a further 92 e-presentations and 44 podcasts in the context of EU-funded projects on competition law, environmental law, detention conditions, anti-discrimination law and gender equality, fundamental and procedural rights, e-evidence, as well as training programmes for court staff and court coordinators. In addition to English, the e-presentations on competition law were produced in Croatian, Italian, Lithuanian and Slovenian, on detention conditions in French, Polish and Spanish, on environmental law in French, German, Greek and Italian, and on anti-discrimination law and gender equality in German.





e-Courses

In 2021, ERA produced an interactive online tool for court staff to support English language learning in the framework of European cross-border civil procedures. The tool was inspired by the practical workshops and training manuals implemented in a project co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme. ERA also developed a new e-learning course entitled "Introduction to Gender Equality Law" for a project funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.

In the framework of a project funded by the European Commission's DG Environment on "EU Environmental Law for National Judges", three new blended e-learning courses were developed in between two and four different language versions, as well as two new stand-alone courses in three and four language versions respectively. These are publicly available both on ERA's website and on that of DG Environment.

In addition to the distance-learning resources available on its own website, ERA also regularly develops tailor-made e-learning solutions for the EU institutions and other clients. In 2021, ERA produced new e-courses for the contracted interpreters of the European Parliament on "Artificial Intelligence and Legal Issues", "Strengthening the EU's Contribution to Rules-based Multilateralism: International Trade Agreements and WTO Reform" and "Trade and Human Rights" in the framework of a service contract with its DG Personnel. Each course is available in both English and German.

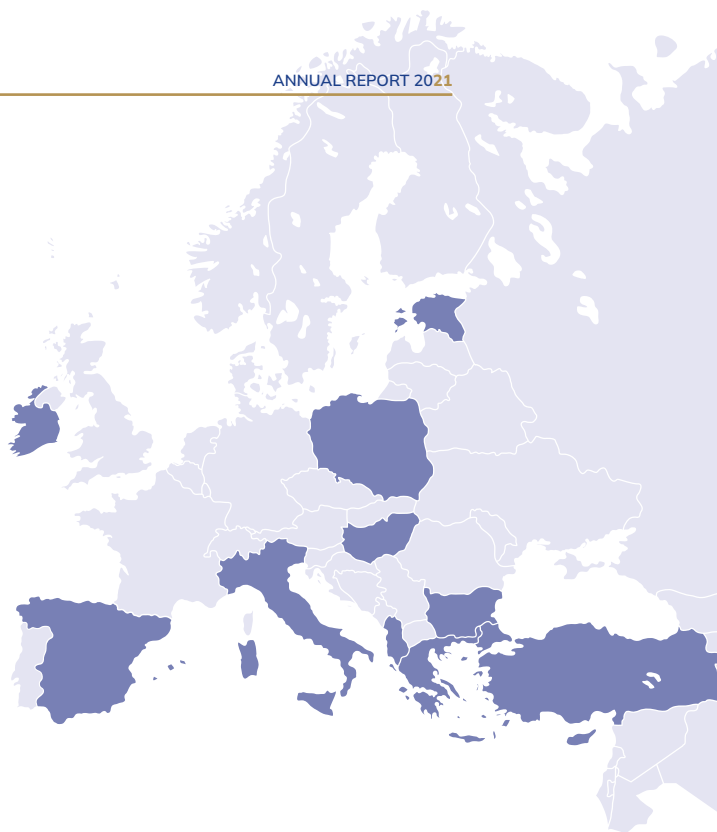
The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed the landscape of professional training in EU law – as well as many other sectors. Thanks to its investment in e-learning in previous years, ERA is well-placed to respond to the rising demand for online training solutions in future. ★





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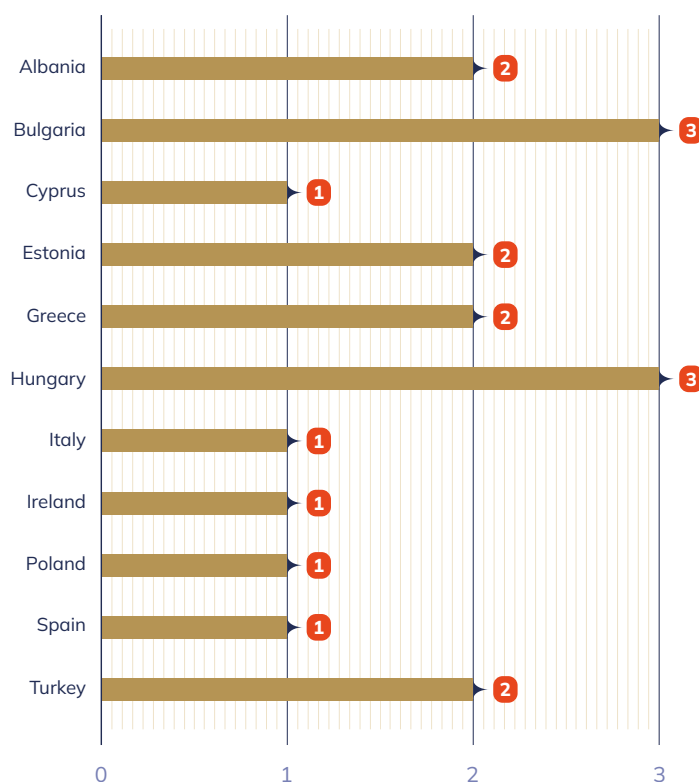
Scholarship Programme



For 20 years ERA has provided a number of scholarships each year enabling legal practitioners who would otherwise be unable to afford to attend ERA's programmes to obtain free access to training in EU law through a programme funded entirely by private donations.

During 2021, the number of applications to the scholarship programme was significantly lower than in previous years. The ongoing travel restrictions due to the Covid pandemic meant that most scholars could only make use of a scholarship to participate in one of ERA's online training events. Since online training is more accessible to all, the need for the scholarships was diminished. ERA nevertheless expects that situation to change in the post-pandemic period, when face-to-face training again becomes the norm, and it will be important to ensure that all practitioners continue to have the opportunity to participate in high-quality training in European law.

ERA received a total of 29 scholarship applications from 16 different countries in 2021. Following a careful selection process, the Academy awarded a total of 19 scholarships to legal practitioners from 11 countries. Candidates from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Spain and Turkey were granted financial assistance mainly in the form of free online participation.



*The Academy awarded a total of **19 scholarships** to legal practitioners from **11 countries**.*

The grants awarded amounted to a total of €12,271, with the average value of each scholarship being €646. This is less than in previous years as primarily online attendance has been funded. It can be expected that this amount will increase again in future due to the need to cover travel and accommodation costs.

ERA would like to express its sincere thanks to the donors who made the scholarship programme possible in 2021:

FRIENDS OF ERA ASSOCIATION

NINA NIEJAHR

VANESSA KNAPP OBE

DOMICO GULLO

MICHAL BERNAT

MARVIN MEZA

CHATRINE RUDSTROM

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MORITZ VON KUNOW

SALVADOR GUERRERO PALOMARES

ALEXANDER DE BLEECKERE

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FRANCIS KESSLER

MIRANDA COLE

JEF VAN EYNDOVEN

ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

CAROLINA PEDREO

PAOLA BALBO

WILFRIED DERFLINGER



Memoir of a Scholar

Anna Skrabina was awarded a scholarship to participate in an ERA conference in 2011. Today she is the Project Leader at the Latvian National Court Administration and represents Latvia on ERA's Governing Board. She told ERA's Joanna Kuzaj about what the scholarship meant for her.

My first visit to ERA was thanks to the scholarship programme. I worked as a lawyer in the Ministry of Justice, qualified in family law and private international law. As we approached the presidency of Latvia, those ten years ago, it was very important for me to be aware and updated in relation to the latest developments in European Union law. And it was very nice to come to Trier thanks to the scholarship and to meet with colleagues and to be engaged in such a European environment. This gave me the possibility not only to get the support in relation to the knowledge, but it was a wonderful possibility to make contacts with colleagues in the other Member States.

ERA is a place where people working and planning the EU training programmes do it with a real passion for European Union law. It's a place where you can feel what European Union law is all about, and you bring this feeling back to your own Member State. This is the place to learn how to apply EU law correctly in practice and I would recommend it to young colleagues who work as judges, as prosecutors, as policy makers. Even if they are not directly involved in the development of EU law, it has a big impact on the judicial system nowadays, so they should compare and meet with colleagues from the other Member States. ★

Watch the full interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-3u309-D74>

11

ECC

In addition to ERA's legal training activities which are held at our own premises in Trier, external client events are also regularly hosted in the ERA Conference Centre (ECC).

Event highlights in the ERA Conference Centre

After having faced the biggest crisis of its history due to the corona pandemic, ERA's commercial room rental and service activities (summarized under the name ECC) at least partly recovered in 2021. Still coping with several restrictions, the first events could be organized successfully. An updated hygiene concept enabled us to enlarge our catering service more and more, however with some limitations regarding distance, security and hygiene which ECC clients still had to live with.

In particular in the second half of the year, several activities could take place in the ECC again. As in the past, some regular clients booked their events. The so-called 'Bitburger-Gespräche' returned to the ECC, discussing climate change being a challenge for law-making. The interpretation facilities provided by the ECC offered ideal conditions for the event of the Funds Congress Trier.

However, turnover in 2021 was still relatively low, mainly due to the fact that catering was difficult to cope with. The hygiene concept already mentioned was prepared in order to create a practical and regulation-

conform implementation of lunch and coffee breaks and at the same time offering participants, guests or visitors the opportunity to socialize and network again.

2021 was also used to start investing in ECC media technology to enable hybrid conference facilities in future not only for ERA conferences but also for external clients' events too.



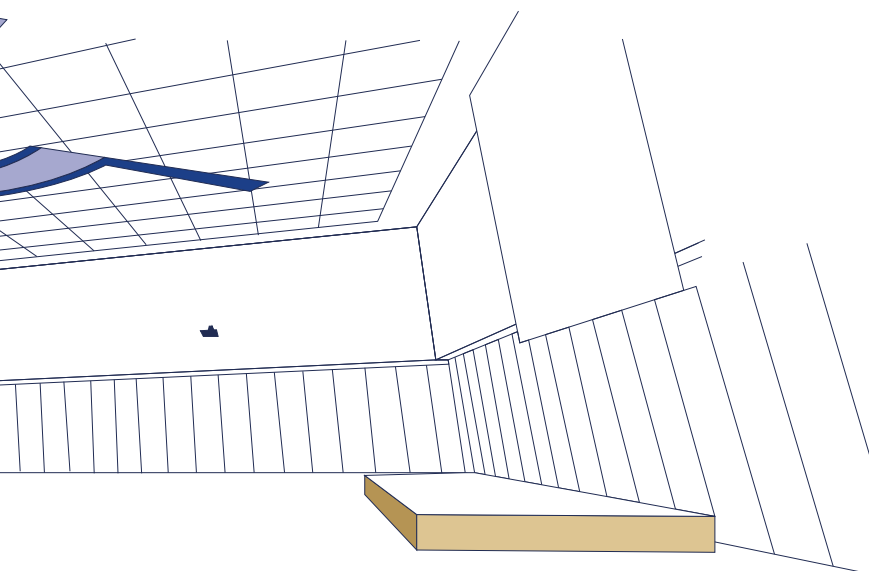
ECC Revenue

Although circumstances were not easy in 2021 from a business point of view (regarding economics, as well as organisation), it was nevertheless an acceptable year for ECC activities. For the sake of completeness, please find below an overview of the composition of income in 2021. Because of several restrictions still being applicable in 2021, in particular in the area of catering, it is still not yet comparable with the numbers in the years before the corona pandemic.

Revenue composition (2021)

→ Space rental	64%
→ Catering/Beverages	17%
→ Commission	6%
→ Parking	9%
→ Other	4%

2022 is again not expected to reach the turnovers from the years before the Corona crisis. In the first months of 2022, restrictions were still in effect, also having an effect on the implementation of events as well as on ERA's income from commercial activities. Nevertheless, some optimism seems to be justified and it is expected that ECC revenue will continue to rise in the years to come. ★



12 The Team

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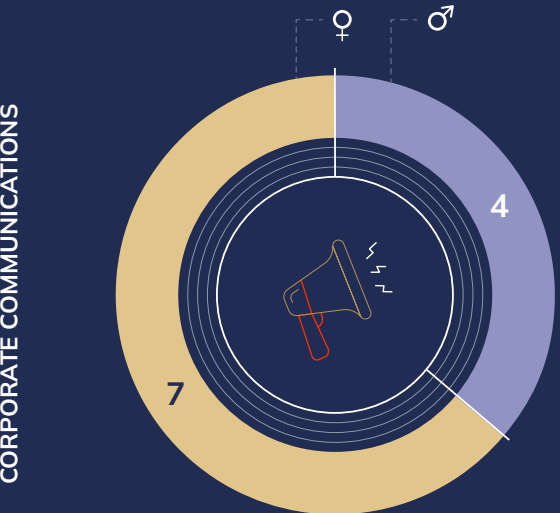
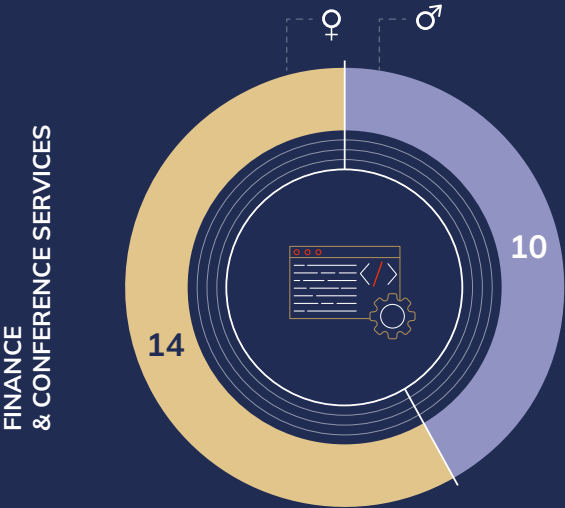


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Gender of ERA's employees



Gender of ERA's employees by sector



13

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Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)

Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ)

Association of European Data Protection Judges (AEDPJ)

Confederation of European Probation (CEP)

Council of Europe (HELP)

Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)

Court of Justice of the European Union

Eurojuris International

European Association of Judges for Mediation (GEMME)

European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)

European Commission – DG Competition, DG Education and Culture, DG Environment, DG Justice, OLAF

European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)

European Disability Forum (EDF)

European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA)

European Foundation Centre (EFC) Disability Thematic Network

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

European Law Institute (ELI)

European Law Students' Association (ELSA)

European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA)

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE)

European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris)

European Parliament

European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)

European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)

European Young Bar Association (EYBA)

Europol Data Protection Experts Network (EDEN) Fair Trials

Institute of European Media Law (EMR)

International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction (MiKK)

National level

Austria – Austrian Bar Association (ÖRAK)

Austria – Federal Ministry of Justice

Austria – The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM)

Belgium – Brussels Bar (Dutch language section)

Belgium – Judicial Training Institute (IGO-IFJ)

Bulgaria – European School of Enforcement (ESE)

Bulgaria – National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Croatia – Croatian Bar Association

Croatia – Judicial Academy

Czech Republic – Czech Bar Association

Czech Republic – Judicial Academy

Czech Republic – Office for the Protection of Competition (UOHS)

Estonia – Estonian Bar Association

Estonia – Estonian Prosecutor's Office

Estonia – Supreme Court

Finland – Finnish Bar Association

Finland – National Courts Administration

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France – Haute École des avocats conseils (HEDAC)

France – National High School for the Police (ENSP)

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France – National School for the Judiciary (ENM)

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Germany – Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)





Germany – German Bar Association (DAV)

Germany – German Bar Association Committee for Intellectual Property and Media

Germany – German Bar Association Committee for International Business Law

Germany – German Bar Association Committee for Labour Law

Germany – German Bar Association in Luxembourg

Germany – Judicial Academy of North Rhine-Westphalia

Germany – Ministry of Justice of Baden-Württemberg

Germany – Ministry of Justice of Hesse

Germany – Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia

Germany – Ministry of Justice of Rhineland-Palatinate

Greece – Hellenic National School of Judiciary

Greece – Thessaloniki Bar Association

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Hungary – National Office of the Judiciary (NOJ)

Ireland – Judicial Studies Committee

Ireland – Office of the Attorney General

Ireland – The Bar of Ireland

Italy – Antigone

Italy – Council of State

Italy – High School for the Magistracy (SSM)

Italy – Italian Bar Association (CNF)

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Latvia – National Courts Administration

Lithuania – Lithuanian Bar Association

Lithuania – National Courts Administration

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Poland – Polish Bar Foundation

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Poland – Warsaw Bar Association

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Portugal – Portuguese Bar Association (OA)

Romania – Bucharest Bar Association

Romania – National Association of Romanian Bars

Romania – National Institute of Magistracy (NIM)

Romania – National School of Clerks

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Spain – General Council of the Spanish Bar

Spain – Judicial School of the General Council of the Judiciary ★

15

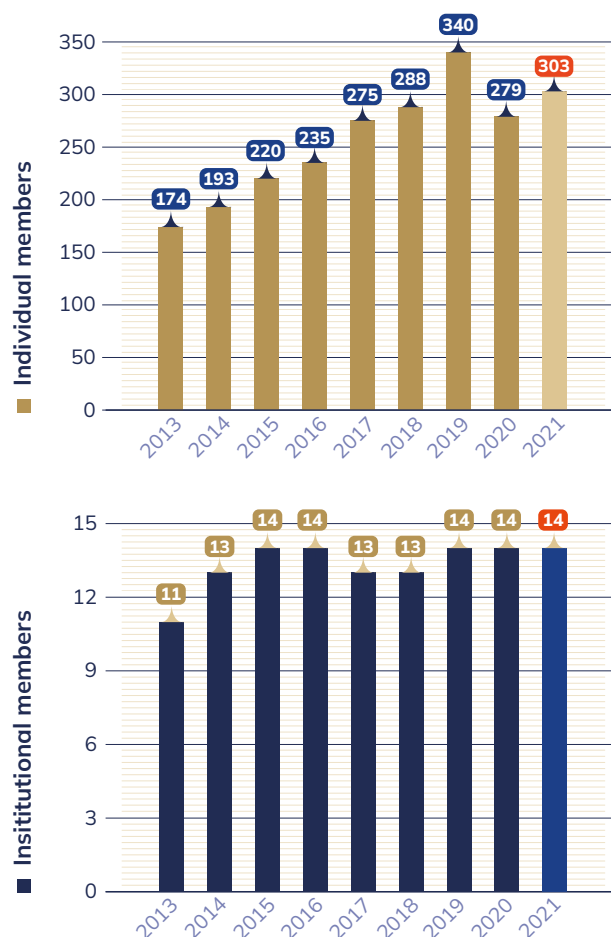
Friends of ERA

The Friends of ERA Association was established even before ERA itself, first to promote the idea of an Academy of European Law and then to support its activities. It is a non-profit association made up of some 300 individual and 14 institutional members from across Europe, all of whom share a commitment to the development and good practice of European law.

The main focus of the Association's support is the ERA Scholarship Programme, to which it contributed €13,000 in 2021. It also sponsors the prize for the winning teams of the Young European Lawyers Contest, which is organised annually by ERA and its partner Bars from around Europe.

The Association held its 14th biennial General Meeting in hybrid format in Trier and online on 8 October 2021. The most important decision was the renewal of the Executive Committee. Jettie Van Caenegem was re-elected as Chair and three new members were elected: Wolfgang Heusel, Vanessa Knapp OBE and Julia Laffranque. They replaced Alain Lamassoure and Manuel Medina Ortega, who had served on the Executive Committee for many years and were sincerely thanked for their engagement. As Director of ERA, Jean-Philippe Rageade is also ex officio a member of the Executive Committee.

The individual membership of the Association returned to a gentle upward curve in 2021 after a drop the previous year, whereas the number of institutional members remained the same.



The Association has local Chapters in several European countries. With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there were few opportunities for the Chapters to organise in-person social events. The Luxembourg Chapter nevertheless managed to organise a visit to Villa Pauly, headquarters of the Gestapo in Luxembourg during the Second World War, on 15 December 2021 where they were given a guided tour by a survivor of the war.



An online event for members was organised on 9 December 2021 with Catherine Kessedjian, President of the Fondation Villa Seurat pour l'Art contemporain in Paris, who gave a highly engaging presentation on "Why Art Makes a Better Lawyer".

At the event, the sculptor Giovanni De Angelis presented his proposed new artwork for the ERA grounds entitled "Philosophers in Dialogue". The sculpted bronze heads of three outstanding personalities will link us with the fundamentals of our civilisation and our legal order: Ausonius, Hypatia of Alexandria and Justinian. The idea is to represent a dialogue between philosophers – as today's lawyers might have been called in ancient times – which transcends geographical and even historical boundaries and thus stands for ERA's core mission: cross-border, interprofessional and intercultural exchange on the essence of our common rules.

Fundraising for the new artwork was a major focus of the Association's efforts in 2021. €12,000 was gathered in the form of individual donations and the Association contributed the remaining €8,000 from its own funds. The Association would like to thank warmly all the donors:

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