



Europäische Rechtsakademie
Academy of European Law
Académie de Droit Européen
Accademia di Diritto Europeo



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

In this building in Budapest, the first ERA seminar organised with a partner in another European state took place in February 1993. Since then, ERA has developed a Europe-wide network of cooperation partners – who are the focus of this year's annual report.

ABOUT ERA

The Academy of European Law (ERA) is a non-profit public foundation established in 1992 and based in Trier, Germany, which is supported by the EU and whose patrons include most EU Member States. Our mission is to provide practitioners of law – judges, prosecutors, notaries and lawyers in private practice, business or public administration – with training and a forum for debate on EU law.

We can only fulfil our mission thanks to the strong partnerships we have developed over many years with the representatives of the legal professions in the Member States, their training providers and other key actors. Having focused in recent annual reports on our staff, our speakers and our participants, this year we highlight our partners – and profile a selection of them in the following pages.

We also report on the different types of activities in which ERA is engaged, from the classic forms of annual conferences and training seminars to new and growing areas of work in developing training materials and distance-learning solutions.

We hope you enjoy the read.

Throughout this Annual Report 2014 you can view selected examples of our online content by scanning the QR codes with your smartphone or tablet.



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PREFACE

ERA's European mission – a brief initiated by the European Parliament

It is my great pleasure and honour as a Vice-President of the European Parliament to be a member of the ERA Governing Board and to be able to contribute to this Annual Report of the Academy of European Law. The relationship of the European Parliament and ERA has been traditionally very good. In 1990 the European Parliament recommended the Commission to invest in a centre for the continuous training of lawyers in order to improve the application of European law. In March 1992 the Academy of European Law began work in Trier.

ERA has definitely been a most worthwhile initiative from the Parliament. During these years, the Academy has earned a high reputation as one of the leading centres that provide education in European law. And in the contemporary Europe of today, European law is more often than not the centrepiece of legislation at any level. Many officials from the Member States and European institutions have taken part in ERA's high quality courses. This is important as we need to invest sufficiently in training and education in order to maintain the high level of competence, expertise and updated information in the Member States and Institutions.

When ERA was being founded, the pace and scope of European integration required that lawyers, judges and legal practitioners would have a forum for in-depth debate. In the past years the speed of integration has been especially rapid in the field of economic governance. The coordination of economic policy-making as well as fiscal policies has been strengthened during the long years of the financial and debt crises.

The challenging economic climate in Europe and globally led to some difficult decisions in Member States, fuelling mistrust towards both the European institutions and national governments. This in turn has given momentum for new political developments in many member states. The biggest gains of the recent difficult years have often been

made by various populist parties of different colours. In addition to boosting growth and investment, we as European policy-makers often need to keep on pursuing unpopular reforms and balancing public finances. Europe and its Member States' economies need determination and skill to politically steer the European vessel back into safe waters, and a deep dialogue and engagement by the civil society and parliaments will be required.

Reforms are needed in the labour market, pension systems and health care, which requires strong leadership to communicate their importance to voters who are often easily swayed by populist arguments. A wave of reforms is currently taking place in Europe, as countries are trying to ensure the sustainability of their current systems. In 23 out of 28 Member States of the EU, significant pension reforms that link the retirement age to life expectancy have been decided in recent years.

But positive results following these decisions are also emerging: in many crisis-stricken countries, such as Ireland, Spain and Portugal, the economy has taken a positive turn and their real gross national product is growing. Thanks to the fall in oil prices, the weakening of the euro and the ECB's monetary stimulus, we may see even better growth for this year, despite the ongoing geopolitical risks on the downside. Even the ugly unemployment levels should have seen their peak.

A well-functioning Europe needs both coherent and wise political decisions, but also a sturdy framework and well-designed structures. The preconditions for growth have been laid. It seems that Europe is ready to turn its gaze towards the future. We are heading forward with some cautious optimism as the economic outlook is improving and most Member States are showing positive signs of growth. We have a possibility to begin a new chapter in our common story, as politicians and lawmakers continue to write the story of Europe's future together.



OLLI REHN

Vice-President of the European Parliament



PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

DR JACQUES SANTER

*Former Prime Minister of Luxembourg,
former President of the European Commission, former Member of
the European Parliament, Luxembourg*

As the reader can see from this report, ERA has again been able to continue its beneficial work for the European legal community in 2014, going from strength to strength and maintaining a top quality level in its programmes. So it is little surprise that the few remaining Member States not yet patrons of ERA are following suit. On 20 October 2014, I was delighted to welcome Denmark as the 25th EU Member State to join the ERA Foundation and to sign the accession agreement with Merethe

Eckhardt, Director of Development at the Danish Court Administration. The accession of Denmark makes the absence of the last three missing Member States felt even more strongly. I hope and trust that the governments of Belgium, Estonia and Latvia will realise the added value which their active involvement in shaping ERA's activities and development will offer, not least with regard to the benefits their staff would gain in participating in ERA programmes.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OUTGOING:

KLAUS-HEINER LEHNE

former Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee, European Parliament

JOCHEN HARTLOFF

former Minister of Justice, Rhineland-Palatinate

JUAN FERNANDO LÓPEZ AGUILAR

former Chair of the Civil Liberties Committee, European Parliament

INCOMING:

PAVEL SVOBODA MEP (CHAIR)

Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee, European Parliament

CLAUDE MORAES MEP

Chair of the Civil Liberties Committee, European Parliament

GERHARD ROBBERS

Minister of Justice, Rhineland-Palatinate



CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DR PAULIINE KOSKELO

*President
of the Supreme Court
of Finland*

In 2014, ERA has carried on its solid and dynamic work by offering professional training in a wide range of topics and formats, including an expanded offer of e-learning materials and facilities. Again, the programme has consisted of various events in established fields of EU law, covering continuous needs for basic training and updating of expertise, as well as many events designed to respond to new

issues and emerging demand. In addition, ERA has also been active in addressing current developments by organising special events and briefings on some highly topical issues of European law. I extend my warm thanks to all the staff for these achievements and their steady commitment.



MANAGEMENT BOARD

DIRECTOR

DR WOLFGANG HEUSEL

DEPUTY DIRECTORS

JOHN COUGHLAN *Corporate Communications*

LUC DOEVE *Finance and Conference Services*

JEAN-PHILIPPE RAGEADE *Programmes*

INTERVIEW

with the Director



DR WOLFGANG HEUSEL

Director of the Academy

Dr Heusel, what were the highlights for you in ERA's programme in 2014?

Wolfgang Heusel: ERA's 2014 programme of open events did not include any particular event which would overshadow the 161 other activities. Instead, we can see a broad range of particularly successful or remarkable events in various programme categories.

In the category of legal policy events, which after the election of the new Parliament and the appointment of the new Commission in 2014 is now gathering some steam, I would first list the conference 'The Future of the European Banking Union' which was implemented in Athens with the support of the Greek Presidency of the European Union. It discussed the single supervisory mechanism and related instruments such as the proposed single resolution mechanism and other elements of the structural reform of the EU's banking sector. Another legal policy highlight in which ERA was involved was a public hearing on the 'Rules

of Procedure of the Future Unified Patent Court of the EU' organised at ERA's premises on 26 November by the Legal Group of the UPC Preparatory Committee. This hearing has to be seen in context with the conference 'Preparing for the Unitary Patent Package', which ERA organised in London in cooperation with the Centre for Commercial Law Studies of Queen Mary University of London. In a strategic perspective, ERA in fact intends to provide a specialised training curriculum for attorneys wishing to act as professional representatives before the European Patent Court.

Two further events of high political relevance deserve mention here. The first, one of our regular lunch debates in Brussels ("ERA Briefings") examining topical issues of particular legal relevance, discussed 'The Future of the Dublin System after the *Tarakhel* Decision of the European Court of Human Rights'. The ongoing relevance of the topic is not only due to the insufficiencies of the Dublin system determining the

state competent for an asylum application, but also to the tension between the fundamental rights protection schemes of the ECHR and the EU Charter which seems heightened after the recent CJEU Opinion. The second event covering a politically particularly sensitive area was our 'Annual Conference on Data Protection in the EU' which benefited from excellent timing, as it coincided with the pronouncement of the CJEU judgment in *Digital Rights Ireland* on 8 April, which declared the EU Data Retention Directive invalid.

In fact, various annual conferences discussing current developments in specific areas of EU law again proved to be particularly successful in 2014. The annual conferences on European labour law and on European family law were among the best attended ERA events of the year, each counting more than 100 participants. But also annual conferences covering slightly narrower topics such as EU law in the pharmaceutical sector, financial supervision or the rights of persons with disabilities achieved a high degree of popularity.

In the framework of our criminal law activities, most of which benefit from the generous co-funding scheme for projects offered by the European Commission, some events proved to be particularly attractive. In the first instance let me mention a series of basic training courses on legal and technical aspects of cybercrime for judges and prosecutors and another series of more advanced seminars on the illegal use of the internet and online financial crimes which was also open to defence counsel and industry. Often places for these events were booked out long before the programmes were published. Two other particularly successful criminal justice conferences dealt with 'Trafficking in Human Beings' and with specific challenges of 'Financial Crimes: Insider Dealings and Market Manipulation'.

Last but not least I wish to mention a personal highlight in ERA's 2014 activities, a seminar organised in cooperation with the Irish Centre for European Law in Dublin on 'Constitutions and Courts in the EU' to mark the retirement of former Advocate General Nial Fennelly as Justice of the Supreme Court of Ireland on 3 May 2014. Having served as an ERA trustee since 2000, Nial has always been an active supporter and promoter of ERA in Ireland and in Europe. Being actively involved in the organisation of the Dublin event and having contributed to a *Liber amicorum* ("Of Courts and Constitutions", Hart 2014) was a tribute to Nial's achievements which I was delighted to deliver.

★ HIGHLIGHTS

The Preliminary Ruling Procedure

e-Learning course



ERA launched an in-depth e-learning course on the preliminary ruling procedure before the European Court of Justice with contributions from top experts and interviews with members of the Court.

The Future of the European Banking Union

*Presidency Conference,
22-23 May 2014, Athens*



This conference organised in the framework of the Greek EU Presidency on 22-23 May 2014 discussed recent developments in the banking union from legal, economic and social perspectives.



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"We are very pleased that Denmark's accession has further strengthened ERA's Nordic dimension and look forward to developing further strands of closer and deeper cooperation with our Danish friends."



In 2014, Denmark became the 25th EU Member State to join the foundation. What does it signify for a Member State to become a patron of ERA?

Wolfgang Heusel: Denmark, in particular its Court Administration (*Domstolsstyrelsen*), had already been an important partner of ERA for many years before it became a patron in October 2014. We are very pleased that this accession has further strengthened ERA's Nordic dimension and look forward to developing further strands of closer and deeper cooperation with our Danish friends. Being a patron of ERA does not only give visibility to the Member State's involvement in ERA, which to some extent becomes an institute of that Member State. It also allows the Member State to participate actively in shaping ERA's policy and strategic development.

Moreover, any staff of ERA patrons will benefit from a generous discount policy when registering for ERA open events. The accumulated savings from these discounts will soon balance and even exceed the endowment which the Member State is expected to contribute to ERA's Foundation capital. In addition, ERA is prepared to offer specific registration packages to its patrons by which certain staff groups will have access to ERA events at direct cost price. This is all the more noteworthy as in principle no patron is expected to contribute to ERA's running costs.

For all of these reasons we are confident that the three EU Member States still missing will become patrons of ERA before too long.

ERA seems to have been as busy as ever in 2014, with the second highest number of events ever organised. The overall number of participants, however, declined? What is behind this development?

Wolfgang Heusel: It is true that in 2014, the overall number of events organised remained pretty high (162, six less than in 2013) and that the overall number of participants in all our events fell from 7,934 to 7,494, proportionally a slightly higher decrease. However, if we take a closer look at the different types of events we see a more nuanced picture.

If we exclude speakers in ERA events, we already see different trends between events according to the types of funding: the average number of participants in fee-paying events open to the general public dropped from 39.7 to 36.6 (7.8 %) and even more dramatically in fully-funded contracted events from 45.9 to 36.1 (21.5 %), whereas it even slightly increased in events co-funded under EU programmes (from 45.7 to 45.8, i.e. by 0.2 %). However, the considerable decrease in contracted events is partly due to the fact that the contracting partner had requested events designed for smaller target groups, which means that the lower participation in such cases is not a relevant indicator for the quality or success of the event at stake.

Within our programme of open seminars, we can further distinguish different trends over the past years: we see that participation in introductory level courses had dropped with the arrival of the financial crisis but has remained stable at a lower yet satisfactory level since, whereas advanced-level events tend to attract

lower number of participants the more focused their programme is – the more in-depth the training offered, the lower the turnout is likely to be, notwithstanding the rather high motivation of the sometimes very few participants. A specific feature is shown by decentralised events targeting legal professionals throughout the EU – the concept to address small groups of practitioners with short events run by very few experts is cost-effective even if the number of participants does not exceed a dozen. At the upper end of the scale, however, ERA's annual conferences offer a well-established format of larger conferences where participants can expect to meet colleagues from all over the EU and which have maintained robust participation levels, though still offer further potential to increase the average participation numbers.

ERA expanded its e-learning offer in 2014. How is your target audience reacting to this new form of training?

Wolfgang Heusel: Having expanded ERA's e-learning offer in 2014 is by the way one reason why the total number of face-to-face events has slightly dropped in 2014. In 2014, ERA has published 54 new e-presentations, raising the total offer of e-presentations covering a wide range of legal areas to over a hundred. In addition, nine new e-courses have been launched, four of which are available free of charge: 'EU Law on Industrial Emissions'; 'Nature Protection and Environmental Impact Assessment'; 'Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters'; and 'The European Small Claims Procedure'. Other e-courses address procedural issues ('The Preliminary Reference Procedure before the CJEU' and 'The Procedure at the European Court of Human Rights') and pertinent

topics of criminal law ('The European Arrest Warrant for Defence Counsel') and labour law ('The Transfer of Undertakings' and 'Introduction to EU Labour Law').

The reaction of our target audience to ERA's increased e-learning is positive but still reserved. What do I mean by this? Registrations and sales are still modest in numbers. It seems that we have not yet managed to make wider circles of legal practitioners aware of our offer and its benefits; and we have certainly not yet succeeded in explaining the specific concept of our e-presentations to a wider public – a product which is much more than a simple video podcast.

On the other hand, the comments which we have received are favourable and encouraging. I am proud to note that in July 2014 the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales accredited ERA as a distance-learning provider, commenting that the course 'The Case Law of the CJEU for Criminal Law Practitioners' launched in 2013 provided "very comprehensive materials; excellent reference documentation and a high standard of production in dealing with matters via 10 key and probing questions". Even if such formal recognition is no longer required in England & Wales, it is a valuable confirmation of the quality of the product developed.

We have recently conducted an evaluation of our e-learning products based on a survey of users and interviews with participants. While the evaluation of our e-courses is not yet completed, the feedback received on e-presentations was almost surprisingly positive: users found the way the subject matter was dealt with very good (52 %) or good (31 %), the technical handling user-friendly (very good 37 % and good 38 %) and all-in-all good (29 %) or even very good (41 %) value for money.

"Having expanded ERA's e-learning offer in 2014 is one reason why the total number of face-to-face events has slightly dropped in 2014."



This year's annual report focuses on ERA's cooperation partners. What role do these partners play in ERA's work and its outreach to legal practitioners?

Wolfgang Heusel: ERA's cooperation partners form an immense network which has grown over the years and which is as diverse as ERA's target groups and their individual components. We can distinguish these partners according to the groups of legal professionals they represent; plus those institutional partners which stand for a more general community such as the European Commission or a national government. In fact, ERA owes a great deal of its success to the reliable support of these partners, with many of whom it shares a long history of successful cooperation. Hence the focus of this year's annual report, which should also be understood as a tribute to our partners.

Looking at the different legal professions which constitute ERA's main target groups, the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) is one of ERA's oldest strategic partners, and cooperation with the CCBE and its members a cornerstone of ERA's programme activities. In 2014, this cooperation became manifest in seminars implemented jointly with the Lithuanian Bar Association on European family law (cross-border divorce, parental responsibility and maintenance) and with the Bar Council and the European Circuit of the Bar of England & Wales on cross-border tort claims for personal injuries. Another important partner from the world of legal practice, albeit with a more specific focus, is the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA) which for the second time in 2014 joined forces with ERA to present a major conference on European labour law, an event which gathered almost 100 participants.

Another important cornerstone of ERA's strategic orientation is its service for the European judiciaries, and here the European Judicial Training Network which ERA co-founded in 2000 has become an ever more important partner. In the framework of EJTN and with the support of its new Secretary General Wojciech Postulski, national judicial training authorities and ERA are striving together to develop a top-quality European training offer for judges and prosecutors, and for achieving the ambitious goals of the Commission's 2011 communication on judicial training. In this context ERA has also developed joint projects with the four Visegrad countries which in 2014 materialised in a conference on the Rome I and Rome II Regulations at the Hungarian Judicial School in Budapest. But ERA's cooperation with the judiciary is not limited to its strong involvement in EJTN, as some other 2014 activities illustrate: in October, ERA was delighted to continue its traditional biannual cooperation with the French *Cour de cassation* with a conference on European data protection law. Almost in parallel, the Network of Public Prosecutors or Equivalent Institutions at the Supreme Judicial Courts of the Member States of the European Union held its 7th annual meeting at ERA's conference centre in Trier and ERA had the privilege to cooperate with the German *Generalbundesanwalt* in the organisation of this event. Finally I should mention the support which ERA has started to give to a group of European trademark judges in 2014, an informal association which organises annual meetings to discuss topics of common concern and which requested ERA to take these under our wings.

The institutions of the European Union have for many years not only been crucial in promoting and supporting ERA, but at the same time and in many respects they have

"ERA's cooperation partners form an immense network which has grown over the years."



"EU institutions have repeatedly invited ERA to provide expertise in the process of developing certain policies, in particular in the area of training."



also been important cooperation partners. Upon their request and with their support, ERA has developed and implemented numerous training projects for both their own staff and third target groups. For 2014, both types of cooperation are illustrated by a series of seminars on combatting terrorism for third countries organised in cooperation with TAIEX; and another legal English course organised for staff of the European Judicial Network.

Besides, EU institutions have repeatedly invited ERA to provide expertise in the process of developing certain policies, in particular in the area of training. In June 2014 we were invited to present ERA's work as examples of best practice in two separate sessions of the workshop organised by the European Commission on 'Building upon Good Practices in European Judicial Training'. In September 2014 I had the honour to present to the new Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and its chairman Pavel Svoboda an ERA briefing note on the role and responsibility of the national judge as the first judge of EU law ('Applying EU Law as National Law: Enforcing EU Law in the Courtroom'). I was also invited to speak at a Commission conference examining the training needs of legal practitioners with regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in December 2014.

Last but not least, let me mention our cooperation with Member States as the patrons of ERA, where in 2014 we could list a conference on 'The External Relations of the EU' requested by the Swedish *Regeringskansliet* in Stockholm and an advanced workshop on EU litigation for Polish agents in Warsaw.

What are the main challenges for ERA in 2015?

Wolfgang Heusel: From among the major challenges ERA has to face in 2015 let me mention the following three:

- We are currently in the process of developing a new state-of-the-art website, which is a particular challenge for a number of reasons, not least the need to provide it in at least three working languages. We are very careful in defining the targets and requirements for this relaunch which we hope to be completed next year.
- In a completely different perspective, the European Commission has assigned ERA in association with the EJTN and the international research company ECORYS the provision of a study on the training needs of judges in the field of competition law. This demanding project requires both desk and field research and has to be concluded within an extremely tight schedule.
- I have already mentioned the project of putting in place a UPC training scheme for practitioners wishing to qualify as representatives before the future Unified Patent Court. Given that the minimum number of ratifications of the UPC Convention has not yet been deposited and the final version of the rules of procedure not yet adopted, the particular challenge for ERA will be to finalise the proposed curriculum on time and to hit the right moment for proposing this training to potentially interested practitioners.

DENMARK JOINS THE ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN LAW

At the annual meeting of ERA's Governing Board on 20 October 2014 in Trier, Denmark acceded to the Academy of European Law (ERA) Foundation.

The accession document was signed by Merethe Eckhardt, Director of Development at the Danish Court Administration, Dr Jacques Santer, President of ERA's Governing Board, and the Academy's Director, Dr Wolfgang Heusel.

Denmark is the 25th EU Member State to join the Academy. Following the accession, Denmark's civil servants and judicial officials will benefit from special conditions for participation in ERA events and the country will have a seat on the ERA Governing Board.

MERETHE ECKHARDT



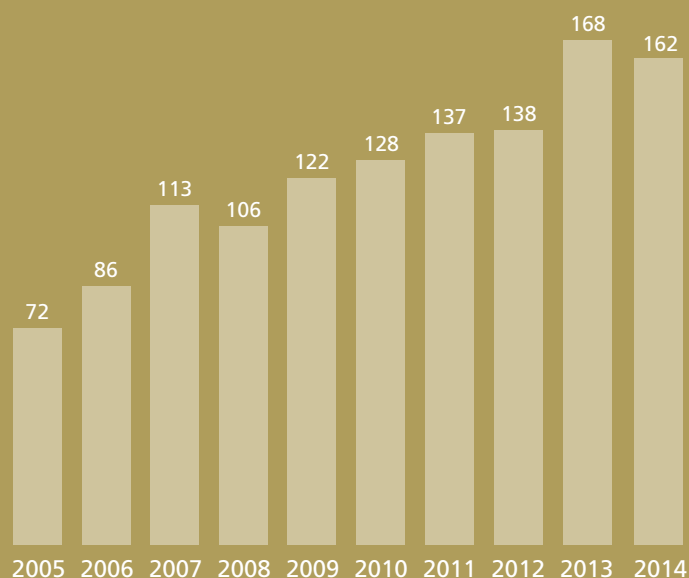
"We are pleased to finally become party to the agreement and look forward to strengthening our relationship. In a world where so much of the legal framework and legislation derives from the EU it is good to be part of a renowned institution offering continued education in EU law."



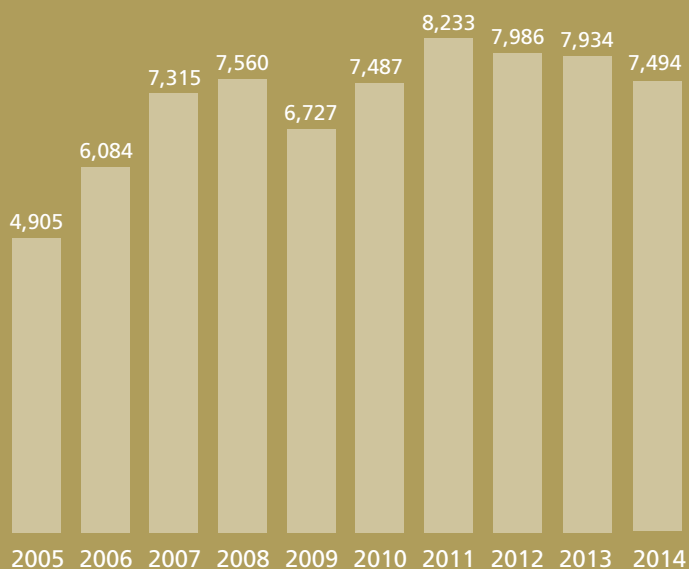
ERA IN NUMBERS 2014

162 *Events*
7,494 *Participants* from 60 *Countries*
54 *New e-Presentations* 9 *New e-Courses*

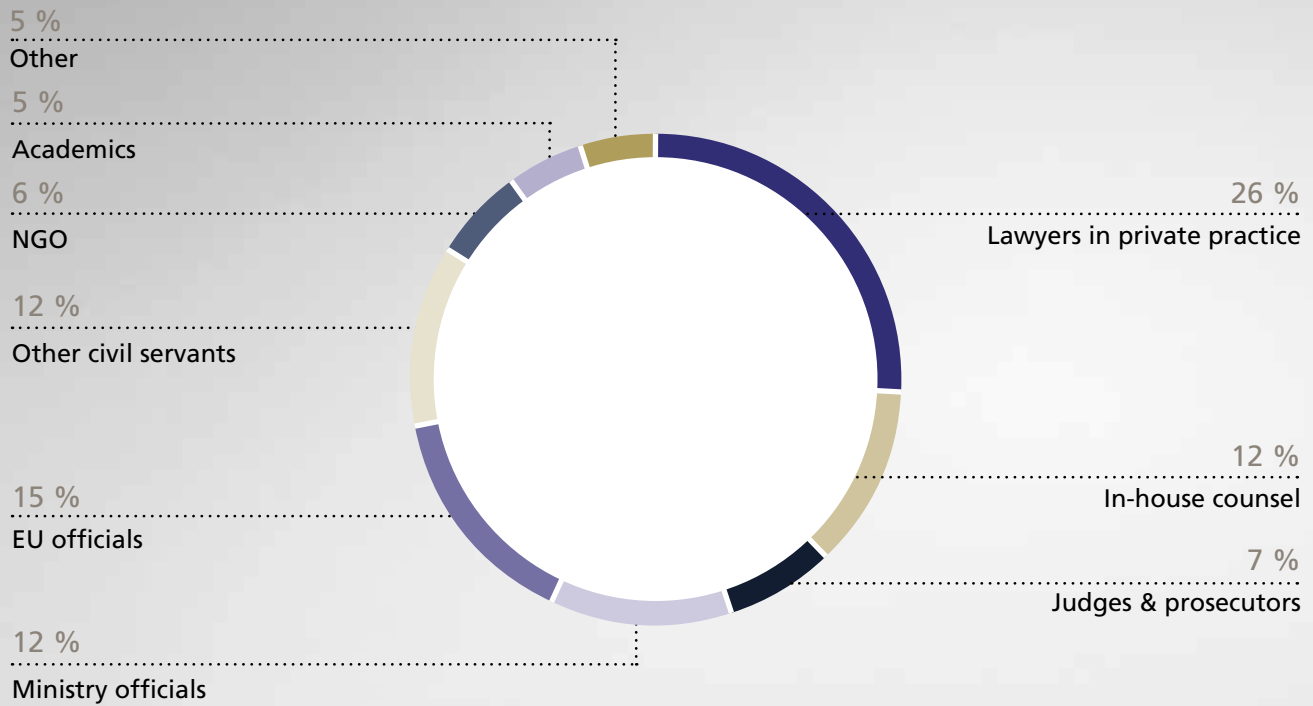
NUMBER OF EVENTS



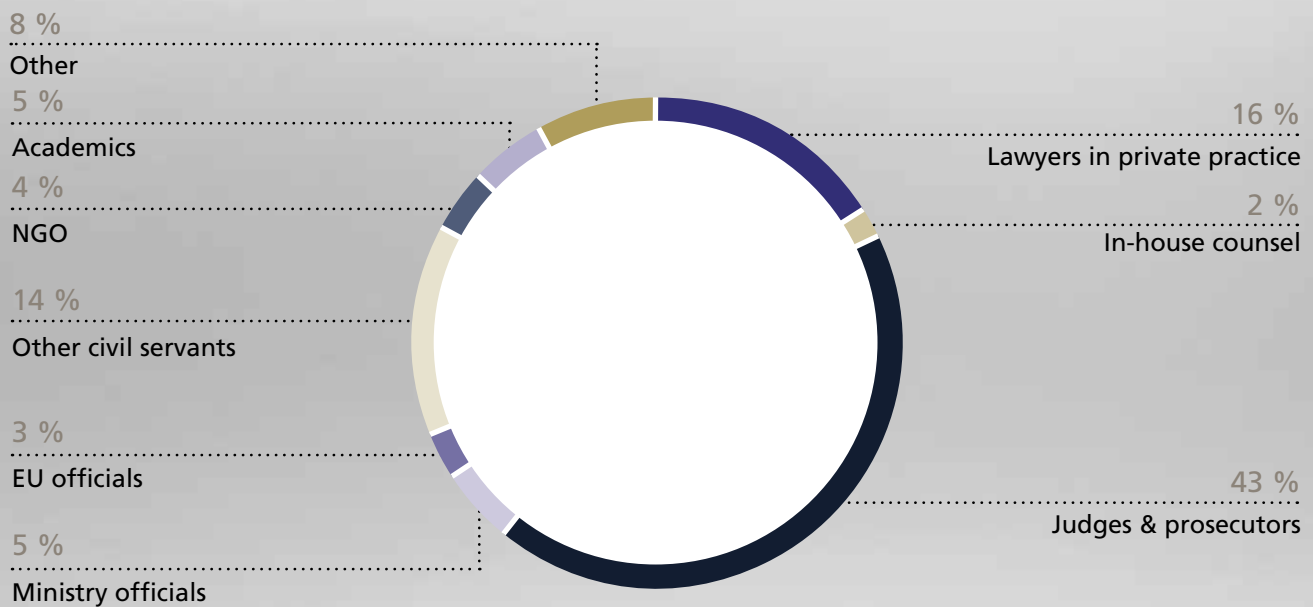
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



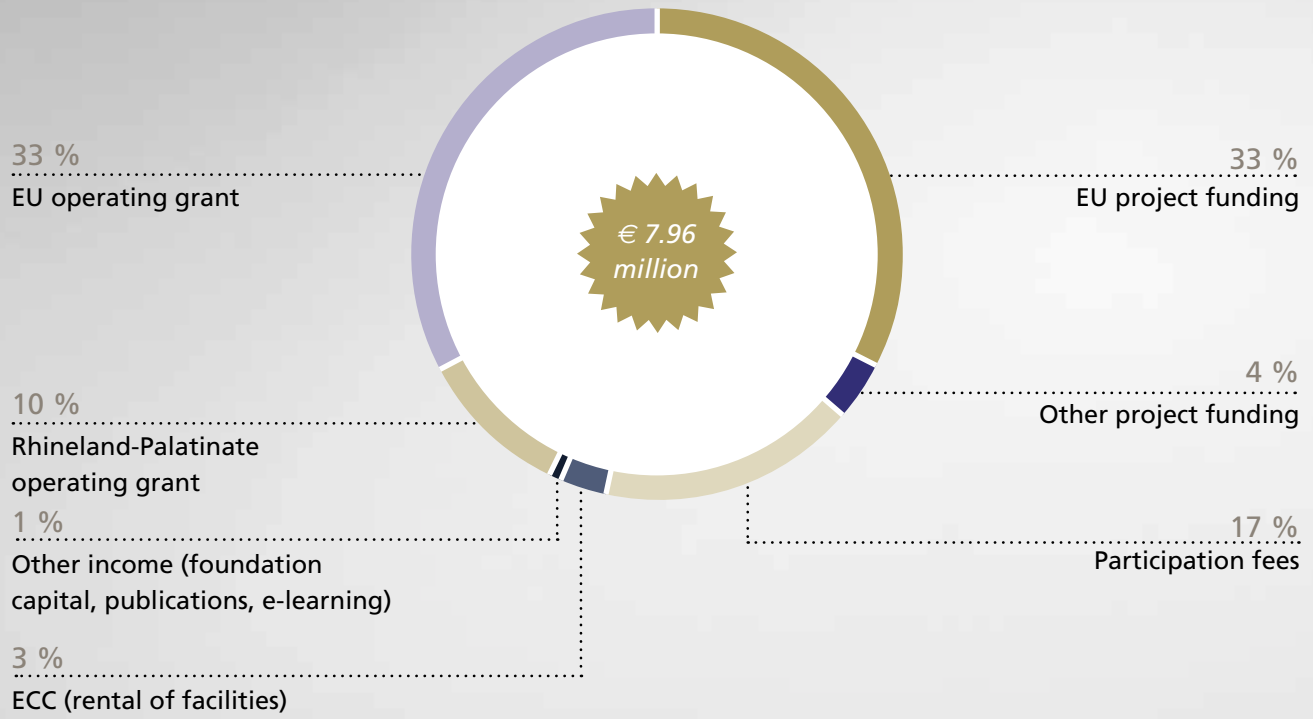
PARTICIPANTS BY PROFESSION AT OPEN EVENTS 2014



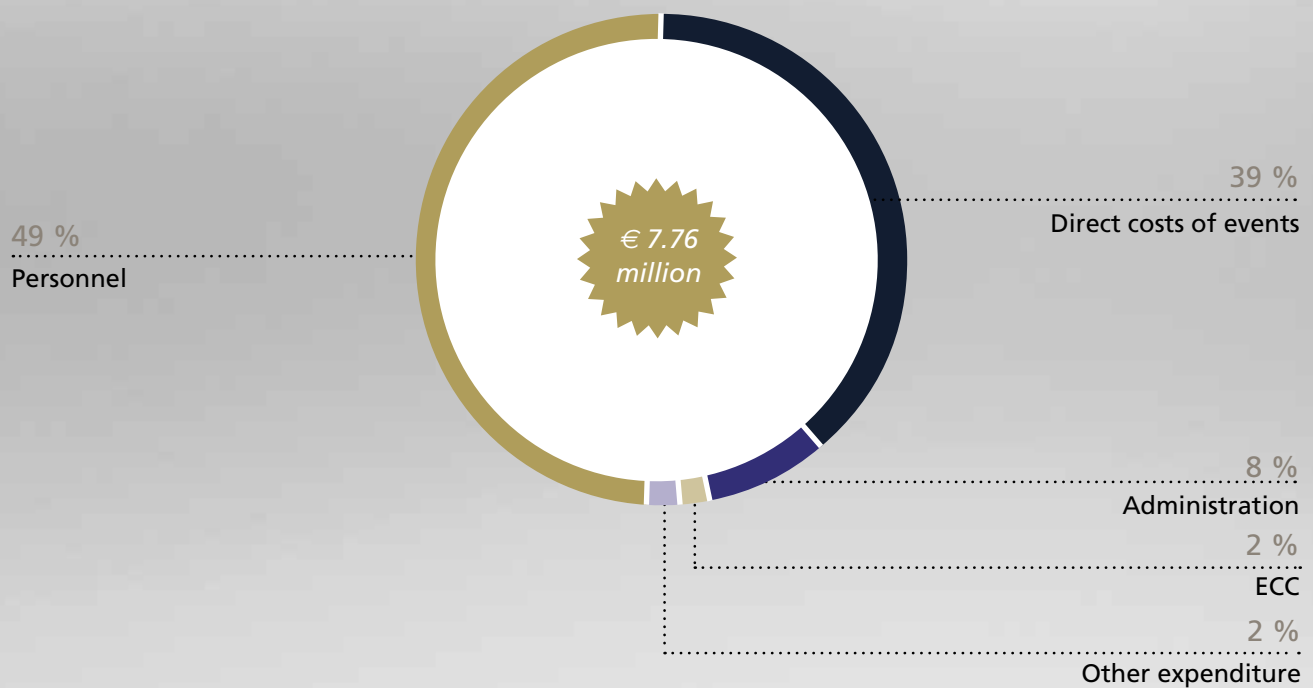
PARTICIPANTS BY PROFESSION AT CO- AND FULLY FINANCED EVENTS 2014

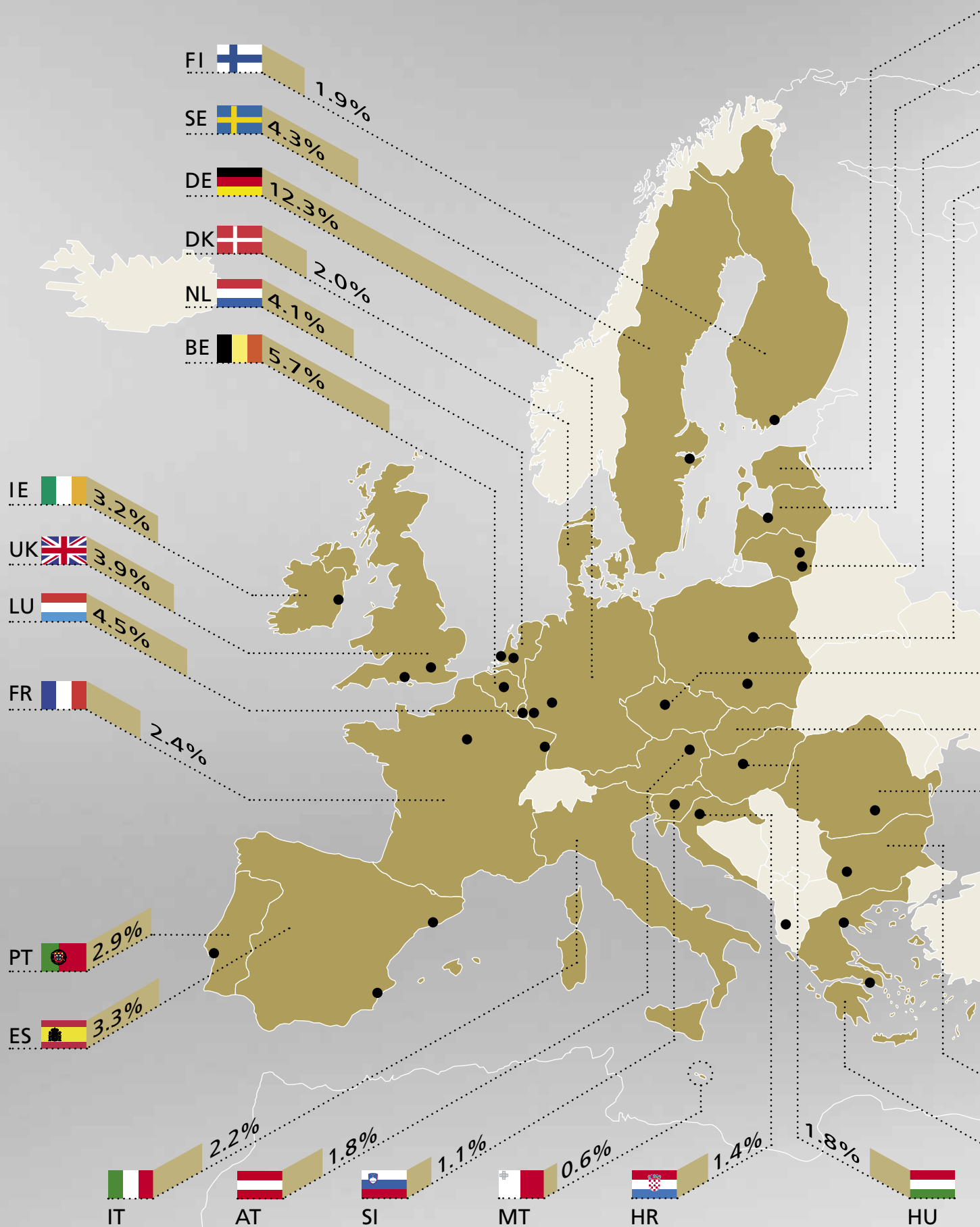


OPERATING INCOME 2014



OPERATING EXPENDITURE 2014



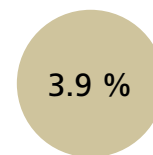
PARTICIPANTS AT FACE-TO-FACE
EVENTS IN 2014



OTHER PARTICIPANTS



EU OFFICIALS



EEA COUNTRIES

2.0 %

OTHER COUNTRIES

1.3 %

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES



"EJTN has benefited from intensive cooperation with the Academy of European Law as one of its Founding Members, an active Member of its Steering Committee and a dedicated Convener of its Working Group Programmes, bringing value and innovation to judicial training, as well as distinctive training methodologies and steadfast cooperation with the European Commission and other EU institutions, judicial networks and associations", says Wojciech Postulski, the network's secretary general. "Along with other Members, the Academy of European Law provided the expertise and active participation necessary to develop EJTN's offer of training activities, profiling EJTN as a major partner in the construction of a European legal area."



WOJCIECH POSTULSKI
SECRETARY GENERAL,
EUROPEAN JUDICIAL
TRAINING NETWORK (EJTN)
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Jonathan Goldsmith stood down in 2014 after more than a decade at the helm of the CCBE, which represents the interests of over a million lawyers across Europe. *“Working with ERA provides the rich opportunity of cooperation with an EU-wide organisation devoted to delivering an excellent product aimed at improving the European project for the benefit of citizens”, he says. “It is clear that training lawyers and other legal professionals ensures that the EU rights of citizens and businesses are properly exercised.”*

JONATHAN GOLDSMITH
FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL,
COUNCIL OF BARS & LAW SOCIETIES
OF EUROPE (CCBE)
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



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.

Evidence of these programme developments can be seen in the expansion of the range of 'annual conferences', where the main aim is to cover the most recent developments in a specific area of EU law. Given the success of this formula, this type of event has been extended to cover, inter alia, asylum law, banking law, company law, consumer law, copyright law, criminal law, direct and indirect taxation, environmental law, food law, migration law, insurance law, internal and external borders of the EU, nature protection, pharmaceutical law, public procurement, social security law, State aid, trade law and trade mark law.

These highly technical events, aimed at specialists who wish to keep up-to-date in a specific field, can gather each year an impressive number of legal practitioners from all over Europe. The 2014 annual conferences on European family law and on European labour law, which gathered 102 practitioners from 24 countries and 103 delegates from 22 countries respectively, are particularly significant in that respect. Likewise, the 2014 edition of the annual conference on EU data protection law, which was organised in cooperation with the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), brought together 94 legal practitioners in Brussels and took place on the day that the CJEU issued its landmark

decision in the *Digital Rights Ireland* case declaring the Data Retention Directive to be invalid.

In 2014 ERA also launched an annual conference on EU disability law in cooperation with the European Foundation Centre. This first edition, which took place in Trier and gathered some 70 delegates, explored the key principles and concepts of the UNCRPD in relation to legal capacity and focused on the challenges related to reforming legal capacity regimes within the EU as well as the tools for preserving the autonomy of persons with disabilities and protecting their rights.

Events on very specific topics

Complementary to its annual conferences, ERA offers ad hoc events on very specific and/or topical themes. For example, 2014 saw ERA dealing once again with cross-border estates on the basis of the Succession Regulation (No 650/2012) which will start being applied on 17 August 2015. Key topics of great relevance for practitioners were addressed, such as the drafting of testamentary dispositions prior to August 2015, some open issues regarding the Succession Regulation, the (double) taxation of successions in cross-border situations, the interplay with other areas of law, such as matrimonial property, company and trust law and finally the succession of immovable property. This conference, which was attended by more than 80 participants – mainly lawyers in private practice and notaries – from 20 countries led to a very fruitful exchange of information and lively discussions.

Further such events in 2014 dealt with the legal aspects of cross-border acquisition and ownership of real property abroad, the current EU regulatory framework on e-commerce, the legal aspects of cross-border debt recovery and enforcement of judgments in civil and

commercial matters, the latest legislative initiatives and case law at EU level in the field of geographical indications, the key aspects of the Solvency II Directive, the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures in the EU, the practical questions on access to information and documents in the EU, tax evasion and fraud in the EU, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the Dublin III Regulation, or the latest developments in legislation, jurisprudence and best practice regarding European private international and business law.

Some ad hoc conferences were implemented in cooperation with prestigious partners, such as an event entitled 'Arbitration and EU Law' which was organised in 2014 in cooperation with the (then) newly created Max Planck Institute Luxembourg. The conference addressed the recast of the Brussels I Regulation and its connection to arbitration. It also dealt with the interrelationship between arbitration and procedural minimum standards according to Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Finally, investment arbitration, notably the problems of compatibility of investment treaties with EU law, were discussed in depth.

Another example is the conference organised in cooperation with and at the premises of the French *Cour de Cassation* in Paris on the role played by national and European courts in safeguarding the fundamental right to data protection. The latest developments in EU data protection law in light of the most recent jurisprudence from the ECtHR and CJEU, as well as the challenges of data protection in cloud computing and social networking were at the heart of this high-level event which was attended by 90 legal practitioners.

Last but not least, ERA organised a conference on "Credit Rating Agencies Regulation in the EU" in cooperation with and at the premises of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) in Paris. The event was also open to staff members of the national competent authorities represented in the boards of ESMA, of the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA). It offered a comprehensive analysis of the EU regulatory package on credit rating agencies in force since June 2013 which had been adopted in response to the financial crisis and the euro debt crisis. Special attention was paid to the improvements of the new framework, e.g. reduced reliance on credit ratings, enhanced transparency, additional sovereign

★ HIGHLIGHTS

The CJEU's latest decision on the right to control your own data

Briefing,

5 June 2014, Brussels

From debate over data retention to the right to be forgotten, it was no surprise that this event was soon fully booked.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

Annual Conference on European Family Law 2014

Conference,

25-26 September 2014, Trier



This annual event, which meets the requirements of family lawyers involved in cross-border litigation to keep informed about the recent case law and the latest developments at international and EU

level, goes from strength to strength.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet for more information.



debt ratings requirements, a liability regime for actions by CRAs and specific provisions regarding conflicts of interest.

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 the 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 proposed regulation.

Over the past five years, ERA has closely followed and accompanied the creation of a Unitary Patent in the EU and the settlement of a new decentralised court system. At the initiative of the Legal Committee of the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Unified Patent Court (UPC), ERA hosted in November 2014 the oral hearing on the 17th draft of the Rules of Procedure applicable before the UPC. More than 70 professional organisations as well as experienced patent judges and patent attorneys invited to participate in the hearing gave their critical appraisal on these innovative rules. To allow a wider circle of interested users to follow the entire hearing, the event

was also webcast in three languages (English, French and German) on the ERA website. The webstream followed by more than 900 people throughout Europe was then uploaded on the website of the UPC for later consultation by users. Less than two weeks later ERA implemented a conference in London in cooperation with Queen Mary University of London which provided an update on the political and legal developments regarding the Unitary Patent in the EU and the UPC Agreement. Key topics of great relevance for the specialists in the field were addressed, such as the intensively debated right of representation before the new Court, the choice of Courts and the competences *ratione materiae* and *ratione loci* of the UPC during and after the transitional period, the uncertainties as regards the future legal status of supplementary protection certificates, the results of the public consultation on the rules of procedure, the main procedural issues as regards litigation before the UPC, the damages actions and execution of decisions, and the highly controversial issues regarding the fees and renewable fees payable before the European Patent Office for the grant of a Unitary Patent with unitary effect throughout the EU.

In the same vein the events organised by ERA in cooperation with successive EU presidencies should be mentioned. Since 2005 most ERA patrons have involved ERA in major events during their presidencies. The first half of 2014 saw ERA organising a conference on 'The Future of the European Banking Union' under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Finance and in cooperation with the Hellenic Bank Association. The event, which took place at the premises of the National

Bank of Greece in Athens, was opened by the (then) Minister of Finance. Leading experts, regulators and policymakers discussed the milestones achieved towards the Banking Union from legal and political perspectives. The creation of the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the proposed Single Resolution Mechanism were the key elements of the debate. To a certain extent this conference was a follow-up to the event ERA had organised in Dublin the year before on the same topic under the Irish Presidency of the EU.

Briefings

As part of this type of policy debate, the 'ERA Briefings' in Brussels on topical developments in EU law continued in 2014. These short sessions offer a taster of ERA training to the Brussels legal community and provide a valuable method for ERA to react quickly to emerging developments. For example ERA organised a briefing on the new Enforcement Directive of the Posting of Workers Directive which took place a few weeks after its adoption. Likewise, immediately after the *Google Spain* case (C-131-12), in which the CJEU ruled in favour of the existence of a 'right to be forgotten', ERA brought together key legal experts on privacy to discuss the implications of this major judgment. Finally, in the context of asylum law, the ruling of the ECtHR in the *Tarakhel* case of November 2014 (Appl. No. 29217/12) and specifically its consequences for the implementation of the Dublin III Regulation were presented in the framework of such a briefing.

★ HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Conference on EU Criminal Justice 2014 – Looking beyond the Stockholm Programme

*Conference,
16-17 October 2014, Trier*



The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice has been implemented for several years by ERA.



*Scan this QR code with
your smartphone or tablet
for more information.*

Annual Conference on EU Law in the Pharmaceutical Sector 2014

*Conference,
27-28 February 2014, Brussels*

The idea of this annual conference is to offer an overview of all the recent developments in EU law and ECJ case law which can have an impact in the pharmaceutical area.




*Scan this QR code with
your smartphone or tablet
for more information.*



Guy Castegnaro, founding partner of the Ius Laboris Castegnaro law firm in Luxembourg, was a regular participant and speaker at ERA for many years before helping to launch an annual joint EELA-ERA seminar on the latest developments in EU employment law, which took place for the second time in 2014. *"I love working with ERA both as a speaker and as a partner", he says. "ERA always provides a level of quality that I have never experienced before in such an area. ERA is a great opportunity to hear and meet Europe's best legal experts."*

GUY CASTEGNARO
CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN
EMPLOYMENT
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (E.E.L.A.)
LUXEMBOURG



A portrait of Eva Indruchová, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a red blazer, smiling. In the background, a large white dome of a building is visible through a window.

"ERA is a unique partner for the Czech Bar Association", says Eva Indruchová, who represents the association in Brussels. ERA and the Czech Bar worked together for many years before the Czech Republic actually joined ERA, and the Bar's late head of international affairs Jana Wurstová played a key role in securing that accession. "We have a long-lasting relationship with ERA for over two decades", says Indruchová. "ERA is therefore a partner we can trust and we can be confident that every event which we organise together will be a success."

EVA INDRUCHOVÁ
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
CZECH BAR ASSOCIATION
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



PRACTICAL TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Legal training for young professionals

In terms of practical training ERA has considerably intensified its programme in recent years in order to meet better the needs of practitioners. This concerns in the first instance its range of intensive five-day summer courses aimed at young professionals and/or non-specialists. Besides summer courses on institutional law, tax law, criminal justice, competition law, intellectual property law, labour law, environmental law and the regulation and supervision of financial markets, ERA offered two more comprehensive introductory courses in 2014, respectively on 'EU and WTO Trade Law' and on 'Mediation, ADR and ODR'. Major efforts have been made to improve the contents of these courses: all of them include case studies, practical workshops, role playing to allow participants to put into instant practice the knowledge they acquire. Most courses provide the opportunity to attend a hearing at the Court of Justice in Luxembourg. A total of 316 practitioners participated in one of these courses in 2014.

Large-scale training projects

In relation to certain legal topics, the development of long-running large-scale training projects has become for ERA a very efficient means 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 implemented not only in Trier but also in various Member States, (ii) they are built on a large pan-European partnership generally composed of members of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and/or national bars, which facilitates their implementation and ensures that awareness will be raised throughout the EU, (iii) they are multilingual, (iv) they encompass more than face-to-face training, as they are complemented by project webpages on the ERA website offering training materials, a comprehensive library, audio and video podcasts, sometimes e-learning modules, and (v) finally, they are funded partly or entirely by the European Union.

Among the most prominent example of such

large-scale projects in the ERA programme are two long-running training programmes on 'EU Anti-discrimination Law' and 'EU Gender Equality Law'. These projects, which represent per year twelve seminars and bring together some 600 judges, legal practitioners and academics from all EU Member States, EEA/EFTA and candidate countries, have been implemented on behalf of and in cooperation with the European Commission's DG Justice under the PROGRESS Programme. In 2014, two of the events were implemented in Barcelona and Bucharest, with the support of the Spanish Judicial School and the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy respectively. This new trend to organise more training sessions outside Trier in this field will be strengthened in the coming years. Furthermore, in order to make the training available to a large number of legal professionals across Europe, the focus has been put on multilingualism and simultaneous interpretation. While English is always offered as one of the two working languages of the events, training sessions and training materials were offered in 2014 also in French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish. All in all, with these two series, the first of which has run since 2003, ERA will have contributed to the training of some 4,600 legal professionals – more than half of whom were members of the judiciary – in the field of EU equality law by the end of 2014. These projects will be continued in 2015.

Of increasing relevance in ERA's programme are its activities in the field of cybercrime. Since 2012 ERA has implemented two major multiannual projects, both co-financed in the framework of the European Commission's ISEC Programme. The first, entitled 'Training Centre on Cybercrime for Judges and Prosecutors' consists of eight seminars that will take place in Trier until 2015. It comprises basic training courses on the legal and technical aspects of cybercrime to provide some 500 judges and prosecutors from all Member States with the essential skills necessary to cope with internet-related offences. The main aim of the seminars is to enable participants to gain an overview of EU policy on internet-related offences and to offer them an insight into different national

EU criminal justice systems and thus gain a better understanding of the work carried out at domestic level by other judges, prosecutors and police officers. The second project, entitled 'Fighting the Illegal Use of the Internet', consists of a series of six seminars to take place in Lisbon, Madrid, Vilnius, Stockholm as well as – in 2014 – London and Sofia. Each event has a specific, advanced topic such as: fighting child pornography online, following criminal money on the internet, online financial crimes and fraud committed with electronic means of payment. These two training projects dealing with the challenges that the judiciary faces with the use of new technologies have been supplemented by a third one – co-financed under the Criminal Justice Programme – entitled 'The Impact of Internet, New Technologies and Social Networks on EU Criminal Justice', which focuses on the concept of electronic evidence and its admissibility in courts, with seminars in Seville, Milan and in 2014 in Prague. Together, these three projects will have contributed to the training of some 1,000 legal practitioners (mainly judges and prosecutors) on these very topical issues by the first quarter of 2015. ERA will continue and enhance

its activities in this field. The fight against cybercrime is not the only criminal law topic which ERA has decided to deal with on a large scale. A similar approach has been launched in detention law, trafficking in human beings, organised crime and victim's rights with long-running multilingual series of events throughout Europe.

'The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in Practice' was the subject of another large-scale two-year training project launched in 2013 with the financial support of the EU Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme. Eight decentralised seminars across the EU brought the essence of the Charter and the common European human rights culture closer to legal practitioners, including members of the judiciary. The project addressed the legal nature of the Charter, its relevance for the national legal order, its scope of application, hints on its application and interpretation, as well as the relationship with the ECHR and other human rights provisions. After training sessions in 2013 in Barcelona, Bucharest, Edinburgh, Krakow and Paris, ERA organised the three last seminars of the project in Ljubljana, Riga and Trier in 2014. Through



ERA works regularly with the Lithuanian Courts Administration to help train its judges. *"Being one of the main players in European law education, ERA provides a perfect combination of qualified experts and effective training methodologies reflecting the most contemporary aspects of EU law and recognising the importance of cultural diversity", says the administration's director Reda Moliene. "It empowers our judiciary with the most required professional knowledge and provides fora to exchange experience and good practice among legal practitioners. Our enduring partnership with ERA made it evident that its training programmes and innovative projects make a significant contribution to shaping the common judicial area."*



REDA MOLIEŅĖ
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL
COURTS ADMINISTRATION
LITHUANIA

★ HIGHLIGHTS

Improving Measures Related to Detention Conditions at EU Level

*Seminar,
13-14 February, Trier*

This was the final seminar in a highly successful project co-funded by the European Commission focusing on the EU's 2011 Green Paper on detention and the ongoing debate and developments surrounding it.

Summer Courses 2014

*June, July and September 2014,
Trier*



ERA's range of introductory summer courses giving an introduction to different areas of EU law grew to ten in 2014.

this project ERA and its partners were able to provide training for 322 legal practitioners, including 202 judges and prosecutors. Given the success of this first project and the relevance of the topic for practitioners, ERA was awarded another grant in 2014 to train 285 legal practitioners across the EU. This new project will be implemented from 2015 onwards in cooperation with two bar associations (Barcelona Bar Association and Czech Bar Association), four judicial training bodies (Bulgarian National Institute of Justice, Judicial Academy of Croatia, Finnish Ministry of Justice and Portuguese Centre for Judicial Studies) and also with the support of EJTN.

Broad training offer on traditional areas of EU law

Training on 'classic' EU and Single Market law topics has remained very strong in the ERA programme. For example, ERA consolidated in 2014 the training format of advanced half-day EU competition law workshops in Brussels which had been launched the year before. These workshops aim to provide a deep analysis of key concepts of European antitrust law and focus on the latest trends in CJEU case law, legislative developments and European Commission practice. Four such workshops were organised in 2014 on 'Cartels: Challenges of Public and Private Enforcement', 'Two-sided Markets in Mergers and Abuse of Dominance Cases', 'Exclusionary Pricing under Article 102 TFEU: Impact of Recent Case Law', and 'Restrictions of Competition 'by object' after *Cartes Bancaires* and the Commission's Initiatives'. In addition to these workshops, which mainly target specialised lawyers in private practice, in-house counsel and national competition authority representatives, ERA provided advanced competition law training for the judiciary. ERA started in 2014 the implementation of a two-year series of six 1.5-day seminars in cooperation with the judicial training bodies from Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and with the support of the European Judicial Training Network. This series – which is co-financed by the European Commission's DG COMP – aims at providing judges who already have knowledge of and/or experience with antitrust rules with advanced training on specific challenges related to the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU and the new Package on Antitrust Damages, as well as the possibility to exchange experiences and

identify best practices. For this project, ERA has also been able to rely on the advice and expertise of the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ). Four regional seminars were held in 2014 in Krakow at the Polish National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution, in Bucharest at the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy, in Vilnius at the Lithuanian National Courts Administration, and in London at the Competition Appeal Tribunal. The series will be continued in 2015. Finally, complementary to the Annual Conference on State Aid Law which gathered some 70 participants in 2014, ERA offered practical training in Brussels on procedural issues for practitioners involved in State aid cases.

ERA's training activities on EU procedural law and judicial remedies are another example of the maintenance of a broad training offer in a core area of EU law. ERA has even intensified these activities in recent years offering practical and advanced litigation seminars designed for specific target groups (national civil servants, lawyers in private practice) and also by dealing extensively with proceedings before the Civil Service Tribunal of the EU, including the case law

on Staff Regulations. In 2013 ERA launched a two-year series of co-financed training seminars aiming to prepare EU criminal law practitioners for the full jurisdiction of the CJEU in criminal matters from December 2014 on, enabling a consistent and uniform application of EU law in line with the most recent procedure and recommendations. While the first two seminars were held in French and German, the 2014 seminar was held in English and attended by 66 participants from 19 member states, mainly judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers. Given the interest raised by this project and the relevance of the topic ERA will continue this training in 2015.

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 – even if not exclusively. Events of particular importance for private practitioners in 2014 included the 'Annual Conference on European Family Law', 'Cross-border Debt Recovery in Legal Practice', and the

ERA cooperates in numerous EU-funded projects with the National Institute of Magistracy in Romania. *"Cooperation with ERA – within EJTN or in the framework of various common projects – is always fruitful and pleasant due to the high commitment and professionalism of its people"*, says its director Octavia Spineanu-Matei.



OCTAVIA
SPINEANU-MATEI
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF
MAGISTRACY (NIM)
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA



★ HIGHLIGHTS

2nd EELA-ERA Annual Seminar on European Labour Law 2014

*Seminar,
28 November 2014, Brussels*



This seminar was the continuation of last year's cooperation with the European Employment Lawyers Association, providing participants with an update on the most recent cases and initiatives at EU level.

EU Criminal Law for Defence Counsel

*Seminar,
21-22 February 2014, Barcelona*



The seminar is part of a second series of five seminars co-financed by the European Commission and organised in partnership with the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) and bar associations from across Europe.

training seminar on 'How to Litigate before the CJEU – Practical Training for Lawyers in Private Practice'. For such events ERA accorded lawyers in private practice a preferential discount of 25 % on the participation fees. Also of great relevance for this target group is the series of one-day events in Strasbourg aiming to provide an update on the most recent case law of the ECtHR in various fields of law. Two such training events were implemented in Strasbourg in 2014 and covered the Court's case law in criminal matters and on access to justice.

While large parts of ERA's co-financed and fully-financed programmes are also open to lawyers in private practice, ERA developed specific training programmes aimed at defence lawyers with the financial support of the EU. Since 2011, ERA has been awarded EU funds for the implementation of training seminars on EU criminal justice instruments tailor-made for the defence. In 2014, ERA completed its second project of this type. The project consisted of five seminars, each of these targeted at different clusters of EU Member States, providing training for 160 defence counsel in total. The project was designed in response to the European Commission's priority to train defence practitioners on relevant EU legal instruments, such as the European Arrest Warrant, and the measures under the EU Procedural Rights Roadmap, as well as to foster networking between them. The following partners were involved in the project: the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA), the Lithuanian Bar Association; the EuroCollege of the University of Tartu; Studio Legale Cirese; the Law Society of Ireland; the Czech Bar Association, and the Barcelona Bar Association. A third project for defence lawyers will be launched in 2015.

Another form of training implemented by ERA and targeted at the practical needs of lawyers in private practice are one-day courses related to specific EU law topics – such as corporate tax, VAT, cross-border insolvency proceedings – in different European cities in cooperation with local bar associations. In so doing, ERA aims to complement what is offered by national providers by bringing – in contrast to their own programmes – a genuine European dimension and perspective to these events, in terms of both the contents and the expert speakers. In 2014, ERA organised such joint seminars on European family law with the Lithuanian Bar Association in Vilnius and with the Finnish Bar Association in Helsinki, on cross-

border tort claims for personal injuries with the Bar Council and the European Circuit of the Bar of England & Wales in London, and on litigation before the CJEU with the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB). Besides its cooperation with bars, ERA also works frequently with associations or networks of individual lawyers or law firms. In 2014 it organised its second annual joint seminar in Brussels with the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA) which brought together more than 90 labour law specialists from 20 countries.

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 an ever-growing number of national bars and law societies in recent years. ERA makes every effort to ensure that participation by lawyers from all over Europe in its events – whether in Trier or elsewhere – 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

Training requests from private and public actors at national and EU levels represent an important part of ERA's activities. ERA is here particularly valued for its training expertise, its network of experts, and its ability to deal with complex and/or very specific training requests. A few examples can be highlighted in the 2014 programme.

Requests from the patrons of the ERA Foundation for commissioned events for their staff or for third parties have remained stable over the years. Besides cooperation with a number of ministries of justice in the organisation of training events, mainly aimed at their national judiciaries on various topics, 2014 saw the continuation of ERA's long-standing cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a one-day workshop on EU litigation aimed at Polish agents in Warsaw. It is also worth mentioning the organisation of a 1.5-day training programme on 'The External Relations of the EU' in Stockholm at the request of and in cooperation with the Government Offices of Sweden. ERA also organised an expert seminar for judges and staff members from the Finnish Supreme Courts on different aspects of judicial protection under EU law in Trier.

For many years, European Union institutions and/or EU agencies have regularly commissioned seminars from ERA for their own staff or for third parties. In 2014 the European Commission's DG Translation entrusted ERA with the conception of two seminars in Brussels and Luxembourg on 'EU Banking Regulation and Supervision'. The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) also requested ERA to contribute to the conception and organisation of two in-house training seminars in Vienna and Paris aiming to provide an overview of the key current legislative reforms in banking regulation and institutional changes within the supervisory architecture in the EU, and a third specific training on the MiFID and MiFIR rules in Paris. Finally, the European Judicial Network (EJN) contracted ERA to organise a five-day intensive legal English course for its contact points. The course, which took place in The Hague, focused on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

As part of the NETLEX project, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) entrusted ERA with the organisation of a one-day training course in Brussels for the members of the litigation network. The training aimed to bring the members of the network to the same level of knowledge and enable ETUC then to develop a concrete litigation strategy.

Last but not least, ERA was awarded a service contract by the Turkish Competition Authority for the organisation of a two-week training for 14 of its assistant competition experts on EU competition law. High-level speakers from the EU Institutions, private practice, national competition authorities and academia from all over Europe contributed to this very comprehensive two-week course. The training, tailor-made on the basis of the concrete work needs of its audience, covered the entire range of EU antitrust law topics, from the fundamentals on the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU to competition in regulated network industries, procedural issues, enforcement and the respective case studies.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING MATERIALS

In addition to implementing training programmes itself, ERA has in recent years devoted more and more resources to the development of standardised training materials and other resources that can be re-used by third parties.

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

In 2014 ERA continued a project on behalf of the European Commission's DG Environment entitled "Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of Environmental Law", which aims to develop training modules on various topics of EU environmental law as well as to organise workshops for – mainly administrative – judges. After developing training modules on "EU Law on Industrial Emissions" and the "Interaction between the EIA and the Nature Directives" in 2013, ERA was asked to design and test another training module on "Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters" in 2014. The choice of this topic was based on the outcome of a needs assessment survey conducted by ERA among members of the judiciary across Europe interested in EU environmental law. In 2014, these modules were tested in real conditions and subsequently improved in the framework of 2.5-day workshops held in Bucharest, Lisbon and Moletai (Lithuania) in cooperation with the respective judicial training institutes, as well as at the ERA premises in Trier.

A similar project has been implemented by ERA on behalf of the European Commission's DG Justice since 2011, aiming to develop training modules regarding European legislative instruments for cross-border cooperation in civil matters. In 2014, ERA tested further the two training modules it had developed in the previous years on "Cross-border Divorce and Maintenance" and "Parental Responsibility in a Cross-border Context" through workshops of one week each in Barcelona and Paris, in cooperation with the *Escuela Judicial* and the *Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature* respectively. In addition, ERA was entrusted with the development of another training

module on the "European Small Claims Procedure" which was tested with different target groups twice in Brussels, as well as in Paris and Trier.

Both aforementioned projects have led to the development of very comprehensive standardised materials which promote interrogative and participative learning methods and are easily reusable. The entire training packages are accessible 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 so-called "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 source 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 face-to-face 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 specifies how best to navigate through the materials available and how these may be integrated in future workshops by providing information on their structure, content and methodology. Further to this, information on the organisational aspects of a training event, such as guidelines on how to identify possible trainers, select the participants or evaluate the training event, have been included. The materials developed have all been tested in various workshops aimed at different target groups (judicial trainers, judges, lawyers) and in different languages. Some modules are available in their entirety in English, French, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish.

ERA's cooperation with the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB) is an example of what can be achieved when two strong and complementary partners work together. With more than 20,000 members, the Barcelona Bar is the biggest in Europe. It has its own major training programme and works with ERA on a bilateral basis or in the framework of EU-funded projects to ensure that its members also have access to top-level training in different areas of EU law.



MARTA ISERN
VICE-DIRECTOR GENERAL,
ILLUSTRE COL·LEGI D'AVOCATS DE
BARCELONA (ICAB)
BARCELONA, SPAIN



In 2014 ERA organised a first joint conference with the newly created Max Planck Institute for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law in Luxembourg. *"ERA provides the ideal environment for a fruitful exchange between scholars and practitioners from all over Europe"*, says its executive director Burkhard Hess. *"Personally, I enjoy very much discussing current results of my own research with the highly professional and well-informed audience at ERA."*

PROF. BURKHARD HESS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
LUXEMBOURG



This type of project seems to meet both the expectations and needs of national judicial training actors. Evidence of this can be seen, first, in the fact that the civil justice project was supported from the beginning by the national judicial training actors of eight EU Member States (Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia) and that for the environmental law project, ERA secured the partnership of the judicial training bodies of fifteen EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England and Wales, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain), as well as the support of the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union (ACA-Europe) and the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ). Secondly, institutions which were not part of the initial consortium accepted to host and co-organise in 2014 workshops aiming to test the training modules of these projects. Thirdly, some judicial training bodies – such as the Judicial Academy of North-Rhine-Westphalia, the Bulgarian National Institute of Justice, the Slovenian Judicial Training Centre and the Romanian National Institute of the Magistracy – made use (partly or entirely) of the training materials outside the projects for domestic training courses.

Case studies on civil justice instruments

Following this practical approach to European judicial training, ERA initiated in 2014 a large-scale two-year project in the area of cross-border cooperation in civil matters with the financial support of the Commission's Civil Justice Programme. This new project is implemented in partnership with sixteen national judicial training bodies and bar associations from fifteen EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom).

The main objective of this project is to develop a set of training materials to aid legal practitioners to apply actively and efficiently the EU acquis in the area of Civil Justice. To this end, three main topics of great practical relevance were identified: (i) cross-border civil litigation, (ii) European cross-border procedures, and (iii) conflict of laws. The training materials in this

project consist mainly of case studies. In relation to each main topic, three comprehensive case studies were developed by renowned private international law experts. Each case study encompasses the case scenario, the suggested solution and some methodological advice for using the case. The three case studies developed in relation to each main topic are conceived in such a way as to be used in the context of a 1.5-day seminar. All case studies were made available from the beginning in three of the most frequently used languages in the EU, namely in English, French and German.

Once the case studies were developed, a 2.5-day coordinating meeting bringing together national experts/judicial trainers – appointed by the sixteen project partners in light of their expertise in the EU civil justice instruments (so-called 'national experts') – was organised in Trier. The objectives of the coordinating meeting were to familiarise the national experts with the content of the training materials, to conduct a first evaluation of the case studies developed and to equip the national experts with a framework for the organisation of future national training in the areas covered by the project.

This step was deemed necessary for the next phase of the project: the organisation of a series of test seminars. Twenty-three test seminars aimed at approximately 650 legal practitioners from all over the EU will be organised. The pan-European partnership makes it possible that a total of twenty national test seminars will be organised by the end of the project by the partners under the supervision of their respective national experts and with the support of ERA. These seminars on the one hand allow for testing the materials with judges/lawyers at a purely national level, and on the other hand enrich the training materials by adding translations in eleven official EU languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian and Spanish). The first two national test seminars of the project were organised in late 2014: the first, aimed at Greek judges and lawyers in private practice, was held in Thessaloniki in cooperation with the Greek Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL), while the second seminar was held in Krakow at the premises of and in cooperation with the Polish National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution. In order to ensure implementation of the

training materials in a genuinely European context, ERA will organise three pan-European test seminars open to all legal professions at its premises in Trier.

Resources on the ERA website

In the recent years, ERA has put increasing efforts into the creation of user-friendly project webpages in order to ensure accessibility and therefore widespread use of the materials developed in the framework of large-scale projects. For example, the aforementioned training modules on European family law and on the European Small Claims Procedure are available on the ERA website in numerous language versions and are freely accessible to all interested parties. The same applies to the training modules on EU environmental law.

A new section of the ERA website entitled "Training Resources" was created to gather these project webpages. Comprehensive resources are now available on various legal topics, such as EU gender equality, EU anti-discrimination law, disability law (with a focus on the UNCRPD), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, EU instruments for judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. The project webpages include different types of content, such as seminar programmes, background documentation and speakers' contributions, a (multilingual) library, audio and/or video podcasts, e-learning modules, participants' fora. For example the webpage of the above project aiming at developing case studies on civil justice instruments includes an online platform which is meant to function as a discussion forum for national experts to exchange experiences from the implementation of the test seminars.

★ HIGHLIGHTS

Nature protection and environmental impact assessment

Development of training materials



In 2014 ERA continued to produce face-to-face and online training materials for judges in the field of EU environmental law as part of a project funded by the European Commission's DG Environment.

EU Regulation on Credit Rating Agencies

*Seminar,
23-24 October 2014, Paris*



This conference organised by ERA in cooperation with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) discussed the crucial role of credit rating agencies (CRAs) and their impact on the actions of investors, borrowers, issuers and governments.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Face-to-face training remains core to ERA's programme but distance-learning is becoming an ever more important feature, whether in support of face-to-face training in the form of blended learning solutions or as a complete and separate training product. In 2014, ERA added a number of new e-learning courses to its platform at www.era.int/e-learning, as well as expanding further the list of e-presentations.

Towards the end of 2014, ERA began an evaluation of its distance-learning programmes in order to learn from user feedback and if necessary adjust its future strategy in this area. One of the most striking initial insights from this process is that many users have no previous experience of distance-learning. A major challenge is therefore to explain how the online programmes offered by ERA work and how users can make the most of them.

e-Learning courses

In total, ERA added nine new e-learning courses to its platform in 2014. Some were developed in the framework of EU-funded projects, are therefore free-of-charge for users, and can be used either in conjunction with face-to-face training or as stand-alone courses. The subjects covered by such courses were 'EU Law on Industrial Emissions', 'Nature Protection and Environmental Impact Assessment', 'Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters' and 'The European Small Claims Procedure'.

Two in-depth and interactive new courses were designed to help legal practitioners navigate through procedural issues when dealing with the European courts: 'The Preliminary Reference Procedure before

the CJEU' and 'The Procedure at the European Court of Human Rights'. Another two courses using the distinctive and pragmatic format of '10 Key Questions for Practitioners' were launched on the specialised subjects of 'The European Arrest Warrant for Defence Counsel' and 'The Transfer of Undertakings', and a new basic course on 'Introduction to EU Labour Law' was also added. All such courses typically include a detailed analysis of the subject by a distinguished expert or practitioner in the field, video interviews with leading legal personalities such as judges from the CJEU, extensive supporting documentation and a self-assessment quiz. On completion of the course, users can obtain a certificate.

Glossary: handy tab to explain key terminology

10 Key Questions: content organised into practically applicable chunks

Library: detailed documentation for future reference

Design optimised for use both on PC and tablet computers

User-friendly navigation structure allows you to move easily between sections



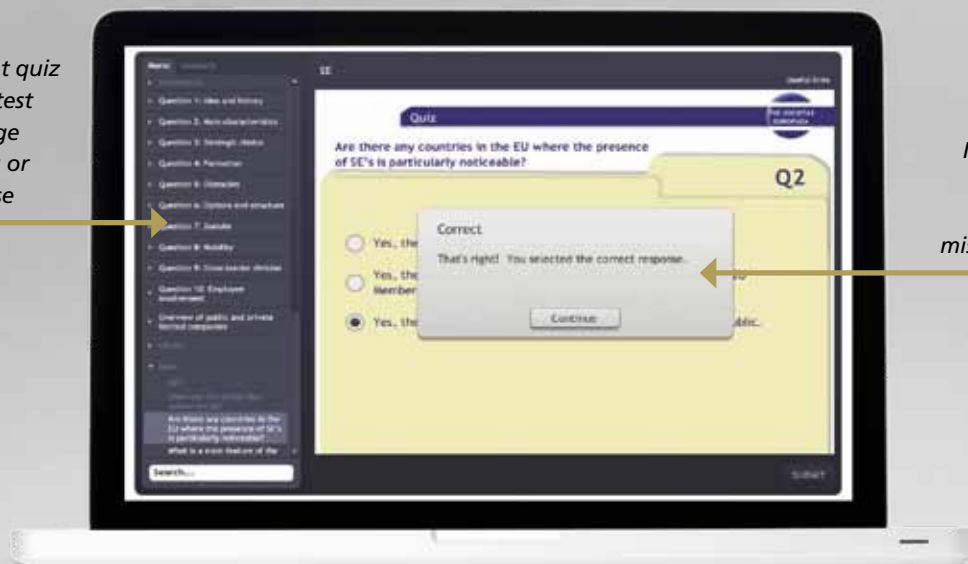
Transcript provided to make it easier to follow

Short pop-up video interviews with leading experts to explain specific concepts



Self-assessment quiz allows you to test your knowledge before, during or after the course

Instant feedback helps you to fill gaps or correct misunderstandings



Top-level practitioners or academic experts deliver the e-presentations

Simple and user-friendly design makes the product easy to handle

MP3-Version: allows you to download the presentation as an audio file in order to listen to when you are on the move.

Different versions allow you either to view the e-presentation with all features enabled or in a more restricted version followed by short quiz resulting in the issuance of a certificate

e-Presentations

In 2014, ERA released 54 new e-presentations, increasing the total range to over one hundred. These online packages covering a wide range of legal areas consist of a film of one of ERA's expert speakers combined in a split-screen format with their presentation and all relevant background documentation embedded at the relevant moment. The e-presentations focus in particular on the latest case law of the European Court of Justice and other recent developments in order to provide viewers with up-to-date online training as and when

they need it. The largest numbers of e-presentations are in the areas of banking and financial services law, State aid and public procurement law, tax law and intellectual property. The packages can also be downloaded as audio files allowing users to follow them when they are on the move. They include an option to take a short quiz after having watched the whole package, allowing for a certificate to be issued that can contribute to fulfilling a viewer's CPD obligations.

Chapter structure allows you to jump to the precise section you want

Full screen: option to enlarge the view for smaller screens



Embedded links lead you straight to the relevant documentation as and when it is cited

Split screen: video of speaker is synchronised with presentation to make it easy to follow



ERA FORUM JOURNAL OF THE ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN LAW

The Academy's quarterly journal on European law, ERA Forum, is published in cooperation with Springer Science + Business Media (Heidelberg/Berlin/New York). Since the launch of this cooperation in 2007, ERA Forum has grown from being a small-circulation printed journal to being part of an online package available to thousands of institutional subscribers around the world.

In 2014, the number of article downloads stood at 25,154, maintaining the levels achieved in recent years.

Articles published in the journal are drawn from the most outstanding presentations delivered at ERA's conferences. Three issues have been published in 2014, with a slightly delayed fourth issue published in the first quarter of 2015. The first issue covered criminal law topics such as cybercrime, fighting money laundering

and criminal justice cooperation. The second issue focused on business law and included articles on intellectual property law, financial supervision and state aid modernisation. Dealing with private law,

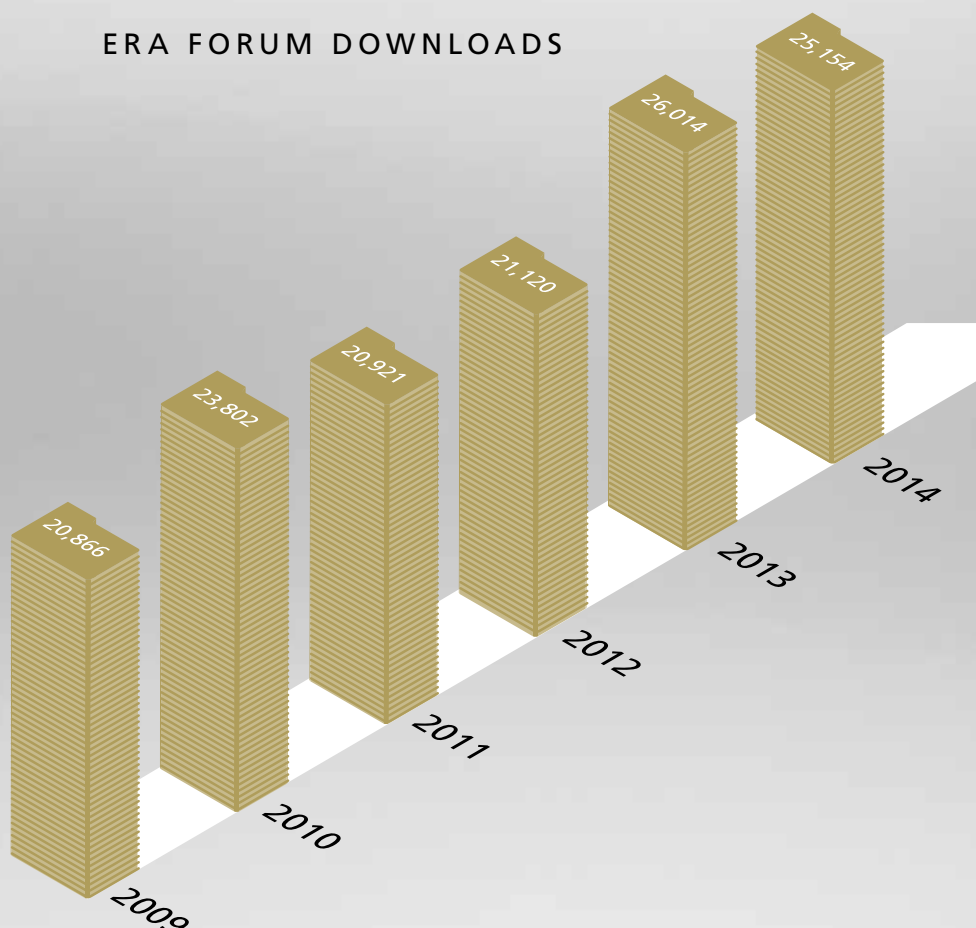
the third issue of ERA Forum included articles on labour law, the European Certificate of Successions and cross-border healthcare. The fourth issue dealt inter alia with the Dublin System, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the cross-border recovery of tax claims.

ERA continued its marketing efforts through social media to promote ERA Forum among legal practitioners.

Members of the Friends of ERA Association are offered an annual subscription (print and online) to ERA Forum at a preferential price.



ERA FORUM DOWNLOADS



ERA CONFERENCE CENTRE

Under the name ERA Conference Centre (abbreviation: ECC) ERA premises and services are available to interested third parties. Income earned by these activities is taxable and provides a limited contribution to ERA's overall income. Since 2012 the income earned by renting rooms and providing services to external organisations has increased significantly. This positive development could be confirmed in 2014, however topping the particular successful previous year was proved not possible. As far as the net result of these sales activities is concerned no major change is to be noted.

Events highlights in the ERA Conference Centre

A variety of different types of activities have again taken place in the ECC-premises in 2014. This ascertainment confirms the profile of the ECC-facilities as a location in which diverse events can be easily implemented. For example the ECC remained attractive for trade fairs in the field of technical devices. In early 2014 the Forum 'Mobility for Purchasing Agents of Worldwide Renowned Mobile Telecommunications Manufacturers' was held in the ECC again. Furthermore a remarkable number of banks choose the ERA conference rooms as the location for their conferences, meetings or customer events.

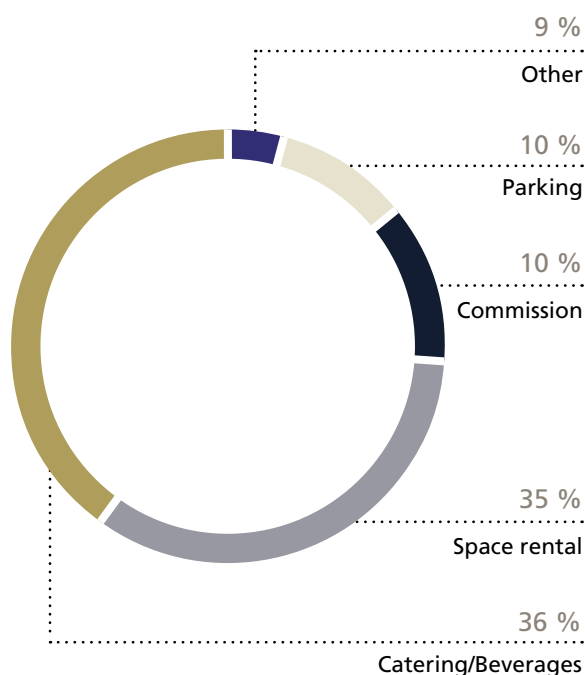
The importance of the ECC as a regional conference facility was demonstrated by several events and activities. The nationally-known 'Bitburger Symposium' (57. Bitburger Gespräche) discussing the issue of energy transition took place in the ERA Conference Centre, as well as a German-French congress with the title: 'The Mosel – 50 Years a Major Shipway' („Die Mosel – 50 Jahre Großschifffahrtsstraße").

In September a large wine presentation and auction of about 300 top-quality Mosel wines took place in the ECC. The event was called 'Masterpieces of the Mosel' and attracted many wine experts from all over the world. A further example of the variety of events implemented by external customers in the ECC is the so-called Autumn Congress of the Superintendents of the German Police, addressing the question of cross-border police cooperation.

ECC-marketing activities concentrated on a refreshment of the ECC-website and the introduction of the new image brochure. The new image brochure has become a 10-page document with large room overviews, charts and corresponding pictures in an ambitious design. Ecc-trier.de has become more modern: in particular, more photos and videos have been added. A new service was also offered: our videoconference technology enables communication with multiple persons as well as displaying documents and screen content simultaneously.

As far as service is concerned, ECC-staff in cooperation with its key service partners continued to achieve the highest client satisfaction possible. Particular positive feedback was received regarding our cooperativeness and the agreeable atmosphere of the conference rooms. This response challenges us to continually work on further improving every aspect of our sales and event processes as well as our customer support.

ECC REVENUE MIX 2014



FRIENDS OF ERA AND THE JUBILEE FUND



The Friends of ERA Association brings together individuals and corporate members who share a common interest in European law and a commitment to supporting ERA's work.

The ERA Jubilee Fund

The Association's most important initiative in recent years was the launch in 2012 of the ERA Jubilee Fund to mobilise financial support for three specific causes:

- extending ERA's scholarship programme to practitioners from across Europe
- supporting EU law training events at national and local level where funding is unavailable
- providing stipends for internships at ERA for EU law training professionals in the Member States

In 2014, funds of € 11,810 were raised from both individual and corporate donations. Together with the contributions of its members, the Association was able to provide € 23,600 to support the Academy's scholarship programme and training activities.

For the first time, the funds raised were used to provide a modest grant to enable the provision of simultaneous interpretation at a seminar on European family law in Vilnius organised in cooperation with the Lithuanian Bar Association. It is hoped that grants of this kind will enable the expansion of access to EU law training in countries where other sources of funding are unavailable.

The funds raised by the Friends of ERA also enabled the attendance at ERA events of 26 scholars from the EU's Member States and accession countries in 2014. The legal practitioners awarded with a grant came from 12 different countries: from Albania, Bulgaria,

Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Turkey.

The Association would like to thank warmly the donors to the ERA Jubilee Fund in 2014:

Deutsche Bundesbank, Sparkasse Trier, Catherine Kessedjan, Richard Crowe, James Killick, Nial Fennelly, Iyiola Solanke, Peter Reading, Gergana Ilieva, Josef Donat, Richard Burton, Daniela Rauscher, Vanessa Knapp, Juan Rodriguez, Horstpeter Kreppel, Michael Niejahr, Steven Brown, Peter Schmidhuber, Marco Boccaccini.

Membership activities

In 2014, the Friends of ERA Association introduced a new networking dimension to the Association's activities, encouraging them to meet on a regular basis. Chapters were launched in Brussels and Luxembourg and three networking dinners were organised in March and June (in Brussels) and in October (in Luxembourg), offering members the opportunity to discuss current issues of importance, exchange best practices and get to know each other. The feedback from the dinners was positive, constructive and promising for the future.

During the last months of the year the Association launched another strategy to attract new members by inviting all participants at ERA events to sign up for free membership for one year until 31 December 2015 and thus to gain an insight into the benefits of membership before committing to an annual contribution.

As well as supporting ERA and its work, the members of the Association enjoy a number of privileges as a result of their membership:

- 10 % discount for one ERA conference of your choice per year
- Exclusive access to online conference documentation on the ERA website (password-protected area)
- Free access to one ERA e-presentation of your choice per year
- Annual subscription to ERA Forum at a preferential rate of € 95 (normal price € 194)
- Free participation in ERA briefings in Brussels
- Membership directory and Friends of ERA Quarterly Newsletter
- Regular networking opportunities with colleagues from the European legal community



FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.ERA.INT/FRIENDS

*Scan this QR code with
your smartphone or tablet
for more information.*

The Office of the European Data Protection Supervisor works regularly with ERA to organise conferences on current issues related to this highly topical area of EU law. The cooperation allows EDPS to obtain the views of legal practitioners and gives the participants the chance to hear from Europe's top experts on the subject. ERA has worked with many EU Institutions and Agencies on cooperation of this type over the years.



GIOVANNI BUTTARELLI
EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION
SUPERVISOR (EDPS)
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

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Former Jurisconsult of the European Parliament, Barcelona

In 2014 ERA began a special kind of cooperation with the Hungarian National Office for the Judiciary in which Hungarian judges are seconded to ERA for several months to learn how to develop EU law training programmes. Izolda Engel, the first Hungarian judge to participate in this scheme, says: *“ERA provides high-quality training activities and an excellent platform for exchanging professional experiences. This is based on the organisational intelligence of ERA, the high-quality professional background and the engaging character of the personnel. Good practices I learned during my work at ERA are a great help performing my present tasks at the Hungarian Academy of Justice.”*

IZOLDA ENGEL
JUDGE, NATIONAL OFFICE
FOR THE JUDICIARY
HUNGARY



JEAN-PHILIPPE
RAGEADE

JOHN
COUGHLAN

WOLFGANG
HEUSEL

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*Unfortunately,
the following staff
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photographed for the
annual report:*

Ute Beissel,
Oliver Steuernagel

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|--|
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| France – Cour de Cassation |
| France – Delegation of the Bars of France (DBF), Brussels |
| France – École Nationale de la Magistrature |
| Germany – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) |
| Germany – Deutsche Stiftung für internationale rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V. |
| Germany – Federal Ministry of Justice |
| Germany – Federal Public Prosecutor General |
| Germany – German Judicial Academy |
| Germany – Hamburg Bar Association |
| Germany – Judicial Academy of North Rhine-Westphalia |
| Germany – Koblenz Bar Council (Rechtsanwaltskammer) |
| Germany – National Agency for the Prevention of Torture |
| Greece – Athens Bar Association |
| Greece – Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL) |
| Greece – Hellenic Bank Association |
| Hungary – Budapest Bar Association |
| Hungary – National Office of the Judiciary & Judicial Academy |
| Ireland – Irish Centre for European Law |
| Ireland – Law Society of Ireland |
| Latvia – Latvian Judicial Training Centre |
| Latvia – Latvian Bar Association |
| Lithuania – Lithuanian Bar Association |
| Lithuania – Lithuanian National Courts Administration |
| Luxembourg – Max Planck Institute for International, European, Regulatory Procedural Law |
| Luxembourg – University of Luxembourg |
| Netherlands – International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT) |
| Netherlands – SSR Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary |
| Norway – Center for Continuing Legal Education |
| Poland – Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Poland – National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution |

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| Poland – Polish Human Rights Defender |
| Poland – Polish Supreme Administrative Court |
| Portugal – Centre for Judicial Studies (CEJ) |
| Portugal – Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) |
| Romania – National Institute of Magistracy |
| Slovak Republic – Judicial Academy |
| Slovenia – Judicial Training Centre |
| Spain – Bar Association of Vizcaya-Bilbao |
| Spain – Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB) |
| Spain – Judicial School of the General Council for the Judiciary |
| Sweden – Government Offices of Sweden |
| United Kingdom – Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) |
| United Kingdom – Bar Council of England & Wales, European Circuit |
| United Kingdom – Competition Appeal Tribunal |
| United Kingdom – Judicial College of England & Wales |
| United Kingdom – Queen Mary University of London |

AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

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| Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union (ACA-Europe) |
| Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ) |
| Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ) |
| Council of the Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) |
| Council of Europe |
| Court of Justice of the European Union |
| European Commission – DG Competition, DG Education and Culture, DG Environment, DG Home Affairs, DG Justice, DG Translation, OLAF, TAIEX Office |
| European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) |
| European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) |
| European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA) |
| European Foundation Centre (EFC) |
| European Judicial Network |
| European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) |
| EuropeanMigrationLaw.eu |
| European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris) |
| European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) |
| European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) |
| Fair Trials International |
| Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2014 |
| International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) |
| Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2014 |
| Joint Police and Customs Cooperation Centre of the German and French Police, Kehl |
| Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) |
| Victim Support Europe |

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