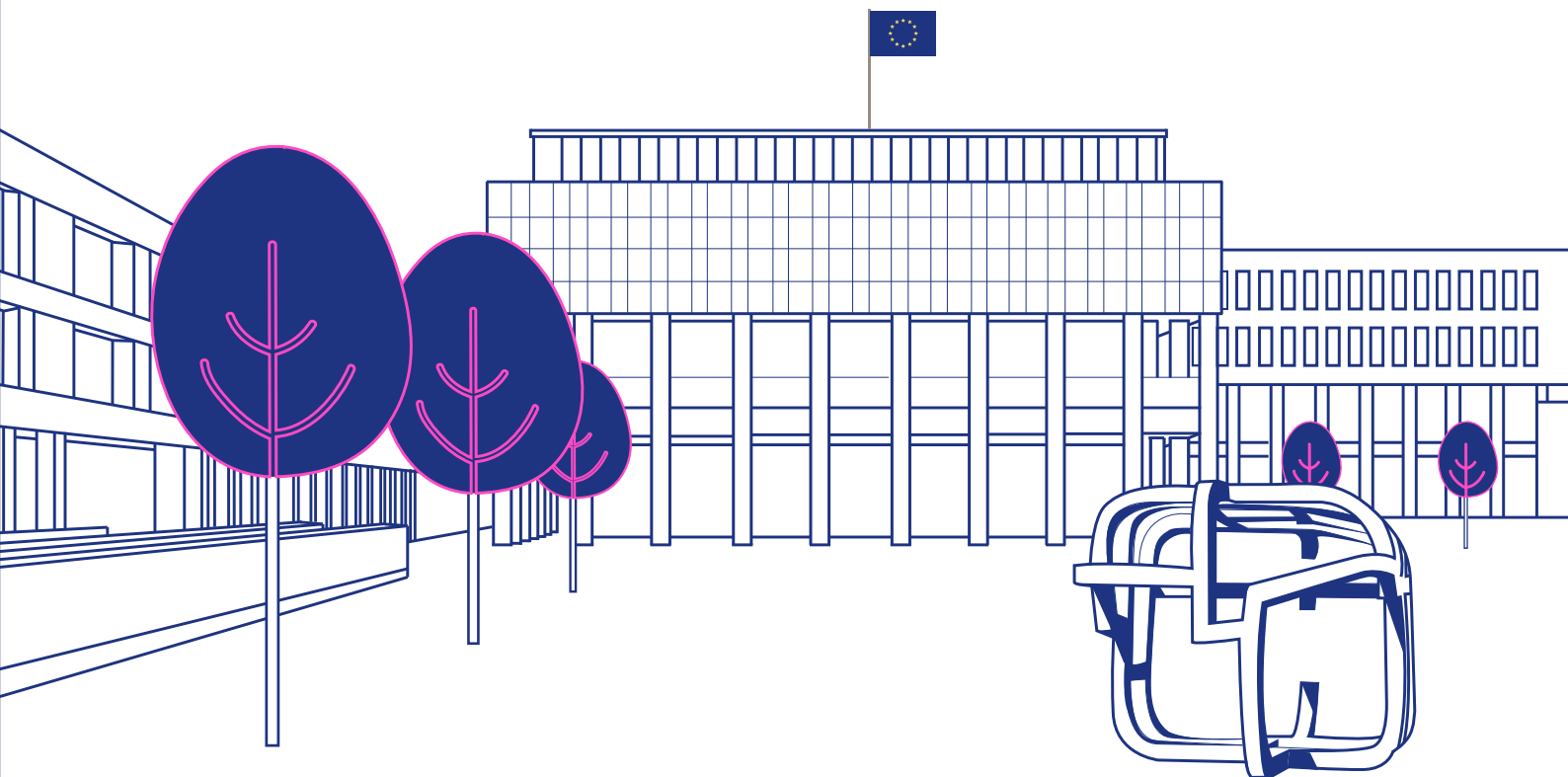


ANNUAL REPORT 2017

In 2017, ERA celebrated its **25th anniversary**. This annual report is the perfect opportunity to revisit this exceptional year.





ERA Annual Report 2017

The Academy of European Law (ERA) is a non-profit public foundation based in Trier, Germany, which is supported by the EU and whose patrons now include 27 EU Member States. In 2017 we celebrated our **25th anniversary**.

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.

This annual report gives an overview of 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. ☆

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President of the European
Commission

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Preface

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European
Commission

At the start of the Silver Jubilee Year for the Academy of European Law, I was invited to give a speech at your Anniversary Reception in Brussels. Now that the year has closed, I am pleased to again share a few words on the importance of your work. Indeed in this short time – compared to your 25 years – the rule of law has become an even more prominent topic, and has emphasised still further the importance of the Academy.

Right :
Jean-Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission

There is no better time to support the teaching and understanding of law. Because the rule of law is not a plaything of lawyers, but a fundamental pillar which all our citizens should be able to lean on, safe in the knowledge that it will not crumble or topple under the weight of political pressure.

I remember the creation of the Academy, when I was a member of the Luxembourgish Government which pushed for a European network to train professionals and provide a forum for debate and exchange on EU law. As the EU has grown and evolved that need has become ever greater. As our Member States have grown, the diversity of legal traditions has grown.

Just like all of the values that were fought for by our citizens and handed down to us by our founding fathers, we cannot take the rule of law for granted. That is true today more than it ever was. The European Union is, and must continue to be, a rules-based system and a *Rechtsgemeinschaft* – a Community of law – as the first Commission President Walter Hallstein called it.

My defence and passion for the law also means that I care about better laws and better regulation. My Commission is working hard to improve the existing EU acquis, reviewing its effectiveness, acting only when it is necessary and where a Member State cannot solve problems on its own. As well as good EU laws, we need good and consistent application of EU laws. That is where the work of the Academy is so important. Whether it be for judges, prosecutors, court staff, or even probation officers, we need effective cross-border training and mutual trust between national legal systems.

So let me thank you and congratulate you once again for the work you have done in the last quarter of a century to defend and promote European values. When I wrote the preface to the 2005 edition of the Annual Report of the Academy, I said that the healthy growth of the seeds sown in the early 1990s had not disappointed those who had been there when they were planted. To continue with this theme, let me say that we are pleased with the fruits of your work since then too, and that we look forward to their continued blossoming in the years ahead. ☆



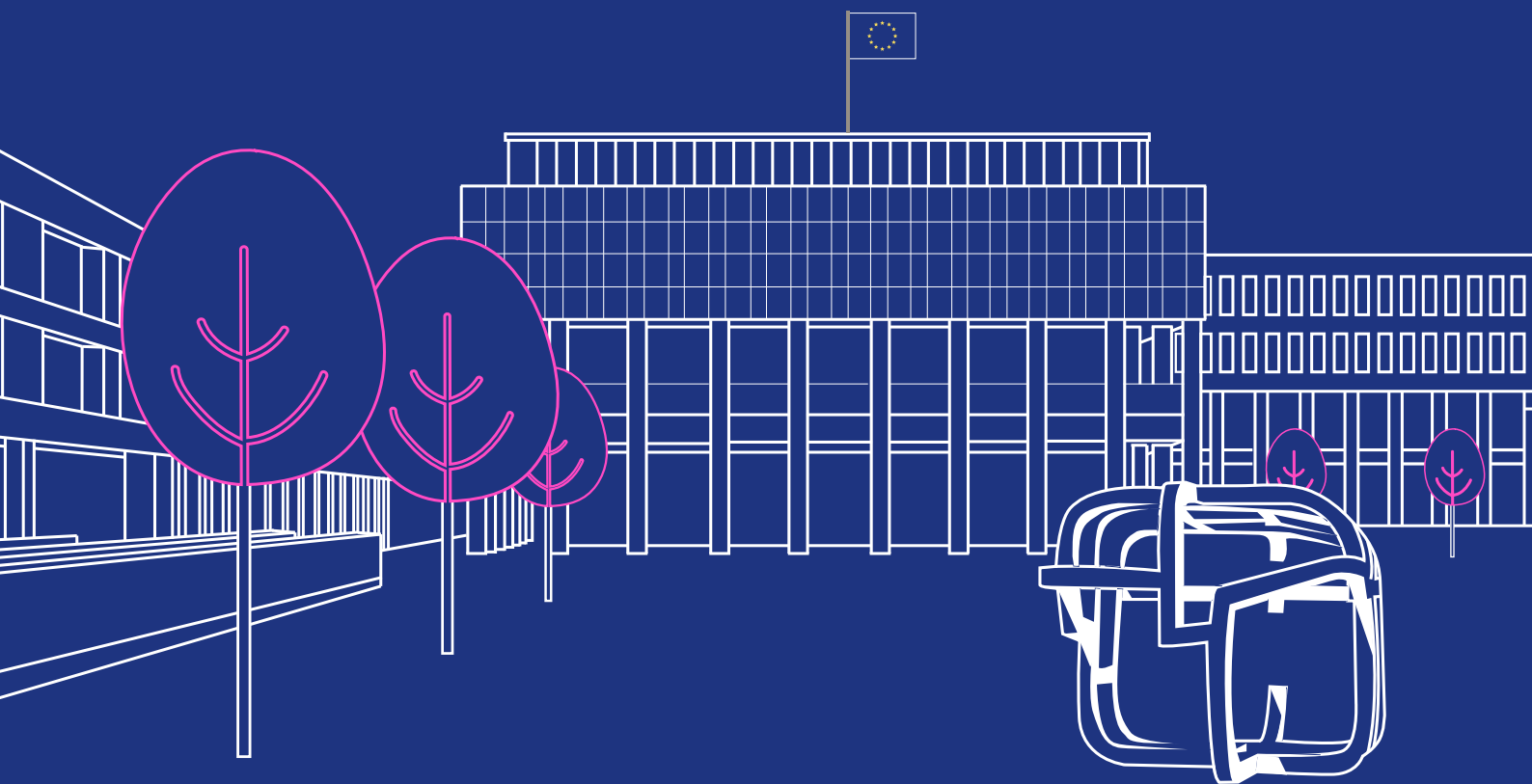
ERA

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


ERA



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Governing Board

President

JACQUES SANTER

Former President of the
European Commission, former
Prime Minister of Luxembourg

“ The highlight of the last year was without doubt the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Academy. 25 years of activities of ERA are a milestone in the development of European law in many fields. The challenge for ERA over those 25 years has been to maintain diversity and breadth in its dual role: promoting training and know-how in EU law, and fostering a competent forum for debate. This unique institution is a formidable instrument for the future Europeanisation and progressive harmonisation of domestic law. The work of the Academy will be just as necessary and important for the future when the European Union is confronted with huge and new challenges. ”



Executive Board

Chair

PAVEL SVOBODA MEP

Chairman of the Legal Affairs
Committee of the European
Parliament



Board of Trustees

Chair

PAULIINE KOSKELO

Judge at the European Court of
Human Rights

Interview

with the Director

1. ERA CELEBRATED AN IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY IN 2017.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN THE CRITICAL MOMENTS IN ERA'S DEVELOPMENT ?

You will not be surprised to hear that 25 years of development have taken ERA through quite a few critical moments from its very beginning. A first critical moment in the founding phase was the decision on whether the new institute should be set up as a Community agency or in a different legal form. While a series of European Parliament resolutions calling for the creation of the Academy suggested that the agency concept should work, the founders eventually went for the concept of an autonomous public foundation which had to use the legal form of the state of its seat, in this case Rhineland-Palatinate. The simple strategic reason was timing – the creation of ERA was closely linked to the completion of the Single Market in 1992, and going for the agency model would have meant a long wait for the decision on its seat: remember that in 1992, four candidate countries (Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden) were preparing for accession negotiations.

However, having chosen the Foundation model meant that ERA's European status and character were not obvious from the outset despite its European mission which the European Parliament resolutions had inspired. Among the founding patrons, there was just one Member State (Luxembourg) and the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. It took two years (until 1994) to get the Federal Republic of Germany on board, which seemed to give the institute a German hue so that winning other Member States as patrons became a critical element for ERA's development in the late nineties. Fortunately and one after the other, all Member States except Estonia could so far be persuaded of the added European value of becoming an ERA patron, some of them joining ERA even before acceding to the EU.

Other critical moments in ERA's development concern the stability of ERA's funding. As a not-for-profit foundation with a public mission, but lacking an adequate capital endowment, the institute depends largely on public – in the first instance EU – funding. Together with the College of Europe, the European University Institute and a few others, ERA has been designated as an "institution pursuing aims of general European interest" and recipient of an operating grant under the EU Jean Monnet programme from the outset. This means that every seven years when the EU is adopting a new Mid-term Financial Framework (MFF), the critical question is whether ERA will continue to be able to plan its programme activities on a reliable



Wolfgang Heusel,
Director of the Academy

As a not-for-profit foundation with a public mission, but lacking an adequate capital endowment, the institute depends largely on public – in the first instance EU – funding

financial basis. In the first decade of the century, ERA went through a period of rapid growth due to factors like enlargement and the proliferation of EU legislation in ever more fields, which for several years meant an annual increase of 1,000 participants in ERA events. In this phase of growing demand, ERA seized the opportunity to extend its conference centre by taking advantage of the closure of the former branch of the German central bank in a building next door. The critical element of the project was to secure its funding, which was eventually provided by ERA's patrons, in the first instance Germany. But new facilities require additional capacities to deliver stronger output, and to our delight also the European Commission decided in 2010 to increase the ERA grant to enable it to expand staff and activities in response to the growing demand.

Otherwise, as time goes by new opportunities and new threats may arise any time and create critical challenges for the institute. We are trying to anticipate these in our development strategy, which considers political and economic factors (e.g. growing Euroscepticism, effects of the digital revolution on business and the legal profession) and evolving learning and training habits. ☆



“The founders eventually went for the concept of an autonomous public foundation which had to use the legal form of the state of its seat, in this case Rhineland-Palatinate.”

The creation of ERA was closely linked to the completion of the Single Market in

1992

2. THERE WERE SEVERAL REMARKABLE EVENTS IN THE COURSE OF THE JUBILEE YEAR AND THEY ARE REPORTED UPON SEPARATELY IN THIS REPORT. FOR YOU PERSONALLY, WHAT WAS THE MOST SPECIAL MOMENT ?

The first jubilee event I consider remarkable was ERA's New Year reception on 19 January in Brussels, an event that attracted some 350 attendees. They were addressed by two former Prime Ministers of Luxembourg and presidents of the European Commission who both played a pivotal role in the creation of ERA: current Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker and Jacques Santer, Commission president from 1995 to 1999 and who since 2000 has been president of the ERA Foundation.

It was a special moment when Jean-Claude Juncker congratulated ERA on its silver jubilee, saying that the Academy had been invaluable in developing, understanding and applying European law across the Union, helping to ensure that European law is applied thoroughly, consistently and consequently across all Member States.

“Jean-Claude Juncker congratulated ERA on its silver jubilee, saying that the Academy had been invaluable in developing, understanding and applying European law across the Union”

The jubilee year was also marked by the launch of a long-term cooperation with the European Parliamentary Research Service under Anthony Teasdale, highlighting the privileged relationship with the European Parliament. The first joint event on 28 March 2017 commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty. Its most special moment was to listen to Sir David Edward and his comments on Brexit.

Other jubilee events brought further special moments, but for me the most intense of these were linked to our jubilee congress in October, which examined the current state of the authority of EU law from a number of angles. The proceedings of this congress will be published by Springer at the end of 2018.

I found the first congress session on Law-making and the role of courts particularly thrilling. It was introduced by two thought-provoking speeches by Professor Joseph Weiler (New York) and CJEU President Koen Lenaerts.

350

attendees at the
first jubilee event

Then a panel of eminent justices from the supreme jurisdictions of the EU and the Court of Justice (former Chief Justice of England and Wales Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the Vice President of the French Council of State Jean-Marc Sauvé, the Justice of the Danish Supreme Court Lars Hjortnæs and CJEU Advocate General Maciej Szpunar, moderated by Lord Tyre, Justice of the Supreme Courts of Scotland) exchanged in-depth views on matters such as the interpretation of EU law and the implementation of CJEU judgments by national Supreme Courts, the precedence of EU law over national constitutional law and ultra vires risks, national identity and the subsidiarity principle – an almost magical moment.

The congress also brought the culmination of an artistic adventure on which ERA embarked under the guidance of one of its Trustees, Professor Catherine Kessedjian from Paris. On her initiative, the exhibition “Art knows no frontiers” curated by Christian Noorbergen assembled 64 superb pieces of contemporary art made available by 31 artists from 31 European countries. The pieces exhibited at ERA were auctioned in the framework of the congress reception, the proceeds benefitting equally the artists and the ERA Jubilee Fund. This auction evening, celebrated in a splendidly illuminated ERA building, will remain unforgettable. ☆



Jacques Santer (left) and Jean-Claude Juncker (right) at ERA's jubilee reception in Brussels, January 2017



“Art knows no frontiers”

The exhibition “Art knows no frontiers” curated by Christian Noorbergen assembled 64 superb pieces of contemporary art made available by 31 artists from 31 European countries.



2017

60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome - 1957

25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty - 1992

3. AWAY FROM THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, BUSINESS AT ERA CONTINUED AS USUAL. HOW DID ERA RESPOND TO THE BIGGEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EU LAW, SUCH AS THE BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS, PREPARATIONS FOR THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION AND THE AFTERMATH OF THE MIGRANT CRISIS?

Brexit made its impact on ERA's programmes throughout 2017 (and will continue to do so in 2018), being looked at in the different fields of EU law covered by our respective conferences and seminars. When for example organising an annual conference on company law, it is obvious to include a slot on the effects of Brexit on companies and demonstrate that UK companies will cease to be recognised in many of the EU-27, unless otherwise provided for in the withdrawal agreement. In addition to these incidental analyses, ERA held a conference in Brussels in September 2017 which discussed the legal consequences of Brexit for the EU.

It examined the legal framework starting with the effects of the Article 50 notification and looked at specific divorce issues such as institutional consequences, the status of EU citizens having used their right of free movement, mutual financial claims and the resolution of disputes after Brexit. Much will depend on the withdrawal agreement for which less than a year is now available, but businesses and citizens have to prepare for different scenarios and ERA will highlight specific aspects of Brexit and the ongoing negotiations in the course of its 2018 programme.

Asylum law and related areas such as border management and legal immigration continued to be cornerstones of ERA's programme in 2017, and in particular the annual asylum law conference again attracted many more participants than anticipated as the EU asylum law reform is still far from being completed and the crisis seems to be suspended rather than solved.

Unsurprisingly, the imminent entry into force of the GDPR has also led to a strong increase in training demand which is also reflected in the 2017 turnout at ERA's annual conference and its summer course on data protection, the latter attracting a record number of 88 participants. Both topics will also be covered by a number of events in 2018. ☆



There are three main sources funding ERA's activities: an operating grant from the EU, an operating grant from the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate where ERA has its seat, and income raised from ERA's activities.

4. ERA RELIES ON DIFFERENT SOURCES OF INCOME TO FUND ITS ACTIVITIES. HOW DO THESE DIFFERENT SOURCES **IMPACT** ON YOUR WORK?



Joint meeting of ERA's Governing Board and Board of Trustees, October 2017

There are three main sources funding ERA's activities: an operating grant from the EU, a – smaller – operating grant from the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate where ERA has its seat, and income raised from ERA's activities. The latter consists of registration fees for what we call "open events", but also of project grants especially in the area of judicial training and of income resulting from contracted activities such as in-house training for private companies or public authorities.

As the income from programme activities relates to the attractiveness of the programmes conceived and the response of the markets approached, their success is in the experienced hands of ERA's programme and corporate communications departments and their impact on my work is limited. My involvement is much stronger when it comes to securing the operating grants from the EU and state budgets.



Wolfgang Heusel, Director of the Academy and Koen Geens, Minister of Justice of Belgium

As stated above, the EU grant relies on the funding programme designating ERA, alongside other institutions pursuing an aim of European interest, as the recipient of such a grant, meaning that every time the EU prepares its new MFF there is a need to make the EU legislator aware of what is at stake.

“My involvement is much stronger when it comes to securing the operating grants from the EU and state budgets.”

The same is true for the financial support ERA receives from the Land, which since 2003 is determined by an agreement concluded with the Minister of Finance and which has to be renewed every five to seven years. The larger part of this state grant is earmarked to service a loan through which the Land has financed its share in the construction costs of ERA's Trier conference centre and which will be repaid in 2019.

A source which ERA has so far only used occasionally, notably to feed its Jubilee Fund and activities such as its scholarship programme, is raising funds from private donors. In 2017, the art exhibition and auction mentioned above was a major fundraising activity in which I was strongly involved, by keeping touch with the curator and some of the artists, editing the catalogue (also translating it into German as my private entertainment), recruiting a professional auctioneer and promoting the auction as best I could.

Given that the proceeds of this wonderful experiment remained modest (yet appreciable), it remains to be seen to what extent we will be able to raise funds also for larger innovative projects which cannot be funded in the framework of ERA's usual budget. ☆



Belgium joins the Academy of European Law

On 6 September 2017, Koen Geens, Minister of Justice of Belgium, and Dr Wolfgang Heusel, Director of ERA, signed the formal agreement on Belgium's accession to ERA. The ceremony took place in the Ministry of Justice in Brussels. Belgium is the 27th EU Member State to become a patron of the Academy of European Law (ERA) Foundation. Estonia is the only Member State that has not yet acceded to the ERA Foundation.

My ambition: conceiving ERA's next development strategy, securing its funding for the next financial period and hoping to lay grounds for another 25 years of successful work.

5. TURNING BACK TO THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR, WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION FOR ERA'S NEXT 25 YEARS?

My general ambition for ERA's next 25 years is that it will still be a thriving actor in the field of European law, responding to the challenges of the time, characterised by the top quality of its services, interconnected with EU institutions, Member States and relevant stakeholders, recognised by the legal community as the leading training provider and networking place for lawyers in Europe. However, given that I will turn 63 this summer, my personal impact on ERA's next 25 years will be limited.

I will certainly contribute to conceiving ERA's next development strategy, to securing its funding for the next financial period and I hope to lay grounds for another 25 years of successful work.

And in due course, my personal ambition for ERA will be to put into effect a seamless and gentle handover at its top. ☆



Working group at ERA's Board of Trustees meeting, October 2017

6. AND FINALLY, IF YOU COULD TURN THE CLOCK BACK 25 YEARS, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY?

Assuming that this question refers less to me personally than to ERA as such, I do not see anything major or significant that we would or should have done differently in the last 25 years. But mistakes are made wherever people work and there is always room for improvement.

Something that I would definitely do differently today refers to the Institute for European Traffic Law (IETL), an association which in a way was an offspring of ERA that has since gone its own way. IETL emerged from a series of major European traffic law events first organised alone by ERA in 2000-2002 upon the initiative of a leading member of ERA's Board of Trustees and former MEP. However, instead of installing ERA as the permanent organiser of these annual conferences, we accepted that after its foundation in 2003 the association took them over and it has continued them under its own label.

“We value very highly the autonomy which as a non-profit foundation we enjoy in all our programme planning and implementation.”

More importantly, a course that should perhaps have been set differently during the founding stages was the decision not to seek the status of an EU agency from the outset. While it would certainly have taken longer for ERA to have formally been set up, there would not have been any further need to get the Member States on board or to apply for operating or project grants, as the institute's budget would be part of the general EU budget. On the other hand, we value very highly the autonomy which as a non-profit foundation we enjoy in all our programme planning and implementation, and it is not at all guaranteed that such a statutory autonomy would have been granted by an agency status. So I think that after all we should be content with the current setup. ☆

ERA Congress 2017

25th Anniversary



-
1. Maria José Rangel de Mesquita
Judge, Portuguese Constitutional Court
 2. Wolfgang Heusel
Director
 3. Christian Noorbergen and Catherine Kessedjian
Curator and conceiver of the exhibition "Art knows no frontiers"
 4. Sophie In 't Veld MEP
 5. Hans-Jürgen Hellwig
former President of CCBE
 6. Herbert Martin
Minister of Justice, Rhineland-Palatinate
 7. Yves Kreins
First President, Belgian Council of State
-



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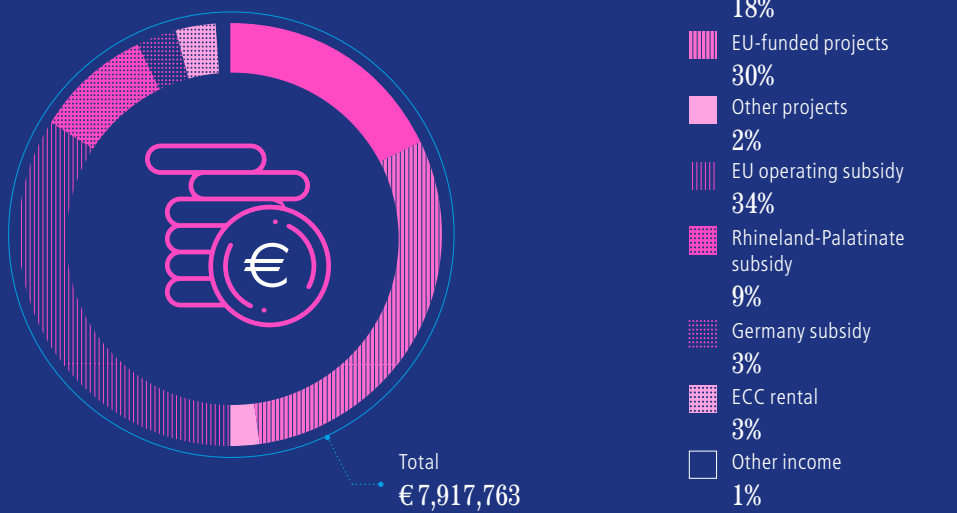
1. Maciej Szpunar
Advocate General, CJEU
2. Wiebe de Vries
President of AIJA
Katarina Barley
Minister of Family and Social Affairs, Germany
and Wolfgang Heusel
3. Joint meeting of ERA's
Governing Board and Board
of Trustees
4. Jean-Marc Sauvé
*Vice-President, French
Council of State*
5. Joseph H.H. Weiler
*Professor, NYU School
of Law*
and Koen Lenaerts
President, CJEU
6. Paul P. Craig
*Professor, University
of Oxford*
7. Pauliine Koskelo
Chair, ERA Board of Trustees
8. Federico Fabbrini
*Professor, Dublin City
University*
and Peter-Christian
Müller-Graff
*Professor, University
of Heidelberg*
9. Jettie Van Caenegem
*Chair, Friends of ERA
Association*
10. Pavel Telička
*Vice-President,
European Parliament*
11. "Art knows no frontiers"
exhibition
12. Diana Wallis
*former President, European
Law Institute*
13. Jacques Santer
*President, ERA Governing
Board*
14. Catherine Kessedjian
*Emeritus Professor,
University of Paris II
Panthéon-Assas*
15. ERA illuminated
16. Koen Lenaerts
President, CJEU

ERA

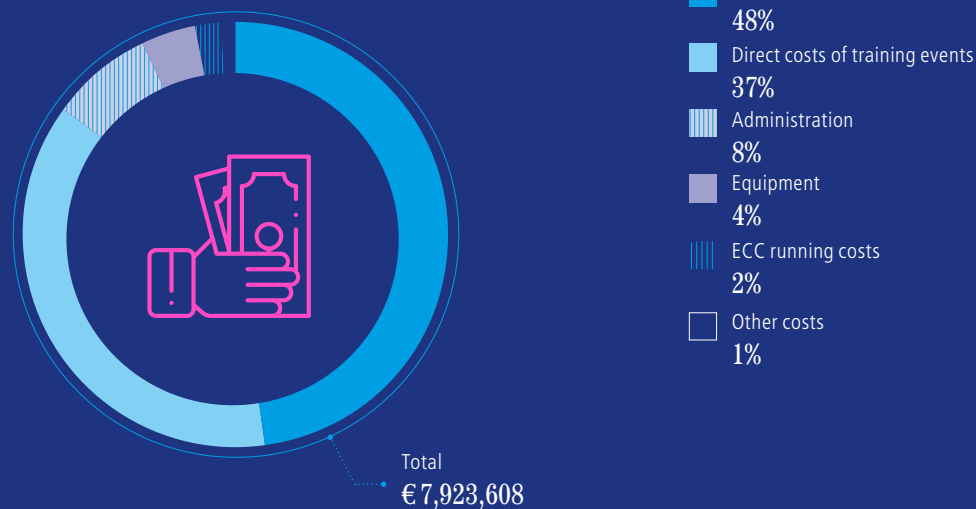
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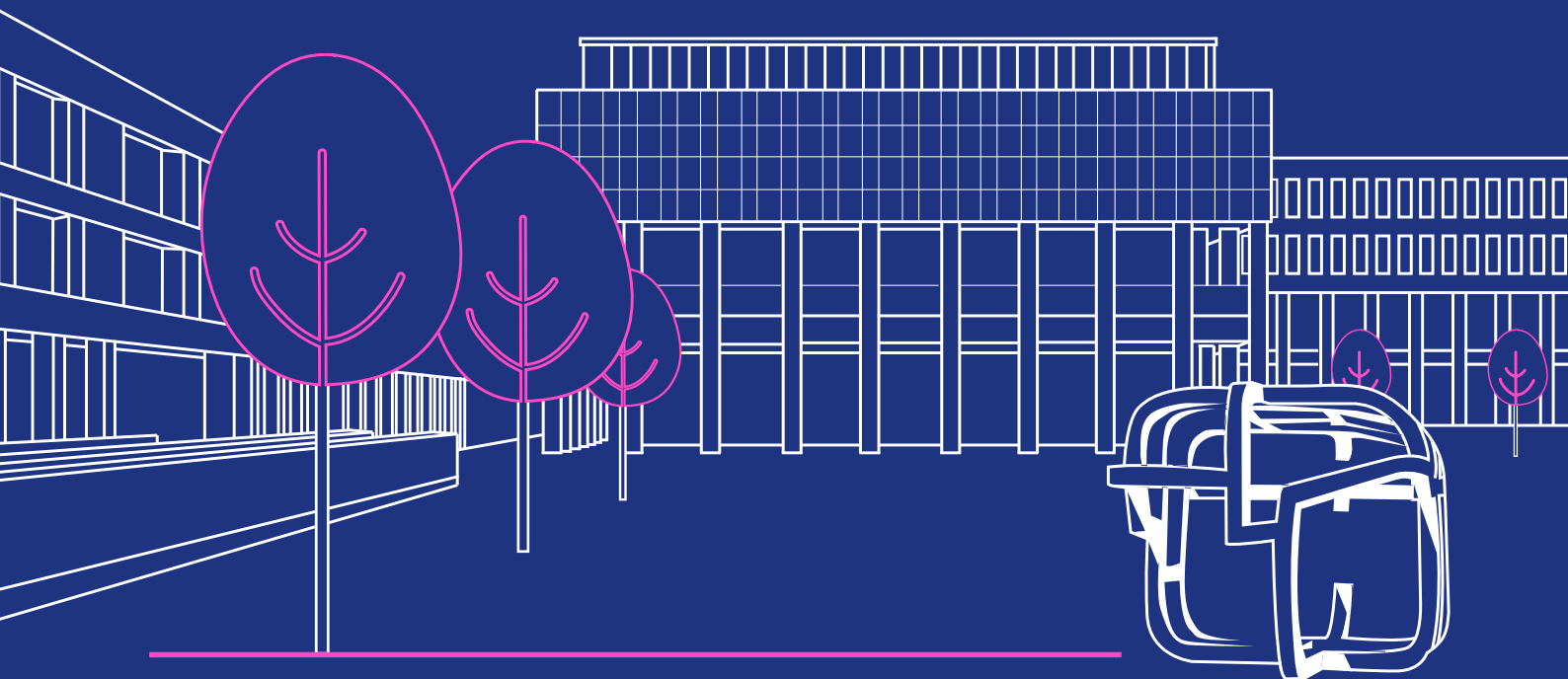
Operating income and expenditure (2017)

Income 2017

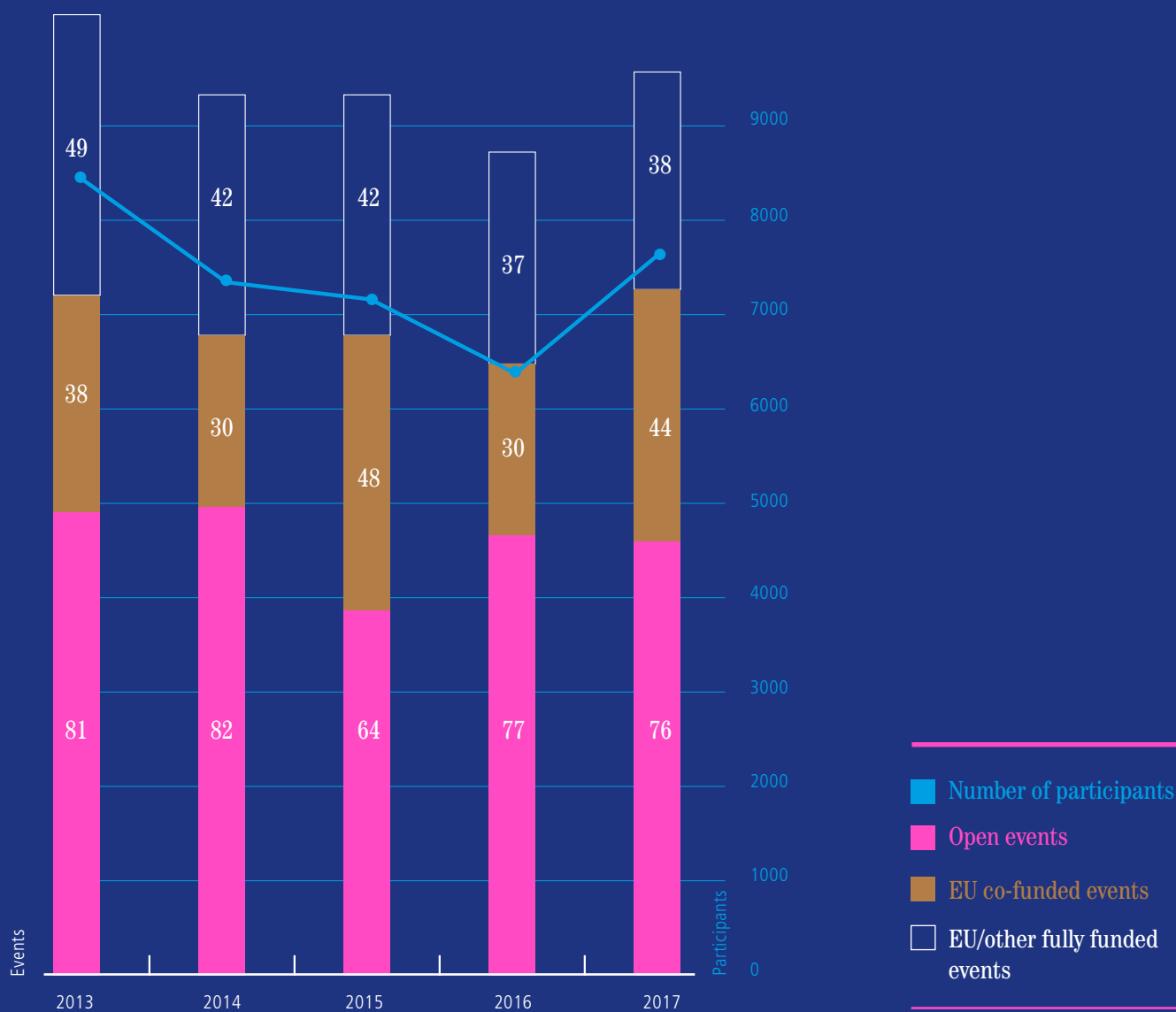


Expenditure 2017

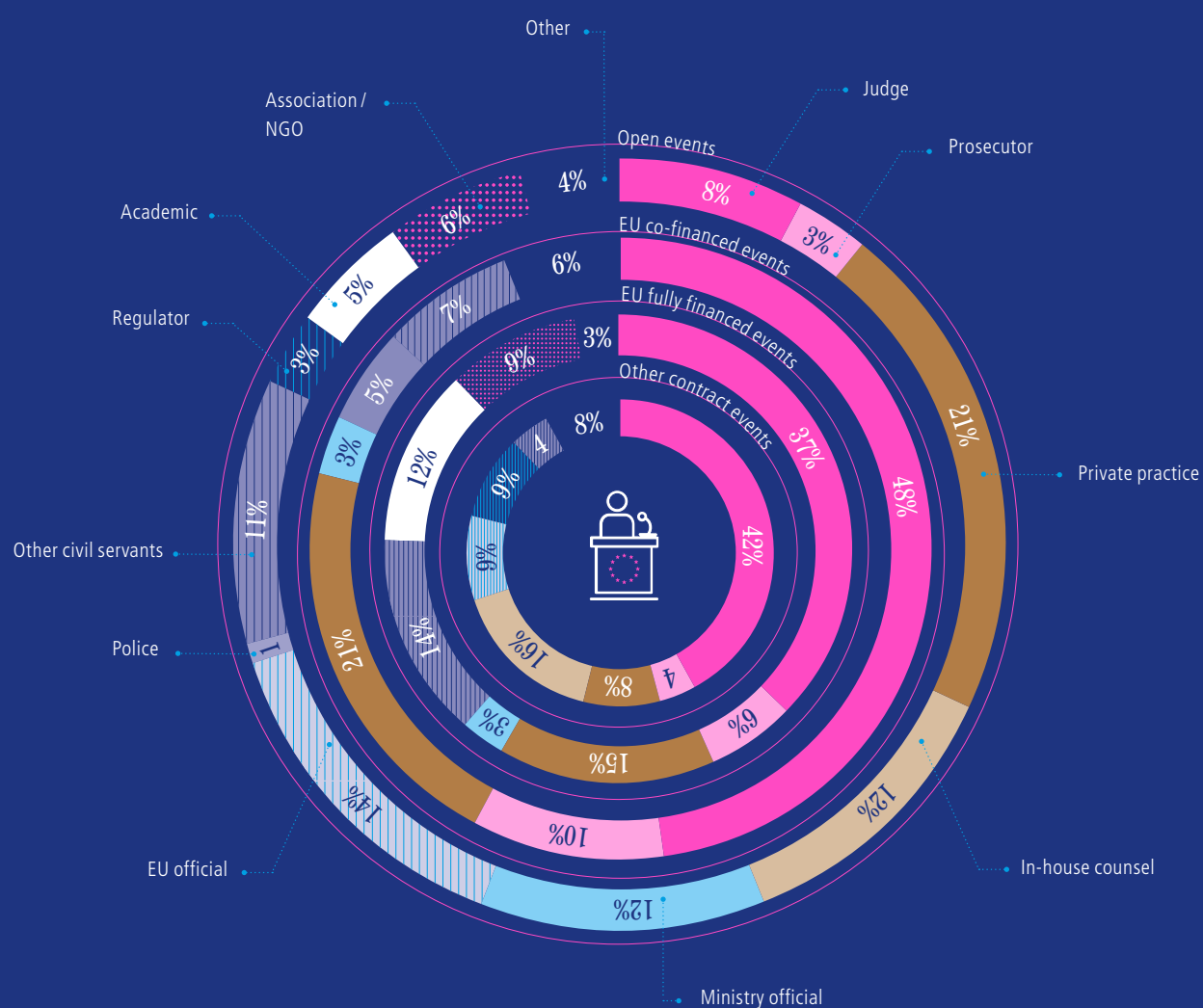




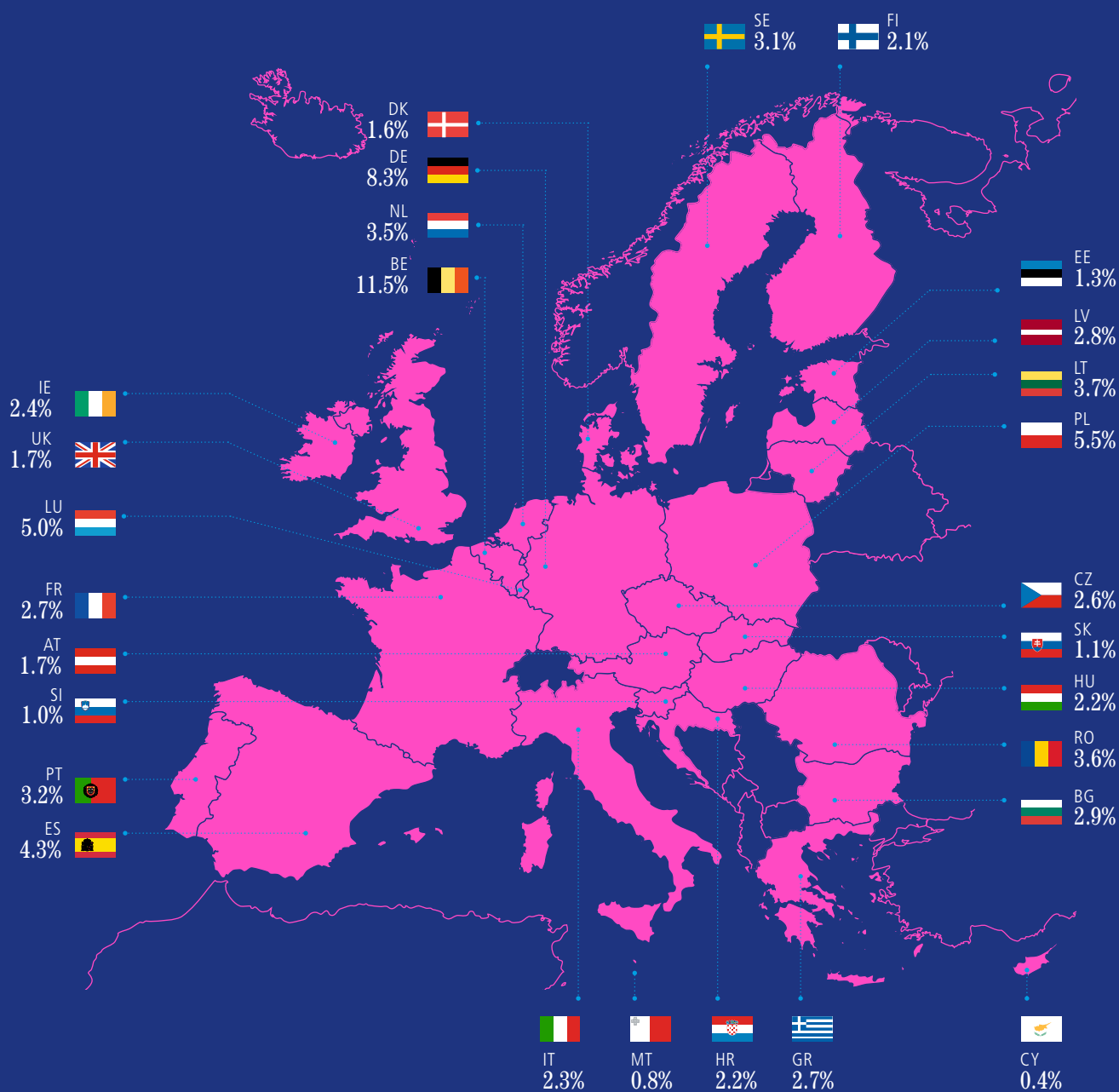
Face-to-face events and participants



Profession of participants (2017)



Country of residence of participants (2017)



7.7%

2.7%

0.9%

0.9%

EU Officials

EEA countries

**Candidate
countries**

**Other
countries**

Conferences and legal policy debate

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 has been a key element of our strategy.

“ERA regularly welcomes judges from the Court of Justice of the EU or the European Court of Human Rights, as well as high-ranking EU officials, as speakers”

Evidence of these programme developments can be seen in the range of annual conferences, where the main aim is to cover the most recent developments in a specific area of EU law. In 2017 this successful formula covered, inter alia, border management, company law, copyright law, countering terrorism, criminal justice, environmental law, financial supervision, food law, insurance law, media law, migration law, patent law, pharmaceutical law, trade marks and designs.

These highly technical events, aimed at specialists who wish to keep up-to-date in a specific field, can gather each year a high number of legal practitioners from all over Europe. This was once again the case in 2017 with the annual conference on labour law with 94 delegates from 23 countries and the annual conference on social security law with 84 practitioners from 14 countries. Additionally, the annual conferences on asylum law, consumer law, data protection law, family law, public procurement, State aid law, and VAT law gathered more than 60 practitioners each. For these events, ERA regularly welcomes judges from the Court of Justice of the EU or the European Court of Human Rights, as well as high-ranking EU officials, as speakers. ☆



EVENTS ON VERY SPECIFIC TOPICS

Complementary to its annual conferences, ERA offers ad hoc events on very specific topics. For example, 2017 saw ERA dealing with the two EU Regulations covering civil-law aspects of matrimonial property regimes and the property consequences of registered partnerships, which had been adopted the year before on the basis of enhanced cooperation. By means of presentations of different scenarios, case studies and an interactive workshop, the event provided an in-depth analysis of EU Regulation 2016/1103 on matrimonial property regimes and EU Regulation 2016/1104 on property consequences of registered partnerships, and illustrated their interplay with the EU Succession Regulation (650/2012). This conference, which was attended by some 70 (mainly) lawyers in private practice and notaries from 19 countries led to a very fruitful exchange of information and lively discussions.

Another technical event held in Brussels aimed to discuss current issues at the crossroads of EU State aid and national tax policy. It focused on the application of the so-called arm's length principle in the EU and on the impact of recent Commission decisions and judgments of the CJEU.

2017 saw ERA continuing its work in the field of banking and financial services law, for example by offering legal practitioners in capital markets an in-depth introduction to the new regulatory regime put in place by MiFID II to be applied from 3 January 2018. This event focussed on how the existing framework can be adjusted to suit MiFID II, the changes in the bank-client relationship and the pre- and post-trade transparency requirements. The German Bundesbank Mainz generously sponsored the participation of some legal practitioners at this event. The latest developments in the Capital Markets Union (CMU) and investor protection in the EU were also dealt with in the framework of specific events. In the same vein, a seminar gathering some 65 practitioners – mainly lawyers in private practice and compliance officers – from 17 countries, explained the current European anti-money laundering landscape and focussed on the challenges and changes arising from the transposition of the fourth Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Directive as well as the novelties brought by the upcoming fifth Directive.

In the field of criminal justice, a conference organised in Trier presented the current European framework for the freezing, confiscation and recovery of assets, focusing on the changes being implemented since the adoption of Directive 2014/42/EU, including the latest proposal for a regulation on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders. Another event worth mentioning was a seminar on "Access to Documents in the EU". This gathered participants dealing with both sides of the process: asking for access to EU documents and deciding whether or not to give access to those documents. This event was an example of ERA's mission to





provide a real forum for debate, with long discussion sessions to enable participants to exchange views with their “opponents” (for some the first time face-to-face) and to understand each other’s positions: what might be the reasons to refuse access to certain documents, how to deal with a massive number of requests with limited human resources, how to combine transparency and strict legal provisions etc. The participants had a chance not only to learn about the approach of the four main EU institutions but also to discuss a concrete case during a workshop.

“An example of ERA’s mission to provide a real forum for debate, with long discussion sessions to enable participants to exchange views with their “opponents” and to understand each other’s positions.”

Further such events in 2017 dealt with the “Detection and Investigation of Cybercrime Incidents in Financial Institutions”, the “European Commission’s European Pillar of Social Rights Package”, and “Environmental Impact Assessment in the EU”.

Several conferences were implemented in cooperation with renowned partners, such as a timely environmental law event in spring 2017, organised in cooperation with the French Conseil d’Etat at the Palais Royal in Paris and which was opened by Vice-President Jean-Marc Sauvé. The aim of this conference was to share insights and develop discussion about fundamental environmental rights and their enforcement at European and national levels taking as an example the right to clean air. In June 2017, another prestigious conference, organised in cooperation with the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London, dealt with electronic evidence.

It aimed to share advanced knowledge and promote the exchange of experience and best practice between judges, prosecutors and lawyers in private practice who deal with criminal proceedings involving e-evidence. Also in June, ERA joined forces with INSOL Europe Academic Forum for the organisation of a conference on Insolvency Proceedings in the EU, covering the recast Insolvency Regulation 2015/848 which became applicable on 26 June 2017 and the recent Commission proposal for a Directive on insolvency, restructuring and second chance. Last but not least, ERA contributed to an EU project implemented by the European Law Institute (ELI) entitled “Empowering European Families – towards more party autonomy in European family and succession law”, which aimed to support professionals who give legal advice to international couples. ☆



Several conferences were implemented in cooperation with renowned partners, such as the French Conseil d’Etat at the Palais Royal in Paris and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London.

A PLATFORM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LEGAL POLICY



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

For example, in November 2017 ERA hosted a conference on contracts for the supply of digital content, which brought together representatives of the European Parliament, the Estonian Presidency and the European Commission. This Brussels event took place at exactly the right time as the long-awaited vote of the Parliament's Internal Market and Legal Affairs committees occurred on the eve of the conference. Evelyne Gebhardt MEP, co-rapporteur, explained that the overall objectives were a high level of consumer protection and to anticipate rules on a European scale in order to prevent deviating national legislation. The question of which rules should apply to embedded digital content was addressed by Karin Sein, a member of the Estonian EU Presidency Team. Before analysing the new proposal in detail, Dirk Staudenmayer from the European Commission reminded participants of past developments in European contract law and praised the valuable contributions of ERA in this field over the last 20 years. The auspicious list of speakers included well-known academics, stakeholders such as BEUC and EDPS, and representatives of Facebook and Microsoft. Throughout the day, the conference was characterised by lively debate among the 50 participants, consisting of EU and ministry officials, lawyers practising in the field of e-commerce, in-house counsel, and representatives of consumer and business organisations.

With the Article 50 TEU notification on 29 March 2017 of the UK's intention to withdraw from membership of the EU, the process of Brexit began at EU level. ERA responded to that challenge by organising a conference on "Brexit and its legal consequences for the European Union" at the end of September 2017. The timing was selected on purpose: at that time the main areas of the first round of negotiations were chosen and partly discussed, namely the question of the Irish border, the free movement of persons, financial obligations and the role of the Court of Justice of the EU. All these topics were part of the conference programme, as well as other "divorce issues". ERA reached over 110 participants who expressed their comments and concerns from the EU institutions' and Member States' points of view. ERA will closely follow the state of play of the Brexit negotiations in 2018 by organising a series of one-day events in Brussels on the main legal issues at stake. ☆

Practical training courses and workshops

LEGAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

In terms of practical training ERA has considerably intensified its programme over the last 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 non-specialists. Major efforts are made to ensure these courses are always top-quality: all of them include case studies, practical workshops and role-playing to allow participants to put into instant practice the knowledge they acquire. All courses provide the opportunity to attend a hearing at the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

“Besides its traditional summer courses, ERA offered one more comprehensive introductory course in 2017 on social security law.”

Besides summer courses on competition law, criminal justice, data protection, environmental law, institutional law, intellectual property law, labour law, mediation and ADR, public procurement law, tax law, trade law, and on the regulation and supervision of financial markets, ERA offered one more comprehensive introductory course in 2017 on social security law. In terms of attendance the course on data protection law was particularly successful and gathered 88 participants from 24 countries. All in all, 441 practitioners participated in these courses in 2017, an increase of 11% compared to the year before. ☆



LARGE-SCALE TRAINING PROJECTS

The development of long-running large-scale training projects has become a very efficient means for ERA to achieve its mission of better promotion and dissemination of EU law among legal practitioners across Europe. These ambitious projects, which aim at broad geographical and professional coverage, usually share common features: (i) they are 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 of 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 subsites 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 examples of such projects in the ERA programme are two long-running training programmes on “EU Anti-discrimination Law” and “EU Gender Equality Law”. These projects, with twelve seminars per year bringing together some 600 judges, legal practitioners and academics from all EU Member States, have been implemented on behalf of and in cooperation with the European Commission under the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020”. Most seminars aimed at judges were held outside Trier in 2017: two training events on EU anti-discrimination law were implemented in Zagreb and Lisbon in cooperation with the Croatian Judicial Academy and the Portuguese Centre for Judicial Studies respectively, while two seminars on EU gender equality law were implemented in Cracow with the Polish National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution and in Florence with the Italian School for the Judiciary. In order to make the information provided at the seminars available to an even wider audience, an extensive online documentation (including presentations, an e-learning course, e-presentations, etc.) of the two series can be accessed for free on special ERA subsites. This documentation was extended and updated extensively in 2017. Since the beginning of ERA’s cooperation with the European Commission in the framework of the two series, the first of which has run since 2003, ERA has contributed to the training of some 6,000 legal professionals – more than half of whom were members of the judiciary – in the field of EU equality law.

In the same vein, 2017 saw ERA continuing a project dealing with continuous training on “EU Disability Law and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. This Convention, as the first human rights treaty the EU has ratified, is an important tool in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. It seeks to elaborate and clarify existing obligations setting out legal standards





on disability rights, it changes and affirms the status of persons with disabilities in human rights law and it strengthens the EU legislation on disability issues advanced via the European Disability Strategy. Six training seminars were organised by ERA in cooperation with the European Disability Forum and the European Foundation Centre in 2017. The training aimed at exploring and understanding the Convention and EU disability law and through active learning provided a foundation for participants to be able to address specific topics on disability law. More than 200 legal professionals, including lawyers, members of the judiciary and policy practitioners, were trained face-to-face. Moreover, one seminar was organised in Prague in cooperation with the Czech Judicial Academy and another seminar was live-streamed, allowing for the remote participation of more than 100 persons in the training seminar.

“Among the most prominent examples of such projects in the ERA programme are two long-running training programmes on “EU Anti-discrimination Law” and “EU Gender Equality Law” ”

A similar large-scale approach has been chosen for other specific legal topics with long-running multilingual series of events throughout Europe over the last years, for example on detention law, the fight against cybercrime, e-evidence, procedural safeguards in the EU, the fight against terrorism and prevention of radicalisation in prisons. Another example is the numerous EU training projects ERA has implemented on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights since the latter has become a legally binding instrument. A project entitled “How to apply the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Focus on Union citizens’ rights” consisting of five seminars across Europe was almost entirely implemented in 2017 – with one event left in February 2018. The training events raised the awareness of the application of the EU Charter and its EU citizens’ rights and strengthened the shared culture of fundamental rights within the EU. For the implementation of this project ERA cooperated with the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy, the Spanish Judicial School, the Polish Bar Foundation, the German Federal Ministry of Justice, the Honourable Society of King’s Inns and EJT. A total of 186 legal professionals (including lawyers, judges, prosecutors and other judicial staff) from 26 EU Member States attended the seminars.

Regional training projects also fall under this category. For example, ERA concluded in 2017 its third regional project specifically designed for the Visegrad countries. The objective of this project was to organise an interregional series of four seminars on the EU civil justice instruments in cooperation with and at the premises of the judicial training institutes of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The countries were chosen due to their geographical and economic proximity, making the need to develop and strengthen cross-border cooperation between judges from these countries especially important. ☆



Regional training projects also fall under this category. For example, ERA concluded in 2017 its third regional project specifically designed for the Visegrad countries.

Workshops provide in-depth analysis of key concepts of European antitrust law and focus on the latest trends in CJEU case law, legislative developments and European Commission practice.

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 continued in 2017 the format of advanced half-day EU competition law workshops in Brussels, which had been launched four years before. These workshops aim to provide in-depth analysis of key concepts of European antitrust law and focus on the latest trends in CJEU case law, legislative developments and European Commission practice. Two such workshops were organised in 2017 on “Dawn Raids and Requests for Information in Competition Cases: Recent Trends” and “Anticompetitive Practices in the Online World: Hot Issues”. Both workshops were also live-streamed.

In addition to these seminars, which targeted specialised lawyers in private practice, in-house counsel and national competition authority representatives, ERA continued its longstanding work for the judiciary in this area and was awarded EU funds for two important training projects which started in 2017. The first project consists of a series of four one-and-a-half day seminars focusing on underlying economic principles of competition law. Each seminar aims at equipping judges who deal with competition law cases with the tools to understand economic principles and notions, conduct complex economic assessments and handle economic evidence and experts. This project was designed in close cooperation with senior judges, consultants in competition economics, and leading academics, in particular from the Toulouse School of Economics. For the implementation of this innovative project – of which two out of four events took place in 2017 in Lisbon and Thessaloniki, ERA has been able to secure the partnership of judicial training bodies from 18 Member States. In total the project aims to reach 160 judges from across the EU.

The second training project involved the development of an interactive online training course to offer national judges comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge of current substantive and procedural issues concerning European State aid rules and their implementation. The first module of the course was launched in late 2017 and will be followed by four more at the beginning of 2018. The course, which is available in English, French and German, has been conceived as a package that can be installed on the e-learning platforms/websites of national judicial training institutions and/or court administrations. It aims to reach c. 300 judges from all over Europe. In the field of State aid law, ERA also offered practical training in Brussels on procedural issues for practitioners involved in State aid cases as well as its Annual Conference, which in 2017 edition gathered some 60 participants. ☆



TAILOR-MADE TRAINING FOR LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

Lawyers in private practice belong to ERA's principal target groups for training and professional exchange. Large parts of ERA's open programme are of relevance for them – if not exclusively. Events of particular importance for private practitioners in 2017 included the "Annual Conference on European Family Law", the "Annual Conference on VAT Law", the "Annual Conference on Company Law and Corporate Governance", and "Intellectual Property Enforcement and the Fight against Counterfeit Goods in the EU". Of great relevance for lawyers in private practice 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. Three such training events were implemented in Strasbourg in 2017 and covered the Court's case law on freedom of expression, on access to justice, and on asylum matters. The latter gathered some 80 participants from 25 countries. Finally, lawyers in private practice regularly take part in the numerous "Legal English" courses ERA offers in Brussels and Trier each year.

Large parts of ERA's programmes co-financed or fully-financed by the EU are also targeted at lawyers in private practice. In 2017, ERA concluded a series of five tailor-made seminars for practising lawyers in English and French on practical aspects of litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union. Each seminar contained one day of sessions in Trier at ERA's premises followed by a visit to the Court and attendance at a hearing. The aim of the project was to improve lawyers' knowledge of the proceedings before the Court and therefore contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law. It also rendered the lawyers more knowledgeable and self-confident in the area of EU law and thus more effective in their submissions to the Court, which helps to guarantee real access to justice. All in all some 130 lawyers took part in these seminars. For this project, ERA cooperated with the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF), as well as the Spanish National Bar, the Athens Bar Association, the National Council of Legal Advisers from Poland, the Bar Council of Ireland, the Law Society of Ireland, the Finnish Bar Association, the Haute École des Avocats Conseil, the École Régionale des Avocats du Grand Est and the Délégation des Barreaux de France in Brussels. The high interest raised by this series of events led ERA and ELF to prepare jointly a follow-up project proposal for EU funding which was awarded a grant so that further training of this type will be offered in 2018.

Another form of training implemented by ERA and targeted at the practical needs of lawyers in private practice is short courses related to specific EU law topics – such as corporate tax, VAT, cross-border insolvency proceedings, public procurement – in different European cities in cooperation with local bar associations. In doing so, 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



The aim of the project was to improve lawyers' knowledge of the proceedings before the Court and therefore contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law.

both the contents and the expert speakers. In 2017, ERA organised such a joint seminar on the Brussels IIa Regulation in Helsinki with the Finnish Bar Association. It also organised a basic training course on EU anti-discrimination law with the Polish Bar Foundation (Fundacja Adwokatury Polskiej) in Warsaw at the premises of the Regional Circuit of the Polish Bar.

Besides its cooperation with bars, ERA works frequently with associations or networks of individual lawyers or law firms. In 2017 it organised its fifth annual joint seminar in Brussels with the European Employment Lawyers Association (EELA). A long cooperation also exists with the Norwegian Center for Continuing Legal Education (Juristenes Utdanningscenter, JUS), founded by the Norwegian Bar Association and the Norwegian Association of Lawyers, with whom ERA cooperated for the 14th time in 2017 with an event in Brussels devoted to EU/EEA labour law and addressed to 40 Norwegian lawyers.

It is often crucial for lawyers in private practice that their participation in one of ERA's training events meets the compulsory professional development (CPD) requirements that have been introduced by many national bars and law societies. ERA makes every effort to ensure that participation by lawyers from all over Europe in its events is recognised under the various national schemes. Despite the diversity of regulations, attending a two-day ERA event meets the annual CPD requirements in most jurisdictions.



Conferences of particular importance for private practitioners in 2017

- Annual Conference on European Family Law
- Annual Conference on VAT Law
- Annual Conference on Company Law and Corporate Governance
- Intellectual Property Enforcement and the Fight against Counterfeit Goods in the EU



ERA cooperated with the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF), as well as the Spanish National Bar, the Athens Bar Association, the National Council of Legal Advisers from Poland, the Bar Council of Ireland, the Law Society of Ireland, the Finnish Bar Association, the Haute École des Avocats Conseil, the École Régionale des Avocats du Grand Est and the Délégation des Barreaux de France in Brussels



Training requests from private and public actors at national and EU levels represent an important part of ERA's activities. ERA is particularly valued for its training expertise, its network of experts, and its ability to deal with complex and very specific training requests. For example, and for the third year in a row, the Centre de Formation de la Juridiction Administrative (CFJA), part of the French Council of State, asked ERA both to devise a tailor-made e-learning course on the application of EU law at national level and to organise a one-day seminar in Paris on procedural issues for a group of 70 future administrative judges as part of their initial training. 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, as well as two seminars for Swedish judges in Trier entitled "The national judge as the first judge of EU law" on behalf of Sweden's Domstolsakademin.

“ERA is particularly valued for its training expertise, its network of experts, and its ability to deal with complex and very specific training requests.”

In addition, ERA was commissioned by the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Agency (HANFA) to organise two training events for their staff, on the MAD II regime and on the implications of the MiFID II respectively. The events were intended to provide instruction in how to comply with MAD II and MiFID II from a supervisory point of view. Last but not least, the Association of Latvian Commercial Banks entrusted ERA with the conception and organisation of a one day hands-on seminar on MiFID II for over 100 lawyers from all major banks in Latvia and the Baltic region.★

Would you recommend ERA events to colleagues?



■ Yes (98.7%)

■ No (1.3%)

Development of training materials

In addition to implementing training programmes itself, ERA has in the last five 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 FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DG ENVIRONMENT

In 2017 ERA was awarded another four-year service contract to continue a major project on behalf of the European Commission's DG Environment entitled "Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of EU Environmental Law", which aims to develop training modules on various topics of EU environmental law as well as to organise workshops for judges.

This project, which ERA has been in charge of since December 2013, has led to the development of comprehensive standardised training materials which promote interrogative and participative learning methods and are easily reusable. The entire training packages are accessible online (www.era.int/judges&environmental_law) by any party or institution interested in organising future training in these areas of law. The materials are addressed to both end users and training providers. The "user's pack" includes the traditional documentation with the related legislation and jurisprudence of the CJEU to be distributed to end users in advance of the training in the form of an introductory e-learning course.



Blended learning as a methodological tool ensures initial familiarisation with the scope and objectives of the training and a level playing field for all participants, whilst at the same time constituting a resource for future reference as it remains freely available after the completion of the training event. Although a significant part of the training relies on the provision of information on different legal instruments through 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 explains how best to navigate through the materials available and how these may be integrated into future workshops by providing information on their structure, content and methodology. 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.

After developing training modules on “EU Law on Industrial Emissions” and the “Interaction between the EIA and the Nature Directives” in 2013, “Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters” in 2014, “EU Air Quality and Noise Legislation” in 2015, “Biodiversity and Wildlife Trafficking” in 2016, ERA was asked to design two more training modules in 2017 on “EU Water Law” and “EU Nature Protection Legislation – Focus on Site Protection”. The latter two modules were tested and subsequently improved in the framework of a series of two-and-a-half day workshops held in Barcelona (in cooperation with the School of the General Council of the Judiciary), in Sofia (in cooperation with Bulgarian National Institute for Justice), in Warsaw (in cooperation with the Polish Supreme Administrative Court) and twice in Trier. Last but not least, ERA and EJTN organised in 2017 a joint training event on environmental law which made use of various training materials developed under the DG ENV programme.

This type of project developing tailor-made training materials has been very well received and seems to meet the expectations and needs of national judicial training actors. Evidence of this can be seen in the fact that for the new service contract ERA was able to secure the support of judicial training institutes, supreme administrative courts, and judges’ associations from nineteen jurisdictions (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom) as well as the support of the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union a.i.s.b.l. (ACA-Europe), the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE) and the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ). ☆

ERA was awarded another four-year service contract to continue a major project on behalf of the European Commission’s DG Environment entitled “Cooperation with National Judges in the Field of EU Environmental Law” in
2017

CASE STUDIES ON EU CIVIL JUSTICE INSTRUMENTS

Since 2015 ERA has implemented two successive large-scale projects – following an innovative methodological approach – which aimed to develop training materials to aid legal practitioners to apply the EU acquis actively in the area of civil justice. The training materials consisted of comprehensive case studies on various legal instruments of judicial cooperation in civil matters. Each case study, including the case scenario, the suggested solution and some methodological advice for using the case, was developed by renowned EU experts.

The first project concluded in 2016 was developed in close 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 the United Kingdom). While all case studies were made available from the beginning in three of the most frequently used languages in the EU (English, French and German), the project partners successively translated parts of the training materials into their national languages, making it possible to provide the materials in 14 official languages of the EU. The entire training package, including a multilingual e-library with links to the most relevant legislation and jurisprudence in the area of EU civil justice, remains freely accessible on ERA's website (www.era-comm.eu/Using_EU_Civil_Justice_Instruments). Besides the development of training materials, this first project led to the organisation of 23 training seminars at national and pan-European level, which were attended by some 530 legal professionals.

Each case study, including the case scenario, the suggested solution and some methodological advice for using the case, was developed by renowned EU experts.



The aim was to develop training materials to aid legal practitioners to apply the EU acquis actively in the area of civil justice.



Complementing the first project which mainly covered instruments of European civil procedure (Brussels I Regulation, taking of evidence and service of documents, European Payment Order, European Small Claims Procedure, European Enforcement Order, etc.) and conflict of law rules (Rome I and II Regulations), the second project dealt with EU Regulations on Family and Succession Law and was implemented to a large extent in 2017. The case studies developed in the new project covered the following topics: (i) cross-border divorce and maintenance, (ii) parental responsibility in a cross-border context, including child abduction and (iii) cross-border succession. An innovation in this project was the creation of two sets of case studies. One set of case studies deals with the three selected topics on a basic level, which makes it suitable for participants with no or very little prior experience in the field of European family and succession law. The second set of case studies allows for advanced training in the field of family matters and successions, which is suitable for legal practitioners who have previous experience of these topics and/or wish to specialise in the area. As in the previous project, the training materials were tested, evaluated and improved during the second half of 2017 through workshops at either basic or advanced level in ten domestic training seminars for national judges and lawyers and in two pan-European seminars. All the training materials, available in twelve official languages and including also a multilingual e-library, will be made freely available on the project subsite (www.era-comm.eu/Better_Applying_the_EU_Regulations) upon the finalisation of the project in the first half of 2018. This second project is also co-financed by the European Commission and has been implemented together with fifteen partners from eleven EU Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain). ☆



The entire training package, including a multilingual e-library with links to the most relevant legislation and jurisprudence in the area of EU civil justice, remains freely accessible on ERA's website.

MANUALS ON LEGAL TERMINOLOGY FOR PRACTITIONERS

In 2017, ERA also completed an innovative two-year project entitled “Enhancing Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters: Organisation of a Series of Interactive Language Training Events”. The project, which was developed in close cooperation with eleven partner institutions from eight EU Member States and with the financial support of the Justice Programme of the EU, aimed to organise a series of nine training events combining practical legal and linguistic training on one of the following topics: (i) cross-border civil litigation: the Brussels Ia Regulation, or (ii) European family law: the Brussels IIa Regulation. While three seminars were organised in Croatia, Poland and Romania in 2016, the remaining five were held in France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and Portugal in 2017.

“The project was developed in close cooperation with eleven partner institutions from eight EU Member States, with the financial support of the Justice Programme of the EU”

In the framework of this project two language training manuals, one for each topic, were specifically designed by a linguistic expert and included interactive exercises focusing on legal terminology. These manuals formed the basis for the provision of linguistic training at the nine training events with the aim to enhance the legal, professional and English-language knowledge and skills of the participating judges. The linguistic exercises conducted during the events focused on engaging the participants in role-plays, presentations and other interactive teaching methods to ensure the active participation of all attendees. The linguistic manuals were made freely available on the project subsite (www.era.int/Judicial_Cooperation_Civil_Matters_Language_Training) for anyone interested in offering future specialised linguistic training. The subsite also contains an interactive e-learning tool which can be used by anyone interested in strengthening their English legal skills and will offer the user the opportunity to learn specialised legal English in the field of EU civil justice.

Based on the success of this project, ERA decided to follow up with another project focusing on language training in combination with legal training on cross-border mediation. This project started in late 2017. Sustainable training materials, also in the form of language manuals, will be developed and used within the framework of the new project. These training materials will form the basis for the language training events and will be made freely available on the subsite. ☆





ERA Forum

JOURNAL OF THE ACADEMY OF EUROPEAN LAW



Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

ERA Forum is published in cooperation with Springer Science+Business Media (Berlin/Heidelberg). The journal can be accessed in several ways: through individual article downloads, in the form of an annual subscription, or mainly as part of an online package available to institutional subscribers around the world.

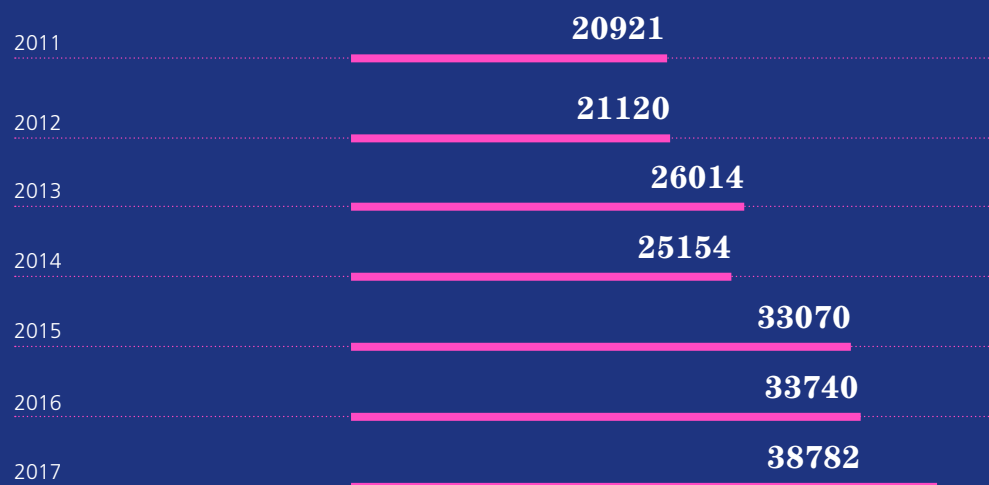
Articles from the journal were downloaded a total of 38,782 times in 2017, a remarkable 15% increase on the previous year.

Papers published in the journal are based on the most outstanding presentations delivered at ERA's conferences. Topics addressed in 2017 included the antitrust damages directive, banking regulation, central bank independence, copyright reform, data protection and public procurement. There was a significant number of articles addressing issues in the field of criminal law. The hot topic of Brexit featured prominently, with several articles not only on the negotiations themselves and the institutional consequences, but also on its impact in fields such as trade and social security. There were also the regular reports by ERA lawyers on the case law of the CJEU.

The authors were drawn from ERA's diverse pool of experts from academia, private practice and the EU institutions, including Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank. ☆



Numbers of downloads of articles



Distance learning

ERA's distance-learning programme consists of training materials, e-learning courses and audio-visual resources developed either for the general legal public or in the framework of EU-funded projects. An overview is available at www.era.int/elearning.



E-LEARNING

ERA's output of new e-learning courses in 2017 came mainly in the framework of EU-funded projects. These included three new stand-alone e-learning modules developed as part of a project funded by the European Commission's DG Environment on "EU Environmental Law for National Judges", as well as two related blended courses. A completely new course co-funded by the Commission's DG Competition on "The Changing Role of the National Judge in EU State Aid Cases" was launched towards the end of the year, with interactive case studies and a forum for participating judges (www.state-aid-online.eu). An existing course funded by the Commission's DG Justice on "EU Anti-discrimination Law", available in English, French and German, was updated. The video recordings of a seminar on "EU Disability Law and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", including an audio recording, closed captioning and international sign language interpretation, were also made available for free online, providing a comprehensive guide to this important legal instrument that is accessible to all.

ERA also delivered a course to the French Conseil d'Etat on "The Role of the National Judge as a European Judge of Common Law and their Relationship with the CJEU".

E-PRESENTATIONS AND YOUTUBE

The number of e-presentations – film recordings of speakers at ERA events combined with embedded background documentation and a self-assessment quiz, available in different technical formats – continued to grow in 2017, though in the interests of keeping the catalogue up-to-date, numerous older e-presentations were also taken offline. The e-presentations deal with specific and current issues of European law and ensure that the training provided in ERA's face-to-face events continues to be available to a wider audience long after the event has taken place.

For each e-presentation, there is a basic version available for free and a premium version with added functionality, including the possibility to obtain a certificate to meet continuing professional development (CPD) obligations, which is available on the ERA website for a modest fee. The basic version is also available on ERA's YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanLawERA, which received over 9000 views in 2017.



STREAMING AND WEBINARS

Since 2016, all ERA's competition law workshops in Brussels have been live-streamed. Online participants receive all the related background documentation, can interact with speakers through a chat function, and have the option to replay a recording of the stream after the event. The uptake of this format in 2017 was encouraging and ERA intends to continue and expand its programme of live streams of selected events, thus widening its potential target audience.

Combining the concepts of e-learning and streaming, ERA also launched its first fully-fledged webinar series for the open market in 2017 on "The General Principles of EU Law as Applied by the CJEU to Criminal Justice".



ONLINE RESOURCES

In recent years, ERA has put increasing efforts into the creation of user-friendly project subsites in order to ensure accessibility and therefore widespread use of the materials developed in the framework of large-scale projects. New subsites – with publicly accessible training materials, documentation libraries, e-learning courses, audio podcasts and video recordings – on subjects as varied as "Better Applying the EU Regulations on Family and Succession Law", "Enhancing Cross-border Mutual Legal Assistance and Recognition of Decisions in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Radicalisation in Prisons", "Countering Trafficking in Human Beings, Protecting Victims and Enhancing Financial Investigations", "Applying the European Investigation Order", "Economics for EU Competition Law", "Investigating Web 2.0" and "The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in Practice" – were added in 2017. ☆

ERA Scholarship Programme



Trainee lawyer Domagoj Mrčelić from Split, Croatia received a Deutsche Bundesbank Scholarship for the ERA Summer Course on EU Regulation and Supervision of Financial Markets in June 2017.

ERA runs a scholarship programme to enable practitioners of law who could not otherwise afford to do so to participate in its conferences, seminars and summer courses. The programme is financed solely by donations.

In 2017, ERA awarded three kinds of scholarships:

- 2 scholarships for events in the field of human rights law, sponsored by the Sebastian Cobler Foundation;
- 5 scholarships for events in the field of banking and financial markets law, sponsored by the Deutsche Bundesbank Mainz;
- 15 scholarships for other events thanks to the funds raised by the Friends of ERA Association's Jubilee Fund.

The scholars came from 12 different countries: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Macedonia (FYR), Poland, Romania and Turkey.

Apart from individual donations, the scholarship programme benefited from a fundraising auction organised in the framework of ERA's 25th anniversary congress in October 2017. Contemporary artworks by 31 artists from 31 different countries were displayed in an exhibition entitled "Art knows no frontiers", conceived by ERA Trustee Catherine Kessedjian and curated by Christian Noorbergen. The artworks were then sold at auction, with half of the proceeds going to the artists and half going to the ERA Jubilee Fund to support the scholarship programme and other projects.

ERA would like to thank all those who purchased a work of art in the framework of the auction and all those who supported the scholarship programme with a donation in 2017:

- Deutsche Bundesbank Mainz
- Sparkasse Trier
- Sebastian-Cobler-Stiftung
- Vanessa Knapp
- Francesco de Angelis
- Iyiola Solanke
- Maria Ventegodt Liisberg
- Nina Niejahr
- Christopher P. Buttigieg
- Gergana Ilieva
- Horst Kreppel
- Christiane Kirschbaum
- Peter Vajda
- Jenny Giotaki
- Paola Balbo
- Jackie Jones

Facilities & Conference Services



In the second part of 2017 a considerable investment in modernising the audiovisual and interpretation equipment of the ERA Conference Centre was undertaken. With the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, all technical equipment (including transmission technology, projector, infra-red devices and headsets) in the three large conference rooms of Building A was renewed in compliance with current digital requirements. In addition the WiFi network was substantially extended in both buildings. Without a doubt these technical measures will ensure that the ERA Conference Centre continues to provide its users with a top-quality training experience.

As regards events implemented by third parties when ERA is not using the facilities itself (ECC), the encouraging trend in turnover picked up again in 2017. After a modest year in 2016, the positive business development of previous years continued and a range of activities were organised in our facilities.

The significance of the ECC for the Greater Region was reflected in several events. A noteworthy conference was on 'municipal education management', in which researchers and practitioners discussed questions of municipal education management against the background of specific challenges faced by rural and city areas. The regional conference on 'Living with climate change in the greater region', organised by the Länder Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland, was another good example of the ECC's attractiveness for regional congresses.

Multi-language events of course benefit from the modern interpretation facilities in all seminar rooms of the ERA Conference Centre. This made it the ideal location for 'We are Trier', the second information day organised by the advisory board for refugees and migrants of the City of Trier.

Within the framework of a long-standing cooperation with the office for euro-regional cooperation (BES), a three-language seminar was organised by the office for Belgian, Dutch and German public prosecutors. A different event requiring intensive preparation was the shareholders' meeting of a large wine-producing company.

These highlights show our continuous focus on delivering a first-class service to ECC clients, through successful client partnerships and creative, professional and innovative support. Our ambition is to be a regional venue with excellent perspectives for European-wide specialist events. ☆

The team

The ERA staff is composed of
79 staff from 14 countries

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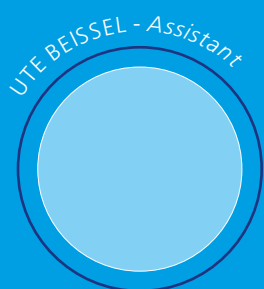
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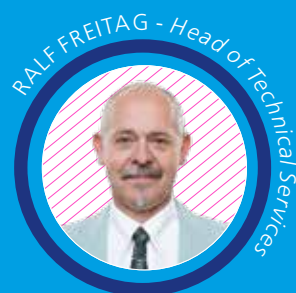
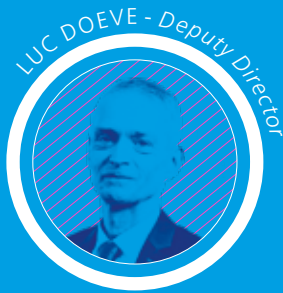
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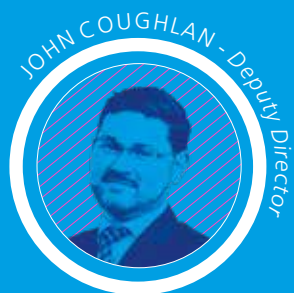
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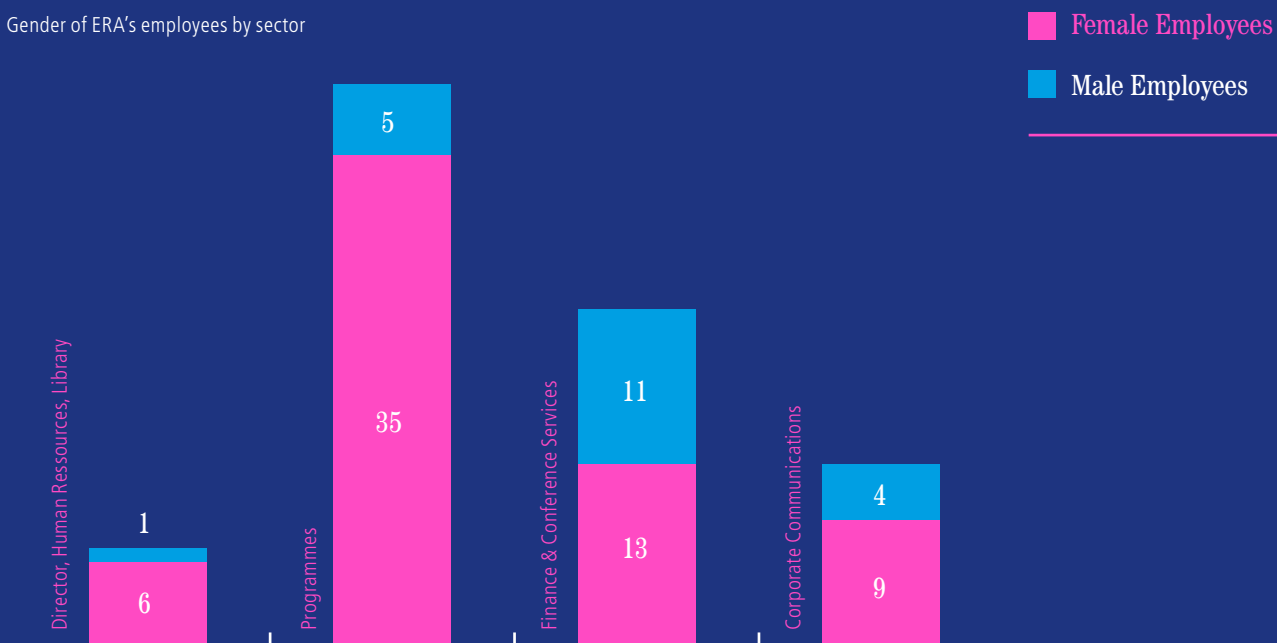


Employees (2017)

Gender of ERA's employees



Gender of ERA's employees by sector



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at 31 December 2017

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2017

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Supreme Court

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The Friends of ERA

The Friends of ERA (officially the Association for the Promotion of the Academy of European Law) was founded on 3 November 1990 with the express purpose of enabling the establishment of ERA. Within two years it had achieved its objective and ERA began work in Trier. The 25th anniversary of ERA in 2017 was therefore an important occasion for the Association to celebrate.

In January, the Association held its 12th General Meeting in Brussels, generously hosted by its institutional member, the Brussels Delegation of the Spanish Bar. A number of changes to the Articles of Association were adopted to bring them up-to-date with developments such as the national chapters that have emerged in a number of countries.

ERA's anniversary year was a successful one for membership growth, with a 22% increase in the number of individual members and one new institutional member in the form of Wolters Kluwer España.

With so many special events taking place in the framework of ERA's jubilee programme, the national chapters took a back seat in terms of the number of networking events organised. In March and July, the Belgian chapter gathered members for a joint dinner following the events organised by ERA and the European Parliament Research Service in Brussels. In June, the Luxembourg chapter invited members and interested non-members alike to a guided tour of the Luxembourg National Archives, also followed by a joint dinner.

Find out more at www.era.int/friends



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