NEWSLETTER
April – July 2018

Dear Reader,

We are glad to present you the latest edition of our Newsletter. The Newsletter is designed to provide insight to our partners, supporters and friends of the most significant events which occurred within the activities of the SEELS Network. On that note, we would like to leave you with the content of this SEELS Newsletter which covers the period from April to July, 2018.

SEELS’ PROJECT PROPOSAL ACCEPTED WITH THE HIGHEST RANK ON THE WESTERN BALKANS FUND’S FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Among 351 project submissions, SEELS’ project proposal “Education4Progress: Regional Cooperation to Improve EU Law Teaching” was selected together with 17 other applications and received the highest ranking among all applications submitted in the field of science and education. The Western Balkans Fund (http://westernbalkansfund.org/) is the first institutionalized fund which is jointly funded and run by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the W6 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia) with the main objective “to boost cooperation between its members, to strengthen relations and regional cohesion, to advance integration into the European Union”. The upcoming project’s central activity will be a regional conference on the topic “EU Law Teaching in the Western Balkans”, which should serve as a platform for exchange of information related to the models of EU Law teaching. The scholars shall have the opportunity to learn more about the models across the SEELS Network and, ultimately, envisage changes in the curricula at their home Faculties. One of the key activities within this project is the conference which is expected to be held in late autumn of 2018, at the Faculty of Law in Niš, Serbia.
2018’S SUMMER SCHOOL ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW & CONSUMER LAW
This year’s summer school was held from 9th to 22nd of July, at the Europa Institut, Saarbrucken. The topic of the 2008 Summer School was focusing on the Intellectual Property Rights hence the topic - “European Competition Law and Intellectual Property Rights Protection”. It is a third-in-a-row annual event of this kind organized under the project SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law. The team of participants included postgraduate students, young academics and lecturers from the SEELS Network and the Europa Institut. Additionally, representatives from relevant institutions dealing with topic-related issues gave a lecture at the event.

SEELS’ INITIAL STEPS TOWARDS CROSS-REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION
New developments of the project “Access2Justice4All: Clinical Legal Education – Supporting Access to Justice in South East Europe” occurred this spring. Namely, in order to acquire informative content necessary for the upcoming clinical legal education trainings, the project coordinators designed a questionnaire template. The questionnaire was related to information of the current clinical legal education models of the SEELS’ Faculties and was disseminated within the network. The results were summarized and will constitute the basis on which the program for the trainings will be construed. The activities for organizing the trainings are currently being undertaken – the dates are set and the calls for participation were submitted resulting in series of applications. The trainings will take place in September at the University of Belgrade. For more information, visit www.seelawschool.org.

BUILDING E-LEARNING CAPACITIES
Following last June’s successful experiences of the E-Learning Workshop, SEELS organized another E-Learning Workshop which was held in Saarbrucken, Europa Institut from 25 to 29 of June. The E-Learning Workshop engaged representatives from the Network and aimed at providing additional knowledge in E-Learning procedures to the participants. They will act as multipliers in their own environments, and be able to, if need be, recreate and prepare the existing content of SEELS’ E-Campus in a new format. The Centre for SEELS provided support and worked closely with the Europa Institut to implement/organize this event under the project SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law.

OPEN CALL FOR RESEARCH STAYS
The year-round event of research stays for professors and PhD students within the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law project continues. The research stays are aimed to enable the academic research at the partner universities and to contribute to the exchange of high
profile experienced lecturers between the SEELS Network and Europa Institut. This year’s second call for Research Stays was open till mid July 2015 after which the selection process was initiated. In the upcoming period the selected professors and PhD candidates from the SEELS network will be informed on the selection and the further organization of their stay at the Europa Institut will be completed. For all interested, you may find more information about the research stays on http://www.see-eu-cluster.eu/.

OPEN CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE SECOND EDITION OF THE SEE LJ

The second edition of our publication SEE Law Journal (SEE LJ) is in the process of preparation. While the content of our SEE LJ relates to current legal issues from the SEE region, the journal is published solely in English language - which makes it unique in its format. It has an international Editorial Board and its overall production is now made possible by the financial support of Erasmus + Jean Monnet program of European Union. The publication is open to all interested academics from the SEELS network. The call for papers is open until the 23rd of September 2018. More information can be found in the Call for Papers and the Instructions for Authors, available online on www.seelawjournal.org under the section Active Calls.

FRUITFUL CESSATION OF THE PROJECT „LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE”

Following the successful completion of the Winter School that was held in January in Belgrade, the final phase of the project was initiated. Namely, the second Workshop was organized and held on the 28th to 30th of May 2018 at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. The aim of the workshop was reviewing the evaluation of the program of the Winter School and finalizing the format of the planned Anti-Discrimination model course. The procedures for inclusion of an Anti-Discrimination course in their faculties’ curricula have already started at the faculties in Tirana, Skopje and Osijek, while the other faculties have undertaken steps to include the program in the already-existing course on anti-discrimination. Ideas for a potential follow up of this project were brainstormed, therefore it is to be expected SEELS will continue its involvement in the promotion and development on the Anti-Discrimination topic in some format in the future.

AN APPROACH FOR COLLABORATION: SEELS & THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe has recently decided to expand the scope of its Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals Program (HELP) to higher legal education. In that regard, SEELS with its regional
coverage in SEE, has been identified as a strategic partner organization to adapt and introduce the content of the courses included in the HELP Program to its member faculties. For such purpose, the Council of Europe expressed to organize and fully fund a regional Training-of-Trainers session. It is expected that this event will contribute to expanding the scope of the resources available to the Law Faculties of education in the human rights field. The upcoming regional Training-of-Trainers is currently being organized, targeting 36 representatives of the SEELS member faculties, and is expected to take place at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in early November 2018.

SEELS NETWORK AS A GUEST AT THE RCC’S EVENT ON “JUDICIAL TRAINING AT THE WESTERN BALKANS”

Upon invitation of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Professor Toni Deskoski - in his role as a Management Board Member representing the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje, Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”, attended the working group “Judicial training in the Western Balkans: The role of judicial training in the appointment and carrier of judges and prosecutors”. The aim of the event was to discuss concrete steps and strategies to improve the cooperation between faculties of law and judicial academies in South East Europe. Other attendees of the event were representatives of ministries of justice, judicial councils and judicial training institutions from the region.

SPLENDID NEWS: CONTINUATION OF CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT

It is our pleasure to inform you that we received an approval for a two-year continuation (up until 2020) of the project “SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in European and International Law”. In other words, more summer schools, more research stays & more publications are coming!

IN THE UPCOMING ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER YOU WILL READ MORE ABOUT:

- Trainings for Clinical Legal Education (Workshop for Students; Training of Trainers) at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade
- Conclusions of the Editorial Board Meeting of the SEE LJ
- Conference on "Education4Progress: Regional Cooperation to Improve EU Law Teaching” at the Faculty of Law in Niš
- Publication of the SEE LJ and EU Law Days at SEELS Network
- Submission of an Application under the 2019 DAAD Call for Proposals
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