

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016

Dear reader,

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

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

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

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

THIRD EDITION, SEE LAW JOURNAL

In between the activities that marked the work of SEELS in the previous few months, were the ones related to the third edition of the SEE Law Journal. The efforts were, in that sense, undertaken on multiple levels. Firstly, the Centre for SEELS gathered all the articles and inspected whether they meet the formal requirements. Upon that the Editorial Board of the SEE Law Journal decided for each article, individually, whether it should be reviewed or not, and proposed reviewers. Finally, the Centre for SEELS communicated the proposed reviewers, provided the articles to them, and made sure that the review process meets all the requirements of a blind, double – peer review. In the moment, the review process is in its last phases, wherefore we hope that the third edition of the Journal will come out soon.

ERASMUS+ JEAN MONNET: SUPPORT TO ASSOCIATIONS, PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Related to the aforementioned SEE Law Journal is SEELS' project "Strengthening EU Legal Studies in South East Europe", funded under the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project was approved by the European Commission in the month of September, after which the Centre for SEELS started working on the envisaged activities: promotion of the project, preparation of an Editorial Board meeting, preparation of a public call for development of a new web-page, etc. As a final outcome of the project we expect to strengthen the capacities of SEELS as a key competence centre for EU Law studies in the region of South East Europe, as well as Faculties' capacities for EU legal studies. The project will increase the visibility of SEELS and will foster the SEE Law Journal to become the main vehicle for the promotion of EU Law affairs in South East Europe. The project ends in 2018.

PROJECT APPROVAL "CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE'S SOCIETIES, NEIGHBORS AND PARTNERS"

During the month of October SEELS received a notification that the project "Challenges for Europe's Societies, Neighbors and Partners" is accepted by the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). The project was jointly developed by Europa-Institut from the Saarland University and the Faculty of Law from the University of Krakow while SEELS is one of the participants. The aim is to

strengthen the capacities of the participants in EU funding, with particular emphasis on Horizon 2020. The project implementation is expected to start shortly, while the duration is 24 months.

PLANNING OF PROJECT AND CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION “BALKAN WEEK: CROSSED VIEWS”

The project “Balkan Week: Crossed Views” is planned together by SEELS and the Faculty of Law of Université Paris Oest Nanterre la Defense, and it is aimed to organize a research session at the latter institution, targeted at doctors who have recently defended their PhD and are coming from different Balkan States. These doctors would thus have the opportunity to discuss their researches with French scholars during crossed interventions.

In order to secure funding for this project SEELS and the Faculty of Law of Université Paris Oest Nanterre la Defense submitted a proposal/concept note to the French Ministry of Education and Research in late October.

SEE | EU CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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

In these past months the activities within this project were mainly focused on the several major components.

Strategic Planning of Project Activities for 2017 / Attendance at the Conference Week “Connect Back – Alumni4Europe: The European Union as a Global Actor”

In the month of November participants from the SEELS network and its administrative body – the Centre for SEELS attended the Conference Week “Connect Back – Alumni4Europe: The European Union as a Global Actor” that was organized by Europa-Institut from the Saarland University and took place in Saarbrücken, Germany. The staff of the Centre for SEELS used this stay not merely for promotion of the network, but also for meetings with Europa-Institut, so that the implementation of the project SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in EU and International Law is thoroughly planned.

Librarian's Workshop

One of the objectives of the SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence is to improve the collaboration among libraries, as well as to strengthen their capacities. Special focus is, in that matter, put on the libraries from the SEELS members, which could benefit and learn from each other and the library of the Europa-Institut. The important role of the libraries comes from the fact that they are the vital points for development of studies and sciences. For that reason, the Centre for SEELS alongside with Europa-Institut worked on bringing together the librarians from all SEELS members in Saarbrücken, Germany for a Workshop, that took place from the 20th to the 22nd of November 2016. This Workshop was merged with the one envisaged under the SEELS Data Base project, implemented by the Faculty of Law in Rijeka.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED UNDER THE CALL “DIALOGUE IN HIGHER EDUCATION WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN BALKANS 2017-2016” OF THE DAAD

In late November, SEELS together with Europa-Institut submitted the proposal “Reflecting ethnic heterogeneity and tolerance towards national minorities in the legal education in South East Europe and Germany” to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The project is expected to consist of three main activities:

1. Expert roundtable on “National Minority Rights in the Legal Education in South East Europe” consisting of one representative per faculty. The aim of the roundtable would be to assess the manner in which the issue is treated in the curricula of the law faculties and to develop a curriculum for a summer school.
2. A one week Summer School on Minority Rights with one master student per faculty and of legal practitioners and-or civil society representatives.
3. Development of a regional Minority Rights e-learning module based on the summer school curriculum to be made available to the SEELS member faculties.

The selection results are expected to be published by the end of January 2016.

SEELS NETWORK DATABASE PROJECT, LIBRARIAN WORKSHOP

As stated above, a Librarian Workshop was planned not only under the project SEE | EU Cluster of Excellence in EU and International Law, but also under the SEELS network Data Base Project. Bearing

that in mind the two Workshops were organized in the same period. In the following period this project is going to be marked by activities for a brief survey on the status quo with the format and editorial policy within their respective publications, assessing the profile and the needs of the network itself upon which collection of material for the existing Data Base will be conducted: www.seels.pravri.uniri.hr.

“LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE” PROJECT, PLANNING OF PHASE II

After the project “Legal Protection against Discrimination in South East Europe” was completed in the month of August 2016, the Centre for SEELS has its representative on a planning meeting for its follow up/phase II. The event was organized by the Open Regional Fund for Legal Reform of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and took place in Belgrade in the month of November. Similar to the first phase, SEELS and Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights (BIM) have been identified as key partners.

Decision on the initiation of this second phase of the project is expected soon.

REGIONAL PROJECT: “DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIVE REDRESS FOR CONSUMERS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE”

During the month of December the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) informed SEELS that the project “Development of collective redress for consumers in South East Europe” is expected to start from January 2017. During the project experts from the SEELS members are going to be engaged to carry out research, together with the experts from other consumer protection organizations.

PREPARATION OF THE “CIRCUMIG” PROPOSAL FOR THE H2020 CALL “ENG-GLOBALLY-03- 2017: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF MIGRATION”

SEELS is going to apply to the H2020 call “ENG-GLOBALLY-03-2017: The European Union and the global challenge of migration”. For that purpose, the Centre for SEELS started working on the proposal and its content, and will finalize its work in the month of January.



South East European **Law** School Network

The proposal that the Centre for SEELS prepares with the other partners is entitled “Concept and Programme for a New Positive Approach to Migration”, and its acronym is “CIRCUMIG”. It includes 10 educational and professional institutions:

Participating institution	Country
USAAR: Universität des Saarlandes	Germany
EURICE: European Research and Project Office GmbH	Germany
PAN: Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences Athens Athens (t.b.c)	Greece
SEELS: South East European Law School Network	
UCL: University College London	UK
UGRA: University of Graz	Austria
UHH: University of Hamburg	Germany
ULIE: University of Liège (Centre d’Etudes de l’Ethnicité et des Migrations – CEDEM)	Belgium
UKRAK: University of Kraków	Poland
UVIE: University of Vienna	Austria

ERASMUS + JEAN MONNET: SUPPORT TO NETWORKS, PREPARATION OF A PROJECT APPLICATION

Aside from the previously mentioned one, SEELS is going to apply to the call Erasmus + Jean Monnet: Support to Networks. The proposal for this call is envisaged to be a continuation of the SEE EU Law Net (summer schools), which was in the past supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This project too, if approved, is going to be implemented by consortium of multiple institutions.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & EXTENDING PARTNERSHIPS

REGULAR UPDATE OF SEELS' WEB AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Aiming to reach the widest of audience possible the Centre for SEELS regularly updates the web and Facebook page of the SEELS network, thereby informing about the activities of SEELS and its

members, but also sharing attractive news from the academic world. Moreover, as our students are always in the focus, we are regularly updating internship and scholarship opportunities for them as well. Since, unlike the previous months, October is always quite dynamic in the academic world, the number of scholarship and internship opportunities that were published is quite significant. We are of course expecting it to be even higher since we are going to keep searching in the following period as well.

In case of an interest for internships or scholarships please visit:
http://seelawschool.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=260&Itemid=977&lang=en

ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE WEEK “CONNECT BACK – ALUMNI4EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN UNION AS A GLOBAL ACTOR”

As aforesaid, representatives of both, the SEELS network and its administrative body – the Centre for SEELS Conference Week “Connect Back – Alumni4Europe: The European Union as a Global Actor” that was organized by Europa-Institut from the Saarland University and took place in Saarbrücken, Germany in the month of November. The attendance, aside from the planning of future activities, was also used for promotion of the SEELS network and meeting potential partners.

PARTICIPATION AT A WESTERN BALKANS JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS COORDINATION MEETING

Bearing in mind that it considers SEELS as a successful example of a regional academic network, which has been taken into consideration in the establishment of the network of Judicial Training Institutions, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) welcomed the Fundraising coordinator of the Centre for SEELS on the Western Balkans Judicial Training Institutions Coordination Meeting in Belgrade, 9th and 10th of November 2016.

The two – day Coordination Meeting was used in order to enhance the capacities for a strong network of Judicial Training Institutions.

More information about the event can be found here:

<http://www.respaweb.eu/0/events/80/regional-conference-on-administrative-legal-framework-in-western-balkans#mtkeywords=Regional>.



South East European **Law** School ^{Network}



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