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1. PRESENTATIONS OF GOOD PRACTICES IN INTERNATIONALISATION

1.1 Summer school of legal writing, Masaryk University, Brno.

Presented by: David Sehnalek

Basic facts:

The summer school on Legal Writing is organized since 2012 in cooperation with European Academy of Legal Theory and the University of Vienna. The programme last for 4 days and students receive courses for 7 or 8 hours per day. Each year 25 or 30 students do participate. 10 students are from Brno 10 students from Vienna and the rest comes from Slovakia, Slovenia or Poland. The Summer school goes beyond the basic knowledge on legal theory that is part of a standard Law programme. Case law of higher courts is included in the programme as well.

Target group:

The school is aimed at Masters and Ph.D. students. The course is taught by experts on legal theory and legal writing, including staff from the John Marshall Law school in Chicago.

Financial aspects:

The summerschool is funded by the university: EUR 5500. In addition each students pays 110 eurp each. In total the budget is: EUR 8800. Most expenditures on travel costs. The project does not receive any EU funding.

Challenges:

Students have to pay for it (solved by stipend) The summerschool should be organized during a week in which the students have no other classes. Brno wants to have a more diverse student population participating in this project.

1.2 Ruchin Erasmus LLP programme (PHD), INCLUDING Mykolas Romeris Univeristy

Presented by: REGINA VALUTYTE

Basic facts:
Ph.D. programme on Russian, Chinese and Indian Economic Law. Programme last between 3 and 4 years.
Participating schools are, University of Lapland (Coordinator), Vrije Universiteit Brussels,(Belgium) Universty of Maribor (Slovenia), Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania) Ural State Law Academy (Russia) Associate partner Renmin University (China).
At a later stage Warsaw University and the University of Calcutta (India) were added as well. Like Russia and China, India also has a growing economy.
The programme started this year with 4 students.It’s also open to students with a non-legal background. These students have to follow a bridging programme.

Target group:
PhD students with an interest in Russian, Chinese and Indian Economic Law

Aim:
The programme serves multiple aims:

- Promotion of Russian and Chinese Economic Law as a study and research subject: to have this knowledge in Europe
- Unification of a pedagogical and administrative process among the partners for the organization of a joint doctoral programme.
- Developed research cooperation between the academics and business
- To establish a wider network including third country partners

Structure and courses:
Common Core Studies (30 ECTS)
Specialized Studies (30 ECTS)
Dissertation planning presentation and research specific seminars (30 ECTS)
Research and Dissertation Component (90 ECTS)

The course subjects divided among partners, this requires substantial efforts.
Within Europe a double or joint degree will be awarded to graduates from the programme.
In Russia, China and India, credits will be awarded, no degree.

Financial aspects:
This project is co-funded by the European Commission under the LLP programme-Curriculum Development. Industrial partners also support the programme financially.

Challenges:
Due to language problems, hampered communication between partners. Solution: switch of academic staff.
Budgetary changes occurred, solution: intensive and detailed communication.
Sustainability: looking for funding (EC will only support the programme for a limited amount of time): inclusion of industrial partners (companies pay for tuition fee,salary and scholarships,in return they give research requests to students)
Joint programme not really profitable compared to bachelor programme
Benefits:
Platform to explore the opportunities, to stimulate networking
Programme provides the opportunity to connect industry to academia

1.3 Intensive programme, Summerschools, University of Glasgow

Presented by Jim Murdoch

Basic facts:
The Law School of the University of Glasgow organizes summerschools in Sardinia, Madrid and Marburg Germany. A Comparative Legal Cultures course is organized in Marburg, Germany. The first part of this course takes place in November, the second part in March. The summerschool in Italy lasts for 2.5 weeks and is focused on human rights. The summerschool in Germany last for 2 weeks and is focused on comparative law (discipline varies per year). Per activity ten students of each institution participate.

Aim: to provide students that are not able to study abroad for an entire semester (due to financial or family related reasons) with a short international experience including an academic and social component.

Benefits:

- Summerschool is not resource-intensive if another university does financial administration
- Students benefit from multidisciplinary approach and are exposed to other teaching cultures (Summer school)
- Intensive social cultural experience, probably deeper exposure to host culture (Comparative Legal Cultures)
- Significant academic benefits. Joint comparative law research topic, allowing students to gain a greater awareness of another legal system (and of their own)
- Creates better understanding of own legal system, awareness of comparative aspects (Comparative Legal Cultures)
- Social integration between the two groups of students was exceptional
- High levels of satisfaction with ‘insights‘ (both language and cultural)

Challenges:

- Timing: high summer, many students involved in work placements (Summer school)
- Home students miss out on social activities as they are not residential (Summer school)
- Resource/time intensity (2x 4 days) (Comparative Legal Cultures)
  Language development one sided (all work conducted in English) (Comparative Legal Cultures)
- Better course approval mechanisms required

Financial aspects:
Summerschools are funded by DAAD and Clark Foundation. Perhaps these kind of projects might also be funded by Erasmus Plus.

Suggestions for improvements:

Preparatory classes, course approval mechanisms, finance, staff resources
Enhancing face to face interaction by adding virtual technologies
Dissemination the experiences of the participating students (videoblogs, podcasts etc)

Similar initiatives from other RLN members:

- Konstanz similar programme with China.
- Graz, Maribor en Zagreb: joint course, up to 6-8 students per faculty.
- Organise this kind of activities in summer break.

2. ERASMUS PLUS OPPORTUNITIES & PERSPECTIVES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN ERASMUS PLUS BY DAPHNE SCHERER, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Impact of Erasmus Plus is aimed at institutional and individual level and at higher education system in general. Total budget is €14,7 billion (2014-2021), 40% budget increase.

Erasmus Plus: includes only 3 integrated actions with different aims:

1. Learning Mobility (at least 63% of funding)
2. Cooperation (at least 28%)
3. Policy Support (4,2%)

Separate parts for Jean Monnet and Sport actions.

European Commission has set a 2020 mobility target for students of 20%. Mobility increases the chances for employability and higher intercultural skills. Impact study of the European Commission about Erasmus almost finished.

2.1 Key action 1 Learning Mobility

Includes activities related to the learning mobility of individuals.
New component: Master student loans, internship after graduation, blended & virtual mobility.

International opening of Erasmus Plus will be launched as of 2015, adapted grant levels, Aimed at the mobility of 135.000 staff and student exchanges (does not include placements).

2.2 Student mobility

Includes: 1. Credit mobility 2. (Joint) degree mobility 3. Student loans

Credit mobility:
New: Recent graduates can apply for an internship financially supported by the EC. The internship has to be approved by the institution before the actual graduating takes place. Traineeships last from 2 to 12 months. Each student can benefit from 3 up to 12 months per study cycle (Bachelor and Master) Recognition of ects for student mobility (including traineeships) is required in order to receive funding.

*(Joint) degree mobility:* EM joint degrees will continue to be funded until 2017
Requirements among others:

- Minimum 3 HEI from 3 EU countries
- Funding for 3 intakes, then co-funding (catalogue and quality review)

### 2.3 Staff mobility

Funding for teaching or training purposes available, required length between programme countries: 2 days-2 months. Required length between programme and partner countries: 5 days-2 months Minimum of 8 teaching hours in total. Recommendation: Invite staff from enterprise to teach!

### 2.4 Grants and loans

Level of grants adapted to different needs, including country living costs, remote countries More inclusive and diverse:
- Better use of new technologies
- More support to participants with fewer opportunities
- More support to remote areas
- Specific support to people with special needs
Note: Joint doctorates not funded by Erasmus Plus.

Master students’ loans: Up to 12,000 EUR for 1 year Master and 18,000 EUR for 2 year Master. Nearly 200,000 Master students will benefit from this loan over 7 years. Students should address themselves to national banks or student loan agencies

### 2.5 Revision of Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)

Fundamental principles required for participating programme countries Before/during/after Mobility Best practices Monitoring

ECHE principles are embedded in inter-institutional agreements as a result partner countries do not require a charter. Associated countries first need to have established their own national agency to be a full participant.
2.6 Renewal of Inter-institutional agreements

Reinforced inter-institutional agreements used to set mobility flows & preconditions
Inter-institutional agreement: can be signed between more than 2 partners.
Reduced paper work: scanned signatures/exchanges are now accepted.

Reinforced Learning agreements (LA) for students and staff to ensure recognition. Agreements will be much shorter and user friendly, possible to use own ICT system if it fulfills the requirements. New LA will be provided soon.
If something can’t be recognized it should be mentioned in the LA, transparency. There have to be at least some credits awarded for traineeships. No recognition at all is unacceptable.

2.7 Language preparation

As of fall 2014 flexible and cost efficient support for language preparation will be available.

1. Online tutored language courses (including assessment test and language course training)
   Not obliged. Institutions decide who needs the course. Limited number of courses available.
2. Increase of organizational support grant to HEIs for language preparation.

2.8 Improve monitoring

1. EU Survey: feedback from students and participants
2. Mobility tool: all information on mobility flows
3. Beneficiary reports: feedback from HE institutions
4. On the spot visits

3. Key action 2 Cooperation for more innovation

Key components:
Towards new practices for higher quality in teaching and learning
Better use of new technologies
Stronger cooperation between fields and with the labour market

3.1 Subactions Cooperation for innovation

1. Strategic partnerships: (including business, schools, Youth organisations etc) Minimum 3 organisations from 3 different countries (25.000 partnerships, 125.000 institutions)
2. Knowledge alliances (150)
3. IT-platforms
4. Capacity building (1000 projects)

3.2 Strategic partnerships

In line with modernization agenda: improve quality and relevance, link with research and innovation.
Requirements:

- At least 3 different HEIs from 3 EU countries that have the charter. Consortia can also include companies.
- Joint study programmes and joint curricula, intensive programmes
  Project based transnational collaboration between enterprises and students/staff of HEIs
- Pedagogical approaches
- Integration of a greater variety study modes, virtual and physical mobility.

Intensive study programme can be included as well but has to be part of a bigger cooperation strategy: intensive programme to test joint curriculum.
Blended mobility stimulated: virtual and face to face mobility.

Partnerships can last 2 or 3 years up to: Funding 150.000 EUR per partnership per year.
Partnerships should involve the most appropriate and diverse range of relevant partners: HEIs; enterprises; SMEs; local/regional authorities; research institutions; NGOs.

Cross-sectorality encouraged in all activities: Possibility to organise complementary types of mobility if it can support the objectives of the partnership

3.3 Knowledge alliances

At least 6 organisations from 3 programmes countries
Minimum 2 universities and minimum 2 enterprises
Trigger innovation with structured partnerships between business and academia

3.4 Capacity building

2 types of projects with Neighbouring and Enlargement countries, Russia, Asia, Latin America, Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP)
Joint projects and Structural projects. Most budget awarded to education and training.

3.5 Practicalities

Application deadlines for 2014 have passed.

Coordinating country is always the applicant
Sometimes better to submit a proposal at another level

Funding for HE networks

As of next year major stakeholders in the (academic) field can apply for a project, such as networks (ELSA, EUA). Network needs to have a legal status (foundation, association etc).

4. BRAINSTORM BREAK-OUT GROUPS

4.1 Internationalisation from student perspective (group 1)

Possible internationalisation activities:
• Summerschools
• International LLM
• Intensive one week
• City hopping
• Practice programme for incoming international students

Challenges:
• Time and money
• Accommodation
• Accreditation,
• Organization
• Legal arrangements

Solutions: Connect to existing initiatives (such as STEP programme offered by ELSA)

4.2 Internationalisation from student perspective (group 2)

Possible internationalisation activities:
• Legal clinic-traineeship, including courses in comparative law
• Pre-moot court training
• Development of a Legal (computer simulation) game with a comparative law component e.g. the VAT to be paid by companies operating in different countries.

Target group: Master students, more developed, more mature.

Challenges: Money, recognition, purpose of internationalisation can differ per university

Solution: Involve both the academic and administrative staff at an early stage, make clear what the different aims per participant are. Communicate face to face and by Skype. Search for funding possibilities from the professional field.

4.3 Internationalisation from staff perspective (group 1)

Possible internationalisation activities:
• Blended learning (video conferencing)
• Intensive programmes
• Cooperation beyond (traditional) Erasmus countries

Target group: Not only International and European Law but also Business Law, Mergers and acquisitions, environmental law

Challenges: to convince the partners to teach in English, funding, paperwork, flexibility.

Solutions: Use local resources; use your own (existing) network with practitioners.
4.4 Internationalisation from staff perspective (group2)

Possible internationalisation activities:

- Short seminars, short exchange of lecturers, PhD students.
- Summerschool
- Exchange staff on an annual basis, mutual activities
- Joint PhD programmes

Target group: Master/PhD level/Staff

Challenges: Create possibilities in cooperation with HR, get rid of language barriers. Support from the board/dean is required

Solutions: Involve business and alumni

4.5 International Networking Possibilities:

Yeditepe informs the participants about the following legal networks:
ELFA: European Law Faculty Association more than 250 European law schools. In 2015 the general assembly takes place in Istanbul, Turkey. Website: http://elfa.afde.eu/
Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu has recently been elected President of the European Law Faculties
SEALS: Southeastern Association of Law Schools (US based) award on annual basis an European Law Award for (legal) doctoral theses. Website: http://sealslawschools.org/

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION, FUTURE RLN MEETINGS

Lissabon: Organise a meeting on pedagogical matters in legal education, publish the findings in e-book. If possible include small group sessions.

Budapest: Organise a conference or seminar for PhD students on a specific topic. Publish the findings in a publication.

Ghent already participates in a similar initiative: network meeting about legal methodology is organised in the morning. In the afternoon PhD students present their legal research and get feedback from the professors/pears. Work in smaller groups. Ghent is also interested in exploring the fundraising possibilities for the network.

Comenius: Interested in further exploring the possibilities for a summerschool. Comenius has extensive experience with legal clinics.

Maribor: Interested in doing research on recognition about the ects. Recognition is still complicated for the legal discipline, especially for programmes with a large number of mandatory courses. Increasing the number of elective courses in your curriculum will facilitate the recognition.

Stockholm: Proposes to discuss best practices and present your Unique Selling Points (USP’s) during the RLN Meeting.
Vilnius: Interested in receiving good practices related to the administration of your faculty, how to deal with the bureaucracy. In Lithuania legal practice is required. Request for RLN members to share internship placements.

Konstanz: Suggests to include an overview of relevant contacts for internships. Sharing internship placements seems to be a delicate issue.

Zagreb: Suggest that members ask their local legal firms if they are willing to accept a foreign student.

Paris: Suggest a summerschool on topics used the different skills of all members.

Warsaw: Law school focused on China and cooperation with countries Central Europe. Short exchange programme with Beijing has been set up.

Bicocca: to have more visibility for the activities of the network, interested in enlargement of the network

Glasgow: Interested in strategic partnership more focused activities. How do we assure quality from a student perspective? How do we improve the processes? Interested in legal language skills and dissemination of best practices. Glasgow representative recently attended a meeting which included a parallel session for students from the partner universities. They were asked to meet separately in discussion groups, and come up with ideas to put to the managers and academics.

Manchester: Pedagogical point of view, legal advise clinic and legal shops cooperation combined with an internship

Konstanz: Overview of basic topics per university. Including the links to the Master programmes.

Cork: Interested in where to find tips and tricks for funding. Overview of interdisciplinary initiatives among partners?

Zagreb: Positive experience with presenting post-doc meetings, legal clinics, legal languages Day before our meeting concrete topic. Suggestion of making a yearbook 20 years RLN.

Brno: Is preparing new website for Erasmus students, request RLN members to send a poster to promote their home university to Brno students.

Teachers of Brno are willing to contribute to comparative research. Requests can be send to Brno. Conference on financial law and other disciplines, request for participants.

5.1 RLN Meeting 2015

9-10-11April provisionally in Budapest or 16,17, 18 April depending on dates of ELFA Conference.
5.2 RLN Meeting 2016

Konstanz has offered to host the meeting of 2016.